

# Westfield BOE Seeks to Clarify Its Position on Dolan Contract

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

WESTFIELD – Three Westfield Board of Education (BOE) members came to *The Westfield Leader* offices on Tuesday morning to recount how the board arrived at its decision to offer a new contract to current superintendent Margaret Dolan, last month, while Governor Chris Christie is attempting to rein in superintendent pay.

In the wake of the state Department of Education (DOE) and Union County Executive Superintendent Carmen Centuolo denying that contract, last week, the BOE members also alluded to what may happen next

in a process they described as “unprecedented” and rife with communication barriers.

First, BOE President Julia Walker said the contract with Ms. Dolan, agreed upon in 2007, runs from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011. Under New Jersey statute 18A:17-20.1, superintendents are entitled to a one-year notice of non-renewal of their contracts. Since superintendents are non-tenured, they are guaranteed, by statute, three months of notice for every year on their contract. Because Ms. Dolan has a four-year contract, that entitles her to the 12-month notification.

The board informed Ms. Dolan in

June 2010 that it intended on keeping her onboard, and had been in negotiations with her since May.

“[Under the language of the state statute], we said that we were ‘not going to not renew’ her contract,” Ms. Walker said. “[We said that] Dr. Dolan was the superintendent we wish to employ. Then it became – under what terms? And those negotiations started before there was any indication from the governor’s office whatsoever that he was going to head for a salary cap.”

On July 15, the governor proposed the salary caps on public-school superintendents. Under his rubric, Westfield’s superintendent could earn up to \$175,000 annually. At the time, then-state Education Commissioner Bret Schundler said districts could also offer, in addition to the \$175,000 salary, merit-based bonuses of as much as 15 percent of administrators’ pay. So, under the first set of rules, a salary could have reached as high as \$201,250, when factoring in merit pay, according to Ms. Walker.

Because the governor’s proposal would only change the regulations that go along with the School District Accountability Act, his alterations do not need legislative approval. The matter only requires that hearings are held to gather public opinion. The cap will take effect on February 7, 2011.

In the most up-to-date numbers issued in early November, Westfield would slot in at the second-highest enrollment tier, for districts of between 3,001 and 6,500 students. The new limit for a Westfield superintendent’s pay would now be \$167,500 (an extra \$2,500 is added for districts that have high schools), in addition to merit pay of up to 15 percent. If the 15-percent figure was earned, the salary could reach \$192,625, Ms. Walker said.

Also, under the newest superintendent-cap proposal, the merit bonuses are not factored into one’s pension; according to BOE Vice-President Ann Cary, this provision impacted Ms.

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Horace Corbin for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*  
“WE ARE NOT ‘GOING ROGUE’...”Members of the Westfield Board of Education came in to discuss the superintendent-contract situation with two of *The Westfield Leader’s* editors, Paul Peyton and Michael Pollack. From left to right are Mr. Peyton, Mr. Pollack, BOE President Julia Walker, Vice-President Ann Cary and member Mitch Slater.

## Westfield Council to Review Comm. Grants, Road Projects

By LAUREN S. BARR  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD — The town council’s Tuesday night conference meeting served as a brief agenda-setting session for next week’s final public meeting of the year.

Town Administrator James Gildea informed the council that at next week’s meeting, the council would hold public hearings for any organizations applying for Community Development Block Grants. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grants are awarded to non-profits based on an application filed with the town. Mr. Gildea said he is expecting all of the applications to be in by the end of the week.

The council is also planning to honor the Westfield High School Girls Tennis Team for its state championship victory and Jonathan Jones, who has resigned from the recreation commission after 25 years of service.

Acting Mayor Mark Ciarrocca said Mr. Jones was “instrumental in renovations to the pool and very instrumental in improving Tamaques Park.” He said that while most Westfield residents do not know Mr. Jones, his work in town has been “extraordinary.”

Councilman Frank Arena reported to the council that the public works committee is examining the list of potential road-paving projects for 2011. He said while the town does intend to try and obtain grant monies from the state’s Transportation Trust Fund, “budget issues are paramount.” The committee is going to “prioritize (the roads) and try to get as much done as we can.”

Bill Maines of the American Legion Martin Wallberg Post 3 asked the council about the status of his application to have the club’s liquor license extended to cover its outside area.

Town Clerk Claire Gray said she had received information from the state’s Alcoholic Beverage Control board and forwarded it to the town attorney. A decision will be forthcoming after an attorney review.



Greg Ryan for *The Westfield Leader*  
REMEMBERING MAYOR ‘BOB’... Mountainside borough Mayor Paul Mirabelli, left, stands with the family of the late long-time borough Mayor Robert Viglianti – including his wife, Linda, third from left – in front of a new sign dedicated in Mayor Viglianti’s name at the entrance driveway to the municipal building.

## Mountainside House Straddles The Borough and Westfield

By MANDY L. RUSSELL  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

MOUNTAINSIDE – The borough council on Tuesday night heard an appeal from residents Mario and Anna Esposito of Rodman Lane, requesting a road-opening permit for their new residence. The Espositos purchased the property in October 2009 and had the existing home on the property demolished so they could rebuild. The property overlaps the border of Westfield and Mountainside, confusing the permits required.

“We have had so many problems with the paperwork and permits being mixed,” Anna Esposito told Mayor Paul Mirabelli.

While the Espositos’ address states they reside in Mountainside, the previous owners at the same location were said to have a Westfield address. When construction was about to begin for the new home, and the water and other utilities were being shut off, the Espositos found that each company was represented by both towns — which made the process confusing.

“We have paperwork showing that we live in two different towns,” Ms. Esposito claimed.

They applied to Mountainside for their demolition permit in the summer of 2010 because most of their property lies within Mountainside. Construction on their home is nearly complete, but they are caught in a gas-line dilemma. Two different gas companies are involved. One gas company applied to Westfield for a permit to open the road for the gas line, while the other company applied to Mountainside to reopen the gas line.

“Elizabeth Gas Co. was at fault for violating a moratorium to open the road in the first place,” Councilman Keith Turner said.

Mr. Turner asked if the Espositos knew about the moratorium. They claimed there was confusion about it. He then asked if they had other fuel options at this time.

“No,” Mario Esposito said, explaining that the “main valve is there with an open attachment because no turn-on valve was installed.”

Borough Administrator Jim Debbie asked why the gas company did not come back and fix the valve. Mr. Esposito explained that, “The road is still open, and all they would have to do is come back, complete it and close it with infrared technology.”

Ms. Esposito ended by requesting that the council grant them the permit to have the problem fixed so that they complete the construction of their home.

“We have a mortgage on the new house and one on another house, and we can’t afford to wait any longer,” Ms. Esposito said.

Mayor Mirabelli said the request would go into a “public session” and that Mr. Debbie would be in touch with them soon to let them know the outcome.

In other business, while discussing future proclamations, the council recognized the achievements of a Mountainside graduate, Justin Amezcuita, who was awarded a full scholarship to Duke University for his exceptional track and field achievements, which included winning the New Jersey State Champi-

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Courtesy of Nick & Lisa Karter  
LIGHTEN UP...A house on Dudley Avenue in Westfield gets into the Christmas spirit.

## Resident Questions Superintendent Margaret Dolan’s \$195,000 Salary

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader*

WESTFIELD – At Tuesday’s Westfield Board of Education meeting, resident John Blake questioned the salary Superintendent Margaret Dolan would have received under the terms of a new contract.

Union County Superintendent Carmen Centuolo has since denied that five-year agreement, which would have seen Ms. Dolan’s salary climb from its current level, \$195,718, to upwards of \$207,700 in the contract’s final year. Her current contract will expire on June 30, 2011.

Mr. Blake asked why, according to his understanding, Ms. Dolan’s salary was set at \$195,000 when the state guidelines recommend \$175,000 for a district the size of Westfield.

BOE President Julia Walker explained that the new threshold is \$167,500 – \$165,000 plus an extra

\$2,500 for having a high school in the district – and the state also allows for a 15-percent merit-based increase that would bring the superintendent’s salary to roughly \$192,000, “which is very close to the proposed salary.” She also noted that the process of paying a search firm for a new superintendent costs thousands of dollars, which the district does not want to pay now. She also noted that Ms. Dolan has done a “great job” for the district.

Mr. Blake asked – during an economic crisis, in which people are simply thankful to have jobs – “why are we giving out such a raise?”

Mr. Blake, who also said he thought the superintendent did a great job, then asked if Ms. Dolan indicated during negotiations that she either wanted the increase in money or would leave.

Mrs. Walker then replied, “Yes, sir.”

Mr. Blake said, “It seems we need to be using our money more wisely. I would like to ask Dr. Dolan if she thinks the roof repair is important to the district.” He concluded by saying, “Do we fix the roofs and not let in the rain, or do we have Mrs. Dolan standing there with an umbrella?”

In other business, unanimously, members of the Westfield Board of Education approved the new five-year Strategic Plan set forth by the 48-member Strategic Planning Council. Ms. Dolan presented the plan, which

started with an outline of the roles of parents, teachers and the community at-large.

The plan states that the Westfield school system believes that the role of parents – besides the caring for the emotional and physical needs of their children – is to conduct themselves with integrity, honor and respect, and be role models for their child. The plan also outlines that teachers and other staff members working with the children come highly skilled, provide a safe and respectful learning environment and pursue professional development.

Also, the plan outlines the community’s role by stating that Westfield residents should support and promote a positive social and emotional environment for learning and for after hours and weekend activities. It also stated that the community supports the schools financially and through in-kind services.

The plan outlines a goal of providing instruction and programs to give students “21st-Century skills to succeed in a global society.” This, Ms. Dolan notes, includes an ethical use of technology as well as working collaboratively in cross-cultural settings, solving problems creatively, communicating effectively while accessing and evaluating a vast amount of information on a regular basis.

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Courtesy of Rabbi Block  
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS...Rob and Leo Schwartz of Westfield light the Menorah at the Westfield train station on the first night of Chanukah, last Wednesday. Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, Mayor Andy Skibitsky, Councilmen David Haas and Keith Loughlin spoke and shared their holiday greetings.

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Tracy Devine  
Regional Vice President  
Broker/Manager





Christie Storms for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**RAKE AND HOE HO HO...**The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield held its “Deck the Halls” Holiday House Tour last weekend, featuring innovative ideas for holiday decorating. Pictured above is a Victorian Christmas Tree comprised of hand-crafted ornaments alongside a sleigh full of elegantly wrapped packages at a Kimball Avenue residence. See article on page 19.

## Ho! Ho! Ho! to Everyone

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the children of all ages who came out to see me at the Holiday Celebration in Scotch Plains this past Sunday. It was great to see so many people come out on a beautiful, chilly day. Mrs. Claus and I had a lot of fun meeting so many great children and their families.

I want to thank the many people who made my visit possible. Thanks to the Scotch Plains Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Recreation Department for helping to set up the event and also allowing it to run smoothly. Thank you to the Scotch Plains Police Department for keeping everyone safe. Thanks also to the volunteer elves for making it a fun day. A special thank you goes to Mayor [Nancy] Malool for lighting the beautiful Christmas tree in Alan Augustine Park. I know Mayor Malool is not

crazy about heights, but she was a real trooper up in the cherry picker.

A special thank you goes to SPBPA President Lisa Mohn of Apple Blossom Flower Shop for planning the event. Thanks also go to the rest of the volunteers of the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association for helping to make the day a wonderful success. Lisa’s tireless efforts have made the event a great success for many years.

I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season. Don’t forget my cookies (chocolate chip or peanut butter) and milk (1 percent please – Mrs. Claus says I need to lose some weight) on Christmas Eve! And please don’t forget the carrots for the reindeer.

Sincerely,  
Santa Claus  
North Pole



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

**HERE COMES SANTA...**Santa Claus arrives with the Garwood Fire Department to greet children during Saturday’s Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the borough.

## Westfield Board of Education

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The plan also outlines steps for students to foster responsibility and promote student self-advocacy. Finally, the plan points out that the Westfield school system should be, on a regular basis, maximizing its fiscal resources.

Ms. Dolan noted that an example of this would include the four energy-star awards earned in 2009. She noted that conserving energy is not only “helping the environment but saving the district money.”

After the presentation, board member Jane Clancy thanked the council for putting the plan together. She stated, “This plan was worth the wait. It is a powerful plan that embodies our core values and keeps us focused. I am so excited.”

Board member David Finn asked Ms. Dolan how the plan will be monitored and how progress of the plan will be tracked. She responded by saying that part of the plan would have a checklist system to monitor progress.

In other business, Mr. Finn announced that the Facilities Committee was considering naming the high school baseball field after the late Bob Brewster, Sr. He stated that Mr. Brewster had been part of the Westfield community for more than 50 years and had spent more than 25 years in the football program and almost as many in the basketball program.

It was noted that he had served for 10 years on the recreation commission and spent 40 years in the Athletic Boosters club. It was also noted that Mr. Brewster and his wife gave annually to a high school scholarship. Sandy Mamary, supervisor of athletics for the high school, stated that Mr. Brewster had also been one of the founding members of the Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame. She stated that Mr. Brewster was “very dedicated to the youth of Westfield sports.” She added “it would be more than appro-

priate to dedicate a field to a man of his character.”

Resident Mike Murray echoed these sentiments, stating “The way he coached my kids and other kids made me a better parent.”

Many of Mr. Brewster’s family members were in attendance of the meeting, including his son, Daryl Brewster, who thanked members of the Facilities Committee for their consideration.

Mrs. Walker stated that the recommendation for the dedication has to go through the Facilities Committee and would probably be on the agenda sometime in February.

In other business, Richard Mattessich announced that because of the labor and expense in restoring the district’s roofs to date, there have been no bids received on the solar-panel project. He said there had been companies that have come to seek information on the project but that no bids came before the November 30 deadline. He noted that he was in the process of reaching out to some of those companies.

Last month, members of the BOE unanimously voted to allocate an additional \$10,000 for the solar-panel project, which was set to award a bid before the New Year.

During prior meetings Mr. Mattessich had reported that the Building and Grounds Committee had met and discussed the possibility of covering all schools in the district with solar panels, thus reducing energy costs for the Westfield schools in the future. He had stated that this solar-panel project would also include much-needed roof repair for the Westfield Schools. Mr. Mattessich also stated that the project was moving forward at an aggressive pace, to utilize grant monies that would otherwise expire on December 31.

The next BOE meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 8 p.m.

## SP Council Names LaCosta RVSA Head

By FRED T. ROSSI

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — The township council on Tuesday appointed Robert LaCosta as the township’s new representative to the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA). He will assume his position on February 1 and succeed Joan Papen, who has served as an RVSA commissioner for 15 years.

Mrs. Papen has technically been a holdover appointment since February of this year, meaning Mr. LaCosta will be serving four years of the five-year term. Last month, the council held a brief discussion about the RVSA appointee, with Councilman Kevin Glover asking his colleagues to consider appointing resident Daniel Sullivan as Mrs. Papen’s replacement. Mr. Sullivan serves on the township’s rescue squad.

In naming Mr. LaCosta, the township’s zoning officer and construction official, Mayor Nancy Malool said it would be helpful to “have a new set of eyes” and a “fresh perspective” at the utility, which has had some operational and financing issues that have been reported in the media in recent months, including problems with the facility’s new co-generation plant in Linden.

In other business, the council approved an ordinance that requires the removal of any underground tanks, such as ones that were used to store home heating oil, before a property is sold.

Earlier, at its conference meeting, the council heard a brief presentation from representatives of the Newmark School, a special-needs school with facilities in Plainfield and Carteret. The school is interested in developing the existing building at 1000 Cellular Avenue and consolidating its services there.

The school’s attorney, Steve Hehl, said some changes in the local zoning requirements would be necessary, namely regarding the minimum lot size for schools. The property itself is about five acres, while zoning requirements call for schools to have about five to six acres. Mr. Hehl said the school would require no more than about an acre to meet its unique needs.

Council members, while receptive, said they would discuss the matter further before making any zoning-change recommendations to the planning board.

## FW Council Readies Measure That Would Limit Nail Salons

By TED RITTER

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

**FANWOOD** — The borough council’s last monthly agenda meeting of the calendar year, Tuesday night, featured a discussion about the number of nail salons downtown.

The governing body, at next week’s regular meeting, will consider an ordinance amendment that would prohibit new nail salons from opening within Fanwood’s downtown district; existing salons would be “grandfathered,” permitting them to keep doing business.

Borough Attorney Dennis Estis said, “The town is getting inundated with nail salons.”

“I personally think...it’s a little crazy, to be honest with you,” Mayor Colleen Mahr said.

Earlier this year, the mayor said her intention was to encourage a variety of businesses downtown, especially given ongoing redevelopment efforts.

Tuesday night, Mayor Mahr said, “All people see are dry cleaners and nail salons” when driving through the borough.

During discussion of the proposed amendment, Councilman Anthony Parenti asked, “Aren’t we restricting trade at the same time?”

“You’re doing that now,” responded Mr. Estis, noting that the borough currently prohibits a range of businesses, from fast-food restaurants and massage parlors to arcades, tattoo parlors and pawn shops.

Speaking during public comments, resident and former council candidate Jason Benedict said, “I would worry about looking restrictive [to the business community]...as you try to grow the downtown.”

Councilman Robert Manduca, who said he shared the mayor’s concern about having too many nail salons downtown, also asked, “Do we want vacancy to be the primary business of

## Mountainside

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onship in pole vaulting.

The council noted that Deerfield School in Mountainside, which Justin attended, may no longer offer track and field to its students. Mayor Mirabelli said it was a “shame” and that they needed to look into bringing track and field back. One potential option is having the borough’s recreation department take over Deerfield’s track and field program.

The council requested to have a discussion on the Mountainside Fire Department placed on the agenda for the work session in January. The department is requesting the purchase of additional vehicles. Members will answer questions then regarding their current apparatus and additional needs.



Courtesy of Dave Roth and family

**LIGHTING THE NIGHT...**A star-filled night served as the setting for the annual Roth Family Christmas Tree lighting in Fanwood at the intersection of Coriell Avenue and Second Street. December 4 found more than 125 neighbors, family and friends count down the lighting of the 23-foot blue spruce. The tree is illuminated with more than 9,600 sparkling white lights. The blue spruce was four-feet tall when the Roths added it to their landscape in 1990.

## Westfield BOE Seeks to Clarify Its Position on Dolan Contract

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Dolan’s decision on whether to return to the district.

When asked if the governor’s edict on superintendent pay factored into negotiations, Ms. Walker said, “Absolutely. The superintendent also needed to research how it impacted her...She did the research and let us know that she would have to retire because of what it (the governor’s proposal) would do to her pension calculations.”

Defending the superintendent, Ms. Cary said, “Dr. Dolan has not acted like a free agent. She hasn’t crisscrossed the state just to earn pensionable dollars. She’s been here for 15 years. She’s dedicated to Westfield. Westfield’s her life.”

Ms. Dolan, who has been employed in the education field for more than 30 years, currently earns \$195,718 – a salary she would have continued to receive for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years under the terms of the now-rejected contract. That contract also would have bumped up her salary 2 percent for the 2012-2013 year, to \$199,632. In 2013-2014, following another year-over-year in-

crease, the salary would reach \$203,625. Her maximum salary, in the 2014-2015 school year, would reach \$207,700.

Ms. Walker said the BOE spent the entire summer and the early fall operating under the premise of the governor’s first proposal (\$175,000 cap).

“We always felt that we were in the same ballpark as the governor’s proposal,” Ms. Walker said. “The salary that has been approved by the BOE is within a few dollars, arguably, of what the governor is authorizing districts to pay. This seems like a reasonable response to the need to keep a superintendent.”

New BOE member Mitch Slater said, “There’s no precedent to [the cap]. The governors of New Jersey have never stepped foot into telling school districts who they should hire as superintendents and what they should get paid...Margaret Dolan is the right person for our district, and quite frankly, the board unanimously voted her to stay in, with the approval of the Union County Superintendent [Ms. Centuolo], and she deserves to stay in this job. To me, the way I see it is very open-and-shut.”

“This is a new level of micromanagement,” said Ms. Cary, who referred to the superintendent-pay hearings occurring statewide as merely “*pro forma*.”

Considering the meager state aid (half of 1 percent of its \$90-million budget) that Westfield gets from Trenton, she added, “We are really funding ourselves. Local taxpayers fund this school system, and now you have a governor coming in and saying, ‘Out of the money you have raised, this is the portion you can spend on a superintendent.’ That seems unfair to me.”

With the BOE and Ms. Dolan coming to an agreement in early November, on November 4, BOE attorney Phil Stern spoke to Ms. Centuolo, who gave verbal agreement and said, “Go ahead,” Ms. Cary detailed.

“And we did, and we thought we were done,” Ms. Cary added.

Then, on December 1, Ms. Centuolo wrote to the BOE, rejecting the contract. When asked why she would give her blessing to the deal and allow the BOE to proceed before denying the contract outright a month later, Ms. Cary said, “That’s a very good question; you should ask her...she did an about-face.”

BOE members also said that they were not aware of the county superintendent’s denial until *The Wall Street Journal* contacted them for comment. The short letter from Ms. Centuolo simply states that the BOE must void the agreement by December 15 and inform the county superintendent’s office in writing.

Speaking to *The Leader* by phone on Tuesday night, Alan Guenther, spokesman for the N.J. DOE, said, “The letter that was released speaks for itself; she (Ms. Centuolo) wants them to abide by the law...She stands by the letter that she wrote. She did not approve the contract.”

In addition, in a press release from the governor’s press office, dated December 3, it reads, “And some

districts, like Parsippany and Westfield, are even attempting to circumvent the caps by pursuing contract extensions to lock in these expensive superintendent contracts and reject the savings it would bring to taxpayers for years.”

The Westfield BOE disagrees with those charges. “We followed all the statutes and procedures that were required of us,” Ms. Walker said. “So we need to continue to stay the course. We don’t want to do anything that is contrary to the law. We are not ignoring this (Ms. Centuolo’s letter).”

“We didn’t hear what we did wrong,” Ms. Walker said. “We received no guidance, only that we need a vote to rescind [the contract].”

Ms. Cary agreed that the superintendent cap has been a “moving target,” and she wished to make the points that, “We (as a board) did not go rogue...and she (Ms. Dolan) did not get a raise.”

The BOE members were asked if they were getting the message from the public that while they are pleased with their kids’ education, they are worried about their rising taxes.

Responding, Mr. Slater said, “Absolutely. People are concerned; I was concerned; that’s one of the reasons I ran for the BOE. But you have to balance it between maintaining a strong school system and doing what is fair for the students of town as well as doing what’s fair for the taxpayers of town.”

When asked how the board intends to cope with the 2-percent budget-cap edict by the governor next year, in view of the fact that the board, this year, awarded the teachers’ union a three-year contract with 4-percent raises each year, Mr. Slater said, “We are currently in negotiation with the teachers’ union.”

On Monday night, the BOE met in executive session with its lawyer, Mr. Stern, to go over what options might be available to the board, based on Ms. Centuolo’s letter. Mr. Stern laid out the options available, and the board is continuing to look at what it will do before December 16.

One option would be to sue. The Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Education has sued in response to the Morris County Superintendent’s Office rejecting a contract that would pay its superintendent \$234,065 by the end of the contract.

Ms. Walker said the board could also “do what it was told” and vote to rescind the previous contract. She also said there are other options that are “not as obvious.”

“We don’t know what’s going to happen on the 15th,” Ms. Cary said. “Stay tuned,” Mr. Slater said.

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Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

**A PERSONAL TOUCH...**Grant Crandall helps a child make a holiday craft at the 4H Club Holiday Craft night on Friday at the Westfield Municipal Building.



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## Robert LaCosta Appointed RVSA Commissioner, Replacing Papen

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood

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Kevin Glover asking his colleagues to consider appointing resident Dan Sullivan as Mrs. Papen's replacement. Mr. Sullivan serves on the township's rescue squad.

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Earlier, at its conference meeting, the council heard a brief presentation from representatives of the Newmark School, a special-needs school with facilities in Plainfield and Carteret. The school is interested in developing the existing building at 1000 Cellar Avenue and consolidating its services there.

The school's attorney, Steve Hehl, said some changes in the local zoning requirements would be necessary, namely regarding the minimum-lot size for schools. The property itself is about five acres, while zoning requirements call for schools to have about five to six acres. Mr. Hehl said the school would require no more than about an acre to meet its unique needs.

Council members, while receptive, said they would discuss the matter further before making any zoning change recommendations to the planning board.

### SP Disputes Shared-Service Consultant Fee

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS – The township council on Tuesday failed to come to an agreement on making a final – and disputed – payment to the consultant who authored the report containing recommendations on shared services between Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Consultant Dan Mason of Jersey Professional Management (JPM), the author of the report, had sought an additional payment beyond his original contract because he had to attend the public sessions that were held to explain the report's findings to residents of both communities.

In the spring, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Shared Services Study Committee, which is made up of representatives from both towns, recommended that Mr. Mason be paid an additional \$5,000, versus the \$15,000 that he first requested. Fanwood paid its \$2,500 share, but the Scotch Plains governing body balked at making the payment, with Mayor Nancy Malool saying at the time that since Mr. Mason authored the report, he should be present at the public forums to defend it and explain its recommendations to the public.

At the council's conference meeting on Tuesday, only the mayor and Councilman Jeff Strauss favored making the \$2,500 payment. While faulting Mr. Mason for assuming that he would be receiving extra payment for attending the meetings, the mayor said that failing to pay him "doesn't make us look good as a township." She said, "we can go forward" with

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## Santa Sends His Greeting; Ho! Ho! Ho! Everyone

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the children of all ages who came out to see me at the Holiday Celebration in Scotch Plains this past Sunday. It was great to see so many people come out on a beautiful, chilly day. Mrs. Claus and I had a lot of fun meeting so many great children and their families.

I want to thank the many people who made my visit possible. Thanks to the Scotch Plains Fire Department, Department of Public Works and Recreation Department for helping to set up the event and also allowing it to run smoothly. Thank you to the Scotch Plains Police Department for keeping everyone safe. Thanks also to the volunteer elves for making it a fun day. A special thank you goes to Mayor Nancy Malool for lighting the beautiful Christmas tree in Alan Augustine Park. I know Mayor Malool



Courtesy of Dave Roth  
**TREE PARTY...**A spectacular star-filled night served as the setting for the annual Roth Family Christmas tree lighting in Fanwood. The December 4 event found more than 125 neighbors, family and friends counting down to the lighting of the 23-foot blue spruce. The tree is illuminated with more than 9,600 sparkling white lights. The blue spruce was four feet tall when the Roths added it to their landscape in 1990. The public can enjoy the festive tree at the corner of Coriell Avenue and Second Street.

## Fanwood Council Readies Measure Limiting Nail Salons in Downtown

By TED RITTER  
Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — The borough council's last monthly agenda meeting of the calendar year Tuesday night featured a discussion about the number of nail salons downtown.

The governing body, at next week's regular meeting, will consider an ordinance amendment that would prohibit new nail salons from opening within Fanwood's downtown district; existing salons would be "grandfathered," permitting them to keep doing business.

Borough Attorney Dennis Estis said, "The town is getting inundated with nail salons."

"I personally think...it's a little crazy, to be honest with you," Mayor Colleen Mahr said.

Earlier this year, the mayor said her intention was to encourage a variety of businesses downtown, especially given ongoing redevelopment efforts.

Tuesday night, Mayor Mahr said, "All people see are dry cleaners and nail salons" when driving through the borough.

During discussion of the proposed amendment, Councilman Anthony Parenti asked, "Aren't we restricting trade at the same time?"

"You're doing that now," responded Mr. Estis, noting that the borough currently prohibits a range of businesses, from fast-food restaurants and massage parlors to arcades, tattoo parlors and pawn shops.

Speaking during public comments, resident and former council candidate Jason Bendedict said, "I would worry about looking restrictive [to

business]...as you try to grow the downtown."

Councilman Robert Manduca, who said he shared the mayor's concern about having too many nail salons downtown, also asked, "Do we want vacancy to be the primary business of the downtown, as opposed to nail salons?"

Mayor Mahr emphasized, "We're not restricting [nail salons] in Fanwood, just in a restricted area...where there's heavy competition."

"We're a small town; five nail salons within a spit's throw is sufficient," the mayor said.

Resident Michael Lewis said, "This is something I don't think we need a law for; competition works...the market can take care of this one."

Councilwoman Joan Wheeler agreed, stating, "The market is working," and suggested that nail salons not performing quality work will not stay in business very long.

She additionally pointed to a proposed amendment to the borough's redevelopment plan, also on next week's regular meeting agenda, and suggested revising it to "take out nail salons as a permitted use."

In other business, Borough Engineer Dominic Carrino briefed the governing body about planned capital improvements.

Mr. Carrino said the Belvidere Avenue reconstruction project is "on hold" until spring, given the approach of winter. He said the contractor has agreed to hold the price.

Also, Mr. Carrino said the reconstruction of Watson Road would begin only after any necessary sewer

repairs are identified and completed.

Mr. Carrino also spoke about plans to renovate the exterior of the firehouse adjacent to Borough Hall.

