

Commuter Parking Sales Lower Amid Pandemic Uncertainty

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — Commuter parking permit sales are down in Westfield and Cranford amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which has changed how people work, possibly permanently. According to a study done by the Pew Research Center, 71 percent of employed adults are working from home and more than half of them are open to working from home once the pandemic ends.

According to the NJ Transit website, “ridership has declined approximately 90 percent,” across all its services, including trains, buses



MIGRATION RESTRICTIONS...These ducks seem to have adhered to the Covid-19 travel restrictions and decided to stay at Mindowaskin Park in Westfield rather than fly South for the winter.

Garwood Officials Address Affordable Housing Concerns

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD—The Borough Council held its biweekly meeting on February 11, during which several council members gave reports on various issues concerning the municipality.

Councilman Sean Benoit presented the first report of the night, in which he discussed the actions of the Laws and Licenses Committee. Councilman Benoit said the committee, “did review that Long Hill Resolution (on affordable housing), and we did decide unanimously that we did not feel it was appropriate to sign off on.”

He said that Garwood had already passed a resolution on affordable housing back in April 2017 that was adequate to cover the opinions on affordable housing in the area. The committee encourages anyone still concerned to contact the state legislature about high-density housing.

Mayor Sara Todisco said, “It’s something that I plan to continue the conversation about and different avenues that we need to take a look at when it comes to this affordable-housing mandate. It’s something that obviously is required by the Constitution of New Jersey. ... People may not like it, but we have to follow it.”

Councilman Benoit reported that the Laws and Licenses Committee also looked at the borough’s social-media policy, which was passed in 2019. The committee was asked to discern if it addressed borough employees using social media on the clock. This policy does not include anything regarding employee use of social media during work hours and instead covered what could be posted by the borough social-media pages.

Councilman Benoit said that the committee unanimously agreed that the policy needed to be updated to accommodate these social-media policies. Mr. Benoit asked Borough Attorney Catherine DeAppolonia to write up an amendment or new policy

and its light rail system during the pandemic. NJ.com reported in May that the public transportation system had lost \$29 million in fare revenue by April 2020.

But NJ Transit is not the only agency that profits from commuters — towns like Westfield, Cranford and Fanwood use commuter permits as revenue to fuel their budgets.

Westfield Town Administrator Jim Gildea said via email that, in a normal year, commuter permits make up approximately \$600,000 of the \$1,700,000 parking revenue. These permit fees are collected in the beginning of the year, so the pandemic did

not affect 2020’s permit revenue.

This year, the time frame to apply for a Westfield commuter parking permit was “extended,” Public Information Officer Kim Forde said via email, “due to the uncertainty of commuting conditions caused by the pandemic.” The two questions of importance are whether or not the pandemic will subside enough this year for residents to feel comfortable commuting again and whether or not workers will want to transition back to working-in-person after almost a year of telework.

Usually, renewals are sent out in early December and are due back in January, but this year, residents had through January to apply.

“Typically, by January, approximately 90 percent of the existing permit holders have renewed,” Ms. Forde said. “This year, that number is down slightly to about 75 percent.”

She said the town is now reaching out to a waiting list of “several hundred residents.” Residents who are interested in being put on the waiting list should contact the Westfield Police Department’s Parking Services by calling (908) 789-4044 or by emailing parking@westfieldnj.gov.

Cranford is seeing similar reductions in its commuter-parking demand. Lieutenant Edward Davenport, the Cranford Police Department’s public information officer, said 295, or approximately 58 percent, of the township’s 506 commuter permits had been sold as of February 1.

“In comparison, in June 2019 commuter parking spots were sold out

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LOW VOLUME...Parking permit sales have dropped in area towns due to the pandemic. With more people working from home, the South Avenue Train Station parking lot is remarkably empty in comparison to pre-pandemic times.

Area Towns Approve Studying Consolidated Court Services

By REBECCA MEHORTER
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — The governing bodies of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Garwood have approved resolutions to “endorse undertaking a shared services study with the State of New Jersey and the Municipal Division of Courts in Union County.” The state will conduct a financial and operations review to identify sources of revenue and to see if a consolidated system could work for the four municipalities.

The resolutions call for “A Feasibility Study for a Shared/Joint Municipal Court.”

Shared municipal courts are individual courts that share staff, sup-

plies and space but keep their separate identities and court names, according to New Jersey’s 2010 municipal court consolidation plan. Each case remains in the jurisdiction of the original court, and judges are appointed by the local governing body.

A joint municipal court differs as it acts as one court system. Also, judges are appointed by the governor instead of the local governing body.

According to the consolidation plan, shared courts work best under limited duration as the money and cases of each court stay separate. A joint court, by comparison, is simpler to manage as it has just one file system, set of bank accounts and court reports.

The plan lists some advantages of consolidating municipal-court operations, such as reducing the number of court facilities, reducing staff size and consolidating administrative oversight.

After a year like 2020, in which revenue grabs like parking and court fees fell short of budget expectations due to the pandemic, towns are looking for ways to manage services using less money. In Westfield’s 2021 budget meeting,

Councilwoman Linda Habgood said the budget projected a \$1.2-million (or -6.3 percent) decline in revenue because of losses in parking, court and construction fees. Ms. Habgood said the plan was to use the town’s surplus to manage revenue losses and lower tax rates. Consolidating court services would be another way “to increase efficiencies and reduce operating costs in our courts,” Mayor Shelley Brindle said at the February 9 Westfield Council meeting.

The study itself, Mayor Brindle said, will come “at no cost to the town. ... All four municipalities are passing this resolution, which will initiate the process, with recommendations to be available later this year.”

Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights established a shared court service in December 2017. According to the *Summit Patch*, the city said it expected to save more than \$100,000 annually once the court building, located in New Providence, was renovated.

According to New Jersey’s 2010 municipal-court consolidation plan, one in five New Jersey municipal courts is part of a joint or shared-services agreement.

Mountainside Council Introduces Ordinances

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Four ordinances were unanimously passed at the Tuesday evening Mountainside Council meeting. The monthly meeting was held remotely and able to be viewed via YouTube.

Mayor Paul Mirabelli and members of the council approved the four ordinances on their second readings and public hearings. They addressed topics ranging from resurfacing and amended pool fees to solar panel applications and police department regulations.

Ordinance 1289-2021 dedicates \$400,000 to the resurfacing of Mill Lane and Rutgers Road. It was noted that the money will be replenished through a Department of Transportation grant.

Ordinance 1290-2021 increases 2021 pool membership fees by 2 percent for all pool members. This increase had been recommended by the recreation department. The ordinance also states that if an individual pays for their membership by credit card, the member will be responsible for any fees.

Ordinance 1291-2021 amends sections 22 and 23 of the revised general ordinances by making solar panels an accessory use under the borough’s zoning law.

It was noted that the solar panel area is to neither exceed more than

one-half of the footprint of the structure nor to exceed 1,000 square feet. The fee for the application was set at \$50.

Borough Attorney John Post had introduced the concept to construct a new ordinance that would make solar panel installation part of the list of accessory structures for which Borough Hall can issue permits. Obtaining a permit through Borough Hall would be the new procedure instead of having to go through the planning board for approval, as currently is mandated.

Ordinance 1293-2021 also was passed upon its second reading. The ordinance updates the 33 pages of Police Rules and Regulations.

Joe Santiago of Santiago Associates, LLC gave input for the updates. Mr. Santiago is a former police director who worked in Newark, Trenton and Irvington. It also was said to have been reviewed by the Police Committee and by the borough’s labor attorney.

In addition, Ordinance 1292-2021, which would update the storm-water management plan for the borough to comply with recent updates from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, was passed on its first reading.

Ordinance 1294-2021 also passed on its first reading. This ordinance includes infrastructure improvements

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WINTER WONDERLAND...More snow fell February 7th, creating a winter wonderland at the Watchung Fork and Lawrence Avenue.

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Photo courtesy of Allison Wicks
BRIGHTWOOD PARK GLISTENS WITH SNOW....As snow continued to fall through last week, Brightwood Park was left glistening in fresh snow.

Downtown Plans Expected To Be Public Next Month

By FRED T. ROSSI
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS – The draft of the downtown redevelopment plan was completed earlier this month, and Mayor Joshua Losardo said he anticipates sharing it with the public next month, after which the township council will review it before forwarding it to the planning board for its input.

At the downtown redevelopment meeting last Wednesday, the mayor, presiding over his first meeting as chairman, outlined some of the features of what will likely be proposed. The four public properties in the central business district will see the development of mixed-use building, with an architectural design that will give the appearance that those new buildings are no more than four-and-a-half stories high, thanks to any fifth and sixth floors being set back from the street. Any surface parking spaces that are eliminated as a result of the new development will be distributed throughout the downtown in planned multi-level parking facilities.

Other aspects of the downtown redevelopment plans include a new library, a community center and municipal government offices in a building on Bartle Avenue. Plans also call for closing the first block of Bartle Avenue to vehicular traffic and converting it into an outdoor plaza where the farmers market will be held while also providing space for tables for potential restaurants and bars.

The township’s three emergency responders’ headquarters will likely be relocated to the Plainfield Avenue public works yard, where leaves are stored during the fall collection, although if other suitable sites are identified, they will be looked at. There are discussions with Fanwood, Westfield and Garwood about sharing municipal-court services, meaning that, if successful, it would not be necessary to build any additional space for a separate township court on the adjacent conservation zone property at the corner of Westfield Avenue and Evergreen Avenue. During the past few years, as talk heated

up about developing most of that conservation zone property, neighborhood residents spoke out against the idea.

Mayor Losardo said that the financing aspects of the plan are, at present, “economically feasible” and emphasized that the township council will oversee all aspects and phases of the project. He expressed hope that site plans will be approved by the year’s end or early 2022. And he said residents will always be encouraged to offer suggestions and other input as the process moves forward.

Redevelopment coordinator Thomas Strowe said he did not anticipate any further changes to the developer’s plan before the council approves it, calling the plan “the most important document this town is going to adopt in 100 years.” He added a few more details to Mayor Losardo’s remarks, saying it is envisioned that the Bartle Avenue library will be 20,000 square feet in size while a scaled-down municipal facility will be 15,000 square feet. He added that a recommendation from Councilman Roshan White to give military veterans preference for affordable housing in the downtown will be included in the plan.

Mr. Strowe also updated the status of a number of other downtown projects, including a redevelopment plan being formulated by the owners of the former Jade Isle property on Terrill Road with QuickChek for a convenience store and gasoline station. Site plans are in the works for a three-story commercial building to be built at 365 Park Avenue next to the PNC Bank, and the planning board will likely hold a hearing next month on an application for a three-story, mixed-use building on East Second Street.

Mr. Strowe also said that the deal between the owners of Snuffy’s/ Pantagis and the Lidl supermarket chain is off. The plan called for a supermarket, a commuter bus park-and-ride lot and a smaller retail building to be built on the site. That plan is still in effect, but it is unclear if another supermarket chain can be found to develop the site.

Westfield Republicans Announce Candidate Slate

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Republicans have announced a full slate of candidates running for the offices of Mayor and Councilperson in each Ward. The candidates are: JoAnn Neylan, Mayor; Amanda Como, Ward 1 Council; Denise Garrett, Ward 2 Council; Shawn Mullen, Ward 3 Council; and James Restivo, Ward 4 Council.

“Today’s severe national political climate has divided this community,” said Ms. Neylan. “I’m running to reunite Westfield around excellent public service. We need to get back to talking to our neighbors and working together to solve the problems facing our town. As your Mayor, I will listen to all residents - ensuring every person’s voice is heard - and I will always put politics aside and do what is best for Westfield.”

Ms. Neylan and her husband raised their three children in Westfield. She formerly served as an Assistant District Attorney in Brooklyn where she helped put sexual predators behind bars. From 2004-2019 she served as Westfield’s Second Ward Councilwoman. She enters the race with deep-rooted experience in local government. As the former Chair of the Finance Policy Committee, and hands-on leader during Hurricanes Sandy and Irene, she understands what it takes to implement fiscal discipline without sacrificing best-in-class government services.

Ms. Como added, “My family fell in love with Westfield 14 years ago and has lived here ever since. Needless to say a lot has changed over the course of those 14 years. Most recently, it feels like there’s a toxic divide trickling down from the national political scene. I am a helper and leader by nature and have decided to take action to run and serve my community in the hopes of bringing us forward together.”

Amanda is an entrepreneur and small business owner. She is a dedicated volunteer, having served as the Westfield Welcome Club Fundraising Chair and a volunteer Girls’ Basketball Coach for the Westfield YMCA, Westfield Recreation Department and Westfield Basketball Association Travel Program. She was a coach for the Girls Softball League of Westfield, Girl Scout leader and troop Variety Show Coordinator, and was frequently class parent during her children’s years at Franklin Elementary School.

“I am ready and eager to bring my leadership experience and business savvy mindset to the Westfield Town Council as a candidate for Ward 2,” said Ms. Garrett. “I am committed to putting community before partisan politics, and as Councilwoman, I will champion transparency and communication, fiscal responsibility and accountability, the preservation of our small-town atmosphere and values, and ensuring we bring our children top-quality sports programs and facilities.”

Denise is a compliance professional at one of the world’s foremost financial institutions. She currently holds the position of Executive Director serving as the Americas Head of Infrastructure Compliance, leading coverage for the Firm’s Operations Divisions within the Institutional and Wealth Management businesses. As a mother to three young children, Denise is a passionate member of the community. She is an active parishioner at the Parish Community of St. Helen’s, teaching Faith Formation children’s classes. Denise is also an active part of the Wilson School com-

munity as a PTO volunteer and class parent. Denise and her husband Bill settled in Westfield 16 years ago as newlyweds with the hope of growing their family in a thriving town with traditional values, intimate atmosphere, and deeply connected sense of community.

“When serving this country in Law Enforcement and the military, politics wasn’t even an afterthought,” said Mr. Mullen. “Serving on local government should be no different. I believe in putting community first and giving back as evidenced by my background. Westfield has offered my family so much over the years and now it’s my time to give back to Westfield.”

Shawn, a 22-year resident of Westfield, is a retired FBI agent with a long career in public service, including more than two decades as an officer in the US Army Reserve. As an FBI agent, Shawn investigated fraudsters, drug dealers and violent criminals. He led a multi-agency task force that arrested dozens of individuals who defrauded public programs and recovered hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. Shawn has also served his local community for over 20 years as a member of the American Legion, Martin Wallberg Post #3. During the 2003 Iraq War, he ran the local Blue Star Banner program, which recognized the families of Westfield service members deployed to the war zone.

“At the local level, it is important to have a bias towards action and get things done. The only way we can overcome the challenges before us today is as a unified Westfield, putting party politics aside,” said Mr. Restivo. “As councilman, I will work hard for you to preserve our tax dollars, improve our parks and fields, and rebuild trust between the town and local government. I will work with all council members to erase the lines that have divided us and put the needs of Ward 4 residents, along with the entire Westfield community, at the heart of every decision.”

James and his family have lived in Westfield for over 13 years, raising their two children in a town that has “just always felt like home.” He and his wife, Jennifer, are active in the McKinley School community, Westfield sports and are big supporters of the Westfield Music Programs. James is currently employed at an industry leading organic and all-natural sweetener company here in New Jersey, focusing on marketing and managing national sales accounts.

Fire Safety for Seniors Event Planned

WESTFIELD -- Lifelong Westfield will host a virtual event next week in conjunction with the Westfield Fire Department.

The event is about home fire safety for seniors and will cover essential topics like the importance of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, how to safely use a generator if the electricity goes out, what to do if you smell gas or another odor that seems out of place and safe walking inside and outside your home to prevent falls.

The seminar will be led by Fire Chief Anthony Tiller and his staff on Tuesday, February 23, at 11 a.m., on Zoom. The Zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/9678253869> or by phone at (646) 876-9923. Meeting ID: 9678253869.

For more information, email westfieldnjseniors@gmail.com.



Marta Esquiroz for The Westfield Leader
RENOVATION REVEALED...The Downtown Cranford revealed Periwinkle’s Fine Gifts store’s new look last Friday after two weeks as the first “Takeover Makeover.” See full story on page 12.



Artwork courtesy of Kiran Dhaliwal
FOREVER FANWOOD...Scotch Plains resident Kiran Dhaliwal’s work in her “Town Redefined” collection captures local, recognizable spots in Fanwood and Scotch Plains like the Fanwood Memorial Library pictured. See full story on page 12.

Garwood Super. Updates BOE on School Progress

By JULIA BONAVITACOLA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

GARWOOD – Dr. Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., superintendent of the Garwood school district, gave an updated report on the progress of school goals for the 2020-21 academic year.

During Tuesday’s board of education meeting, Dr. Quigley talked to the board about the measures the school district is taking to accomplish the goals set out at the beginning of the year. These goals include developing a plan of reentry into in-person learning, making sure that these in-person learning opportunities support the emotional and academic needs of students and their teachers, making the website more accessible for parents to get support for remote learning and providing professional development for staff to address continued use of remote-learning platforms.

Dr. Quigley reported that 90 percent of parents who have their kids attending in-person classes are either very satisfied or satisfied with the remote-learning platforms utilized by the schools and that 93 percent of parents whose kids are learning remotely are either very satisfied or satisfied with the remote-learning program. “That is great because what those post-surveys are showing is that parents are comfortable with our platforms,” said Dr. Quigley.

The superintendent said that students are doing assessments online that provide benchmarks for mathematics and reading. The Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment for grades 1 to 4 is used for screening and progressing that helps students zero in on points of weakness to work on that skill alone. Fountas and Pinnell assessments also are being given to this age group to assess independent-reading levels. The presentation revealed that the assessment’s goal was “to identify reading levels and then to assist students in reaching their appropriate level of complex text.” Students in grades 5 to 8 also will be assessed in mathematics and reading using Study Island Benchmarks.

Dr. Quigley showed the composite scores of the DIBELS assessments to the members of the board — results that showed that the first- and third-grade students performed better in reading assessments than second- and fourth-grade students. Mary Emmons, principal of Lincoln School, also presented charts that showed that, through the course of these assessments, more students were meeting standard benchmarks in their latest assessments compared to the first assessments given. She emphasized that, while these charts were not representative of every topic that teachers covered, “this is show-

Concerns

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and we had a waiting list of +200 customers,” Lieutenant Davenport said via email. “By January 2020, approximately 476 permits were sold and there was no longer a waiting list.”

Unlike Westfield, Cranford’s police department decided to continue the permit process as usual. Parking permit renewals were due December 1, and now new applications are welcomed.

Lieutenant Davenport said that many residents have taken advantage of emailing their applications and paying by credit card but that customers also can purchase a permit in-person if they desire. For more information on Cranford parking, visit the official website and subscribe to Nixle for text and email alerts related to traffic impacts from emergencies or planned events.

Despite repeated requests, the Borough of Fanwood did not provide its permit data as of press time.

ing a snippet of academic growth while trying to keep our students feeling safe and cared for and still being challenging and rigorous.”

Dr. Quigley moved to the second goal of making the website more accessible and easier to navigate for parents. Theresa Parkhill, student assistance counselor, showed the board how to use the updated website to find links for parents to help their children. These links include educational videos and mental health information for students.

The last goal of providing professional development for staff for the continued use of remote learning also was addressed. Dr. Quigley reported that 50 percent of staff members feel that they have mastered both Google Meets and Google Classroom and that another 10 percent feel that they have mastered at least one, with no staff member feeling insecure about using the technology. Staff members also have expressed that they feel they have been supported emotionally throughout this past year. “If you don’t feel supported, or if you don’t feel your social/emotional needs are being met, how can you be in a classroom teaching children? So I was happy to see our staff feel supported, both with school leaders and with each other,” said Dr. Quigley.

After the presentation was complete, Board Vice-President Maureen Scepkowski asked if the students taking the assessments could get individual progress reports as opposed to the cumulative reports that Dr. Quigley and Ms. Emmons presented. Ms. Emmons said that she would look into the matter for all students.

Other business conducted during the meeting included a discussion on whether or not to record board of education meetings in the future. Board President Ralph Trentecosta was in favor of the board taking the responsibility of recording into its own hands. He commissioned the Policy Committee to write a policy for how this would be done in a way that follows past protocol. The board agreed to vote on this policy after it was finished.

The board of education’s next meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 16, and will be held virtually after a 5-2-1 vote in favor of proceeding remotely.

Mountainside

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and resurfacing projects for various roads within the borough, a new salt dome for public works, a pedestrian-crossing signal on Summit Road and new radio equipment for the Mountainside Fire Department. A \$900,000 down payment would be authorized for the work.

In addition, three resolutions passed. Three hundred dollars was given through a resolution for Project Graduation at Governor Livingston High School, nine refunds were granted to taxpayers, ranging from \$197 to \$5,147.72, and \$250,000 was approved for transfer from the municipal budget to the Capital Improvement Fund. The appropriations came from the following: \$150,000 from legal, \$50,000 from public works, \$30,000 from police and \$20,000 from courts and municipal fines.

The next Mountainside Council meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16.

Garwood


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school crossings; plowing all borough streets, parking lots and borough-owned sidewalks; and loading trucks with salt. Councilmen Kearney, Russell Graham and Michael Ince joined Council President Blumenstock in thanking all DPW employees for their work during the recent snowstorms.

The next council meeting will take place on Thursday, February 25.

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Pauline J. Roth, 83, Loving Wife, Beloved Mother, Doting Grandmother

Mrs. Pauline J. Roth passed away suddenly on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at her home in Westfield. She was 83 years old.

Born in Elizabeth, N.J., to Joseph and Rose Ruffini, Pauline grew up in Westfield.

A Westfield High School Class of 1955 graduate, she married Charles Roth in 1959, and together they lived for 10 years in Rahway before returning to Westfield in 1969.

Taking care of her family and spending time with her grandchildren was the most important thing of her life. She will be missed greatly by everyone who knew her.

She is survived by her loving husband, Charles; by their beloved children, Dean Roth and his wife,

Grace, of Westfield and Laura Roth Mazeika and her husband, Rick, of Middlebury, Conn.; by her grandchildren, Nick Roth of Fairfield, N.J., Kim Roth of Lake Hopatcong, N.J., Robert and Jennifer Mazeika, both of Fort Myers, Fla.; and by her brother, Joseph Ruffini of Hickory, N.C.

Due to current circumstances, the family will not be holding any public gatherings and all of the funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Pauline's name would be appreciated to the Westfield Rescue Squad. Arrangements are in the care of Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood (www.fanwoodmemorial.com).

February 18, 2021



Pauline J. Roth

Registration Available For NAMI Family Ed. Course

AREA — The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Course will be presented by the Union County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) online via Zoom starting on Thursday, March 4, at 7 p.m. This course will meet each Thursday over a consecutive eight-week period.

NAMI asks that participants be able to commit to the full series of dates through April 29, that they be able to attend from a computer, tablet or smartphone, and attend with some sense of privacy.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness.

The program is not appropriate for individuals who, themselves, suffer from one of the major men-

tal disorders. The course is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive training.

Curriculum topics include schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc.; the clinical treatment of these illnesses, and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative and how to deal with critical periods.

Capacity is limited. Those wishing to register or who have questions may contact Pat Roman at (732) 382-0762 or email patroman2@aol.com. Participants responding via email are asked to include in the subject line "F2F Course." An F2F teacher will contact them with the details.

‘Circle of Friends’ to Offer Insight Into Mental Illness

AREA — NAMI Union County will offer a Zoom presentation entitled "Circle of Friends" on Tuesday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. A panel will explore topics affecting persons with mental illness and offer insight from their own experiences in dealing with the mental illness of a family member.

