

State, Local Officials React to Court Ruling for Abbott Districts

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — The New Jersey Supreme Court, in a sharply divided 3-2 decision, ordered the state to fund an additional \$500 million to the state's 32 poorest districts, defined as Abbott Districts. The Christie administration slashed \$800 million in education funding in last year's budget. Some of the aid was restored in this year's spending plan, which is due July 1.

Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, writing for the majority of the court, said the "state has failed to fully fund the SFRA (School Funding Reform Act) in Fiscal Year 2011" and the education cuts in 2010 "have been instructionally consequential and significant."

"The state seeks, through the legislative power over appropriations to diminish the Abbott pupils' right to funding required for their receipt of a thorough and efficient education after representing to this court that it would not do so in order to achieve a release from the parity requirement...The state may not use the appropriations power as a shield from its responsibilities."

Justice Roberto Rivera-Soto, who gave the dissenting opinion, said Justice LaVecchia's "remedy [to fully fund] just the 32 former Abbott Districts is not sufficient to meet constitutional violations found by Judge [Peter E] Doyno," the Special Master appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to conduct a remand hearing on whether the state

underfunded the school aid formula in the 2010-2011 budget.

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Senate President Steve Sweeney (D-3, Gloucester) in a statement said, "Using the state's windfall, we should provide additional funding for all inadequately funded districts across New Jersey. This will render the court's decision a moot point."

"Adequate funding and quality education are not urban versus rural or suburban issues. Education is a New Jersey issue," Mr. Sweeney said.

Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22, Plainfield), whose district includes Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Clark, told *The Westfield Leader* he believes the court case involves more than solely the Abbott Districts, noting that a lot of education funding "helps students with learning disabilities."

"This issue is a lot bigger than a half a billion dollars [to Abbott Districts]," Mr. Green said.

He said the 2010-2011 school year funding cuts impacted not just urban districts, but suburban districts like Scotch Plains-Fanwood and North Plainfield, both of which are in his district. Mr. Green said districts face issues from language barriers for some students to the high cost of special-education programs.

Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union) said in a pre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



ANTICIPATION...Monday morning, the crowd at the Westfield Memorial Day Parade listens to the opening ceremonies held before the start of the parade.

Area Vets Honored; Vietnam Mem. Groundbreaking Held

By LISA HAGEN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — Westfield residents flocked to the streets to watch the annual Memorial Day Parade, commemorating the town's veterans with both old traditions and new ceremonies.

Before the parade, Luke Gibbons, a junior at Westfield High School and member of Boy Scout Troop No. 73, presented his Eagle Scout Project to honor the 11 Westfield soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Vietnam War. He will supervise the construc-

tion of a memorial dedicated to these men, which is currently represented by American flags at the future site.

"I chose this project because every year Pete Hogaboom, one of the scout leaders, requested a memorial like this," Luke said. "Hopefully, the construction will be done by Veteran's Day this year."

Luke's father, Keith Gibbons, recently established the Westfield Veterans Fund to help support the new memorial. As president, he began to fundraise through the Fund's website

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



FALSE ALARM...Last Thursday, NJ Transit reported that a passenger heard a fellow rider making what he thought was a bomb threat. The train was stopped in Cranford. A sweep of the train by the bomb squad revealed that the threat was unfounded. During this time, the area and buildings around the Westfield Train Station were evacuated for a period of 30 minutes.

'Dems for Change' Battle Lawsuit From Opponents

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — "This is a 'David and Goliath' epic race," Tony Monteiro, running for the 20th Legislative District Senate office, told *The Westfield Leader* on Monday, after he and his running mates under the Democrats For Change (DFC) committee banner appealed a lawsuit, filed by his Primary Election opponents in the 20th Legislative District, Senator Raymond Lesniak, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan and Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, accusing DFC of falsely reporting campaign funds to the New Jersey Election Lawsuit Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

Last Saturday, weeks before the June 7 Primary Election, state Superior Court Judge William Wertheimer ordered the DFC, a joint candidate committee running candidates in New Jersey's 20th Legislative District Democratic Primary, to temporarily cease using and accepting any further campaign funds until it can provide ELEC an account of its expenditures. Senator Lesniak, Assemblyman Cryan and Assemblywoman



HEROES...Veterans cruise the parade route atop a float encased in flags during the Westfield Memorial Day Parade held Monday. The veterans made their way to Fairview Cemetery on East Broad Street, where closing ceremonies were held.

RVSA Seeks to Recover \$36 M For Construction of Co-Gen

By LAUREN S. BARR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) manages and maintains the facilities to handle sewerage treatment for 11 Union County municipalities. The 11 towns include Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Westfield and Woodbridge, and the governing body from each town appoints one commissioner to the RVSA. Each commissioner serves a three-year term on the board, receives a stipend of approximately \$2,000 per year, and there are no term limits.

For 2011 the RVSA has approximately \$23 million in anticipated revenue,

with almost all the funds coming from service charges to its member municipalities. The 2011 budget totals the same \$23 million in revenue. For 2011 the RVSA's expenses include \$3.2 million in salaries and wages, \$1,344,150 in "fringe benefits," \$5.3 million in "other expenses," \$9,836,150 for providing services, and a debt service payment of \$9,744,400. RVSA's total debt as of December 31, 2010 was \$203,542,316.

In March of this year the RVSA's attorney, Julie Donohue of Weiner Lesniak, filed a Demand for Arbitration where the RVSA is seeking to recover "\$36 million, plus interest and costs of arbitration" in reimbursements for the construction of a cogeneration facility which, according to the RVSA, cost \$23,657,344. In addition to attorneys' fees, the RVSA has also spent \$2,332,857 on a forensic accountant in order to uncover all of the cost overruns with the cogeneration facility.

The cogeneration facility was originally to be constructed at a cost of \$10.4 million under the original proposal by Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor L.L.C. (PS&S).

The cogeneration facility project, which began in 2000, was supposed to burn methane gas created from the digesting of sludge to help power the facility and to dry and burn sludge as a cost savings versus hauling and disposing of the sludge created at the sewerage facility.

The arbitration is being brought against Amin Engineering P.C., PS&S, Consolidated Construction Management Services, Inc. (CCMS), Keyspan Corporation, National Grid Services, Inc., Caterpillar Inc., Foley Power Systems, Komline-Sanderson Engineering Corp., Laguarda Bianchi and Associates, Inc., Hatch Mott

MacDonald I & E, Inc. (HMM), Mactec Federal Programs, Inc., J.H. Reid General Contractor, Inc., and Aecom USA, Inc., all of whom took part in the construction of, or provided services to, the cogeneration facility.

"Had PS&S/Keyspan presented truthful, accurate and reasonable economic analysis, the facility would never have been built. The RVSA would have simply upgraded its old gas blower engines and incurred a relatively small cost to install two backup diesel generators," the arbitration alleges.

The allegations laid out in the 89-page arbitration demand include that:

Caterpillar Engines that were installed to be used as a back-up could not be started without any utility power and even after they could be started, it would take 40 minutes for them to be capable of running at full capacity; on at least four different occasions the Caterpillar Engines experienced explosions causing damage to the engines and the facility; the sludge dryer is not dust free as was called for in the specifications which results in an added cost of dedusting to the RVSA.

In addition, the facility was constructed for a capacity larger than the RVSA could ever have use for; PS&S/Keyspan changed the cost estimate for the facility without providing detailed justification; None of the individuals on HMM's Value Engineering team, who were supposed to evaluate the design and recommend cost savings, had any prior experience with cogeneration facilities; PS&S/Keyspan and the general contractor, Reid, both refused to take responsibility for the design of the system and denied contractual obligation for redesign.

During construction of the facility in 2004 the RVSA also entered into a

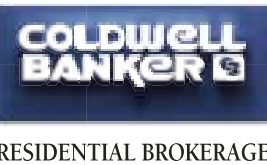
CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	9
Editorial	4-5	Sports	11-16
Police	6	Real Estate	11-17
Community ...	6-8	Classifieds	17
Obituary	8	A&E	19-20



Westfield Memorial Day Parade by Betsy Burgdorf



OPEN HOUSE GALA

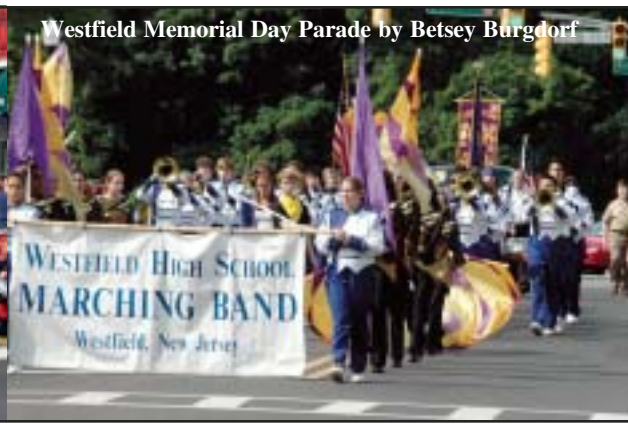
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School Funding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

pared statement that, "This order makes clear that this governor has failed New Jersey's most at-risk school children with the very same budget policies that delivered the highest property-tax increase in four years to New Jersey taxpayers." ... Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz (R-21, Summit), who represents Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, and Westfield in the state Legislature, told The Leader, "The court's decision demonstrates their belief that ever increasing funds are the answer to our educational challenges and will solve our problems. Billions of dollars have been spent in the Abbott Districts, with no measurable improvement in student performance." ... State Senator Michael Doherty (R-23, Hunterdon), a member of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, has filed a school funding proposal and a constitutional amendment to remove the court from decisions on how schools are funded.

through property taxes and tax refunds are not being returned. Income taxes were designed to be a property-tax relief mechanism. It is simply not working." ... When asked if she thought giving more funds to the Abbott Districts would prove beneficial, she said, "No one really knows the answer to that. Governor Christie has already said the results [regarding improved student achievement] are not good." ... BOE member Mitch Slater said, "Once again punishing the middle class takes center stage in this ruling. This has been going on for the last 25 years and you have to begin to wonder if any of the (New Jersey) Supreme Court judges actually took the time to look at numbers and results. Taxpayers in Westfield sent over \$75 million to Trenton and got back just over \$1 million for our kids. Maybe the founder of Twitter will come to our rescue." ... Westfield Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan added that, "Funding continues to be a major issue of concern for districts like Westfield." ... "We spend less than the state average in per pupil expenditures and our students' test scores are well above the state average. Yet the return on this performance equates to just over 1 percent of our budget in terms of funding we receive from the state. While Westfield residents send \$75 million in annual income tax to Trenton, state aid amounts to less than \$1.3 million."

Democrat Incumbents Face Challenges in Union County, LD-20

By PAUL J. PEYTON Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA - Although most of the 21 towns in Union County have uncontested races in this Tuesday's Primary Election, there are contested Democratic Party Primary races for county freeholder, Roselle mayor and in the 20th legislative district. The freeholder race pits incumbents Angel Estrada of Elizabeth and Chris Hudak of Linden and their running mate, Vernell Wright of Union, on a line endorsed by the Union County Democratic Committee, against Democrats For Change candidates Marlene Abitanto, Erna Letemps and Elcy Castillo-Ospina, all of Elizabeth. A former manager of the now closed Elizabeth Motor Vehicle Services agency, Mr. Estrada is serving his fourth term as a freeholder, having been elected in 1999. He emigrated to the United States 49 years ago from Cuba. Mr. Hudak joined the board in December after being selected by the Democratic Committee to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Rick Proctor, the newly elected mayor of Rahway. Ms. Wright is a former principal in Union Township and is an adjunct supervisor at Kean University. Mrs. Castillo-Ospina is a member of the Elizabeth Board of Education. Another member of the BOE, John Donoso, is running for freeholder as a Republican. Elected to her first BOE term in 2009, Mrs. Castillo-Ospina is of Colombian heritage and has resided in Elizabeth for over 30 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Special/Bilingual Education. Ms. Abitanto ran for Elizabeth City Council last year. Ms. Letemps is vice-principal of Dr. Antonia Pantoja School 27 in Elizabeth. Another contested race is in the 20th Legislative District, where long-time Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20, Elizabeth) faces Elizabeth Assistant Superintendent of Schools Jerome Dunn. Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union) and Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20, Elizabeth) are challenged by Elizabeth Councilman Carlos Cedeno and former Elizabeth councilman Tony Monteiro. Other races of interest include a three-way mayoral battle in Roselle pitting incumbent Garrett Smith against Council President Jamal Holley and independent Joseph O'Halloran. In Berkeley Heights, Republican incumbent Councilman

Memorial Day Parade

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to sponsor the new memorial, as well as support maintenance for other memorials. Mr. Gibbons said that they want to eventually respond to veterans' needs. See WestfieldVeteransFund.com for more information. "The memorial will resemble the similar memorial already standing in Washington, D.C.," Mr. Gibbons said. "It will be black granite slates built into the hillside that will have all 11 names engraved into the walls." Along with the Gibbonses, two of the veterans' sisters, Virginia Jakubowski and Deborah Cavanagh, performed the ground breaking of the memorial during the pre-parade ceremony. Both of their brothers served as first lieutenants in the Army and Marines, respectively. "Many of the young men who died spent their childhoods here and left a lot of people touched, so this commemoration is definitely of great importance," Ms. Cavanagh said. "Since I have moved here in 1997 and been mayor for the last six years, I have been attending this parade," Mayor Andy Skibitsky said. "When you think of Memorial Day, you think of those who have died but also their family members, so I think this Vietnam memorial will definitely be very special to the town." Mr. Hogaboom conducted the opening ceremony, where he introduced the grand marshal of the parade, Bob Farley, a Vietnam veteran and member of the American Legion. He also acknowledged the ground breaking, as well as a short speech by the mayor, and Kerry Stubbs sang "God Bless America." The floats represented many local clubs and organizations that traditionally participate in the annual parade. These town staples included the Westfield Hockey Club, Westfield Community Band, Vietnam Veterans of America, Westfield High School Band and Color Guard, Lions Club, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and the Westfield Department of Public Works. "I came here with three families and we never miss the parade," said Sue Hess, a Westfield resident. "Many people in my family have served in the military. Both of my fathers served in Vietnam and my grandfather and grandmother in World War II, so we came here to also honor them." Karen Mohr, another Westfield resident, also attended with the three families. She came to support the people who have served and honor them, while spending time with friends and family in downtown Westfield. Other towns were represented in the parade, including the Mountainside Girl Scout Daisies, Troops 40815 and 40499. "This is the second year Mountainside Girl Scouts have marched in this parade," said Michelle Monaghan, scout leader. "It was very exciting with the wonderful speeches, and we were here to honor the troops from the past and present including, one of the girl's father who served in the army." The parade ended at Fairview Cemetery, where the Westfield High School band performed on Revolutionary Hill. Band members played a sequence of patriotic songs, while the grand marshal and others honored more soldiers by placing flowers on the graves.

DEM Lawsuit

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Friday, June 3. Mr. Monteiro said he doubts the case will move to then, saying he expects it to end at the Appellate level. "I'm happy with them not being allowed to spend any money," Senator Lesniak said on Friday. "When you send out four color glossy mailers and try to tell the public you only raised \$115 - that is a vote for fraud." As of May 25, the DFC has amended its 29-day pre-election report filing, which now states that the committee received \$17,200 of in-kind contributions in addition to its previously filed \$175 of monetary contributions of \$300 or less. "Victory 2011 had paid for some of the mailers," Mr. Monteiro said. He said the DFC has raised some \$50,000 in 2011 and has incurred "several thousand dollars in expenditures."

same treasurer, Joseph Padlo, and list the same bank, Sovereign Bank. The plaintiffs also assert that "the defendants have raised and spent monies under the guise of a joint candidates committee and have repeatedly reported false information to ELEC... Defendants have sent mailers calling for the support of Jerome Dunn (LD-20 state Senate candidate), Tony Monteiro and Carlos Cedeno (LD-20 Assembly candidate) and calling for the defeat of plaintiffs. Defendants' communications bearing false political identification statements and defendants' filing of false reports are an obvious attempt to cloud the source of contributions and to sidetrack their obligations under the act. Defendants' actions are an obvious attempt to affect the outcome of the election."

"They raised money through the intimidation of school board employees. They used unethical actions against the school board, including [Superintendent of Schools] Munoz, the whole board, and key employees - the school ethics board does not allow that," Senator Lesniak said. "They ignored the campaigning laws and school ethics laws," Senator Lesniak told The Leader. In response, Mr. Monteiro said, "That is not true. That is all accusations and untrue. And will be proven to be. The burden of proof is on them."

Former Elizabeth Board of Education member Rafael Fajardo held a gala fundraiser May 21, with tickets selling at \$1,000 each, to be used for the LD-20 race. In one of the filed lawsuits, the state Superior Court has temporarily ordered proceeds frozen from the gala fundraiser honoring Mr. Munoz, and "compelling defendants to disgorge any contributions received in violation of law and to pay the monies received from the gala dinner back to the contributors." Printed at the bottom of the invitation, it states that "all proceeds benefit the Democrats for Change 20th and will not be used for Elizabeth Board of Education purposes." According to a politickernj.com report, the gala raised \$150,000 for DFC. Stated in one of the lawsuits, the plaintiffs assert that Victory 2011, Continue the Progress and DFC each have the same address, the address of Mr. Monteiro's travel agency, the

Scotch Plains Officers Assist Delivery of Baby

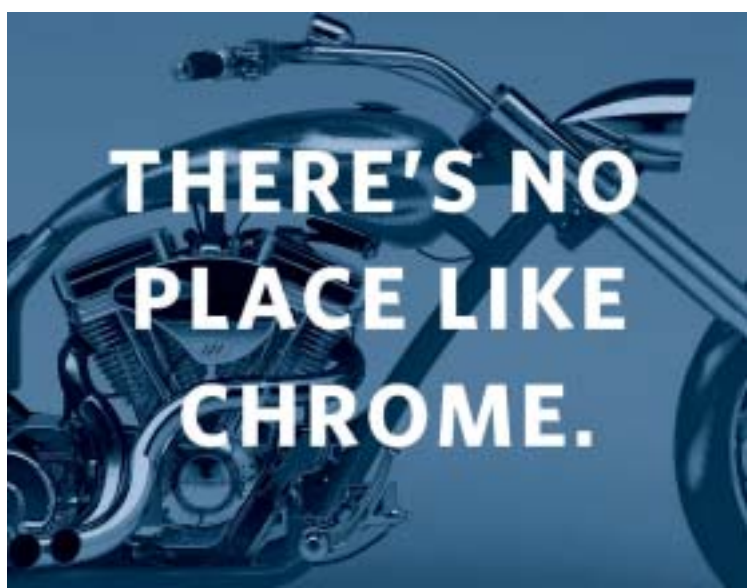
SCOTCH PLAINS — On May 24 at 10:17 p.m., Officer Jason Fiore of the Scotch Plains Police Department was on routine patrol when he was flagged down by a resident on the 2000 block of Westfield Avenue. The resident stated that his wife was in labor and was about to give birth. Off. Fiore radioed headquarters to dispatch the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad to the scene and requested the assistance of additional officers. Officer Brian Cheney arrived immediately and, with the assistance of several family members, delivered the baby inside the residence. Off. Cheney, a former medic, was able to stabilize the mother and newborn child. The baby was born at approximately 10:33 p.m. without any complications. The rescue squad transported mother and child to Overlook Hospital for further care. Police Chief Brian Mahoney stated that all police officers receive first aid training as first responders and this is the eighth time Off. Cheney has delivered a baby.