He said specifications call for about \$25,000 worth of siding, trim, roofing, and façade improvements. The borough plans to seek quotes from local businesses for the firehouse project; if the quotes are more than \$25,000, the job would have to be publicly bid, officials said.

Mr. Carrino concluded his engineering report with an update on the old Rocco's Tavern property on Terrill Road.

Plans and specifications for demolition of the vacant and foreclosed site are expected to be finalized by the end of the week, he said.

After that, the borough expects to get bids in early January and award a contract at the governing body's January 11 meeting.

A lien in the amount of demolition expenses incurred by the borough will be placed on the property.

Mayor Mahr also wants Mr. Carrino to offer input on possible uses for a \$50,000 Union County kids' recreation grant the borough has been awarded.

Mayor Mahr said one idea is to use the money to draft a parks "master plan" to "get it on paper [and] provide more vision...for our parks."

### Correction

In the cell-tower story in the last edition of *The Times*, the wrong date for the next meeting was given. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, December 16. We regret the error.



Paul Lachenauer for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG...**The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chamber Choir sings carols in front of Fanwood's Christmas Tree at the borough's Christmas Tree-lighting ceremony on Sunday.

## SP Mayor's Gala Salutes Volunteers, Funds Groups

By FRED T. ROSSI  
Specially Written for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Since its inception two decades ago, it has been billed a nonpartisan, apolitical evening — and at this year's Mayor's Charity Gala, held last Friday night at Shackamaxon Country Club, that certainly held true, at least at Mayor Nancy Malool's own table.

The Republican mayor and her husband, Paul, were joined by Democratic Councilman Kevin Glover, Republican Councilman Dominick Bratti, who ran unsuccessfully for reelection last month as an independent; township Democratic Party Chairman Lou Beckerman and — perhaps available to serve as a referee, even though those services were not needed — township Zoning Officer Robert LaCosta.

The mayor told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that she had not planned on who her tablemates would be, and laughed at the "very tripartisan" makeup of her dinner companions. Mr. Beckerman chuckled and assured *The Times* during the dinner that everyone at his table was

"getting along very well."

As it is every year, the evening's main focus was saluting township volunteers, with this year's honorees being Lisa Mohn, Michael Walch and the Scotch Plains Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. In her welcoming letter, Mayor Malool said that Ms. Mohn, the owner of Apple Blossom Florist, "is the first person to volunteer to help on almost any project." The mayor said Mr. Walch "represents all that is good about Scotch Plains' volunteer spirit." And she said the scouts "have made our town a better place through the many projects they have completed."

The gala was first held in 1991 and was the brainchild of then-mayor Alan Augustine, who saw the dinner as a way for the community to gather to celebrate itself, recalled long-time former township manager Thomas Atkins. He told *The Times* that Mr. Augustine was "adamant about it being an apolitical event, in order to get as many people to go and for no one to feel excluded." And Mr. Augustine wanted the evening to center around

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Fred T. Rossi for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**GALA TIME...**A large and festive crowd attended the Scotch Plains Mayor's Gala last Friday at the Shackamaxon Country Club. Pictured, left to right, are: Councilman Kevin Glover, Mayor Nancy Malool, Councilman Dominick Bratti and Councilwoman Mary DePaola.



Fred T. Rossi for The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
**HO HO HO...**Santa Claus arrives from the North Pole to greet the children in Scotch Plains Sunday night.

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**Tracy Devine**  
Regional Vice President  
Broker/Manager





Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
SANTA MEETS THE MAYOR...Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr gives Santa her Christmas list at Fanwood's Christmas Tree-lighting ceremony on Sunday.

## Bret Schundler and Lucille Davy to Head State of Education Discussion

STATE – On Monday, December 13, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, Legal One will host the first in its series of roundtable discussions on “The State of Education in the State of New Jersey.” This invitation-only event, entitled

“Education Reform in New Jersey: Super-heroes versus Real Solutions,” will feature the five most recent former New Jersey Commissioners of Education, Brett Schundler, Lucille Davy, William Libera, Vito Gagliardi and David Hespe. News reporter John Mooney will moderate.

## Fee Dispute

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

implementing the report's findings “with or without him.” Mr. Strauss said that Mr. Mason was a “very integral part” of the shared services process, and called the failure to pay him “shameful and unprofessional. We are stiffing him.”

Deputy Mayor Dominick Bratti, however, said that Mr. Mason and JPM had been “contracted for a specific thing at a specific price, and we paid it,” referring to the \$48,000 fee for JPM's services that was funded by a state grant. Mr. Bratti expressed some frustration with the council's revisiting of the matter, asking, “How many times do we have to vote on the same thing?”

Councilman Kevin Glover agreed, saying, “I, too, thought this [matter] was done.” While expressing some sympathy with Mr. Mason's claims, Mr. Glover said the request was “too late. We need to move on.”

Later, at the council's regular meeting, the mayor told a resident that nothing in the report was yet being implemented because much ground-work still needs to be done, with one of the first priorities being a joint meeting between the Scotch Plains and Fanwood governing bodies.

And “there are a lot of questions” that will need to be addressed first, the mayor added, with one of the primary ones being the differing classifications of municipal employees – Scotch Plains is a civil-service town, while Fanwood is not.

The former commissioners will explore broad themes, such as their perception of public education in New Jersey, impediments to improvement and solutions that should be implemented. They also are expected to address specific topics, such as the role of charter schools and public school choice; teacher evaluation and compensation; teacher and principal tenure and other major policy changes currently under consideration.

Education leaders from throughout the state have been invited.

## Gala

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

recognizing township volunteers.

Mrs. Malool, who worked as a legislative assistant to Mr. Augustine when he served in the State Assembly in the 1990s, remembered him hoping the gala would be “equivalent to an adult prom,” and in its early years, the dress was much more formal, and the mayor recalled, with tuxedos and gowns prevalent.

Proceeds from this year's gala, which are derived from raffle tickets, ads in the gala's booklet and silent auction bids, will go to the local Municipal Alliance Committee and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

## Scotch Plains - Fanwood Times only

# WF BOE Seeks to Clarify Its Position on Super's Contract

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD – Three Westfield Board of Education (BOE) members came to *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* offices on Tuesday morning to recount how the board arrived at its decision to offer a new contract to current superintendent Margaret Dolan, last month, while Governor Chris Christie is attempting to rein in superintendent pay.

In the wake of the state Department of Education (DOE) and Union County Executive Superintendent Carmen Centuolo denying that contract, last week, the BOE members also alluded to what may happen next in a process they described as “unprecedented” and rife with communication barriers.

First, BOE President Julia Walker said the contract with Ms. Dolan, agreed upon in 2007, runs from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2011. Under New Jersey statute [18a:17-20.1], superintendents are entitled to a one-year notice of non-renewal of their contracts. Since superintendents are non-tenured, they are guaranteed, by statute, “three months [of notice] for every year” on their contract. Because Ms. Dolan has a four-year contract, that entitles her to the 12-month notification.

The board informed Ms. Dolan in June 2010 that it intended on keeping her on board, and had been in negotiations with her since May.

“[Under the language of the state statute], we said that we were ‘not going to not renew’ her contract,” Ms. Walker said. “[We said that] Dr. Dolan was the superintendent we wish to employ. Then it became – under what terms? And those negotiations started before there was any indication from the governor's office whatsoever that he was going to head for a salary cap.”

On July 15, the governor proposed the salary caps on public-school superintendents. Under his rubric, Westfield's superintendent could earn up to \$175,000 annually. At the time, then-state Education Commissioner Bret Schundler said districts could also offer, in addition to the \$175,000 salary, merit-based bonuses of as much as 15 percent of administrators' pay. So, under the first set of rules, a salary could have reached as high as \$201,250, when factoring in merit pay, according to Ms. Walker.

Because the governor's proposal would only change the regulations that go along with the School District Accountability Act, his alterations do not need legislative approval. The matter only requires that hearings are held to gather public opinion. The cap will take effect on February 7, 2011.

In the most up-to-date numbers issued in early November, Westfield would slot in at the second-highest enrollment tier, for districts of between 3,001 and 6,500 students. The new limit for a Westfield superintendent's pay would now be \$167,500 (an extra \$2,500 is added for districts that have high schools), in addition to merit pay of up to 15 percent. If the 15-percent figure was earned, the salary could reach \$192,625, Ms. Walker said.

Also, under the newest superintendent-cap proposal, the merit bonuses are not factored into one's pension; according to BOE Vice-President Ann Cary, this provision impacted Ms. Dolan's decision on whether to return to the district.

When asked if the governor's edict on superintendent pay factored into negotiations, Ms. Walker said, “Absolutely. The superintendent also needed to research how it impacted her...She did the research and let us know that she would have to retire because of what it (the governor's proposal) would do to her pension calculations.”

Defending the superintendent, Ms. Cary said, “Dr. Dolan has not acted like a free agent. She hasn't crisscrossed the state just to earn pension-able dollars. She's been here for 15 years. She's dedicated to Westfield. Westfield's her life.”

Ms. Dolan, who has been employed in the education field for more than 30 years, currently earns \$195,718 – a salary she would have continued to receive for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years under the terms of the now-rejected contract. That contract also would have bumped up her salary 2 percent for the 2012-2013 year, to \$199,632. In 2013-2014, following another year-over-year increase, the salary would reach \$203,625. Her maximum salary, in the 2014-2015 school year, would reach \$207,700.

Ms. Walker said the BOE spent the entire summer and the early fall operating under the premise of the governor's first proposal (\$175,000 cap).

“We always felt that we were in the same ballpark as the governor's proposal,” Ms. Walker said. “The salary that has been approved by the BOE is within a few dollars, arguably, of what the governor is authorizing districts to pay. This seems like a reasonable response to the need to keep a superintendent.”

New BOE member Mitch Slater said, “There's no precedent to [the cap]. The governors of New Jersey

have never stepped foot into telling school districts who they should hire as superintendents and what they should get paid...Margaret Dolan is the right person for our district, and quite frankly, the board unanimously voted her to stay in, with the approval of the Union County Superintendent [Ms. Centuolo], and she deserves to stay in this job. To me, the way I see it is very open-and-shut.”

“This is a new level of micromanagement,” said Ms. Cary, who referred to the superintendent-pay hearings occurring statewide as merely “pro forma.”

Considering the meager state aid (half of 1 percent of its \$90 million budget) that Westfield gets from Trenton, she added, “We are really funding ourselves. Local taxpayers fund this school system, and now you have a governor coming in and saying, ‘Out of the money you have raised, this is the portion you can spend on a superintendent.’ That seems unfair to me.”

With the BOE and Ms. Dolan coming to an agreement in early November, on November 4, BOE attorney Phil Stern spoke to Ms. Centuolo, who gave verbal agreement and said, “Go ahead,” Ms. Cary detailed.

“And we did, and we thought we were done,” Ms. Cary added.

Then, on December 1, Ms. Centuolo wrote to the BOE, rejecting the contract. When asked why she would give her blessing to the deal and allow the BOE to proceed before denying the contract outright a month later, Ms. Cary said, “That's a very good question; you should ask her...she did an about-face.”

BOE members also said that they were not aware of the county superintendent's denial until *The Wall Street Journal* contacted them for comment. The short letter from Ms. Centuolo simply states that the BOE must void the agreement by December 15 and inform the county superintendent's office in writing.

Speaking to *The Times* by phone on Tuesday night, Alan Guenther, spokesman for the N.J. DOE, said, “The letter that was released speaks for itself; she (Ms. Centuolo) wants them to abide by the law...She stands by the letter that she wrote. She did not approve the contract.”

In addition, in a press release from the governor's press office, dated December 3, it reads, “And some districts, like Parsippany and Westfield, are even attempting to circumvent the caps by pursuing contract extensions to lock in these expensive superintendent contracts and reject the savings it would bring to taxpayers for years.”

The Westfield BOE disagrees with those charges. “We followed all the statutes and procedures that were required of us,” Ms. Walker said. “So we need to continue to stay the course. We don't want to do anything that is contrary to the law. We are not ignoring this (Ms. Centuolo's letter).”

“We didn't hear what we did wrong,” Ms. Walker said. “We received no guidance, only that we need a vote to rescind [the contract.]”

Ms. Cary agreed that the superintendent cap has been a “moving target,” and she wished to make the points that, “We (as a board) did not go rogue...and she (Ms. Dolan) did not get a raise.”

The BOE members were asked if they were getting the message from the public that while they are pleased with their kids' education, they are worried about their rising taxes.

Responding, Mr. Slater said, “Absolutely. People are concerned; I was concerned; that's one of the reasons I ran for the BOE. But you have to balance it between maintaining a strong school system and doing what is fair for the students of the town as well as doing what's fair for the taxpayers of the town.”

On Monday night, the BOE met in executive session with its lawyer, Mr. Stern, to go over what options might be available to the board, based on Ms. Centuolo's letter. Mr. Stern laid out the options available, and the board is continuing to look at what it will do before December 16.

One option would be to sue. The Parsippany-Troy Hills Board of Education has sued in response to the Morris County Superintendent's Office rejecting a contract that would pay its superintendent \$234,065 by the end of the contract.

Ms. Walker said the board could also “do what it was told” and vote to rescind the previous contract. She also said there are other options that are “not as obvious.”

“We don't know what's going to happen on the 15th,” Ms. Cary said. “Stay tuned,” Mr. Slater said.

When asked how they intend to cope with the 2-percent budget cap edict by the Governor next year, in view of the fact that the board this year awarded the teachers a three-year contract with 4-percent raises for each year, Mr. Slater stated, “We are currently in negotiation with the teachers' union.”



Greg Ryan for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
REMEMBERING MAYOR “BOB”... Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli, left, stands with the family of the late long-time borough Mayor Robert Viglianti, including his wife, Linda, in front of a new sign dedicated in Mayor Viglianti's name at the entrance driveway to the municipal building.

# Mountainside House Straddles The Borough and Westfield

By MANDY L. RUSSELL  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

MOUNTAINSIDE – The borough council on Tuesday night heard an appeal from residents Mario and Anna Esposito of Rodman Lane, requesting a road-opening permit for their new residence. The Espositos purchased the property in October 2009 and had the existing home on the property demolished so they could rebuild. The property overlaps the border of Westfield and Mountainside, causing confusion regarding the permits required.

“We have had so many problems with the paperwork and permits being mixed,” Anna Esposito told Mayor Paul Mirabelli.

While the Espositos' address states they reside in Mountainside, the previous owners at the same location were said to have a Westfield address. When construction was about to begin for the new home, and the water and other utilities were being shut off, the Espositos found that each company was represented by both towns — which made the process confusing.

“We have paperwork showing that we live in two different towns,” Ms. Esposito claimed.

They applied to Mountainside for their demolition permit in the summer of 2010 because most of their property lies within Mountainside. Construction on their home is nearly complete, but they are caught in a gas line dilemma. Two different gas companies are involved. One gas company applied to Westfield for a permit to open the road for the gas line, while the other company applied to Mountainside to reopen the gas line.

“Elizabeth Gas Co. was at fault for violating a moratorium to open the road in the first place,” Councilman Keith Turner said.

Mr. Turner asked if the Espositos knew about the moratorium. They claimed there was confusion about it. He then asked if they had other fuel

options at this time.

“No,” Mario Esposito said, explaining that the “main valve is there with an open attachment because no turn-on valve was installed.”

Borough Administrator Jim Debbie asked why the gas company did not come back and fix the valve. Mr. Esposito explained that, “The road is still open, and all they would have to do is come back, complete it and close it with infrared technology.”

Ms. Esposito ended by requesting that the council grant them the permit to have the problem fixed so that they can complete the construction of their home.

“We have a mortgage on the new house and one on another house, and we can't afford to wait any longer,” Ms. Esposito said.

Mayor Mirabelli said the request would go into a “public session,” and that Mr. Debbie would be in touch with them soon to let them know the outcome.

In other business, while discussing future proclamations, the council recognized the achievements of a Mountainside graduate, Justin Amezcuita, who was awarded a full scholarship to Duke University for his exceptional track and field achievements, including winning the New Jersey State Championship in pole vaulting.

The council noted that Deerfield School in Mountainside, which Justin attended, may no longer offer track and field to its students. Mayor Mirabelli said it was a “shame,” and that they needed to look into bringing track and field back. One potential option is having the borough's recreation department take over Deerfield's track and field program.

The council requested to have a discussion on the Mountainside Fire Department placed on the agenda for the work session in January. The department is requesting additional vehicles. Members will answer questions then regarding their current apparatus and additional needs.

## Resident Questions Superintendent Margaret Dolan's \$195,000 Salary

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL  
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD – At Tuesday's Westfield Board of Education meeting, resident John Blake questioned the salary Superintendent Margaret Dolan would have received under the terms of a new contract.

Union County Superintendent Carmen Centuolo has since denied that five-year agreement, which would have seen Ms. Dolan's salary climb from its current level, \$195,718, to upwards of \$207,700 in the contract's final year. Her current contract will expire on June 30, 2011.

Mr. Blake asked why, according to his understanding, Ms. Dolan's salary was set at \$195,000 when the state guidelines recommend \$175,000 for a district the size of Westfield.

BOE President Julia Walker explained that the new threshold is \$167,500 – \$165,000 plus an extra \$2,500 for having a high school in the district – and the state also allows for a 15-percent merit-based increase that would bring the superintendent's salary to roughly \$192,000, “which is very close to the proposed salary.” She also noted that the process of paying a search firm for a new superintendent costs thousands of dollars, which the district does not want to pay now. She also noted that Ms.

Dolan has done a “great job” for the district.

Mr. Blake asked – during an economic crisis, in which people are simply thankful to have jobs – “why are we giving out such a raise?”

Mr. Blake, who also said he thought the superintendent did a great job, then asked if Ms. Dolan indicated during negotiations that she either wanted the increase in money or would leave.

Mrs. Walker then replied, “Yes, sir.”

Mr. Blake said, “It seems we need to be using our money more wisely. I would like to ask Dr. Dolan if she thinks the roof repair is important to the district.” He concluded by saying, “Do we fix the roofs and not let in the rain, or do we have Mrs. Dolan standing there with an umbrella?”

In other business, unanimously, members of the Westfield Board of Education approved the new five-year Strategic Plan set forth by the 48-member Strategic Planning Council. Ms. Dolan presented the plan.

The plan states that the Westfield school system believes that the role of parents – besides the caring for the emotional and physical needs of their children – is to conduct themselves with integrity, honor and respect, and be role models for their child.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times  
PERSONAL TOUCH...Grant Crandall of Scotch Plains helps a child at the 4-H Club Holiday Craft night on Friday at the Westfield Municipal Building.

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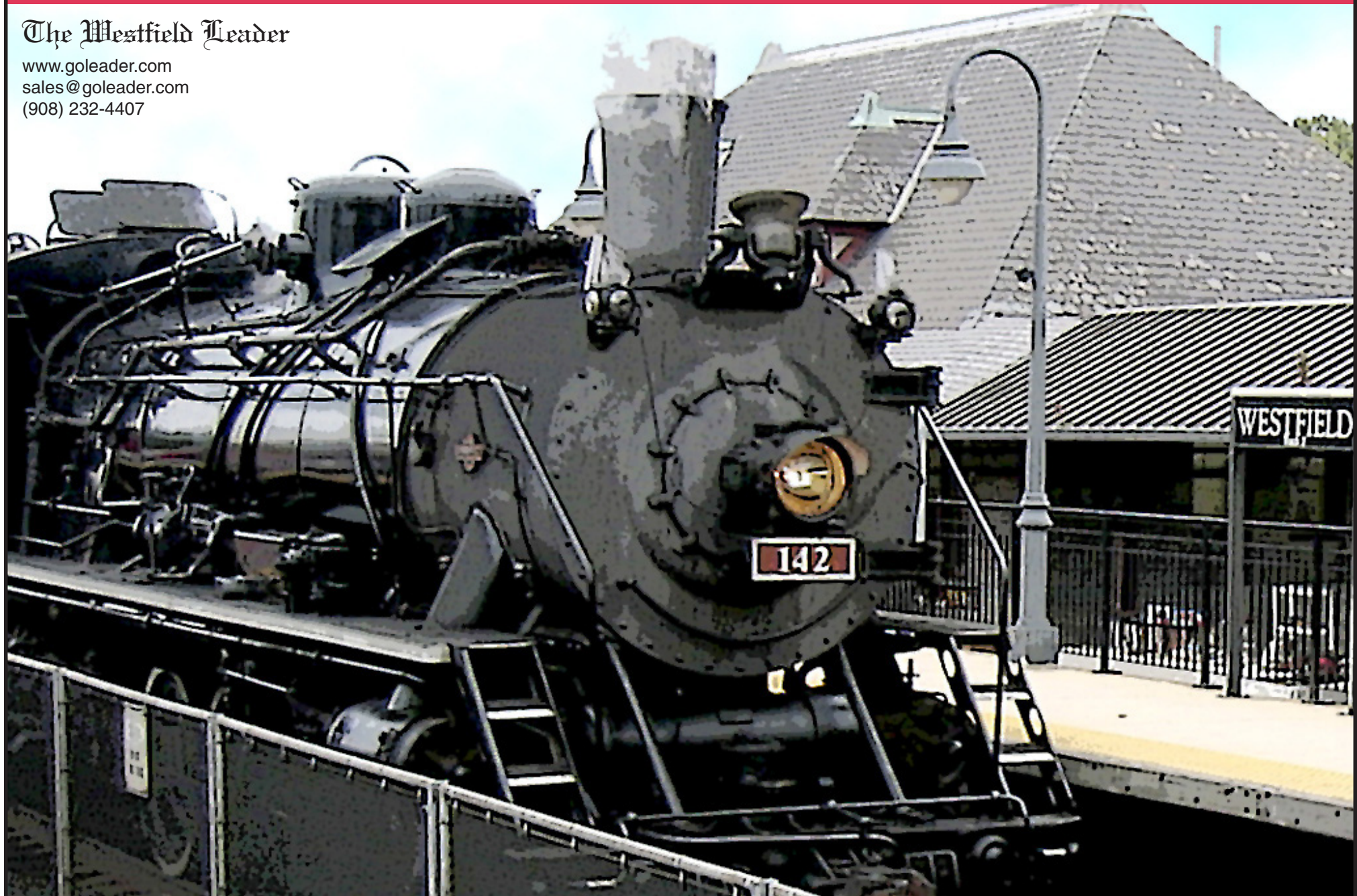
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## Teachers Union, Citizens Protest Kean U. Layoffs

By THOMAS FORTUNATO  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

UNION — Kean University’s faculty union and community activists staged a rally last Friday and attended Saturday’s university board of trustees meeting to protest the proposed layoffs of 26 non-faculty staff members by the university. Friday’s rally was organized by the People’s Organization for Progress (POP), the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Kean Federation of Teachers (KFT) outside state Senator Raymond Lesniak’s (LD-20, Union) office on Stuyvesant Avenue in Union.

A press release submitted by the groups on Tuesday said the layoffs targeted Kean’s support staff to the Exceptional Educational Opportunities (EEO), the Spanish Speaking Program (SSP) and the Passport Program (PP). James Castiglione, a physics professor at Kean and KFT president, said the groups were hoping that Sen. Lesniak “could sponsor some legislation to restore some of the funding, [or] if he could intervene directly with members of the board of trustees — the president [Dawood Farahi] is a friend of his — and say ‘look, let’s sit down, let’s bring in the representation of the union, the students, and try to find a solution to this problem.’”

According to Mr. Castiglione, “the same budget cuts [are taking place at] all of [Kean University’s] sister institutions: Montclair, Ramapo, Rowan, William Paterson and so on, and none of them are laying off any employees. Only Kean University is laying off employees.”

“The nature of these layoffs is such that they’re happening in programs that serve our most vulnerable students [such as those who do not speak English],” Mr. Castiglione elaborated, “and if you look at the cohort of layoffs itself, you can see that there is serious concerns about discrimination: of the 12 [professional] staff [facing layoffs], 10 are women, six are African-American, two are Latina, [and] several of them are among the most senior members of our professional staff. One person has 33 years of experience.”

Kean spokesman Stephen Hudik told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that the layoffs do not involve faculty or campus police. “The elimination of the positions will result in approximately \$2.3 million in annual savings [for the university],” Mr. Hudik said in a follow-up e-mail.

The board of trustees vehemently contested the allegations that the layoffs were racially motivated.

“Just so the record’s clear, 46 percent of the people being laid off are white,” Trustee Robert Cockren told one of the

speakers at Saturday’s trustees meeting. “So don’t come before me and tell me that they’re all minorities, because you don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“There is still time for the university to divert layoffs of professional staff,” Mr. Castiglione told the trustees. “The additional 800-plus [full-time equivalent students] for the fall is 400 more than budgeted for, providing an anticipated \$4 million-plus in revenue. It can also be used to preserve services and the associated positions.”

Mr. Farahi responded to Mr. Castiglione, saying, “All it takes [to divert the layoffs] is for [the KFT] to send a one-sentence letter that says the KFT will forego the 3.5-percent raise [half of their 7 percent increase] due in January, and none of the members of the KFT would be laid off.”

“That’s against the law,” Mr. Castiglione responded. “We do not have the authority to do that. We are under a state-wide contract.”

Mr. Castiglione later told *The Leader/Times* that the contract could only be renegotiated at the state level, “for everyone, for all the other institutions. The only way that that would happen is if [the KFT] got the sign-off from all the other institutions, but none of [those schools] are having layoffs.” Therefore, according to Mr. Castiglione, the other schools would have no reason to consent to a salary cut for their own teachers.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Kean philosophy professor Peter Pezzolo was distributing yellow flyers to those in attendance, when a Kean University police officer removed him from the room.

“There are other ways [the KFT] has been trying to address this issue [of staff layoffs], and one of them is handing out leaflets and flyers on campus,” Mr. Pezzolo told *The Leader/Times* after the meeting, “and I was threatened with arrest by a plainclothes campus cop for doing nothing more than that. The person I was handing the flyer to was the vice-president of this institution.”

“[The officer] did not invoke a law, he simply said he was following orders,” Mr. Pezzolo continued. “I said, ‘what is the charge?’ He said, ‘I’m following orders.’”

“I suggest before we jump to conclusions, we really gain the information necessary to make statements,” trustee Linda Lewis stated in defense of the university. “Most of [the protestors] do not know the background.” Ms. Lewis is African-American, and a former branch chief of the New Jersey Department of Education. “I don’t think you should jump to any conclusions about our mindset in terms of diversity regarding the employees at this university,” Ms. Lewis continued. “I think you need to look at more than just the color of one’s skin before you jump to conclusions.”



Thomas Fortunato for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**PROTESTING LAYOFFS...Kean University students and community activists demonstrate against the proposed layoffs of staff at the university during a rally Friday in front of Senator Ray Lesniak's office in Union. Rally organizers say the layoffs are “unjustified” because they involve many minority staff members.**

## Ten Union County Bridges Listed as in Poor Condition

STATE — A new analysis of federal bridge data by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign (TSTC) identifies 202 deficient major bridges across New Jersey. Ten of Union County’s 318 major bridges were listed as structurally deficient.

Union County’s bridges that made the report are: the Park Avenue bridge over Route 22 in Scotch Plains, which was built in 1956 and carries 25,000 vehicles daily; the Route 22 bridge over Chestnut Street in Union; Route 22 eastbound bridge over the Rahway River, and the highway’s bridge over Burke Avenue in Union; the Route 577 bridge over Interstate 78 in Springfield; Route 82/Morris Avenue bridge over the Rahway River in Springfield; the Cherry Street and Chilton Avenue bridges over the Elizabeth Independent Railroad in Elizabeth; the Route 22 bridge over Liberty Avenue in Hillside, and the Interstate 78 westbound bridge over Quarry Road in Springfield.

Topping the report’s list is the Pulaski Skyway on Routes 1 & 9 over the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, which connects Newark and Jersey City. Also mentioned are the Route 3 eastbound bridge over the Hackensack River in East Rutherford, the Route 35 bridge over Route 440 in Perth Amboy, and the Garden State Parkway ramp over Route 9 south in Woodbridge.

“Many of these bridges [in the report] are in need of immediate

repair or reconstruction, and indeed the New Jersey Department of Transportation says that nearly \$850 million in annual bridge repair spending is needed to make significant progress toward reducing the state’s backlog of deficient bridges,” according to a press release issued by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign.

“Yet the expected bankruptcy of New Jersey’s Transportation Trust Fund [TTF] threatens to derail progress on improving bridges and other critical infrastructure. Beginning in July 2011, all of the gas tax and other revenue flowing into the TTF will be diverted to interest payments on decades’ worth of past borrowing,” according to the TSTC.

The report comes on the heels of a letter from the TSTC, Environment New Jersey, and New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) urging Governor Chris Christie to redirect the billions in transportation funds that had been slated for the transit tunnel project (Access to the Region’s Core) to transit, bridge and road repair.

Nearly eight million cars and trucks cross New Jersey’s 202 “structurally-deficient” major bridges every day, according to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. The majority of the bridges are concentrated in the heavily populated counties of northern New Jersey. Bergen County tops the list with 26 structurally-deficient bridges, followed by Essex and Morris Counties, with 20 and 19, respectively.

The full report is available at [www.tstc.org/reports/bandage/](http://www.tstc.org/reports/bandage/).