The panel will include Joyce Benz, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker

and director of IFSS (Intensive Family Support Services) at the Mental Health Association in New Jersey, as moderator, and three members from the NAMI Union County Board.

This program will provide participants with an opportunity to share information with others who have a common interest: improving quality of life for themselves and their loved ones as they deal with mental illness.

The discussion will be candid, and participants are invited to bring questions and concerns. NAMI describes the format as relaxed, and audience participation will be welcome. There is no charge. Interested persons are asked to register in advance for this meeting at [zoom.us/meeting/register/d4w0msq1g4hVdGIRZyiqR1X0IViauhP](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/meeting/register/d4w0msq1g4hVdGIRZyiqR1X0IViauhP).

After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An email reminder with a clickable link to register will be emailed to those who have provided an email address.

To change one's name as it appears onscreen after entering a Zoom meeting, click on the "Participants" button at the top of the Zoom window. Next, hover the mouse over one's name in the "Participants" list on the right side of the Zoom window, click on "Rename," then enter the name one would like to appear in the Zoom meeting (example: first name only or Anonymous, etc.) and click on "OK."



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— Obituaries —

Juliette Lewis, Loving Mother And Devoted Wife of 69 Years

Juliette Lewis of Scotch Plains entered peacefully into eternal rest on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at the age of 92. A funeral mass to celebrate Juliette's life was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains. Contributions and donations can be made in Juliette's memory to St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.

Born in Newark, N.J., to Joseph and Margaret Derochie, Julie was raised in West Orange, where she attended West Orange High School, graduating in 1946. She attended St. Elizabeth College (now St. Elizabeth University) in Convent Station, N.J. She completed her post-secondary education at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Arts in English. She was a sister in the Sigma Kappa Sorority, and an active participant in the college Drama Society, Canoe Club and Radio Club. She also developed a love of swimming, which carried over to the rest of her life.

She met her husband, Louis, a



Juliette Lewis

returning World War II serviceman, while in college and they were married in 1951 after both had graduated. They recently celebrated their 69th anniversary, the last 54 residing in Scotch Plains. She was an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church in Scotch Plains, and shared her time and talent as a substitute teacher as well as with other service activities such as the Mount Saint Mary House of Prayer, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League, and the St. Bartholomew-UNICO Labor Day Festival.

Julie is predeceased by her beloved West Highland Terrier, Max, who was the subject of much pampering and on whom she doted. She is survived by her husband, Louis; her daughters, Susan Lewis of Scotch Plains and Julie Malinowski (Michael) of Lumberton; her son, Michael Lewis (Margaret) of Fanwood, and was a cherished grandmother to Alexis and Rebecca, who will be remembered for a full life lived with grace and dignity.

February 18, 2021

Helga M. Elliot, Beloved Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother

Mrs. Helga Martha Elliot passed away peacefully in her own home on Thursday, February 4, 2021, after a brief illness. In her early years as a nurse, she worked as head nurse in London, Cairo and the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. She lived in Westfield for the past 60 years. She was a school nurse at Edison Junior High School and the Westfield High School. She then worked as a school nurse and social worker at The West Lake School System.

She was married to the love of her life for 32 years, Capt. Stephen H. Elliot, who predeceased her in 1992. She is survived by her son, Charles Stephen Elliot, and his



Helga Elliot

wife, Cyndi; her granddaughter, Sandra Cardoso, and her husband, Joseph, and their son, Logan William; her grandson, Charles Stephen Elliot, Jr., and his wife, Samantha, and their son, Arthur Stephen; her nephew, Andre Jasche, and his wife, Jana, and their daughter, Amanda; also her extended family, Allyson, Jason, Zachary and Jacob Katz, Jessica, John, Riley, Lucy and Johnny Hoff, Lauryn, Christopher, Penelope and Roman Beardslee.

Arrangements are by Gray Funeral Home of Westfield. Please go to grayfuneralhomes.com to offer condolences.

February 18, 2021

JFSCNJ Plans Training For Cert. Home Health Aides

AREA — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ) is offering a four-week Certified Home Health Aide Training Class beginning on Monday, March 1.

"The course will put you on the path to a new career as a certified home health aide, a field that is rapidly growing with 10,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 each day," said Maria Mullen, RN, JFSCNJ director of nursing, in announcing the class. The program will end on Thursday, March 25.

Due to Covid-19, the JFSCNJ

Certified Home Health Aide Training Program will take a hybrid approach to remote and in-person instruction with social-distancing regulations in place. Lectures will be remote and clinical exercises will take place part time in the state-of-the-art training lab at the JFS Halpern Building, located at 655 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth.

Classes will be held Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for four weeks, with a half-hour lunch break. The JFSCNJ Certified Home Health Aide Training Program meets all of the requirements of the New Jersey Board of Nursing. The fee for the class is \$75 for books and materials. Ample on-site parking is available.

The JFSCNJ Certified Home Health Aide Training Program is funded by The Fred C. Rummel Foundation.

An interview and pre-screening is required before individuals can be accepted into the Certified Home Health Aide Training Program. Interested persons are asked to contact Karen Winter, RN, at kwinter@jfscentrlnj.org or to call (908) 352-8375.

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Klara Crocco, 82, Lived In Westfield; Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Sister

It is with great sadness that the family of Klara Crocco announces her passing on Saturday, February 13, 2021, with her children by her side.

Klara did have COVID-19 last year, but surprisingly, despite her COPD, was able to recover from the disease.

Born April 8, 1938 in Köhlen (Geestland), Germany, to Klara (Kornahrens) and Klaus Jürgens, Klara decided at age 18 that she wanted to venture to the United States. She left her family, her farm, and bravely boarded the M/S Berlin and sailed with a friend to start a new life in America. Her first stop was Cranford. There she began exploring, learning a new language and new culture.

In 1959 she married William "Bill" Crocco. They settled in his hometown of Westfield, where they raised their family in his family home.

She proudly became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1970 and never missed voting in an election — particularly in November! She was looking forward to the Biden inauguration, as she was not a fan of Donald Trump.

Klara worked at Petal Products in Westfield and the hearing aid division of Siemens in Piscataway. She was a member of the Deutscher Club in Clark for many years, and proudly walked in the Steuben Day Parade in NYC.

Her interests included gardening, birdwatching, handicrafts and dancing.

She enjoyed baking and cooking, and although she had some favorite German recipes, her pot roast and sausage and meatballs were everyone's favorites. Klara loved to travel — the Jersey shore, Cape Cod, Colorado and Florida, as well as trips to the casinos. However, nothing compared to the times she got to visit her family in Germany.

Klara was adventurous — camping in Shenandoah, country line dancing, white-water rafting, and even day trading. She was always



Klara Crocco

willing to try new things — except swimming!

Omī, as her grandchildren called her, looked forward to any time she could spend with them, and would pretty much go anywhere and do anything her grandchildren asked.

She invented games like heads or tails to entertain them for hours. They had great times at the beach, going to plays, playing cards, traveling, or just being together.

She was very kind, generous, had a big heart, and was loved by all who knew her. Klara was independent, strong, determined, resilient, had a great sense of humor, and admittedly was a little bit stubborn.

She will be missed by her children, Arleen (Dave) McGlade and Tom; grandchildren, Jasmine and Grace (Chris); one great-grandchild, Hudson; sisters, Kathe Marie, Annegret and Henny, as well as other family members and friends. Klara was predeceased by her parents; husband, William, in 1993, and brother, Heine.

Many sacrifices were made and challenges were overcome. Klara always spoke up and followed her own path — truly inspirational life lessons learned. We are all grateful for her choices, bravery and footsteps; without those, we would not be here or have the life we have today.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Klara Crocco's name to: The Friends of Mindowaskin Park, The Friends of Mindowaskin, Inc., P.O. Box 87, Westfield, N.J., 07091.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff at Brighton Gardens of Mountainside for their care, compassion and kindness.

A private service will be held at the family's request.

For additional information or to express condolences, please visit www.grayfuneralhomes.com. Arrangements are by Gray Funeral Home of Westfield.

February 18, 2021

Blood Drive to Take Place February 25 in Clark

CLARK — In conjunction with February being American Heart Month, a blood drive will take place next Thursday, February 25, from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, located at 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

To schedule an appointment, visit nybc.org/njdrive, sponsor code 11959, or call/text Genevieve at (732) 672-5281. Participants are reminded to eat and drink before-

hand and to bring a donor identification card or identification with their name and photo.

Donors must wear a mask or face covering; will have their temperature taken, and must be 14 days symptom-free if recovered from Covid-19. Individuals may not donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or have experienced symptoms of Covid-19 in the prior 14 days, or currently are on self-quarantine restrictions.

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Cranford	3 PARKWAY VLG	OneFloor	4	1	1.0	0	\$240,000		
Cranford	15 HILLCREST AVE	Colonial	9	3	1.0	1	\$435,000		
Cranford	19 LaSalle Avenue	Colonial	8	4	2.1	1	\$575,000		
Cranford	27 WADSWORTH TER	SplitLev	10	4	2.0	1	\$645,500		
Cranford	32 PRINCETON RD	SplitLev	11	4	2.1	2	\$606,525		
Fanwood	115 N MARTINE AVE	Colonial	14	5	3.0	0	\$525,000		
Scotch Plains	441 WILLOW AVE	CapeCod	8	3	2.0	0	\$425,000		
Scotch Plains	828 CLEVELAND AVE	Ranch	12	4	3.1	2	\$720,000		
Scotch Plains	2236 PAFF PL	Colonial	9	4	4.0	1	\$830,000		
Scotch Plains	2028 DOGWOOD DR	SplitLev	9	4	4.0	1	\$1,080,000		
Westfield	447 DOWNER ST	Colonial	5	2	1.0	1	\$322,000		
Westfield	1015 GRANDVIEW AVE	Ranch	6	3	1.0	0	\$447,319		
Westfield	10 EVERGREEN CT	Colonial	11	4	2.1	2	\$1,039,000		

*Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield, NJ data according to the Garden State MLS, as of 2/7/21 – 2/14/21. Featured properties may not have been listed or sold by the office/agent presenting this data. Information deemed RELIABLE. A home is one of the most important and significant purchases or sales you will make in your lifetime. If you are thinking about a move, now is the time to prepare. I will provide you with a market evaluation and mortgage update, create a thorough marketing plan and let you know my suggestions in staging. For more information on these or other real estate matters, contact Susan Massa Broker CRS SRES ABR at 908-400-0778, susan@susanmassa.com or susanmassa2@gmail.com. www.NJHomeShowcase.com www.summitwestfieldhomes.com.

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Scholarships For 2021 Are Available From CWC

WESTFIELD — The College Woman’s Club (CWC) of Westfield has announced that its 2021 scholarship application process is open. The club assists young women from Westfield who are graduating seniors in fulfilling their college aspirations. The application is available on the club website, <http://bit.ly/CWC21Application>.

The application details what candidates need to successfully submit their application. Applicants are asked to deliver their sealed envelope to the Guidance Office at Westfield High School or, optional for 2021, to email their application, essay, recommendation and transcript to brucia@verizon.net. Applicants are asked not to email their FASFA®.

Alternatively, all applications and letters may be placed in a large envelope and mailed to: CWC, care of Judy Brucia, 806 Park Place, Springfield, N.J. 07081-3524.

Applications are due on or before Monday, March 15, 2021, in order to be considered.

This scholarship is open to young women graduating from high school who reside in Westfield. Applicants must have lived in Westfield for more than 12 months to be eligible. Applicants must apply to a four-year accredited college or university.

Anyone experiencing any difficulty with downloading the application, or who has further questions, is invited to visit cwcwestfield.org or to email the club at: cwc.westfield@gmail.com.

Westfield Service League Seeks Grant Applicants

WESTFIELD — Union County organizations in need of a small financial boost may now apply for a grant from the Westfield Service League (WSL). Grant applications for 2021 are available to local and area nonprofits (registered 501c3 organizations) in Union County. To request an application, send an email to wslgrantapplication@gmail.com.

The deadline to submit a completed application is Tuesday, February 23. Grants will be awarded in June.

Since 1941, WSL has distributed \$2.8 million in grants to various agencies such as CASA of Union County, Contact We Care, Covenant House, Habitat for Humanity, Mobile Meals, Westfield

Food Pantry, The Arc of Union County and St. Joseph Social Service Center.

For 89 years, the WSL has served Westfield and Union County as a service organization and resale shop. It offers a mix of new and gently-used clothing for sale through its consignment and thrift shops. The shop proceeds help make it possible for WSL to award grants to other Westfield and Union County nonprofit and service organizations.

The WSL Thrift and Consignment Shops are located at 114 Elmer Street, Westfield. For more information, visit thewestfieldserviceleague.org.



BOILING POINT...Seventh-grade students at The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison recently observed phase changes in matter by measuring the temperature of water from ice to steam. Observing Covid safety protocols, the students worked in small groups as they observed and communicated data to each other after predicting what would happen to the temperature after the water reaches boiling. Each student then plotted the data to create and analyze a phase-change graph to understand the concept that the temperature of a substance only changes after the phase change is complete. Pictured, Cydney Strauss and Douglas Bonner, both from Westfield, keep their eyes on the beaker during their science-class experiment.

College Club to Spotlight Clean-Water Advocate

FANWOOD/SCOTCH PLAINS — The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will host a Zoom program by Jim Leitner, a Scotch Plains native who is the founder of Mission Clean Water, on Monday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Leitner’s dream is a world where everyone has access to clean water and he is working to make that a reality.

In 2017, he walked from New Jersey to California pulling 10 gallons of water to raise money for a water system in Tanzania. He was able to build wells and to repair broken wells. In the fall of 2019, he ran 100 miles in 24 hours at Tamaques Park. Before his cross-country trek he ran a marathon a month for 12 straight months while carrying 45 pounds of water on his head.

Since 2018, Mr. Leitner has funded and implemented clean-wa-

ter systems that have helped 1,500 students and 4,500 members of the general population gain access to drinking water.

His program will focus on his motivation and his experiences while working to fulfill his dream.

To learn more about Mr. Leitner and hear his remarkable story, send an email to tishisack17@gmail.com to receive a Zoom link to be able to view the program.

Further information about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains can be found on the club’s website, fspcollegeclub.org.

Dean College Places Dana Garbarini On Fall Dean’s List

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Dean College has announced that Dana Garbarini of Cranford has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin, Mass., 45 minutes from Boston, Mass., and Providence, R.I. It offers baccalaureate degrees and associate degree programs, as well as part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.



SEW SPECIAL...Maev Collins, a senior at Westfield High School, recently won first place in the Westfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Fashion Competition. Pictured wearing her award-winning sweater, Maev fashioned her unique garment using 42 acrylic yarn hand-crocheted squares, using her own original pattern, and sewed them together to create a 70’s-inspired cardigan. She did this with no formal sewing instruction and started the project to keep her hands busy and maintain focus during Zoom classes for school. Originality, attention to detail, construction, degree of difficulty and choice of colors earned her the first-place certificate and cash award.

Jaclyn Dencker of Westfield Receives Diocesan Award

WATCHUNG – Jaclyn Dencker of Westfield was one of three seniors at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung to be honored during a virtual ceremony held by the Diocese of Metuchen on the evening of January 26.

Together with Katherine Kwiatkowski of Metuchen and Tara Schilke of Pittstown, Jaclyn was presented with the St. Timothy Award. Katherine also received the diocese’s St. Teresa Award.

The awards were presented by Megan Vantslot, director of the Diocese of Metuchen’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, as well as Bishop James F. Checchio.

According to Ms. Vantslot, the St. Timothy Award recognizes high-school-aged youth who live as disciples of Jesus Christ, demonstrate Gospel values, witness to their faith by exhibiting Catholic morals and integrity, and reflect Christian leadership in a variety of settings.

“I am so honored to have received the St. Timothy Award. I hope that by receiving this award, and serving as a leader in the Mount

community, I can encourage and inspire as many people as possible to help and connect with those in need,” said Jaclyn.

“My faith in Jesus has guided me to not focus on what put those in need in the situation that they are in, but to put their needs before mine, love them as my brother or sister, and serve them as Jesus would,” she said.

Jaclyn is the secretary of the Mount Saint Mary Academy Student Council Executive Board. She has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten, and she is a volunteer at St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth, where she makes sandwiches every week during the pandemic. Jaclyn attended two service trips with her parish, the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. She also is a part of the Peer Ministry Club at Mount.

According to Ms. Vantslot, the St. Teresa Award, named after St. Teresa of Calcutta, is bestowed to only four students in the diocese. These students bring the love of Christ through their good works to the poor, lonely, sick, and homeless.



Jaclyn Dencker

Local Residents Named To U. of Delaware Dean’s List

NEWARK, Del. — Seventy-seven local students have been named to the University of Delaware Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. The honorees are as follows:

Cranford — Alison Balkan, Madalyn Castle, Peter Cohen, Mandara Corlett, Madison Davison-Flynn, Lucy Fetsko, Jon Iosso, Patrick Jarosz, Kristen Liloia, Grace Markham, Kelly McAuliffe, Ryan McGovern, Michael Meola, Benjamin Quinutolo, Meghan Santarelli, Jacob Snover, William Steele, William Testa, Riley Thompson, Noah West.

Fanwood — Ryan Bell, Gianna Cassara, Elizabeth Kern, Cara Leegan, Danielle Vuono.

Garwood — Sofia Gonzalez-Nolde.

Mountainside — Christopher Bruno, Jack Hall, Amanda Radick, Avery Roland, Ethan Saia, Alexa Saldida, Hailey Senkarik, Kate Uray, Cristall Vilasoa.

Scotch Plains — Sophie Drapkin, Lauren Eck, Matthew Fox, Ryan Gumpel, Matthew Johnson, Amanda McGrath, Jessica Mongold, Molly Pritchett, Sarah Rata, Evan Scharf, Emily Smulewitz, Chelsea Tavares, Nicole Tavares, Samuel Venick, Kelsey Werkheiser.

Westfield — Jillian Alvarado, Ashley Amman, Olivia Aurigemma, Kaela Azzaretto, Lee Beauchamp, Katelyn Bromberg, Elizabeth Brown-Cordero, Julia Burk, Tyler Devitt, Christina Di Bella, Karen Forbes, Ethan Friedman, Julie Greenberg, Nicolas Guerrero, Alexandra Gulla, Daniel Gunchar, Alexa Habib, Kamryn Lombardi, Olivia Mueller, Hannah Rinn, Emily Rossi, Alexandra Sacher, Perry Salberg, Matthew Schiff, Erica Schoenfeld, Devin Simpson, Tessa Verga.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean’s List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

Cedar Crest Names Local Residents To Fall Dean’s List

ALLENTOWN, Pa. — Cedar Crest College congratulates Mackenzie Inacker of Scotch Plains and Kaylen Ledford of Cranford on making the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. The Dean’s List recognizes students who have earned a grade point average of 3.65 or higher in the academic semester.

Founded in 1867, Cedar Crest College currently enrolls approximately 1,700 students — full-time, part-time and graduate — in more than 50 fields of study. The college is located in Allentown, Pa.

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Westfield Patrons Can Use Neighboring Libraries

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library currently is closed because of a heating issue. While the library is closed, the Clark, Mountainside and Scotch Plains libraries have agreed to let Westfield residents use their libraries on a limited basis. Services and procedures will vary between libraries. Visitors are asked to call before they come. The Westfield Library asks that anyone using these libraries remain courteous and respectful of their procedures.

All residents using the curbside services at the Clark, Mountainside and Scotch Plains libraries must have a Westfield Library card. Those who do not have a Westfield Library card can get one by clicking on the Get a Card tab on the Westfield Memorial Library’s website, wmlnj.org.

Clark Public Library

Patrons can place items on hold online with the Clark Public Library — LS2PAC (clarklibrary.org) by logging in with their library card and PIN. If patrons need assistance with their card information or help to place items on hold, they may call (732) 388-5999. When patrons’ items are ready to be picked up, they will receive a call. The order is not ready until the phone call is received.

Upon arrival at the library, borrowers should call (732) 388-5999 to let a staff member know they are outside. To keep this a contact-free service, patrons are asked to wear a mask when going to the table where they will pick up the items. A staff member will then bring the borrowers’ items to the table outside the library for retrieval. The Clark Public Library is located at 303 Westfield Avenue.

Hours are Monday, Wednesday and

Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mountainside Public Library

Requests for materials and guidelines on curbside procedures can be fulfilled by calling (908) 233-0115. The Mountainside Public Library is located at 1 Constitution Plaza.

Scotch Plains Public Library

Requests for materials can be placed by calling (908) 322-5007. Patrons cannot place holds via the library’s website.

Patrons will be notified by email or by phone when their items are ready, and a date to pick up the materials can be scheduled. The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue.

Pickup times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 2 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Once patrons have arranged a pickup day and time, their items will be available for pickup on a table near the library’s front entrance. The items will be in a sealed bag marked with the last name and first initial, and checked out to the patron, with the checkout receipt in the bag.

Westfield patrons can still access the library’s many digital services and online programs by visiting the library’s website. The library also has included additional programs on its YouTube channel, which can be found at youtube.com/user/westfieldmemoriallib, or by clicking on the YouTube icon on the library’s website.

Zoom Fitness Class Focuses On Brain as Well as Body

SCOTCH PLAINS — Through funds provided by the All of Us Research Program, the Scotch Plains Public Library is offering a series of weekly classes in “Moving with Awareness for Better Balance and Fitness.” Taught live via Zoom by instructor Yasmin Ofek, the classes are held on Friday mornings, beginning at 10 a.m., and will continue through April. No prior attendance is needed and participants may join at any point during the series.

While gently challenging their muscles and joints, participants will not be asked to push beyond their comfort level or to move too quickly, or to do anything that interferes with their ability to clearly sense how they are moving. Ms. Ofek demonstrates different movement sequences, done both seated and standing (using the chair for support if needed).

The goal is that, by paying close attention, the brain can learn new options for movement that may be better than ones participants habitually and unconsciously choose. Participants will be encouraged to pause between movements, in order to give their concentration a break so that they will be ready to keep learning.

Older adults in particular are encouraged to join these classes, which

are intended to address the loss of balance and strength that can occur as people age.

Ms. Ofek’s instruction combines her background in the Feldenkrais Method, which emphasizes moving with awareness, with her knowledge of anatomy and experience as a fitness trainer. Her classes are designed to improve the connection between the brain and body, while gently strengthening the muscles that keep the body upright.

All that participants need are a chair and sneakers. Live closed captioning is available for these classes.

Registration for each class is required. To sign up, visit scotlib.org events or call the library at (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204. Participants will be sent the Zoom link prior to the class.

Developed resources reported in this project are supported by the National Library of Medicine (NLM), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under cooperative agreement number UG4LM012342 with the University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH.

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Lauren Monteiro On Hofstra Dean’s List

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Lauren Monteiro of Mountainside excelled during the Fall 2020 semester at Hofstra University, achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 to earn a spot on the Dean’s List.

A private university enrolling 11,000 students, Hofstra is the only school to ever host three consecutive Presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). Students can choose from more than 165 undergraduate program options and 175 graduate program options.

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Do the County Commissioners Need Another Pay Raise?

We don't know whether to file this under "Tone-Deaf" or "You Must Be Kidding." But after a year when thousands of Union County residents lost their jobs due to the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns, the decision by the Union County Board of County Commissioners to grant themselves, the county manager and department heads 2-percent pay raises is a slap to county taxpayers, many of whom continue to struggle financially.

Serving in government — whether at the federal, state, county or local level — should always be seen as a way to selflessly do good works for the people, not as a money-making endeavor. Yet the county commissioners, whose positions are decided part-time, unanimously signed off on salary increases for 2021 from \$33,466 last year to \$34,135. The chairman's salary will rise by an additional \$2,323 while the vice-chair will enjoy an extra \$1,156 this year. We'd bet plenty of people would love a part-time job making that kind of money.