RVSA CoGen

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contract with Elizabethtown Gas Company for the installation of a new high pressure main at a cost of \$200,000. In addition to the price of the contract for installation, the RVSA agreed to use a minimum amount of natural gas each year, or pay the difference, which according to the arbitration, cost \$564,300 for gas it was unable to use. The current RVSA board consists of Stephen Eisenberg of Springfield, founder and president of a wood-working business and a graduate of the University of Rochester and a board member since 2010; Allen Chin of Westfield, who has served on the board since 1985, is a former mayor, a professional engineer and president of George G. Sharp, Inc.; Rene Dierkes of Mountainside, appointed in 2009, is a graduate of Seton Hall University and works as a financial advisor with Smith Barney. Also on the board are Richard LoForte of Kenilworth, a retired manufacturing supervisor from Engelhard Corp. and a former councilman, who was appointed to the board in 2008; Garwood's representative Stephen Greet, appointed to the board in 2009, is a member of the Garwood Planning Board and has been employed by the United States Postal Service for over 37 years, and Woodbridge Councilman Robert Luban, who has been on the board since 1996 and is retired from AT&T,

where he worked in auditing, marketing and data processing. Current Board Chairman Frank Mazzarella, a Clark councilman appointed to the RVSA in 1992, is retired from the position of director of public works for the City of Rahway and previously worked as the director of the Bridgewater Township sewer utility; James Murphy of Cranford, appointed to the board in 2001, is a graduate of the University of Florida and is employed as the comptroller for the law firm of Morgan, Melhuish and Abrutyn; the Scotch Plains representative, Robert Lacosta, appointed earlier this year, is a township employee overseeing the engineering, health, zoning and planning departments. Paul Sefranka of Rahway was appointed to the board in 2008 and works as a marketing manager for Prysmian Power Cable and Systems USA, LLC - High Voltage Cables and Submarine Systems Group, and Attilio "Sonny" Venturo of Roselle Park, who was on the RVSA board from 1980 to 1995, was reappointed in 2001 and is president of N. Venturo and Sons. Weiner Lesniak became the authority's general counsel in March 2004. Its legal fees for this lawsuit to date are \$990,189. RVSA office administrator Joanne Grimes said in response to an OPRA request by The Leader.



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Vietnam Memorial Project

WestfieldVeteransFund.com Keith Gibbons: WestfieldVeteransFund@gmail.com

Included in the Westfield Memorial Day Parade festivities, veterans are remembered in a tribute at Fairview Cemetery. A groundbreaking ceremony is held at the future site of the Vietnam Memorial at the circle on Broad Street and North Avenue. Residents line East Broad Street to enjoy the parade. Betsy Burgdorf for The Westfield Leader.



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Christina M. Hinke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
TWIRLING DIRVISH...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Color Guard entertain the crowd with their expert flag twirling abilities at the annual Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade held Monday.

Hundreds Line Streets for Annual SP-F Parade

By PETER GRIESMER
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD — Hundreds of spectators lined Park Avenue Monday for the annual Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade, which was preceded by wreath-laying ceremonies in the two communities.

This year's parade featured "The 70th Anniversary of the Start of World War II" as its theme. The four grand marshals chosen by the American Legion for the event — Robert "Red" Taylor, Frank A. Russo, Alex DiPace, and George Reider — all served in that conflict and are now residents of Scotch Plains or Westfield.

Mr. Taylor said he derived a sense of pride simply from having been asked to serve as one of the parade's grand marshals.

Other veterans of the Second World War living in Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Westfield were named and applauded just before the presentation of the wreaths in an opening ceremony. When World War II veterans drove down Park Avenue in the parade shortly thereafter, veterans of Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq followed in their own cars close behind.

George Becker, a Korean War veteran who took part in the parade, told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, "I like parades, and as an ex-service-

man, I like this one even more. I'm glad to be a citizen in the greatest country in the world."

The parade led off with a bagpipe player, a car carrying the four grand marshals, and a number of cars driven by other veterans. Also featured were the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School color guard, marching band and cheerleaders. Amongst the groups that made an appearance were the two towns' Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Daisy Scouts; the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Youth Baseball Association; Scotch Plains Softball; Scotch Plains-Fanwood Lacrosse; the Scotch Plains Modern Academy of Fine Arts; the Marie Moore School of Irish Dance; the Fanwood Lions; the Metropolitan Festival Band; the Fanwood Republican Club; the Fanwood Democrat Club; the Historical Society of Scotch Plains-Fanwood; and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

The Scotch Plains ceremony took place at the Veterans Monument at the intersection of Park and Front Street and included the presentation of the wreaths, a gun salute, the high school marching band's rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the school's chamber choir singing "America the Brave" and "God Bless America," a benediction, and a speech by Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr.

Over the past several years, said

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Jason Fiore



Brian Cheney

Scotch Plains Police Officers Fiore and Cheney Assist in Delivery of Baby

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The resident stated that his wife was in labor and was about to give birth. Off. Fiore radioed headquarters to dispatch the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad to the scene and requested the assistance of additional officers. Officer Brian Cheney arrived immediately, and with the assistance of several fam-

ily members, delivered the baby inside the residence.

Off. Cheney, a former medic, was able to stabilize the mother and newborn child. The baby was born at approximately 10:33 p.m. without any complications.

The rescue squad responded and transported mother and child to Overlook Hospital for further care. Police Chief Brian Mahoney stated that all police officers receive first aid training as first responders and this is the eighth time Off. Cheney's has delivered a baby in his career.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade by Christina M. Hinke



Christina M. Hinke for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN... Vin and Nick Losavio, owners of John's Meat Market in Scotch Plains, share the duties of Master of Ceremony at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade on Monday.

RVSA Seeks to Recover \$36 M For Construction of Co-Gen

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The cogeneration facility was originally to be constructed at a cost of \$10.4 million under the original proposal by Paulus Sokolowski and Sartor L.L.C.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Scotch Plains Municipal, Library Budgets Clarifications Addressed

SCOTCH PLAINS — In order to clear up any confusion in last week's story about the adoption of the Scotch Plains municipal government, we offer some clarifications. The total budget amounts to \$23.5 million. Of that total, \$1.4 million is earmarked for the township library. This year's property tax bills, under a mandate from the state, will list the library as a separate line item, meaning there will be a tax rate listed for both the library, which will be 13.4-cents per \$100 of assessed property value, and for the municipal government, which will be \$1.431 per \$100, a decrease of 8.7-cents from 2010.

For the average assessed home in Scotch Plains of \$122,100, the municipal tax decrease amounts to \$106.23 —

or \$1,747.25 vs. \$1,853.23 last year. For an average assessed home, the cost for the library is \$163.61.

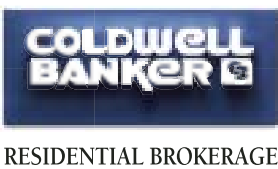
As Township Manager Chris Marion stated at the May 18 budget hearing, the library line item on the tax bills is "not a new charge, fee or tax."

The total appropriations for 2011, including the library, amounts to \$23.5 million, which is 2.3 percent higher than 2010. The total tax rate, including the library, is \$1,565, a 4.7-cent increase from last year. For the average assessed home, that equates to a total increase in the municipal portion of property taxes of \$57.39 — or \$1,910.87 vs. \$1,853.48.

We regret any confusion created on our part.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	9
Editorial	4-5	Sports	11-16
Police	6	Real Estate	11-17
Community ...	6-8	Classifieds	17
Obituary	8	A&E	19-20



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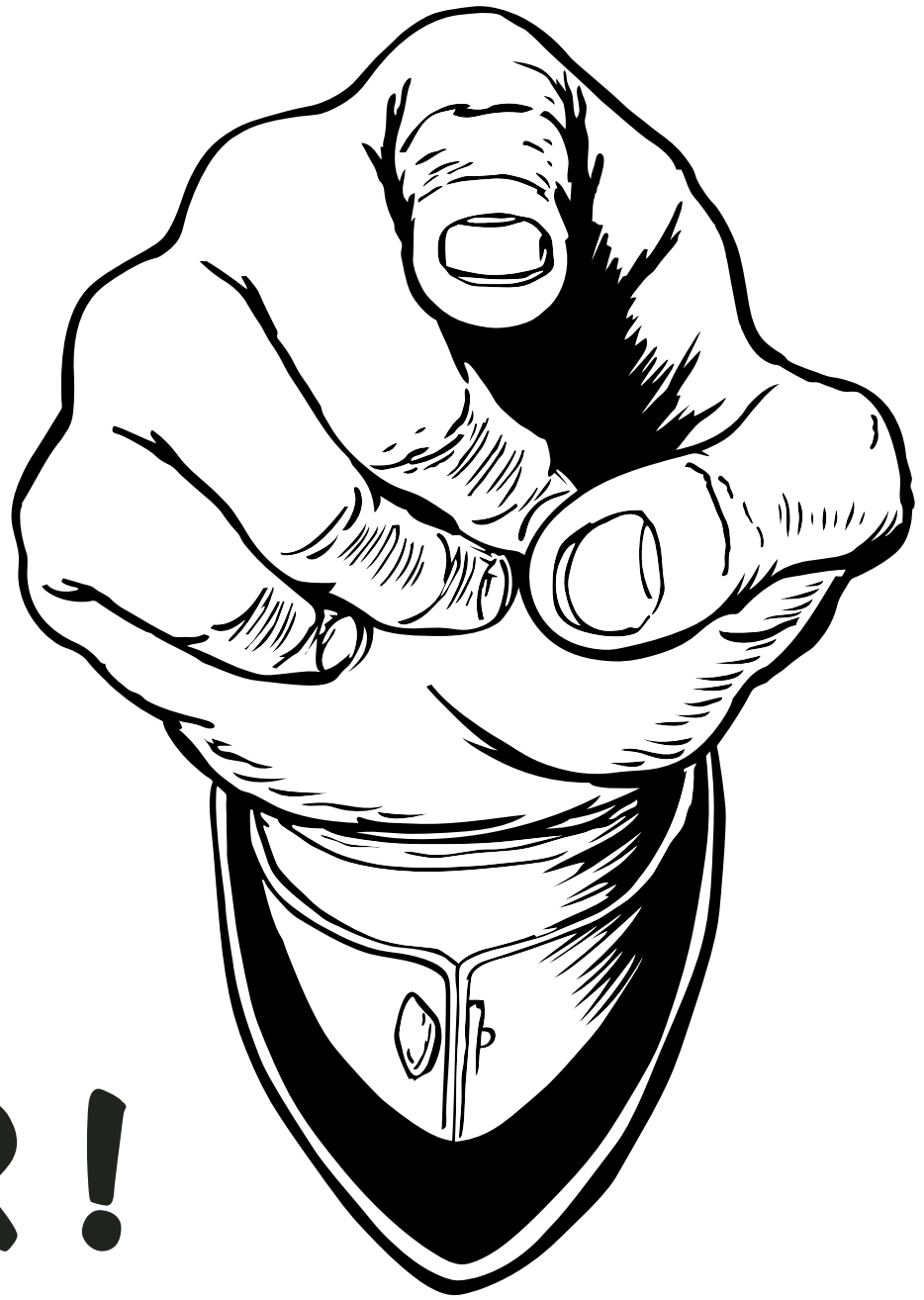


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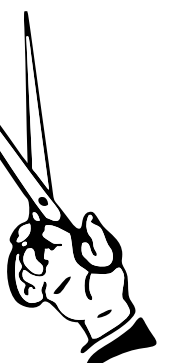
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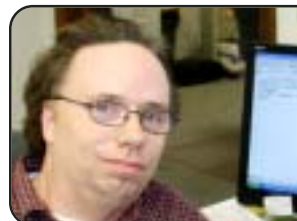
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Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Christie Approval Rating Dips To 51 Percent in FDU Poll

A recent Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind poll has 55 percent of New Jerseyans believing the state is "on the wrong track," up from 47 percent in April while Governor Chris Christie's approval rating dipped to 44 percent, down from 51 percent in April. The FDU poll of 804 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from May 16 to 22.

Millburn to Hear Report on Parking Deck Proposals

Summit and Cranford have parking decks, Westfield voters rejected a deck and now the Millburn Township Committee is scheduled to meet tonight, June 2, to report on parking deck proposals for Lot 7 at the Millburn train station and Lot 2 at the intersection of Essex Street and Lackawanna Place, northjersey.com has reported.

Residents of the Glen Avenue neighborhood near the train station said a deck would adversely affect their quality of life. Businesses are also opposed, saying the Essex Street deck construction would tie up 170 of existing parking spaces in the Millburn's biggest lot for nine months.

ELEC Sues Sharp James for Repayment of Campaign Funds

The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC) has filed a civil lawsuit in the state Superior Court for repayment of \$94,004 in campaign funds that ELEC claims were used to fund criminal defense costs for former State Senator and ex-Newark mayor Sharpe James, politickernj.com has reported.

Jesse Jackson Guest Speaker At N.J. Union Rallies

Rev. Jesse Jackson was in New Jersey on Tuesday to rally workers at Camden's Walt Whitman Park, according to news reports. He was also scheduled to appear in Jersey City, Newark and Trenton at press time yesterday, June 1.

The Christie Administrator is in contract talks with the largest public workers union, the Communications Workers of America. The governor wants state employees to more of their health insurance costs. Workers currently pay 1.5 percent.

Rep. King Leaves Door Open To Presidential Run in '12

Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.), chairman of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee, said he is leaving the door open for a possible presidential bid. "Let's see what happens," Rep. King told The Associated Press. "This is something out of the blue. It is a great honor, but right now I am focused on getting re-elected to the House next year."

Joseph Mondello, chairman of the Nassau County Republican Committee, suggested Rep. King run for president during a recent party fundraiser.

WNET to Takeover NJN Through New Non-Profit

New Jersey officials are completing a deal to give New Jersey Network's (NJN) television operation to a new nonprofit corporation run by WNET Channel 13, the New York City-based PBS flagship station, according to a Star-Ledger report. The new WNET nonprofit company in New Jersey, which will manage the operation, is expected to work with programmers, including Caucus Educational Corp., the nonprofit New Jersey production company run by Steve Aduabato Jr., to provide local content, according to the Ledger article.

Corps Allocates \$7.5 M for Beach Replenishment

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has allocated \$7.5 million in replenishment funds for Monmouth Beach and northern Long Branch. The money follows a request by Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th) who represents Monmouth County in Congress. Mr. Pallone also sought funds for dredging Shark River and for two engineering and feasibility studies in the Jersey Shore area.

That Army Corps money will be added to about \$2.5 million in federal and state funds to provide a total of \$12 to \$14 million that will allow the Army Corps to begin the projects later this year, the *Asbury Park Press* reported.

Christie Asks HUD to Approve Fort Monmouth Redevelopment

Governor Chris Christie has joined lawmakers in calling on the Department of Housing and Urban Redevelopment (HUD) to approve the redevelopment plan for Fort Monmouth that was submitted in 2008.



TWO DECADES OF PHILANTHROPY...Westfield resident and New Jersey State Senator Tom Kean, Jr., (R-21, Westfield), second from right, joins Hans Dekker, left, president of the Community Foundation of New Jersey, Ruth Dekker, second from left, Partnership in Philanthropy (PIP) Board member Gina Moran, center, and Victoria Foundation Executive Director Irene Cooper Basche at PIP's 20th anniversary celebration dinner, recently held at the Short Hills Hilton.

Stender: Christie Decision On RGGI Was 'Short-Sighted'

TRENTON — Asw. Linda Stender (D-22, Scotch Plains), one of the prime sponsors of both the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Global Warming Response Act, has called Governor Chris Christie's decision to pull New Jersey out of RGGI, "short-sighted and calamitous." Her statement is as follows:

"This is yet another example of the Governor unilaterally imposing his disastrous ideology on the people of this state in an effort to pander to his larger conservative base. He claims RGGI has been ineffective, yet offered no data to back up that claim.

"Meanwhile, according to the latest RGGI report, pollution is down 15 to 30 percent since its launch, almost 18,000 jobs have been created, and the region's economy has grown by more than \$2.3 billion. In New Jersey, alone, just the first dozen projects funded through the program will help reduce our Co2 emissions by 84,000 metric tons each year and help businesses generate over 167,000 megawatt hours of clean energy per year, enough to meet the equivalent annual electricity needs of more than 19,600 typical New Jersey households.

"The Governor also claims he has the authority to single-handedly withdraw us from RGGI. Meanwhile, other states that have considered this move have done so through the leg-

islative process. In fact, his own Republican colleagues in our Legislature believe the same thing, going so far as to introduce legislation that would withdraw us from RGGI. We've seen the Governor turn his back on women, the working poor, and the middle class, but now he has turned his back on our entire state and our future way of life.

"This decision is short-sighted and calamitous for future generations and I will do everything in my power to fight it legislatively in order to protect the people of our state. The Governor's feet must be held to the fire when it comes to his legal requirement to meet the ambitious greenhouse gas reductions goals set forth in the Global Warming Response Act," Asw. Stender said.

Meanwhile, Asm. Michael Patrick Carroll (R-25, Morristown) issued an opposing viewpoint. He called RGGI a "tax and spend program run by a secretive private entity [that] has nothing to do with the environment and everything to do with driving up energy prices."

"We should unshackle the nuclear industry, explore more domestic sources of energy, look to more hydropower, and, perhaps, provide tax credits for energy efficient projects and vehicles," he said.