## N.J. Hires D.C. Lawyers to Fight \$271-Mil. Tunnel Bill

TRENTON — Governor Chris Christie has approved NJ Transit’s retention of a law firm to challenge the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) attempt to bill the state \$271 million in connection with the Governor’s cancellation of the \$8.7-billion commuter rail tunnel project. The project was cancelled in October over \$5 billion in projected cost overruns.

The project would have enabled NJ Transit commuters using the Raritan Valley Line to have a one-seat ride to New York’s Penn Station instead of having to change trains in Newark, as is currently done.

In canceling the tunnel project, Governor Christie said he sought to protect taxpayers from an “open-ended bill” which left New Jersey responsible for all cost overruns. The Washington, D.C. law firm of Patton Boggs, LLP has been retained at a cost of \$485 per hour to represent the state in its legal challenge. The administration has said it will argue that the federal government is being inconsistent in demanding repayment from New Jersey while other states were not billed when they halted transportation projects.

“It’s not surprising that the same Federal Transit Agency that had no clear way to pay for cost overruns of a project already hurt by poor planning and inequitable cost sharing is relying on bureaucratic power plays to wring even more money from New Jerseyans,” Governor Christie said. “New Jersey and its taxpayers should not be responsible for these costs, which is why our administration is making every effort to fight the FTA’s unreasonable demands. I simply cannot allow our state to be taken advantage of any further over this highly-flawed project.”

The Governor also said he was “gratified” to see bipartisan support

emerging from New Jersey’s Congressional delegation in support of the move to challenge the FTA and protect New Jersey taxpayers.

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) said, “I support fully Governor Christie’s efforts to protect New Jersey and its taxpayers and stand ready to work with our state’s congressional delegation in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the Garden State is not being wrongly singled out by federal transportation officials.”

Rep. Stephen Rothman (D-9th) also questioned the federal government’s demand for payment.

“I, too, am interested in knowing the legal basis for the claim New Jersey needs to repay the federal government,” Mr. Rothman said in remarks published by *The Record* of Bergen County. “I want to make sure if there is a sound legal basis for it that New Jersey has not been singled out for repayment if, in fact, as some suggest, other states have been able to cancel projects and not have to pay back the federal government.”

New Jersey has spent \$600 million to date on the tunnel project, with \$271 million of that federal dollars, according to published reports.

### Democrats to Choose Replacement for Proctor

COUNTY - Democratic Party leaders will meet Monday, December 13, to select a new freeholder to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of Rick Proctor. Mr. Proctor resigned earlier this month following his election in November as mayor of Rahway, according to a nj.com report.

Mr. Proctor was appointed to the freeholder board in 2002 to fill a vacancy and was subsequently elected to three terms. There is one year remaining on his current term.

“Rick did a terrific job as a freeholder in supporting Democratic policies that assisted working families,” said Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo in a statement. “He also excelled in developing homeland security and countywide public safety initiatives.”

Mr. Proctor has been serving as Rahway’s health department director and is the health director in Scotch Plains.

The county Democratic committee will choose an interim freeholder December 13 at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union. Registered Democrats can attend the event, which will start at 7 p.m., and anyone can volunteer to be considered for the open position, party Executive Director Ryan Kuber told nj.com.

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### Budget Panel Begins Considering Jobs Bills

TRENTON – The Assembly Budget Committee was scheduled to begin advancing the Legislature’s “Back to Work N.J.” economic development package this week by moving a series of bills geared toward creating jobs, increasing job opportunities and improving job skills.

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver (LD-34, East Orange) and Senate President Stephen Sweeney (LD-3, West Deptford) announced the job-creation and pro-business agenda at a State House press conference last month. Yesterday’s hearing was the first of several to advance the initiatives.

The bills include: Legislation (A-3584) to create the “Back to Work N.J.” program to help stimulate job growth by allowing unemployed New Jerseyans to receive workplace training from a potential employer; legislation (A-3513) to create a loan forgiveness program for students who pursue a field that has a marked labor shortage, and legislation (A-3353) to establish a closing fund to give financial assistance to business and industry projects that would benefit the state but require additional resources as an inducement to locate or remain in the state.

Also included are: Legislation (A-3418) sponsored to allow corporation business tax credits and gross income tax credits for certain wages paid to qualified interns in tax years 2012 and 2013; (A-3589) to permit small, women or minority-owned businesses located in designated regional centers to qualify for loans from the Economic Development Authority; (A-3494) to allow unemployment insurance beneficiaries to file, reopen, cancel or close claims online; (A-2859) to authorize the sale and lease of vacant public property for gardening and urban farming, and (A-3350) to allow certain child support obligors in arrears to apply for certain professional and occupational licenses provided that the applicant has made 12 consecutive timely child-support payments.

### IRS Announces Mileage Rates For Deductions

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2011 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, 2011, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be: 51 cents per mile for business miles driven; 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study. Independent contractor Runzheimer International conducted the study.

According to the IRS, a taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard-mileage rate cannot be used for any vehicle used for hire or for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates, according to the IRS.

Revenue Procedure 2010-51 contains additional details regarding the standard mileage rates.

### Agreement Reached On Med. Marijuana

TRENTON – Governor Chris Christie has announced a bipartisan agreement with the Assembly’s primary sponsor of the state’s medicinal marijuana law on regulations that will ensure timely access to medicinal marijuana for qualified patients while at the same time ensuring the program has adequate safety and security controls.

Governor Christie applauded Assemblyman and Deputy Majority Leader Reed Gusciora for working with the Governor’s Office and staff at the state Department of Health and Senior Services to reach the accord on the medicinal marijuana regulations.

The key changes in the regulations as a result of the bipartisan agreement are: six alternative treatment centers – two each in the north, central and southern regions of the state — will be permitted and each will be able to both dispense and grow medicinal marijuana. Home delivery and satellite locations for the alternative treatment centers will no longer be allowed. In addition, only debilitating conditions originally contained in the law will be subject to the provision that all conventional therapies have been exhausted before a physician can recommend a patient for medicinal marijuana.

The rules still require a maximum tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) level of 10 percent. Over the course of the first two years of the program, the Department of Health and Senior Services will evaluate different aspects of the program and consider changes as necessary or appropriate.

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## Why Does Devil’s Den Columnist Question Integrity of Catholic Schools?

Once again, Bruce Johnson has used his “Devils Den” column to question the integrity of Catholic high schools and the families and student-athletes who choose them rather than a public high school. In his December 2, column he first asks if there “were any other WHS4evr! kind of people out there” who were as pleased as him by the extent to which one Catholic school outscored another. Then later he asks readers “are you amazed at how far some people will go to get a Catholic, or Jesuit, education? And maybe play some ball too ....,” and notes two students traveling long distances to attend Catholic high schools.

This isn’t the first time Bruce has singled out Catholic schools for criticism, and I’m not the first *Westfield Leader* reader to write the editor to take offense. So since it’s happened more than once now, I have to ask why, and ask why he tarnishes his column’s highlighting of WHS sports accomplishments by criticizing other schools and Catholic schools especially.

There are many private schools in New Jersey that attract students from outside their town, and many kids travel great distances to go to them. Many non-Catholic private high schools also have highly competitive sports programs, and have attracted kids from outside their town who excel at a particular sport.

If Bruce’s intent was to argue that kids should instead play for their local public high school, then he should have said that. If his objection was the fact that private schools aren’t limited to student-athletes from the town in which they’re located, he should have said just that. If he wished to question whether the competitiveness of a school’s sports programs

can, at times, have too much influence on where a student attends, or why some teams unnecessarily “run up the score,” than he should have asked directly. Each of those points is debatable.

But instead Bruce made snide remarks and innuendos (such as “...were there any other WHS4evr! kind of people out there who” ... and “are you amazed how far some people to go to get a Catholic ...”) that went beyond asking legitimate questions about high school sports. He instead pointed fingers at specific schools and implied that their integrity and the integrity of the families whose children attend them is less than WHS.

I think that’s sad and destructive. I’ve had one child graduate from WHS and I think there’s much that’s positive there. I also have other children attending Catholic schools, including one “student-athlete” at a Catholic high school “out of town.” Each child chose his or her school for various reasons. I’ve chosen to pay tuition to private schools while at the same time continuing to fully support Westfield schools as a Westfield taxpayer. I’ve done so because each has strengths, each has their “place,” and each has earned and deserves respect.

I think Bruce needs to consider whether such criticism of other schools helps the WHS sports tradition or tarnishes it. I also think he and others need to recognize that many Westfield families have children attending Catholic schools, and are likely to take offense when a columnist for their community’s newspaper seems to malign the integrity of Catholic schools as a whole.

Shane McDermott  
Westfield

## More Must Be Done to Educate People on Dangers of Energy Drinks

Last month, Ramapo College in Mahwah became the first college in the United States to ban Four Loko, after 23 people were hospitalized from getting drunk on the beverage, each can equivalent to at least three beers, a can of Red Bull and a shot of espresso.

Across New Jersey, there is a push to ban the caffeinated malt liquor – which includes seven warning labels on each \$2.50 can. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is questioning why people need to mix alcohol and caffeine. The company that owns Four Loko has announced “an intent” to remove caffeine.

Some liquor stores refuse to carry Four Loko; others assume it is already illegal.

At Sunrise Detox, an alcohol and drug detox facility in Stirling, we believe that banning Four Loko is a logical first step in this trend of marketing fruity alcoholic drinks bursting with caffeine. But regulating this so-called “blackout in a can” is just the start of what really needs to be done to keep young people safe.

There needs to be sweeping solutions that respond to companies that sell dangerous drinks, packaged in a way that encourages over-consumption. There also

needs to be regulations that prevent slick manufacturers from making small modifications to the ingredients to skirt laws.

But we can’t expect to rely on government regulation alone. We advocate for education and outreach, such as mobilizing parents and school leaders. Most people don’t even know that Four Loko exists. Many don’t know that these drinks, which can be mixed with vodka, are commonly sold in the college student center. Young people need to know the dangers and that the result can be life-threatening.

As state and local budgets tighten, police must maintain and consider increasing resources for liquor enforcement.

Scientists are grappling with the pharmacology of caffeine and other stimulants common to both alcoholic and non-alcoholic energy drinks, such as taurine, guarana and yerba mate. As these ingredients are mixed with new beverages, we need to be fully aware of the effects.

It is critical that the public, university officials, establishments that serve alcoholic drinks – and especially young people – realize that mixing energy-drink stimulants with alcohol is dangerous – whether

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## Letters to the Editor

### Comparisons to Other Officials Is Helpful In Reviewing Super Salaries

How will the dispute between Governor Chris Christie and the superintendents of schools in New Jersey over what they should be paid be settled? Perhaps Governor Christie and the superintendents will come to an agreement. Perhaps it will be a matter for the State Legislature to solve. Or perhaps even for the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Of help would be a comparison with salaries of other important public officials and private management positions. That the superintendent of any school district anywhere should make nearly as much if not more than a United States senator or a federal circuit judge or a state governor or the chief justice of New Jersey Supreme Court or the mayor of New York City or the prime minister of the United Kingdom raises serious issues of proportion and balance. [Those salaries are as follows:]

Federal Courts: chief justice of Supreme Court, \$223,500; associate justice of Supreme Court \$213,900; circuit judges, \$184,500; judge of district court, \$174,000; bankruptcy judge, \$149,132; federal executive branch, vice-president, \$227,300; cabinet secretaries \$180,100; Congress (Congressional Research Service), House speaker \$227,300; majority and minority leaders, \$193,400; senator, \$174,000; representative, \$174,000; state governors, California, \$206,500; New York, \$179,000; New Jersey, \$175,000; Virginia, \$175,000; Ohio, \$144,830; Massachusetts, \$140,535; Florida, \$132,932; Texas, \$115,345; Hawaii, \$112,000, and Maine, \$70,000; average salary, \$124,398.

Other New Jersey high-ranking public officials: chief justice of the Supreme Court, \$192,795; associate justice of the Supreme Court, \$185,482; secretary of state, \$141,000; attorney general, \$141,000; treasurer, \$141,000; legisla-

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### Energy Drink Danger

the drinks are mixed by the manufacturer, the bartender or the consumer.

We all want our teenagers and young adults to be safe. This is a scary time, as the fruity malt liquor industry is diligently working to corner the market. Drunken driving continues to pose a danger to everyone who shares New Jersey’s roads; these products exacerbate the problem.

Let’s tackle the issue with common sense: we need to be smart, apply reasonable limits and encourage personal responsibility. That must be the ultimate responsibility of parents and loved ones, not government regulators or those who manufacture such concoctions as Four Loko.

Ira Levy  
Stirling

Editor: Ira Levy is employed at Sunrise Detox, a private detoxification center in Stirling.

## Rotary Club Foundation Sets Grand Raffle to Raise Funds for Service Grants

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Rotary Club is holding its annual fundraising project, the Grand Club Raffle, to raise funds for the Rotary Club Community Service Grant Awards. These awards are given each year, in accordance with the club goal of community service, to provide grant funding for programs and projects that directly serve the community. The net proceeds received from this raffle will directly support the community service grants awards.

Raffle ticket sales have begun, and all tickets will be sold and turned in before the first drawing on Tuesday, January 11, 2011. A limited number of 1,000 tickets will be sold at \$20 per ticket. Each ticket purchased will be eligible for all 12 drawings.

Grand Club Raffle drawings for \$100 will be held weekly at the regular Rotary Club meetings on the following 11 Tuesdays: January 11, January 18, January 25, February 1, February 8, February 15, February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22. In addition, on March 22, there will also be a special grand prize drawing for \$1,000.

Every Rotarian will be selling tickets, which will have three parts: a numbered raffle ticket with the buyer’s name, address, phone number, and the name of the

Rotarian who sold the ticket; a numbered receipt for the ticket holder; and a ticket stub for the pancake breakfast.

As a special incentive, a ticket stub portion of the ticket will also serve as a pancake breakfast ticket. The annual Rotary Pancake Breakfast event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Additional Pancake Breakfast tickets can also be purchased at the breakfast for \$6.

Westfield Rotary Club members are selling the tickets. Please contact Sherry Cronin at (908) 789-9444 for more information.

Rotary is a service organization comprised of business and professional women and men who either live or work in or near Westfield. The Rotary Club of Westfield meets every Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. for lunch at the Westfield Area Y. Guests are always welcome at the meetings. For more information, e-mail westfieldrotary@gmail.com or see westfieldrotary.com.

### For The Birds

The birds in the photo on the front page of the November 25 edition of *The Westfield Leader* “are grackles,” offers Laura Cohen of Westfield.



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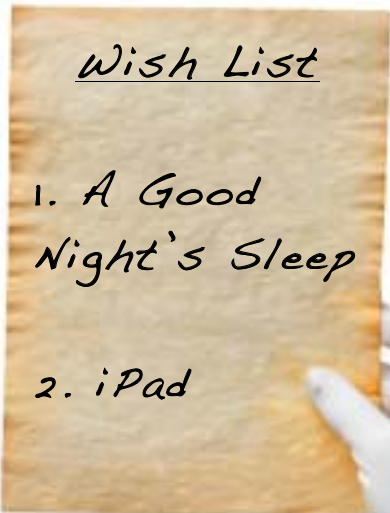


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# Professor Leshner to Unveil Novel ‘Abaya Chronicles’

WESTFIELD – “The Abaya Chronicles,” the debut novel from Fulbright Scholar and veteran journalism professor Tina Leshner, will be featured in an author’s program and book signing on Tuesday, December 14, at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

Professor Leshner will be on hand to sign copies of the book, which conveys the marked change women in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have experienced over the past few decades. She also will give a brief presentation about the country and her time there, as well as her experience writing the book.

The author spent two one-year stints “embedded” in Abu Dhabi in the UAE, teaching at a university and observing the role of women in a society marked by rapid cultural change. After interviewing many women in the UAE about changes in their lives over the past several decades, she returned to the United States and gave presentations centered on what she learned about these Emirati women.

Rather than synthesize her observations in an academic paper, Professor Leshner instead chose to formulate

a fictional account that humanized her experiences.

“I had two goals,” said Professor Leshner, a Westfield resident. “I wanted to educate people about Abu Dhabi



Tina Leshner

and the UAE, and to do so through a story about women with fictional characters based on a composite of the wonderful people I interviewed or met. And, as readers will see, an American connection forms a part of the story.”

The book’s title refers to the black robe worn by Emirati women over their regular clothing. According to the author, the abaya serves as a symbol of the changing role of women in the UAE.

Professor Leshner wrote the novel while on sabbatical this past spring from William Paterson University, where she has taught for more than 20 years. She spent time at Dairy Hollow Writers’ Colony in Arkansas to “jumpstart” her writing, and finished the work in Avalon, N.J., a shore town that ironically plays a part in the novel.

“The Abaya Chronicles,” published by iUniverse, is available on iUniverse.com, Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and other online book retailers; it comes in hard copy, soft cover and e-book forms.

## Home Show Tonight To Aid Relay For Life

MOUNTAINSIDE – A Relay for Life Home Show fundraiser will be held tonight, Thursday, December 9, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the home of Marianne Jennings at 481 Bayberry Lane in Mountainside. Featured vendors will include Avon, Cards Ami, Creative Memories, Lia Sophia, Longaberger, The Pampered Chef and Unique Boutique Pocketbooks.

All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society through David Jennings. David is a junior at the Academy for Allied Health Sciences in Scotch Plains and is a past “all star” Relay for Life fundraiser. For additional information and directions to the home show, call Marianne Jennings at (908) 654-6414.

## Soroptimist Int. Plans Dinner and Auction

WESTFIELD – Soroptimist International of the Greater Westfield Area (SIGWA) will host its Annual Holiday Dinner with a Silent Auction to benefit local charities on Wednesday, December 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will take place at the Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue in Westfield.

Attendees may bring items to donate to be auctioned off, and/or bid on items that others have donated. Newcomers are welcome. Soroptimist International is a women’s service organization that supports charities through local fund-raising activities and events. Admission is \$40. For more information, call Jeanne at (908) 917-9900.

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Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S.

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

FEWER TEETH RAISES HEART DISEASE RISK

As scientists are coming to understand the interplay between various organs and systems of the human body, we are learning that no part of the body really functions alone. The latest example of this interdependency involves the finding that cardiovascular disease (and coronary heart disease, in particular) is closely related to the number of teeth that a person has left. According to recent research, a person with fewer than ten of his or her own teeth has a seven times higher mortality risk by coronary heart disease than a person of the same age and of the same sex with more than 25 teeth left. The common denominator between fewer teeth and heart disease is thought to be chronic inflammation.

Keeping up with regular dental checkups will give your dentist the opportunity to watch for areas of inflammation and developing gum disease. And if you conscientiously follow your dentist's recommendations for at-home care, you will be more likely to have fewer potential gum problems. When was your last dental visit? Now would be a good time to schedule your next exam. If you don't have a family dentist, we are accepting new patients and welcome your call at 908-654-6262. We're centrally located in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue; free off-street parking is available. P.S. The best way to control inflammation in the mouth is to guard against gum disease.

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THE WAY IT WAS...Second graders from Washington Elementary School in Westfield spent a day learning about living in the 1700s at the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield. Teachers worked with class parents setting up stations showing various chores, such as butter churning, and crafts that children used to do. Pictured, former Washington School teacher and Miller-Cory volunteer Patricia D'Angelo discusses what life was like for children in the 1770s, in comparison to today.

# Library’s Digital Download Enhances Film Offerings

WESTFIELD – Individuals with mobile devices such as an iPad® and who enjoy independent and foreign films are invited to visit the Digital Download Center at the Westfield Memorial Library. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street.

“The Digital Download Center does not compete with Hulu or television network sites, but complements them,” said Library Director Phil Israel. “If you’re looking for alternatives to movies and prefer more thoughtful films, as well as documentaries and travel, then this is the first site to visit for your downloading needs.”

Library cardholders also can download audiobooks, eBooks and music from the library’s website, wmlnj.org. These items can be checked out to computers or mobile devices, anytime and anywhere, by visiting the library’s website.

The titles can be enjoyed immediately or transferred to a variety of devices, including cell phones, the Sony® ReaderT and the Barnes & Noble Nook. Some audio titles also can be burned to a CD, allowing people to listen on the go. Titles automatically will expire at the end of the lending period, so there are no late fees.

“Our new Digital Download Center is not only free and convenient, it is also an easy one-stop-borrowing center for everything from movies to books,” continued Mr. Israel. “As people become more accustomed to watching and listening on the go, we hope that they will think of the library

as one of their main sources for obtaining materials.”

To get started downloading movies, audiobooks, eBooks and music, interested persons should have their library card readily available, visit wmlnj.org and click on the image of the Digital Download Center.

For more information about other library programs and services, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, extension no. 4140. Individuals also may sign up on the library’s website to receive the e-newsletter “Library Loop” or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter, “Take Note.”

## Hypertension Clinics To Wrap For Year

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Scotch Plains Health Department will hold its last monthly hypertension screening for 2010 on Tuesday, December 14, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

While these clinics are offered in an effort to assist residents in maintaining good health, those residents who are over the age of 30 and who smoke, or are overweight, or have a family history of heart disease or diabetes, and who have not had their blood pressure checked recently are particularly urged to attend.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. For additional information, call Township Nurse Susan Higgins at her Rahway office at (732) 827-2158.

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# POLICE BLOTTER

**Westfield**  
Tuesday, November 30, Sharon McMahon, 23, of Toms River was arrested at North and Lenox Avenues on an active Westfield warrant in the amount of \$106. She was released after posting bail.

Tuesday, November 30, James S. Dillollo, Jr., 28, of Clemons, N.Y. was arrested and charged with shoplifting at a business on the 600 block of West North Avenue. According to police, \$315 worth of crystal Christmas tree ornaments was removed from the store. Dillollo was released on his own recognizance with a summons pending a December 8 court date. Authorities returned all merchandise to the store.

Thursday, December 2, Nicholas Kinney, 29, of Phillipsburg was arrested at the Hunterdon County jail on a Westfield fugitive warrant for \$500. While Kinney was in the custody of the Westfield Police Department, authorities discovered two warrants for him from Annandale, for a total of \$1,600; an Asbury Park warrant, for \$1,000, and a Springfield warrant, for \$750. He was committed to the Union County jail on the Westfield warrant.

Thursday, December 2, a business on the 200 block of East Broad Street reported the theft of approximately \$168 worth of hardcover books. There were no suspects at the time of the report.

Friday, December 3, Tyree Mills, 22, of Plainfield was arrested after surrendering himself at Westfield police headquarters on an active Westfield warrant. He was processed and released on \$106 bail.

Friday, December 3, Ceni Messercola, 36, of Scotch Plains was arrested on the 600 block of West North Avenue and charged with shoplifting \$193 worth of jewelry. She was processed and released on her own recognizance.

Friday, December 3, Anthony Duffy, 41, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Roselle traffic warrant for \$200. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, December 3, Edwin Vargas, Jr., 21, of Roselle Park was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant for \$106. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, December 3, officers responded to the 100 block of East Broad Street on a report of a fight in progress. Upon their arrival at the scene, they located a juvenile, who police determined to be the victim of an assault. The suspect, who fled the scene, also is believed to be a juvenile. Both the victim and the suspect are believed to be from Westfield. Patrol officers transported the victim to Westfield police headquarters. His parents responded to police headquarters, refused medical treatment and took custody of their son. The matter currently is under investigation.

Saturday, December 4, Briana Giovannella, 24, of Westfield was arrested during a traffic stop in the area of Walnut and Elm Streets. Authorities discovered three outstanding Westfield traffic warrants for her. Giovannella was transported to Westfield police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$229 cash bail. The motor vehicle she was operating was impounded for having an expired registration. She also received a summons for driving with a suspended license.

**Scotch Plains**  
Monday, November 29, a resident of Donamy Glen reported that her credit card company notified her that someone attempted to commit identity fraud after they attempted to open a second credit card in the victim’s name.

Tuesday, November 30, a resident of Sycamore Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone entered her unlocked vehicle while it was parked in the driveway and removed a GPS valued at approximately \$100.

Wednesday, December 1, a resident of Stoneleigh Drive reported that sometime between Friday, November 26, and Wednesday, December 1, someone attempted to gain entrance to his garage by pushing on the door. According to police, entrance was not gained.

Thursday, December 2, a resident of Pheasant Lane reported that someone attempted to open up a store credit card in her name.

Thursday, December 2, a resident of Arrowwood Drive reported that a tenant gave him a check in the amount of \$2,500 and when he attempted to cash it, there were insufficient funds.

Thursday, December 2, Louann Vena, 50, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue. According to police, she failed several field sobriety tests at the scene and was transported to headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, December 2, Dwayne Ossa, 20, of Union was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia after a motor-vehicle stop at which time the officer observed the paraphernalia on the front seat. He was transported to headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, December 3, a resident of Plainfield Avenue reported being the victim of assault after an ex-girlfriend grabbed her and pushed her into a table. According to police, it is unknown what caused the incident.

Saturday, December 4, Barry Kelly, 46, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with possession of suspected crack cocaine after a vehicle he was a passenger in was stopped for a motor vehicle violation. According to police, while speaking with the driver the officer observed Kelly attempting to hide something under the seat. He was transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, December 5, Ivan Escobar, 50, (address unknown) was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice after an officer on routine patrol observed

Escobar walking on Route 22. According to police, while the officer was speaking with Escobar, he refused to take his hands out of his pockets and then attempted to flee. After a brief struggle he was placed under arrest, transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail. No evidence of criminal activity was found in the area Escobar was arrested, police said.

**Fanwood**  
Sunday, November 28, a resident in the 200 block of North Avenue reported that sometime between Friday, November 26, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, before 4:45 p.m., someone damaged two spotlights in his yard.

Thursday, December 2, Nicholas Soper, 24, of Edison was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue for an outstanding warrant out of Piscataway. Christina Mendez, 21, of Elizabeth, a passenger in the vehicle, was arrested for an outstanding Elizabeth warrant. Both were transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Thursday, December 2, a 1991 Jeep Cherokee was reported stolen from the Coriell Avenue. According to police, while investigating the theft a vehicle reported stolen out of Union was recovered at the Coriell location. The Jeep was later recovered in Millburn.

Friday, December 3, Lydia Jolicoeur, 32, of Elizabeth was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Pleasant Avenue for an outstanding Hillside warrant. She was transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, December 3, Jerry Rodriguez, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for an outstanding Westfield warrant after a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue. He was transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Saturday, December 4, Phillip Hay, 31, of Ewing was arrested for an outstanding Kenilworth warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road. He was transported to headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Sunday, December 5, a business in the 50 block of South Avenue reported that a black male, approximately six feet tall and 50 years of age and wearing a skull cap, removed approximately \$50 worth of merchandise and fled without paying.

Sunday, December 5, a resident on MacLennan place reported that someone wrote letters in his freshly poured sidewalk.

Tuesday, December 7, Pamela Delacruz, 38, of Rahway was arrested for an outstanding Highland Park warrant after a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue. She was transported to headquarters, processed and released.

**Mountainside**  
Wednesday, December 1, Yolanda T. Campbell, 51, of Irvington was arrested and charged with driving with a suspected suspended license after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

Wednesday, December 2, Leon D. Walters, 29, of Plainfield was picked up at the Scotch Plains Police Department for contempt of court. He was detained overnight for a Thursday morning court date.

Thursday, December 2, Curtis Randall, 27, of Newark was arrested and charged with for DWI, obstruction of justice, resisting arrest and aggravated assault against a police officer. According to police, an officer observed Randall driving in the right lane of Route 22 traveling between 20 to 25 mph in a 50 mph zone and swerving between lanes. The officer initiated a motor vehicle stop and observed Randall to be incoherent and confused at which point he asked him to exit the vehicle.

The officer asked Randall to remove his hands from his front pockets at which point he began flailing his arms, police reported. The officer, along with the help of a Springfield officer who responded to the scene, attempted to handcuff the suspect when a struggle ensued causing injury to the Mountainside officer and the suspect, who was eventually forced into a police vehicle after prescription drugs were removed from his pockets, authorities said.

Randall was transported to headquarters where he was processed, placed in a cell until he calmed down at which point he was transported to Overlook Hospital for treatment, authorities reported. The officer was also treated at the hospital for his wounds. A blood test was also conducted due to the officer’s exposure to the suspect’s blood, police reported.

Thursday, December 2, police responded to Deerfield School on the report of a missing fourth grader. According to police, the child was to be brought home by another student’s parent, but the parent could not locate the child. A short time later the child was located on a school bus and returned home.

Friday, December 3, a resident came into headquarters to report that someone scratched her driver’s side door causing damage. According to police, the victim feels she knows who caused the damage and police are investigating.

Saturday, December 4, Reginald Reynolds, Jr., 24, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop on Route 22. According to police, he failed several field sobriety tests at the scene at which time he was transported to headquarters, processed. And released to a responsible party.

Saturday, December 4, Matthew W. Feinstein, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged for driving with a suspended license after a motor vehicle stop. He was processed and released at the scene.

Monday, December 6, a patron of a Route 22 storage facility reported that he had hired his brother and a friend to move furniture in perfect condition from his residence into storage. According to police, when the victim went to check on the furniture, he found approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of damage to all the pieces including paint poured on a couch. It is uncertain who is responsible for the damage or how or when it occurred, but police are investigating, authorities reported.