Keep in mind that these taxpayer-financed positions make them eligible for either the state pension ben-

efits or the defined contribution retirement plan, depending on when they first took office. And some also are on public payrolls elsewhere in the area, including Chairman Alexander Mirabella, who is in his seventh year as full-time township manager in Scotch Plains, where he continues to accumulate state pension credits. Vice-Chair Rebecca Williams is a full-time faculty member at Essex County College. Commissioner Angela Garretson previously served as Hillside mayor and is employed by New Jersey Institute of Technology. Other incumbent commissioners have been or currently are employed by state pension-eligible entities including Kean University, the Motor Vehicle Commission and local school districts.

Our state legislators, meanwhile, are paid a bit more for their part-time positions — \$49,000 annually — but have not had a salary increase in 20 years. And most local mayors and council members are paid a nominal salary or nothing at all.

Why the county commissioners thought it wise to boost their own salaries as well as those of the county

manager and all department heads is a mystery to us. Posing for photos handing out food to the hungry, while giving themselves a pay raise, is bad optics and a poor decision. Especially when taxpayers in Union County are already burdened with ridiculously high property taxes and per capita income, \$41,603 as of 2019, is not much higher than a part-time commissioner's salary.

Union County's unemployment rate leaped last year as the pandemic and business closures and layoffs spread, from 3.9 percent in March to 16.4 percent in June. And it's still twice the level of a year ago. The Census Bureau estimated in 2019 that 9 percent of county residents lived in poverty, and it's a sure bet that rate has increased over the past year.

Commissioner Christopher Hudak said this year's county budget will not increase for a second straight year. That's good news, but it does not excuse the unnecessary and indefensible salary increases, for a second straight year, for public servants in part-time positions. The county has long boasted that "we're connected to you"...But are they, really?

Educator's Corner: Biographies For Black History Month

By JENNIFER GLACKIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader/Times

Biographies are great ways to teach kids perseverance, goal setting, accountability, grit, perspective and empathy. Black History Month began a way to honor the achievements of Black Americans. With both of those ideas in mind, here are some biographies of groundbreaking African Americans.

"Wilma Unlimited" by Kathleen Krull tells the story of Wilma Rudolph, who became a world record-holding Olympian but as a child was stricken with polio and couldn't walk.

"Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery" tells the story of Ernie Barnes, whose work was prominently featured in the 1970s television show "Good Times."

"Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement" and "Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis" feature two civil rights leaders who aren't as close to the public's eye as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. Each story traces the protagonists' rural roots to the national stages of the Civil Rights Movement.

"Who Were the Tuskegee Air-

men?" by Sherri L. Smith tells about the first all African American fighter pilot corps in World War II. (The last airman, Robert Holts, passed away on February 12 at the age of 96.)

Bessie Coleman was the first African American woman to attain a civilian's pilot license. Read about her story in "Fly High: The Story of Bessie Coleman" by Louise Borden.

"What Color is My World?: The Lost History of African American Inventors" by Kareem Abdul-Jabar and Raymond Obstfeld brings to light the inventions and accomplishments of black inventors that are part of our every day, like Frederick Jones' refrigerated truck, which made perishable goods transportable.

Two books document Dr. Patricia Bath, an ophthalmologist who invented laser cataract surgery: "The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes" by Julia Finley Mosca and "Patricia's Vision" by Michelle Lord.

Historian Arturo Schomburg's life is depicted in "Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library." Schomburg's collection of African-American manuscripts, artwork, rare books and artifacts helped create the New York Public Library's

Division of Negro History, now called the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

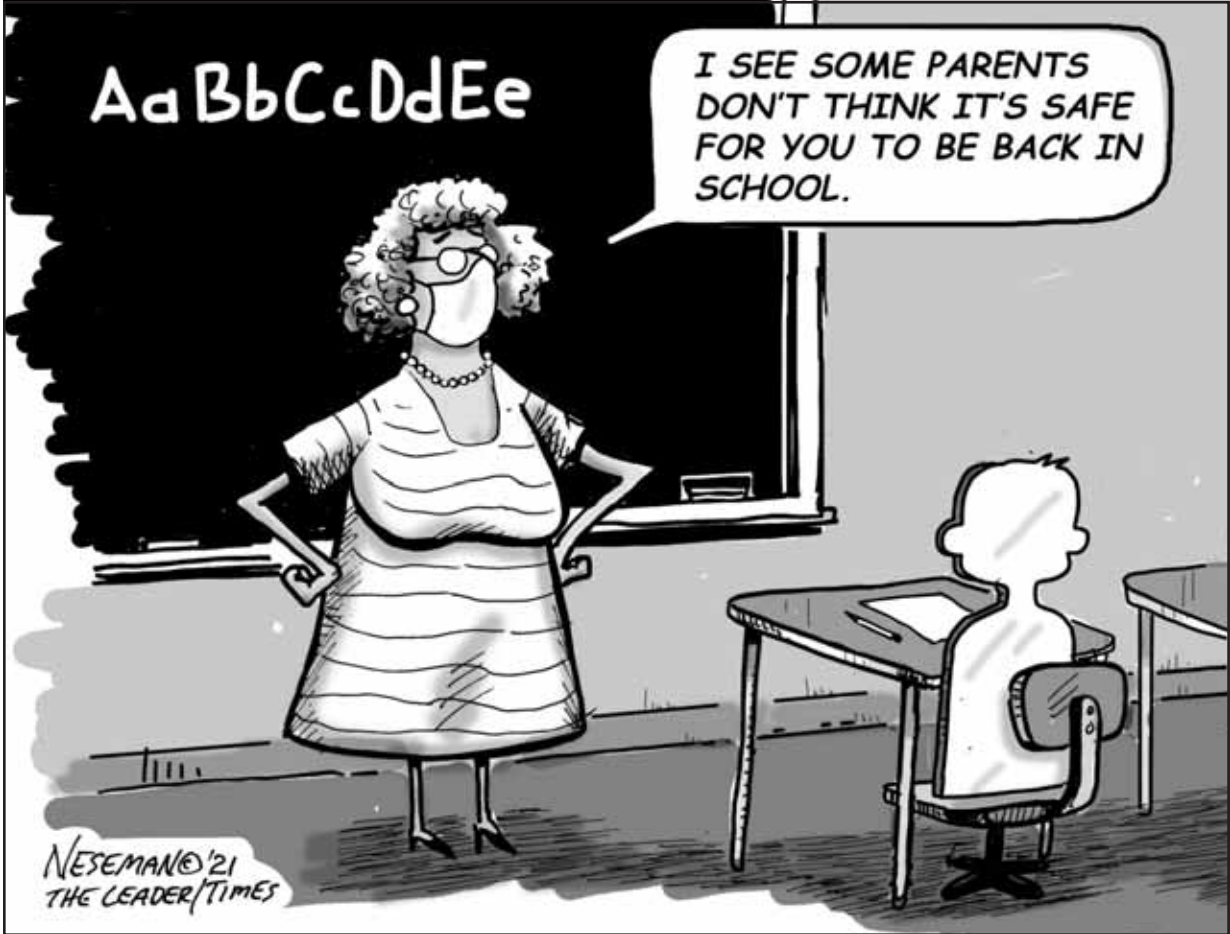
The Coretta Scott King Award is an award given to African American illustrators and authors of children's books. Ms. King was the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr. and her story is told in "Who Was Coretta Scott King?" by Gail Herman.

Picture book biography series called "Little People, Big Dreams" series by Brad Meltzer is great for 3rd through 5th graders.

The "Who Was...?" series has over 189 biographies of extraordinary people and are aimed at 5th through 9th graders.

Use these biographies to teach character traits. What traits helped this person overcome their struggles? What did he or she have to do? What traits do you admire (or not admire) in this person?

Before starting a biography, ask your child what they "think" they know about the person. As they read, check in on their prior ideas. Were your initial thoughts correct? What else did you learn about this person? It's important to remember that initial thoughts may not always be correct and that there is always more to learn!



Grateful for Unexpected Pandemic Gifts: New Ways to Calm Anxiety

Part 1

By PATRICIA STECKLER, Ph.D.
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

We have transcended! As we approach the end of one full year of the pandemic, we can look with pride and satisfaction at how well we've coped. Masters, we are, of kids schooling at home, mask-wearing, remote-work, distance visits, and ones by Zoom. We bundle up, go outside to walk, or ride bikes for a nature fix no matter how cold. We've even learned to tolerate at-home family members despite driving each other nuts along the way.

Had we foreseen what this year would have been like, no doubt, we'd have said, "No way! I can't do that!" "I'll fall apart!" But here we are, continuing to carry on. We've learned to cope with vast uncertainty while making countless decisions, laden with safety concerns on a scale unforeseen: "Is it safe to go to the grocery store?" "Should I allow my kids to go to school or insist that they learn remotely?" "Should we see the grandparents or keep away?"

Psychologists and other mental health professionals, while noting the increase in anxiety and depression due to the pandemic, have also observed how well most people cope. In paying attention to what helps calm us, researchers developed a list of suggestions to ease distress. Tara Parker-Pope, a New York Times columnist, suggests ten easy steps to reduce anxiety. I'll share five today and the second five next time.

1) Interrupt yourself ~ Simply break the moment if anxiety elevates, with a walk, move your body, do an errand, call a friend.

2) Focus on your feet ~ This exercise grounds you by removing

your attention from the chest and head, significant anxiety zones. Standing or sitting, pay attention to your feet. "How do they feel? Are they warm or cold? Are they tingly? Moist or Dry? Wiggle your toes. Feel the soles of your feet. Feel your heels connecting with your shoes and the ground beneath you."

3) Move for 3 minutes ~ Try a quick burst of energy. When it's too icy or cold to walk outside, I blast Broadway music on Alexa, walk swiftly on my treadmill, and sing raucously. That's an energy booster, which lasts for hours!

4) Tackle a home project ~ Declutter, organize a closet, hang or re-hang artwork, shift your furniture around. One way to jump-start a de-cluttering project is to set a timer for 15 minutes and dig in. You'll soon see how much you can accomplish in short time intervals. Procrastination melts away, and feelings of accomplishment soar.

5) Breathe Deeply through Your Belly ~ Take a few breaths as a trial. Are your shoulders moving up and down? If so, you're breathing shallowly, as most of us usually do. Try, instead, as Parker-Pope advises, to "Inhale and push your belly out, which means you're using your diaphragm. Exhale, and your middle relaxes." Blood pressure, heart rate, and cortisol level will diminish.

Share your calming tips @ The Westfield Leader by writing Gratitude in the subject line and emailing: press@goleader.com or pattisteckler@gmail.com

Gratefully Yours,
Patti

The Student View

A collaboration with the
Westfield High School Journalism Program

We Don't Need You Anymore SAT

By CHARLOTTE DURSEE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Applying to college is not the easiest task. There are the visits to campus, the interviews, the information sessions, maintaining an impressive GPA and the worst part of all: the SAT. The SAT is a standardized test created in 1926 that consists of three sections broken down into two English sections and two math sections, all multiple choice. According to ivyaspire.com, 3 million students take the test every year. However, due to the pandemic, many students haven't even had the opportunity to take the test. Without test scores, students all over the world have to check off the box on the common app saying, "No, I do not wish to submit a test score." The year is 2021, and I say it is time to finally say goodbye to the SAT for good.

Before the pandemic, there were several issues with the SAT. One was the fact that it is not a true representation of a student's academic abilities. According to the Washington Post, 20 percent of students suffer from test anxiety, which interferes with one's ability to perform to the best of their ability. The Princeton Review says the test is supposed "to measure a student's readiness for college," but how can this be possible with anxiety holding a student back? How can one solely assess readiness on a three-hour long test they took on a random Saturday morning? Students have many other ways to show schools they have the ability to be successful in college. There are supplementary essays they could write about themselves, there are interviews to sign up for and transcripts to prove their worth. The SAT is not able to assess life skills or accurately reflect a person's intellect.

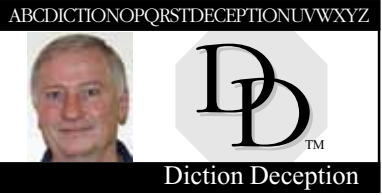
Another issue with the SAT be-

fore Covid-19 hit was how expensive it is. It starts with spending \$47.50 to take the test. But what if you want a tutor to help you get a higher score? Well, according to tutors.com, the average cost for SAT tutoring is \$70 per hour. This puts people who don't have the money for a tutor at a disadvantage. When Covid-19 did hit, there were a limited number of places offering the test. This makes it more unfair since not everyone has the same opportunity to take it. The situation forced high schoolers to sign up for tests far outside of their hometowns. I knew Westfield students who took the test in Philadelphia and Scranton, Pennsylvania. Students lose a lot of time and money just to sit in a chair for three hours and take a test that doesn't tell anyone anything.

Due to Covid-19, colleges are now forced to review applications without an SAT score submitted. According to ivywise.com, because so many students are unable to take the test, 72 percent of universities have a test-optional policy that started in 2020 and will be extended for the next couple of years. While many colleges were already test-optional policy, this allows more colleges to practice assessing applications without an SAT score. In addition to that, the College Board announced in late January the discontinuation of the SAT essay and SAT subject tests. We are getting closer to the realization that the test is unnecessary.

I heard a college admissions member say that a college application is like a puzzle and the SAT is like a puzzle piece. If you are missing one piece, that is okay, because you can still get a pretty good idea of what the big picture is with all the other pieces.

So, together, let's get rid of that puzzle piece for good.



Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions — only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly — good guess. If you get two — well-read individual. If you get three — word expert. If you get all four — You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Gymnotus — South American freshwater electric eel
2. Amyous — Lacking muscle or muscular strength
3. Soriasis — A sunstroke
4. Polemy — Warfare or opposition

LAAGER

1. To arrange or form in a defensive enclosure
2. Magic, wizardry
3. Solidified; hardened
4. A recorder or registrar

PRATTI

1. Covered with hair
2. Having wits; sense; understanding
3. Cymbals
4. Resembling a porcupine

ULETIC

1. Rainy; humid
2. Capable of being poured; in a liquid state
3. One given to falsehoods; prevarications
4. Pertaining to the gums

TUSSAH

1. An undomesticated Asiatic silkworm
2. The outside, smooth, horny part of the hoof of a horse
3. Inflammation of the oil glands of the skin
4. A small spike or elongated cluster of flowers in grasses

Candidate Statements Welcome

Candidates for elected office are invited to submit op-ed columns each week. Columns should be between 250 and 500 words, and be issue based with no personal attacks on opponents.

Letters to the Editor

The Deadline is Monday 9 a.m. for publication on the coming Thursday. The size limit is 200-500 words.

All The News

www.goleader.com

Letters to the Editor

Brindle Administration Fails At Energy Aggregation

Add another failure to the Brindle Administration's growing list. In addition to failing to fulfill 2017 campaign promises to, among other things, fill empty downtown storefronts, expand one-seat rides into NYC and improve town playing fields, Mayor Brindle and her allies have now failed in their effort at "energy aggregation."

It turns out that forcing Westfield residents to buy their electricity collectively from a supplier chosen by the town is no more cost-effective than continuing to allow residents the freedom to choose their own supplier on the open market. Who knew? Everyone. Except, that is, the members of the Brindle Administration, who always believes they know best.

More taxpayer money wasted on consultants, studies and legal fees — When will it end? Mercifully, this November, because Westfielders are paying attention.

Sam Della Fera
Westfield, NJ

Union County Commissioners
Elizabeth, New Jersey
(908) 527-4200
Ed Oatman, Mgr., coatman@ucnj.org
Alex Mirabella
amirabella@ucnj.org
Sebastian D'Elia, Public Info.
(908) 527-4419
sdelia@ucnj.org

Deadlines General News - Friday 4pm Weekend Sports - Monday 12pm Classifieds - Tuesday 12pm Ad Reservation - Friday 4pm Ad Submittal - Monday 12pm	To Reach Us Visit Us - 251 North Ave. West E-Mail - editor@goleader.com Phone - (908) 232-4407 Mail - The Westfield Leader/Times PO Box 250, Westfield 07091	Letters to Editor Deadline Monday 9 AM for the coming Thurs. Email Photos in color Email Ads as pdf files in color For more information, see www.goleader.com/help
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State LD-21 Sen. Thomas Kean, Jr. (R) 425 North Ave. E. Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-3673 Asm. Jon Brannick (R) 251 North Ave. West Westfield, N.J. 07090 (908) 232-2073 Asm. Nancy Munoz (R) 57 Union Place, Suite 310 Summit, N.J. 07901 (908) 918-0414	State LD-22 Sen. Nicholas Scutari (D) 1514 E. Saint Georges Ave. Linden, N.J. 07036 (908) 587-0404 Asm. Jim Kennedy (D) 34 E. Cherry St. Rahway, N.J. 07065 (732) 943-2660 Asw. Linda Carter (D) 200 West 2nd St., Suite 102 Plainfield, N.J. 07060 (908) 561-5757	7th Congressional District Representative Tom Malinowski (D) 75-77 N. Bridge St., Somerville, N.J. 08876 (908) 547-3307 [Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, Summit and Cranford are in the 7th Congressional District] 12th Congressional District Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D) 850 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 201, Ewing, N.J. 08628 (609) 883-0026 [Fanwood, Plainfield and most of Scotch Plains are in the 12th Congressional District] senkean@njleg.org, senscutari@njleg.org asmbrannick@njleg.org, aswmunoz@njleg.org asmkennedy@njleg.org, aswcarter@njleg.org
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Elections 2021

René Dierkes Announces Run for NJ Assembly

MOUNTAINSIDE — Veteran Mountainside Borough Council member René Dierkes has announced his intention to run for the District 21 State Assembly seat being vacated by Jon Brannick.

Mr. Dierkes has been a councilman on the Mountainside Borough Council for eight years and has lived in District 21 since 1981.

Mountainside Mayor Paul Mirabelli, who has worked with Mr. Dierkes since his election to the council, characterizes him as a fiscally responsible elected official who is responsive to his constituents.

“René is committed to keeping NJ affordable and reducing the barriers for our district’s residents to earn a living, own a home and raise their families,” says Mr. Mirabelli.



René Dierkes

Mr. Dierkes has the enthusiastic support of the entire town council. Long-time Councilwoman Deanna

Andre stated: “I’ve enjoyed serving beside René and know he has the knowledge, the drive and the commitment to do great things for the residents throughout District 21.”

Professionally, Mr. Dierkes has been a financial advisor for more than 30 years. Prior to his election to the Mountainside Council, he served five years as a commissioner on Rahway Valley Sewer Authority, including one year as chairman.

Mr. Dierkes has been a Mountainside resident since 1999, along with his wife and two children. An avid outdoors fan, he enjoys skiing with his family and spending time at the Jersey Shore.

Phil Rizzo Launches Gubernatorial Campaign

STATE — Phil Rizzo has announced his campaign for governor of New Jersey.

“New Jersey, it’s time to get our lives back,” said Mr. Rizzo, a native of Morris County. “We’re ready to put fear behind us, stand up for ourselves and our families and get our state prospering again.” “New Jersey has been met with some intense challenges that have tested our optimism, and we’re left wondering if life will ever get back to normal,” Mr. Rizzo said during his campaign announcement. “But when I look at our future, I’m hopeful because New Jerseyans are some of the toughest, most resilient people on the planet. I’m confident that with the right leadership, these dark days can quickly become a distant memory. We’re not just going to heal – we’re going to fight.”

Mr. Rizzo is a fighter. He overcame great adversity – including the childhood loss of his right arm – to become a star athlete, business owner, the co-founder of a New Jersey school and a pastor. He currently serves as pastor of City Baptist Church in Hudson

County. He and his wife, Jennifer, are parents of four. Mr. Rizzo says he wants to make New Jersey a state to plant your roots, not a place you’re desperate to leave. Mr. Rizzo’s plan is to heal New Jersey from the losses of Covid-19, make the government work for the people, stand up for families and return New Jersey to the prosperity it once knew.

“It’s time to reclaim the prosperity of New Jersey. It’s time to go back to work again, get our kids back in school, reopen our small businesses, report profits instead of losses, plan for retirement again and empower New Jerseyans to overcome the challenges we face,” Mr. Rizzo said. “If I have the privilege of becoming your governor, I will work to get the government out of your way and reverse this economic downturn. I’ll find ways to lower your tax burden, adopt energy policies that work for us, not against us, defend your individual rights and protect your family and your values. “If you want to empower New Jersey and take your life back, vote Phil Rizzo for governor.”

Senator Cryan Receives 2021 Election Endorsements

UNION – Senator Joseph Cryan received key endorsements for his re-election campaign to represent the 20th legislative district in New Jersey’s State Senate.

Citing his commitment to prioritizing the protection of residents throughout the district while working to safely re-open our economy, the following statement endorsing Senator Cryan was released February 9 by Governor Phil Murphy; State Senate President Steve Sweeney; Union County Democratic Committee Chairman Nick Scutari; New Jersey State Democratic Chairman John Currie; Essex County Democratic Chairman Leroy Jones; U.S. Rep. Donald Payne; U.S. Rep. Albio Sires; U.S. Rep. Tom Malinowski; Senator Joe Vitale; Newark Mayor Ras Baraka; Elizabeth Mayor Christian (Chris) Bollwage; Elizabeth Democratic Municipal Chairman Tony Teixeira; Elizabeth At-Large Councilman Frank Cuesta; Elizabeth At-Large Councilman Manny Grova, Jr.; Elizabeth 1st Ward Councilman Carlos Torres; Elizabeth 2nd Ward Councilman Nelson Gonzalez; Elizabeth 3rd Ward Councilman Kevin Kinyeri; Elizabeth 5th Ward Councilman William Gallman, Jr.; Elizabeth 6th Ward Councilman Frank O. Mazza; Hillside Mayor Dahlia Vertreese; Hillside Democratic Municipal Chairman Anthony Salters; Hillside Council President Gerald Pateesh Freedman; Hillside Council Vice President George Cook III; Hillside At-Large Councilman Craig Epps; Hillside At-Large Councilwoman Nancy Mondella; Hillside 2nd Ward Councilman Christopher Mobley; Hillside 3rd Ward Councilman Donald DeAugustine; Union Township Democratic Municipal Vice Chair Bertha Mathews; Union Township Mayor Michele Delisfort; Union Township Deputy Mayor Joseph Florio; Union Township Committee-woman Suzette Cavadas; Union Township Committeeman Manuel Figueiredo; Union Township Committeeman Clifton People Jr.; and Roselle Municipal Chairman Rev. Reginald Atkins.

“The challenges our state is in the midst of confronting require experience and leadership and Joe Cryan has both of those qualities in reserve.

The global pandemic has had a profound impact on so many lives and its effects will be felt both personally and financially by families and businesses for years to come. Senator Cryan has shown the willingness and the capability to help stimulate the economy while also prioritizing the facts and science that will prove critical in helping to keep people safe in the coming months.

“Senator Cryan’s history of putting those he represents first is exactly the type of leadership residents in the 20th legislative district need right now. Joe has our full support in his re-election efforts,” the statement said.

“It is a true honor to serve our constituents in Elizabeth, Hillside, Roselle and Union and I am looking forward to the opportunity to earn another term and continue working for the 20th legislative district,” said Senator Cryan. “Over these last four years, I’ve fought hard to prioritize our kid’s education and make sure hard-working families in our district have someone fighting for them in Trenton.”