Rutherford Institute Files Lawsuit on Behalf of Renna

NEWARK —The Rutherford Institute has filed a free speech lawsuit against Union County over its claim that a local community activist cannot utilize the county seal on her local TV show.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in New Jersey, alleges that Union County officials violated the First Amendment rights of Union County Watchdog Association President Tina Renna when they demanded she cease displaying the seal on "Union County Citizen's Forum" or face a trademark infringement lawsuit.

"This case represents a grotesque violation of our First Amendment right to free expression," said John Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute. "Government officials should know better. Such censorship has no place in a free society."

Mrs. Renna began producing the television show for airing on the Township of Cranford's public access Channel 35. The show consists primarily of reading the resolutions and formal acts of the Board of Chosen Freeholders as well as other news and public information of local interest.

Displayed in the background during the show was a graphic consisting of the Union County seal with a spotlight shining on it to symbolize the show's purpose of bringing to light the activities and workings of the county government.

In September 2010, Cranford

Township received a letter from the county's counsel demanding that the township "cease and desist use of the Seal of the County of Union in any way including, but not limited to, displaying it in the background of all television shows" except for recorded Freeholder meetings.

The letter advised that the seal is a pending trademark, that "you are committing trademark infringement," and demanded proof that television shows had been changed to eliminate use of the seal. Township officials advised Mrs. Renna of the letter and she removed the spotlighted seal from the background.

Mrs. Renna contacted The Rutherford Institute for advice about her rights. In April Institute attorneys informed Union County officials of Mrs. Renna's First Amendment right to display the seal in connection with news programming and requested that the county withdraw its claim to trademark protection in the seal.

However, the county refused to disclaim its assertion of trademark protection. In response, Institute attorneys filed a First Amendment lawsuit in federal court asking the court to affirm Mrs. Renna's right to display the seal.

The lawsuit contends that the county seal is not subject to trademark protection and that its display in connection with news and public information programming is constitutionally protected expression, which does not constitute trademark infringement.

Survey of CEOs Show State's Economy Improving

TRENTON — The attitude of New Jersey CEOs toward the state's economy and business climate has improved significantly over the last 18 months, according to the results of the New Jersey Economic Policy Summit's latest "C-Suite Survey" (C-Suite VI) of Garden State CEOs.

The findings, presented on May 25 at the fourth annual New Jersey Economic Policy Conference, show that 75 percent of respondents believe that the state government has become more responsive to the needs of the business community over the past six months. Almost as many, 72 percent, rated New Jersey's economy as fair

or good. These figures are up from 35 percent and 34 percent, respectively, in the previous C-Suite Survey (C-Suite V), conducted in the fall of 2009.

"While the results also show that New Jersey still is viewed as having a long way to go in terms of its tax structure and regulatory environment as compared to other states, attitudes clearly have gotten better," Bloustein Dean James W. Hughes said. "In the current survey, 48 percent of respondents say state government is encouraging/enthusiastic or helpful/supportive, as compared to 31 percent in the previous survey conducted in the final quarter of 2009."

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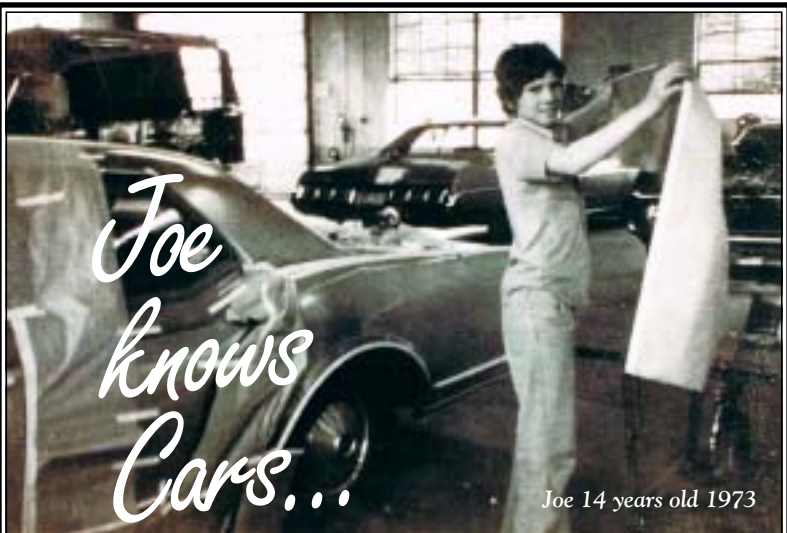
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Overlook Supporters Receive Achievement Awards

SUMMIT – In recognition of their contributions to Overlook Medical Center in the areas of community, medical, volunteer and corporate service, the Overlook Foundation has awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards to Dr. Sol and Meri Barer of Mendham, Dr. Charles Dooley of Mountainside, Louise Gili of Millburn, and Eleanor McGlaughlin of Short Hills. Elizabeth Compton, chairwoman of the Overlook Foundation, presented the awards at the Foundation's ninth annual Chairman's Dinner held May 12 at the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield.

Dr. and Mrs. Barer, the Community Service Award honorees, have received accolades from numerous organizations for their dedication to improving the health and well being of countless children in New Jersey communities and in others around the world. In 2006, the Barers made it possible to establish The Sol and Meri Barer Pediatric Unit of the Goryeb Children's Center at Overlook. Their gift also helped fund a Pediatric Subspecialty Unit, housing 11 pediatric specialties, on the second floor of Overlook's Medical Arts Center II.

Dr. Barer retired last year as chief executive officer of Celgene, the biotechnology company he founded decades ago. The Barers were honored by Westfield-based CONTACT We Care, New Jersey's crisis hotline, for their efforts to improve healthcare and the atmosphere in which children receive it.

Dr. Dooley, the Medical Service Award honoree, served as president of Overlook's Medical Staff from 1978 to 1979. In the 1980s, he led local efforts to comply with federal government initiatives to control healthcare costs by establishing and directing a Professional Standards Review Organization in Union County and helping to develop the HMO Healthways.

Dr. Dooley piloted corporate jets for major companies like A & P and E.F. Hutton. Those contacts helped him establish the area's first air ambulance service based at Teterboro Airport. With airplanes borrowed from friends and colleagues, he regularly flew to the aid of those who wanted to return home for medical care while they were out of town or on vacation.

Now retired from his internal medical practice with the Summit Medical Group, for the past several years

he has participated in a 10-day medical mission to Haiti at the Sacre Coeur Hospital in Milot.

Louise Gili and Eleanor McGlaughlin, the Volunteer Service Award honorees, have worked side by side sewing Christmas stockings and Easter bunny bunnings for maternity department infants and Benji Bear hand puppets for pediatric patients at Overlook. Louise, 94, does most of the prep work, like cutting and pinning, while Eleanor, 95, operates the sewing machine.

The friendship between the duo began more than 50 years ago when both were employed in the Millburn School District. Louise, a lifelong resident of Millburn, was a school nurse for five elementary schools in Millburn and Short Hills for 40 years. Eleanor, a resident of Short Hills, taught elementary school for more than 30 years.

Eleanor was recognized for her 25 years of service to the Millburn/Short Hills Red Cross, her alma mater Arcadia University, Millburn Library and Neighborhood House. Louise, who chairs the Overlook Auxiliary's Short Hills Twig 24, received accolades for her 50 years of service to the Millburn/Short Hills Red Cross, as well as her efforts to initiate an alumni association at her alma mater Seton Hall University and establish the Essex County School Nurses Association.

Merck, the Corporate Service Award recipient, has been a long-time corporate partner to Overlook through The Merck Company Foundation. That partnership has included generous corporate philanthropy, board leadership and collaborative community health education efforts.

Funds from employee matching gift programs benefited many facilities, technology and program enhancements at Overlook, including the neuroscience institute, the emergency department, the ambulatory suite, the employee child care center, the Healthy Avenues Van and the Carol G. Simon Cancer Center.

Established in 1957 by Merck, The Merck Company Foundation is funded entirely by the company and is Merck's chief source of funding support to qualified non-profit, charitable organizations.

www.goleader.com



TOP ACHIEVERS... The Overlook Foundation awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards to, from left to right, Meri and Dr. Sol Barer of Mendham, Eleanor McGlaughlin of Short Hills, Dr. Charles Dooley of Mountainside, Louise Gili of Millburn and Dr. Luther Clark, global director of scientific affairs, who accepted the award on behalf of Merck.

Democrat Lawmakers Look To Fund Women's Clinics

TRENTON – Following the passage of Senate Bill 2899, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20, Union) has introduced its companion, Assembly Bill 4092, in the hopes that the Fiscal Year 2012 budget will contain funding for women's health and family planning clinics throughout the state.

"I am thrilled to have helped pass this important piece of legislation through the Senate," said Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-20, Union), a co-sponsor of S-2899. "Family planning clinics provide so many vital services to women, and it is essential that we continue to fund these facilities to promote the overall health of our society."

"I am proud to have introduced this bill, but nothing would make me happier than to see it become a law," Asw. Quijano said. "We cannot simply stand by while the Governor (Chris Christie) systematically dismantles the framework we have in place to help our neediest residents. Family planning clinics and Medicaid were put in place decades ago to help provide healthcare services to segments of the population that are typically underserved. Getting rid of these programs will only further disenfranchise those who need the most assistance, and I refuse to stand for that."

The Senate and Assembly bills appropriate \$7.45 million for distribution to women's health and family planning facilities throughout the state. The bills also mandate that Medicaid coverage be extended to all applicants who earn less than 200

percent of the federal poverty level. The Medicaid provision comes as a protection against a proposal by the Governor to dramatically reduce eligibility limits, the lawmakers said.

"If we do not act to keep these programs operational, there will be nowhere for people without health insurance to receive cancer screenings, vital preventative care and reproductive health services," Asw. Quijano said.

S-2899 was passed in Senate, 26-13, on May 23. Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (D-20, Union) is also a sponsor on the Assembly version.

Loughrey Returning From Iraq Deployment

WESTFIELD — Army Reserve Sgt. James Loughrey, a 1998 Westfield High School graduate, is returning to the United States after a deployment to Iraq serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn.

He will return to Joint Base Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst for debriefing, evaluations and out-processing procedures before returning to their regularly assigned Army Reserve or National Guard units.

The sergeant, a military police member with eight years of military service, is regularly assigned to the 94th Military Police Company, based out of Saco, Me.

Hearing Held on Allowing Insurance Across State Lines

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7) recently participated in a Congressional hearing examining the benefits of allowing families and businesses to purchase health insurance across state lines.

As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, Mr. Lance said he and other lawmakers would use the hearing's findings to craft a key health care reform that could "dramatically" reduce the number of the uninsured and drive down health care costs.

During the Health Subcommittee hearing, Mr. Lance issued the following statement:

"Many experts agree that the high cost of health care is a key contributing factor to the high number of uninsured Americans. A survey done by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that 85 percent of uninsured workers reported that they did not have coverage because it was either, 'too expensive or they could not afford it.'"

"The cost of health care is rising rapidly. It is imperative that Congress enact innovative solutions to make health insurance coverage more affordable for individuals and small businesses alike. Allowing the purchase of health care coverage across state lines will increase competition and choice, drive down prices and could dramatically reduce the number of uninsured," Mr. Lance said.

The Congressman said allowing insurance to be sold across state lines

is a component of his efforts to repeal the 2010 health care law and replace it with "common-sense fiscally responsible reforms" that would lower health care costs, expand access and protect jobs.

Other reforms supported by Mr. Lance include establishing high-risk insurance pools, implementing medical malpractice reforms and prohibiting insurance companies from discriminating on the basis of pre-existing conditions.

Bramnick to Perform Comedy for Charities

WESTFIELD – Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) will do stand-up comedy on Monday, July 11 to raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society at the Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell. The show starts at 5:30 p.m.

On Thursday, June 9, Mr. Bramnick will also be performing comedy at The Crossroads in Garwood to raise money for college scholarships. He will be performing alongside comedians Rodney Lanney and Buddy Fitzpatrick from 7 to 9 p.m.

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



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Milt Faith Prepares to Leave YFCS After 47 Yrs., But Not Ties to Westfield

By SUZETTE F. STALKER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – After nearly half a century of assisting people in crisis, Milt Faith will step down on June 30 as executive director of Youth and Family Counseling Service (YFCS). An agency serving families and individuals in eight local communities, YFCS has been a fixture in Westfield for generations.

Mr. Faith is leaving the agency, where he heads a staff of nine professionals and five support staff, after 47 years to begin a psychotherapy practice July 1 in Short Hills. Carol Pedro, a staff clinician who joined the agency four years ago, will succeed him as executive director of YFCS.

While he has found his long tenure with Youth and Family Counseling to be extremely rewarding, Mr. Faith told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* last week that he feels it is time to begin a new chapter in his life. "I feel I've done all I can do," he said. "I want to do clinical work now, as opposed to administrative work."



Milt Faith

YFCS originated in 1918 as the Mission of Help, an Episcopal agency that served the disadvantaged, and within three years had evolved into the more family-oriented Youth Consultation Service, devoted exclusively to counseling. In 1961 the agency adopted its current name, while becoming non-sectarian and non-profit.

YFCS receives most of its support from the United Fund of Westfield, with additional funding from the United Way of Greater Union County, donations from such organizations as the Rotary Club and Westfield Service League, and an annual appeal to supporters. Patients are charged for services on a sliding-scale basis or through insurance.

Since 1966, YFCS has been housed within a Victorian home at 233 Prospect Street that was formerly a private residence. Although refurbished to serve the agency's needs, the interior of YFCS' present home retains much of its original ambience. Five offices were created from bedrooms; the pantry-kitchen area was converted into a waiting room and a once-dank basement was transformed into a lighted, carpeted board room/children's room.

According to Mr. Faith, YFCS has intentionally left so much of the Victorian look and flavor of the home intact, in order to create a "non-threatening, comfortable environment" for patients. He noted that late former mayor Bud Boothe and his family were responsible for the basement renovation, and that this section is named in his honor.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and devout music lover, Mr. Faith is an area resident who earned multiple degrees from New York University. In addition to a bachelor's degree in journalism, he holds a Master of Social Work degree and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, as well as having a graduate degree in clinical social work.

As he prepares to wind up his career with YFCS, Mr. Faith reflected on the societal changes over the past five decades that have impacted not only the development of the individual, but marital and family dynam-

ics as well. "Problems have become more difficult, have escalated," he said.

"We work with a lot of tweens who exhibit a lot of difficulty with anxiety, depression, parent-child difficulties," he continued, noting that these issues can be compounded in the teenage years by drinking, drugs, sexual experimentation and anxiety about future education and employment prospects.

Mr. Faith noted that another major trend has been the rising divorce rate, saying it is not uncommon today for marriages to be regarded as "disposable." He added that children often are caught up in hostile marital breakdowns, in which they feel

forced to choose between parents or experience feelings of guilt or responsibility for the situation. The struggles of single-parent families, he said, are among the cases YFCS deals with.

Mr. Faith's extensive ties to Westfield have long extended beyond his role at YFCS. He currently is one of three co-presidents of the Westfield/Mountainside Ministerium, his membership in which has spanned the length of his time with YFCS.

He was the first lay person admitted to the ministerium, originally made up exclusively of clergy, after the organization mistakenly assumed him to be an Episcopal priest because of his agency's initial affiliation.

Mr. Faith recalled that when the mistake came to light, the head of the ministerium at that time attempted to have him dismissed. The membership rallied in support of keeping him on, however, and he was ultimately allowed to stay. This paved the way for other lay people to join the organization's ranks, he noted. He also has for 30 years been the ministerium's treasurer and chairman of its nominating committee, and said he intends to remain with the organization after leaving YFCS next month.

Mr. Faith also has done extensive work with the Westfield-based CONTACT We Care telephone hotline – which like his agency serves people in crisis – performing evaluations of prospective volunteer listeners to ensure that they are "emotionally comfortable" with their role. He also worked with local 9/11 widows for five years and with local families during the Persian Gulf War. Additionally, he has worked with various churches and schools in addressing bullying, abuse and the dangers of social networking.

Mr. Faith also has written the "Hung Up" column that debuted in *The Leader* on February 13, 1968. His final column appears on page 8 of this edition.

Mr. Faith's wife, Sandy, passed away last year. His family includes his son, Dr. Myles Faith, a psychologist specializing in pediatric obesity, and his daughter, Brooke Nolz, a teacher. He also has three grandchildren, Zoe, Max and Sebastian. While his new practice will be in Short Hills – he has friends in the Short Hills-Millburn area as well as in Westfield – he said he still feels a part of the Westfield community. "If they need me, I'll be there," he said.

For information about YFCS, visit westfieldnj.com/yfcs or call (908) 233-2042.



Photo courtesy of Gene Jannotti

GARWOOD'S FINEST... Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi and Dennis Clark (not pictured) congratulate United States Marine Corps Sgt. P.J. Lewis on his speech during the Garwood Memorial Day Service held at the VFW. Sgt. Lewis is a Garwood police officer and recently returned from serving in the Middle East. Pictured, left to right, are: Councilman Timothy Hak, Mayor Quattrocchi, Republican Chairman John Quattrocchi, council candidate Carol Kearney and Sgt. Lewis.

Garwood Rushed Appointment of Its New Police Chief, Lt. Underhill

As a member of the Garwood Borough Council, I believe our Police Chief Search Committee engaged in an inadequate and hasty selection process for a new chief of the Garwood Police Department. In January, Chief Legg informed the mayor and council of his intention to retire in 2011 after more than 30 years of honorable service to the borough. By mid-March, he informed us that his specific retirement date would be June 30, 2011, giving the borough more than three months to conduct a broad and thorough search for a qualified candidate to fill his position. With all that time, the committee only interviewed two lieutenants currently on the force and chose one of them as chief. No one outside the borough was interviewed and, as a result, I believe the residents of Garwood were not served by this narrow search process.

I do not believe the position was publicly advertised and the committee did not reach out to nearby municipalities, counties or other law enforcement entities to encourage qualified candidates to apply. Is it possible not one other man or woman in the entire state was qualified and interested enough even to be considered for the position? I think not.

I believe the borough and the department deserved better. Unfortunately, this hasty process may cloud Lieutenant Underhill's ascension to a position for which he may very well be qualified, and I have told him so. Indeed, I do not feel qualified to criticize or to praise him on his credentials as I am not familiar with them. To date, I have never seen his resume and have only read about his credentials in the newspaper story announcing his appointment.