MR. AND MRS. NICHOLAS J. BRESANI

(She is the former Miss Sara Kathleen Pankratz)

## Miss Sara K. Pankratz Weds Nicholas J. Bresani

Miss Sara Kathleen Pankratz, daughter of John and Kathleen Pankratz of Westfield, and Nicholas Joseph Bresani, son of Fred and Jane Bresani of Southampton, were married in an afternoon nuptial mass on Saturday, August 28, 2010, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. An evening reception took place at the Hilton Short Hills in Short Hills.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride had Mrs. Robert Ward of Pottstown, Pa., her friend and sorority sister, as matron of honor. Miss Tara Weedfald of New York City, also a sorority sister, was the maid of honor. The bridal attendants included Miss Meredith Mendenhall of Washington, D.C., another sorority sister, and Miss Mary Beth Tallman of Conshohocken, Pa., a close friend of the bride. Miss Amelia Bresani of Southampton, sister of the groom, also attended the bride.

Paul Bresani of Haleshorpe, Md., brother of the groom, was the best man. The groomsmen were John Golembiewski of Billingsport, John Mulvihill of Philadelphia, Pa. and

Howard Pendleton of Blackwood, friends of the groom. Mikhel Sinclair and Giovanna Sinclair of Voorhees, cousins of the groom, served as ring bearer and flower girl.

A 2002 graduate of The Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit, the bride graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Villanova University in Villanova, Pa. in 2006. She earned a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science from Drexel University in Philadelphia in 2010. The bride is a nurse research and data coordinator for the cardiac catheter lab at Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia.

The groom, a 1999 graduate of Woodbury High School in Woodbury, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering from Rutgers University in New Brunswick in 2006, and currently is pursuing a master's degree in computer science from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. He is a computer engineer for Lockheed Martin Corp. in Mount Laurel.

The couple resides in Philadelphia.

## IHM Announces Beginning Of Simbang Gabi Novena

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Roman Catholic Church will begin its nine-day Simbang Gabi Advent Novena on Wednesday, December 15, at 7 p.m. as part of parish preparations for the Christmas season.

Simbang Gabi, or "Evening Mass," has been an integral part of the Fili-

pino culture since the coming of Catholic missionaries to the Philippines from Spain centuries ago. Working fishermen and farmers would be called to pre-dawn Mass by the ringing of the church bells, guided by hand-made lanterns lit by candles.

To recall this, the Filipino community of IHM will decorate the church with lanterns hand-crafted by the children of the parish, depicting religious themes and festooned with garlands.

Each evening through the close of the Novena on Thursday, December 23, will begin at 7 p.m. with a recitation of the rosary in the Main Church. An opportunity will be provided for spiritual reconciliation, followed by a celebration of the Mass. Each evening will close with fellowship and light refreshments in the downstairs auditorium. All are welcome and there will be no charge.

The Novena is being coordinated under the auspices of the Filipino-American Working Committee of IHM. The church is located at 1571 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains. For additional information about this or other activities of IHM's Filipino-American community, call the parish office at (908) 889-2100 or see the parish website: ihmparish.net.

### A Christmas Carol Due at All' Saints

SCOTCH PLAINS – Triskelion, with the All Saints' Episcopal Church, will present *A Christmas Carol* at the church. Performance dates are Friday and Saturday, December 17 and 18, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 19, at 3 p.m. All Saints' Church is located at 559 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

This one-man show, starring Mark Byrne, is based on the original script that Charles Dickens himself performed. Triskelion's director and founder, Rich Johnson, will direct the production.

*A Christmas Carol* is appropriate for all ages, although there are some mild frights that may be strong for the very young.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. For directions and ticket information, visit [allsaints-spnj.org](http://allsaints-spnj.org).

Triskelion is the evolution of A Mix Productions. A Mix Production's past performances have included *Fish* and *Fancy Footwork*.

### 'Lunch With Santa' On Tap For Sunday

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Area "Y" will hold its Sixth Annual Lunch with Santa event this Sunday, December 12, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Main Y Facility, located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield.

Children may have their picture taken with Santa, and Christmas carols will be sung. Advance ticket purchase is highly recommended and can be done at any Westfield Area "Y" location. All proceeds will benefit the "Y"'s Strong Kids Campaign. For more details, call (908) 233-2700.

### 'Wonderland' Event Saturday to Aid CSH

WESTFIELD – The Westfield High School Key Club will host its annual Winter Wonderland event this Saturday, December 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Cafeteria B at the high school, located at 550 Dorian Road.

Families are invited to enjoy a morning of holiday crafts, carnival games, face painting, food and a picture with Frosty the Snowman. The event also will feature prizes and gift cards donated by local businesses.

Admission for all these activities is \$6 per child. Accompanying adults may attend for free. All proceeds from the event will benefit Children's Specialized Hospital, which provides rehabilitation, treatment and care to children with special needs.



MR. AND MRS. DREW STOTLER

(She is the former Miss Jessica Alvarez-Calderon)

## Miss Jessica Alvarez-Calderon Marries Drew Stotler

Miss Jessica Alvarez-Calderon, the daughter of Guillermo and Ena Alvarez-Calderon of Lima, Peru, was married on Saturday, July 10, 2010, to Drew Stotler. He is the son of Andy and Mariclaire Stotler of Westfield.

The evening ceremony took place at the Church of La Resurreccion in Lima, Peru. Father Jorge Roos performed the ceremony. A reception followed at Vivero 4 Estaciones in Lima.

The bride's father gave her in marriage. The bridal attendants included Enita Alvarez-Calderon and Magaly Alvarez-Calderon, sisters of the bride, and Talia Venegas, friend of the bride.

The groomsmen were Michael Stotler, brother of the groom; Guillermo Alvarez-Calderon, brother of the bride, and Derek Fisher, friend of the groom.

Ryan Stotler, cousin of the groom, and Blanca Alvarez-Calderon,

cousin of the bride, did scripture readings.

A 1997 graduate of the American High School of Lima, the bride earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and International Affairs from Lafayette College and is employed with JP Morgan as a training manager.

The groom, a 1997 graduate of Westfield High School, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Columbia University. He is a senior manager at Deloitte.

A bridal shower was held in April at the home of Mariclaire Stotler, given by friends and family. The groom's parents hosted a pre-wedding dinner for friends and family traveling to Peru at Huaca Pucllana.

The couple traveled to Punta Mita, Mexico for their honeymoon and now resides in Hoboken.

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4:00 pm Sanctuary plus reception after  
- A Christmas Choral and Service  
- A Celebration of our Lord's coming

**December 9**  
Christmas Cookie Exchange at 7:00 pm  
Bring your favorite cookies and exchange for new favorites!

**December 11**  
Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"  
A Reading with Westfield HS Concert Choir & Alumni  
4:00 pm Sanctuary plus reception after

**December 11**  
Branches contemporary service  
5:00 pm Harvey Hall (downstairs)

**December 12**  
10:15 am Service - "Night of the Father's Love" - A Christmas Cantata

**December 18**  
Branches contemporary service  
5:00 pm Sanctuary

**December 24**  
Christmas Eve Service  
7:00 pm Musical Prelude, 7:30 pm Sanctuary

Come to our Sunday morning service at 10:15 am  
Come to our Branches Service each Saturday at 5:00 pm  
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## "On with the Wedding!"

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Do it all online at [www.goleader.com/wedding](http://www.goleader.com/wedding)



## Trinity Slates Open House, Lessons and Carols Service

CRANFORD – The public is invited to attend an open house event for the newly renovated Trinity Episcopal Church building this Saturday, December 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the corner of North and Forest Avenues in Cranford. The new building re-opened last Sunday with a thanksgiving service of Holy Eucharist.

Trinity parishioners will be available to show visitors around the new church building and to answer questions about the renovations or the history of the church. The newly restored and expanded pipe organ will be played during the open house.

In 2006, after years of unsuccessfully grappling with structural issues, the parish voted to construct a new building. In 2007, the Trinity II capital campaign raised \$1.7 million for the project. The sale of a small parcel of church property raised the additional funds necessary for the \$2-million project.

After evaluating multiple design options, ranging from a completely new building to a major renovation, the Trinity Executive Building Committee recommended doing a major renovation that would preserve the history of

the parish by reusing key architectural elements in the new building.

Following a bidding process, the project was awarded to the team of Siano Brothers Contracting of Cranford and Thomas DiGiorgio Architecture of Westfield. Deconstruction on the old building began in the fall of 2009.

“Our design goals were to give the building the look and feel of the original 1875 Trinity Church, while incorporating modern convenience and durability,” said Thomas DiGiorgio, owner of Thomas DiGiorgio Architecture.

Working with James Lenney, Trinity’s organist and choirmaster, the Peragallo Pipe Organ company designed the organ and organ cabinetry for the new church building. It incorporated the pipes from the old organ as well as additional new pipes.

On November 13, the parish held a “Thank You” dinner for the craftspeople, advisors and workers and their families.

In addition to the open house, Trinity Episcopal will hold an Advent Lessons and Carols service this Sunday, December 12, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow and the public is invited. The Reverend Gina Walsh-Minor is rector.



NEW BEGINNING...Pictured above is the interior of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Cranford following recent renovations. The community is invited to an open house event this Saturday, December 11, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church. An Advent Lessons and Carols service, also open to the public, will be held at the church this Sunday, December 12, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow.



SONGS OF CHRISTMAS PAST...Musicians Mary Heller, on guitar; Mel Freda, standing, and Deborah Schnapf, with flute, will be featured during “A Civil War Christmas Concert” on Sunday, December 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Crane-Phillips House Museum in Cranford. The Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee of the Cranford Historical Society will present the program.

## Christmas Concert to Recall Music of Civil War Period

CRANFORD – The Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee of the Cranford Historical Society will present “A Civil War Era Christmas Concert” on Sunday, December 19, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Crane-Phillips House Museum.

Local musicians Mary Heller, Mel Freda and Deborah Schnapf will be featured during the program, which will be presented in the museum parlor. They have been researching and practicing 19th-century musical pieces which would have been familiar to soldiers and their families in the 1860s and 1870s.

Ms. Freda has taught piano in the Cranford area for more than 25 years. She has accompanied the Orange Avenue School Chorus and Orchestra, the Hillside Avenue School Orchestra and the Brookside Place Chorus. She currently is church organist for the Cranford United Methodist Church and accompanist for the vocal group the Westfield Chansonettes. Additionally, she accompanies the Schola Chorus at St. John the Apostle School in Clark.

Ms. Heller has sung with the St.

Paul’s Episcopal Church Choir, and has performed with The Celebration Singers, the Oratorio Singers of Westfield and the New Jersey Choral Art Society. She also has appeared at the Westfield Workshop for the Arts and the Westfield Bach Festival.

Ms. Schnapf has performed as an oboist with the Plainfield Symphony, the Livingston Orchestra and the Summit Orchestra and has played in chamber music recitals in the New York area.

The 150th anniversary of the American Civil War will begin in 2011 and run until 2015. On October 27, 2009, the Township of Cranford adopted a resolution designating the Cranford Historical Society as the lead organization for celebrating that defining period of American history.

The Crane-Phillips House Museum is located at 124 North Union Avenue in Cranford. Admission will be free. For further information, call the historical society’s office at (908) 276-0082 or e-mail [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

This program will be made possible in part by a HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

### Temple Schedules Coat Drive Sunday

WESTFIELD – Temple Emanu-El will once again participate in the New Jersey Cares Annual Coat Drive this Sunday, December 12, only from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to provide gently used winter coats to state residents in need. Volunteers will be stationed in the temple parking lot, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield, to accept donations.

Donations should not be dropped off at any other time. For more information, contact Carolyn Shane, executive director, at (908) 232-6770, extension no. 114, or [cshane@tewnj.org](mailto:cshane@tewnj.org), or visit the temple’s website, [tewnj.org](http://tewnj.org).

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## Area Participants Sought For Christmas Bird Counts

AREA – Birding and nature enthusiasts are invited to participate in the National Audubon Society’s annual Christmas Bird Counts in Central New Jersey during the holiday season.

Every year, thousands of volunteer bird watchers participate in hundreds of counts across North and South America over a three-week period before and after Christmas Day. Scientists and planners use data collected to assess a region’s environmental health.

There are two annual counts in this area, each covering a 15-mile diameter circle. The Great Swamp/Watchung Ridges circle and the Raritan Estuary circle have been surveyed for the past 63 years.

This year, the Great Swamp count will take place on Saturday, December 18, and the Raritan Estuary count will be held on Sunday, December 26.

The Great Swamp circle is centered in New Providence in Union County. The circle covers all of the Great Swamp, Lord Stirling Park, Morris County Outdoor Education Center, Rahway River Greenway along Echo Lake and Lenape Parks, the Watchung Reservation, South Mountain Reservation and multiple other parks and habitats.

The Raritan Estuary circle is centered in the Bonhamtown section of Edison Township, Middlesex County.

The circle includes the Raritan River in Piscataway, Highland Park and New Brunswick, the Raritan Bayshore in Perth Amboy, South Amboy and Old Bridge, the Metuchen/Edison Dismal Swamp, Rutgers Ecological Preserve and Cheesequake State Park.

Each team will include veteran birders, moderately experienced people and beginners. If a participant sees a bird that cannot be readily identified, others will figure out what it is. Binoculars are helpful, but not required.

After the count, participants and guests will be invited to join a wrap-up dinner. The Great Swamp wrap-up will be held at 6 p.m. at the Chimney Rock Inn in Gillette. The Raritan Estuary wrap-up is held at a veteran participant’s home.

A \$5 participation fee for all counters goes toward analysis and publication of the data. For more information, visit the National Audubon Society website: [birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count](http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count).

Interested persons should contact one of the coordinators. Pete Axelrod is coordinator for the Great Swamp count and can be reached at (908) 347-2308 or [paxel55@hotmail.com](mailto:paxel55@hotmail.com). Tom Ostrand is coordinator for the Raritan Estuary count and may be reached at (732) 549-8118 or [tostrand@gmail.com](mailto:tostrand@gmail.com).

## Dr. Mira Stotland Joins Team At Advanced Dermatology

WESTFIELD – Advanced Dermatology, Mohs and Laser Surgery Center is pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Mira Stotland. Dr. Stotland is a board certified dermatologist who specializes in general dermatology for adults and children, skin cancer and cosmetic dermatology. She has received extensive training in laser treatments for hair removal, acne and scars, chemical peels, Botox treatments and filler injections including Restylane and Juvederm.

After completing her undergraduate education at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Stotland graduated summa cum laude from the State University of New York (SUNY), Downstate Medical Center, in Brooklyn. She completed her internal medicine internship at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in New York and then returned to SUNY Downstate to complete her residency in dermatology, where she was named Chief Resident in Dermatology in her final year of training.

Dr. Stotland has published on various topics including acne treatments, sunscreen safety and laser treatments. She is an active member of the American Academy of Dermatology and of Alpha Omega Alpha, the prestigious national medical honor society.

She joins the practice of Dr. Sabatino Ciatti, Dr. Susan McFalls and Rachel Cittone, P.A.-C. Dr. Ciatti is a board



Mira Stotland

certified dermatologist and fellowship trained Mohs Surgeon who specializes in the removal of skin cancer, plastic reconstructions, dermatologic surgery, laser procedures and cosmetic dermatology. Dr. McFalls is a board certified dermatologist specializing in general dermatology for adults and adolescents. Rachel Cittone, P.A.-C is a certified Physician Assistant who specializes in dermatology.

Advanced Dermatology, Mohs and Laser Surgery Center is a comprehensive dermatology center providing patients with a wide range of medical and cosmetic services. Apart from skin screenings, general dermatology and surgical dermatology, we offer laser treatments for hair removal, acne, nail fungus, tattoo removal, spider veins and broken blood vessels, dark and age spots. We perform chemical peels, microdermabrasion, Botox and Dysport and dermal fillers like Restylane and Juvederm.

Our practice offers extended hours on Tuesday evenings, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. We participate with Medicare and many other insurance plans. Our office is located at 240 East Grove Street in Westfield, N.J. Call today to schedule an appointment: (908) 232-6446.

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**Next meetings are Tuesday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 14**  
9:30 a.m. at the JCC, 1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains

**Jewish Discovery Zone**  
**PJ Day Sunday, December 19**

Come in your PJs and bring a favorite cuddle toy!  
Children ages 3 - 7

**4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the JCC, 1391 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains**

Decorate your own keepsake Jewish bedtime pillowcase.  
Enjoy lullabies and a special puppet bedtime story.  
Share Jewish bedtime rituals with your favorite child or grown-up.  
Eat a family-friendly supper with old friends and new.

For price and information on these and all J Connection programs, contact Randi Zucker at 908-889-8800 x253 or [rzucker@jccnj.org](mailto:rzucker@jccnj.org).

J Connection is a partnership between the Jewish Community Center of Central NJ and local synagogues and is funded by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Central NJ.

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TREE SALE UNDERWAY...Members of the Westfield Area Y's Men's Club and volunteers gather last Saturday for the delivery of 400 fresh trees for the Y's Men's Club's Annual Christmas Tree Sale. The sale, currently taking place at the Elm Street Athletic Field in Westfield, will be held daily through Thursday, December 23.

## Westfield Y's Men's Club Currently Conducting Annual Tree Sale

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Area Y's Men's Club currently is holding its Annual Christmas Tree Sale, a tradition since 1953. The group acts as a service club for the "Y" and local youth by supporting worthy organizations.

Selling Christmas trees has been the club's primary fund-raising method. Since its inception, the Y's Men have raised more than \$2 million for community charitable grants. The club sells approximately three tractor-trailer loads of trees per year.

An assortment of trees such as Fraser Firs and Douglas Firs are available, as are Balsam Wreaths, Pine Roping, tree stands and table-top trees. The sale will continue through Thursday, December 23, at the Elm Street Athletic Field in Westfield (across from Stop and Shop.) Sale hours are 3:30 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit [westfieldnynj.org](http://westfieldnynj.org) and click on Community Calendar or Y's Men's Club.

## Masonic Lodge to Present Child Identification Event

CRANFORD – A CHIP Program (Child Identification Program) will be sponsored by AzureMasada Free and Accepted Masons on Sunday, December 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge, located at 478 South Avenue in Cranford.

The CHIP Program provides parents with a detailed record for identifying their child, which is critical in the event a child goes missing. Parents will receive a fingerprint card, a physical description, dental impression, DNA sample and a computer disc that contains the child's personal information.

CHIP is provided at no charge to

### St. Paul's to Offer Lessons and Carols

WESTFIELD – St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites the community to attend its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 19, at 10 a.m.

Director of Music Charles Banks will lead the choir in selections specifically chosen for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Composers such as Handel, Nestor, Poston and Schubert will be featured.

The Service of Lessons and Carols is a 19th-century tradition popularized especially by English choirs. St. Paul's has continued this tradition for many years. The church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield (across from the municipal building.) For more information, call (908) 232-8506, extension no. 10, or visit [stpaulswestfield.org](http://stpaulswestfield.org).

## Two River Community Bank Appoints Branch Manager

MIDDLETOWN – William D. Moss, president and CEO of Two River Community Bank, has announced that Douglas A. Blyth has been named assistant vice-president and branch manager of the Two River office in Manasquan. Mr. Blyth assumes overall operational responsibility for the branch, as well as business development responsibilities in southern Monmouth County.

"Doug brings diverse and extensive branch management experience to our bank, and we are very pleased to have him as a member of our team," commented Mr. Moss. He added that Two River considers the Manasquan office critical in the distribution of all banking services to residents and businesses in southern Monmouth County. "Doug has been a presence in the area for many years, and we believe his knowledge of the community will ensure continued growth of the Manasquan office," concluded Mr. Moss.

Mr. Blyth brings more than 25 years of branch management experience to Two River Community Bank. He most recently served as branch manager of the Sovereign Bank office in Brick. His



Douglas A. Blyth

professional experience also includes Crown Bank, OceanFirst and PNC.

A veteran of the United States Army, Mr. Blyth received Standard and Advanced Banking Certificates from the American Institute of Banking and attended the Electronic Computer Programming Institute. His active community involvement includes the Brick Township Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president in 2008. He also served as president of that organization's Education Foundation in 2009.

Headquartered in Middletown, N.J., Two River Community Bank is a full-service banking institution, operating 11 branches throughout Monmouth County and four branch locations in Union County. The company serves residential, commercial and private banking customers in Monmouth, Union, Ocean and Middlesex counties. Two River Community Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Community Partners Bancorp (NASDAQ: CPBC), also headquartered in Middletown.

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goleader.com/express*

## Harpist Merynda Adams To Perform at Library

WESTFIELD – Between noon and 2 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21, harpist Merynda Adams will play in the second-floor reading area of the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street.

Ms. Adams is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where she was a merit scholarship student of Kathleen Bride. She has been principal harpist of The Orchestra at William Paterson University for the past decade and has performed frequently on the Lyrica Concert Series.

Additionally, Ms. Adams has performed with the New York Grand Opera, New Philharmonic, Plainfield Symphony, Metro Lyric Opera, Opera at Florham and the Northeastern Philharmonic.

A winner of the South Orange Symphony Artists' Competition and the Goldblatt Award, she has appeared at Lincoln Center's Bruno Walter Auditorium, Avery Fisher Hall, and off Broadway in the long-running musical *The Fantasticks*. Ms. Adams has studied at the Hilversumse Conservatorium in the Netherlands with Erika Waardenburg,

and in 1998 she performed in a master class with Paris Opera Orchestra harpist Catherine Michel.

In addition to running an active teaching studio, the harpist is an Affiliate Artist Teacher at Drew University and has been an instructor of harp at Seton Hall University. She is featured in the book "Plaza Weddings," playing at the weddings of Donald Trump and Eddie Murphy. Ms. Adams' other engagements include events honoring Colin Powell, Beverly Sills and Andrea Bocelli.

This program will be free and open to the public. For more information about other adult, children's or teen programs, visit the library's website, [wmlnj.org](http://wmlnj.org); sign up on the website to receive the e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

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## Boxer Express Now Offering Douglas® Animal Collection

WESTFIELD – Boxer Express has received a large order of Douglas® Premium Plush animals, just in time for the holidays. The collection includes the most popular breeds of dogs, plus cats, horses, giraffes and other stuffed wildlife!

Two local girls, shown above, recently came in to inspect everything. Animals range from tiny Bongo the Monkey (the star of a national cell phone ad) to Sherman the Retriever, who stretches more than 45 inches

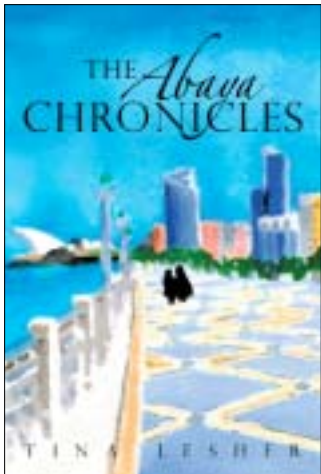
from nose to tail.

Boxer Express is Westfield's locally-owned pack and ship center, located at 334 South Avenue, East. The shop started carrying Douglas animals more than a year ago, said owner Tom Pizor of Westfield. Boxer Express is one of only eight Douglas dealers in the state. For more information, call (908) 654-5800.

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Dr. Tina Leshner, a journalism professor at William Paterson University, will discuss the UAE and sign books at an:

## Author's Talk Program



Westfield resident Tina Leshner's novel, *The Abaya Chronicles*, centers on women whose lives have changed dramatically in the oil-rich United Arab Emirates. The author, who interviewed many women in that Middle East country as part of her work as a Fulbright Scholar, uses a fictional approach to unveil the life of a wealthy woman, her family, and her American friends.



Dr. Tina Leshner

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December 7, 1941 – 69 Years Ago

# THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section  
Pages 11-15

BLACKWELL BROKE 1,000 YARDS RUSHING, HAD 6 TDs

## Turnovers, Injuries Plagued Raider Footballers’ Season

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

Turnovers and persistent injuries never allowed the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School football team to get off on the right foot, and the result was several heartbreaking set-backs and a 1-9 record.

“Our kids were doing a good job, but what happened was the bottom line was it came down to too many turnovers,” Raider Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli said. “That cost us a lot. Any coach at any level will say that. For whatever reason, it is just something that happens. That was our Achilles heel.”

The Raiders tripped up with two interceptions and a key touchdown-preventing penalty in their very first game against Westfield. The next game against Rahway featured lost fumbles, an interception returned for

a touchdown (TD), needless penalties and a pair of injuries.

After a loss to a tough Delaware Valley team, the Raiders appeared to be turning over a new leaf when they looked very strong against Cranford, but the ceiling quickly collapsed with a negated TD and three interceptions that led to all three of the Cougars’ TDs in a 21-14 win. The very next week, six turnovers and 65 yards in penalties transformed a fine start into a disaster in a 22-7 loss to Somerville.

“It is my firm belief that there’s a fine line between winning and losing, unless you are really terrible, and we were that fine line. A play here, a play there will change a lot of things [Cranford]. We had two turnovers in a row, and Somerville, we turned over two series in a row. The Rahway game, we fumbled on the one [yard line] going in and on the one coming

out. Those things give you gray hairs.”

More injuries plagued the Raiders in an overtime loss to Voorhees.

“We were banged up. We lost line-backers. In the Voorhees game, we were down to our third-team quarterback. That changed us offensively. Each quarterback had different strengths,” said coach Ciccotelli. “We lost linemen the first couple of games, so we had to shuffle our line around. We lost our tight end. That compounded the situation. That’s part of football. Part of the luck is being injury free.”

From that point, the young Raiders were left wondering how they could find a way to win.

“There’s no doubt, I think that is part of it. When you have young kids, no matter how much you believe in them, they have to start believing in themselves. Sometimes, you have to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



MEMBERS OF THE 1,000 CLUB...Blue Devil quarterback Danny Kerr, left, passed for more than 1,000 yards this season, and running back A.J. Murray, right, rushed for more than 1,000 yards. The Blue Devils finished with a 7-3 record.

MURRAY LED IN ‘O’ AND ‘D,’ KERR PASSED 1,000 YDs

## Blue Devil Gridders Exceeded Their Pre-Season Expectations

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

Due to inexperience at the varsity level, there was concern as to how the offensive and defense lines would hold up under the pressure of a tough conference, but the Westfield High School football team exceeded expectations, qualified for the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament and finished with a 7-3 record.

“It was something that we were concerned with. They held up and got better as the year went on. They turned into a pretty good unit,” Blue Devil Head Coach Jim DeSarno said. “We weren’t the biggest group, but the kids fought out there. It was a lot of fun. I think we overachieved as a group. I

was pleased with our seniors. Our juniors stepped up. If you told me I was going to be 7-3 in August, I would have taken it and ran with it.”

This year, the offense took on a different look with senior A.J. Murray becoming the Blue Devils’ power running back. And it worked!

“We were looking more of a power running team this year than we did in the past. We were more of a control team. We were not that high-scoring fast break, high scoring type of offense. We did a good job of moving the chains,” Coach DeSarno said.

With the blocking of the offensive line, Murray surpassed the 1,000-yards rushing mark – credited with 1,064 – with 16 rushing touchdowns (TD). He also had six receptions for 73 yards, including a TD. He also added a pass completion for 38 yards.

“We had a lot of good drives. In the five years I’ve been here, this is the least we’ve punted. [Linemen] Jessie DeMartino, Ryan Elliott, Tony Mastrocola really held up. And on the left side Chris Mannino and Nick Matthews,” Coach DeSarno recalled.

Senior quarterback Danny Kerr also reached a milestone by completing 72 of 128 passes for 1,093 yards, including 13 TDs and three interceptions. He also had 197 rushing yards with two TDs and a 38-yard reception.

Kerr developed a fine batch of receivers as the season progressed, and he had the most success connecting with the sure-handed junior wide receiver Peter Ondi, who had 28 receptions for 417 yards, including four TDs.

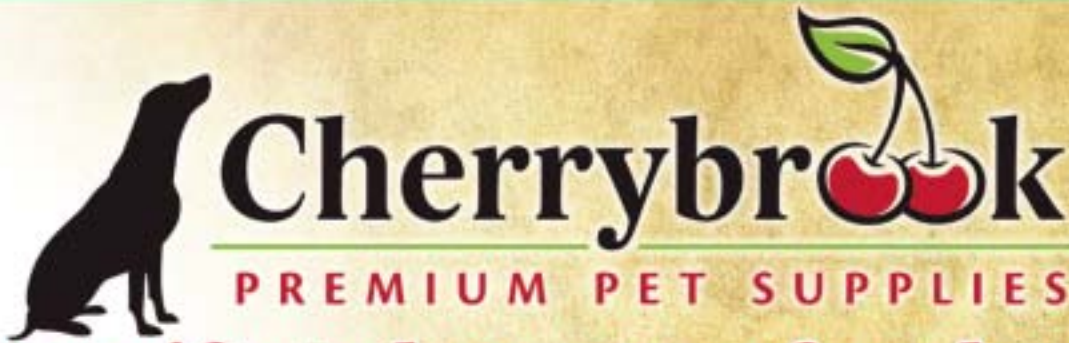
“I don’t know if he had any drops

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



A RAIDER MEMBER OF THE 1,000 CLUB...Raider running back Quinten Blackwell, No. 24, finished with 1,050 yards rushing and six touchdowns. The Raiders completed their season with a 38-12 win over Millburn.