Senator Cryan continued, “In the face of this historic global pandemic, it is critically important that we allow ourselves to be guided by fact and science so that we can safely and securely reopen our schools and small businesses and make sure our children, our families and our economy can grow and thrive.”

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Garwood Green Team Open To New Members

GARWOOD — The Garwood Green Team has launched a call for new members to join the borough’s non-partisan group of volunteers working to beautify Garwood and make it a more environmentally sustainable place to live. The Garwood Green Team develops plans, implements programs and assists with educational opportunities that support creating a sustainable community.

The Garwood Green Team organizes and participates in a variety of activities and events in our community, including:

- Spring Planting and Weeding of JFK Plaza and Georgiana Park,
- Fall Decorating of Borough Hall and JFK Plaza,
- Clean Communities Day,
- Trick-Or-Trunk for Garwood PTA,
- Adopt-A-Pot Fundraiser,
- Planting and Maintenance of the

Rain Garden at the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex and

Adopt-A-Park Butterfly Garden at Unami Park.

The Garwood Green Team is part of the borough’s requirements participating in the Sustainable Jersey certification program, which supports efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, improve public health, stimulate local economies, increase resiliency and progress toward an equitable society.

The Sustainable Jersey program includes nearly 400 Green Teams. Each Green Team represents a municipality in New Jersey that is registered with Sustainable Jersey.

To learn more about the Garwood Green Team, contact Council President Jen Blumenstock at jblumenstock@garwood.org.

Panel OK’s Creating Advisory Council to Protect Patients

TRENTON — Legislation (S-2682) sponsored by Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean and approved February 9 by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee would ensure those suffering from unusual conditions receive suitable care by establishing the New Jersey Rare Disease Advisory Council.

“The ongoing pandemic makes it more vital than ever to help those who are impacted by rare illnesses that are

often difficult to diagnose and treat,” said Senator Kean (R-21). “Genetic mutations are responsible for causing many of these ailments that can be passed down through generations, often resulting in suppressed immune systems or respiratory problems for patients. This makes them especially vulnerable to Covid and its life-threatening effects.”

Rare diseases are difficult to identify and often misdiagnosed, resulting in lengthy delays of appropriate treatment. The lack of medical specialists, medications and other therapies for these orphaned syndromes compound the problems.

“It has always been difficult for patients to find a satisfactory medical determination and effective remedies, and with Covid, the stakes are much higher now,” said Senator Kean. “The creation of this advisory council will help improve communication, awareness and treatment. I am pleased the legislature is moving on this measure in both houses.”

The New Jersey Rare Disease Advisory Council would include 30 members for the purpose of advising the legislature, state departments, agencies, commissions and authorities and private agencies providing services for people diagnosed with a rare disease.

In the U.S., approximately 25 to 30 million people are affected by rare diseases.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF AWARD OF CONTRACTS

The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford authorizes and approves the issuance of contracts awarded pursuant to the Township of Cranford Zoning Board Resolutions 2021-02, 2021-03 and 2021-04. The Township of Cranford advertised for a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/Ps) for the provision of Various 2021 Professional Services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. prior to the award of such contracts.

Such contracts and Resolution No. 2021-124 authorizing the award of contracts are available for public inspection at the office of the Township Clerk.

Awarded to: Mark S. Rothman, Esq., Robbins and Robbins LLP
Service: Zoning Board Attorney for the year 2021

Awarded to: Jacqueline Dirmann, P.E., CME, CFM, Maser Consulting P.A. (to be known as Colliers Engineering & Designs, Inc.)
Service: Zoning Board Engineering Expert for the year 2021

Awarded to: Phillip Abramson of Topology NJ, LLC
Service: Zoning Board Planning Expert for the year 2021

Date: February 9, 2021
Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$33.66

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **03/04/2021** at which time the bid proposals submitted will be downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Re-Advisement of ITS Maintenance Job Order Contract Statewide - 2020 Federal Project No: NHP-D00S(439); UPC NO: N/A; DP No: 21606

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Specifically, the contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue Business Registration of the contractor and any named subcontractors prior to contract award or authorization.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.51, contractors must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance at the time of bid.

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

Plans, specifications, any addenda to the specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Stierli Court
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
973-601-6690
One Executive Campus Rt 70 West
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
856-486-6623

3 T - 02/11/21, 02/18/21 and 02/25/21, The Leader Fee: \$208.08

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NFIB Applauds Governor’s Decision to Exempt PPP Loans from State Taxes

TRENTON — NFIB, the leading small business association in New Jersey with thousands of members in the state, applauded Governor Phil Murphy’s decision to exempt forgiven Paycheck Protection Program loans from taxation and allow deductions on related expenses. The following statement is from NFIB’s New Jersey State director, Eileen Kean:

“We are very appreciative that Governor Murphy opted to help small businesses by removing a state tax burden from their shoulders. These business owners took PPP loans when they were financially desperate due

to state-mandated shutdowns and ongoing restrictions. Then, they followed all the rules set by Congress to keep their employees paid and off of unemployment, and will not owe federal taxes related to the loan.

“When so many New Jersey small businesses are still fragile and trying to stay afloat, this decision by the state will help them avoid any additional costs.

“We are also grateful to Senators who voted in favor of a bill that would have removed these taxes and allowed deductions, and pleased the Governor’s action removes the need to pass that legislation.”

UCC Alum Donates Nearly \$2.7 Million to Foundation

CRANFORD – Union County College President Margaret M. McMenamin is proud to announce that Union County College alumnus Bruce Weidenburner left the bulk of his estate, valued at nearly \$2.7 million, to the Union County College Foundation. This generous donation from Mr. Weidenburner is the single largest individual gift made to the Union County College Foundation in its history. Mr. Weidenburner, son of former United States attorney and New Jersey Superior Court Judge Chester Weidenburner, and his wife, Emily, established this planned gift. Both of Mr. Weidenburner’s parents were members of the inaugural graduating class of Union County College, formally known as Union County Junior College.

Prior to his death, Mr. Weidenburner established this endowed scholarship with the Union County College Foundation in his parents’ names. As a lifelong resident of Linden, Mr. Weidenburner developed his family’s scholarship to help Linden High School graduates receive a college degree. Thanks to his commitment and support of the college’s mission, Mr. Weidenburner’s generosity will have a transformative impact on students’ lives for generations to come.

“We are so appreciative that Mr. Weidenburner thought of our students in his estate. When we look back at his gift, I hope we will see how an individual’s generosity impacts thousands of lives. This generational do-

nation will leave a positive mark on our community for years to come,” stated Ms. McMenamin. “The Weidenburner legacy in New Jersey will continue through those who benefit from his scholarship.”

For more information about how you can donate to the Union County College Foundation and give the gift of an education, contact Union County College Foundation Executive Director Doug Rouse at (908) 709-7113 or douglas.rouse@ucc.edu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on Monday, February 8, 2021, the Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains, Union County, New Jersey, adopted the following resolutions:

Robert J. Pansulla, Esq., an attorney of the State of New Jersey with the law firm of Finazzo Cossolini O’Leary Meola & Hager, LLC, located at 67 East Park Place, Suite 901, Morristown, New Jersey, was **appointed** Attorney to the Planning Board for the period effective from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Ferriero Engineering, Inc., 180 Main Street, Chester, New Jersey, was **appointed** Consulting Engineer to the Planning Board for the period effective from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Harbor Consultants, Inc., 320 North Avenue East, Cranford, New Jersey was **appointed** Consulting Planner to the Planning Board for the period effective from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Shannon Rapant, of Cranford, New Jersey, was **appointed** Clerk/Land Use Secretary to the Planning Board for the period effective from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

The Resolutions memorializing said approvals were duly presented and adopted by the Planning Board at its regular meeting on February 8, 2021. A copy of said Resolutions have been filed in the office of the Planning Board and/or the office of the Municipal Clerk at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, and are available for public inspection. Should anyone encounter problems gaining access to the Municipal Building during the current public health crisis, please contact Shannon Rapant at (908) 322-6700, ext. 307 during regular business hours to discuss alternative arrangements on how to obtain copies of the Resolutions.

Shannon Rapant
Clerk/Land Use Secretary
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$43.35

Join the Rotary Club of Westfield



westfieldrotary.com



Mario C. Guerrieri, Esq.

Kristin M. Capalbo, Esq.

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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 7-10

O'DONNELL 9 PT, 4 ASST; McCaffery 8 PT; WILLIAMS 7 RB

Cougar Basketball Girls Grind Millburn Millers in Hoops, 41-22

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

Rebounding very well from an opening season setback after a two-week pause in practice, the Cranford High School girls basketball team demonstrated excellent teamwork offensively along with dogged defense to overwhelm the Millburn Millers, 41-22, in Cranford on February 11. With virtually little time to prepare, the Cougars dropped a 60-37 opener at the hands of the 4-0 New Providence Pioneers on February 8.

“We opened up on Monday night and that was the day we resumed from the two-week pause,” explained Cougar Head Coach Allison Skrec, who

added, “We played New Prov. Monday night. New Prov. is a really good team. They score really well. They run the ball. They are coached well. They forced us to do things that we weren’t comfortable with.”

Against the Millers, the 1-1 Cougars learned quickly and scored nearly all of their points, with the exception of free throws, via 13 assists. Defensively, the Cougars went on a rampage to create 11 steals to go with numerous deflections.

“I’m super proud of the way our girls bounced back from that loss. We had two practices in between and that’s the first time we have been on court together at practice in two weeks. The focus we had in practice carried

over today. We had good energy, good enthusiasm, good effort on the court. We played as a team. We were moving the ball really well,” Coach Skrec expressed.

Senior guard Liz McCaffery and sophomore guard Sarah O’Donnell not only led the assault offensively but also demonstrated their stubbornness defensively.

“From the start, they gave us really good energy. Liz did a really nice job from the top of our defense deflecting a lot of passes. Sarah had great energy as well. And everyone kind of keys off them and that was key for us,” Coach Skrec pointed out.

The assists began immediately

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more photos at goleader.com
Ballyhoo Sports

DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES

BATTLING FOR POSSESSION...Cougar seniors Kirsten Williams, No. 32, and Liz McCaffery, No. 4, battle with a Millburn Miller for possession of the ball during the game in Cranford on February 11. The Lady Cougars under Head Coach Allison Skrec had control over the Millers from the start and rolled to a 41-22 victory.



courtesy of Bruno Tedeschi for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GETTING POSITION...Blue Devil senior captain Brendan Kotiga, No. 17, get position on a Montclair Mountie this past weekend. Westfield won, 7-3.

Westfield Icemen Fall to Rumson; Top Mounties, Cranford Cougars

It was a busy week for the Westfield High School boys varsity ice hockey team with three important contests. The Icemen took on Rumson-Fair Haven Bulldogs, Montclair Mounties and the Cranford Cougars and emerged with a loss and two wins.

The men in blue-n-white suffered their first loss at the Red Bank armory against a talented Rumson-Fair Haven squad. The Bulldogs scored early, taking the lead in the first period. Westfield took advantage of a power play goal by junior Matt Beke who knotted the score at 1-1 with assists from senior Dan McDonald and sophomore Matteo Mancheno.

Rumson hit the back of the cage for a second time to resume the lead once again, while the Blue Devils struggled to score.

Mancheno continued with his assault on the record books with a goal in the third period to bring the tilt back to a tie. McDonald nabbed another assist on that one. The match-up would end in a loss, however, as the go-ahead goal was scored by Rumson-Fair Haven with less than six minutes left in the game to lift the Bulldogs to a 3-2 victory over Westfield.

Fortunately, the 2021 Season rally cry is “resilient”, a word that many can identify with these days. Being a

top team in the state by the end of the season is the real goal. The Blue Devils bounced back after the humbling defeat with wins against the Montclair Mounties and their cross town rivals, the Cranford Cougars.

Back home at the barn to face the Mounties, the Blue Devils offensive efforts pushed to a 7-3 victory. It was the dynamic juniors that flexed their collective muscle in this match-up with Greg Oliveri putting in two goals and an assist, while Thomas Conrod and Spencer Brown added a goal and an apple apiece with Beke registering a goal to round out the junior storm.

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more photos at goleader.com
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DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES

HEMMED IN BY THE TOWERS...Madison Dodger Brendan Mariani tries to avoid being overshadowed by Blue Devils Logan Howland, No. 21, Jack Spellman, No. 33, and Sean Logan, right, in Westfield on February 10.

SPELLMAN 14 RBS, HOWLAND 13 RBS, BARRAZA 21 PTS

Blue Devil Boys Wake Up; Stop Madison B-Ballers, 58-49 in OT

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

Ten points seemed to be a comfortable lead for the Westfield High School boys basketball team entering the fourth quarter but the visiting Madison Dodgers responded with a 14-4 run to force overtime on February 10. Fortunately the Blue Devils awakened with an 11-2 run to emerge with a 58-49 victory.

The “Trip Towers”, senior Jack Spellman and juniors Logan Howland and Sean Logan raked in the rebounds all afternoon but it was Spellman, who sparked the magic in overtime with an early 3-pointer. Spellman (10 points, 3 blocks, 2 steals) led the team with 14 rebounds. Howland (11 points, 5 free throws, steal) grabbed 13 boards and Logan (10 points, steal) pulled five rebounds and led the team

with five blocks.

“That’s what he does! He’s a walking double, double and we expect that from him. He expects that from himself too,” Blue Devil Head Coach Jim McKeon said of Spellman then added. “Madison moved the ball well. They hit big time shots. They held us when they needed to but we felt strong. We have three returners, who we can rely on. Spellman with the big shot tied in overtime! Then we didn’t look back from there. But everyone else is learning on the fly. Two weeks, one scrimmage. We are learning every game. We are getting better. We are looking for the competition level for each guy to rise and the execution will continue to get cleaner as we keep going.”

The Dodgers were fortunate to be in the right positions at the right time to get numerous rebounds in the first

quarter that they won, 11-10, but the Spellman, Howland, Logan combination would begin to take over for the next two quarters, which would put the Blue Devils up 43-33 entering the fourth quarter.

“We got to finish inside a little bit better than we did today. We have very big guys. Teams are going to key on that, so they are sending four or five guys in but we got to finish pointblank stuff. We hit some big time threes. We shared the basketball and that’s what we are looking for. We moved it well but we were sloppy at times. That stuff will correct itself the more we practice and the more we play with each other,” Coach McKeon said.

During that two-quarter stretch, guard Zander Barraza sank 13 of his

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DeMARINO NETS 16 PTS; CARREA 11 RBS, 4 ASSTS, 10 PTS

Cougar Basketball Boys Topple Summit Hilltopper Cagers, 48-38

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

Seniors Joe Carrea, Dennis DeMarino and Arjun Petgrave helped the Cranford High School boys basketball team sparkle brighter than its opponents in three of the four quarters leading to a 48-38 triumph over the visiting Summit Hilltoppers on February 10. The 1-1 Cougars’ performance soothed the sting of a 59-55 opening day loss to the hosting Rahway Indians.

“We’ve been on a two-week quar-

antine, so our guys haven’t been able to practice. We went into Rahway, which is always one of the toughest teams in the conference every year, and played alright, tied at half. Well coached, tough place to play. Rahway is so fast, so athletic. You could tell our kids haven’t been playing. Their legs got tired. They got a little sloppy. But it ended up being a four-point game. We had something like 20 turnovers but that comes with not practicing for two weeks,” Cougar Head Coach Sean Trotter explained.

In that game against the Indians, the Cougars had difficulties containing Amari Thompson, who led all scorers with 29 points, including four from downtown. DeMarino led the Cougars with 19 points, including a pair of 3-pointers and Carrea netted 13 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and four assists. Petgrave and Lukas Ruby were tough under the boards with nine and eight rebounds, respectively.

DeMarino (6 rebounds, block, as-

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more photos at goleader.com
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DAVID B. CORBIN FOR THE WESTFIELD LEADER AND THE TIMES

PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION...Cougar seniors Joe Carrea, No 1, and Jack Connolly, No. 4, pay close attention to the movement of Hilltopper Charlie Schaeffer, No. 30, during the game in Carnford on February 10. The Cougars won 48-38.



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COUGAR SENIORS ON “SENIOR NIGHT”...Pictured are: Arjun Petgrave, No. 2, Dennis DeMarino, No. 5, Adam Kutzer, No.11, Jack Connolly, No. 4, Devin Haughey, No. 14, and Joe Carrea, No. 1. The Cougars topped Summit 48-38.

Cougar Boys Topple Summit Hilltoppers, 48-38

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sist) led the Cougars in scoring against Summit with 16 points, including two 3-pointers, but he also added a smooth touch under the boards with his lay-ups and putbacks.

“Dennis DeMarino during the quarantine lost 28 pounds. That’s impressive! He’s been working so hard to play in college. He’s really become confident with his game. He’s strong with his body and he’s been practicing so much that he knows what he can do and what he can’t, and he uses it really well on the court,” Coach Trotter said.

Carrea was omnipresent and proved it with 10 points, a game-leading 11 rebounds, two blocks, two steals and four assists.

“Joe Carrea has been my work-horse for three years. He’s the guy that whenever you need that important rebound or that important charge, or someone diving on the floor, he’s the guy who walks on the court and says, ‘coach! Who do you want me to cover? I will take anybody.’ He’s physical, he’s strong, he’s gotten a little taller. He’s the type of guy that

every coach loves having,” Coach Trotter expressed.

DeMarino’s and Carrea’s leadership had a profound effect on their teammates, especially defensively when they held the Hilltoppers to just two points in the first quarter while the Cougars put in seven points, including a 3-pointer by Petgrave.

“Those guys have been working so hard over the last few years to get to this point. Finally they are there for their senior year,” Coach Trotter commented.

The effects of the first quarter convinced the Hilltoppers to work from the outside, sinking trip 3-pointers, but DeMarino sank eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and Carrea put up six, while Petgrave (7 points, assist, 2 steals), Zion Hammond (7 points, 4 rebounds, 2 steals) and Adam Kutzer (4 points, assist) each netted two points to stretch the Cougars’ lead to 27-15 at the half. Charlie Schaeffer (11 points), Wesley Hellings (6 points) and Imevar Justice (8 points) sank the 3-pointers for Summit.

The third quarter became an eye

opener for the Cougars as the Hilltoppers sank three more 3-pointers en route to an 18-12 run to narrow Cranford’s lead to 39-33 entering the fourth quarter. The Cougars did show moments of fluid consistency mixed with spurts of inconsistency that led to turnovers.

“It was in spurts. We were really good running good offense, playing good defense. We were physical. And then it seemed like there were points in time where we were taking our foot off the gas peddle and took a few plays off. In this sport, you can’t take plays off, Coach Trotter stressed. “Whenever you take those plays off, teams make you pay.”

But the Cougars’ defense made the Hilltoppers pay in the fourth quarter as they could salvage only five points, while the Cougars put in nine points.

“Summit is a tough team. They play physical, they play aggressive, they battled back into the game and made it a good game at the end,” Coach Trotter concluded.

Summit	2	13	18	5	38
Cranford	7	20	12	9	48

Summit, New Providence Stop Blue Devils in Girls Basketball

The Westfield High School girls basketball team experienced a pair of setbacks this past week. First the hosting Summit Hilltoppers rallied in the fourth quarter to halt the Blue Devils, 43-38, on February 11 then the 6-0 New Providence Patriots took care of business with a 48-35 triumph in Westfield on February 13.

Sophomore Paige Gorzcyca led the Blue Devils against Summit with 16 points, including two 3-pointers. Annie Ryan sank six points, including a 3-pointer. Chloe Kreusser (3 rebounds), Sutton Factor (2 assists, 2 rebounds, steal) and Phoebe Chadowitz (assist, rebound) each had four points. Clare Logan had two points and a steal and JJ Millstein netted two points, three rebounds and a steal.

Olivia Lawlor led Summit with 10 points (2 3-pointers), eight rebounds and nine blocks. Anabella Yorio had eight points (3-pointer) and three blocks. Riley Sidebottom had seven points. Kiran McCormick nailed a pair of 3-pointers.

Logan led the Blue Devils against New Providence with 12 points, including a 3-pointer, nine rebounds, three assists and a block. Gorzcyca

Blue Devils Roll Over Summit Cagers, 66-30

The Westfield High School boys basketball team won its second straight game with a convincing 66-30 triumph over the hosting Summit Hilltoppers on February 13. The 2-2 Blue Devils had four players hit double figures in scoring and three in rebounds, and dished out 17 assists to go with 11 3-pointers.

Logan Howland scored 14 points and pulled 11 rebounds, while adding three assists. Jack Spellman sank 11 points, including trip 3-pointers, and added 10 rebounds, three assists and two blocks. Sean Logan scored 11 points, including two 3-pointers, grabbed 10 rebounds and led the team with six blocks, while adding an assist. Zander Barraza sank 11 points, including trip 3-pointers, and added two assists. Pete Meixner (3-pointer) had seven points and four assists. Julian Perez (2 3-pointers) had eight points. Dan Bills had four points and two assists. Ezra Budachewitz had two assists.

had eight points, five rebounds and two assists. Kreusser had six points and eight rebounds. Ryan hit a 3-pointer and added three rebounds. Chadowitz (2 rebounds, assist), Kalea Calugay (2 rebounds) and Factor (6 rebounds, assist) each scored two points.

Meghan Lamanna scored 15 points for the Patriots, while Grace Kinum sank 14 points, including a pair of 3-pointers, and added six assists and four steals. Megan Slattery pulled nine rebounds and added six points.



courtesy of Bruno Tedeschi for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOVING IT DOWN THE ICE...Blue Devil senior Kyle Snyder, No. 5, moves the puck toward the Mounties’ goal this past weekend.

Blue Devils Fall to Rumson; Top Mounties, Cougar Icemen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

There were goals aplenty with two more coming from sophomore Zach Park and freshman Alex Ebel. Never enough to go around, seniors Kyle Azzaretto and Captain Brendan Kotiga and sophomore John McDonald each had two assists. Sophomores Mancheno and Joey Tortorella, senior Joey Brogan and freshman Michael Wilson chipped in with an assist apiece. It was not a good night to be a Mountie. Junior netminder Jake Watson turned away 18 shots.

The feel good win set up the Blue Devils for rounding out the week to face off with a feisty neighborhood rival, the Cranford Cougars. The physical and scrappy Cranford squad

helped keep the tilt close. Junior Spencer Brown led the effort for Westfield by scoring early in the first period. Sophomore McDonald scored his first varsity goal and was joined on the score sheet by junior Oliveri for the win.

The results from this week moved the Blue Devils record to 6-1-1 as they head into games versus Verona and Governor Livingston. Follow the WHS boys varsity ice hockey team on Twitter @westfieldpuck for an informative and entertaining take on the season’s activities. Fans can also visit WHSpuck on FaceBook and Instagram Pages. See the website for up to date team schedules at www.westfieldhockey.com

** A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at High School Sports Activities **

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* - complete accounts found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week.

Early February 2020: Long time SPF boys soccer Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, who had been at the helm for 45 years, has been replaced by former Raider standout Alex Passucci during the past Board of Education meeting. During his tenure as head coach, Breznitsky has amassed an



David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ACTION INSIDE...Blue Devils Sam Stravach, reaching, Caroline Dwyer, No. 3, Faith Dobosiewicz, No. 23, and Chloe Kreusser, No. 21, pack the inside lane against the Patrick School Celtics in Westfield on February 1, 2019.

amazing 761-185-63 record to go with 17 Union County Tournament (UCT) titles, 15 sectional titles and made 13 trips to the Group Championship game, winning seven of them (1987, 89, 91, 92, 95, 97, 98).