The few dealings I have had with the new chief have been positive and I find him to be an extremely likeable officer. Other than that, I cannot truly say I know him or the other candidate who interviewed for the position. I believe the committee owed it to a new chief to have a rigorous search process that may very well have served only to validate the Lieutenant's qualifications for the posi-

tion. Had they done so, I would have been more willing to defer to their judgment.

I preferred to discuss this issue privately with members of the committee in order to avoid any negative ramifications to the new chief, but that avenue was foreclosed to me. I attended the last council meeting and was surprised to discover a decision had been made by the committee and the position had been offered to, and accepted by, Lieutenant Underhill.

It never appeared on any agenda I received. Had that been the case, I would have made my inquiries and expressed my concerns accordingly. In addition, as the chair of the finance committee, I do not know the salary being offered to the new chief or the terms of his contract. I hope I will find out soon as I am responsible for the borough's budget.

I wish to reiterate that my dissatisfaction is with the selection process for Garwood's new police chief and not with our new chief. On the contrary, as I told him today, I look forward to working with him and getting to know him better. It's just that I wish I had that opportunity before he became our new chief of police and that the committee had executed its mission in a more responsible manner.

James Mathieu
Garwood Councilman

Was Wertheimer Manipulated Into Freezing Dems for Change Finances?

It appears that self-proclaimed area political boss [Sen. Ray] Lesniak and Union County government has now finally closed their last loophole, in that our judicial system, overseen by sitting Judge Wertheimer, is now possibly compromised by political persuasion. It appears that this judge is manipulated by his pension or tenure and is afraid of those politicians and area political bosses such as Lesniak, Assemblyman Cryan and behind the scenes boss [Charlotte] Defilippo. Wertheimer had recently ruled to freeze the bank accounts of the "Democrats for Change" political party that opposes Lesniak's slate of "Regular Democrats." This is under the pretense of questions raised by Lesniak, in the opponent's fundraising.

This Union County government now owns the sheriff's office by allowing Sheriff Froehlich to double dip making \$250,000 per year, along with inserting Cryan in an undersheriff position with no safety, security nor law enforcement experience; they own the prosecutor's department by extending [Prosecutor Ted] Romankow's job past his mandatory retirement age, his second in command has abused his powers, according to the New Jersey Waterfront Commission on corruption report, but was not held accountable to his malfeasance, plus Union County actually funds the prosecutor's department so they look the other way if connected cronies are to be investigated.

This last judge threw out a lot of political cases in favor of Lesniak and cronies, which then had to be appealed and subsequently overturned on a higher judicial level. The tentacles of the Union County government had appointed "Regular Democrat" political boss Charlotte Defilippo, whose responsibility is to fundraise for her political party, as the director who gives out all the professional no-bid construction contracts mostly to the same firms that donate to her political party. Is that a coincidence? Where's Judge Wertheimer on that? Plus now you know why there is so much construction for Union County government buildings. Judge Wertheimer decreed that Lesniak's opponents bank accounts are now frozen until two business days before the election. His integrity and the integrity of the justice system in Union County is now compromised by politics.

We have to get rid of Lesniak, the rampantly abusive Union County government and even the judicial system that Union County political bosses control. Judge Wertheimer has now become a useless pawn in the game of horrible New Jersey politics. This county is hurting. I am voting for the "Democrats for Change" candidates to express my desire to rid of [this harmful government]. You should too.

Bruce Paterson
Garwood



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Imperial Brass to Perform At Willow Grove Church

SCOTCH PLAINS—Imperial Brass will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church.

Jazz cornetist Warren Vache will make a guest appearance, and there will be performances by Mitch Brodsky and Bobby Tiedemann along with a trombone trio.

Imperial Brass began its 21st year in January. The 30-member band has been featured at the International Trumpet Guild, performed at multiple universities and recorded five CDs.

Mr. McCauley was director of Instrumental Music Activities at the University of Indianapolis and the founder of the University of Indianapolis Chamber (later Symphony) Orchestra.

Heart Walk to Take Place Saturday at Nomahegan

CRANFORD—The Annual American Heart Association Mid-Jersey Start! Heart Walk is scheduled for this Saturday, June 4, at Nomahegan Park in Cranford.

Among the guests will be Mark Holtz, chairman of the American Heart Association Mid-Jersey Start! Heart Walk and chief operating officer of Overlook Hospital.

For more information, call the American Heart Association at (609) 208-0020.

November, with special guest clinicians from around the world. He has led the University of Indianapolis Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra on a tour of the major cities of Austria.

Mr. Vache has entertained audiences worldwide for nearly three decades with his cornet, trumpet and flugelhorn stylings. His talents have been showcased through live performances and recordings, along with stage, screen, radio and television appearances.

Tickets are on sale in advance and at the door. Prices are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for senior citizens and students, and free for children age 12 and under.

The concert will take place in the sanctuary of the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, located at 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains.

For ticket sales or further information about the church's programs and ministries, visit willowgrovechurch.org or call (908) 232-5678.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE...Boy Scout Troop No. 73, sponsored by the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield, held its annual canoe and camping trip in the New Jersey Pine Barrens the weekend of April 29-May 1.

Miller-Cory to Celebrate 'Sachets and Potpourri'

WESTFIELD—The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will present "Sweet Smells...Sachets and Potpourri" this Sunday, June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Jean Peters will discuss how potpourri and sachets were made and used in 18th-century America. Children will be able to make a sachet of their own to take home.

There also will be tours of the museum, a restored farmhouse built in 1740. Members of the cooking committee will demonstrate skills used in 18th-century open-hearth cooking.

Youth Invited to Learn To Knit and Crochet

FANWOOD—Fanwood and Scotch Plains youngsters between the ages of 8 and 13 who want to learn how to knit or crochet can attend an instructional workshop this summer at the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The workshop will be offered on six consecutive Thursday mornings beginning July 14. Registration is required and seating is limited.

For adults, \$1 for students and free for children under age 4.

The final program of the season will be "House Tours and Open Hearth Cooking" on Sunday, June 12. The museum will be closed for programs for the summer and will reopen in September.

Town Garage Sale On Tap Saturday

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club is putting the final touches on its participant list for the Town-Wide Garage Sale to be held this Saturday, June 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

About 100 houses are registered for the sale. The final list and guide map will be available after 7 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, June 3.

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Free Event! All are Welcome!

Community Bible Study "The Parables of Jesus" Wednesdays at 7:00 continuing through August. The lessons are taught by Irish Evangelist Jim McGuiggan on DVD. All are welcome! Echo Lake Church of Christ 419 Springfield Ave (Intersection of Springfield Ave. and East Broad St.) (908) 233-4946 www.echolakechurch.org

Temple Emanu-El to Offer New Member Erev Shabbat

WESTFIELD—Temple Emanu-El, located at 756 East Broad Street in Westfield, will conduct a Prospective New Member Erev Shabbat on Friday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

Attendees will have an opportunity to meet newer and longtime members, clergy and senior staff. They also will learn about the temple's religious school, youth group programs and Early Childhood Education Center.

At 7:45 p.m., all are welcome to worship with members of the congregation at a Shabbat Hallelu, an Erev Shabbat service in song, featuring contemporary Jewish music and Israeli dancing.

Following services, participants will be invited to share in a congregational Oneg Shabbat (Joy of Shabbat) reception with cookies, fruit and coffee.

For those with food allergies, a Shulchan Shalom table will be available featuring an assortment of allergy-free foods.

For more information, contact Carolyn Shane, executive director, at (908) 232-6770, extension no. 114, or cshane@tewnj.org, or visit the temple website, tewnj.org.

Caregivers to Meet Monday in Westfield

WESTFIELD—A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones will meet on Monday, June 6.

Meetings take place on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m. in the parish center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

These are information and sharing sessions. There will be no meetings during July, August or September. For more information about this support group, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

Resolve Plans Free Program To Help Children of Divorce

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Resolve Community Counseling Center will offer a free Children of Separation and Divorce group to help youngsters deal with the pain caused by separation and divorce.

Children in grades 3 through 6 are invited to join the Children of Separation and Divorce Group every Wednesday evening, beginning June 8 and ending on July 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

This group will use open discussion, facilitated by a licensed professional counselor, to help children understand the separation/divorce process; learn to understand feelings of sadness, fear and guilt; ex-

press these feelings appropriately and develop effective coping strategies. Fun activities are planned to create an atmosphere that will make discussing these difficult topics easier for the participants.

Debbie Ferro and Dashau Hinton will lead the group, assisted by Diane Pearson, a licensed professional counselor who specializes in family therapy.

Resolve Community Counseling Center provides counseling, psychotherapy and psychological services for people from all social and economic backgrounds. Fees for individual counseling are determined on a sliding scale basis, according to ability to pay.

The Westfield Memorial Library presents The Kootz Wednesday, June 8 at 7:00 pm



The collective passion for classic rock, pop, soul, blues, and just "plain old making great music" has been a driving force in assembling "The Kootz"

band. Their repertoire consists of covers of rock, pop, and blues tunes from the late 1950s to the 1970s. Don't miss this really great night!



Open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. Sign up online at www.wmlnj.org and click on

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Online Calendar, or call 908.789.4090 x7951

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Westfield Tops Hunterdon Central
In Baseball - Story Next Week

THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 11-16

PIERCE WINS 800, EBOSE SHOT PUT, RENFREE JAVELIN

Raiders Get 2nd, Cougars 3rd, Westfield 6th in Section Track

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) and Cranford placed 2-3 in the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 girls Track & Field Championships with 87 points and 81 points, respectively, while Irvington took top honors with a total of 92 at Frank Jost Field in

meet on May 20, Pierce was running quite well in the 1,600 until she collapsed about 30 meters before the finish line but got back up to cross seventh.

"I had a personal best today, and yesterday I got the school record, so I put all that behind me. I came here yesterday and I was ready to

"We were all there again. We all know that we are all good runners, so I knew I had to go out hard. I thought I had a pretty good start right off the line. I got in first, and I just held it throughout the race," Pierce said.

Raider Osa Ebose captured first in the shot put with a shove of 37.9. Raider Danielle Schweizer at 35-0.25,



See More Section Track Photos
- goleader.com - Click
"Online Cranford Sports"

COMING DOWN THE HOME STRETCH...Raider Erin Pierce dashes down the home stretch to win the 800 meters with a personal-record time of 2:18.68 at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 meet on May 28 in South Plainfield.

South Plainfield on May 28. The Westfield High School girls tied for sixth in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 meet at Ridge High School.

On May 27, Raider Erin Pierce crossed fourth in the 1,600 with a personal-record (PR) and SPF record time of 5:08.33, beating her previous record by two seconds. The next day Pierce took top honors in the 800 meters with a PR time of 2:18.68. At the Union County

run. I was focused. I had a lot of really good competition with the Mendham girls and West Morris. There were about five of us altogether, and we were pushing each other. The final lap, I thought I had a good kick, so I finished 5:08, which is my PR by two seconds," Pierce said.

Kylen Cochrane (West Morris), and Mendham's Mackenzie Barry and Abby Seel placed 1-2-3 ahead of Pierce in the 1,600.

Pierce basically faced the same competition in the 800 meters.

Cougar Kristen VanBenschoten at 34-10.75 and Raider Sam Renfree at 33-5.75 placed 4-5-6. Renfree took top honors in the javelin with a toss of 109-3, and teammate Erin Brown placed sixth at 91-6. Schweizer placed second in the discus with a toss of 109-10, followed by VanBenschoten at 103-2.

On May 27, Cougar Natalie Englese had no significant competition while taking first in the 400 meters with a time of 57.22, finishing four seconds ahead of the second-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

FAGAN GETS 2ND IN PV, PARKER GETS THIRD IN 3,200

Raiders Place 6th in Group 3, Westfield 8th in Gr. 4 Sections

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and the Cranford High School boys finished 6-7 with respective totals of 34 and 33 at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 Track & Field championships at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield on May 27. Westfield placed eighth with a total of 25.5 in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2

meet held at Ridge High School.

Rahway ran away with the team championship in the Group 3 sectional with a total of 113.66, while Piscataway won the Group 4 sectional with a total of 72.

In South Plainfield on May 28, Raider Alex Parker was waiting in the hot sun to run his heat of the 3,200 meters. Parker, who towered height wise over his competitors, became

the frontrunner for most of the race and provided shade for the other four runners, who stayed in a very tightly knit pack. During the fifth and sixth laps he dropped a step behind the leader, while Cranford Cougar Eli Howard was just a step behind him.

In the final lap, Parker regained the lead, but Mendham runner Justin Nasselli put on a very powerful kick

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



PROVIDING MOST OF THE SHADE...Because of his height, Raider Alex Parker, center, provided shade for his opponents by being the frontrunner in a tight pack of five runners most of the race in the 3,200 meters. Parker finished third and Cougar Eli Howard, left, finished fourth.



THE THRILL OF VICTORY, THE AGONY OF DEFEAT...The Blue Devils swarm over Tim Younger after he slammed the game-winning home run against Phillipsburg on May 27. On the right, P-burg catcher Alex O'Leary kneels and holds his head in frustration.

BARRY, YOUNGER CRACK BACK-TO-BACK HRs IN 7TH

Blue Devils Jolt P-burg, 5-4, In Sectional Quarterfinals

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

Down to his last strike with two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning and facing the possibility that it would be the last game for the seniors at Bob Brewster Sr. Field in Westfield, James Barry bashed a solo home run over the leftfield fence, and leadoff batter Tim Younger followed with solo homer to give the second-seeded Blue Devils a dramatic, 5-4, victory over Phillipsburg in the quarterfinals of the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament on May 27.

The victory, which was their second straight, come from behind, 5-4 win in the tournament, allowed the 22-4, No. 11 Blue Devils the opportunity to host Hunterdon Central in the semifinals on May 31.

Blue Devil pitcher Justin White struggled in the first two innings but got stronger as the game progressed and shut down the Stateliners the rest of the way to allow his team's offense to catch up. White, who yielded four runs on five hits and a walk in those innings, gave up just four more hits while walking none over the next five

innings. Statliner left-handed pitcher Anthony Ciavarella mixed his fastballs well with wicked breaking balls to limit the Blue Devils to just one hit in the first four innings. But the Blue Devils wore him down with a "foultest" that pushed his pitch count over 100 by the end of the sixth inning. The Blue Devils finished with six hits.

The Blue Devils pulled off several fine defensive plays that made a difference in deciding which team would emerge victorious. Right fielder Steve Forcash made a sparkling chest diving catch in the first inning. Matt Varakian made a saving grab in the fifth inning to rob P-burg slugger Justin Scuzorzo of a home run. White

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Westfield Baseball League
Sign Up For
Summer 2011 Season

Due to overwhelming response for Summer Baseball, the Westfield Baseball League will sponsor a summer-in-town recreation league. All children entering Kindergarten through 3rd grade in September are eligible to play.

K - 3rd grade will run June 27 - July 28 with a fee of \$50
Games Weekdays - 5 pm or 6:30 at Jefferson School
Please visit our website www.WestfieldBaseball.com to register and submit all applicable fees. Team T-shirt and Hat included.

Online Registration Deadline: June 10, 2011.
For More Information E-mail the WBL at:
westfieldbaseball@hotmail.com

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I. 2011 Blue Devil Basketball Clinic
For: Boys & Girls entering grades 1-5
Where: Westfield High School
When: Monday June 27th and June 28th (2 days)
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm
Cost: \$70.00

II. 2011 Blue Devil Basketball Camp
For: For: Boys & Girls entering grades 3-9
Where: Westfield High School
When: Week 1: Monday July 11th-14th (4 days)
Week 2: Monday July 18th-21st (4 days)
Week 3: Monday July 25th-28th (4 days)
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm
Cost: \$80.00

Philosophy: The philosophy of our camp is to teach the fundamentals of the game, teach game situations and have fun.

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II. 2011 Blue Devil Basketball Camp (4 days) \$80 Week 1 July 11th-14th
III. 2011 Blue Devil Basketball Camp (4 days) \$80 Week 2 July 18th-21st
IV. 2011 Blue Devil Basketball Camp (4 days) \$80 Week 3 July 25th-28th

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HANDLING THE HURDLES...Raider Moussa Channaoui, right, clears the hurdle in his heat in the 110-hurdles and Cougar Chris Witwick, center, tries to catch up. Channaoui placed sixth overall at 16.13.

Raiders 6th in Section Track

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

to cross first. Parker crossed third in 9:59.66 and Howard crossed fourth in 10:09.6.

"I was very surprised at that. I know I can't run that fast at the end of a 3,200, so I was impressed that he had that left. I give him credit. That was a good kick," Parker said of Nasselli. "I was happy to be in the front. I think I work better, trying to pull people with me. It gives me confidence, knowing that I am in the front setting the pace. That gives me motivation to keep it going hard and try to stay ahead of them. I was very happy when I fell back a few steps and made it back up right before that last lap. I gave it my all, so there was not much more I could have done. I was happy with it overall."

Cougar Adham McGuire, who placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20-7 and fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 41-0, was optimistic about his performance. Teammate Reggie Green placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 41-3 and Raider Moussa Channaoui placed fifth at 40-6.

"This week I am pretty happy. I fouled once, and on that foul it was 21-4, so I will get it next week," he said. "Triple jump, I got fourth place, but overall, Reggie and I are going to

states, so I am happy about that."

Raiders Mike Parada at 16.02, Bill Thomas at 16.08 and Channaoui at 16.13 finished 3-4-6 in the 110 hurdles. Cougars Chris Witwick at 59.42 and Tom Folger at 59.78 placed 4-6 in the 400 hurdles. Raiders Sebastian Valdes and Mike Tufaro both with tosses of 132-0 placed 3-4 in the discus. Raiders Alex Daboub with a toss of 157-5 and Jordan Clausen at 154-8 placed 4-6 in the javelin. Cougar Pat Lynch placed fifth in the pole vault with a height of 11-6. The Cougars also placed fifth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:35.01.

In the Group 4 sectional, Blue Devil Peter Fagan tied for second in the pole vault with a height of 12-6. Jon Henry and Sam Tooley crossed 3-4 in the 800 with respective times of 1:56.59 and 1:57.36. Andrew Kirma finished fifth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:18.28 and sixth in the 3,200 at 9:24.84.

Mike DePaola tied for sixth in the high jump with a height of 6-0. TJ Noonan placed fifth in the javelin with a toss of 145-7, and Declan Fitzmaurice placed sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 42-11.75. Rob Ciardullo finished sixth in the 100-meter dash at 11.45. Westfield also took sixth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:29.44.