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BLUE DEVIL BOYS BASKETBALL CO-CAPTAINS...Blue Devil seniors Tim Younger, left, and Ryan Hess are looking for a season of rapid improvement in a very competitive conference.

HESS, YOUNGER SELECTED BLUE DEVIL CAPTAINS

# Blue Devil Cagers Dedicated To Season of Improvement

By JOSEPH SCHACKMAN  
*Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

“I do not think people expect a whole lot from us,” Westfield High School boys basketball captain Ryan Hess admitted. “But we plan on proving them all wrong.”

Hess is correct, the expectations are not high for the Blue Devils in the upcoming 2010-2011 season. But after finishing last season with a 10-11 record, there is without a doubt room for improvement for a team with a lot of upside.

Head Coach Kevin Everly was without a doubt hopeful for the season. “This is a really good bunch of kids. I enjoy being around these guys. They work hard and really care about what they are doing. They have really dedicated themselves to getting better.”

Coach Everly continued, “You know the conference is always tough. We have been successful the last few

years out of conference, but have struggled a bit in-conference.”

Without a doubt coach Everly is referring to St. Patrick’s, the perennial basketball powerhouse. This year, the Celtics will be led by senior Michael Gilchrist, one of the top recruits in the country, who has already committed to play at Kentucky University.

However, Coach Everly did not single out St. Patrick’s as a game the Blue Devils circle on the calendar. “Cranford will be big games for us this year. We do not have Scotch Plains on the schedule this year, but we have Cranford twice... It has become a bit of a rivalry for us over the last few seasons. That game is a good way to measure our progress as a team...But we really look forward to every game. One of the fun things here is that you really get to play against some very good teams.”

Coach Everly commented that the

varsity roster had been set but that the starting lineup was still in the air. No doubt Hess will be a part of the starting five.

Last year, he led the team in assists and was second in points. Hess has shown the ability to take on defenders and drive to the hoop, as well as knock down a few jump shots; all while shooting 73 percent from the foul line.

The Blue Devils will also look to a number of seniors to produce. The other captain is Tim Younger, who is one of the stronger defenders on the team and can knock down a few threes. However, the team’s biggest three-point threat is Joe Kamarsky, who knocked down 44 percent of his shots from behind the ark.

When asked what his team’s goals for the season were, Coach Everly said that, “We just want to go out and play hard and smart every game and whatever happens, happens.”

## Blue Devil Footballers Exceeded Expectations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

all year long. Maybe one! Beyond that, key third down receptions! He kept drives going,” commented Coach DeSarno.

Senior wide receiver Ryan Hess turned out to be a deep threat and finished with 17 receptions for 362 yards, including six TDs. Junior James O’Rourke had 11 receptions for 55 yards. Junior tight end John Lanzano had six receptions for 129 yards, including the game-winning TD against Linden in overtime. Junior James McCrea had three receptions for 56 yards, including a TD.

“We had all new receivers this year, so it took a little time to get their timing and be comfortable with each other. Ryan Hess, I thought of him as more of a possession receiver going into the season, but he became more of a big play threat. Later on, we were able to get John Lanzano in. He had a big game against Linden,” Coach DeSarno said. “We had a 1,000-yard rusher in A.J. and we had a 1,000-yard passer in Danny. That’s a good balance.”

Coach DeSarno pointed out that the Linden game had to be the most exciting of the 10 games this season. “What a game! The two teams really got after it. They had a lot of talent. A lot of kids had their A-Game that day,” he said.

As good as he was offensively, Murray was every bit as good from his inside linebacker position. To go with his 40 tackles and 46 assisted tackles, he added three tackles for losses, two sacks, an interception and two tipped passes.

At cornerback, Ondi had 43 tackles with 12 assists, four tackles for losses, two interceptions and five knocked down passes, and O’Rourke had 28 tackles with 13 assists, four tackles for losses, three interceptions and five pass knockdowns. Senior safety Pat Bergin had 41 tackles with 11 assists, one tackle for a loss, three interceptions and six pass knockdowns. Hess had two interceptions.

“Kenny Miller, our defensive coordinator, did a great job of putting kids in the right spots. This year I didn’t think we were going to be as good stopping the run, but we were strong again. The back of our defense was tremendous. Three out of our top four tacklers! We didn’t let up too many big plays,” Coach DeSarno noted.

Great results also came from the linebackers and the defensive line. Junior linebacker Pat Johnson made 27 tackles (7 for a loss, 1 sack), 14 assists, two interceptions, two fumble recoveries and five pass knockdowns. Lanzano had 13 tackles (3 for loss) 22 assists, two interceptions and two tipped passes, and McCrea had 18 tackles, 34 assists and an interception. Senior defensive end Garrett Pryor had 29 tackles (5 for loss, three sacks) 31 assists and three pass knockdowns, and Nick Matthews made 19 tackles (6 for loss, sack), eight assists and two tipped passes. DeMartino had five tackles (1 loss) and 13 assists. Juniors Ryan Elliott made 19 tackles (2 for loss, sack) and 16 assists, while Mike LaFace made 19 tackles (3 for loss, 1.5 sacks) and 15 assists. Junior Mike Mondon made

eight tackles (1 loss) and 13 assists. Senior Chris Mannino had 14 tackles (1 loss, 1 sack) and 13 assists. Joe Rinaldi and Mark Frega (fumble recovery) each had eight tackles. Brendan Dugan, Kurt Kowalski and Mitch Young had six tackles each.

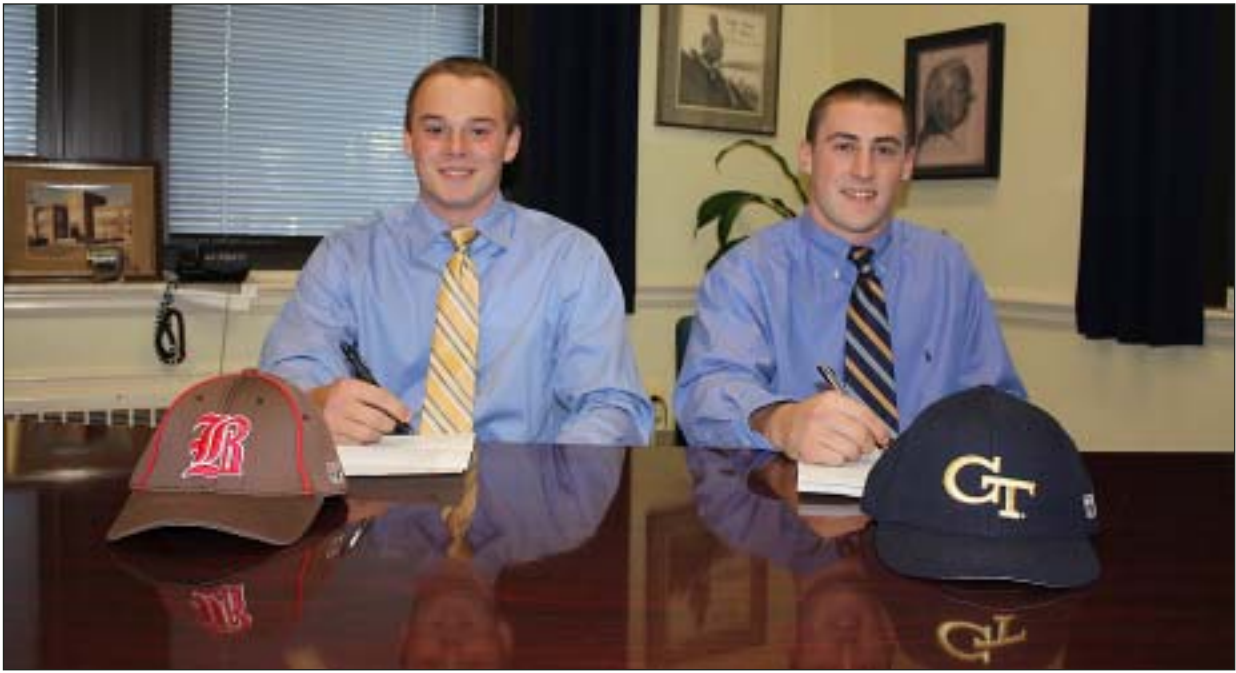
“I thought we would be a little weak at linebacker, but we plugged Pat Johnson in at outside linebacker, and he had a great year. John Lanzano at the other outside linebacker did a nice job on the strong side. A.J. in the middle, he was probably our best defensive player the last two years, and we got good contributions from James McCrea and Chris Mannino,” Coach DeSarno said.

Special teams also came through well, especially on both sides of kick-offs and punts. O’Rourke had 299 yards on punt returns and 174 yards on kickoffs, while Ondi had 214 yards on kickoffs. Jon Gribbin kicked six field goals and added 29 points after touchdown. He also handled the kick-offs and most of the punting responsibilities.

“Jon Gribbin kicked some field goals and extra points for us. Kickoff coverage was by far better, and Jon did a great job of placing the ball,” Coach DeSarno said.

The Blue Devils’ three losses were to Bridgewater-Raritan, Immaculata and, finally, to Hunterdon Central in the state playoff.

“The three losses that we had the kids battled and never quit,” said Coach DeSarno, who considered Hunterdon Central to be the toughest team.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WITH GOOD INTENTIONS...Westfield High School seniors Danny Kerr, left, and A.J. Murray simulate signing Letters of Intent. Kerr intends to play baseball at Brown University, and Murray will head south to play baseball for Georgia Tech.

## Turnovers, Injuries Plagued SPF Gridders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

learn how to win.”

Senior running back Quinten Blackwell led the team in rushing and finished with 1,050 yards and six TDs. Defensively, he made 17 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception. Anthony Byers had 41 rushes for 282 yards and a TD, and Connor Thompson had 25 rushes for 126 yards.

Of the three quarterbacks, Bret Kovacs had 40 completions for 584 yards, including seven TDs. Steve Alleman had 31 completions for 372 yards and a TD, and Thompson had 32 completions for 225 yards. Wide receiver Moussa Channauoui had 28 receptions for 403 yards, including

three TDs. Sean Colony had 20 receptions for 251 yards and two TDs. Matt Jegede had 11 catches for 244 yards and a TD, and Neville Hall had nine catches for 81 yards and a TD.

Defensively, Hall made 82 tackles (9 for loss, 2 sacks). Jegede had 92 tackles (3 for loss) and two forced fumbles. Mike Tufaro made 59 tackles (4 for loss, 4 sacks). Kyle Berwick had 57 tackles (2 for loss), 1 forced fumble and a fumble recovery. Matt Manns had 53 tackles (5 for loss, 2 sacks) and Andrew Miller made 50 tackles (7 for loss, 3 sacks). Billy Castore had 36 tackles (5 for loss, 4 sacks).

“So many guys did so many things

for us. Quinten was one of our best players on both sides of the ball. Matt Manns on both sides of the ball! Our wide outs finally started playing at the end,” Coach Ciccotelli noted.

On the final game of the season, the Raiders found the way to win with a 38-12 triumph over Millburn.

“A lot of young guys played. We hope they are willing to make the commitment. That commitment is to play other sports, get involved, be in the weight room and, hopefully, we will get better. Hopefully, these young kids will take what the seniors said, ‘to not quit,’ and build on it, because they didn’t quit,” Coach Ciccotelli said.

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BARBER, KALIMTZIS, SKIBITSKY LOOKING STRONG

Off-Season Experience Could Benefit Blue Devil Wrestlers

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

Growing pains of a rebuilding season after graduating a senior-dominated team quickly vanished last year when the Westfield High School wrestling team exercised the abilities of an athletic freshman and sophomore class to fill the vacancies and turn a 2-6 start into a respectable 9-8 finish.

This season the Blue Devils have 35 wrestlers in the room with only two seniors, but the outlook is expected to be even better.

“Based on what we have coming back from a 9-8 season, you would think we would be OK, but I think we are going to be much better than that,” Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said. “These kids put in some time in the off-season. I think they put themselves in a position to over-achieve. It’s going to be fun.”

With a very successful off-season, senior Christian Barber has forced his way even further into the spotlight of whom to look out for at the

tournament in Atalntic City (AC) and finish with a deceptive 24-8 record. Barber will compete at 152 lbs.

“Christian, every year came in with his goals to be a state champion. By the time this is all said and done, he wants to go out saying, ‘hey! I did everything I could.’ He’s done just that,” Coach Kurz said. “The confidence has got to be sky high after placing fifth in the Super 32, a national level tournament. He beat state champs from other states. He has beaten place winners from Jersey. It’s time for Westfield to have another state medalist.”

Senior Erik Gozdieski is expected to compete at 160 and 171. Junior veterans Mike Kalimtzis and Troy Skibitsky are expected to make waves in their respective classes. Kalimtzis won the UC and District 11 titles last year at 103 lbs., and Skibitsky, who placed second in the district at 125 lbs., just missed his opportunity to qualify for AC. Kalimtzis should remain at 103, while Skibitsky has

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.

“A lot of those kids, who wrestled in that tournament last year, are going to be in our varsity lineup. They are making that next step. For some of them, it will be a bit of a transition, the speed of a varsity match verses the JV, but these kids have already been to camp and dual-meet tournament, so they have already had 40 matches in the off-season

Juniors DeLouisa, Cline and Gibbons will compete at 171, 189 and 215, respectively, while Keith Peterson, Kevin Cascillo and Opoku will compete at, 130, 135 and 140, respectively. Sophomore Pat Currie, who wrestled 112 last year, has jumped to 125. Sophomores Anthony Aldana and Kyle Kania will remain at 119 and heavyweight, respectively, while Nick Rotundo will compete at 135. Freshman Nick Velez will occupy 112.

“Kids like Pat Currie, he’s going to have a great year. Ellis, who was JV last year, was behind Barber and Brian Henry. That kid would have been varsity in most lineups,” said Coach Kurz, who added, “I think Nick Rotundo is going to have a great year. Keith Peterson has come a real long way. These are kids, who worked themselves into a varsity lineup.”

In several JV matches last year, Rotundo was a terror on the mat, especially when it came to getting needed takedowns near the end of his bouts.

“He definitely has some potential. He did some good off-season work. My question is I think he is committed to the sport, I want to see how committed he is to the program and everything



David B. Corbin (2010 Region 3 Tournament) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

REVVING IN HIGH GEAR...Blue Devil senior Christian Barber, front, will be seeking his third district title and an opportunity to place high in Atlantic City.

state level. Barber, who won District 11 titles his freshman and sophomore seasons, wrestled some of the top competitors in the 140-, 145- and 152-lb. classes in the state last year, placed second in the Union County (UC) and District 11 tournaments and placed third in the Region 3 tournament to qualify for the NJSIAA

leaped to 145 lbs.

“Our veterans, the guys who have been around like Christian and Mike and Troy, it’s going to be fun to watch how far they go,” Coach Kurz said.

Another reason coach Kurz should be optimistic about the season is that the Blue Devils won the UC JV championship and several returned home

that we do,” Coach Kurz said. “If he buys into our system, I think he is going to have a good sophomore year and a great career here.”

The Blue Devils will open their regular season at Nutley on Saturday, December 18. They will host A.L. Johnson on Wednesday, December 22, at 4 p.m.



David B. Corbin (2010 Union County Tournament) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

READY FOR A GOOD SEASON...Raider junior Sean Cannon, top, seeks to have a successful mat season at 145 lbs.

CANNON, STEINFELD, TUFARO BEEF UP CHANCES

Raider Wrestlers Are Eying Far More Successful Season

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

Only a handful of experienced wrestlers took to the mat last year, and the young Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raiders took their lumps enduring a tough schedule. But with a little more relaxed schedule, which excludes power-


houses Brearley and Roselle Park, the Raiders, now a bit more experienced, sense a far more successful season.

“We have about 40 kids in the room. All the kids are working hard. They want to be there. We are working on heavy conditioning now. We are working on all the fine tuning of the moves.

They are doing everything we are asking them,” Raider Head Coach John Scholz said. “With the new teams I picked up, I think we should be competitive against these teams.”

With the Raiders’ JV coach Anthony Ferrante now an assistant coach at Summit, former Raider standout

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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# Knight Takes Helm Of WHS Swim Teams

Westfield High School boys swim Head Coach Jeff Knight has taken on the added responsibility as the Blue Devil girls head coach.

Last year, the Blue Devil girls regained the state Public A trophy by rolling to a 96-74 victory over Bridgewater-Raritan. They continued their momentum and earned their 12th state championship – and third in four years – with an 85-85 tie with defending state champion West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

“This year’s team has both center lane talent and overall depth. That combination should result in a deep run in the state tournament,” Coach Knight said.

The Lady Blue Devils have a host of returning veterans. Senior Becky DeLaFuenta is especially strong in freestyle and butterfly. Senior Anna Fetter is strong in freestyle and individual medley, and senior Allison Rose is strong in backstroke and breaststroke. Senior Kylie Bangs is strong in backstroke, and senior Meg Kaveney

is fluent in freestyle and butterfly.

Juniors Jess Cronin will add depth to the backstroke, Maeve Maloney and Loren Ball will be strong in freestyle, and Meg Myers is strong in breaststroke. Sophomores Ellie Reinhardt and Becky Zhang will add depth in freestyle.

The top freshmen newcomers are Sarah Cronin, Caroline Baldwin and Allie McBrearty in freestyle, Audrey Bangs in backstroke and Erika Daniel in butterfly.

The Blue Devil boys have a score to settle after falling to Bridgewater-Raritan, 86-84, in a North 2, Public A championship last year, but their team depth may be their strongest suit.

“The strength of this year’s team will be its depth, and its overall success will be based on contributions from both inside and outside lane swimmers,” Coach Knight said.

The senior veterans are Nick Boyle (freestyle, butterfly), Jack Lorentzen (freestyle, breaststroke) and Larry Zhang (individual medley, butterfly, breaststroke). The juniors are Brennan Haley (freestyle, backstroke) and Alex Bond (breaststroke). Sophomore veterans are Matt Daniel (freestyle, butterfly), Connor Moore (freestyle, backstroke) and Max Shin (freestyle, backstroke).

Strong freshmen are Tyler Lessner (individual medley, breaststroke), Luke McGrory (freestyle) and Daniel Myers (breaststroke).

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

Take notice that application has been made to the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, to transfer to Spirits Holdings, L.L.C., a New Jersey Limited Liability Company, trading as GrilleStone Bar & Grill, for expanded premises at 2377 U.S. Route 22 West, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076, the Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 2016-33-007-007, heretofore issued to Spirits Holdings, L.L.C., trading as GrilleStone Bar & Grill, for premises located at 2377 U.S. Route 22 West, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

The persons who will hold an interest in this license are:

Anthony A. Peterpaul, 12 Isabella Way, Warren, New Jersey 07059, Manager-Member of LLC

Frank Peterpaul, 14 Isabella Way, Warren, New Jersey 07059, Manager-Member of LLC

Philip A. Sgroi, 2524 Oxford Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080, Member of LLC

Plans of the current licensed premises and proposed licensed premises are contained in the license transfer application and may be examined at the office of the municipal clerk.

Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to: Bonnie Lacina, RMC, Municipal Clerk, Twp. of Scotch Plains, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

Spirits Holdings, L.L.C.  
c/o John F. Vassallo, Jr., Esq.  
50 Twin Hill Drive  
Willingboro, New Jersey 08046-3724  
2 T - 12/2/10 &  
12/9/10, The Times Fee: \$74.46

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LEADING IN ASSISTS...Blue Devil Co-Captain Jennelle Abbattista, No. 11, led her team with 306 assists.

## ABBATTISTA, PARTRIDGE LED WAY Lady Blue Devils Finish Volleyball Season, 12-9

By JOSEPH SCHACKMAN  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

The Westfield High School girls volleyball team completed another successful season. The Blue Devils finished the season with a 12-9 record, which included two wins over rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

The girls started the season strong, winning five out of their first seven games, but struggled slightly in the middle of the season, dropping two games to *The Star Ledger* Top 20 team Union Catholic.

The girls received the seventh seed in the Union County Tournament and were able to beat St. Patrick in just two games, 25-17, 25-21. However, they could not get past the second-

### Raiders, Devils Receive Girls Soccer Honors

Several Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Westfield High School girls soccer players received additional honors at the New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association All-Star Banquet at the Pines Manor in Edison on December 5.

Raider seniors Avika Shah and Emily Nagourney, and Blue Devil senior Hannah Kronick were selected to the New Jersey North 2 (Region 2) Top-20 team. Nagourney, who was nominated as a possible All-American, and Kronick were also selected as a Top-20 in the state by the N.J. Girls Soccer Coaches Association.

Also honored as State All-Stars at the banquet were Raiders Sarah Van Buskirk, Paige Della Badia and Claudia Falconieri, along with Blue Devils Tina Landeka and Alex Tinfo.

Shah, Nagourney and Kronick were chosen to play in the North/South New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association Senior Showcase, and Raider Head Coach Kevin Ewing had the opportunity to coach the two one last time.

Kronick finished her four-year career with 49 goals and 39 assists and was one of 37 student athletes to be selected to the coaches 2010 Academic All-American Team. She also received the MVP award by the Westfield Boosters Association for her achievement and leadership this season.

seeded Union Catholic Vikings in the semifinals.

The Blue Devils also won the opening game of the state tournament, defeating Elizabeth for the third time in the season. Senior captain Jennelle Abbattista was critical in the win, serving in the second game to help the Blue Devils come from behind to secure the victory. But the Blue Devils lost in the next round, ending their season.

“We improved throughout the season,” Blue Devil Head Coach Beverly Torok said. “We were the seventh seed for Union County Tournament (Union Catholic knocked us out, but we played well) and Ridgewood knocked us out in the state.”

The Blue Devils were led by their captains, Abbattista and Emma Partridge, who were each four-year varsity members. Abbattista, the team’s setter racked up 306 assists and 62 digs to go with her 62 digs. Partridge had 85 kills, 91 digs and 24 aces.

“My seniors were wonderful and will be greatly missed,” Coach Torok said after the season. “My two co-captains, Jenelle and Emma, were both on the varsity for four years. They were amazing leaders and kept the team together throughout the season, as well as leading their positions, setter and outside hitter, respectively.”

The captains were not the only seniors on the squad. This included Abby Flaherty, Christina Martinez and Christine Pyo, who, “Each played their roles to assist in making our team successful,” Coach Torok said. Flaherty had the second most blocks on the team with 11 to go along with her 39 kills. Martinez was the team’s defensive specialist and compiled 55 digs on the year.

The Blue Devils also had success off the court. They hosted the second annual “Play for Pink” fundraiser, which raises money for breast cancer research. All the proceeds from the event were donated to Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Going into next season the Blue Devils will look to Morgan Bowen and Grace Antonelli to lead them to another winning season. Bowen led the team in blocks and kills, with 28 and 82, respectively. Antonielli was the team leader in digs with 182.

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# Raider Wrestlers Are Eying Far More Successful Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Nick Giannaci has been running the JV program in the cafeteria to help soften the workload.

Junior Sean Cannon, a Region 3 qualifier his freshman year, missed out on qualifying last year and finished with a 16-12 record at 130 lbs. Cannon has shot up to the 145-lb. class this season.

“Sean wrestled all summer. He struggled with it last year [in] not making it out of the district. Sometimes with those good kids, they have one year where they bang their head against the wall. But that was his sophomore year. Now it’s his junior year. He’s putting in the work, putting in the road time, and he’s looking sharp in the room,” Coach Scholz said.

Junior Mike Steinfeld, who had a 23-13 record and qualified for the regions at 140 lbs. last year, is expected to remain at that class.

“He and Sean are partners. They don’t say ‘boo.’ They are great role models in the room. Each year, from his freshman year, the raw talent, to last year, wow! This kid is someone to look for, and everyone is starting to know his name. This year, he is going to be the kid [others will say], ‘ah man! I am going to have to wrestle Mike Steinfeld.’ On his feet, he has taken everyone down. On top, he controls you. He hurts you, and he has great moves on bottom. I expect him to do well and possibly place in the regions,” Coach Scholz said.

As a freshman at heavyweight, Anthony Tufaro held his own against many more mature and experienced opponents and finished with a 10-17 record last year. Tufaro is bigger, much stronger and ready to go forward.

“Anthony is weighing like 255. He put on a lot of muscle mass. He is biting at the bit. He wrestled all summer. He went to camp, and he has done everything that he needs to do,” Coach Scholz pointed out. “He got a chance to feel out some of the heavy-

weights last year. He had a hard time at the beginning, coming from an eighth-grade program, but later, he was losing or winning bouts by a point. He had a chance over the summer to wrestle some guys from the area, and he did quite well against them.”

Senior Danny Cardoza is expected to compete at 112 lbs. “He’s a boxer, so his cardio has been up. I can see him having a nice .500 or a little above that and surprising some kids in our area,” Coach Scholz said.

Juniors Luke Vuono and Jon Devia, who wrestled varsity last year, are expected to compete at 160 and 152, respectively.

“He is a physical specimen. This kid can walk on his hands all way around the school. Last year, he was a kid who would lose a match by one or two points. I see him doubling or tripling his record,” Coach Scholz said of Devia.

Senior Devin Ausbon is expected to remain at 119 lbs. Sophomore Lucas Cimafonte, who had a lot of action at 103 lbs. last year, has moved to 112. Juniors Mike McFarlane and Luke Mineo will switch between 189 and 215. Senior Sebastian Rosen will compete at 171 and 189. Juniors Dion Natale and Joe Kostecki are expected to compete at 130 and 152, respectively.

Coach Scholz is pleased with two freshmen, Mike Lettieri (112) and Dominick Natale (135).

“Mike Lettieri, no matter what, he’s going at it 120 percent. His wrestling skills are there. Dominick Natale, the first time I saw him I said, ‘what talent this kid has.’ So now, both boys just have to get the hard knocks of wrestling at the high school level,” he said.

The two freshmen and the rest of the Raiders will be knocking on the door at Metuchen in a tri-match against Metuchen and J.P. Stevens on December 17 at 3:30 p.m.



CELEBRATION TIME...Pete Echausse's U14 Westfield girls soccer team recently won the InterCounty soccer championship with a 1-0 victory over Berkeley Heights. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Claire Cassie, Carolina Sanchez, Annie Condodina, Tiffany Hui, Gillian Wadman, Jenna Reed, Ava Wadman and Catherine Bergin; middle row, Ellie Warsh, Corinne Kuntz, Emily Schuman, Melanie Nettler, Zoe Federbusch, Kayleigh Denner, Malorie Weiss, Lauren Echausse and Amy West; back row, Chris Hayes (trainer), Coach Pete Echausse and Coach Mike Schuman. Missing: Coach Bill West.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was passed on first reading by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey on the 9th of December 2010, and that said Ordinance will be considered for final adoption at a meeting of the said Township Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 430 Park Avenue, on the 21st day of December 2010 at 8:30 p.m., at which time and place a public hearing will be held prior to final passage of said Ordinance and all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same. Copies of said Ordinances can be obtained from the Township Clerk's Office at any time prior to final adoption at no cost to any member of the general public who requests same.

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-2010**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING SECTION 23-2 ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS" BY CREATING NEW SUBSECTION 23-2.4 ENTITLED "REQUEST FOR REZONING."**

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-2010**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED, "ADMINISTRATION" BY AMENDING SECTION 2-3.9 ENTITLED, "PURCHASING" BY (I) DEFINING THE PURCHASING FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, AND (II) DEFINING THE PURCHASING FUNCTIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER IF DESIGNATED TO SERVE AS QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT (QPA) IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACTS LAW.**

BOZENA LACINA, RMC  
Municipal Clerk  
1 T - 12/9/10, The Times Fee: \$43.86

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Ordinance was finally adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union, New Jersey, on the 7th of December 2010.

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-2010**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 8-1 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE TO REQUIRE THE REMOVAL OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 23-2010**  
**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALE OF AN ACCESS AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF WRIGHT STREET.**

BOZENA LACINA, RMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK  
1 T - 12/9/10, The Times Fee: \$20.91

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains will hold a Special Meeting in the Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains in the first floor Council Chambers on **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010**, to continue the hearing for T. Mobile Northeast for property located at 1155 Roosevelt Avenue, Block 8601, Lot 14 for a Use Variance, Height Variance and Site Plan approval to construct a 120 feet monopole with 9 antennas, fencing and equipment shelters.

All interested persons may be present and be heard.

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

Barbara Horev  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
1 T - 12/9/10, The Times Fee: \$21.93

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS**  
COUNTY OF UNION

**TAKE NOTICE** That pursuant to Resolution No. 157-10, adopted by the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains on December 7, 2010 that the undersigned will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly "as is" condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose.

Purchase must be made by cash or certified check. A 10% deposit must be given at time of auction. Balance must be paid by 4:00 p.m. the same day.