Breznitsky claimed his 500th win on October 20, 2004 when the Raiders shut out the Cranford Cougars, 2-0, at Walnut Avenue Elementary School in Cranford. Victory No. 600 for Breznitsky came on September 20, 2011 with a 6-0 rout of the Cranford Cougars in Cranford. In the fourth game of the 2016 season, the Raiders awarded Breznitsky with his 700th career win when they beat Elizabeth, 2-1, on September 15. (*In memory of coach Breznitsky who passed away in January*)

February 4, 2020: Sophomore Logan Howland and junior Jack Spellman controlled the boards, while senior co-captains Jake Walsh, Griffin Rooney, Andrew Echausse and Hank Shapiro set up the offense as the Westfield boys basketball team contained the Ghosts of Paterson Eastside, 69-47, in Westfield. Like several times before, the 12-4 Blue Devils trailed after the first quarter but revved up their offensive engines to distance themselves further and further away from the 8-8 Ghosts.

Howland ruled the boards with 13 rebounds to go with seven points, two assists, a block and a tipped ball that

led to a steal. Spellman, who grabbed eight rebounds and scored three points, was also very hands on with four blocked shots and a steal.

Walsh and Rooney also contributed to the team’s 50-rebound total with six apiece. Additionally, Walsh (2 assists, steal) pumped in 24 points, which included four 3-pointers. Rooney (3 steals, 2 assists) rolled in 13 points, including a 3-pointer and Shapiro came off the bench to contribute four assists, three rebounds,

sion and most likely the top seed for the upcoming Union County Tournament (UCT) was secured by The Patrick School girls basketball team with a 50-33 victory over the hosting Westfield Blue Devils. Junior Faith Dobosiewicz (6 rebounds) led her team with 11 points, while sinking two 3-pointers. Senior Ali Lisanti sank trip 3-pointers.

February 3, 2019: The Westfield girls indoor track team placed second at the North 2, Group 4 Championships held at the Bennett Center in Toms River. The Lady Blue Devils had a total of 52 behind the Ridge Red Devils, who placed first with a 79 total. Lauren Triarsi took top honors in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.82. Triarsi recorded a time of 8.73 in the preliminaries. Erica Lawrence won the shot put with a shove of 36-4.5.

February 4, 2019: Acquiring team points proved to be very difficult for the fifth-seeded Woodbridge Barrons when they faced the fourth-seeded Cranford Cougars in the quarterfinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Wrestling Tournament at Cranford High School. The 13-5 Barrons found themselves in a 21 to minus 1 hole before they could place a positive team point on the scoreboard in a 52-14 Cranford triumph.

Cougar Jack Korzeneski came from behind to beat Jaden Catalano, 8-5, at 138-lbs. Cougar AJ Bencivenga (152-lbs), who normally likes to amass numerous takedowns, only used two of his famous Fireman’s before clamping Tyler Job in 26 seconds with a cradle. Pat Kalnins (120-lbs), Jimmy Gluck (126-lbs) and Dean Smith (132-lbs) all recorded falls as did Kevin Shriner (285-lbs). Matt Doran (220-lbs) recorded a 16-1 tech fall and Justin Alpaugh-McLean (182-lbs) recorded a 22-6 tech fall.

February 2, 2018: Absentees due to illness or injury prevented what could have been a very tight match



David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

REACHING FOR THE BALL...Cougar Caroline McCaffery, No. 33, tries to take the ball away from Blue Devil Grace Elliott, No. 12, Westfield defeated Cranford, 41-30, in Westfield on February 5, 2018.

in 53 seconds at 220-lbs.

February 10, 2017: Very competitive bouts, especially in four of the first five bouts, kept spectators on edge until Patrick Kalnins pulled out a key pin at 106-lbs with just two bouts remaining to all but insure the top-seeded Cranford wrestling team a victory over second-seeded Warren Hills in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament championship at Cranford. After splitting the final two bouts, the Cougars won 33-22 to

a 17-4 lead. SPF (4-16) never looked back, holding to a double-digit lead the rest of the way before cruising to an 18-point victory. Summer Sheppard chipped in with 14 points.

February 4, 2016: Four starters for the Westfield girls basketball team delivered 100 percent of the scoring and all four hit double figures in a 52-34 rejection of the AL Johnson Crusaders in Westfield. However, every Lady Blue Devil delivered dazzling defensive performances, especially in



David B. Corbin (February 2018 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GOING AIRBORNE...Blue Devil Russ Weber was lifted into the air several times by Cougar Justin Alpaugh-McLean in his 182-lb bout but Weber bounced back every time to claim a 5-4 victory (February 2, 2018).

capture the crown.

At 132-lbs, Matt Valli caught Cougar Chris Scorese a bit off-balance to record a spin-around takedown but Scorese quickly countered with a reversal then added an escape in the second period and a two-point tight-waist tilt early in the third. Valli escaped but Scorese won 5-3. The wildest and most exciting bout came when Cougar AJ Bencivenga bounced up to 152-lbs and took Rashon Wade Taylor to overtime where he nearly got the takedown but Taylor countered to win 7-5.

February 10, 2017: The Westfield boys basketball team rallied from an 11-point second quarter deficit to defeat New Providence, 68-63, in a Union County Tournament first round game at Westfield. Matt LaCorte scored 25 points, including five 3-point bombs as the seventh-seeded Blue Devils overcame a spirited effort from the 18th seeded Patriots. LaCorte led all scorers, while Adam McDaniel chipped in with 12 points.

February 10, 2017: It has been a frustrating season so far but the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball team got some small measure of satisfaction by ousting Brearley, 53-35, in a Union County Tournament first round game played in Scotch Plains. Junior guard Brianna O’Brien provided the offense, scoring 17 points, including 10 in the first quarter as the Raiders jetted out to

the third quarter when they outscored the Crusaders, 15-2, to put the game on ice.

Blue Devil sophomore Molly Ryan hit 15 of her team-leading 17 points in the first half and four of them - 12 points - came from beyond the 3-

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Devilish Face Raiders In Virtual Swim Meet

After an on again/off again start to the season, the Westfield Area YMCA Devilfish swim team held a virtual meet against the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA (FSPY) over three days from January 29-31 at the Westfield Area YMCA. The meet, a combination of distance and regular events, was run in strict accordance with all state mandates for youth sports.

While the team was not able to swim against FSPY in person, just knowing that they were competing against another team helped motivate the swimmers to swim their best.

With a season beset by closures and meet cancellations, many best times and championship cuts were still achieved, including a YMCA Nationals cut for Lauren Lane in the 200-backstroke with a time of 2:06.91. In addition, Clare Logan broke the Westfield Y 13/14 Girls 50-freestyle record with a time of 23.48 and the 100 backstroke record with a time of 57.75

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Cougar Basketball Girls Grind Millburn, 41-22

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when O'Donnell set up McCaffery (8 points, 2 assists) on a 3-pointer at the start of the first quarter. O'Donnell, who finished with nine points and led



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ON GUARD AGAINST A MILLER...Cougar freshman Madison DeLong, No. 5, guards Millburn Miller Hannah Ozur, No. 22, in the second half.

the team with four assists, followed with the first of her trip 3-pointers en route to a 13-6 first-quarter lead. Se-

senior Kirsten Williams (3 points, 3 assists), who led the team with seven rebounds, sank a free throw in the

Raider Cagers Top Pioneers, Roselle; Edged by Oratory Prep Boys, 53-50

Damon Schumann sank 17 points, including a pair of 3-pointers and five free throws, to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team past the New Providence Pioneers on February 11. Next, the Raiders defeated the Rams of Roselle, 61-50, on February 12 then on February 13, the Raiders suffered a 53-50 setback to the Oratory Prep Rams in Summit.

Against the Pioneers, Matuesz Sierant and Raul Lugo each sank eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Christian Piesch also netted eight points. Matt Drubulis scored five points, including a 3-pointer, and Jaden Carter put in four points. Matt Nervi hit a 3-pointer and Liam Mahr

contributed two points.

Carter, Mahr and Lugo each scored 10 points against Roselle. Hayden Widder and Sierant each scored eight points. Schumann netted six points, Piesch cored four and Dimitri Laylor added two points. Sam Noel led Roselle with 21 points. Tahdir Carson scored 11 points and Qamir Martin sank 10 points.

Mahr scored 10 points and Widder sank nine points against the Oratory Prep Rams. Piesch scored seven points and Carter netted six points, while Sierant, Nervi, Lugo and Schumann each put up four points. Mike Pirone led the Rams with 17 points and Lucas Pavlounis scored 13 points.

** A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at High School Sports Activities **

point arc. The inside exploits of junior Shannon Devitt stepped heavily into the act. Devitt drove to the basket and scored eight of her 14 points in the third quarter. Junior Danielle Rinaldi (4 assists, 3 steals, 6rebounds) banged a pair of threes and finished

Pioneer junior standout Katie Kinum, who finished with a game-leading 33 points.

Cerys MacLelland, in her own right, was the primary person that the Pioneers needed to focus on. MacLelland, who possesses strong driving to the



David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ROLLING HIM INTO A TILT...Blue Devil Jack Miller, top, rolls Raider Zach Fleischman to his back for a two-point tilt in the first period of his 170-lb bout during the Pin Cancer showdown at Scotch Plains on February 5, 2016.

with 10 points. Senior co-captain Amalia Montes (6 rebounds) also benefited from the open lanes and finished with 11 points.

February 5, 2016: Competing for a worthy cause took place in the Annual Pin Cancer wrestling showdown between the hosting SPF Raiders and the Westfield Blue Devils. The previous two showdowns went right down to the final bout with the Raiders winning in 2014 and the Blue Devils pulling it out last year. This time the Raiders secured the honors in the next to last bout to finish with a 37-25 victory.

The key bout came at the midpoint of the evening with Blue Devil Phil Ricca and Jaylen Bryant jumping up a weight class to 285-lbs to begin battle at center mat. The bout was particularly important because Ricca had placed second in the Union County Tournament (UCT) at 220-lbs and Bryant placed third at that weight. After a rugged battle, Bryant prevailed 6-4.

Blue Devil Jack Miller showed that he has recovered quite well from an injury he suffered at the UCT when he amassed eight takedowns of various types, three nearfalls and a reversal to claim a 25-7, 6:00 technical fall over Zack Fleischman at 170-lbs.

February 6, 2016: Freshman Olivia Foucher's 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter set up an overtime clash between the Cranford girls basketball team and the visiting New Providence Pioneers, who hit all 10 of their free throws and added a lay-up to overcome the Cougars, 64-57. The key for the Lady Cougars was how to handle

basket skills, finished with 19 points but her rebounding performance was phenomenal. MacLelland pulled five rebounds in the first quarter alone and went on to finish with 16.

February 10, 2015: Bridgewater-Raritan defeated the Westfield girls swim team, 95-75, in the NJSIAA Semifinal Round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A Tournament at the Westfield "Y" pool. The visitors were dominant in earning a spot in the championship round, winning all but two races against Westfield.

Westfield's only breakthrough for a first place finish in individual races came in the 100-breaststroke where Gwyn Devin bested the field in 1:08.6. Teammate Amy West was second at 1:10.01. Westfield's only other victory came in the 200-free relay where Courtney Day, Emily Oster, Emma Conlon and Gwyn Devin finished first in 1:42.91.

February 11, 2015: West Morris Central rallied to claim the narrowest of victories, 36-34, over the SPF Raider wrestling team in the semifinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group IV wrestling tournament in Scotch Plains. The epic battle between the second-seeded Raiders and the third-seeded Wolfpack came down to the very last bout to determine a winner.

Joshmar Philippe halted the Wolfpack's momentum at 126 pounds when he pinned Marco Gaita in 3:57. At 138-lbs, Raider JT Beirne dominated Matt Liberato, 19-7. Brian Lapham (145-lbs) pinned Thomas Stoll in 2:59. George Ramos recorded a fall in 1:52 over Michael Brown at

quarter.

"A lot of our baskets were assisted. Sarah had a lot of assists. As a team, we did a nice job of moving the ball, working the ball and I love to see that. That shows that you are playing together. You are playing as a team. You are playing in the flow of the offense, and that's what I am looking for," Coach Skrec said.

The defense really came into play during the second quarter when the Millers were held to just a 3-pointer by Hannah Ozur. And the third quarter was just as stingy as the Millers managed to sink only three free throws, while the Cougars added nine points to grab a 29-12 lead. In the fourth quarter, Coach Skrec saw to it that all of her bench players got the opportunity to experience court time. O'Donnell and freshman Maddy DeLong (2 points, 2 assists, 3 rebounds) would each finish with three steals. McCaffery had two steals

"We focus on getting in the lanes, closing the gaps and we had that energy on the defensive end. But it starts with getting in the passing lanes to disrupt what they are trying to do," Coach Skrec said.

Another factor that pleased coach Skrec was the Cougars' ability to hit eight of nine free throw attempts. Senior Amanda Vath (4 rebounds, assist) sank all four of hers and McCaffery was 3-for-3 from the line.

"I am pleased with that because in our loss to New Prov. we shot four for 10 I believe. Hopefully we can continue shooting that well," Coach Skrec commented.

Seniors Natalia Kruk (assist, steal) and Caroline Bush each had three rebounds. Junior Kayla Arch banged a 3-pointer and junior Zoe Hamilton pulled two rebounds. Rachel Lutsky led the Millers with nine points (2 3-pointers), eight rebounds and four steals.

Next, Coach Skrec would experience a "Family Affair" when they faced Roselle Catholic on February 12 and again on February 15.

Millburn	6	3	3	10	22
Cranford	13	7	9	12	41

170-lbs.

February 8, 2014: Team records meant nothing in a rivalry game between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team and the Westfield Blue Devils, and the outcome was up in the air until the final minute when junior Lil Scott was fouled four times, went to the line and sunk all eight free throws to give the 18-2 Blue Devils a 55-44 victory in Scotch Plains on February 8.

Scott finished with 15 points and added six assists, five rebounds and a steal. Junior guard Jackie Knapp led the Blue Devils with 16 points and managed to get herself in to position to grab eight rebounds, while dishing out five assists. Raider senior captain Katie Harper scored seven of her team-leading 15 points in the second quarter. Raider junior forward Tabitha Dwumfour (3 points) was amazing under the boards with 19 rebounds, another factor that kept the game very close for the remainder of the game.

February 10, 2014: Everyone at the Wallace Pool for Monday's North 2 Group 4 semifinal between No. 1 Westfield and No. 4 Hillsborough knew one thing: Hillsborough was



David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

DIFFICULT PERSON TO GUARD...Cougar freshman Lauren Williamson has to deal with a real tough customer in Pioneer Katie Kinum who drives to the basket in Cranford on February 6, 2016. Kinum scored 33 points in the Pioneer win.

going to win most of the races. And the Raiders didn't disappoint, winning eight out of the 11 events.

But the Raiders only outscored WHS in five events. When you're at this level of the state swimming championships, it's all about d-e-p-t-h, and WHS had plenty of it on Monday. With the 89-81 victory, WHS advanced to Thursday night's sectional final (weather permitting) against No. 3 (and tournament top-seed) Hunterdon Central at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA in Perth Amboy. It's a rematch of last year's state Public A final, which WHS won 91-79.

Westfield is a senior-heavy team, and Caroline Baldwin, Sarah Cronin and Erika Daniel didn't disappoint in



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GOOD ON DEFENSE TOO...Blue Devil Zander Barraza, No. 10, effectively guarded Dodger Andrew Stack, No. 3, but he was particularly effective offensively with a team-leading 21 points, including three 3-pointers.

Blue Devil Boys Wake Up; Stop Madison, 58-49

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

team-leading 21 points, including trip 3-pointers.

"We have all the confidence in the world with him. He's a great shooter, great touch. But he is more than that. He defended. The entire game he defended against arguably their best player, so he made it tough on him. You are not going to shut him down. He is a good player and has a good stroke. He ran all over the court and he was able to hit jump shots too. A lot of guys don't want to play 'D' and work on the offensive end. It's usually one or the other. He did both today. That's kind of where we are at. That's why we won," Coach McKeon expressed.

The fourth quarter turned out to be a disaster for the Blue Devils and free throws came into play. The Dodgers sank eight free throws. In the mean-

time, the Blue Devils had a chance to slam the door in the waning seconds when they went to the line three straight times and sank only the first of four attempts, while the Dodgers hit 2-for-2 from the line with 13.22 remaining to force the overtime.

"We always value being a team first program. Sometimes we get too caught up in making the extra pass. We are struggling right now because of lack of preparation due to the season that we are in. We practiced twice in like 10 days. It's tough! But we are young in different spots. It's a good group. They work hard. We battled through every game so far and this one it's nice to get a win. To get a little taste of victory can take you a long way," Coach McKeon concluded.

But their shooting from the line in overtime was totally different. After Spellman banged his 3-pointer, the Blue Devils sank eight of 10 free throws to seal the victory.

The Blue Devils did have their moments of glory with smooth passing and 11 assists but they also had their moments of gloom. Spellman and Pete Meixner (2 points) each had three assists. Howland and Logan each dished out two assists.

"We always value being a team first program. Sometimes we get too caught up in making the extra pass. We are struggling right now because of lack of preparation due to the season that we are in. We practiced twice in like 10 days. It's tough! But we are young in different spots. It's a good group. They work hard. We battled through every game so far and this one it's nice to get a win. To get a little taste of victory can take you a long way," Coach McKeon concluded.

Madison	11	14	8	14	2	49
Westfield	10	15	18	4	11	58

County Tournament in Rahway. Freshman Jackie Knapp had 16 points and seven steals, while Lil Scott had 11 points and four assists.

February 10, 2011: Injuries have brutalized the Raider varsity wrestling team this season, and with five varsity competitors out of the lineup, it took its

when she touched the wall at 1:15.56 in the 100-breaststroke. Lemberg also swam the anchor leg on the winning of the 400-free relay foursome, which included Meredith Smith, Emily Budnick and Catherine Kerr.

February 13, 2010: Senior Tristan Bundy became only the sixth wrestler



David B. Corbin (February 2014 files) for The Westfield Leader and The Times

ENDURING THE 500-FREESTYLE...Blue Devil Sarah Cronin swims the 500-freestyle in Lane 4 against the Hillsborough Raiders at Wallace Pool in the North Jersey sectional semifinals on February 10, 2014.

toll in a 39-32 setback to the A.L. Johnson Crusaders in Clark. Raider Dom Natale recorded five near-falls, which included grapevines with head smother and a cradle, to earn an 18-2, technical fall over Brian Mooney at 135 lbs. Known as the "Sultan of Junk," Raider Sebastian Rosen created a maneuver that could be described as a cross-shoulder, arm stretcher to pin Dennis Funk in 1:57 at 189 lbs.

February 11, 2011: Senior Night did not turn out the way the Blue Devil boys basketball team wanted. The visiting Indians trapped the Blue Devils into a running game, which led to a multitude of steals converted to lay-ups and a 55-43, Rahway victory in Westfield. Blue Devil senior Joe Greenspan led the Blue Devils with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

February 12, 2010: No intentions of breaking school records were in the cards, but the Blue Devil girls swim team utilized its team depth to defeat the East Brunswick Bears, 92-78, in the first round of the North 2, Public A Tournament at Wallace Pool in Westfield. Suzanne Lemberg won the Blue Devils' only individual event

in Raider history to record 100 career varsity wins with a 7-5 decision over Mike Matlaga during a aquad meet with Christian Brothers Academy at Watchung Hills High School. The CBA Colts defeated the Raiders, 39-25.

February 13, 2009: Friday the 13th held true to superstition for the Blue Devils, who needed a win over the visiting Kearny wrestling team to grab the Watchung Conference crown. Unfortunately, a chain reaction of unfortunate events for the 15-2 Blue Devils ended in a 37-27, Kardinal victory.

The Black Cat crossed the Blue Devils' path immediately when the Malcolm X. Shabazz wrestling team failed to take the path to Westfield for an opening match. Many of the Kardinal wrestlers arrived without their singlets and a coach had to return to Kearny to retrieve them. Christian Barber registered nine takedowns, a two-point nearfall and an escape to claim a 21-6, 5:36, technical fall over Matt McCurrie at 135-lbs and Nick DeFreitas tallied five takedowns and an escape to grab an 11-3, major decision over Bill Dimos at 125-lbs.

The Law Offices Of

Lisa M. Black, LLC

53 Cardinal Drive, 3rd Floor, Westfield, NJ 07090

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR VIRTUAL HEARING TOWN OF WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD. In compliance with the New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, the General Ordinances of the Town of Westfield and the Rules and Regulations of the Town of Westfield Planning Board, and in order to comply with the Executive Orders signed by Governor Murphy and in an effort to follow best practices recommended by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that **The Planning Board of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey** will hold a virtual meeting on **March 1, 2021, at 7:30 pm** to hear and decide upon the following application. Formal action may be taken.

Jeffrey & Malissa Cass, 826 & 830 Summit Avenue, Applicants are seeking approval to increase the width of lot 9.01 from 50 feet to 60 feet by decreasing the width of the larger lot, lot 10, from 100 feet to 90 feet.

The public can join the meeting and participate electronically or by phone by accessing the following link <http://bit.ly/WFPlanningBoardMeeting>, Meeting Dial-In Information, Phone #: 470.381.2552 or 646.518.9805, Webinar ID: 567 240 016 and press # on your phone Passcode: 836469. The application plans, and all documents submitted in relation to the application are on file in the office of the Town Engineer, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey. A digital copy is available by contacting the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at ljacus@westfieldnj.gov, or by viewing the documents on the Town of Westfield website: <https://www.westfieldnj.gov/>. Members of the public who have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the remote meeting process, or who are unable to access the plans digitally, should contact the Board Secretary Linda Jacus at (908) 789-4100, extension 4602, or by email ljacus@westfieldnj.gov.

Linda Jacus
Administrative Secretary
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$44.37

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on March 22, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. the Historic Preservation Commission ("Commission") of the Town of Westfield will hold a **virtual** public meeting. The Commission will hear an application brought by 923 Central Avenue, LLC, who will request that the Commission designate the existing, single-family residential dwelling on the property located at Block 4813, Lot 32 on the Tax Map of the Town of Westfield, and more commonly known as 923 Central Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090, as a historic site on the Zoning Map of the Town of Westfield. All those who are interested in attending this public meeting are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no members of the public will be permitted to physically attend the meeting, but are invited to attend the meeting electronically via Zoom conferencing service and/or telephonically only, in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Acts N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b) and the Remote Meeting Protocol for Local Public Bodies During Declared Emergencies, N.J.A.C. 5:39. During the public hearing on this application, members of the public will be able to ask questions and provide comments on the application.

To attend the meeting please follow the instructions below:

Join from computer, tablet or iPad at <https://bit.ly/WestfieldHPCMeeting>
Meeting Number (Access Code): 82251536343
Meeting Password: 857302
Dial-In: 646.518.9805

Please be advised that the Commission will allow members of the public to make public comment by audio, or by audio and video.

In accordance with the **Ordinance Establishing a Historic Preservation Commission and Providing for the Designation and Preservation of Historic Districts and Historic Landmarks in the Town of Westfield**, ("Ordinance"), this posting serves as notice required under section 5 of the Ordinance.

A copy of the Commission's full report on the matter shall be available by **March 1, 2021**, for inspection and downloading at the Commission's website, which can be accessed at www.westfieldnj.gov (under the "I Want To..." tab). A copy of the report can also be obtained from the Town Clerk's Office by **appointment only**. The Town Clerk's Office is located at 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

Linda Jacus
Administrative Secretary
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$55.59

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL 2021 BUDGET WORKSESSION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township of Scotch Plains has scheduled a **Budget Worksession Meeting for Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM**. The purpose of the meeting is:

2021 BUDGET WORKSESSION

Formal action may be taken at this meeting.