See More Section Track Photos – goleader.com – Click
***** "Online Cranford Sports" *****

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OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, June 5th • 1-4PM



640 Rahway Avenue, Westfield \$779,000

Spacious and Updated Westfield Colonial close to everything – Walk to town, train, schools and parks! Eat-in kitchen with new stainless appliances and Corian countertops, large family room, first floor office and sun-filled library, wood burning fireplace in the living room! Upstairs there are four large bedrooms on the second floor including a secluded master suite, laundry room, and lots of storage and closet space. The third floor is an oasis with its private bedroom and sitting room. The basement is finished as a recreation/play room and powder room while retaining lots of additional areas for storage. The home has central air conditioning, all new windows, new roof, stunning hardwood floors, and an attached two car garage, a large deck accessed by the kitchen and family room and a lovely private yard.

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, June 5th • 1-4PM



1065 Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield \$700,000

Charming Westfield center hall Colonial with quality detail throughout – freshly painted with a neutral palate this home provides an elegant flow and large rooms, dental moldings, hardwood floors, two fireplaces and a sun-filled oval office. The home has been meticulously maintained and thoughtfully updated with a new first floor family room, new Marvin windows, stainless appliances and central air conditioning. Sitting on almost half an acre, the private yard is a sanctuary with a lovely brick patio, colorful plantings, manicured yard and a sprinkler system. The home boasts a separate in-law/au-pair suite with a bedroom and full bath accessed by its own stairway and exterior entrance. There are three other spacious bedrooms and two and one half additional baths providing for comfortable family living. Located close to Tamaques school and park, this is a very special home.

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1735 Florida Street, Westfield \$575,000

Beautifully expanded and renovated 9 room, 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath Colonial Cape w/Living Room, Kitchen, Formal Dining Room, 2 BRs and full bath on first floor. The second floor offers additional 2 Bedrooms, full Bath and Office, and don't miss the recreation room in the basement. Situated on landscaped grounds with fenced rear yard, enjoy the deck, patio and hot tub!



146 Tudor Oval, Westfield \$609,000

This spacious 7 room, 3 BR, 2-1/2 bath Colonial home boasts an entry foyer, a formal Living Rm., w/fplc. & built-in cabinetry; a formal Dining Rm.; and EIK w/built-in cantilever table; a Family Rm. w/built-in bookshelves; MBR w/2 closets & full bath; Nestled on 1/2 acre, in a neighborhood setting this lovely home features a covered front porch & screened rear porch, great for relaxing and taking in the outdoors. In addition, the full bsm't & 2 car attached garage is perfect for all your storage needs. Situated close to Jefferson Elementary School, this home offers endless possibilities.



634 Fairmont Avenue, Westfield \$769,900

This charming 10 room, 5 BR, 1.1 bath Colonial boasts a Formal LR w/fplc. & French doors to Family Rm.; a Formal DR w/door to screened porch & pocket door to Eat-in Kitchen w/access to deck; a powder room completes the first floor. The second floor offers 4 BRs & a full bath. The 3rd floor features a 5th BR + storage. The bsm't has a partially finished rec. room and separate laundry + storage room. Nestled on a nice lot, on notable street with recent 2 car detached garage, this quaint home is ready for you to move in & enjoy!



924 New England Drive, Westfield \$1,185,000

Stately & elegant Colonial w/grand Foyer, Formal LR with fireplace; FDR with herringbone floors, custom moldings and built ins; a FR w/fireplace & wet bar; 1st floor office; a fabulous screened in porch with cathedral ceiling and blue stone flooring; 2nd floor laundry; MBR w/dressing area & private bath; 2 zoned heat & central air; central vacuum. Nestled on 1/2 acre of picturesque property with inviting in-ground heated pool with built-in spa.



602 Tremont Ave, Westfield \$1,250,000

This classic, beautifully appointed 6 BR, 3-1/2 bath C/H Colonial features a grand entry foyer, front & back staircases; magnificent Palladian windows to let the outdoors in; a formal LR w/fplc. & unique double French doors to screened porch; a FDR w/built-in cabinet, fplc. and French dr's leading to Fam. Rm., an EIK w/granite counter tops; a powder rm. & laundry room complete the 1st floor; The 2nd floor boasts a MBR w/private bath, 3 additional BR's & a full bath, and 2 decks providing a relaxing haven & overlooking manicured grounds. The 3rd floor retreat offers 2 additional BR's & a full bath. Situated on notable street and guaranteed to impress!



2 Forest Glen Court, Westfield \$1,399,900

Stately 13 Room, 5 Bedroom, 4 1/2 Bath Newly Constructed Colonial appointed with beautiful millwork throughout. The first floor boasts a grand two-story foyer entrance w/FDR & LR w/gas fplc. & granite surround, gourmet kit. equipped with top of the line appliances & brkfst. area; sunken FR, w/gas fplc. & granite surround w/doors leading out to the deck. Bedrm. w/adj. full bath, Pantry, Powder Room, & Laundry Room w/access to over-sized three car garage complete first floor. With access from the back or main staircase, the 2nd floor offers four add'l. bdrms. and three full bths., incl. stunning MBR Suite & Sitting Room w/fplc., and Master Bath. The basement is finished w/Rec. Rm., Office, and full Bath. Located on a private cul-de-sac, this home has absolutely all of the amenities you could want!



128 Woodland Avenue, Westfield \$1,500,000

Unique & charming 12 room, 5 BR, 3 1/2 Bath Arts and Crafts home opens to welcoming FR w/fplc., grand LR & Banquet sized FDR both w/fplc.; fabulous center island EIK w/butler's pantry; 1st floor BR w/full bath. Second floor offers 4 additional BRs, incl. MBR w/sitting room, office and balcony. Tucked away on .99 acre of serene property, this fabulous home is brimming w/charm and character!



757 Norman Place, Westfield \$1,675,000

Spectacular 12 Room, 4 BR, 4 1/2 Bath Custom Colonial w/FLR, FDR w/butler's pantry, Gourmet Center Island Kitchen, FR w/fplc. and 1st floor Office. MBR w/sitting room w/fplc. & spa-like Bath, 2 BR's w/jack and jill bath, and 4th BR w/ensuite bath. LL w/recreation, play & exercise rooms & full bath. Prof. landscaped grounds w/fabulous heated in-ground pool & patio. Everything you could dream of and more!



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Blue Devils Jolt P-burg, 5-4, in Sectionals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

scorched a solo homer over the left-centerfield fence, and Ryan Luke later slashed an RBI single to right.

Danny Kerr gave the Blue Devils a positive feeling when he hammered a solo home run over the right field fence in the bottom of the inning. P-burg got out of a jam in the fourth inning with the first of three straight double plays. In the fifth inning, Forgash singled, scampered to sec-

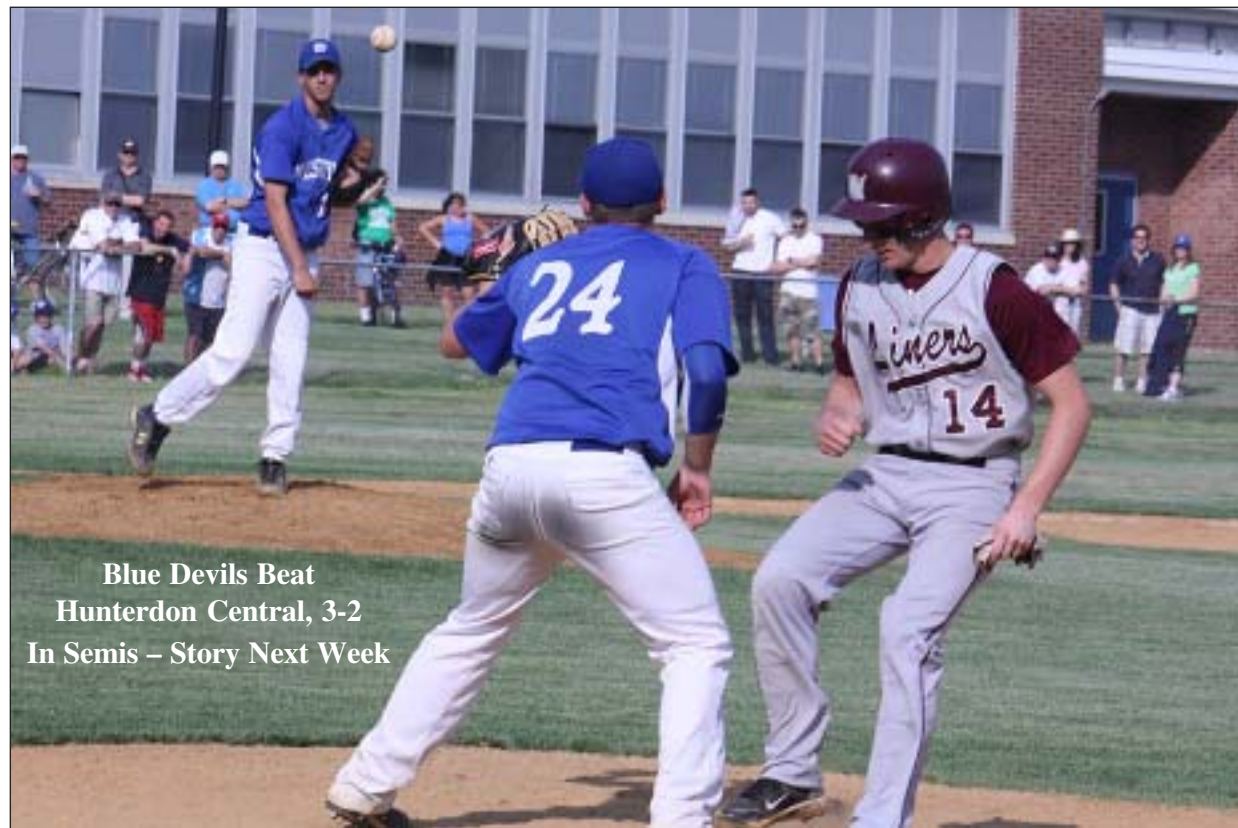
"I went up there with a good approach. I knew what I wanted to do. That's not what I thought I was going to do, but I wanted to get on base any way I could. Put the bat on the ball," Barry explained. "It was nothing about hitting any home runs. I was thinking about going along with the pitch."

Younger stepped to the plate. A few pitches passed. Bang! Home run! Bigger celebration at home!

hits a home run down in leftfield. It's unbelievable," Murray described.

P-burg's three straight double plays did have a bit of a discouraging effect. "It was a big blow to us, because they were playing great defense all day. We were trying to get to them all game. I'm speechless! It was a great game," Murray said.

"It was tough. We are a good hitting team. We know we are going to



Blue Devils Beat Hunterdon Central, 3-2 In Semis - Story Next Week

ATTEMPTING THE PICKOFF...Blue Devil pitcher Justin White fires to first baseman Danny Kerr, No. 24, in an attempt to pick off P-burg's Alex Martin in the third inning.

ond on a passed ball and scored on Barry's RBI single to right, but the Stacheliners turned another double play to end the inning.

The Blue Devils really had P-burg on the ropes in the sixth when O'Rourke drew a leadoff walk, AJ Murray hammered an RBI double to center, making the score, 4-3, and Kerr walked to put runners on first and second with no one out. But P-burg turned its third double play and got the next batter to ground out to maintain their lead.

With their 7-8-9 batters due up, the Blue Devils needed to get something going to avoid elimination. After two straight groundouts, Barry stepped to the plate as the Blue Devils' last hope. Strike one! Strike two! This is it! Bang! Celebration at home!

"I knew James was going to get a hit. I just didn't know he was going to hit a home run. When he hit a home run, I got pumped up, and Brew [Coach Brewster] kind of calmed me down before I went up there. He told me to be patient. I went 0-for-3 to start the game, so I was angry with myself. I took the first couple of pitches. I just waited for my pitch. I wasn't trying to hit it out, just get on base, and maybe get AJ or Kerr to win the game, but it went out," Younger said.

"Two strikes! Bottom of the seventh! Two outs! Maybe this will be your last game ever on this field as a varsity player here. You are a little down. This could be the end, but James is a big-game player. He comes with a big hit and gave us another chance. Then Timmy comes up and

hit. We did it last game. We came back. We had to come within ourselves. If that happens, it happens. We shake it off and come back and do what we just did," Younger said.

"Defense wins ballgames. We had good defense. They had good defense, but we came out on top," Barry said.

Run production the past several games has also been a bit of disappointment for the Blue Devils, who have been averaging double digit production all season.

"It rained. For a whole week, we were in the gym hitting. That threw us out of our rhythm, but we have confidence every time we step out on the field," Younger said. "State tournaments! You just got to win and survive."

P-burg	220	000	0	4
Westfield	010	011	2	5



TWO-WAY PLAYER...Westfield Blue Devil Jackson O'Leary guards Watchung Hills' Drew Vautin at the NJSIAA boys lacrosse first-round tournament action in Warren on May 24. On attack, O'Leary had three goals and an assist to lead the Blue Devils, but it was not enough as the Blue Devils fell, 11-7, and finished the season 9-10.

No. 11 Blue Devils Level Summit, 10-0

The No. 11 Westfield High School baseball team upped its record to 21-4 with a 10-0 shutout of Summit in Westfield on May 25. AJ Murray blasted a home run and rapped a pair of doubles, while adding four RBI. John Randazzo and Mike Coletta had two hits and an RBI each.

St. Bart's Oldtimers Men's Softball League Results:

ANGELS DIVISION: (As of May 28:)

TEAM	W	L	Pct
St. Joseph	2	0	1.000
St. James	1	0	1.000
St. Anthony	1	0	1.000
St. Jude	1	1	.500
St. Aloysius	1	2	.333

SAINTS DIVISION:

TEAM	W	L	Pct
St. George	2	0	1.000
St. John	1	1	.500
St. Rocco	1	2	.333
St. Killian	0	2	.000
St. Anne	0	2	.000

Week of May 23:

St. Aloysius 14, St. Rocco 5

St. Aloysius belted 25 hits at Unami Field. Lewis Blau (4 hits, 4 RBI) and Paul Bifani (3 hits, 3 runs scored) paced St. Al. James Richey and Nate Mangiris also had three hits apiece to back Blau's fine pitching performance. For Rocco, several players had a pair of hits, including Russ Voorhees, Walt Patrylo, Captain Jack Ley and Steve Spoljaric.

St. John 14, St. Killian 11

Mike Abrams (4 hits), Kevin Spellman (HR, 6 RBI), and Gus Alvarez and John DeProspero (3 hits apiece) led the Johnnies. Scott Curtis (3 hits, 4 RBI) and Howie Bialos (3 runs plated) led Killian. Ben Loblance and Louie Balestriere also added a

pair of hits each.

St. Joseph 13, St. Jude 7

Lou Messano had four hits and James Barba had three RBI with a homer. Steve Polak tapped three hits, and John "O.J." Simpson drove in a pair. For the Jude squad, Nick Vacca and "Varoom" Baboimian each drove in three runs.

St. Anthony 15, St. Aloysius 4

Tony Perconte's Anthony squad tallied 10 runs in the top of the seventh. "Milk" Monroy and Pete Chemidlin (4 hits, 3 RBI apiece) led Anthony. Brian Glod and Tom Baldowski also plated two runners each. Lewis Blau (2 RBI), Paul Bifani (2 hits, 2 runs scored), and Rob Stratton, Chris Paterek and James Richey (2 hits each) led Aloysius.

St. James 10, St. Annie 2

The James Gang plated eight runs in the first two innings. Paulie Campanile, Marty Bernstein and Dave Rothenberg paced the winners, while St. Anne's got three hits from Gerry Riepe. Tommy Rutkowski hurled a strong game for St. James.

St. George 14, St. Rocco 5

Marty Marks and Bryan Munoz each homered, and Jeff Friedlander had four hits for George. Brian Williams and Jack Ley each had four hits for Rocco.

SPF PAL Football Registration News:

Registration for the 2011 Scotch Plains Fanwood PAL football season and this summer's football camp will be held this Saturday at the Scotch Plains Police Department. The signups will be from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Registration forms can be obtained by going to the PAL site, SPFPAL.com

The SPF PAL football camp will be held June 27 through June 30 at the high school varsity football field. The camp will feature the high school football coaching staff and will be run from 9 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.

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Ebtsam "Sam" Sayed

Fanwood. Well maintained 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Split Level home situated on a large lot featuring hardwood floors, living room, formal dining room, family room, recently renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious bedrooms and a finished basement. Amenities include recently remodeled baths, 3-zone baseboard heating & CAC. The professionally landscaped property, with underground sprinkler system, has a lovely deck and paver patio. All this in a great location!



Adie Shaalan

COLONIAL



Scotch Plains. Well maintained 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Colonial home situated on a large lot featuring hardwood floors, living room, formal dining room, family room, recently renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious bedrooms and a finished basement. Amenities include recently remodeled baths, 3-zone baseboard heating & CAC. The professionally landscaped property, with underground sprinkler system, has a lovely deck and paver patio. All this in a great location!



Holly Cohen

RANCH



Scotch Plains. This classic Ranch style home boasts a sparkling spacious floor plan enhanced by quality upgrades & amenities throughout. From the beautifully designed & renovated skylit kitchen to the stunning stone and tumbled marble master bath, hardwood flooring & fireplace, this residence offers a home to be proud of. Set on .936 acre property includes a patio framed with brick surround and manicured grounds on a tranquil tree-lined street.



Mary Ann Lau

CUSTOM EXPANDED RANCH



Westfield. Custom 5 BR expanded ranch w/ inviting front porch located in Indian Forest area of Westfield. This spacious home is situated on a level .4 acre lot w/ a semi-circular driveway & private fenced yard. Amenities incl an updated powder rm, LR w/frpl, FDR, updated kitchen w/ brkfst area & SS appliances, lrg family rm w/ sliders to sunrm. Features incl hdwd flrs thru-out, generous dsts & storage space, 1st floor laundry, full bsmt w/ rec rm & wood deck.



Martha Schilling

COLONIAL



Westfield. Charming 3 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath Colonial on a quiet dead-end street. Large Living room and Formal Dining room with hardwood floors. Features include a fireplace in the Living room, 1st floor 1/2 bath, Full bath updated in '08, newer furnace and roof. This parklike property (80x125) is a convenient location for schools, transportation and town!