The public auction shall be held on December 14, 2010 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicles may be examined at Frank's Towing, 56 Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey at 9:15 am. Public Auction will commence at 9:30 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Jeep	2001	1J4GW48S51C581502	\$2430.00

BOZENA LACINA, RMC, Township Clerk  
1 T - 12/9/10, The Times Fee: \$38.76





**IHM TOURNEY FINALISTS...**...Scotch Plains' Immaculate Heart of Mary's 5th grade boy's travel basketball team placed second in the Wayne PAL Thanksgiving Weekend Shootout. Pictured, left to right, are: front row, Ryan Lee and Trent Miller; second row, Michael Gross, Tommy Drubulis, Patrick Downey and George Davis; third row, Ryan Muench, Cooper Heisey, Jack Brady, Ashton Miller (MVP) and Adam Freeman; back row, Head Coach Eric Muench and Assistant Coach Tom Drubulis.

## FSPY Red Swim Boys Lose Close Meet to Red Bank

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) boys "Red" swim team lost a close meet recently against the Red Bank "Y."

Individual Medley: (9-10) Logan D'Amore placed third. (13-14) Matt Marino touched first as did (15-18) Anthony Pacheco with Daniel Myers (second) and Chris Stankiewicz (third).

Freestyle: 8U Matthew Chen took first. (11-12) Nick Giardiello took second. (13-14) Peter Tomljanovic edged his RBY competition by .21 seconds in the 200-freestyle for the win. Sam Hays touched third. (15-18) Daniel Drozdewicz took first, and David Verdia took third.

Breaststroke: (9-10) Max Berg touched first. (11-12) Zach Carter placed first and Marcello Betman placed third. (13-14) Marino and Matthew Isidron placed 2-3, while (15-18) Myers and Pacheco placed 2-3.

Backstroke: 8U Armen Vartanian and Spencer Linenberg took 1-3, respectively. (9-10) D'Amore and Alan Shao took 2-3. (11-12) Fleck and Giardiello touched 1-2. (13-14) Hays took first, while (15-18) Nick Constantine touched third.

Butterfly: (8U) Chen grabbed first

and Lance Linenberg took second. (11-12) John Piccinic and Chris Hoerner took 1-3, respectively. (13-14) Tomljanovic touched first, while (15-18) Drozdewicz (first) and Nick Venditto (third) had best-time finishes in the 200-fly.

In the relays, 8U Spencer and Lance Linenberg, Chen and Vartanian in the 100-medley relay and (13-14) Marino, Isidron, Tomljanovic and Hays in the 200-medley relay took first.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BY THE TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

**CONTRACTOR:** Amalgamated General Agencies (AGA), 115 Grove Street East, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

**NATURE OF SERVICES:** Engaged to perform risk management consultant services as detailed in the Bylaws if the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund and the Municipal Excess Liability Joint Insurance Fund..

**DURATION:** January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

**AMOUNT:** 2.5% of annual assessment THE RESOLUTION AND CONTRACT FOR SAME ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Claire J. Gray  
Town Clerk

1 T - 12/9/10, The Leader Fee: \$18.87

## Girls Softball League of WF Opens In-Town Registration

The Girls Softball League of Westfield (GSLW) has opened registration for its spring 2011 in-town leagues. Leagues are being formed for girls from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Registration can be completed at the organization's website at [WestfieldSoftball.org](http://WestfieldSoftball.org). The season begins on April 1 and concludes in mid-June.

Sponsorship opportunities are available to local businesses and packages range from Business Name on team T-shirts to packages, including banners and links on the organization's website. Interested sponsors may e-mail [Sponsorship@westfieldsoftball.org](mailto:Sponsorship@westfieldsoftball.org) for detailed information.

The GSLW sponsors over 50 teams with over 700 Westfield participants annually for girls 5-18 years of age to play at the in-town and competitive travel levels. The GSLW is a Public Charity under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with the purpose to provide the girls of Westfield with the opportunity to learn and to play fast-pitch softball.

With some exceptions, the GSLW's programs are organized and run entirely by volunteers from the Westfield community. Additionally, the GSLW awards yearly scholarships to graduating Westfield High School softball players, and it tries to provide softball educational opportunities. In the

past year, the GSLW has provided winter and spring general skills clinics, coaching clinics, pitching clinics and catching clinics.

The board has announced the following selection of positions for 2011: Ed Ronk, president; Gary Fox, vp/director of operations/fields; Sara Clarkson, treasurer TBD director of instructional leagues (K/1); Dennis McLaughlin, director of instructional leagues (2/3); Joe Verga, National League director (4/5); Ruth Maloney, American League director (6/7/8); Patrick McBrearty, travel director; Tom Grycan, league director at-large; Rich Boretz, registrar/website development; Jim Reardon, director of operations/uniforms and equipment; John Fietkiewicz, senior director, and Rosemarie Panarese, senior director.

### SPF Youth Baseball Registration Ends Soon

There is just one week remaining to register for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association's 2011 season. Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents in grades kindergarten through high school are eligible to sign up.

To register, please go to the Association's website: [www.spfyba.org](http://www.spfyba.org). For any questions, please feel free to contact the association at [spfyba@gmail.com](mailto:spfyba@gmail.com)

## FSPY Red Swim Girls Level Ridgewood 'Y,' 107-101

The Fanwood-Scotch Plains "Y" (FSPY) Girls Red Swim Team squeezed out a 107-101 victory over Ridgewood "Y" on November 20.

Individual Medley: (9-10) Lucy Zhang and Megan Small placed 2-3.

(11-12) Lia Sartorio and Maya Dunchus placed 2-3 in 200 IM. Caitlin Glynn (13-14) and Meghan Myers (15-18) touched third in the 200 IM.

Freestyle: In 50-free, (8U) Isabella Betman and Maeve Roberston touched 1-2. In the 9-10 100-free, Olivia Barcia, Gina Farenholz and Mackenzie Inacker swept 1-2-3. (11-12) Emily Lockatell and Grace Lesce took 1-3. Kelly Bracuto (13-14) finished second and Caroline Lesce (15-18) took third in the 200-free.

Breaststroke: In the 9-10 50-breast,

Megan Small placed second. (11-12) Natalie Jablonski clinched first with Maddie Bebout in third. In 100-breast (13-14) Jillian Breckenridge touched first. (15-18) Meghan Myers and Rosemarie Brigande took 1-2.

Backstroke: 8U Morgan Tsin placed third. (9-10) Barcia, Zhang and Meghan Jaczko took 1-2-3. (11-12) Jablonski and Sartorio touched 1-2 in the 50-back. (13-14) Glynn took second in the 100. (9-10) Rachel DiFabrizio and Amanda Pyle placed 2-3, while (11-12) Victoria Isidron and G. Lesce placed 1-2 in the 50-fly. In the 100-fly, Emma Jaczko (13-14) finished second, while Jackie Cirincione took third in the 15-18 200-fly.

In the relays, FSPY scored first place in three of four events to score the win.



**GOING OVER THE BASICS...**...Coach Dave Brown discusses the fundamentals with his second-grade girls basketball team known as the Cincinnati Bearcats.

## WBA Intown League Begins Girls Basketball Season

The Westfield Basketball Association's (WBA) for the Girls Intown teams opened on December 4. Eight second-grade teams played at Franklin Elementary School. Because of the instructional nature with emphasis on basic basketball skills, no scores were kept.

In Game 1, an athletic Cincinnati Bearcats squad played the Michigan State Spartans. Allie and Megan Hinkel, Brooke Scheurmann, Katie McHugh, Ellie Kate Brown, Ryleigh Gildea, Maggie Aslanian and Emily Korth led the Bearcats. Jaclyn Dencker, Karena Gandhi, Emma Hanley, Daniella Miedrzynski, Victoria Toal, Caroline Maher, Sara Perlin and Nora Quinn led the Spartans.

Game 2, pitted Notre Dame against Pittsburgh. Samantha Surks, Nora Bergin, Tess Caherly, Gianna Davis, Joy Mulzoff, Peri Oberman, Sadie Hoberman and Maddy McMahon led the Fighting Irish. Amanda Cerrachio, Julia Wojno-Oranski, Giulia Pinelli, Grace Lanza, Reyya Kocagil, Julia Becker, Claire Campbell and Maddy Silva sparked the Panthers.

UMass played Villanova in Game 3. Emma Pietrewicz, Mia Fleming, Allison Fernandez, Jamie Beyert, Grace Endy, Kelly Eagan, Amanda Wendler and Victoria Calandra led UMass. Julia Lin, Meghan Lambert, Jillian Omberg, Maddy Walters, the Stogner twins- Hailey and Molly, Kaitlyn Alliegro and Lila McMahon

led Villanova.

The Duke Blue Devils met the Syracuse Orange-girls and the enthusiasm and energy was very high. Michaela Hobson, Kayla Turnof, Liz McGuire, Katherine Wistner, Julia Johnson-Milstein, Sophia Scotto, Maggie Burke and Julia McGann energized the Dukies. Charlotte Dursee, Samantha Hoffmann, Jessica Isser, Meredith Kean, Liz Healy, Aimee Riley, Brynn Gama, Maddy Learner and Chloe Pappalardo led the Orange.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that at the meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains held on December 2, 2010, the Board adopted the following Resolutions:

**Joseph Banker**, approved for variances to construct a three-car garage at property located at 5 Tempe Court, Block 14801, Lot 39.

**Alex & Cathy Debelak**, approved for a side-yard variance to construct an addition at property located at 11 Wellington Downs, Block 14703, Lot 11.

**Joseph Perone & Jill Deitch**, approved for a variance to construct a two-story addition at property located at 537 Victor Street, Block 04301, Lot 14.

**Debbie Jorgensen**, denied a variance for a front-yard setback to retain an existing shed on property located at 7 Johnson Street, Block 6102, Lot 9.01.

Barbara Horev, Secretary  
Zoning Board of Adjustment  
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# CRANFORD COUGAR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

## GIACCIO, MARKOVITCH EYE FOURTH DISTRICT TITLE

### Cougar Matmen Have Good Mix of Youth with Veterans

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

Auditions have been in place for the heaviest three weight classes, but the Cranford High School wrestling team will have a solid lineup of veterans occupying the remaining slots and expect another fine season.

The Cougars, who have 36 wrestlers in the room with a good mix of upperclassmen with underclassmen, had a great season last year. They finished 19-5 and were runners-up in the District 12 Tournament.

“We had a nice season. We had a couple of young kids with a lot of experience that we are looking forward to returning this year,” Cougar Head Coach Darren Torsone said.

time district champion. We have had only two of those in the history of the high school. We have two guys, who are looking at getting 100 wins, and that would be the third and fourth in the history of the school. One is Greg Donofrio. Two is Pat Hogan. So we have a lot of kids working toward personal goals,” Coach Torsone said.

Last year, Giaccio won the Union County Tournament (UCT) title, the District 11 title and the Region 3 title to qualify for the NJSIAA Tournament in Atlantic City (AC) at 112-lbs. He finished with a 32-4 record and is expected to compete at 119 or, possibly, 112. Markovitch (54 career wins), who was injured the first half of last year, recovered to win the

last year, and he continued with it this summer, beating a lot of tough kids. We are looking forward to seeing what Matt is going to bring. He’s got high goals,” Coach Torsone said.

Junior J.P. Christiano had a couple of classic battles with Brearley Bear John Balboni, who won the District 11 crown and qualified for AC last year at 152-lbs. Christiano placed third in the UCT, second in the district but was unable to compete in the regions due to injury and finished 28-5. He is expected to compete at 160 this season.

“JP has battled through a couple of tough injuries. Last wrestling season, he couldn’t continue on in the regions, and football season this year, he got



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ON THE VERGE OF GETTING INTO THE COUGAR RECORD BOOK...Senior Joe Giaccio, top, is seeking his fourth district crown, and with 88 career victories, he should easily surpass 100 career victories.

Three of those veterans, seniors Joe Giaccio, Matt DiGiovanni and Kyle Markovitch, have a good shot at entering the All-Time Cranford High School record books in two categories. Giaccio and Markovitch have an opportunity to win their fourth District 11 title, while Giaccio with 88 wins and DiGiovanni with 65 wins have a shot at surpassing 100 career wins.

“Joe Giaccio and Kyle Markovitch should have a shot at being a four-

District 11 crown and to place fourth in the Region 3 Tournament at 130-lbs. He finished 14-3 and is expected to remain at 130.

DiGiovanni came on very strong last year. After placing third in the UCT at 135, he won the District 11 crown and placed fourth in the region to finish with a 30-7 record. He will compete at 145-lbs this season.

“Matt not only had a great season last year, he had a breakout season

injured, but he’s 100 percent right now. He’s a quick healer. He is excited about wrestling season, and he’s improved a lot,” Coach Torsone said.

Two more veterans, senior Eric Knight and junior Ian Henry, are expected to have a fine season. Knight, who finished 15-13 at 140-lbs last year, will remain in that slot. Henry, who placed third in the UCT at 119-lbs and finished 19-10, is expected to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SENIOR LEADERSHIP...Seniors Jackie Monteagudo, left, Brie Capece, center, and Sara Gugliucci are looking forward to another very successful season for the Lady Cougars basketball team.

## SENIORS MONTEAGUDO, CAPECE, GUGIUCCI TO LEAD

### Lady Cougar Hoopsters Are Young, Maybe More Talented

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

Nostalgia echoed throughout the Cranford High School gymnasium on March 9, 2010, and the achievement of the Lady Cougars varsity basketball team may have caused many individuals of an earlier generation to reminisce.

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, on March 9, 2010, a portion of that history repeated itself when the Lady Cougars ambushed the Somerville Pioneers, 46-34, to capture the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 championship in Cranford.

“It was very exciting, because the year before that we made it to the sectional finals, and we ended up playing Rumson, which had won it like 12 years in a row. To make it back there again and get the opportunity to win on our home floor, the girls were so excited. It was good for them, because they worked really hard, Cougar Head Coach Jackie [nee Huber] Dyer said.”

Last year, the Cougars were a younger team than the year before but finished with a 21-8 record. Three talented starters from that championship squad, Jamie Webb, Taylor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Probitas Versus Honos



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

COUGAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK...Eric Pawlick, a senior captain on the varsity ice hockey team, had five goals and three assists in an 8-2 win over Arthur L. Johnson and a 12-2 win over Governor Livingston last week.

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David B. Corbin (2009-2010 season files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**LOOKING TO GET INTO THE COUGAR RECORD BOOK...**Senior Matt DiGiovanni, top, has a shot at reaching the 100-career win mark with a very good season. Greg Donofrio and Pat Hogan were the only two Cougars to reach 100 wins.



David B. Corbin (2009-2010 season files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**STRONG DEFENSIVELY AND STRONG INSIDE...**Cougar sophomore Kate McGovern, in white, has strong defensive skills. She will also be strong under the boards for rebounds and inside shooting.

## Cougars Have Good Mix of Youth & Veterans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

compete at 125-lbs.

"Ian Henry and Eric Knight are two of our hardest workers in the room. It so happens that they are workout partners. We are looking for them to have a great season," Coach Torsone added.

Sophomore Rob Kessler will com-

pete at 171-lbs, and freshman Ryan Espuga will compete at 103-lbs. Three candidates, sophomores Mike Helmstetter and Diego Castro, and freshman Cory Birch, are vying for the 119-lb slot. Sophomores Jim Dwyer and Cory Markovitch will fill the 152-lb slot. The 189-lb slot that

and Region 3 titles at heavyweight to qualify for AC. Both have graduates, so presently, their slots will be occupied by sophomores Jeff Weiss (215) and Ryan Farrell (heavyweight).

"It was kind of a luxury having those two guys. Not that we took them for granted, but we always



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**ALSO ON THE VERGE OF GETTING INTO THE COUGAR RECORD BOOK...**Senior Kyle Markovitch, top, will be seeking his fourth District 11 crown. Markovitch won the 130-lb crown last year, and he will be competing at the same weight class this season.

was occupied by Errol Petgrave last year is presently open, but coach Torsone has been auditioning for the 215-lb and heavyweight slots. Last year, Julian Campo won the District 11 crown at 215-lbs and finished 26-7, and Joe Brady won the District 11

counted on them, and they were there. We are going to have to move things around to fill in those spots," Coach Torsone said.

The Cougars will host their season-opener against Bishop Ahr on Friday, December 17, at 4 p.m.

## Young Cougar Cagers May Be More Talented

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

D'Antico and Danielle Gross, have graduated, but even with a younger squad this season, the Cougars may even be better.

"The ironic thing is that we are actually younger this year, and our skill level is unbelievable. The things that some of the girls can do after being in practice for a couple of days and just playing together is exciting. So this year should be as good as last year," Coach Dyer said.

Also some changes in this season's schedule may favor the Cougars.

"Roselle Catholic and Roselle moved up in the conference, and Oak Knoll and New Providence moved up into our conference. We will play more of Oak Knoll, New Providence, Union Catholic, Johnson and Governor Livingston," Coach Dyer explained.

The young Lady Cougars will look to three seniors, Jackie Monteagudo (forward) and guards Brie Capece and Sara Gugliucci, for leadership, and they will receive strong outside shooting from junior guard Morgan Miller. Because of her deadly outside shooting, Miller forced opposing defenses to stretch, so the Cougars could also find success with the inside game. Miller, who finished with 274 points, banged a team-leading 40 three-pointers and sank 35-for-50 (70 percent) last year.

Other outside shooters include sophomore Jenna Goeller, junior Danielle Jakubik and freshmen Mairead McKeary and Kerry Wischusen.

"We have a very good outside shooting team. We just need to work more on getting the ball inside. We do

have a good inside game, so that's going to be something that we have to tweak a little bit," Coach Dyer said.

The inside strength will come from sophomore guard Jess McCoy and sophomore forwards Kate McGovern and Aaron Wichelns and freshman forward Carly Maucione.

Last year, McCoy led the team with 214 rebounds and was second in assists, steals and blocks with 47, 58 and 32, respectively. She also bucketed 231 points. McGovern, who had 61 points, was strong under the boards with 81 rebounds and nine blocks.

The Lady Cougars will open their regular season at Oak Knoll in Summit on Friday, December 17, at 4 p.m. Their first home game is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, at 7 p.m. against A.L. Johnson.



David B. Corbin (2009-2010 season files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**LEADING REBOUNDER AND A CHIEF THIEF...**Cougar sophomore Jess McCoy, No. 20, led the team with 214 rebounds and was second in assists, steals and blocks with 47, 58 and 32, respectively, last year. She also bucketed 231 points.

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LESSON IN GOVERNMENT...Martin Wallberg Post No 3 of the American Legion in Westfield recently held an awards ceremony for the Delegates who attended American Legion “Jersey Boys State,” a week-long civics camp on government. Pictured, from left to right, are: Joseph Koomar; Daniel Fitzpatrick; Vincent LaRocca; Timothy Connell; Berly Hanna Jr., County Boys state chairman; Jeff Kennedy, county commander, and Jack Ford, Boys State chairman for Post 3.

Legion Delegates Learn About American Gov.

WESTFIELD — The Martin Wallberg Post No. 3 of the American Legion in Westfield held an awards ceremony on November 3 for delegates who attended American Legion “Jersey Boys State,” a week-long civics camp where the delegates learn about the United States form of government and set up and have elections for city, county and state government.

They then elected two delegates from New Jersey to go on to American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., along with 96 other delegates from 48 other states. They set up a “Mock” national government and met

President Barack Obama in the White House.

Timothy Connell was one of the two Delegates elected to Boys Nation from New Jersey and he spent a week in Washington studying American government, setting up and electing a mock senate and president. They had a private tour of the White House and had a personal meeting with President Obama. The four Delegates were given Good Citizen Certificates and Boys State Appreciation Certificates.

Tim, in turn, presented Post 3 with a full-size photo of the 98 Delegates and President Obama, which will be displayed at Post 3.

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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](http://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 Steril 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 - 11/25/10, 12/2/10 and 12/9/10, The Leader Fee: \$201.96

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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**Re-Advertisement of Maintenance Machine Sweeping Contract, North - 2011, Various locations including and North of Route 57, Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren; 100% State; DP No: 10494**

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.

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3 T - 11/25/10, 12/2/10 and 12/9/10, The Leader Fee: \$201.96

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

Public notice is hereby given that the undersigned, The Collector of Taxes of the Town of Westfield, Union County, New Jersey, will sell at public auction on the 17th day of December, 2010 in the Tax Collector's office in the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey, at nine o'clock in the morning, the following described lands:

The said lands will be sold to make the amount of Municipal liens chargeable against that same on the 17th day of December, 2010, together with interest and cost of sale, exclusive however, of the lien for taxes for the year 2010.

The said lands will be sold in fee to such persons as will purchase the same, subject to redemption at the lowest rate of interest, but in no case in excess of eighteen percent (18%) per annum. Payments for the sale shall be made by cash or certified check before conclusion of the sale or the property will be resold.

Any parcel of real property for which there shall be no other purchaser will be struck off and sold to the Municipality in fee for redemption at eighteen percent (18%) per annum and the Municipality shall have the right to bar or foreclose the right of redemption.

The sale will be made and conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 5 of Title 54, Revised Statutes of New Jersey, 1937, and amendments thereto.

At any time before the sale the undersigned will receive payment of the amount due on the property, with interest and costs incurred up to the time of payments, by certified check or cash.

Industrial properties may be subject to the Spill Compensation and Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq.), the Water Pollution Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq.) and the Industrial Site Recovery Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq.) In addition, the municipality is precluded from issuing a tax sale certificate to any prospective purchaser who is or may be in any way connected to the prior owner or operator of the site.

The said lands so subject to sale, described in accordance with the tax duplicate, including the name of the owner as shown on the last duplicate and the total amount due thereon respectively on the 17th day of December, 2010, exclusive of the lien for the year 2010 are as listed below:

Location of Property Address	Owner	Block	Amount Due & Lot Dec. 17, 2010
1. 5 Fairhill Road	Sharpe, Larry & Susan	201/43	\$ 5,414.70
2. 1053 Lawrence Avenue	Lawrence Avenue, LLC	304/11	\$15,705.01
*3. 955 Lawrence Avenue	Wissel, Conrad & Tina	304/17	\$ 1,504.58
4. 24 Barchester Way	Berry, Glenn & Sally	308/1	\$35,535.01
5. 367 Brightwood Avenue	Pringle, Edward	701/8	\$ 3,236.56
6. 109 Dudley Avenue W	Parsloe, Robert Joseph & Mary Lynn	1004/8	\$ 17,422.03
7. 132 Lincoln Road	Trask, Stephen & Megan	1006/15	\$ 3,520.07
8. 619 Kimball Avenue	Khedr, Christine-Gadzera, Irene	1206/23	\$ 7,775.00
9. 209 Sunset Avenue	Genievich, Jean	1902/15	\$13,783.42
10. 201 Baker Avenue	Buontempo, Anthony	2212/6	\$19,844.33
*11. 618 Maye Street	O'Brian, Theresa M.	2302/51	\$ 302.66
12. 728-734 South Avenue West	Buontempo, Joseph, LLC	2510/5.01	\$49,984.48
13. 440 West Broad Street	Centennial Lodge #400 IBOP Elks	2512/27	\$ 3,520.88
14. 1020 South Avenue West	Buontempo, Joseph	2606/10	\$18,286.87
15. 1016 South Avenue West	Buontempo, Joseph	2606/11	\$16,444.49
16. 918 South Avenue West	Journeyman Title Agency, Inc.	2606/18	\$11,127.26
17. 115 Scotch Plains Ave No	Taliaferro, Lucille & Evans, R	2704/20	\$ 6,280.50
18. 642 West Broad Street	Barnes, James & Monroe, Mark	2709/21	\$ 8,184.35
19. 624 Downer Street	Clavijo, Victor & Maria	2710/16	\$ 1,659.11
20. 601 First Street	Aguirre, Donna Contreras M.	2802/1	\$10,011.31
21. 214 Scotch Plains Avenue	Morse, Norman & Nancy	2816/2	\$10,309.44
22. 401 West Broad Street	B & G Properties, A Partnership	2901/1	\$ 4,209.92
*23. 530 Summit Avenue	Farrington, Robyn	3003/24	\$ 487.64
24. 220 Elmer Street	CBK Realty LLC	3114/9	\$25,253.87
25. 412 Elmer Street South	Mormile, Antonio & Mary Ann	3207/6	\$ 1,219.89
26. 724 Sherman Street Rear	Hirth, Edward & Diane	3405/2.08	\$ 64.63
27. 118acciola Place	Colonel, Lottie c/o N. Pringle	4001/4	\$ 423.50
28. 114 Livingston Street	Furnari, Nancy J.	4001/16	\$ 1,444.32
29. 228 Windsor Avenue	Henry, Lois	4001/61	\$ 7,725.44
30. 117 Myrtle Avenue	Frasier, Sheila Est of	4001/94	\$ 5,914.20
31. 727 Central Avenue	Patel, Hasmukh S-Patel, Mehendra C	4001/98	\$16,915.34
32. 229 Windsor Avenue	Winsor, Barbara Franklin	4004/43	\$ 1,263.81
33. 820 Carleton Road	Buontempo, Anthony	4707/4	\$14,416.49
34. 124 Grove Street East	Allen, Craig J. & Juanita	4802/4	\$ 2,872.12
35. 522 Harrow Road	DelMonico, Gerald & Joanne	4911/16	\$ 8,295.47
36. 6 Byron Court	Cort, James & Yvonne	5004/28	\$ 6,441.10
37. 8 Manchester Drive	Metz, Lillian D. Est Of	5004/37	\$19,672.41
38. 454 Otisco Drive	Genievich, Jean M.	5105/13	\$13,435.04
39. 30 Genesee Trail	Buontempo, Anthony	5112/26	\$13,154.30
40. 12 North Wickom Drive	Gabriel Estates, LLC	5203/13	\$21,814.22
41. 101 Surrey Lane	Genievich, Jean	5205/17	\$11,894.89
42. 132 Cambridge Road	Junno, Anna Mae	5717/1	\$15,225.02

\*sidewalk or curbing assessment

In the event that the owner of the property is on Active Duty in the Military Service, the Tax Collector should be notified immediately.

4 T - 11/18, 11/25, 12/02 & 12/9/10, The Leader Fee: \$558.96

CLASSIFIEDS

P/T RECEPTIONIST

Temp. position needed for tax season Jan 14-Apr 15. Experienced receptionist w/ light clerical for busy Fanwood CPA office. Hours M-F 3pm-7pm. Knowledge of QuickBooks software and Tax return collating helpful. Call (908) 889-9500

STORES FOR RENT

GARWOOD  
2 stores for rent from \$1100 per month. Parking and Transportation readily available. Call (917) 692-1819 for more information

NEIDE HOUSE CLEANING

If you need someone to clean your house, leave it to us. You have better things to do. We're a reliable couple with excellent references. (862) 307-3481

AUTO FOR SALE

2006 Chev. Avalanche, 4X4 Off Road Package, Leather, Excellent, Like New Condition, Remote Start, Satellite Radio, 55,000 miles. \$19,500. Contact David at (609) 287-8880.

BAY HEAD RENTAL

Pristine Home for Rent, East Ave, Ocean Views, Steps to Bridge/ Howe Guarded Beaches, Walk to Town, Bay & Lake, 6 BRooms, 3.5 Bths, FrPorch, Bk Deck, CAC, Fin. Basement w/ Ldry Room. Avail to Rent Weekly or Monthly for May, June, July, Aug, Sept & Oct. Pls Call (973) 727-8978 for all inquiries.

FLUTE FOR SALE

Gemeinhardt 2SP, closed hole, beginner flute, used gently for 1 year, very good condition. Flute case, carrying case, music stand and stand case included. \$185. Call Lillie (908) 654-3755

SPACE IN A GYM FOR RENT

A 2000 sq ft commercial space in a gymnastics school for rent. Hourly or Monthly. A minute to Rt 22. Suitable for sports, meetings, seminars, kids' activities. (908) 514-0449

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Event and family photographer to keep your Soiree alive forever. Professional references. Call Dave Samsky at (908) 693-0158 Email: [dsamsky@verizon.net](mailto:dsamsky@verizon.net)

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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: [editor@goleader.com](mailto:editor@goleader.com)

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Nannies - Housekeepers BabyNurses Needed Live-in / -out, Full/Part-time Solid References Required. CALL (732) 972-4090 [www.absolutebestcare.com](http://www.absolutebestcare.com)

More Union County News

County Receives Award for Gang Prevention Program

COUNTY – Union County’s Christopher’s Program, which helps at-risk youths avoid gangs and gang-related violence, has recently been awarded the Community Change Award by the 2010 New Jersey Black Issues Leadership Convention in New Brunswick. The program was selected from hundreds of applications submitted throughout New Jersey.

Union County Freeholder Nancy Ward spearheaded the development of Christopher’s Program, which was named in honor of Christopher Booker, who was brutally murdered by gang members on Thanksgiving weekend 10 years ago.

“The death of Christopher Booker opened my eyes to a world that, 10 years ago, I knew nothing about – the presence of gang violence in the State of New Jersey,” Freeholder Ward said. “After much searching for answers, I did indeed gain knowledge about organized gangs, their history in New Jersey, what was being done to combat this growing epidemic, and most importantly, what more should be and must be done.”

Before Christopher’s Program, Freeholder Ward initiated numerous two-day gang prevention programs in Union County.