In adherence to the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) guidelines, the Township of Scotch Plains' Budget Worksession will be open to the public by electronic means, and as such, will be conducted through a teleconference via ZOOM Webinar. All members of the public may also view the meeting by livestream at Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/ScotchPlainsTwp>).

Any member of the public wishing to participate in the teleconference meeting, may do so by downloading ZOOM to their individual electronic device and must email the Township Clerk at blacina@scotchplainsnj.com to receive the meeting-specific link and password to gain access to the teleconference. All requests **must** be submitted and received by the Township Clerk **no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 26, 2021**.

Members of the public who prefer not to, or do not have the means to, participate in the teleconference, may continue to participate in the Township of Scotch Plains Budget Worksession by emailing comments relative to the **2021 Budget** to the Township Clerk at blacina@scotchplainsnj.com **no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 26, 2021**.

All relevant comments received will be read into the record during the 2021 Budget Worksession's Public Comment Portion. All emails **must** be submitted and received by the Township Clerk of the Board **no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 26, 2021 and must include the public member's full name and address** for the record.

Agendas will be posted for the public's viewing on the Township's official website at: <https://www.scotchplainsnj.gov/government/agendas-minutes/>.

The Township of Scotch Plains does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Those individuals requiring auxiliary aids and services must notify the ADA Coordinator of the Township of Scotch Plains as soon as possible in advance of the meeting.

BOZENA LACINA,
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$55.59

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and Executive Orders 103 and 107, the regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Scotch Plains scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. will be held by **online/virtual means and telephonically only**. Several applications will be heard. They are as follows:

Scott Woerner, 2687 Crest Lane, Block 5001, Lot 13, R-2 Zone, who is requesting a Temporary Operating Permit to use a room at the aforementioned residence for a psychotherapy office. Permission for a period of one (1) year, if granted, is pursuant to **Section 23-4.3** allowing for regular permission.

Nicholas Rundella, 1080 Cooper Road, Block 14602, Lot 15, R-1 Zone, who proposes to construct a 400 square foot pool house at the aforementioned address, contrary to the following Zoning Ordinance: Section 23-3.4D, Para. A, R-1 Zone, Schedule of Yard and Building Height Limitations for Detached Secondary Buildings in Residential Districts: Column 2 Side & Rear Yard Setbacks for structures greater than 200 feet, Minimum Requires: 30 feet. Proposed (side yard): 24 feet +/-.

David Belford, 356 Henry Street, Block 3602, Lot 17, R-3A Zone, who proposes to convert a portion of the existing garage at this address to accommodate a future second bathroom/laundry area, contrary to the following Zoning Ordinance: Section 23-2.3 Regulations: Applicable to All Zones: Minimum Required: enclosed private garage of not less than 12 feet x 20 feet (240 square feet). Existing: enclosed private garage 10.4 feet x 20 feet (208 square feet) +/- Proposed: enclosed private garage 10.4 feet x 14 feet (145.6 square feet).

These applications and supporting materials are on file and will be available for public inspection, free of charge, at least ten (10) days prior to the online/virtual hearing at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K3bwr_5dgtRAeldTAFWaoivCp6FJON5X

The following application will continue: **Plainfield Gas Realty, LLC**, 2246 North

Scotch Plains Man Charged With Animal Cruelty Offenses

SCOTCH PLAINS -- A Scotch Plains resident has been criminally charged with multiple animal cruelty offenses after three pets suffered severe neglect while in his care, including two that died, acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo, Plainfield Police Department Director Lisa Burgess, and Scotch Plains Police Department Chief Ted Conley jointly announced Tuesday.

Aiden R. Turso, 19, of the 300 block of Valleyscent Avenue, is charged with two counts of third-degree failure to provide necessary care to an animal, leading to its death; two counts of fourth-degree animal cruelty offenses; and fourth-degree hindering apprehension.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020, members of the Plainfield Police Department responded to the area of Rock Avenue on a report of a suspicious item dumped on the side of the road and found the deceased body of a severely emaciated pit bull inside a plastic bag, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Cronin, who is prosecuting the case.

An investigation led by Plainfield Police Department Sgt. Candace Grant and Scotch Plains Police Department Detective Theodore Florio, assisted by Tyler Smith of the Plainfield Area Humane Society, determined that Turso had three pets that had suffered severe neglect – the pit bull, named Cinnamon; a second dog, Jax, which was surrendered to the Humane Society in emaciated condition later in November; and a

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 2021-02

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD, CHAPTER 367, ARTICLE I REPAIR OR IMPROVEMENT OF SIDE-WALKS AND CURBS

STATEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing ordinance was finally passed at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford, New Jersey on February 9, 2021.

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Municipal Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$17.85

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Committee of the Township of Cranford ("Township") will issue a Request for Expression of Interest ("RFEI") on February 19, 2021, for interested parties to redevelop real property in the North Avenue Gateway Redevelopment Area known as Block 193, Lots 6.01, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14. The Redevelopment Area consists of six (6) properties consisting of a total of 85,959 square feet, situated on a prominent corner in downtown Cranford with frontage along North Union Avenue, Springfield Avenue and North Avenue. The RFEI provides detailed requirements for the submissions. An onsite conference for all interested parties is scheduled for March 5, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. EDT, and responses to the RFEI must be received by the Township by April 6, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. EDT. The full details of these and all other requirements are set forth in the RFEI. If the event of conflicting information presented in this Public Notice and the RFEI, the terms of the RFEI control. Electronic copies of the RFEI are available on the Township of Cranford's website (<https://www.cranfordnj.org/>) and hard copies are available at the Township of Cranford, Township Clerk's Office at the Town Hall building located at 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016.

By order of the Township Committee
Kathleen Miller Prunty, Mayor
Jamie Cryan, Township Administrator
Patricia Donahue, Township Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$34.17

PUBLIC NOTICE

Avenue, Block 8201, Lot 1, R-3 Zone, who is requesting an Amended Site Plan approval. The Applicant is proposing the addition of a drive thru window to the existing convenience store with internal Dunkin', along with associated site improvements, which is not a permitted use, as indicated in Section 23-3.7 of the Township's Ordinances.

This application and supporting materials are on file and will be available for public inspection, free of charge, at least ten (10) days prior to the online/virtual hearing at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2CGz1YjRn9NX_B47Th7tCS3w08UVbL2S

Alternately, members of the public may contact the Board Secretary by email at srapant@scotchplainsnj.com or by phone, during regular business hours, at (908) 322-6700 x 307 in order to make an appointment to review the application(s) and supporting materials at the Municipal Building located at 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

Members of the public who wish to monitor and/or participate in these public meeting procedures may join from a computer or cell phone device at:

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88372949938?pwd=emlNODRxaGRDa0s2SlhNQHkxZUlpvUT09>
Meeting ID: 883 7294 9938
Passcode: 995094

or join by telephone by dialing one of the numbers below and entering the Meeting ID when prompted:
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Meeting ID: 883 7294 9938
Passcode: 995094

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88372949938>
Shannon Rapant
Secretary to the Zoning Board
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$98.94

cat, Buddy, which was euthanized in late December after being taken to a local veterinarian in a comatose state, also emaciated and covered in fleas.

Turso was served the criminal charges against him via summons earlier this month, with an initial appearance scheduled to take place in Union County Superior Court 8:30 a.m. on the morning of Friday, February 19. "We hope these charges send a clear message to anyone who needs to hear it – this sort of conduct isn't just wrong, it's criminal," acting Prosecutor Ruotolo said.

Convictions on third-degree crimes can be punishable by 3 to 5 years in state prison.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Each police department countywide has an assigned humane law enforcement officer, but any police officer can respond to reports of animal cruelty. If you believe you have witnessed an incident of animal cruelty, contact your local police and relay as many details as you can, including the location, date and time, and description of the people and animals involved.

To view a fact sheet on animal cruelty laws in New Jersey and how they are applied, go online to <https://ucnj.org/prosecutor/animal-cruelty/>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PLANNING BOARD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Cranford Township Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. which **HEARING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY** as set forth below for the purpose of considering a proposed amended Housing Element and Fair Share Plan for adoption as part of the Township of Cranford Master Plan (the "proposed amended HEFSP"). The Planning Board will hear testimony from its affordable housing planning expert as to the proposed amended HEFSP and allow cross examination and testimony and evidence by interested persons regarding same. Following the public hearing the Planning Board may take action by amending and/or adopting the proposed amended HEFSP as part of the Township of Cranford Master Plan.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the scheduled public hearing or for purposes of making a public comment can join with Google Meet at: meet.google.com/bjck-bjck-us or by phone at 1-740-621-5742 enter PIN 769356058.

Copies of the proposed amended HEFSP will be on file in the Zoning/Planning Office, Cranford Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey 07016 but are not available for public inspection at the building due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Copies of the proposed amended HEFSP may be obtained by contacting the Planning Board Secretary (Kathy Lenahan: Email – K.Lenahan@cranfordnj.org Phone – 908.709.7211; - and requesting either an electronic copy or by delivery of hard copies to the person requesting the materials.

As set forth above, the Planning Board will conduct a **VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**

Kathy Lenahan,
Board Secretary
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$40.80

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF GARWOOD

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a virtual published meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, on February 11, 2021. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a virtual meeting of the Borough Council to be held on February 25, 2021 at 7:15 P.M. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, pursuant to Governor Murphy's 2020 NJ Executive Orders Nos. 103, 107, et seq., and per the corresponding guidelines issued by the N.J.D.C.A. Division of Local Government Services, the meeting will be conducted virtually, via RingCentral, and the meeting is accessible to the public at the below logon:

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/6432970558>

Alternatively, you may dial in to hear/participate at audio dial-in: Telephone: Dial: +1 (646) 357-3664.

Meeting ID: 643 297 0558

During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting the text of the full ordinance will be available to the general public on the Borough's website (www.garwood.org). The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 21-02

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE 2021 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$117,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

Purpose(s): Undertaking of the 2021 Pedestrian Safety Program consisting of the installation of flashing beacons at crosswalks and LED stop signs at intersections at various locations in, by and for the Borough.

Appropriation: \$117,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$111,400
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$-0-
Section 20 Costs: \$9,000
Useful Life: 10 years

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

Christina M. Ariemma, RMC
Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood
County of Union
State of New Jersey
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$65.79

POLICE BLOTTER

Your business can sponsor the Police Blotter
Call 908-232-4407 or email sales@goleader.com

WESTFIELD

Monday, February 8, a resident of the 1000 block of Ripley Avenue reported being the victim of fraud by an online computer repair service he attempted to use. The online computer repair service, throughout the process of the computer repair, continued to request additional funds from the victim. The victim provided a total of 33 gift cards, with a total value of \$12,000, to the service. The online computer repair service then advised the victim that there was illegal data on his computer and that he would be reported to law enforcement unless he sent an additional \$11,100 to the repair service using a Bitcoin ATM. The victim then attempted to deposit cash into the Bitcoin ATM. At this point, the deposit did not work and the victim became suspicious and terminated all contact with the online computer repair service. The total loss to the victim was \$12,000.

Friday, February 12, an individual, while on the 200 block of East North Avenue, reported being the victim of a motor vehicle burglary and an attempted motor vehicle theft. The victim reported that at 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect entered his unlocked motor vehicle, described as a 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee, and attempted to commit a motor vehicle theft while the vehicle was parked in the parking lot. The victim's vehicle is valued at approximately \$17,800. The suspect was unsuccessful and exited the vehicle without any items being taken.

Friday, February 12, a business owner on the 100 block of East Broad Street reported the theft of services from their establishment. While at that location, two unknown suspects failed to pay the required amount owed to the establishment, specifically \$12.33 each. The unknown suspects fled the establishment a short time later.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Friday, February 5, a business owner on the 1700 block of East 2nd Street

reported damage to a rear window on the building. The incident is under investigation.

Tuesday, February 9, a resident of Hamlette Place reported a theft from mail that was delivered to their house. The matter is under investigation.

Wednesday, February 10, a business owner on the 1500 block of Front Street reported the theft of a catalytic converter from a motor vehicle. The incident is under investigation.

Thursday, February 11, Sonpersya R. Jones, 23, of New Rochelle, N.Y., was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and on active warrants out of South Plainfield during a motor vehicle stop. Jones was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Friday, February 12, Charles A. Holder, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Holder was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Friday, February 12, officers responded to a convenience store located on Park Avenue on a report of a stolen motor vehicle. Upon arrival, they spoke with the driver, who stated he went inside the store and left his 2017 red Dodge Charger unlocked and running in the parking lot, and when he exited, he noticed the vehicle missing. The vehicle has been entered as stolen.

Friday, February 12, Brian D. Fitzharris, 45, of Clark was arrested during a two-car motor vehicle accident investigation and charged with driving under the influence. No injuries were reported. Fitzharris was transported to police headquarters and processed.

Sunday, February 14, a resident of Redwood Road reported fraudulent purchases made on a credit account. The matter is under investigation.

Charges are merely an accusation and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Man Is Arrested for Elizabeth Homicide

ELIZABETH – Atenant of the downtown Elizabeth apartment building where a young woman was killed last month has been arrested and charged with being responsible for the crime, acting Union County Prosecutor Lyndsay V. Ruotolo and Elizabeth Police Department Chief Giacomo Sacca and Director Earl Graves jointly announced February 5.

Andrew Burr, 21, is charged with first-degree murder and two related weapons offenses in connection with the death of 22-year-old Shaquin Ingram.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. on Monday, January 4, members of the Elizabeth Police Department responded to a request for a welfare check of a resident at an apartment on the 10 block of Jacques Street in Elizabeth and found Ms. Ingram at that location, having sustained serious injury, according to Scott Peterson, Union County Homicide Task Force supervisor, who is prosecuting the case. Ms. Ingram was subsequently pronounced dead at the scene.

An investigation led by the task force and assisted by members of the Eliza-

beth Police Department and Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit resulted in Mr. Burr being identified as a suspect in the case, and he was taken into custody without incident at his home February 3, then lodged in the Union County Jail pending a first appearance and detention hearing to take place in Union County Superior Court.

"This was a brutal crime that cut short what was clearly a promising young life," acting Prosecutor Ruotolo said. "While this arrest does not bring Ms. Ingram back, we hope it comes as some small solace to her loved ones."

Anyone with information about this matter is still urged to contact Prosecutor's Office Lt. Jose Vendas at (908) 358-3048 or Detective Charles Clement at (908) 577-6489.

Convictions on criminal charges of this nature are commonly punishable by terms of up to life in state prison.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 600

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.2 via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **03/11/21**, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Traffic Signal Relamping, North Contract - 2021, Various Locations, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties; 100% State; DP No: 21429

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 (P.L. 1975, c. 127); N.J.A.C. 17:27.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.19, contractors must provide a Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form prior to contract award.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, contractor must submit the Department of Treasury,

Kean Stage Presents Tony Award Winner Ali Stroker

UNION — Join Broadway’s Tony Award-winning performer Ali Stroker for an intimate, livestreamed concert with ASL interpretation and live captioning from the stage of Kean University’s Enlow Recital Hall on Saturday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. An Evening with Ali Stroker will feature songs from the Great American Songbook from such composers as Lin-Manuel Miranda, Stephen Sondheim, Carole King, Stephen Schwartz, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein and more!

Ms. Stroker won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical for her role as Ado Annie in Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Oklahoma!* She made history as the first actor in a wheelchair to appear on Broadway in Deaf West’s acclaimed 2015 revival of *Spring Awakening*. Ms. Stroker is an honorary board member of The National Disability Theatre. Ms. Stroker’s dedication to improving lives through the arts, disabled or not, is captured in her motto: “Making Your Limitations Your Opportunities.”

“Presenting Ali Stroker has been a dream of ours, and we’re delighted that she will bring her incredible talent, her energetic grace and amazing voice to Enlow Recital Hall,” said Steve Cochran, manager of Kean Stage. “In our continuing efforts to make our shows more inclusive and

accessible, we’re making live captioning and ASL interpretation available for our patrons with hearing loss and deafness.”

Kean Stage has continued its commitment to offering world-class presentations that reflect the diversity of the arts, audiences and artists. In October, Kean Stage made its return to live performances with *The Doo Wop Project* and *The Acrobats of Cirque-tacular* at Kean University’s Alumni Stadium. The following month, Kean Stage hosted the virtual ReelAbilities New Jersey Film Festival in celebration of the lives, stories and artistic abilities of people with all types of disabilities. In December, Kean Stage shifted its focus to virtual Broadway concerts. Andrea McArdle, the 1977 Tony Award nominee for Best Actress in a Musical, was the first to perform on the Enlow Recital Hall stage in nine months.

An Evening with Ali Stroker, a one-night-only event, will be livestreamed from Enlow Recital Hall on Saturday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.keanstage.com.

Entrants Sought for Annual Cranford Lip Sync Battle

CRANFORD -- The Cranford Dramatic Club and the Cranford Jaycees are sponsoring the 2021 Cranford Lip Sync Battle. Entrants are asked to submit a video (up to 30 seconds) lip syncing to their favorite tune. Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, March 3. The competition will air on Saturday, March 20 for the competition featuring some special guests. Prizes will be awarded for the best youth, young adult, adult, and family/group.

There is a \$10 suggested donation per entry to benefit the Friends of Cranford Performing Arts. For more details and to enter, visit cranfordjaycees.org/lipsync.

BUY, SELL, RENT, HIRE: goleader.com/classifieds

JFSCNJ HEART Grant Virtual Concert Series to Begin February 22

AREA — Jewish Family Service of Central New Jersey (JFSCNJ) will be presenting the first virtual concert in a yearlong monthly concert series featuring vocalist Anthony Tabishon on Monday, February 22 at 1 p.m. via Zoom. This free program is made possible in part by a 2021 HEART (History, Education, Arts, Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of County Commissioners.

Contact info@jfscentralnj.org or call (908)352-8375 to register for this program and receive your Zoom invitation. You will be sent you Zoom invitation the morning of the event.

PUBLIC FINANCE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, was introduced and passed upon first reading at a meeting of the governing body of the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, on February 16, 2021. It will be further considered for final passage, after public hearing thereon, at a meeting of the governing body to be held at the Municipal Building, at 75 North Martine Avenue, in the Borough of Fanwood, on March 15, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock PM. During the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting copies of the full ordinance will be available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk's office for the members of the general public who shall request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,221,000 FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL ACQUISITIONS FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$779,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION.

Purpose(s): Road improvements to Gere Place and Morse Avenue, including curbing and drainage; Acquisition of video equipment for the Police Department interview room; Acquisition of various vehicles for the Public Works Department, including but not limited to dump truck with plow, pick-up truck with plow and a leaf and brush bucket attachment; and COVID Special Emergency improvements, including but not limited to renovations to offices, police station, municipal court, which includes replacing cubicles with offices, expanding police locker room for female officers, converting all bathroom fixtures, creating separate entrance for construction office, rewiring server and computers, replacing doors with touch free entrances, purchasing temperature kiosks for all entrances and municipal court building, replacing the Fire Department radios and system, and replacement of plumbing in police and administration offices.

Appropriation: \$1,221,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$779,000
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$400,000 expected to be received as a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.
Section 20 Costs: \$70,000
Useful Life: 12.85 Years

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$62.22

PUBLIC NOTICE

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$120,000 FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS (SEWER CAPITAL) FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$114,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Purpose(s): For road improvements to Gere Place and Morse Avenue (Sewer Capital), including curbing and drainage, and including all work or materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications thereon on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

Appropriation: \$120,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$114,000
Grants (if any) Appropriated: N/A
Section 20 Costs: \$30,000
Useful Life: 20 Years

This Notice is published pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-17.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$47.94

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS COUNTY OF UNION

TAKE NOTICE The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly "as is" condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.

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

The public auction shall be held on February 19, 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicle may be examined at Plains Auto Body, 2380 Beryllium Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 at 8:30 am. Public Auction will commence at 8:45 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Acura	1997	JH4DC 4456V S0185 35	\$5,589.54
Bozena Lacina Township Clerk 1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$38.76			

Rahway Deems Soup Stroll a Tasty Success

RAHWAY — Rahway’s first Soup Stroll was a tasty success. While not an original idea, Rahway’s Soup Stroll brought the community out for four consecutive Saturdays in January from 1 to 5 p.m. Participating restaurants throughout the city handed out 4 oz samples of their favorite soup to strollers. Undaunted by the cold, mask-wearing strollers happily accepted the soup and consumed samples outside in order to comply with social distancing and to respect the indoor dining capacity limitations due to the pandemic.

“When it’s cold out, we all need a little extra motivation to leave the house. Add the pandemic into the mix, and hibernation seems like a great idea. This Soup Stroll brought people out in a safe and entertaining way,” said Mayor Raymond Giacobbe.

Strollers from all over New Jersey, New York City and Staten Island were drawn to Rahway for this fun, free event. Reunions amongst friends were common, such as Lisa and Allan Vandever of Rahway and their long-time friend, David Kock from New York City.

“Due to the pandemic, we haven’t seen our friend from NYC in months. He took the train to Rahway, and we were able to partake in an activity, outside and socially distanced. This was really the perfect event,” commented Lisa.

Twenty restaurants throughout Rahway participated in the Soup Stroll: Beanas Para Siempre; CubaNu Restaurant and Lounge; Dervish Kabab and Grill; Flynn’s Pub House; Gyros Corner; Hugo’s Peruvian Restaurant; Il Forno a Legna; Jersey Fried Chicken Fusion; Luciano’s Ristorante; Medina Halal Platter;

This AD space could be yours!

Call the Space Man

908-232-4407

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 21-02-R

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Ordinance published herewith has been finally adopted by the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union, New Jersey on February 16, 2021. The Ordinance provides for a special emergency appropriation to provide for the funding a deficit in operations of the Borough directly attributable to COVID-19, consisting of a deficit in operation in the sewer utility fund in the amount of \$125,000 which is anticipated to be experienced by the Borough in the current fiscal year.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATIONS FOR A POLICEMAN.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$23.97

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS COUNTY OF UNION

TAKE NOTICE The Township of Scotch Plains will expose for sale at Public Auction, in accordance with Title 39:10A-1, at the times and locations specified below, the following motor vehicles which came into the possession of the Scotch Plains Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

All the vehicles on the following lists are offered in strictly "as is" condition, with no representation as to condition or fitness for any particular purpose. Minimum bid for each vehicle will be all towing and storage fees due to the towing agency.

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

The public auction shall be held on February 19, 2021 in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey pertaining thereto.

The following vehicle may be examined at Plains Auto Body, 2380 Beryllium Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076 at 8:30 am. Public Auction will commence at 8:45 am.

MAKE	YEAR	VIN NO.	MINIMUM BID
Nissan	2010	1N4AL 2EP1A C1381 50	\$5,786.79
Bozena Lacina Township Clerk 1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$38.76			

PUBLIC NOTICE

Melao Cafe and Creamery; Michelino’s Pizza; Monchy’s Rahway; Olivia’s Catering and Dining; Ortega’s BBQ Churrasqueira; Rocky’s Bar and Grill; The Coffee Box; The Irving Inn; The Waiting Room; and Wheelie Good Pierogi.

Some were serving up the same fare from week to week while others were changing the soup each week. Every type of restaurant was represented, from the grab-and-go to more upscale, sit-down establishments. A myriad of cuisines were showcased, highlighting that Rahway has become a destination for foodies.

Living in Rahway for almost 15 years, Rahway resident Andrew Garcia Phillips said, “You get into a rut of visiting the same establishments. This was a great way to remind myself of other favorites and even check out some new places I have yet to visit.”