Don Villane

RANCH



Westfield. Well Maintained, Spacious 3 BR, 2.1 BA Ranch on a very private cul-de-sac adjacent to Tamaques Park. One floor living has an open staircase to a large finished basement w/guest room/office, rec/TV room, workshop & Mud/laundry room. Plenty of walk-in closets & storage space. FR has cathedral ceilings & skylights for plenty of natural light. Great room sizes & open floor plan. Fenced in rear yard w/patio & play area. Beautifully cared for mature trees.

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KELLY RIPS 2 HITS, SCORES; CHILDS DRILLS RBI DBL

Mets Nip Tigers for Top Seed In Westfield Majors Baseball

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

Pitchers Connor Scanlon, Dan Audino, JP Tyahlo and Victor Cruz and combined to toss a two-hitter, while walking six and striking out four, as the Mets nipped the Tigers, 3-2, at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on May 26 to gain the top seed for the upcoming Westfield Youth Baseball League Majors Division playoffs.

Tiger pitchers Kobi Wolf, Matt LaCorte and Kevin Campanello also did well, allowing seven hits and four walks, while striking out six Mets. Wolf pitched the first two innings and to two batters in the third when LaCorte came in to relieve him. Campanello tossed the fifth and sixth innings.

"This was actually a game to determine who came in first [regular season]. We lost. Obviously the Mets are going to get the number 1 seed for the playoff. We do have the 2 [seed], and we get a bye [for the first round] too," Tigers Assistant Coach Dave Cappiello, the spokesperson for Head Coach Al Rabinowitz, said.

The playoffs, which consist of six teams, were to begin on Tuesday, May 31, at Gumbert Fields. The Mets and the Tigers received byes for the first round of the single-elimination format.

As with most games that have been contested to determine the top seed, the showdown between the Tigers and the Mets featured a very cautious, close to the vest style and a thrilling ending.

In the top of the first inning, Mets batters Josh Schwartz (1-for-2, RBI) drew a walk, and Jake Vall-Llobera

singled. With two outs, James Friel laced a long fly to deep centerfield that was hauled in by Tiger Arthur Xiao. Xiao and LaCorte led off the bottom of the inning with walks, followed by stolen bases, but Campanello's line shot to the short-stop resulted in a double play and a pop to third ended the threat.

Mark Schiavo reached on an error to lead off the Mets' second inning. He stole a pair of bases then scored on Tyahla's RBI groundout. Tiger Matt Barmakian ripped a leadoff single but was left stranded on base when Zach Rabinowitz's sizzling grounder to third was turned into a force out at first.

The Mets extended their lead to 3-0 in the third. Ben Kelly (2-for-2, run scored) singled, and Ryan Childs hammered an RBI double off the screen in center. Schwartz brought Childs home with a single to center. Cruz also contributed a single. The Tigers answered with a run in the bottom of the inning. Thomas Habib singled and stole second. After Audino got Tom Fuccillo and Mike Mohr Ramirez out, Habib scored on a throwing error.

Mike Birlle singled in the fourth, but the Mets failed to score. In the Tigers' fifth, Wolf walked and reached third after a pair of wild pitches. He then scored on Rabinowitz's RBI groundout to narrow the score to 3-2.

In the bottom of the sixth, Mohr Ramirez drew a walk and stole second on a third. After a strikeout, LaCorte blasted a shot toward the leftfield fence, but Childs got under it for the second out. Campanello walked, put-

ting runners on first and third, then Mike Knapp cracked a shot toward the right-centerfield gap, but Kelly sprinted in time to grab it and to preserve the victory.

"It looked like a home run off the bat from Matt LaCorte then Ryan Childs got behind the baseball and made a terrific catch. He looked relaxed under the ball in a pressure situation. He made a dynamite catch," said Mets Head Coach Paul Friel, who added, "then the last one was in the gap, and Ben Kelly came flying across from right field and made a terrific catch to end the game. Those two guys have played great all year long."

"The season has been fantastic. We have been hampered by weather this year. It has been a little tough on us, but we made up most of the games. The kids have had a tremendous improvement since the beginning of the season," Coach Cappiello said.

"The parity in the league is unbelievable. Almost every one of our games, both wins and losses, were within one or two runs. The teams are very balanced. Mike Varano [League Commissioner] did an amazing job of running the league this year, from scheduling, communications and balancing the teams," Coach Friel said. "Every game was fun! All the coaches know each other, so there's a little [friendly] chirping and trash talk among each other. Win or lose, the kids were smiling."

Mets 012 000 3
Tigers 001 010 2

Probitas Verus Honos



See More Photos - goleader.com - Click "Photo Library" - 11may29-wf-flor-park
MAKING THE TAG BUT A LITTLE TOO LATE...Westfield Blue U11 third baseman Mark Schiavo makes the tag, but Florham Park/Madison runner Ryan Hebert slides safely into third at the Knights of Columbus Charity baseball tournament at Gumbert Fields on May 29.

VALL-LLOBERA HOMERS, 3 RBI; FAKTOR 2 HITS, 2 RBI

WF Blue Tops Florham Park In KOC Tournament, 10-6

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

Florham Park/Madison (FPM) brought its bats and gloves and had the Westfield Blue U11 team on the ropes until an explosive fourth inning put the Blue in the driver's seat en route to a 10-6 victory in the Knights of Columbus Charity baseball playoffs at Gumbert 1 Field in Westfield on May 29.

FPM exercised a furious and aggressive offensive campaign to seize a 4-0 lead after three innings. Kyle Dangler walked, Paul Links (2-for-3, double, RBI, 2 runs scored) reached

on an error and Steven Scaramella hammered a two-run single off the leftfield screen to give FPM a 2-0 lead in the first inning. In the second inning, Tyler Scaff singled and scored on Steven Coppola's RBI single to centerfield. In the third inning, Anthony Hennings singled, and Links laced an RBI single to center.

"Their bats came alive this game. They showed up today, and I am proud of this team," FPM Head Coach Joe Scaff said.

"They came to play. They had that big thumper, who almost hit one out. They were hitting the ball well, and

we were just trying to keep them at four runs to limit the damage until we got our bats going," Westfield Blue Head Coach Humberto Vall-Llobera said.

FPM starting pitcher Ryan Herbert was very effective with his placement of pitches and kept Westfield Blue's bats silent for the first three innings. He pitched to six batters in the fourth inning before being relieved by Hennings.

"Ryan Herbert did a great job for us. He had only 18 pitches going into the third inning, so I figured I would

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16



See More Mets/Tigers Photos - goleader.com - Click "Photo Library" - 11may26-mets-tigers

SAFE AT THIRD BASE...Tiger Mike Knapp slides safely into third as Mets third baseman Mark Schiavo makes a tag during the Westfield In-Town League Majors Division baseball game at Gumbert 2 Field on May 26. The Mets won, 3-2.

Kimberley Aslanian Haley

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
TAKING IT THE DISTANCE...Westfield Blue U11 slugger Jake Vall-Llobera blasted a two-run home run in the third inning at the Knights of Columbus Charity baseball tournament at Gumbert Fields on May 29.

WF Boosters to Honor Coaches at Golf Outing

The Westfield School Sports Boosters Association will be hosting its annual golf outing to celebrate those individuals who have dedicated their time and passion to help our student athletes excel on the field of play on June 13. Joining the Boosters will be all Westfield Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and other individuals whose direct efforts have helped to make Westfield School sports the stellar success that it has been year after year.

The golf outing and dinner reception will be held at Hyatt Hills Golf Course with a 3 p.m. start time for golfers and 5:30 start time for dinner guests. The Boosters Association has been

dedicated to providing additional financial support for Westfield School Sports since 1945. Through its many fundraising efforts, the Boosters help fund significant projects and other team needs to benefit each of the men and women athletic teams, band and cheerleaders.

The Boosters Coaches Outing Committee, led by Chairman Frank Fortino and Vice Chairman Mike Toth, organized the event. Its members include Boosters President Frank Fusaro and active members Glenn Anderson, Jordan DeCandia, Gary Fox, Paul Heroux, Anthony Masacola, Nick Norton and Leo White Jr.



STATE CUP CHAMPS...The US PARMA U16 Coraggio girls soccer team captured the NJYS State Cup on May 21. Pictured, left to right, are: kneeling; Kerry Eskay, Emma Galgano, Sophia Randazzo, Valerie La Porta, Virginia Whitman, Erica Davis, Stephanie Budrock and Leah Salituro; Standing, Head Coach Phillip Iuliano, Emily Greer, Katie Sanchez, Chanel Barham, Janet Morrison, Christine Miklas, Jessica Vaccaro, Amanda Flores, Emily Cimilluca, Kelsey Meisch, Ali Welch and Assistant Coach Christina Caamano.

WF Blue Tops Florham Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

bring him back for the fourth inning. I am proud of him, and I am proud of this team," Coach Scaff said.

What also made FPM's first three innings so successful was its superb defense.

"They did good! They, Westfield Blue didn't start getting hits until the fourth inning. Our infield was solid. Our outfield did a good job getting the ball in pretty quickly," Coach Scaff said.

"It was superb. I didn't think we were going to hit all game long. We only had one hit up until that point [fourth inning]. They were making every play in the field. That's how it is in baseball," Coach Vall-Llobera said.

In the fourth inning, after Cory Billings (2 walks, 2 runs scored) walked, Jake Vall-Llobera (3-for-3, 3 RBI), who had the only Westfield Blue hit in the first three innings, blasted a two-run home run over the right field fence. From that point, they reeled off a number of successful hit-and-run plays that yielded a seven-run outburst.

That reeling began with Steve Barden (run scored), who walked, and Thomas Gannaway (2 runs scored, reached base safely twice). Robert Norris drilled a two-run single. Mark Sciaivo singled, and Rob Faktor (2-for-3, 2 RBI), Matt Bromberg and Cory Hiltz followed with RBI singles.

"If the kids just continue to keep their head in the game, not give up too many runs and keep making contact, I thought eventually some of those balls that they were making plays on

would start finding the holes," Coach Vall-Llobera said. "That's exactly what happened. We got a walk, a big two-run homer and then after that our confidence kept getting better and better. They put the ball where the defense wasn't. We strung six, seven straight hits. It was 11 guys putting the ball in play. Hit-and-runs! We were putting everybody in motion. We wanted to force them to think about multiple things at one time. We wanted the runners to create havoc out there. It worked today."

Westfield Blue also had several fine fielding plays. Second baseman Miles Brancatella made a slick scoop-and-throw to first base for a putout in the third inning. In the fifth, reliever Jack Misinski grabbed a blazing grounder and initiated a first-to-home plate double play. In the sixth inning, Billings made a diving grab at first base.

Westfield Blue added three more insurance runs in the fifth. Billings walked, Vall-Llobera slashed an RBI single and scored when Gannaway reached safely on an error then Faktor poked an RBI single. FPM scored a pair of runs in the sixth. Links doubled, Scaramella walked, Scaff added an RBI groundout and Herbert's groundout to first brought Scaramella in to score.

"Westfield Blue is a really good team. Our team is good. We appreciate coming here to this Knights of Columbus Charity event," Coach Scaff said.

Fl. Park/Madison Westfield Blue 211 002 6 000 73x 10



Courtesy of Bill Howard for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BACK-TO-BACK SEMIFINALISTS...Adam Fischette of Westfield High School, left, eludes two West Windsor Plainsboro North defenders to haul in the disc in the Ultimate Frisbee state tournament in Mercerville on May 28. Westfield beat West Windsor for the first time in recent memory. Westfield's 14 seniors, including Fischette, closed out their careers reaching the state semifinals the last two years. In the weekend tournament in Mercerville, Westfield under coach Ryan Belline lost only to state champion Columbia and runner-up Watchung Hills.



WHEATLEY IS BACK IN TOWN...Former Westfield resident and star athlete Joe Wheatley, who presently lives in Brandon, Fla., visited the home of Lucy Arbes, who held a dinner party for him on May 19. Pictured, left to right, are: Lucy Arbes, Jaime Arbes, Wheatley, Jimmy Arbes and Brandon Cuba.

US Parma U16 Wins State Cup Soccer Title

The U.S. PARMA U16G Coraggio girls soccer team captured the NJYS State Cup Title on May 21. The Cup began with 28 teams competing for the championship and title. Once the drawing/brackets were set, opening rounds started on April 10.

Coraggio played five single-elimination games in the month long competition and outscored opponents, 14-1.

Coraggio began its journey with a

victory over Marlton Flames, followed by a thrilling penalty kick shootout victory over Holmdel Blue Thunder. The team advanced to the quarterfinals by defeating Cape Express. In the semifinal, Coraggio seized a convincing victory over the FC Broncos. Coraggio played Pennsville Flash in the championship game. After a scoreless first half, Coraggio scored two goals, which sealed the crown.



FINALIZING THE SEASON...The U10 Team, Athletica, of the Westfield Soccer Association brought its 2010-2011 combined 17-3-4 record to Manalapan last weekend for its final tournament of the year. Pictured, left to right, are: front row; J. Burk, G. Russitano, M. Koglin and J. Aronson; middle row, C. Doherty, C. Yamano, B. Scaglione, K. Armstrong, C. Amman, S. Landriau and D. Brown; back row, Coaches Burk, Aronson and Amman. C. Basile missing from photo.

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***** See Full Stories and other photos of the Sectional Track & Field Championships in *The Westfield Leader* newspaper *****

McGUIRE GETS 2ND IN LONG JUMP, GREEN 2ND IN TJ Raiders, Place 6th in Group 3, Westfield 8th in Gr. 4 Sections

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

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and the Cranford High School boys finished 6-7 with respective totals of 34 and 33 at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 Track & Field championships at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield on May 27. Westfield placed eighth with a total of 25.5 in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 meet held at Ridge High School.

Rahway ran away with the team championship in the Group 3 sectional with a total of 113.66, while Piscataway won the Group 4 sectional with a total of 72.

in 10:09.6.

"I was very surprised at that. I know I can't run that fast at the end of a 3,200, so I was impressed that he had that left. I give him credit. That was a good kick," Parker said of Nasselli. "I was happy to be in the front. I think I work better, trying to pull people with me. It gives me confidence, knowing that I am in the front setting the pace. That gives me motivation to keep it going hard and try to stay ahead of them. I was very happy when I fell back a few steps and made it back up right before that last lap. I gave it my all, so there was not much more I could have done. I

Thomas at 16.08 and Channaoui at 16.13 finished 3-4-6 in the 110 hurdles. Cougars Chris Witwick at 59.42 and Tom Folger at 59.78 placed 4-6 in the 400 hurdles. Raiders Sebastian Valdes and Mike Tufaro both with tosses of 132-0 placed 3-4 in the discus. Raiders Alex Daboub with a toss of 157-5 and Jordan Clausen at 154-8 placed 4-6 in the javelin. Cougar Pat Lynch placed fifth in the pole vault with a height of 11-6. The Cougars also placed fifth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:35.01.

In the Group 4 sectional, Blue Devil Peter Fagan tied for second in the



CARRYING A HEAVY WORK LOAD...Cougar Bryanna Grant, front, competed in the 100 hurdles, pole vault, triple jump and high jump at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 meet in South Plainfield.

ENGLESE WINS 200, 400; GRANT WINS TRIPLE JUMP Raiders Get 2nd, Cougars 3rd, Westfield 6th in Section Track

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

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) and Cranford placed 2-3 in the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 girls Track & Field Championships with 87 points and 81 points, respectively, while Irvington took top honors with a total of 92 at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield on May 28. The Westfield High School girls tied for sixth in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 meet at Ridge High School.

On May 27, Raider Erin Pierce crossed fourth in the 1,600 with a personal-record (PR) and SPF record time of 5:08.33, beating her previous record by two seconds. The next day Pierce took top honors in the 800 meters with a PR time of 2:18.68. At the Union County meet on May 20, Pierce was running quite well in the 1,600 until she collapsed about 30 meters before the finish line but got back up to cross seventh.

Probitas Verus Honos

"I had a personal best today, and yesterday I got the school record, so I put all that behind me. I came here yesterday and I was ready to run. I was focused. I had a lot of really good competition with the Mendham girls and West Morris. There were about five of us altogether, and we were pushing each other. The final lap, I thought I had a good kick, so I finished 5:08, which is my PR by two seconds," Pierce said.

Kylen Cochrane (West Morris), and Mendham's Mackenzie Barry and Abby Seel placed 1-2-3 ahead of Pierce in the 1,600.

Pierce basically faced the same competition in the 800 meters.

"We were all there again. We all know that we are all good runners, so I knew I had to go out hard. I thought I had a pretty good start right off the line. I got in first, and I just held it throughout the race," Pierce said.

Raider Osa Ebose captured first in the shot put with a shove of 37-9. Raider Danielle Schweizer at 35-0.25, Cougar Kristen VanBenschoten at 34-

10.75 and Raider Sam Renfree at 33-5.75 placed 4-5-6. Renfree took top honors in the javelin with a toss of 109-3, and teammate Erin Brown placed sixth at 91-6. Schweizer placed second in the discus with a toss of 109-10, followed by VanBenschoten at 103-2.

On May 27, Cougar Natalie
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



RUNNING WITH THE PACK...Cougar Paul Cassaro, center, runs with his pack in the 800 meters at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 meet in South Plainfield on May 28.

In South Plainfield on May 28, Raider Alex Parker was waiting in the hot sun to run his heat of the 3,200 meters. Parker, who towered height wise over his competitors, became the frontrunner for most of the race and provided shade for the other four runners, who stayed in a very tight knit pack. During the fifth and sixth laps he dropped a step behind the leader, while Cranford Cougar Eli Howard was just a step behind him. In the final lap, Parker regained the lead, but Mendham runner Justin Nasselli put on a very powerful kick to cross first. Parker crossed third in 9:59.66 and Howard crossed fourth

was happy with it overall."

Cougar Adham McGuire, who placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20-7 and fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 41-0, was optimistic about his performance. Teammate Reggie Green placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 41-3 and Raider Moussa Channaoui placed fifth at 40-6.

"This week I am pretty happy. I fouled once, and on that foul it was 21-4, so I will get it next week," he said. "Triple jump, I got fourth place, but overall, Reggie and I are going to states, so I am happy about that."

Raiders Mike Parada at 16.02, Bill

pole vault with a height of 12-6. Jon Henry and Sam Tooley crossed 3-4 in the 800 with respective times of 1:56.59 and 1:57.36. Andrew Kirma finished fifth in the 1,600 with a time of 4:18.28 and sixth in the 3,200 at 9:24.84.