“The experience made it apparent to me that a permanent, continuous and more expansive Union County program was needed in order to quash the ongoing recruitment of our young people into organized gangs,” Freeholder Ward said.

Christopher’s Program went into operation earlier this year, through the Union County Department of Human Services. It consists of interactive sessions with trained speakers, experts and agencies in New Jersey, dealing exclusively with the topic of gangs and youth violence.

Participants are selected at the discretion of the courts, the county’s

probation department and juvenile detention center. Each participant attends the program twice weekly for six consecutive weeks. An alternative schedule of one session weekly for 12 weeks is also under consideration. Sessions are held in the detention center or at three community locations for those who are on probation or home confinement.

Christopher’s Program is also available to all Union County school districts upon request, and accepts referrals from local community agencies. The program also includes a professional development and community education component that serves to enhance community awareness and community education regarding the topic of gangs and youth violence.

“Christopher’s Program is unique in that the partnership between the court system, the [Union County] Department of Human Services and our communities will now allow us to reach thousands of additional youths in the years to come who stand at imminent risk of joining or staying in organized street gangs,” Freeholder Ward said.

The New Jersey Black Issues Leadership Conference Community Change Award focuses on locally initiated programs that work toward reducing disparities in economic opportunity, education, health and human services, and law, justice and public safety. Christopher’s Program was recognized for its innovative approach and for its potential to be adapted for use in different settings, and in other counties throughout New Jersey.

“I am confident that the continued partnership of our Union County government, our court system and our probation department will serve to greatly reduce the cycle of recruitment of our young people into gang lifestyles going into the future here in Union County, while also serving as a model program for other counties in New Jersey,” Freeholder Ward said.

For more information on the program, schools and community organizations can contact Bonnie Herrmann of the Union County Department of Human Services at [bherrmann@ucnj.org](mailto:bherrmann@ucnj.org) or (908) 527-4800.

Reading is Good For You

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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

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**Maintenance Long Life Pavement Markings Contract, North – 2011; Various locations including and North of Route 57, Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren; 100% State; DP No: 10454**

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.

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SCOTCH PLAINS – Park Middle School Principal Lisa Rebimbas announced the school's first marking period honor roll, which appears below by grade level.

**Sixth Grade Distinguished Honor Roll – 78 Students**

Alexandra Aloe, Melissa Baldani, Danielle Barber, Nicole Barber, Emma Beckerman, Allyson Bisgay, Jason Calabria, Natalie Cestone, Rebecca Citarella, Alyssa Christina Cordero, Justin Cunningham, Brooke De Paul, Nicole Dencker, Francesca Difabio, Sarah Dolan, Caroline Drubulis, Fizzah Ehsan, Robert Fallo, Daniela Fonseca, Jack Friebeley, Claudia Gentile, Rose Giandana, Brynne Hambor, James Harcourt, Rachel Horn, Hayley Howell, Natalie Jablonski, Gianna Januszans, Demetrius Johnson, Bryce Jones, Nupur Kashikar, William Kluckas, Grace Lama, Tayonna Lee, Emma Levenson, Amy Liu, Jamie Lopez, Samantha Lopez, Sylvia Lubalin, Ian MacPherson, Anthony Magnotta, Maya Mansingh, Morgan Martinson, Colin McAlindin, Juliana Monteiro, Amelia Morel, Andrew Mu, Kaitlyn Mullany, Haley Nakonechny, Alexa-Jada Nelson, Marc Ochchipinti, Amelia Paladino, Gia Pares, Ryan Peterson, Juliana Pigna, Zachary Polak, Stephanie Ponterio, Justin Purvis, Rhea Rao, Margaret Richard, Marco Rodrigues, Lorie Marie Rosado, Emma Rossi, Vincent Ruzek, Meghan Ryan, Mohnish Sabhani, Stephen Scarcella, Erin Sheehy, Sydney Shuler, Julia Sikora, Holly Smith, Sydney Smith, Bhupinder Sohal, Daria Speranza, Lukas Stein, Erin Walling, Kaitlyn Wilson, Ryan Yawger

**Sixth Grade Honor Roll – 82 Students**

Ryan Abramowitz, Ashley Andrews, Madison Annicchiarico, Julia Bonaccorso, Kaitlyn Buchanan, Charles Butler, Francesca Carvalho, Ryan Chan, Callie Ciarrocca, Anthony Dada, Deja DeMaria, Kiera DeProspero, Julia Di Giacomo, Michael Di Giacomo, Laurel Elkin, Aaron Eoff, Grace Fanning, Keara Farley, Matthew Furino, Lane Gentile, Raphael Genty, Victoria Gonzalez, Riley Guma, Victoria Haas, Scott Hargrove, Nathaniel Harris, Connor Hedden, Alexandria Hudak, Andrew Hunte, Morghan Johnson, Stephanie Judge, Jake Kloepfer, Callen Leahy, Ryan Lo, Emily Lockatell, Michael Lockfield, Kyra Lockhart, Nicolette Lorusso, Jhoanna Lucas, Frank Machinski, Blake Mackey, Annerys Mancebo, Carmina Mauricio, Abraham May, Bennett Mazza, Paige McKeown, Paris McNamara-Wnoroski, Sean McNeely, David McQuilkin, Richard Nardone, Matthew Newman, Brittney Oliveira, Rucha Patel, Donald Perkins, Connor Perry, Derek Phansalkar, Jiatian Qu, Anisah Ramjohn, Jonathan Randall, Michael Raphael, Michael Rash, Jessica Rickmers, Paul Santos, Erin Schetelich, Alyssa Simmons, Arjeta Sinanovic, Victoria Stratton, Luke Susino, McKella Sylvester, Michael Szanto, Dionisio Trigo, Luke Uriarte, Jessica Van Tassel, Gabriel Vaz, Samuel Venick, Jessica Waltsak, Kathleen Weideli, Sharlene Yantin, Peter Yarem, Erica Yoo, Luke Zhuang, Alexander Zitofsky

**Seventh Grade Distinguished Honor Roll – 74 Students**

Jamie Abar, Catherine Acito, Jennifer Anclien, Matthew Auda, Madeleine Bebout, Isabella Bernardo, Shay Blechinger-Slocum,

**FDU Honors SP Resident Chaplin**

SCOTCH PLAINS – Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) honored Richard Chaplin of Scotch Plains for 40 years of service. Mr. Chaplin is a Professor of Accounting, Taxation and Law at FDU's College at Florham campus.

**Westfield's Elsasser Organizes Conference**

WESTFIELD – The Lock Haven University Recreation Management and Sport Administration majors teamed up this year and organized a professional conference in November. The conference, entitled "A Run-In With Recreation Management and Sports Administration," offered valuable sessions for professionals in recreation management and sport administration, and for students interested in learning more about a career in these fields. Students in Assistant Professor Judy Elliott's special-events class organized the conference. The students worked diligently to organize and run a professional workshop that was beneficial to students and professionals working in the field. One of the students involved in organizing the conference was Westfield resident Bryan Elsasser, a senior majoring in the Community/Commercial Recreation Track.

**PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL First Marking Period**

Emma Calabrese, Nicholas Cheney, Paul Cherubini, Jackson Cooney, Kyle Coupe, Casey Daudelin, Emma Duggan, Zakary Elseht, Samantha Ferrara, Heather Goeller, Samantha Gorman, Liam Guarnuccio, Dakota Halma, Zachary Halma, Julian Iarussi, Eva Issacs Anne Marie Kearns, Maxwell Kearns, Nolan Kearns, Megan Kietlyka, Brian Kilcullen, Jonathan Kriney, Kaavya Krishna Kumar, Rachel Lambert, Thomas Leistikow, Sierra Lesiak, Stefany Lucas, Gabriela MacPherson, Caitlyn Mannino, Owen Martin, Michelle Marvosa, Darren Mascioli, Sean Meisch, Alyssa Miguellino, Zachary Miller, Micayla Mirabella, Mark Mital, Kathryn Musso, Salcena Nival, Tyler O'Brien, Faegan Peck, Anne Pierce, Cara Provenzano, Dylan Redfield, Caroline Ringel, Jennifer Rivera, Olivia Roberts, Mariel Sass, Matthew Schweizer, Caroline Scoobe, Katherine Seeneey, Nikola Segulin, Alyssa Shann, Kelly Smeltzer, Nicholas Stone, Mary Stovall, Rohan Suresh, Kiersten Swaak, Kate Traina, Jack Valian, Bridget Van Natta, Zoe Verrico, Samiksha Vittraj, Connor Walsh, Gali Zaborowski, Linda Zhang, Hang Zheng, Natalie Zimmermann

**Seventh Grade Honor Roll – 82 Students**

Dylan Abar, Noelle Alber, Dulce Almonte, Paolo Almonte, Alfonso Amore, Brianna Becker, Jordan Belford, William Benavides, Bennett Briana, Zachary Carter, Sean Cheney, Chloe Cimino, Amanda Ciurciu, Vincent Conti, Christian Cornejo, Daniel Dawson, Bianca DeMaria, Mark Devine-Gelling, Gabriella DiLollo, James DiFrancesco, Margaret DiVirgilio, Francesca Dobies, Taylor Downing, Courtney Dreyfus, Marina Duffy, Maria Duque, Abraham Elseht, Brendan Fanning, Dominic Gannon, Darya Ganzha, Allison Gara, Stacy Garzon, Ian Gordon, Ethan Graham, Nathaniel Graham, Gabriela Guerrero, Irem Gure, Rachel Janssen, Maya Jegede, Shreya Kachroo, Lauren Kaminskis, Selin Kargi, Gregory Kraus, George Lechtling, Grace Lesce, Giancarlo Lorusso, Chloe Mansilla, Andrew Matthews, Kevin McAlindin, Aaron



HONORED...Union Catholic High School announced that Arthur Wright has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Eldon M. Hammeke Scholarship. The award is presented every year to one current freshman student at a Catholic high school and is renewable for the recipient's remaining three years at the school. Pictured above, left to right, are: Grand Knight Frederick Cowburn, Hammeke Scholarship recipient Arthur Wright, Grace Hammeke and Sister Percylee Hart, principal. See release at right.

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for Information and Tours**

**Registration for 2011 – 2012 February 1, 2011**

Colin Brett, John Bruckman, Courtney Bunin, Diamond Carrington, Jazmyne Carrington, Kedar Carrington, Brianna Cepparulo, Allyson Cerini, Corina Checchio, Abraham Cho, Andrew Ciccarino, Stephen Crawford, Justin Cryer, Roland Crystal, Mallory Cunningham, Thomas Cunningham, Natalie Daniele, Connor Danik, Christopher Debellis, Christopher Decker, John Del Sordi, Dustin Demarsico, Ariana Donaldson, Thabitha Dwmfour, Daniel Farrell, Daniel Federico, Jacqueline Fletcher, Jahtiana Foote, Matthew Goetz, Ryan Hambor, Stephen Handy, Robert Harrington, Jeffrey Hasiak, Timothy Hesson, William Hochman, Brian Howard, Danielle Hurtado, Matthew Irslinger, Christian Isolda, Ashley Jackson, Abigail Jenkinson, Helen Johns, Pierce Johnston, Joshua Kamath, Marissa Lamastra, Patrick Lay, David Leong, Jeffrey Lieblich, Sasha Lofton, Michaela Lowe, Jessica Luong, Letizia Macchini, Eric Manfra, William McDuffie, Alyson McGrath, Ryan McSherry, Gabriel Migliore, Josh Mineo, Alexander Mirabella, John Musso, Christine Nocum, Benjamin Pacaja, Anthony Pares, Ashish Patel, Kayla Pennington, Matthew Perper, Naomi Porter, Isabel Quinones, Gianna Rosello, Jason Rosen, Khansinee Ruangsirin, Todd Ryan, Anthony Savoca, Jeremy Scialdoni, Marcus Shaw, John Sheehy, Christopher Shell, Kola Shomade, Amber Simmons, William Stoll, Garrett Szeto, Ivan Earl Tajo, Raina Tellado, Andrew Tomasulo, Hallie Traiman, Megan Tsipias, David Valian, Paige VanBuskirk, John Walling, Erica Waltsak, Christopher Wasieczko, Thomas Weideli, Jr., Ethan Yang, Anthony Young, Abigail Ziobro

**THE STUDENT VIEW**  
*The weekly column written by local high school students*

**We Should Embrace The Learning Opportunity This Season Provides**

By **ABBIE GOLDRING**  
*Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times*

Scotch Plains resident Lisa Rafal has been getting heat from other locals concerning her vocal discontent regarding the singing of "Joy to the World" at her son's school concert last year. I understand that singing a song in public school that expresses Christian beliefs may disturb some people. Nevertheless, we should not get too caught up with the lyrics and messages of classic holiday songs. No mother would let her child go to college without reading "To Kill A Mockingbird," which has become an important part of American culture. Just the same, children should hear traditional songs that have been known for centuries. It is possible that a Jewish child would not hear "Joy to the World," or that a Catholic child would be unfamiliar with the dreidel, unless they had attended a school concert. For instance, I remember the chorus at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield singing the "Hallelujah Chorus," another hymn praising God. The "Hallelujah Chorus" is such a beautiful and powerful work that it would be a shame for a student not to hear it simply because of its religious content. Some may feel that children do not need to hear these centuries-old hymns. However, it is just one of those things that is important to be educated about. On the other hand, I acknowledge that Ms. Rafal could be voicing the opinions of other parents who are afraid to speak out. Parents may think that their child feels excluded while the chorus sings songs about a different religion, or they may fear that their child will absorb aspects of that religion. Many parents send their children to CCD or attend High Holiday services in order to instill a certain religious ideology. Why would they want these efforts reversed?



GETTING TO KNOW YOU...Last month, students at Roosevelt Intermediate School participated in Mix It Up at Lunch Day, a "national campaign to improve inter-group relations, reduce prejudice and build inclusive learning communities," according to Roosevelt School counselor Christine Trottere. Groups sat at lunch together and got to know more about each other. Pictured, from left to right going clockwise, are: sixth graders Gabe Givelber, Joelle Ballecer, Rob Retcho, Emily Beattie, Charlotte Rule and eighth grader Stephanie Brown. "It's a good way to get to know more people," said Emily.

**Area Students Begin College Life at Pace**

AREA – The following students from the immediate area were admitted as first-year students at Pace University this fall: Amir Diwane, from Garwood, is a first-year student at Pace University's New York City campus. Vjollca Marke, from Berkeley Heights, is a first-year student at Pace University's Pleasantville campus. Christopher Mitsoulis, from Cranford, is a first-year student at Pace University's New York City campus.

**Freshman Receives Hammeke Scholarship**

SCOTCH PLAINS – Union Catholic High School announced that Arthur Wright of Woodbridge has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Eldon M. Hammeke Scholarship. The scholarship was established in memory of Mr. Hammeke by his wife, Grace, and is supported by the Knights of Columbus Summit Council 783, of which Mr. Hammeke was an active member. The award is presented every year to one current freshman student at a Catholic high school and is renewable for the recipient's remaining three years at the school.

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**FREE PSAT Result Evaluation at Ivy Ed**

Test prep expert and Ivy Ed partner Jacqui Byrne will be available in Ivy Ed's Scotch Plains office for free, private evaluations on Sunday, December 12, from 11am-1pm, and Wednesday, December 15, 3-6pm, by appointment only.

Ivy Ed offers ACT and SAT diagnostic evaluations and test prep (SAT, ACT, AP, IB, SATII, SSAT, ISEE), curriculum tutoring, college counseling, and college essay and application consulting. Students meet with the same tutor each week. Tutor bios and more information on website.

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44 Blackburn Road, Summit, New Jersey 07901 [www.oakknoll.org](http://www.oakknoll.org)



## Donald E. Cummings, 85, NYSE VP; WW II Veteran, Purple Heart Recipient

Donald Edward Cummings died of cancer on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2010, peacefully at his home in Westfield, surrounded by his entire family of three generations, at age 85.

He had worked full-time, living unassisted, until one week prior to his passing. Universally admired and loved by all who knew him, Mr. Cummings will be deeply missed. His primary lifelong passion was to make close personal bonds with people around him and to help them in any way he could.

Don was born on November 6, 1925 in Woburn, Mass., the second son of Eustace Haven Cummings, owner of the E. Cummings Leather Co., and Eleanor Houston Ray Cummings.

He was raised with his brothers, Eustace William Cummings and Richard Haven Cummings, in close proximity to their extended family; both brothers still survive.

They moved to Lebanon, N.H. in

### Julia M. Allegrini, 92

Julia Mary (Palma) Allegrini, 92, of Newbury, Mass. died on Thursday, December 2, 2010, at the Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, Mass.

Julia was born in Waterford, N.J. to the late Philip and Susan (Morocco) Palma. She lived in Westfield, N.J. for 50 years and was involved with the Westfield senior groups and St. Helen's parish in Westfield.

Predeceased by her husband, Aldo P. Allegrini, and son, Peter A. Allegrini, she is survived by her daughters, Elaine LePoriere of Edison, N.J., Joan Clayton of Monrovia, Calif. and Mary Fisk of Newbury, Mass.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated today, Thursday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Newburyport. Family and friends may call today prior to the Mass, from 9 to 10 a.m., at the Twomey-LeBlanc and Conte Funeral Home, 193 High Street, Newburyport, Mass. 01950.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 20 Speen Street, Framingham, Mass. 01701. To leave online condolences or for directions to the funeral home, please visit [www.contefuneralhomes.com](http://www.contefuneralhomes.com).

December 9, 2010

## Sidney F. Keoughan, Jr., 79, Executive; Family Man Active In Scouts and Sports

Sidney F. Keoughan, Jr. died on Wednesday, November 24, 2010, at Venice Regional Medical Center in Venice, Fla. He was 79 years old.

Born in Denver, Colo. on August 30, 1931, he was the son of Hazel and Sidney F. Keoughan, Sr. He had resided in Denver, Colo. and suburbs of the Chicago, Ill. area during his youth. He was a 1952 graduate of Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he played Varsity Baseball and majored in economics.

Mr. Keoughan continued with his baseball career by playing in the Minor League. He also was a first lieutenant with the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in Japan and Hawaii.

During his career in the pharmaceutical industry, he was Senior Vice-President of Marketing at Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, N.J., where he was credited as the co-inventor for several surgical patents. He then rose to the position of Director of Marketing Development with C.R. Bard's Hospital Division in Murray Hill, N.J.

Sidney Keoughan left the pharmaceutical industry to devote more time

to his wife and four children. He was very active with the Boy Scouts and coached various baseball and softball teams for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Recreational leagues. For many years, he served as treasurer of the Westfield Tennis Club, Swim Team director at Willow Grove Swim Club in Scotch Plains and was on the board of directors at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. He was an avid tennis player, swimmer and bird watcher.

In addition to his parents, Sid Keoughan was predeceased by his son, Christopher L. Keoughan, in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Barbara Keoughan of Venice, Fla.; two sons, Thomas of Hoboken, N.J. and Mark of Phillipsburg, N.J.; a daughter, Kathleen, of Stockton, N.J.; a brother, Ken, of Friendship, Me., and a granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Venice, Fla. Memorial donations can be made to Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1301 Center Road, Venice, Fla. 34292.

December 9, 2010



Donald E. Cummings

years, about one third of that time in securities brokerage, as a founder of Bregman, Cummings, and Co., as well as Cummings and Taylor, Inc.

Then followed an equivalent length of time as a vice-president of the New York Stock Exchange, from which he was required to retire at age 65. Changing direction, he then worked for nearly 20 years on the administrative staff of the Manhattan Veterans' Affairs Medical Center.

Residing in Westfield, he and his wife of 56 years, Elaine Pankopf Cummings, raised three children who survive, Diane Elaine Simonds of Nobleboro, Me., Carolyn Ray Cummings Cordeiro of Westfield and Professor David Eustace Cummings, MD of Seattle, Wash.

Others surviving are Don's children's spouses, Peter J. Simonds, Professor Peter G. Cordeiro, MD and Felicia P. Cummings, MD, as well as grandchildren Julia and Elliot Barnes, Christina, Catherine and Andrew Cordeiro and Nathan and Cameron Cummings.

Burial took place in the Cummings plot at Woodbrook Cemetery of Woburn, Mass., in the presence of Don's large extended family.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28, in The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, followed by a reception at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, people wishing to make donations are requested to contribute in Mr. Cummings' name to Camp Mowglis (P.O. Box 517, Kingfield, ME 04947), where Don served for many years as a trustee, treasurer and stalwart supporter.

December 9, 2010

## — Obituaries —

### George Battschinger, 87, WWII Pilot; Active With Veterans' Organizations

George V. Battschinger, 87, of Carolina Trace, Sanford, N.C., passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, at WakeMed in Cary, N.C.

Born in Newark, N.J. on January 15, 1923 to the late Hazel Marie Burns and George Battschinger, he was the first of six children. He received his education in Newark and attended the University of Vermont.

During World War II, he was a B-17 bomber pilot in the 8th Air Force, stationed in England. He flew 35 combat missions over Nazi Germany,

### David L. Beers, 83

David L. Beers, 83, of Bluffton, S.C. died on Sunday, December 5, 2010.

Born October 16, 1927 to David and Helen Beers of Warren, Ohio, he served in the U.S. Army and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1951. He married Carol Rogers on January 3, 1959.

A longtime resident of Westfield, N.J., he retired to Hilton Head, S.C. in 1997.

Surviving are his wife, Carol; son, David; daughter-in-law, Nancy, and granddaughter, Carol.

A celebration of life will be held tomorrow, Friday, December 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Sigler's, Sheridan Park Circle, Bluffton.

Memorial contributions may be made to Volunteers in Medicine, 15 Northridge Drive, Hilton Head, S.C. 29926 or Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity, 21 Brendan Lane, Bluffton, S.C. 29910.

Arrangements are by the Island Funeral Home and Crematory, [www.theislandfuneralhome.com](http://www.theislandfuneralhome.com).

December 9, 2010

and was awarded the Air Medal and five Oak Leaf Clusters. He served three years during the war and 13 years after in the active reserve, and was discharged as a captain in 1958.

Mr. Battschinger worked for Electrical Industries in Murray Hill, N.J. for 24½ years, while also working 22½ years for the U.S. Postal Service in Newark. He retired from the Postal Service in 1983 and from Electrical Industries in 1984.

Mr. Battschinger was married to Pearl Ethel Lau, formerly of Newark, for 65 years. They moved to Scotch Plains, N.J. in 1946 and lived there until moving to Sanford, N.C. in 1997. They have one daughter, Karen Ann Battschinger of Sanford, N.C.

He also leaves three brothers, Robert, Edward and William, and two sisters, Jeanne Milia and Barbara DiMarzio.

Mr. Battschinger was a member of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society and the 487th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force. He also was a member of American Legion Post No. 209 and VFW Post No. 10122, both of Scotch Plains.

A service will be held privately by the family at a later date. Memorials may be made to: Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, with "in memory of George Battschinger" on the memo line of the check. Mail memorials to: Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, Ga. 31402. Online condolences may be made at [www.millerboles.com](http://www.millerboles.com). Miller-Boles Funeral Home and Cremation Service of Sanford is serving the family.

December 9, 2010

## St. Paul's Church Reveals Services For Christmas

WESTFIELD – Three different Christmas celebrations will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The community is invited to join in one or more of these festive services.

The Family Service and Children's Christmas Pageant, featuring the St. Paul's Primary and Junior Choirs, will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, Christmas Eve, December 24. Children from the Sunday school classes will enact the Christmas story in word and song, to be followed by the liturgy of the Eucharist.

The second celebration will occur later that evening with the Festive Choral Eucharist, beginning at 9:45 p.m. with a Carol Sing. The Christmas Eucharist will follow at 10 p.m., featuring St. Paul's Parish and Treble Choirs. A brass quintet

and percussion will join organist and Director of Music Charles Banks in works by Sweelinck, Schubert and Nestor, as well as traditional hymns and carols. The Reverend Andrew Hamersley, rector, will deliver the Christmas Message. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for these services to ensure a seat for the Christmas Liturgy.

The third and final Christmas service will be the Eucharist service on Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day, at 10 a.m. with a Homily and carols of the season.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield, across from the municipal building. For more information, call (908) 232-8506, extension no. 10, or access [stpaulswestfield.org](http://stpaulswestfield.org).



SONGS OF THE SEASON...Some members of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir practice seasonal music. The church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield.

### In Gratitude

We would like to express our deep appreciation for the recognition and love shared with us by our friends in the community upon the loss of our beloved Sandy.

With heartfelt thanks,  
The Reiss Family

## - Obituaries -

Honor your loved one by placing an obituary in The Westfield Leader and Scotch Plains Fanwood Times newspapers.

Submittals can be sent via email. Please include a daytime telephone number. Payment may be made by cash, check or over the phone with a credit card.

We can assist you with further information regarding the write-up and photographs or authority in charge.

908.232.4407      [community@goleader.com](mailto:community@goleader.com)

## Mary DeCamp, 80, Artist and Author; Volunteer With Pug Rescue Group

Mary Kennedy DeCamp, 80, of Los Angeles, Calif., formerly of Grandview on Hudson, N.Y., passed away on Thursday, September 30, after a short illness.

Born in Evanston, Ill. on July 6, 1930, Mary attended New Trier High School and Northampton School for Girls. She was a graduate of Ogontz Junior College (now part of Penn State University) and then attended The Art Institute of Chicago.

After working as a stewardess for United Airlines for two years, she married Jack M. "Pete" DeCamp, now deceased. Happily married for 55 years, Mary and Jack traveled the world while raising their two children.

Mary was an accomplished artist and illustrator and author of two

### John D. Brunnquell, 48

John D. Brunnquell, 48, died on Thursday, December 2, 2010, at his residence.

He was the beloved son of Anne Brunnquell and the late Gerard Brunnquell, longtime residents of Westfield. Surviving, in addition to his mother, are his wife, Kimberly; his daughters, Donna and Elizabeth; his brothers, James, Stephen and David Brunnquell, and many nieces and nephews.

A former resident of North Plainfield, N.J. and Washington Crossing, Pa., John was a steel fabricator at Brunnquell Iron Works in Dayton, N.J. and, most recently, Creative Metals in Bensalem, Pa.

He will be deeply missed by his family and by all who came to know him.

A Funeral Mass was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Interment was at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

December 9, 2010

## Best Friend Announces Sales To Help Homeless Animals

AREA – Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption will hold a holiday bake sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday, December 11, at Miele's

### FCC Event Tomorrow To Feature Oil Benefits

WESTFIELD – The First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer Street in Westfield, will offer a special program tomorrow, Friday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the church's Women's Fellowship group, the program will explore fragrant oils designed to reduce stress, lift mood and aid sleep. Attendees will learn about the relaxation benefits of natural essential oils and afterwards make their own linen spray, bath salts and body scrub to keep or give as a gift.

Refreshments will be served and the program will be open to the public. The cost of \$10 will cover supplies. Free off-street parking is available behind the church. For additional information or to register, call the church office at (908) 233-3494 or visit the church website, [fccofwestfield.org](http://fccofwestfield.org).

## Westfield Rotary Highlights December Program Topics

WESTFIELD – The Rotary Club of Westfield, a non-denominational service organization of professional women and men who live or work in the Westfield area, has announced its upcoming programs for the month of December.

The club meets 50 weeks per year, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., for lunch and a program in the second-floor Kellogg Room at the Westfield Area "Y," located at 220 Clark Street in Westfield. Guests are always welcome.

"Youth Holiday Concert: Roosevelt Sharps & Flats" will be featured on December 14. The Sharps & Flats, directed by Sabino Losco, is an extracurricular singing group made up of select audition group students from Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield. Touring frequently both in

books, "Full Frontal Pug" and "Seize That Pug."

She was a member of The Pug Dog Club of Greater New York and later volunteered for Little Angels Pug Rescue in Los Angeles.

Surviving are her son, Peter, of Los Angeles and her daughter, Ardis, of Westfield, N.J., as well as two grandsons, David and Adam Perry of Westfield.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a local animal rescue group or pet shelter.

December 9, 2010

### Franklin A. Chenitz, 88

Franklin A. Chenitz, affectionately known to those who knew and loved him as Frank or Bubby, passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, November 20, 2010, at the age of 88.

Formerly of Newark, N.J., where he was a playground director and physical education teacher, he relocated to Boynton Beach, Fla. 20 years ago from Westfield, N.J.

A graduate of Panzer College and Seton Hall University, Frank was a star basketball player in high school and college and played professionally in the Eastern League. He also served as a medical technician in the Pacific during World War II.

He was the beloved husband of Harriet, devoted father of Ilene McVea, Nancy Bernstein (Steven), Frani DeJaco (Raymond) and Richard Chenitz (Patricia), and cherished grandfather of David, Matthew, Julie, Vicki, Emily, Sarah, Jacob, Isa and Jada.

Services were held on Wednesday, November 24, 2010, at Beth Israel Memorial Chapel in Boynton Beach, Fla., followed by interment in Eternal Light Memorial Gardens.