Not only were Rahway soup strollers treated to delicious soups, they were encouraged to take photos at 15 or more locations and submit them to be entered to win one of three \$25 gift cards to their favorite Rahway establishments. This year’s winners were Nick Zolfo, Lauren Pollack, Kristina Junkroft and Vinnie Basciano.

Soup sippers weren’t the only ones who benefited from the stroll. Proprietors throughout Rahway appreciated this promotional event. Masyiah Alwalid, from Medina Halal Platter located at 395 St. Georges Avenue, had this to say, “Thank you, once again, for allowing us to partake in the wonderful promotion. It truly was a brilliant idea and success, as we were visited by many new faces from the Rahway community. We hope that we may collaborate again sometime!”

Ann Marie Williams, managing director of The Rahway Arts + Business Partnership, the Rahway non-profit that collaborated with the city to produce this event, confirmed that Rahway’s Soup Stroll would go on the list of annual tasting events such as the crowd pleasing Rahway Taste of Spring.

To find out more about Rahway’s restaurants and eateries and other Rahway events, including Rahway’s Taste of Spring for 2021, visit <https://rahwayishappening.com>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARD

The Township Committee of the Township of Cranford has authorized an award of contract for Planning Services in connection with the Preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for Block 541, Lot 2, Qualifiers C01 through C07, and known as 750 Walnut Avenue, to Topology NJ LLC, pursuant to the fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5. Such contract and Resolution No. 2021-126 authorizing said contract are available for public inspection at the office of the Township Clerk.

Awarded to: Topology NJ LLC, 60 Union Street, #1N, Newark, New Jersey 07106

Service: Provide Planning Services in connection with the Preparation of a Redevelopment Plan for Block 541, Lot 2, Qualifiers C01 through C07, and known as 750 Walnut Avenue.
Fee: Not to Exceed \$30,000.00
Date: February 9, 2021

Patricia Donahue, RMC
Township Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Leader Fee: \$26.52

PUBLIC NOTICE

Indie-Country Trio Announces Debut Album

AREA – New Jersey-based indie-country trio Southpaw announces its debut album, “Unhitched,” a collection of infectious country-crossover songs infused with the band’s electrifying “North meets South” sound. The record released February 14, on all major online platforms.

Formed in 2018, Southpaw is a collaboration of three Union County musicians with distinctly different acclaimed creative careers — published poet and literary editor Christine Radlmann of Westfield, Emmy-winning sound designer Sean Garnhart of Westfield and award-winning advertising professional Colin McConnell of Cranford.

“Unhitched” contains 13 original tracks and was self-produced over two years, in spite of challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Multi-instrumentalists Mr. Garnhart and Mr. McConnell weave pianos, organs, guitars, dobros, mandolins and other musical colors into stunning tapestries that beautifully frame Ms. Radlmann’s soulful country vocals.

“Each of us grew up performing and writing songs in a variety of musical genres,” says lead singer Ms. Radlmann. “And we wanted to

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on February 15, 2021. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk’s Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE SENIOR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on March 1, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., via virtual conference and phone conference.

Kathleen Holmes
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$23.97

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on February 15, 2021. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk’s Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A POLICE CHIEF, CAPTAINS, LIEUTENANTS & CORPORALS; PROMOTIONS

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on March 1, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., via virtual conference and phone conference.

Kathleen Holmes
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$23.97

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on February 15, 2021. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk’s Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, NJ between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING THE POWERS & DUTIES OF THE FANWOOD POLICE CHIEF; POWERS AND DUTIES OF POLICE DIRECTOR OF THE FANWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT.

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on March 1, 2021, at 7:00 P.M., via virtual conference and phone conference.

Kathleen Holmes
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$25.50

boil it all down into a gem of many musical facets that still sparkles with the traditions of country music.”

Acclaimed New York City-based composer Matt King describes “Unhitched” as “great country songwriting — informed by genres such as pop, R&B, funk, reggae and even jazz — with Christine Radlmann’s soulful vocals as the cherry on top.”

Promotional song teasers from “Unhitched” have been met with glowing feedback and are helping indie upstart Southpaw rapidly build an online fan base. Southpaw plans to follow the launch of “Unhitched” shortly with its first music video, “Within You,” currently in production and begin touring as soon as venues reopen from the Covid-19 pandemic.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD PLANNING BOARD

Notice is hereby given that the PLANNING BOARD OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, after public hearing on December 9, 2020 granted approval to Matt & Cori Juckes for setback, and driveway width variances, for property at 353 North Avenue, Fanwood, being block 20 and lot 13.

Documents pertaining to this application are available for public inspection at Borough Hall during normal business hours.
Mr. Matthew Juckes
353 North Avenue
Fanwood, New Jersey 07023
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$15.81

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 21-01-R

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Ordinance published herewith has been finally adopted by the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union, New Jersey on February 16, 2021. The Ordinance provides for a special emergency appropriation to provide for the funding a deficit in operations of the Borough directly attributable to COVID-19, consisting of a deficit in operation in the sewer utility fund in the amount of \$125,000 which is anticipated to be experienced by the Borough in the current fiscal year.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, THE COUNTY OF UNION, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT MEASURES AND DESIGN AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$24.99

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE 20-23-S

BOND ORDINANCE STATEMENTS AND SUMMARIES

The bond ordinance, the summary terms of which are included herein, has been finally adopted by the Borough of Fanwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey on December 21, 2020 and the 20 day period of limitation within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such ordinance can be commenced, as provided in the Local Bond Law, has begun to run from the date of the first publication of this statement. Copies of the full ordinance are available at no cost and during regular business hours, at the Clerk’s office for members of the general public who request the same. The summary of the terms of such bond ordinance follows:

TITLE: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$7,200,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LIBRARY IN AND BY THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,702,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Purpose(s): For the construction of a library, including all work and materials necessary therefor and incidental thereto.

Appropriation: \$7,200,000
Bonds/Notes Authorized: \$3,702,500
Grants (if any) Appropriated: \$3,497,500 expected to be received as a grant from the State of New Jersey, specifically from the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act.

Section 20 Costs: \$2,500,000
Useful Life: 30 years

Kathleen Holmes,
Borough Clerk
1 T - 02/18/21, The Times Fee: \$43.86

Goods & Services Directory

OLIVER A HOWARTH PAVING

Driveways • Parking Lots
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Belgian Block Curbing
Drainage Problems
Cement Sidewalks

“Serving the area for over 70 years”

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CHECCHIO

BLACK TOP PAVING

DRIVEWAYS CONCRETE
PARKING LOTS BRICK PAVERS

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FREE ESTIMATES

DON'T REPLACE YOUR TILE

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The Grout Guy

BATHROOMS, KITCHENS, FLOORS, COUNTERS

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Periwinkles Reopens Following Takeover Makeover

By MARTA ESQUIROZ
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

CRANFORD – The Downtown Cranford revealed Periwinkle’s Fine Gifts store’s new look last Friday after two weeks as the first “Takeover Makeover.”

Caren Demyen, the Acting Director of the organization Downtown Cranford, said the makeover “was an idea to showcase the heart of Cranford.”

“Our business owners do so much to support our schools, organizations and sports teams,” she continued, “and we wanted to give an example of the generosity and spirit of our town.”

Periwinkle’s owner Elaine Moffitt was kept in the dark while the renovations took place. “I can’t believe how amazing it looks; it’s so beautiful,” Ms. Moffitt said between tears when she first saw her store. “I am so overwhelmed.”

The Takeover Makeover project was developed by Downtown Cranford to support the local community still facing the economic consequences the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Moffitt observed that the love and support that people have for this town “is so unbelievable.”

“When you combined the down-

town getting together with people that love this town, it’s a win-win formula,” she said. “I think every town should take this as an example of what are we doing here and come and see it.”

Deputy Mayor Brian Andrews joined the reopening and expressed his “thrill” to the good development of this “beautiful project.” “This what makes Cranford so great. I don’t think you can find this in other communities,” he expressed.

“This is such a success,” Mr. Andrews pointed out. When asked about the possibility of the Township Committee to get more involved in the future makeover projects, the Deputy Mayor answered that it would be something that the township would need to discuss with the downtown organization, but he definitely hopes “we keep doing things like that.”

“We are the best downtown in New Jersey,” he declared.

The project manager and owner of Timber Ridge Construction, Lisa Carbone, said that everybody wanted to put the best in this project. “There are literally 30 different people that volunteered major amounts of time and everybody worked very well together.”

For her, the renovation was the

way to “keep these towns together from a retail perspective...Everybody is point and click online, including myself, that are affecting our stores, and we need to keep them to keep the Downtown looking how it looks now,” she added.

Among those who volunteered their time and talents for the project were police and fire department personnel, Green Thumb Garden Club, RND Disposal, TC Graphics, Fire Me Up, Home Depot, Papurus, Steve Needle, and many others.



Marta Esquiroz for The Westfield Leader and The Times
REVEALED...The Downtown Cranford reveals the renovation of Periwinkle's to owner, Elaine Moffitt.

SP Resident Wins Third Place in 2021 Feathered Quill Book Awards

SCOTCH PLAINS — Resident Robert E. Constant has added another feather to his well-decorated hat as the award-winning author was recently recognized by the Feathered Quill Book Awards Program for his book “Hello Grandma!” The book won the Bronze/Third Place award in the 2021 Feathered Quill Book Awards Program for the Early Readers category.

“Congratulations! Normally we see a 20 percent increase in nominations every year but this year we saw an astonishing 80 percent increase! Robert should be quite proud that his book rose to the top of all these nominations,” organizers of the Feathered Quill Book Awards stated in a mail sent to Mr. Constant.

“Hello Grandma!” chronicles the story of Saniyah and Robbie following their decision to visit their grandmother in The Bahamas — Nassau to be precise. The move brought them to the realization that saying “Hello Grandma!” online is nothing compared to having a physi-

cal interaction and connection with their grandparents. The book takes readers on an exciting adventure as they travel miles to see their grandma and experience the rich, colorful Caribbean culture, immersing themselves in the family’s Bahamian customs.

“Hello Grandma!” is the author’s second children’s book and the follow-up to his five-star rated debut, “Hey Tuskegee!” The captivating story was selected from tons of other children’s books considered in the category for the awards, consequently reiterating the creativity and ingenuity of the author with the pen.

“Hello Grandma!” has also continued to enjoy rave reviews from readers across the globe. “Loved reading about Saniyah and Robbie’s visit to see Grandma in Nassau. The depictions of the culture were wonderful. Great follow up to Hey Tuskegee. Can’t wait to see what adventures are in store next!” said Alana Martin.

The book is currently available

on Amazon for readers worldwide.

Mr. Constant is an award-winning author who is at the start of a burgeoning hobby as a children’s book author. The associate director for Leadership Gifts for Princeton University has over 20 years of experience in higher education and loves to write about topics and places that are meaningful to him and his family.

Mr. Constant holds a bachelor’s degree from Tuskegee University in 1998 and a master’s degree in Sports Administration from St. Thomas University in 2001.

Community Calendar

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Moving With Awareness for Better Balance and Fitness Fridays, through April, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Scotch Plains Public Library is offering a series of gentle fitness classes live via Zoom, led by instructor, Yasmin Ofek. Register at scotlib.org/events.

Laugh Lines with Alan Zweibel Thursday, February 18, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Join JCC of Central NJ for a hilarious night online with “Saturday Night Live” writer and award Emmy winner Alan Zweibel. Visit JCC of Central NJ on Facebook.

Hiroya Tsukamoto in Concert Friday, February 19, 7:30 p.m. Hiroya’s performance will be streamed live from All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains. Ticket sales are \$20 and will begin the day of on Friday, February 19.

History of Jazz: Oxygen for the Ears Friday, February 19, 1:30 p.m. An award-winning documentary chronicling the rise of jazz, its players, followers and future. Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87840981404>.

Annual Souper Sunday Event Sunday, February 21, 11:15 a.m. Join the First Congregational Church of Westfield on a Zoom webinar as Heather Fenyk discusses the history of the watershed from indigenous and industrial development to its current status. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f6aHzGVAASNIiNdAAPLupL2g. For more information on all upcoming events and programs, visit fccfwestfield.org.

Make Miniature Furniture Tuesday, February 23, 10:30 a.m. Join Barbara Freiberg during this online art class and learn how to make your own dollhouse furniture. Register at libraryinsight.net/EventSignUp.asp?i=519282343&jx=wfp&lmx=C6f%60%2C%AD%A5.

Moving Ahead Together in 2021 Wednesday, February 24, 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Meet business professionals from the

Greater Elizabeth, GWACC, and Union Township Chambers during this free virtual multi-chamber networking event. Visit us02web.zoom.us/j/87840981404.

Moms Night Out in Downtown Cranford Wednesday, February 24, 5 p.m. A night of shopping and dining in support of CHS Project Graduation 2021. Masks and social distancing required.

Virtual Chair Yoga demonstration with Joy Lara Thursday, February 25, 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about the benefits and simple activity of Chair Yoga from the comfort of home. This is a virtual demonstration and informational session only, not a hands-on class. Register online at libraryinsight.net/EventSignUp.asp?i=519282343&jx=wfp&lmx=C6f%60%21%AC%AE.

TV Trivia Thursday, February 25, 7 p.m. This is a virtual event for adults via zoom hosted by the Scotch Plains Public Library. There will be four rounds of trivia, plus one lightning round. For more information or to register, visit scotlib.org, email library@scotlib.org, or call (908) 322-5007 ex. 204.

Increase Stress Resilience With Better Food and Lifestyle Habits Wednesday, March 3, 12 p.m. Join the GWACC networking meeting with Carola Becker via Zoom as she shares how you can identify the triggers and how you can support your body and brain before, during and after stress. Register in advance at us02web.zoom.us/j/87840981404.

Drive-Thru Pierogi Dinner Friday, March 5, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Youth Association located at 60 N Jefferson Road in Whippany. Preorders will be taken online at pdinner.com.

Submit events at www.goleader.com/calendar

Scotch Plains Artist Rekindles Passion, Oils Capture Local Spots

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Sometimes life gets in the way of our true passion. That is what Kiran Dhaliwal says about her love of painting. The life-long Scotch Plains resident and commercial interior designer said that she grew up in an atmosphere where her mother, a kindergarten teacher, encouraged creativity. So, she dabbled in art as a teenager but had “about a 30-year void [of not painting] because life was busy, and I forgot this was so important to who I am.” As a single parent raising two little girls, she was not sure if she could go back to art. She has been remarried for 17 years now, and the children are adults out on their own. The pull of her passion for painting echoed so strongly that she has returned to art for her own enjoyment and to use it for good.

In 2015, she re-introduced herself to this passion by taking life drawing classes in the evenings at the Visual Art Center in Summit.

“Life drawing harkens back to the basics,” she said in a phone interview with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. Specifically, during the pandemic, she has had time to rekindle that drive to create and get back to her first love, painting.

While in high school, she reminisced. Ms. Dhaliwal and her father took a private art class with a local artist and they learned how to use oil paint. Yet, she mostly used “acrylics in my early-late teens and 20s because I loved working large, and the paint dries faster. I found acrylics really fun and easy to clean up.” As she has gotten back to painting, she explained, “Oils felt deeper and more vibrant than acrylics and with [my] age comes patience.”

She explained that the thought of going back to painting always lingered. “I noticed for years, especially as I would travel back to India where I was born or go to Uganda where I support a non-profit organization (www.angelhouseinternational.org). I would find myself yearning to paint something I was looking at.” Not just the subject matter intrigued her. “I was so attracted to the colors and compositions before my eyes. I was really drawn to strong women and the emotions they evoked as they lived daily lives and intertwined themselves into society,” she said. This prompted her to start a series that she is currently building which spotlights women.

For inspiration to capture some-

thing specific on canvas, Ms. Dhaliwal looks for three things: “The story it tells, the relatability we have to this story, and the time we all sit in it together.” She went on to explain the universality and importance of art in our lives. “Art needs to speak to people and draw them in and bring them together. It needs to bring emotion and awareness from our soul to the forefront. It’s also a history barom-

eter for future generations to look back on.”

Through her collection called “Town Redefined,” others will be able to look back on the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains which she has captured on linen and canvas. Some of her subjects include a gas station, the fish and chips store on South Avenue, the Fanwood Train Station, the Fanwood Library, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Brookside Park, and other immediately identifiable spots. Through this collection, she says she hopes that area residents feel a connection to the community. She herself is especially connected



ART IN OILS...Scotch Plains resident Kiran Dhaliwal’s work captures local, recognizable spots in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. She hopes her art will be a “history barometer for future generations to look back on.”

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Through her collection called “Town Redefined,” others will be able to look back on the towns of Fanwood and Scotch Plains which she has captured on linen and canvas. Some of her subjects include a gas station, the fish and chips store on South Avenue, the Fanwood Train Station, the Fanwood Library, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Brookside Park, and other immediately identifiable spots. Through this collection, she says she hopes that area residents feel a connection to the community. She herself is especially connected

sell with all profits going to non-profit organizations. Additionally, Ms. Dhaliwal is selling limited-edition, high-quality hand signed Giclée (digital prints) from her paintings to raise funds for the International Angel House, a 501c3, which is committed to furthering “Empowerment, Sustainability, and Progress for Women.”

She is planning a public showing of her work in the fall of 2021. To view her paintings and see more of the area’s iconic spots captured by Ms. Dhaliwal, go to <https://www.kirandhaliwalartist.com/gallery/strength-and-radiance>.

Mixing With Zest

By HILLARY SHOPE

Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

Creamy Spinach and Artichoke Pasta Bake

This pasta is savory, smooth, and flavorful. Walnuts give it an ‘umami-like’ flavor and the artichokes give it a bit of earthiness. The spinach is completely blended, so this is a kid-friendly dish if you’re trying to sneak in some healthy veggies! It stores well and can be heated up for leftovers. If you don’t feel like adding the extra step of baking the parmesan cheese on top of the pasta, it’s delicious on its own so you can eat it straight from the pot!

- Ingredients:
- 1 box of bowtie pasta
 - 2 tablespoons unsalted butter (+ a little extra to grease your 13x9 pan)
 - 1 shallot
 - 6 garlic cloves
 - 2 (14 oz.) cans of artichoke hearts
 - 1 cup raw walnuts
 - ½ cup olive oil
 - Three handfuls of baby spinach
 - 2 cups parmesan cheese
 - Salt
 - Pepper
 - 1 tablespoon corn starch
 - 2 cup oat milk (or nut milk of your choice)
 - 1/8 teaspoon cayenne



- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Directions:
1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (you’ll use it later)
 2. Bring salted water to a boil. Cook the bowtie pasta and set it aside.
 3. While your pasta is cooking, rinse the artichokes with water. Once they’re rinsed, squeeze each one to remove as much water as possible before setting it aside.
 4. Melt the butter in a large skillet or pot.
 5. Add chopped shallot and garlic. Mix with a wooden spoon for a few minutes until soft and translucent.
 6. While that’s cooking, add the walnuts to a food predecessor and blend until smooth (*I blend it until it’s about the consistency of sand, but if you would like more texture, feel free to leave it chunkier*)
 7. Add olive oil and spinach to the food processor and blend.
 8. Add 1 cup of the parmesan cheese, 1 can’s worth of artichoke hearts, and a dash of salt and pepper to the food predecessor. Blend until creamy.
 9. Add the mixture from the food predecessor to the pot with onion and garlic. Stir to combine.
 10. Add the corn starch. Mix to combine. (*This will help thicken the sauce later*)
 11. Add the oat milk and remaining spices, including cayenne, red pepper flakes, and additional salt and pepper (if you would like any). Mix every few minutes until the sauce has thickened slightly.
 12. Chop the artichokes from your second can and add them to the sauce.
 13. Add your pasta to the sauce. Mix to fully coat the pasta in the sauce.
 14. Grease a 13x9 baking dish with butter. Pour your pasta into the baking dish and top with the remaining cup of shredded parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for about 15 minutes or until cheese has melted. Serve hot.

Virtual Cooking Program To Feature Kosher Chef

SCOTCH PLAINS — Internationally-acclaimed Kosher chef and baker Paula Shoyer will conduct an interactive cooking experience on Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, this virtual event is open to the community.

Ms. Shoyer is a French-trained pastry chef who teaches cooking and baking classes around the world. Her recipes have been featured in newspapers, magazines, websites, blogs and on radio and television shows across the country. Her latest cook-

book, “The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook: 100 Recipes to Nourish Body and Soul,” was published in 2020 and is the first Instant Pot cookbook to feature Kosher food.

Her previous cookbooks include “The Kosher Baker,” “The Holiday Kosher Baker,” “The New Passover Menu” and “The Healthy Jewish Kitchen.”

Ms. Shoyer will demonstrate how to cook recipes from her new Instant Pot cookbook while participants cook alongside her via Zoom. Attendees do not need to have an Instant Pot to participate; recipes also can be made on the stovetop. Attendees also can just watch the demonstration without cooking.

“We are so excited to welcome Paula Shoyer back to our community, this time virtually,” said Marcia Wiener, event chair at Congregation Beth Israel. “We had a blast cooking with her when she visited us a few years ago. Paula’s cookbooks, with their delicious and innovative recipes, have become staples in Kosher homes.”

To register, go to <http://bit.ly/3tK5D8D>. The cost is \$18 if registration is completed by Thursday, February 25, and \$25 after February 25. Signed cookbooks are available for purchase prior to or at the event for \$21.

For more information, contact Marcia Wiener at marcia.wiener@gmail.com or Congregation Beth Israel at office@cbisp.org or (908) 889-1830.



Paula Shoyer

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David B. Corbin (February 2020 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
GOING IN FOR THE LAY-UP...Blue Devil Griffin Rooney, No. 5, goes in for the lay-up in the game against the Ghosts of Paterson Eastside. The Blue Devils defeated the Ghosts, 69-47, in Westfield on February 4, 2020.



David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
ACTION INSIDE...Blue Devils Sam Stravach, reaching, Caroline Dwyer, No. 3, Faith Dobosiewicz, No. 23, and Chloe Kreusser, No. 21, pack the inside lane against the Patrick School Celtics in Westfield on February 1, 2019.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

From the archives of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* - complete accounts found at www.goleader.com - year - month - week.

Early February 2020: Long time SPF boys soccer Head Coach Tom Breznitsky, who had been at the helm for 45 years, has been replaced by former Raider standout Alex Passucci during the past Board of Education meeting. During his tenure as head coach, Breznitsky has amassed

an amazing 761-185-63 record to go with 17 Union County Tournament (UCT) titles, 15 sectional titles and made 13 trips to the Group Championship game, winning seven of them (1987, 89, 91, 92, 95, 97, 98). Breznitsky claimed his 500th win on October 20, 2004 when the Raiders shut out the Cranford Cougars, 2-0, at Walnut Avenue Elementary School in Cranford. Victory No. 600 for Breznitsky came on September 20, 2011 with a 6-0 rout of the Cranford

Cougars in Cranford. In the fourth game of the 2016 season, the Raiders awarded Breznitsky with his 700th career win when they beat Elizabeth, 2-1, on September 15. *(In memory of coach Breznitsky who passed away in January)*

Early February, 2020: The Union County Championship (UCC) tournament finals are like the Star Wars saga, but with more episodes. For the fourth consecutive season, the finals pitted the Westfield High School Blue Devils against their arch nemesis and fellow powerhouse Summit Hilltoppers at Warinanco Rink in Roselle. The Hilltoppers emerged victorious, 3-1, with

junior Dan McDonald, assisted by freshman Matteo Mancheno, getting the Blue Devils' only goal. Senior Jack Ruckman was solid between the pipes with 25 saves.