Mike DePaola tied for sixth in the high jump with a height of 6-0. TJ Noonan placed fifth in the javelin with a toss of 145-7, and Declan Fitzmaurice placed sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 42-11.75. Rob Ciardullo finished sixth in the 100-meter dash at 11.45. Westfield also took sixth in the 4x400 with a time of 3:29.44.

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NOT GETTING THE BALL ON TIME...Cougar catcher Melissa Moreno does not get the ball in time as Wolfpack base runner Maggie English scores in the fourth inning.



GETTING A PIECE OF THE BALL...Cougar Olivia Salinaro gets a piece of the ball in one of her plate appearances against the Wolfpack in Cranford on May 24.

WISCHUSEN WHACKS DOUBLE IN THIRD INNING; FRENCH SINGLES IN FIFTH, VERRILLI SINGLES IN SEVENTH

Wolfpack Tames Cougars, 6-0, In Group 3, Sectional Softball

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

West Morris Central pitcher Jenny Skinner hit all the necessary spots to limit the hosting Cranford High School softball team to just three hits in a 6-0, Wolfpack victory in the first round of the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 tournament at Adams Field in Cranford on May 24. The 15-7 Wolfpack advanced to face host Nutley in the quarterfinals on May 26, while the Cougars concluded their season with a 12-7 record.

Skinner, who yielded only one free pass, while striking out four Cougars, received offensive support in

the form of a ruthless and successful "Small Ball" strategy that created confusion amongst the Cougar infielders.

In the meantime, the Cougars' hits came from Allie Verrilli and Kathleen French, who each poked singles, and Kerry Wischusen, who drilled a double. Senior leadoff hitter Nicole Ravetier received the sole base-on-balls.

Shortstop Maggie English played a big role in taming the Cougars' bats with a number of fine plays, which resulted in eight putouts. Her most memorable play was a grab of a lined shot off the bat of Ravetier in the

fourth inning.

"She [Skinner] was definitely hitting her spots, inside and out. I don't think she was overpowering. We didn't really have a lot of strikeouts. I think it was mostly just not hitting where their players weren't. I think we could have gotten on her, but the balls didn't land. She pitched a good game," said Ravetier, who has played her last game in a Cougar uniform.

Skinner never had to face more than four Cougars at the plate in any one inning. The closest threat came in the bottom of the third when Wischusen drilled her double to deep left, but when she rounded second

and decided to return, she became the victim of a fine relay.

The Cougars were, however, at a disadvantage offensively with the absence of pitcher Julie Siragusa, who had been sidelined with an ankle injury. Siragusa, who batted in the No. 3 spot, had been one of the Cougars' key hitters.

Cougar Meg Sawyer took over the pitching duties and held the Wolfpack to no runs on one hit for the first three innings, but when the "Small Ball" came into play in the fourth inning, the well-oiled wheels began to squeak.

Allie McCourt led off the fourth inning for the Wolfpack with a bunt

single and promptly stole second on the first pitch. Katie Carberry hopped an RBI single up the middle. Becca Raymond dropped a single into shallow centerfield. Cougar third baseman Verrilli handled a bunt well enough to force out a runner at third. After another force out, Kelsey Braun and Skinner rapped back-to-back RBI singles to give the Wolfpack a 3-0 lead. The speedy McCourt would finish the game with a pair of bunt singles and a pair of stolen bases.

The more furious act of "Small Ball" came in the sixth inning and yielded three more runs. Five Wolfpack girls laid down bunts, which

caused mental confusion, miscues and throwing errors and a merry-go-round of runners on the base paths.

"We don't really see a lot of 'Small Ball' from teams, so this was totally different. They had a lot of lefties, a couple of girls who did stuff that we were not used to seeing, so we had some miscommunication and some misplays in the infield. That definitely contributed too," said Ravetier, who will now play club softball before moving on to Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. in the fall.

West Morris	000	303	0	6
Cranford	000	000	0	0



MAKING THE PUTOUT AT FIRST...Cougar first baseman Olivia Salinaro makes the putout at first base on Maggie English in the second inning in the sectional game against West Morris Central.



AWAITING THE THROW...Cougar shortstop Nicole Ravetier awaits the throw at third base in the sixth inning against West Morris Central. The Wolfpack girls won, 6-0.

Cougar Youth Finds Success at Knights of Columbus Charity Baseball Event in Westfield



PITCHING A STRONG GAME...Tom Feeny of the Cranford Cougar 11/12's baseball team pitched a strong game against Newark Ironbound at the Knights of Columbus Charity event at Gumbert 2 Field in Westfield on May 29.



SLIDING HOME SAFELY...Cranford Cougar Brian Papa slides home safely in the fifth inning during the Knights of Columbus Charity event in Westfield on May 29. The Cougars handed Newark Ironbound a 17-4 defeat in five innings.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
HEADING HOME FOR A VICTORY... Cougar Natalie Englese, center, crossed first in the 200 meters at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 meet on May 28. The day before, she crossed first in the 400 meters.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
COMING INTO THE PIT... Raider Leah Salituro prepares to land in the pit during the triple jump event at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 track & field championships in South Plainfield on May 28.

Raiders Finish Second, Cougars Third, Westfield Sixth in Sectional Track & Field

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Englese had no significant competition while taking first in the 400 meters with a time of 57.22, finishing four seconds ahead of the second-placed runner.

"Mentally I knew it was going to be a tough race, because it would be me against the clock, because that would be my position next week for Groups [championships]. My coach told me if I ran a 55, the next person would be around 59," Englese said. "I tried to get out hard. I felt myself starting to slack a little bit on the back turn, but I had to pick up my knees and keep going. I am not too happy with my time, but as long as I could continue to help my team out in the sectionals."

The next day, Englese had a full workload, competing in the 100 and 200 meters instead of her usual 800 then finishing off the day with the 4x400.

"Now it's the championship part of the season. I really need to work on my speed, so I am really happy to run the 1's [100] and the 2's [200] just to get me quick, like firing off, but especially to help me with my starts. My starts will be a big part of my 400," Englese said.

Englese crossed first in the 200 with a time of 25.74 and second in the 100 with a time of 12.66. Teammate Gilliam Burke finished sixth in the 200 at 26.92. Englese, Megan Schetelich, Laura Van Horn and Jenna Ellenbacher won the 4x400 with a time of 4:02.76, followed by the Raiders at 4:05.96.

Cougars Byanna Grant, Burke and Regine Hunter, with a PR leap of 35-4, all qualified for the finals in the triple jump.

"It's going to be right by her [Hunter] PR, so we are going to have three girls,

who are going into the finals," Cougar Head Coach Pete Kane said.

Grant propelled into the finals with a distance of 37-8, the best of all the qualifiers.

"That's a PR by three inches for her," Coach Kane pointed out.

Grant's leap held up for first place, followed by Raider Camille Handy at 37-2.5 and Burke with a distance of 36-2.5, a PR by a half an inch.

"My last jump was the best that I have ever done, because I was right on the board, and usually I am a little behind the boards. I start out usually around 34, but I increase as I go along. My speed usually changes," Burke said.

Grant kept alternating between the triple jump and pole vault events then just after that, she competed in the 100 hurdle finals. Grant also tied for second in the pole vault with a height

of 8-0 and placed third in the high jump with a clearance of 5-0.

"When I go back to the pole vault, I just block out what I did in the triple jump. I just concentrate on that one event, then I just concentrate on the next one," Grant explained.

Hunter, who placed fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 35-9, must have been inspired by Grant's success in multiple events.

"I have known her for a while, so it is easy competing with her. I look up to her anyway. I compete in triple jump, long jump, high jump and 100-meter dash," said Hunter, who added, "I like him [Coach Kane] to keep pushing me. It makes me do better every time."

Grant had been greatly influenced by former teammate Kelly Burke, who placed first in the state last year in the pole vault and took top honors in the triple jump in critical meets with a distance of 38-2.

"I look up to Kelly and try to beat her personal records," Grant commented.

"We put our best athletes in the hardest events, and they are coming through for us. They are competing with each other, and they are enjoying it, so it's a lot of fun," Coach Kane said. "It's nice, after Kelly [Burke] that we have three kids coming on and scoring."

Raider Kathleen Leeper finished third in the 3,200 meters with a time of

12:00.16, while Cougar Megan Byrnes finished sixth at 12:38.71. Raider Christine Charles took second in the long jump with a leap of 16-9, and Raider Sarah Robinson finished second in the 400 hurdles at 1:07.65. Cougar Rebecca Shimonov finished sixth in the 100 hurdles at 16.22.


In the Group 4 meet, Blue Devils Anna Simon, Sirena Van Epp, Hannah Kronick and Ashley Edwards finished second in the 4x400 with a time of 3:59.1. Edwards took second in the 400 with a time of 57.27. Van Epp placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 35-1. Megan Reilly placed second in the javelin with a toss of 107-6 and Christine Mosco took sixth at 99-2.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CLEARING THE HURDLE... Raider Christine Miklas, center, clears the hurdle during her 100-hurdle heat at the North Jersey, Group 3, Section 2 championships at Frank Jost Field in South Plainfield on May 28.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
COUGAR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK... Kristen VanBenschoten, a junior on the track and field team, won the Union County Discus Championship with a throw of 104'1" and placed fourth in the shot put with a shove of 34'1". Her 14 points helped the girls team win the Union County Individual Championship.



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FELLOW HONOREES...Pat DiFabio, left, Garwood Person of the Year, congratulates Charles Abruzzo of Westfield, Garwood Teacher of the Year, at the 2011 Annual Education Foundation of Garwood Dinner at The Westwood on April 28. Mr. DiFabio was honored for his contributions to the community, particularly his 60 years of volunteer service to the Garwood Fire Department, of which he is a current and active member.

Library Program to Feature 'New Jersey Shipwrecks'

GARWOOD – The Garwood Public Library will present "New Jersey Shipwrecks" on Tuesday, June 14, at 7 p.m. Dan Lieb will speak about the sunken treasures discovered off the coast of New Jersey.

Mr. Lieb is a founding member and current president of the New Jersey Historical Divers Association, Inc., a not-for-profit historical organization dedicated to the preservation of New Jersey shipwreck and maritime history. The organization's main thrust is to discover the names of the many unidentified shipwrecks that lie off New Jersey's beaches, and to bring their history to light.

Mr. Lieb has participated in dozens of archaeological investigations on wreck sites in and out of the state of New Jersey. Most of these investigations were under the direction of professional contract archaeologists.

Having identified 13 wrecks off the shores of New Jersey, Mr. Lieb has

written comprehensive reports detailing each identification project and has had these reports published through the NJHDA Journal. This journal is archived throughout the region and is available to the interested public.

Mr. Lieb additionally has written multiple articles on the identification of shipwrecks, and illustrated shipwreck sites for several books and magazine articles including *Skin Diver* magazine. He also has appeared on the History Channel program "Deep Sea Detectives."

Registration is required for this event and may be done in person at the library, by calling (908) 789-1670 or online at the library's interactive calendar page found at youseemore.com/garwood.

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

Heart Walk to Take Place Saturday at Nomahegan

CRANFORD – The Annual American Heart Association Mid-Jersey Start! Heart Walk is scheduled for this Saturday, June 4, at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a program featuring guest speakers starting at 9:30 a.m. A ribbon-cutting event will take place at 10 a.m. to kick off the walk.

Among the guests will be Mark Holtz, chairman of the American Heart Association Mid-Jersey Start! Heart Walk and chief operating officer of Overlook Hospital; Dr. Andrew Plump, vice-president and Worldwide Franchise Discovery Head of Cardiovas-

cular Diseases at Merck; Joseph Ryan, Mid-Jersey Start! Heart Walk Survivor Ambassador, a 47-year-old Livingston resident and stroke survivor, and Nicholas Magliocco, Mid-Jersey Lifestyle Change Award recipient. Mr. Magliocco made significant changes in lifestyle, including eating better, exercising more and losing weight, after losing his mother last year to cardiovascular disease.

There is no charge to participate, but donations will be accepted during the walk to support the American Heart Association. The main focus of the event, however, is to encourage participants to get more active to help lower the risk of heart disease and stroke.

A Kids Zone will be available from 8:30 to 11 a.m. to encourage children to participate in physical exercise and heart-healthy activities.

Additionally, three different themed "tents" of Inspire Change, Create Hope and Celebrate Success will be featured between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Health screenings will be available throughout the day. Sponsors of the event include Subway, WalMart, Overlook Hospital and Merck.

For more information, call the American Heart Association at (609) 208-0020.

Local Students Earn Degrees from the University of Vermont

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Some 2,475 students were awarded a variety of bachelor's degrees during the University of Vermont's 207th Commencement ceremonies on May 22. There were some 511 advanced degrees and certificates awarded by the UVM Graduate College and approximately 111 women and men took the oath of Hippocrates following the awarding of their M.D. degrees at ceremonies of the UVM College of Medicine. A list of local students and the degree earned by each follows:

Robert D. Makowski of Cranford, received a BA in Economics; Samantha A. Manetti of Westfield, received a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology; Virginia A. Stroup of Westfield, received a BA in Global Studies; Benjamin F. Witt of Mountainside, received a BA in Sociology; Melissa K. Cameron of Berkeley Heights, received a BA in Environmental Studies; Amanda M. McGrath of Berkeley Heights, received a DPT in Physical Therapy.

Tierney Completes Leadership Program

SCRANTON, Pa. - University of Scranton student Shannon Tierney of Cranford recently completed the Scranton Emerging Leaders program, which is a series of weekly workshops for nominated students dedicated to developing and enhancing leadership skills. The program focuses on communication, social change and leadership style.



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Cranford/Garwood News



Local 2011 Rising Star Awards Final Nominations and Honorable Mentions

<p>Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>; Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i> ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Cara Costa as "Laurey" Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Catalina Gaglioti as "Mrs. Lovett" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Matthew Stoke as "Curly" Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Peter Surace as "Sweeney Todd" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Maeve Brady as "Aunt Eller" Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Rebecca Skowron as "Beggarr Woman / Lucy" ***</p> <p>Honorable Mentions Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Erica Morreale, as "Ado Annie" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Matt Lynn as "Tobias Ragg" Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Christopher Morrissey as "Anthony Hope" ***</p> <p>Honorable Mentions Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Garrett Verdone as "Judge Turpin" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance in a Featured Role Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Peter Carmo as "Adolfo Pirelli" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Member Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Emily Grable as "Dream Laurey" ***</p> <p>Outstanding Performance by a Chorus Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i> ***</p> <p>Outstanding Achievement by a Teacher or Outside Director Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Michelle Massa and Lynn C. Berry Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Daniel Devlin ***</p>	<p>Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction Final Nominations Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Anthony Rafaniello Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, John Brzozowski ***</p> <p>Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and Staging Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Michelle Massa ***</p> <p>Outstanding Scenic Achievement Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Roy Chambers ***</p> <p>Outstanding Lighting Achievement Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Michael Kimmel and Lisa Weinsrott ***</p> <p>Outstanding Costuming Achievement Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Lynn C. Berry Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Christine Hahn, Alison Antonelli and Samantha Waldman ***</p> <p>Outstanding Hair and Make-up Achievement Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Michelle Massa ***</p> <p>Outstanding Achievement in Graphic Design Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Cheryl Wu ***</p> <p>Honorable Mentions Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Sarah Armstrong ***</p> <p>Student Achievement Award Cranford High School – <i>Oklahoma!</i>, Esmeralda Fyhr, Costume Design and Costume Shop Head Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Jill Salisbury, Assistant Technical Director Westfield High School – <i>Sweeney Todd</i>, Tzvetelina Garneva, Stage Manager ***</p> <p><i>The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times</i> congratulates all nominees and wishes them continued success. The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards Ceremony will take place at Paper Mill Playhouse Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. See full story page 20 and watch for results in an upcoming edition. ***</p>
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Cranford Memorial Day Parade Photos

*** By Paul Lachenauer are on Page 5 ***

Worcester Polytech Announces Grads

WORCESTER, Mass. - The following local residents graduated May 14 from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Eric Michael Murphy of Cranford was awarded a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Lindsay Brown of Westfield was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Mathematics.

Jack Philip Sternal of Westfield was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Biotechnology with Distinction.

**** Notice to Cranford, Garwood Residents ****

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GARWOOD'S FINEST...Mayor Patricia Quattrocchi and Dennis Clark (not pictured) congratulate United States Marine Corps Sgt. P.J. Lewis on his speech during the Garwood Memorial Day Service held at the VFW. Sgt. Lewis is a Garwood police officer and recently returned from serving in the Middle East. Pictured, left to right, are: Councilman Timothy Hak, Mayor Quattrocchi, Republican Chairman John Quattrocchi, council candidate Carol Kearney and Sgt. Lewis.

Letters to the Editor

Garwood Rushed Appointment of Its New Police Chief, Lt. Underhill

As a member of the Garwood Borough Council, I believe our Police Chief Search Committee engaged in an inadequate and hasty selection process for a new chief of the Garwood Police Department. In January, Chief Legg informed the mayor and council of his intention to retire in 2011 after more than 30 years of honorable service to the borough. By mid-March, he informed us that his specific retirement date would be June 30, 2011, giving the borough more than three months to conduct a broad and thorough search for a qualified candidate to fill his position. With all that time, the committee only interviewed two lieutenants currently on the force and chose one of them as chief. No one outside the borough was interviewed and, as a result, I believe the residents of Garwood were not served by this narrow search process.

I do not believe the position was publicly advertised and the committee did not reach out to nearby municipalities, counties or other law enforcement entities to encourage qualified candidates to apply. Is it possible not one other man or woman in the entire state was qualified and interested enough even to be considered for the position? I think not.

I believe the borough and the department deserved better. Unfortunately, this hasty process may cloud Lieutenant Underhill's ascension to a position for which he may very well be qualified, and I have told him so. Indeed, I do not feel qualified to criticize or to praise him on his credentials as I am not familiar with them. To date, I have never seen his resume and have only read about his credentials in the newspaper story announcing his appointment.

The few dealings I have had with

the new chief have been positive and I find him to be an extremely likeable officer. Other than that, I cannot truly say I know him or the other candidate who interviewed for the position. I believe the committee owed it to a new chief to have a rigorous search process that may very well have served only to validate the Lieutenant's qualifications for the position. Had they done so, I would have been more willing to defer to their judgment.

I preferred to discuss this issue privately with members of the committee in order to avoid any negative ramifications to the new chief, but that avenue was foreclosed to me. I attended the last council meeting and was surprised to discover a decision had been made by the committee and the position had been offered to, and accepted by, Lieutenant Underhill.