December 9, 2010

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Director

[www.grayfuneralhomes.com](http://www.grayfuneralhomes.com)



LUNCH CLUB...Members of the Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW), along with town educators and club friends, gathered recently at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield for the club's annual Scholarship Luncheon. WCW President Dolores Geisow addressed the group, and among the featured speakers were: Westfield Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, Westfield High School Principal Peter Renwick and Marie Gray, a club benefactor. The Westfield High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Douglas Schwarz, performed. There also was a raffle and tricky tray. Pictured, left to right, are: WCW First-Vice President Jennifer Principato, Superintendent Dolan and Ms. Geisow.



# RHGC’s Holiday Home Tour Offers Creative Inspiration

By CHRISTIE STORMS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Anyone tired of pulling out the same old boxes of the same old Christmas decorations year after year could have benefited from attending the Rake and Hoe Garden Club (RHGC)’s “Deck the Halls” Holiday House Tour this past weekend.

The tour featured four homes with refreshing and innovative ideas in holiday decorating along with plenty of helpful docents to explain how they were achieved.

Each house had its own theme customized to the décor throughout. RHGC members incorporated two small rakes and hoes at each residence as part of a contest, and visitors who could locate them all entered a drawing for three prizes.

On Kimball Avenue, a Tudor home provided an elegant backdrop for hand-

made decorations with a Victorian flair.

Pressed Queen Anne’s lace “snow-flakes” along the window glass added charm to the study, while across the hall, nosegays in wallpaper cones enhanced the grand Christmas tree alongside an antique-style sleigh filled with elegantly wrapped packages.

The dining room featured gold place settings topped with glittering green ornaments filled with flowers and glued to small round mirrors.

Four Christmas tree-shaped topiaries glistening in gold and copper stood proudly along the kitchen island, while floral and fruit arrangements sparkled, dipped in a combination of three kinds of glitter and beads.

Each hand-cut pineapple ornament on the family room Christmas tree took an hour to create. The intricate patterns were an example of the German art of “Scherenschnitte,” or “scis-

sor cuts.”

Outside, pinecones and ribbons created an impressive cascading wind chime over the patio table.

The contemporary style of the Knollwood Terrace home inspired bold holiday décor with clean lines and modern flair. Brilliant red floral arrangements popped against the home’s neutral Asian-inspired style.

Irene Greenstein, publicity chair, said each room on the tour was assigned a “team” to decorate it.

She and her team crafted several hundred origami birds and floral ornaments for the Christmas tree, which featured modern round lights. A square wreath and a trio of gold stylized trees further enhanced the living room.

In the kitchen, pears suspended from ribbons inside glass vases served as a unique centerpiece among table settings dressed with evergreens and chopsticks.

Club member Barbara Straight said many of the dried flowers throughout the tour were grown at members’ own residences. Most of the arrangements were also for sale.

The town house filled with antiques on Cowperthwaite Square was dressed for the holidays in charming, old-world style. The living room tree featured ornaments comprised of pressed ferns, dried artichokes and pomegranates and was topped with a sunburst of dried allium, while hand-stamped wrapping paper adorned presents.

A red cone tree of hypericum berries nestled against a boxwood wreath of blue thistle, lavender and roses created a striking centerpiece in the dining room.

Scrumptious gingerbread houses led the way between the kitchen and family room to a table-top tree featuring gilded blown eggs.

Dozens of white poinsettias surrounded the rich, dark mantel, where glass blocks housing small LED lights glowed, wrapped up like presents.

A majestic evergreen wreath accen-

tuated with green apples and berries welcomed guests at the front door of the stately Tremont Avenue home.

Inside the traditional center hall, the grand staircase banister was draped in evergreens, fruits and graceful bows.

Small red wreaths wrapped each candelabra arm of the crystal chandelier above a full-length tablescape of luscious florals and golden trees in the dining room. Square boxwood wreaths hung in the windows while round ones were secured to the back of each dining chair with satin ribbon.

White magnolias and winterberries mixed with white pine in the living room highlighted the room’s raised panel fireplace mantel and crown mouldings.

The family room Christmas tree featured white willow branches weaved throughout its boughs, and the bookshelves displayed a festive Santa collection.

The RHGC’s Junior Club of elementary and middle school-aged members, decorated the patio, fastening evergreen swags behind each chair with a string of decorative cranberries.

Kris Luka, who co-chaired the event with Liz Dwyer, said this fundraiser is traditionally held every four years. This year, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Clair Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden at the Westfield Historical Society’s Reeve House.

The Reeve House was also the locale for the tour’s “Celebrate the Season” boutique, where visitors could enjoy refreshments and shop for items such as unique floral arrangements, seasonal greenery, handcrafted cards, ornaments and gifts.

Ms. Luka expressed appreciation for Linda Winter and Linda Parker, who coordinated the boutique this year.

“We want to thank all the members for all their hard work,” she said, adding that the RHGC hopes to plan another holiday home tour for 2014.



Christie Storms for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
**EDIBLE VILLAGE...**Visitors pause to admire a charming Gingerbread Village while touring a Cowperthwaite townhouse during the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield’s “Deck the Halls” Holiday House Tour last weekend.

## Community Sings Along to Handel’s Most Famous Work

By BARBARA THOMSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Choral Art Society *Messiah* Community Sing, First United Methodist Church of Westfield, December 3, 8 p.m.

WESTFIELD — The New Jersey Choral Art Society had its annual *Messiah* sing-in last week. While people were certainly welcome to just come and listen, it was really a chance for anyone with (or without) a voice to come sing along with Handel’s most famous work.

*Messiah*, with texts drawn from the Bible, was written in 1741, and is undoubtedly the most often-performed oratorio in the English language. It tells the story of Jesus’ life in three sections, corresponding to the prophecies and birth, the crucifixion and resurrection, and his glorification. It is written for four soloists and chorus, with orchestral accompaniment.

A performance of the entire work is quite lengthy; this was an abbreviated version consisting of Part 1 in its entirety, and selections from Parts 2 and 3, including the famous *Hallelujah*

chorus and the massive closing movement, *Worthy Is the Lamb*.

Some sing-ins use professional singers for the solo movements, but in this case, the choir singers were invited to sing the solos as a group. The chorus, numbering 45 or so, included many members of the Choral Art Society who were clearly familiar with the work, and the chorus movements went fine, by and large. The solo movements vary in difficulty. The easier ones went rather well, the difficult ones, less so. There were some decidedly rocky spots in several places, but the point was to have fun, not put on a concert, so it really didn’t matter.

Director James Little was equal parts conductor, singer, and cheerleader, conducting when things were going smoothly, and singing along with the men or encouraging others when things would go awry. The star of the evening was organist Trent Johnson, who played the notoriously difficult accompaniment with energy and accuracy, providing the good rhythmic underpinning vital to a performance of this work.

## A Holiday Tradition Continues in Rahway

RAHWAY — RSI Bank will present Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea on Saturday, December 11, at 8 p.m. at the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC).

The elegance and grace of the Reverend Alphonse Stephenson and the spectacular sound of the Orchestra of St. Peter return to Rahway for this annual holiday spectacular at UCPAC. Tickets are \$27.

Rev. Stephenson provides humorous and personal anecdotes perfectly tuned to the occasion. His 42-piece orchestra skillfully performs holiday classics with passion and precision that makes this an evening not to be missed. The event is an annual sell-out.

A student of the late George Schick of the Metropolitan Opera and Robert Abramson of the Juilliard School, Rev. Stephenson has been guest conductor of the Fresno Philharmonic, Delaware Valley Philharmonic, Metro Lyric Opera, the Greater Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra and the Key West Pops Orchestra.

Now in their 23rd year of making music, the Orchestra of St. Peter is one of New Jersey’s premier music organizations. The musicians of Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea represent some 750 collective years of study, 684 teachers and 57,000 concerts and recitals. They are products of 177 colleges and universities around the world. All of the musicians are members of the American Federation of Musicians.

Tickets are available at the UCPAC

Box Office at (732) 499-8226 or online at [ucpac.org](http://ucpac.org). The UCPAC Box Office, located at 1601 Irving Street, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

### First Congregational Presents *Magnificat*

WESTFIELD — The Festival Chorus of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street, will present a performance of John Rutter’s *Magnificat* this Sunday, December 12, during the 10 a.m. worship service.

“Magnificat” is the first word of Mary’s Biblical reply to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — “Magnificat anima mea Dominum!” — “My soul doth magnify the Lord!” and it is the opening of the many settings of this joyful text from the Middle Ages to the present.

British musician John Rutter has become probably the most beloved composer of contemporary church music in the United States, his beautiful melodies and lush harmonies never failing to move audiences. One of Mr. Rutter’s major works, his *Magnificat* is in a style that’s part classical, part jazz, part Broadway and entirely uplifting.

Flute, oboe, clarinet, harp, percussion and organ, as well as feature soprano soloist Carelle Flores, will accompany the chorus, conducted by Barbara Thomson. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## ‘Conscience’ Presents First A Capella Holiday Concert

WESTFIELD — The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series invites the public to its first-ever holiday concert, featuring the “father of modern *a cappella*,” Sean Altman, and the *A cappella* supergroup, the GrooveBarbers.

This performance will take place at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 East Broad Street (corner of North Avenue), in Westfield this Saturday, December 11. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m., and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$19 on line and \$23 at the door.

Holiday songs from a mix of traditions will be presented *A cappella*, with a lot of antics thrown in between them. This show is family-friendly, and net proceeds will benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. Advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended by going to [holidayshow2010.eventbrite.com](http://holidayshow2010.eventbrite.com).

Mr. Altman is considered “the father of the modern *a cappella*.” He is the only three-time winner of the Con-

temporary *A Cappella* Society’s “Best Original Song” award, and has also won the “Best Male Vocalist” prize. For 11 years he was a lead singer, arranger and composer for the pioneering group Rockapella, with whom he released nine CDs and starred in the five-year PBS-TV series “Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego?”

In the GrooveBarbers, each member of this all-vocal powerhouse quartet is a bona fide star in his own right: Mr. Altman, Charlie Evett and Steve Keyes are former members of the pioneering contemporary *a cappella* group Rockapella, and Kevin Weist is a renowned vocal guru. Collectively, they have established themselves as the “go-to” vocal group for rock, doo-wop, jazz and even barbershop.

For more information about the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, the upcoming performance or ways in which to get involved with the series, visit [coffeewithconscience.org](http://coffeewithconscience.org), call (908) 412-9105 or send an e-mail to [ahrre@ahrre.com](mailto:ahrre@ahrre.com). Volunteers are always appreciated.

### Crescent Singers to Present Familiar Carols

PLAINFIELD — The gothic sanctuary of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, lit by candles and decorated with greens, will be the background for the Crescent Singers’ annual Christmas Carol Program, this Sunday afternoon, December 12, at 5:30 p.m. The church is located at the corner of 7th Street and Crescent Avenue in Plainfield.

The third in this season’s Crescent Concerts series, this concert is the organization’s gift to the community, and admission is free. Directed by Ronald Thayer, the church’s music director, the 22 singers will present more familiar carols in unusual arrangements as well as lesser-known carols. The audience will have an opportunity to sing along in six popular carols, accompanied by organs.

Among the carols to be sung are “Once in Royal David’s City,” “The Holly and the Ivy,” “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” “Silent Night” and “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” Additional carols include “Adam Lay Ybouden,” “While Shepherds Were Watching,” “Zither Carol,” “Fum, Fum, Fum,” “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy,” “Veni, Veni Imman-uel” and others.

Handicap access and bathrooms, as well as large-print programs, are available. For inquiries, call (908) 756-2468.

## Horizon Fdn. Sends \$10,000 To Arts Guild New Jersey

RAHWAY — Arts Guild New Jersey has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. This grant will fund general operating expenses.

“This grant from the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey will enable Arts Guild New Jersey (formerly The Arts Guild of Rahway) to continue our important work in the presentation of visual arts and art education,” said Lawrence Capiello, executive director of Arts Guild New Jersey. “We are extremely grateful to Horizon Foundation for New Jersey for their recognition of the quality and quantity of the arts programs at the Arts Guild. Their general operating support grant will help us to meet the expenses for staffing and management that allow us to continue our work in arts programming this year.”

“We are delighted to partner with Arts Guild New Jersey,” said Lawrence Altman, executive director of the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey. “The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey is dedicated to supporting charitable organizations making an impact in the

lives of people across New Jersey.”

The board of trustees of Arts Guild of New Jersey also announced the receipt of a contribution of \$3,500 from RSI Bank of Rahway for 2010 expenses. RSI Bank (formerly the Rahway Savings Institution) is Rahway’s oldest bank and has provided financial services in the town since 1851.

Ronald McDonald House Charities/ New York Tri-State Area Chapter has contributed \$6,700 to Arts Guild New Jersey for the Pre-K Art Education Program, taking place this year in the four elementary schools in the Rahway Public School District.

During the 2010-2011 school year, Arts Guild New Jersey will provide Pre-K art instruction on a weekly basis for 20 weeks thanks to grants from Ronald McDonald House Charities (\$6,700), Turrell Fund (\$3,000), and Target (\$2,000). The guild also received a 2010 HEART Grant (History, Arts, Education Reaching Thousands) for \$2,500 from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Arts Guild New Jersey is located at 1670 Irving Street in downtown Rahway.

## Cranford Theatre Presents *Stuart Little* for Children

CRANFORD — A musical version of the popular children’s tale ‘Stuart Little’ will run for six performances at Cranford’s CDC Theatre this weekend, December 10 to 12. Based on the book by E.B. White, who also wrote “Charlotte’s Web,” the musical features songs by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank, as well as a large cast of residents from Union County.

Starring in the role of Stuart Little, a mouse who is raised by a human family, is Emmanuelle Nadeau. Stuart’s parents are Bryan Murray and Jessica Murray. The mouse has a human brother as well, George, played by Duncan Cook. The family cat, Snowbell, who is none too happy living with a mouse, is played by Zach Love. Stuart’s friend, Margalo the bird, is played by Ella Chamis.

Directed by Ty Jacobs, the tale is narrated on stage by Madge Wittel and includes a large number of people who Stuart encounters in his adventures around New York City, including Madeleine Armstrong (Harriet Ames), Tyler Beresford (Shopkeeper), Lauren Costa and Becky Lenox (Water Dancers), Kelsey Kilpatrick (Mary, a student), Michael Marcus (school superintendent), Jack

Mustard (telephone repairman) and Natalie Pastrof (42nd Street tap dancer).

With music directed by Ruslan Odinstov, other people and animals involved with Stuart include: Nina Natividad as Babette, the cat; Cheyenne Pellicoro as Miss Clydesdale; Amanda Poszyler as the bus-stop mom; Ashleigh Poszyler as a Central Park jogger; Joel Redmount as Dr. Carey, Nathaniel Redmount as Leroy, the brat; Nicole Sollazzo as Katherine, a student, and Jessica Zimmerman as a New York City businesswoman.

Produced by Bill Chamis, the musical features costumes by Doris Dias, hair and make-up by Michael Miguel, with props by Susan Schnitzer, sets by Terry Schultz and lights by Jack Frey. Leslie Riccio is the stage manager.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 10; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 11, and 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 12. All tickets are \$12. CDC Theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford. For more information, call (908) 276-7611. Tickets may now be purchased online at [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org).

## WF’s Gaglioti to Open ‘Christmas Time’ Concert

WESTFIELD — Westfield’s Catalina “Cat” Gaglioti will appear as the featured soloist opening The Continuo Arts Foundation’s “Christmas Time in the City” concert this Sunday, December 12, at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield at 6 p.m.

A senior at Westfield High School, Catalina’s singing career began at an early age and has led her to national recognition as the National High School Teen Idol winner.



Catalina “Cat” Gaglioti

It was as a scholarship winner and Rising Star nominee in Paper Mill Playhouse’s Summer Music Conservatory that Continuo Arts Executive Director and Principal Conductor Candace Wicke heard Catalina perform.

“I was enjoying a terrific New Voices concert presented as the finale of the Paper Mill’s summer musical theater program, and a fabulous young singer took the stage, captivated the crowd and sang brilliantly,” Ms. Wicke said. “I put a star by her name in the program to remember who she was and find out more about this

young solo talent. So, to discover she was not only from Westfield but also sang in last year’s ‘Christmas Time in the City’ chorus was very exciting, and we are pleased that Catalina is able to join us as a soloist in this year’s concert.”

Catalina will begin the concert singing “Silver Bells” followed by an array of singers, soloists and ensembles, including a Children’s Chorus, Treble Chorus, The Catalyst Quartet, 14-year-old violinist Amy Zhang, organist Jason Klein, Westfield Presbyterian’s Raymond Roberts and a new boys ensemble (The Continuos!) that features Westfield residents Blake

Fallon, Charlie McCready, Alex Monterio, Dylan Wicke and Dallas Wicke.

The concert concludes with an audience sing-a-long of holiday favorites. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to join together in ushering in the season; donations will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact The Continuo Arts Foundation at (908) 264-5324.



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# Arts & Entertainment



‘DIRTY JOBS’...Rapper Dirty Mac, representing Scotch Plains, took his unorthodox rhyming style to the Stone Pony in Asbury Park last week.

## Rapper ‘Dirty Mac’ – From Park Middle to the Park of Asbury

By TOM FORTUNATO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ASBURY PARK — On Thursday, Scotch Plains resident and up-and-coming rapper Dirty Mac shared the stage with five other New Jersey rap acts and the band Flight’s Kool, who performed live backing instrumentals.

At Thursday’s show, Dirty Mac performed all new material to be featured on his sophomore album, “Service With A Style,” in addition to “NJ Mindframe,” a song from his first album, “Uncommon Courtesy,” which he performed as an impromptu *acapella* to fill time while Flight’s Kool was figuring out the melody of the last song.

Dirty Mac, also known as James McNamara, was born in Edison and

lived most of his early life in Elizabeth until March 2000, when, at the age of 13, he and his family moved to Scotch Plains. He attended Park Middle School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, where he graduated in 2005, and then went on to Rutgers University, where he is now finishing his studies as a journalism major.

In “NJ Mindframe,” Dirty Mac pays homage to his home state by using a string of clever puns derived from the names of places from throughout the state, such as: “told the Millburn, a Woodbridge was made, out of a Long Branch, it gave Maple Shade. Made a Pilesgrove right after I was done, sent all the trees back to the Town of Lumberton.”

The end result is that no matter what part of the state one happens to be from, upon hearing that song, the listener finds at least a part of it to be familiar.

“People always make claims that they’re from New York, that they’re from Detroit, they’re from California; they always have these distinct, specific places that people represent,” Dirty Mac explained, “and I feel like New Jersey is a little bit more of a cult in a sense that people inside New Jersey embrace New Jersey, but no one in New Jersey wants to embrace each other to help one another make it.”

“I think New Jersey is worst when it comes to haters because I think everyone is trying to be that one person from New Jersey [who] makes it,” he continued. “There’s been many different rap acts [from New Jersey], but I think more so now than ever, people are still coming out of New York, the midwest, Chicago, L.A. . . and New Jersey just doesn’t really have that different thing, it’s always been undermined for the most part.”

Dirty Mac earned his name out in the underground hip-hop community when he began competing in the End of the Weak MC Challenge, a global hip-hop competition that started in New York City in 2000 and now is held in nine countries across three continents.

In 2008, Dirty Mac won the MC Challenge of Champions, and then went to London to represent the United States in the International MC Challenge. Dirty Mac has also been featured on the VH1 Hip-Hop Honors in 2007 and 2008, as well as on BET’s “106 & Park” in 2008 and 2009.

“At the end of the night, if I get people to tell me that I’m different than any of the other acts, that makes me [believe that] the music and the people need me,” he said. Dirty Mac explained, “As I was leaving [The Stone Pony], the security guard told me, ‘You’re different; I like you.’ That’s what I hope for, because if I sound the same [as any other popular artist out there], I’m not doing my job.”

“I don’t have a date yet [for ‘Service With A Style’],” Dirty Mac told *The Leader* and *The Times*, “but it will be no later than March 2011. All the recordings [are] mostly done; a lot of the mixing, artwork, prepping for iTunes are still in the works. I would say one song still needs to be recorded, just one.”

As he jokes in “NJ Mindframe,” Dirty Mac has really moved up from the “showcase in Park Middle (School) to the Park of Asbury,” and still continues to rise.

To learn more, visit [dirtymacmusic.com](http://dirtymacmusic.com).

## Tamborlane’s Paintings Selected in Competition

CRANFORD – Cranford artist Theodosia A.G. Tamborlane has been selected to exhibit her work in a national juried exhibition at the Florida West Arts Gallery in Bonita Springs, Fla.

As reported by gallery director Patrick Distasio, from the hundreds of art works entered, artists were selected from 15 states, with Ms. Tamborlane being the only artist selected from New Jersey. The exhibition is open through December 16 at the gallery, located in Bonita Springs.

The use of dynamic colors and the expression of movement are hallmarks of Ms. Tamborlane’s oil-on-canvas paintings. The colors are chosen and personally mixed by her for each painting to express a spiritual contact with nature.

Many of her paintings explore life as a unique and significant journey during which a person has opportunities to be one with nature and to work for peace and progress or, voluntarily or involuntarily, to support activities that diminish or destroy the world.

One of Ms. Tamborlane’s paintings selected for the exhibition, “Ombrello’s Nature’s World,” (48 by 36 inches in size) compels one to acknowledge the majesty of the world from its deep, rock-laden core to the heavens above.

Another selected work, “Bouquet in Grandma’s Bowl, Fleurs des Temps,” (32 by 27 inches in size) challenges the viewer to see the exquisite geometry present in various flowers.



“Bouquet In Grandma’s Bowl, Fleurs Des Temps”

Ms. Tamborlane has her paintings in personal collections in the United States and the Netherlands. Her gallery is Simply Gallery in Cranford. She is a selected member of the New Century Artists Gallery and a member of the Pen and Brush Gallery in New York City, the Contemporary Art Group of New Jersey, the Woodbridge Artisan Guild and Studio Montclair.

Ms. Tamborlane is currently affiliated with the Art Students League in New York City and can be reached at [Tamborlane@aol.com](mailto:Tamborlane@aol.com) or at [Tamborlane.com](http://Tamborlane.com) or (908) 276-4967.

## WSO’s ‘Home for The Holidays’ Sets Perfect Tone for the Season

By BARBARA THOMSON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Westfield Symphony Orchestra, “Home for the Holidays,” December 4, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

\* \* \*

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Symphony’s Christmas concert on Saturday set just the right tone for a happy holiday season. The church was beautifully decorated with garlands and Christmas trees; there was a Yuletide sing-a-long, and the program of holiday favorites left everyone with a happy glow. All that was needed was a blazing fireplace and a cup of eggnog.

What a pleasure it was to hear traditional favorites like “White Christmas” and “Sleigh Ride” played by a full symphony orchestra. Other lesser-known works, like the “Christmas Waltz” and music from the movie *Polar Express*, added to the seasonal repertoire. Three selections from the perennial Christmas favorite, Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* had several children literally dancing in the aisles as their smiling parents swayed in their seats.

The closest they came to a “classical” work was the beautiful prelude to Humperdinck’s opera *Hansel and Gretel*, which is built around the touching prayer the children sing as they go to sleep, lost and frightened, in the dark woods. The suite from Bernstein’s *West Side Story* has only marginal holiday associations (off to the theater for a special outing), but the music is timeless, beautiful and exhilarating, leading to a roar of applause from the audience. (As an aside, hearing a full orchestra play this, I couldn’t help but think how the enormous down-sizing of Broadway’s pit orchestras has dimin-

ished their musical product. Hearing Bernstein’s lush orchestration versus a few players with a synthesizer – there is just no comparison.)

The players seemed to be having fun, too. The orchestra’s three percussionists were busy all night, what with sleigh bells, castanets, slapsticks, xylophones and bongo drums adding spice to the evening. Barry Centanni left his usual post at the timpani to show all those rock-and-roll wannabes how to handle a drum set. Harpist Anna Reinersman shone in her extended solo in the *Nutcracker*’s “Waltz of the Flowers,” and the orchestra’s principal clarinetist, William Shadel, switched hats to play the tenor sax lead in the “Christmas Waltz.” The orchestra always sounds good, but these commercial arrangements had wonderful parts for the brass instruments, and the large section of four French horns, two trumpets, three trombones and tuba lent a wonderful richness to the sound.

Maestro David Wroe lent a light touch to the proceedings with his spoken commentaries (who knew the Waltz was once considered scandalously provocative?). Originally British, he drew a laugh from the audience by introducing a familiar tune as “I Saw Mummy Kissing Santa Claus.” After going back and forth between Mummy and Mommy, he finally ended in mock exasperation by announcing “I Saw My Mother Kissing Santa Claus!”

The final section of the program was a sing-a-long. With words printed in the program, the audience swayed and smiled and sang along with such favorites as “Frosty the Snowman,” “Here Comes Santa Claus” and “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.” A standing ovation led to a reprise of the *Nutcracker*’s “Trepak” as an encore.

This was billed as the orchestra’s first Christmas pops concert; both the large audience and I hope it will be an annual event.



THE YULETIDE’S A TURNING...The Westfield Symphony Orchestra welcomed the holiday season with a program of seasonal favorites last Saturday at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The evening featured a wide array of songs, from the traditional “White Christmas” to music from the movie *Polar Express*.

## Church Welcomes Trumpet Ensemble

WESTFIELD – The First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer Street, presents the Montclair State University (MSU) Trumpet Ensemble as part of its Mid-Day Musicales concert series on Wednesday, December 15. These free, half-hour noon concerts are followed by a soup-and-sandwich luncheon available in the church social hall for \$7.

The Trumpet Ensemble, directed by Charles Bumcrot, is part of an active chamber music program at The John J. Cali School of Music at MSU. The ensemble, consisting of the 10 top trumpet students at the school, has developed an extensive library with varied repertoire and performs programs and recitals both at the Cali School and off campus.

Performances in their inaugural year, 2009-2010, included concerts at the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, the New Jersey Music Educators Association conference in East Brunswick, the Kaleidoscope concerts at MSU, the opening of the Leshowitz Recital Hall at the Cali School of Music and performances with internationally acclaimed trumpet soloist Christian Jaudes. At the opening concert of the new Recital Hall, the Trumpet Ensemble sounded the first “performance” notes ever heard in the new hall.

The fall 2010 MSU Trumpet Ensemble has already had an impressive array of performances to its credit. At this year’s Kaleidoscope concert, the ensemble presented a world premiere entitled “Concert Fanfare” by Joseph Russo, composed specifically for the Cali School Trumpet Ensemble and the 2010 Kaleidoscope concert. Other performances have included chamber recitals, recruiting visits and clinics and a split recital with the Tuba/Euphonium studio at MSU.

For further information or to make an optional luncheon reservation, call the church office at (908) 233-2494.

## SPFHS Rep Theatre Stages Hairspray in March 2011

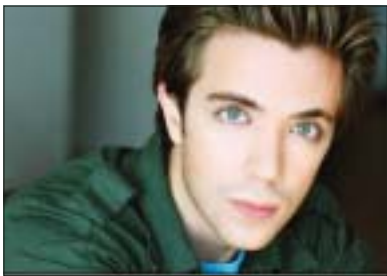
SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD – Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School’s (SPFHS) Repertory Theatre has announced that its spring production will be *Hairspray* and that behind the scenes, it will be an alumni affair.

To begin, *Hairspray*’s music and lyrics were written by Tony- and Emmy Award winner and five-time Oscar nominee Marc Shaiman, who

the past several years, takes on the added responsibilities of production co-coordinator.

Jan Allen, choral director at the high school, will be the production’s musical director, and Durand Thomas is, once again, the pit band director. Gisa D’Iorio returns as choreographer.

“This is a very exciting time to see how our alumni are giving back to the



Co-Directors this year for *Hairspray* are Matthew Capodicasa (2005, SPFHS) and Christine Perrotta (2002, SPFHS). Both starred in Rep productions all four of their years at SPFHS and went on to study theater in college.

grew up in Scotch Plains and attended SPFHS.

Returning to Rep Theatre after a four-year hiatus is producer Laurie Wellman, an SPFHS alumna. Ms. Wellman was choral director of the high school for 26 years and produced and directed 11 previous Rep Theatre productions.

Co-directors this year are Matthew Capodicasa (2005, SPFHS) and Christine Perrotta (2002, SPFHS). Both starred in Rep productions all four of their years at SPFHS and went on to study theater in college. Mr. Capodicasa graduated New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Drama, and Ms. Perrotta graduated from the University of Indiana in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre and Drama.

Joanne Sprague, another alumna who has been involved with Rep since the late 1970s and who has been the costume designer for Rep Theatre for

district. I can’t think of anyone else that could lead a high-school musical better than Laurie Wellman, and to have Matt and Chrissy as directors...well, it’s going to be an amazing performance,” said Fine Arts Supervisor Vinnie Turturiello.

*Hairspray* garnered eight Tony’s, including Best Musical, in 2003. A family-friendly musical comedy, with a score influenced by the rock, pop, R & B and soul music of the early 1960s, it tackles the social injustices of that period with humor.

Performances will be held on Friday, March 11, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, March 12, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 13, at 3 p.m.; Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m.; Friday, March 18, at 8 p.m., and Saturday, March 19, at 8 p.m.

All performances take place at the Many Ungar Memorial Auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, located at 667 Westfield Road. Ticket information will be announced after the first of the year.

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