It never appeared on any agenda I received. Had that been the case, I would have made my inquiries and expressed my concerns accordingly. In addition, as the chair of the finance committee, I do not know the salary being offered to the new chief or the terms of his contract. I hope I will find out soon as I am responsible for the borough's budget.

I wish to reiterate that my dissatisfaction is with the selection process for Garwood's new police chief and not with our new chief. On the contrary, as I told him today, I look forward to working with him and getting to know him better. It's just that I wish I had that opportunity before he became our new chief of police and that the committee had executed its mission in a more responsible manner.

James Mathieu
Garwood Councilman

Was Wertheimer Manipulated Into Freezing Dems for Change Finances?

It appears that self-proclaimed area political boss [Sen. Ray] Lesniak and Union County government has now finally closed their last loophole, in that our judicial system, overseen by sitting Judge Wertheimer, is now possibly compromised by political persuasion. It appears that this judge is manipulated by his pension or tenure and is afraid of those politicians and area political bosses such as Lesniak, Assemblyman Cryan and behind the scenes boss [Charlotte] Defilippo. Wertheimer had recently ruled to freeze the bank accounts of the "Democrats for Change" political party that opposes Lesniak's slate of "Regular Democrats." This is under the pretense of questions raised by Lesniak, in the opponent's fundraising.

This Union County government now owns the sheriff's office by allowing Sheriff Froehlich to double dip making \$250,000 per year, along with inserting Cryan in an undersheriff position with no safety, security nor law enforcement experience; they own the prosecutor's department by extending [Prosecutor Ted] Romankow's job past his mandatory retirement age, his second in command has abused his powers, according to the New Jersey Waterfront Commission on corruption report, but was not held accountable to his malfeasance, plus Union County actually funds the prosecutor's department so they look the other way if connected cronies are to be investigated.

This last judge threw out a lot of political cases in favor of Lesniak and cronies, which then had to be appealed and subsequently overturned on a higher judicial level. The tentacles of the Union County system go deep. If one wants to talk about questionable fundraising: Union County government had appointed "Regular Democrat" political boss Charlotte Defilippo, whose responsibility is to fundraise for her political party, as the director who gives out all the professional no-bid construction contracts mostly to the same firms that donate to her political party. Is that a coincidence? Where's Judge Wertheimer on that? Plus now you know why there is so much construction for Union County government buildings. Judge Wertheimer decreed that Lesniak's opponents bank accounts are now frozen until two business days before the election. His integrity and the integrity of the justice system in Union County is now compromised by politics.

We have to get rid of Lesniak, the rampantly abusive Union County government and even the judicial system that Union County political bosses control. Judge Wertheimer has now become a useless pawn in the game of horrible New Jersey politics. This county is hurting. I am voting for the "Democrats for Change" candidates to express my desire to rid of [this harmful government]. You should too.

Bruce Paterson
Garwood



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Cranford Memorial Day Photos - Paul Lachenauer Photographer



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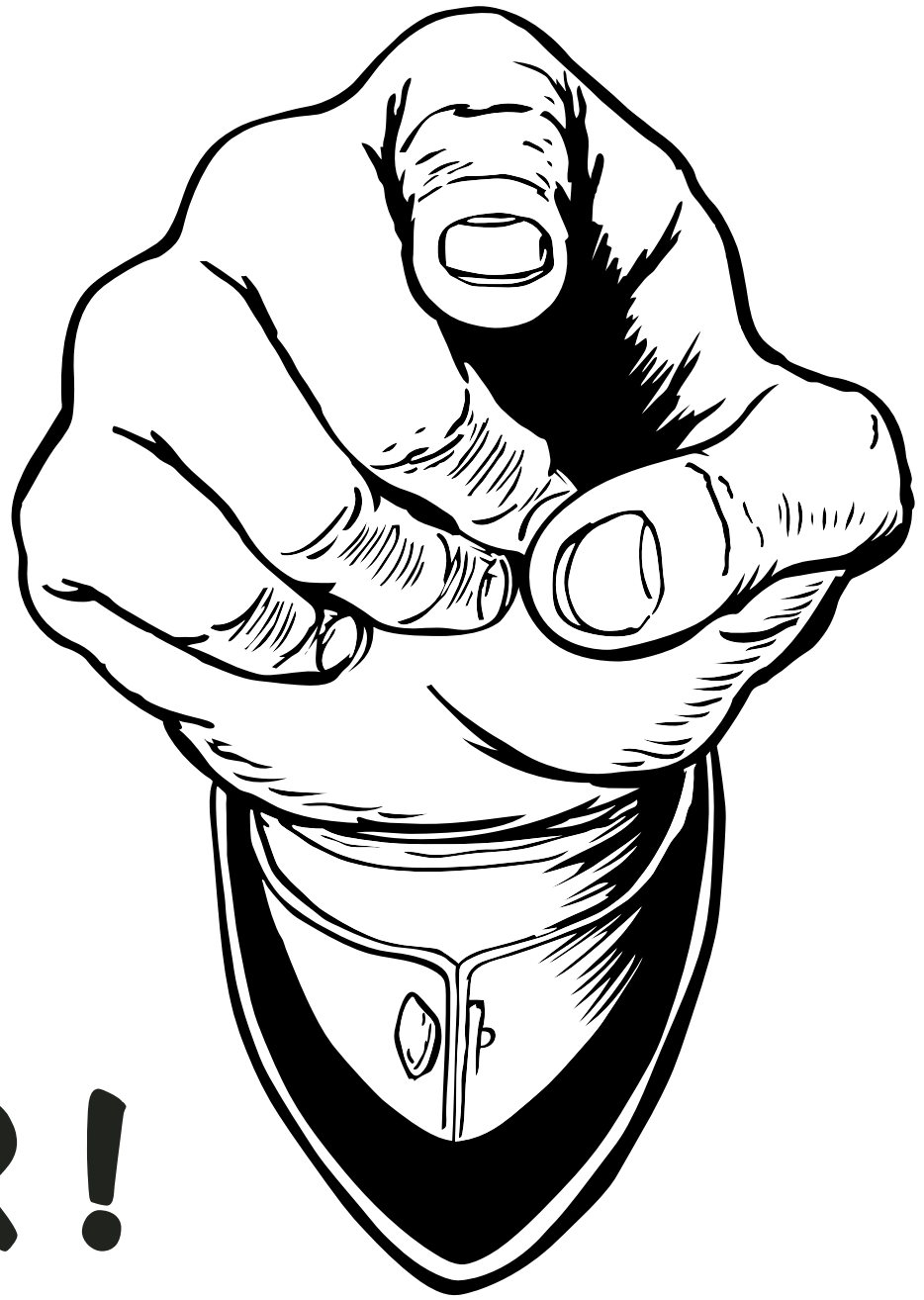
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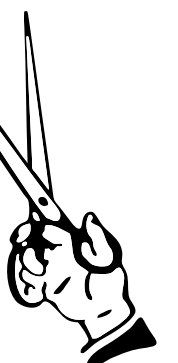
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HOOPS FOR HOPE... Westfield Public Schools' Chapters of Girls Learn International conducted Hoops for Hope, a basketball clinic and fundraiser at Westfield High School raising \$1,400 for their partner school in rural Afghanistan. The school was opened in 2003 and serves nearly 1,500 students, more than half of whom are girls, between the ages of 6 and 15. Girls Learn International is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting universal girls' education. The organization was founded in 2003 through the efforts of former Westfield Board of Education member, Lisa Alter.

Rozenberg Graduates from Muhlenberg
ALLENTOWN, Pa. - Muhlenberg College celebrated its 163rd Commencement on Sunday, May 22. Maeta Rozenberg of Scotch Plains, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Spanish. She is the daughter of Melanie Nissim and a graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High.



FUN AT TRAILSIDE... Families with children can get closer to wildlife during "Dusk to Dark" evening programs offered by Trailside Nature and Science Center, such as "Fun with Frogs" on Wednesday, June 8.

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Arts & Entertainment

Westfield Community Center - Raising Awareness Through Music

By ERIC NIERSTEDT
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Last Friday night, some of Westfield's youngest bands, including the 45's and Blue Side Down, played at the town's Community Center. The event was designed to showcase the bands and raise money for the Center.

The evening came about after several inquiries were made following a previous "Battle of the Bands" held there earlier this year.

"A lot of people were asking about having other battles after that show," Lance Martin, owner of Westfield's Rockin' Joe Coffeehouse and a member of the Center's Board of Directors told *The Westfield Leader and The Times*. "We saw how much it was getting people talking about the Center again, so we worked to get another one going."

That responsibility fell to Max Narotzky, a local high school student who chose the line-up and also performed as one-half of the Continents, a bass and drums duo.



Eric Nierstedt for The Westfield Leader and The Times
ROCK ON...Aaron Rubin, a local pop-band, plays a set at the Westfield Community Center's open mic night held May 27.

"One of the big things I wanted to do here was not make it a competition like last time," Max said. "This was purely a chance to let the bands play for an audience, which they don't get to do a lot."

Using the Community Center as a performance hall has been a shot in the arm for the seventy-five-year-old Westfield institution. In the past, the building has played host to events featuring such names as baseball great Jackie Robinson. Since the inception of the Westfield YMCA, however, townspeople have become less and less aware of the building. Mr. Martin himself admits he thought the building was abandoned before joining the board.

Board President Chris Beck has plans to give the Center a bigger name in the community. "We offer services for after-school and summer kids, as well as seniors," said Mr. Beck. "Events like this showcase highlight the Center and get people talking about it. And with enough people talking about the Center and using it, we can offer Westfield teens a safe place to go at night, instead of walking the streets."

Mr. Beck also plans to get a variance for the Town of Westfield to convert the property across the street into a

playground/community garden. So far, events like the band showcase are garnering the needed support from teens who are eager to play, and their parents. One father said, "If you play sports in Westfield, you have places to go. But if you're in a band, where do you go? Now, they finally have a place to play for an audience."

Mayor Andy Skibitsky, who attended the showcase, said that he was, "amazed at the talent the youth of Westfield have." Indeed, the sounds of the night moved through acoustic pop (the Randos); a bass n' drums duo (Continents); pop (Aaron Rubin); hard rock (the 45's); classic rock (Prophets of Time) and punk-pop (Blue Side Down).

Still, there is one area in which the Center's musical efforts can improve. The bands play in the Center's gym, with the room's echo-filled acoustics making it difficult for the bands to be heard. Max admits that to mic the room is one of the hardest parts of the event.

As the interest and support of the community grows, the Center may be able to mend this problem and continue giving support to the community and the young musicians of Westfield.



Eric Nierstedt for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CLASSIC PUNK...Blue Side Down's lead singer belts a tune at the Westfield Community Center's open mic night held May 27.

Plainfield Symphony Announces 92nd Season

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Symphony, New Jersey's oldest community symphony, continues to make history as it announces its 92nd subscription concert season. Music Director Charles Prince has another groundbreaking season planned that features a Mahler event, a Spanish guitarist, a young pianist, a homecoming for a popular American soprano and masterwork compositions from Schumann and Beethoven.

The season begins on October 1, with *Bartok/Schumann* featuring concertmaster Evelyn Estava playing the *Bartok Violin Concerto No. 2*. Afterwards, the symphony will perform Schumann's *Symphony No. 4*. In November, the symphony welcomes another Gold Prize winner from the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, this time performing the Shostakovich *Piano Concerto No. 1* with 16 year-old Justin Wong. The second half of the evening features a performance of one of the most well known classical music compositions ever written and recorded, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

The season ends on April 28, 2012 with a Mahler event that includes a very special homecoming for American soprano Lisa Dalitrus. Ms. Dalitrus grew up singing in Plainfield churches and now travels the country performing the title roles in such operas as *Tosca*, *Aida* and *Il Trovatore*. With the Plainfield Symphony, she will sing from the Mahler songbook *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* and then join the symphony for a rousing performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*. Before the concert, the audience is invited to join Music Director Charles Prince for a "Chat with Charles" pre-concert lecture and performance. The chat starts at 7 pm and the concert starts at 8 p.m.

To purchase season tickets, visit plainfieldsymphony.org. For a brochure, call (908) 561-5140.



Landscape by Gail Winbury

River Mill Exhibit to Include Paintings by WF's Winbury

WESTFIELD — River Mill Art Gallery, located at 504 North Avenue East, will host an exhibition of paintings by Gail Winbury and Mark Saenger running June 7 through July 16. There will be a public reception for the artists with light refreshments on Saturday, June 11, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the gallery.

Gail Winbury lives in Westfield and is an artist and psychologist. Her paintings are known for their evocative emotional tone, visual strength, light, and beauty. Her work demonstrates her interest in the melding of art and psychology in expressive portraits — and in oil and acrylic — showing what is both on and beneath the surface of her paintings.

In 2001, she was awarded the Curtis Hilliard Memorial Award for Watercolors at the New Jersey Center of Visual Arts. She is a member of the Contemporary Art Group and maintains a private practice in Westfield. In addition, she is a judge for the NJ Cultural and Heritage Commission Senior Art Show. Her paintings hang in many private collections.

Mark Saenger is an independent artist and a charismatic teacher. He

is the recipient of various awards, including the prestigious Copper Beech Foundation Award from the Ridgewood Art Institute's 26th Annual Juried Art Show for his award-winning painting, *The Canal*.

As a beginning artist himself, Mr. Saenger was initially motivated to paint by a college art professor who advised him to "stick with it". Television paint-along artist, Bob Ross, fascinated Mr. Saenger. He took a workshop with the popular TV personality only to find, to his disappointment, but more to his benefit, that nothing which looks so easy could be achieved without commitment and skill. From there on, he began a rigorous study of the principles of art, having to spend long hours behind the easel and miles of canvas. He has studied with some of the most notable landscape artists of today.

He enjoys helping beginners and intermediate artists get on the road to success. Mr. Saenger's goal is not only to stop time and capture a certain light effect or condition, but to ensure that the viewer can feel the warm glow of the sunset, or the bitter cold of winter.

WHS Among Top High Schools Nominated For Paper Mill 2011 Rising Star Awards

MILLBURN - Westfield High School, along with Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees, received 15 nominations in the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre, the most nominations achieved by a high school.

Since their inception in 1996 the Paper Mill Playhouse, under the artistic direction of Mark S. Hoebee, and Managing Director Todd Schmidt, the Rising Star Awards have ignited the careers of many notable performers, all of whom attended high school in New Jersey. Among the early Rising Star nominees and winners are Academy Award® nominee Anne Hathaway, Tony® Award winner Laura Benanti, and 2011 Tony® nominee, Nikki M. James.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, presented by the Investors Savings Bank Foundation, are modeled after the Tony® Awards and Paper Mill Playhouse's program serves the entire state of New Jersey with nearly 100 entered productions from public, private and parochial high schools. Paper Mill Playhouse conceived and created the awards in 1996 to give schools the opportunity to showcase their musical arts programs on a state level.

This year's Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards Ceremony will take place at Paper Mill Playhouse on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

The Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards are one of several such programs sponsored by regional theatres around the country. The winning performers in the Lead Actress and Lead Actor categories will represent the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards at the National High School Musical Theatre Awards competition at New York University, which culminates in a Gala Ceremony in New York City. The National High School Musical Theater Awards (NHSMTA) is a celebration of outstanding student achievement in high school musical theater. The program recognizes individual artistry in vocal, dance and acting performance, and honors teachers and their schools' commitment to excellence in performing arts education. The third annual National High School Musical Theater Awards will be held on Monday, June 27, at the Marquis Theatre on Broadway.

Activities will commence on Wednesday, June 22, with rehearsals, master classes, private coaching and interviews with theater professionals leading up to the live awards show where the Jimmy™ Award for Best Performance by an Actor and Best Performance by an Actress will be presented. The program will conclude on Tuesday, June 28.

Paper Mill Playhouse also awards \$5,000 in scholarships at the Paper

Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards Presented by Investors Savings Bank Foundation. Four \$1,000 cash scholarships are given to outstanding individual students who plan to continue studying theatre in college, and a technical theatre scholarship of \$1,000 is sponsored annually by Scaramouche Costumes, LLC. Paper Mill Playhouse is pleased to announce that a prize of \$500 will be given to a school receiving the 2011 Educational Impact Award which acknowledges a school that successfully connects the musical to the district's curriculum, using the production as a teaching tool for the greater student body and local community.

Among the top nominated high schools, Eastern Regional High School in Voorhees, and Westfield High School in Union County lead with 15 nominations each, followed by Summit High School with 13, Union High School and Cranford High School with 12 nominations each, Nutley High School with 11 and Hillsborough High School with 10 nominations.

For a list of local nominees see page 19.

Literacy Volunteers Celebrate Publication of Connections

WESTFIELD - Literacy Volunteers of Union County will celebrate the publication of the third edition of *Connections*, a student art and literary magazine, on Wednesday, June 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church of Westfield located at 140 Mountain Avenue.

Nearly 70 adult learners from both the Basic Skills and English as a Second Language programs contributed poems, essays, letters and artwork for consideration in *Connections*. All of the published work is unedited, in the students' own words and represents a cross section of all levels of adult learners in the community. The one characteristic they all have in common is the desire to improve their lives by learning to read, write or speak English.

Cover art for *Connections* 2011 features the paintings of Helena Araujo, a young mother of three, whose touching stories have appeared in the first two editions of the magazine. Mary Campion, Helena's tutor, says, "Helena is a remarkable young woman, who is focused on her children and bettering all their lives. Helena is truly talented and being a very modest person, she doesn't realize it!" Several of her paintings will

be on display at the celebration.


During the evening, a number of students will read their contributions to the magazine. The readings are the most anticipated part of the program as students step up to the podium and demonstrate how "Literacy Changes Lives." Tutors, fellow students, family and supporters of literacy will be on hand to acknowledge their accomplishments and support them as they present their work. Dessert and coffee follow the presentations.

This magazine is made possible in part through the generosity of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders HEART (History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands) Grant, Westfield Rotary, Westfield Service League and Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League.

Literacy Volunteers is a non-profit organization that recruits and trains volunteers to work with adults seeking to improve their reading, writing or English conversation skills. To learn more about Literacy Volunteers visit our website www.lvaunion.org or contact Susan Petrow by emailing susan@lvaunion.org or calling (908) 755-7998.



WORK OF ART... "King of Azores," a painting by a student in the Basic Skills and English as a Second Language program is one of the many pieces of art included in the student art and literacy magazine *Connections*.



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