February 4, 2020: Sophomore Logan Howland and junior Jack Spellman controlled the boards, while senior co-captains Jake Walsh, Griffin Rooney, Andrew Echausse and Hank Shapiro set up the offense as the Westfield boys basketball team contained the Ghosts of Paterson Eastside, 69-47, in Westfield. Like several times before, the 12-4 Blue Devils trailed after the first quarter but revved up their offensive engines to distance themselves further and further away from the 8-8 Ghosts.

Howland ruled the boards with

13 rebounds to go with seven points, two assists, a block and a tipped ball that led to a steal. Spellman, who grabbed eight rebounds and scored three points, was also very hands on with four blocked shots and a steal.

Walsh and Rooney also contributed to the team's 50-rebound total with six apiece. Additionally, Walsh (2 assists, steal) pumped in 24 points, which included four 3-pointers. Rooney (3 steals, 2 assists) rolled in 13 points, including a 3-pointer and Shapiro came off the bench to contribute four assists, three rebounds, two points, a steal and a block. Echausse, who scored five points, including a 3-pointer, dished out four assists, while

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David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
A FANTASTIC FINISH...Cougar Jack Korzeneski, left, comes back from a 5-3 deficit to beat Barron Jaden Catalano, 8-5, at 138-lbs (February 4, 2019).



David B. Corbin (February 2019 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
WORKING OUT OF A TANGLE...Blue Devil Theo Dardia begins to work his way out of a tangle against Panther Drew Graves during overtime in his 145-lb bout. Dardia wiggled out, got the takedown and won 7-5 (January 30, 2019).

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

adding three steals, a block and a rebound.

January 30, 2019: One team remained to be beaten if the Westfield wrestling team wanted to win the Union County Conference (UCC) Watchung Division with a perfect slate and the team was the Roselle Park Panthers that the Blue Devils hosted on January 30. The quest was accomplished as the 10-2 (6-0 in UCC Watchung Division) Blue Devils reaped team points in 10 of the 14 scheduled bouts to defeat the 12-5 Panthers, 50-21.

Scanlan claimed a 13-2 major decision over Pat Gergish at 160-lbs. Jordan Simpson (170-lbs) grabbed a 20-3 technical fall in 6:00 over Jon Estivene. Brendan Loder exercised a double-leg lift-to-back to pin Igor Maciel in 1:17 at 220-lbs. Sophomore Jon Heard bumped up the 285-lbs to pin Dave Torres in 4:32. Luke Jacobs earned a 10-1 majority decision over Danny Luc at 106-lbs. Jeremy Silber won by 11-3 majority decision over Julian Colon at 126-lbs. Theo Dardia pulled out a 7-5, sudden victory overtime decision over Drew Graves at 145-lbs.

February 1, 2019: Bragging rights for the top rung of the Union County Conference (UCC) Watchung Division and most likely the top seed for the upcoming Union County Tournament (UCT) was secured by The Patrick School girls basketball team with a 50-33 victory over the hosting Westfield Blue Devils. Junior Faith Dobosiewicz (6 rebounds) led her team with 11 points, while sinking two 3-pointers. Senior Ali Lisanti sank trip 3-pointers.

February 3, 2019: The Westfield girls indoor track team placed second at the North 2, Group 4 Championships held at the Bennett Center in Toms River. The Lady Blue Devils had a total of 52 behind the Ridge Red Devils, who placed first with a 79 total. Lauren Triarsi took top honors in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8.82. Triarsi recorded a time of 8.73 in the preliminaries. Erica Lawrence won the shot put with a shove of 36-4.5.

February 4, 2019: Acquiring team points proved to be very difficult for the fifth-seeded Woodbridge Barrons when they faced the fourth-seeded Cranford Cougars in the quarterfinal round

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REACHING FOR THE BALL...Cougar Caroline McCaffery, No. 33, tries to take the ball away from Blue Devil Grace Elliott, No. 12, Westfield defeated Cranford, 41-30, in Westfield on February 5, 2018.



GOING AIRBORNE...Blue Devil Russ Weber was lifted into the air several times by Cougar Justin Alpaugh-McLean in his 182-lb bout but Weber bounced back every time to claim a 5-4 victory (February 2, 2018).

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Christine Cosenza, State Farm Insurance Agent

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Wrestling Tournament at Cranford High School. The 13-5 Barrons found themselves in a 21 to minus 1 hole before they could place a positive team point on the scoreboard in a 52-14 Cranford triumph.

Cougar Jack Korzeneski came from behind to beat Jaden Catalano, 8-5, at 138-lbs. Cougar AJ Bencivenga (152-lbs), who normally likes to amass numerous takedowns, only used two of

his famous Fireman's before clamping Tyler Job in 26 seconds with a cradle. Pat Kalnins (120-lbs), Jimmy Gluck (126-lbs) and Dean Smith (132-lbs) all recorded falls as did Kevin Shriner (285-lbs). Matt Doran (220-lbs) recorded a 16-1 tech fall and Justin Alpaugh-McLean (182-lbs) recorded a 22-6 tech fall.

February 2, 2018: Absentees due to illness or injury prevented what could have been a very tight match between two rivals

at the Westfield High School gym. But with four key Cougars out of the lineup, both teams needed to readjust their lineups and the result was a 43-18 victory by the Blue Devils over Cranford.

Blue Devil Jordan Simpson (152-lbs) went the takedown route to claim a 17-5 major decision over Max Nock. At 160-lbs, Blue Devil Isaiah Reese seized an 8-3 victory over Kyell Roper. Blue Devil Tim Miller (170-lbs) loved his head-and-arm series of

takedowns to grab an 11-4 decision over Danny Swanson at 170-lbs. Russ Weber (182-lbs) shocked Cougar Justin Alpaugh-McLean, 5-4. Cougar junior AJ Bencivenga (145-lbs) pinned Sean Dwyer in 3:50.

February 5, 2018: Senior Molly Ryan literally took situations into her own hands by committing 10 acts of theft and pumping in 20 points to lead the 13-6 Westfield girls basketball team to a 41-30 victory over the visit-

ing Cranford Cougars. Ryan also had three assists and two rebounds. Senior Grace Elliott had four steals, four assists, four points and four rebounds for the Blue Devils. Camryn Wichelns led the 8-10 Cougars with 11 points.

February 7, 2017: The Rahway boys basketball team defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 49-35, in Rahway. Keyshawn Cummings (12 points) paced the

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David B. Corbin (February 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
OLYMPIC ARM BAR/WRIST...Cougar Pat Kalnins begins to turn Greg Slivka with an Olympic arm bar/wrist combination in his 106-lb bout. Kalnins got a key pin and the Cougars beat Warren Hills for the section crown (February 10, 2017).



David B. Corbin (February 2017 files) for *The Westfield Leader and The Times*
WORKING TO FREE HIS LEG...Raider Zach Zimmerman, top, looks to free his leg from the grasp of Huskie Anthony Ferrara in his 152-lb bout. Zimmerman beat Ferrara 7-5 and the Raiders beat the Huskies, 48-20, on February 8, 2017.

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A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

Indians, while Lamont Cruse and Tommy Drubulis led the Raiders with eight points each. The Raiders, known for aggressive defense and deadly 3-point shooting, quickly learned that Rahway could turn up the defensive heat themselves.

February 8, 2017: Cut short with a first round defeat to Woodbridge in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 Tournament and with the district individual tournament 10 days away, the SPF Raiders needed to have some more competition to get its wrestlers in high gear. The Matawan Huskies were invited to Scotch Plains and the Raiders did get in gear with a 48-20 victory to improve their team record to 18-9.

The Raiders won nine bouts, three by decision, three by forfeit and three by pin, the quickest being recorded by Bobby “Bulldog” Mount, who bulldogged his opponent Marc Panizzi to the mat for a five-point move then pinned him with an arm bar/walkover in 53 seconds at 220-lbs.

February 10, 2017: Very competitive bouts, especially in four of the first five bouts, kept spectators on edge until Patrick Kalnins pulled out a key pin at 106-lbs with just two bouts remaining to all but insure the top-seeded Cranford wrestling team a victory over second-seeded Warren Hills in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 Tournament championship at Cranford. After splitting the final two bouts, the Cougars won 33-22 to capture the crown.

At 132-lbs, Matt Valli caught Cougar Chris Scorese a bit off-balance to record a spin-around takedown but Scorese quickly countered with a reversal then added an escape in the second period and a two-point tight-waist tilt early in the third. Valli escaped but Scorese won 5-3. The wildest and most exciting bout came when Cougar AJ Bencivenga bounced up to 152-lbs and took Rashon Wade Taylor to overtime where he nearly got the takedown but Taylor countered to win 7-5.

February 10, 2017: The Westfield boys basketball team rallied from an 11-point second quarter deficit to defeat New Providence, 68-63, in a Union County Tournament first round game at Westfield. Matt LaCorte

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David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

SETTING UP THE SCREEN...Blue Devil Mia Melao, No. 11, sets up a screen so teammate Grace Elliott, No. 12, can drive to the basket in the game against the ALJ Crusaders in Westfield on February 4, 2016.



David B. Corbin (February 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

ENDURING THE 500-FREESTYLE...Blue Devil Sarah Cronin swims the 500-freestyle in Lane 4 against the Hillsborough Raiders at Wallace Pool in the North Jersey sectional semifinals on February 10, 2014.

A Special Look Through the Rearview Mirror at Local Sports

scored 25 points, including five 3-point bombs as the seventh-seeded Blue Devils overcame a spirited effort from the 18th seeded Pioneers. LaCorte led all scorers, while Adam McDaniel chipped in with 12 points.

February 10, 2017: It has been a frustrating season so far but the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball team got some small measure of satisfaction by ousting Brearley, 53-35, in a Union County Tournament first round game played in Scotch Plains. Junior guard Brianna O'Brien provided the offense, scoring 17 points, including 10 in the first quarter as the Raiders jetted out to a 17-4 lead. SPF (4-16) never looked back, holding to a double-digit lead the rest of

the way before cruising to an 18-point victory. Summer Sheppard chipped in with 14 points.

February 11, 2017: Rams refused to yield but the six-seeded SPF Raider basketball boys got a key 3-pointer from a normally unexpected source in junior Cooper Heisey (10 points) and followed with a 2-pointer from junior Tom Drubulis (11 points) midway through the fourth quarter to separate themselves from 19th-seeded Oratory Prep in a 53-45 victory in Scotch Plains. Teddy Willmott led the Raiders with 16 points.

February 4, 2016: Four starters for the Westfield girls basketball team delivered 100 percent of the scoring and all four hit double figures in a 52-34 rejection of the AL Johnson Crusaders in Westfield. However, every Lady Blue Devil delivered dazzling defensive performances, especially in the third quarter when they outscored the Crusaders, 15-2, to put the game on ice.

Blue Devil sophomore Molly Ryan hit 15 of her team-leading 17 points in the first half and four of them - 12 points - came from beyond the 3-point arc. The inside exploits of junior Shannon Devitt stepped heavily into the act. Devitt drove to the basket and scored eight of her 14 points in the third quarter. Junior Danielle Rinaldi (4 assists, 3

steals, 6 rebounds) banged a pair of threes and finished with 10 points. Senior co-captain Amalia Montes (6 rebounds) also benefited from the open lanes and finished with 11 points.

February 5, 2016: Competing for a worthy cause took place in the Annual Pin Cancer wrestling showdown between the hosting SPF Raiders and the Westfield Blue Devils. The previous two showdowns went right down to the final bout with the Raiders winning in 2014 and the Blue Devils pulling it out last year. This time the Raiders secured the honors in the next to last bout to finish with a 37-25 victory.

The key bout came at the midpoint of the evening with Blue Devil Phil Ricca and Jaylen Bryant

jumping up a weight class to 285-lbs to begin battle at center mat. The bout was particularly important because Ricca had placed second in the Union County Tournament (UCT) at 220-lbs and Bryant placed third at that weight. After a rugged battle, Bryant prevailed 6-4.

Blue Devil Jack Miller showed that he has recovered quite well from an injury he suffered at the UCT when he amassed eight takedowns of various types, three nearfalls and a reversal to claim a 25-7, 6:00 technical fall over Zack Fleischman at 170-lbs.

February 6, 2016: Freshman Olivia Foucher's 3-pointer late in the fourth quarter set up an overtime clash between the Cranford

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Probitas Verus Honos



David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

ROLLING HIM INTO A TILT...Blue Devil Jack Miller, top, rolls Raider Zach Fleischman to his back for a two-point tilt in the first period of his 170-lb bout during the Pin Cancer showdown at Scotch Plains on February 5, 2016.



David B. Corbin (February 2016 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*

DIFFICULT PERSON TO GUARD...Cougar freshman Lauren Williamson has to deal with a real tough customer in Pioneer Katie Kinum who drives to the basket in Cranford on February 6, 2016. Kinum scored 33 points in the Pioneer win.

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girls basketball team and the visiting New Providence Pioneers, who hit all 10 of their free throws and added a lay-up to overcome the Cougars, 64-57. The key for the Lady Cougars was how to handle Pioneer junior standout Katie Kinum, who finished with a game-leading 33 points.

MacLelland, in her own right, was the primary person that the Pioneers needed to focus on. MacLelland, who possesses strong driving to the basket skills, finished the game with 19 points but her rebounding performance was phenomenal. MacLelland pulled five rebounds in the first quarter alone and went on to finish with 16.

February 10, 2015: Bridgewater-Raritan defeated the Westfield girls swim team, 95-

75, in the NJSIAA Semifinal Round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A Tournament at the Westfield "Y" pool. The visitors were dominant in earning a spot in the championship round, winning all but two races against Westfield.

Westfield's only breakthrough for a first place finish in individual races came in the 100-breaststroke where Gwyn Devin bested the field in 1:08.6. Teammate Amy West was second at 1:10.01. Westfield's only other victory came in the 200-free relay where Courtney Day, Emily Oster, Emma Conlon and Gwyn Devin finished first in 1:42.91.

February 11, 2015: West Morris Central rallied to claim the narrowest of victories, 36-34, over the SPF Raider wrestling

team in the semifinals of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group IV wrestling tournament in Scotch Plains. The epic battle between the second-seeded Raiders and the third-seeded Wolfpack came down to the very last bout to determine a winner.

Jashmar Philippe halted the Wolfpack's momentum at 126 pounds when he pinned Marco Gaita in 3:57. At 138-lbs, Raider JT Beirne dominated Matt Liberato, 19-7. Brian Lapham (145-lbs) pinned Thomas Stoll in 2:59. George Ramos recorded a fall in 1:52 over Michael Brown at 170-lbs.

February 10 & 12, 2015: The Westfield boys swim team earned yet another trip to a sectional final by scoring a 105-65 victory over Ridge in the Semifi-

nal Round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Public A Tournament at the Westfield "Y" pool. Two days later in Perth Amboy, the No. 2 Blue Devil boys downed No. 3 Hillsborough, 90-80, for the sectional title.

Against Ridge, John Lindros scored individual wins in the 200-free and 100-butterfly and also swam anchor leg on the winning 400-free relay team. In the opening event, the Blue Devils' 200-Medley Relay team of Kevin Clauss, Steve Warren, Eric Bebel and Aedan Collins took first place in 1:41.81.

Against Hillsborough, Collins won the 200-freestyle in 1:45.95, Stephen Husch touched first in the 100-breaststroke at 59.21 and Dave Lindros took first in the 100-backstroke at 54.43. Eric

Bebel, Ryan Bebel, Clauss and John Lindros won the final event, the 400-free relay in 3:17.03.

February 8, 2014: Team records meant nothing in a rivalry game between the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team and the Westfield Blue Devils, and the outcome was up in the air until the final minute when junior Lil Scott was fouled four times, went to the line and sunk all eight free throws to give the 18-2 Blue Devils a 55-44 victory in Scotch Plains on February 8.

Scott finished with 15 points and added six assists, five rebounds and a steal. Junior guard Jackie Knapp led the Blue Devils with 16 points and managed to get herself in to position to grab

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David B. Corbin (February 2014 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
TAKING MATTERS INTO HER OWN HANDS...Raider senior Katie Harper, No. 12, dominated the 2nd quarter with 7 of her 15 points and added several steals and strong defense in the 2nd half against the Blue Devils (February 8, 2014).



David B. Corbin (February 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
ACTION UNDERNEATH THE BOARDS...Raider Megan Fernandez, No. 24, gets a rebound then tries to keep the ball away from Cougar Mairead McKeary, No. 13 (February 5, 2013).

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eight rebounds, while dishing out five assists. Raider senior captain Katie Harper scored seven of her team-leading 15 points in the second quarter. Raider junior forward Tabitha Dwumfour (3 points) was amazing under the boards with 19 rebounds, another factor that kept the game very close for the remainder of the game.

February 10, 2014: Everyone at the Wallace Pool for Monday's North 2 Group 4 semifinal between No. 1 Westfield and No. 4 Hillsborough knew one thing: Hillsborough was going to win most of the races. And the Raiders didn't disappoint, winning eight out of the 11 events.

But the Raiders only outscored WHS in five events. When you're at this level of the state swimming championships, it's all about

d-e-p-t-h, and WHS had plenty of it on Monday. With the 89-81 victory, WHS advanced to Thursday night's sectional final (weather permitting) against No. 3 (and tournament top-seed) Hunterdon Central at the Raritan Bay Area YMCA in Perth Amboy. It's a rematch of last year's state Public A final, which WHS won 91-79.

Westfield is a senior-heavy team, and Caroline Baldwin, Sarah Cronin and Erika Daniel didn't disappoint in their final home meet. But there were many youngsters who delivered big-time. Freshman Emily Oster had a fifth (200 free), a fourth (100 back in a Top 15 List 1:02.84) and anchored a key third-place 200 free relay. Freshman Shannon Pyle added a fifth in the fly and a fourth in the breaststroke. Sophomore Caroline Basil added

a third in the IM and a second in the backstroke. And classmate Gwyn Devin scored seconds in the 50 free and 100 butterfly.

February 5, 2013: Senior Night turned out to be a resounding success, especially for the three starting Cougar seniors, in the Cranford girls basketball team's 50-29 victory over Scotch Plains-Fanwood in Cranford. Seniors Jess McCoy, Kaitlin McGovern and Jenna Goeller combined for 38 of the 14-6 Cougars' points, while juniors Kerry Wischusen and Mairead McKeary each contributed six points. McGovern also had five blocks and McCoy pulled 17 rebounds.

February 10, 2013: Acts of thievery and strong ball handling on the part of the seventh-seeded Westfield boys basketball team led to a 51-34 victory over the

18th-seeded New Providence Pioneers in the first round of the Union County Tournament at Rahway. The 14-7 Blue Devils committed eight acts of thievery in the first half alone and managed to convert most of them to lay-ups.

Scott Toresco scored 18 points and grabbed nine rebounds. Junior Dylan Elliott was the chief thief with five steals. He also netted eight points. Junior Dave Kane helped out big time under the boards with seven rebounds and also contributed five points.

February 10, 2013: The Westfield boys track & field team placed third with a total of 40 at the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 championships held at Bennett Center in Toms River. Peter Fagan placed first and set a meet record in the pole vault

with a clearance of 14-6. Kevin Smith set a meet record in the 800 meters with a time of 1:57.51, topping the old record of 1:57.61. Matt Luppino crossed second in the 1,600 with a time of 4:25.9.

February 10, 2012: Concentrating on refining their skills, the 13th-seeded Blue Devils successfully tested several combinations to find the basket and easily defeated the 20th-seeded Roselle girls basketball team, 52-30, in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway. Freshman Jackie Knapp had 16 points and seven steals, while Lil Scott had 11 points and four assists.

February 12, 2012: Senior point guard Dom Gonzales was on fire, bucketing four 3-point-

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David B. Corbin (February 2013 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
ON THE DEFENSIVE...Blue Devil Scott Toresco, No. 42, defends against Pioneer Mike Wildrotter in the Union County Tournament game in Rahway on February 10, 2013. Westfield won, 51-34.



David B. Corbin (February 2012 files) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
HEMMED IN BY RAMS...Blue Devil Colleen Gallagher, center, gets hemmed in by two Rams as she drives toward the basket during a Union County Tournament first round game. The Blue Devils won, 52-30 (February 10, 2012)

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ers and scoring 17 of his game-leading 19 points to lead the ninth-seeded Raider boys basketball team to a 57-50 victory over the 16th-seeded New Providence Pioneers in the first round of the Union County Tournament in Rahway.

February 10, 2011: Injuries have brutalized the Raider varsity wrestling team this season, and with five varsity competitors out of the lineup, it took its toll in a 39-32 setback to the A.L. Johnson Crusaders in Clark. Raider Dom Natale recorded five near-falls, which included grapevines with head smothers and a cradle, to earn an 18-2, technical fall over Brian Mooney at 135 lbs. Known as the "Sultan of Junk," Raider Sebastian Rosen created a maneuver that could be described as a cross-shoulder, arm

stretcher to pin Dennis Funk in 1:57 at 189 lbs.

February 11, 2011: Senior Night did not turn out the way the Blue Devil boys basketball team wanted. The visiting Indians trapped the Blue Devils into a running game, which led to a multitude of steals converted to lay-ups and a 55-43, Rahway victory in Westfield. Blue Devil senior Joe Greenspan led the Blue Devils with 14 points and 14 rebounds.

February 12, 2010: The Blue Devil boys swim team seized the opportunity to mix its lineup against South Brunswick in the first round of the North 2, Public A Tournament at Wallace Pool in Westfield. The result was an overwhelming, 126-44 victory, in which the Blue Devils took first in every event, except the breast-

stroke, and included four sweeps.

Matt Meserole led the first sweep, touching first in the second event, 200-freestyle, followed by Max Shin and Andrew Cordeiro. Matt Daniel led the sweep in the 100-butterfly, with John Taylor taking second and Matt Trinkle touching third. Jack Lorentzen led a sweep in the 500-free followed by Lawrence Keating and Trent Gabriel. Brennan Haly led the final sweep, touching first in the 100-backstroke, followed by Ryan Hobson and Connor Moore.

February 12, 2010: No intentions of breaking school records were in the cards, but the Blue Devils girls swim team utilized its team depth to defeat the East Brunswick Bears, 92-78, in the first round of the North 2, Public A Tournament at Wallace

Pool in Westfield. Suzanne Lemberg won the Blue Devils' only individual event when she touched the wall at 1:15.56 in the 100-breaststroke. Lemberg also swam the anchor leg on the winning of the 400-free relay foursome, which included Meredith Smith, Emily Budnick and Catherine Kerr.

February 13, 2010: Senior Tristan Bundy became only the sixth wrestler in Raider history to record 100 career varsity wins with a 7-5 decision over Mike Matlaga during a quad meet with Christian Brothers Academy at Watchung Hills High School. The CBA Colts defeated the Raiders, 39-25.

February 13, 2009: Friday the 13th held true to superstition for the Blue Devils, who needed a win over the visiting Kearny

wrestling team to grab the Watchung Conference crown. Unfortunately, a chain reaction of unfortunate events for the 15-2 Blue Devils ended in a 37-27, Kardinal victory.

The Black Cat crossed the Blue Devils' path immediately when the Malcolm X. Shabazz wrestling team failed to take the path to Westfield for an opening match. Many of the Kardinal wrestlers arrived without their singlets and a coach had to return to Kearny to retrieve them. Christian Barber registered nine takedowns, a two-point nearfall and an escape to claim a 21-6, 5:36, technical fall over Matt McCurrie at 135-lbs and Nick DeFreitas tallied five takedowns and an escape to grab an 11-3, major decision over Bill Dimos at 125-lbs.



Cougar Cager Girls Grind Millburn Millers in Hoops, 41-22





Cougar Cager Girls Grind Millburn Millers in Hoops, 41-22





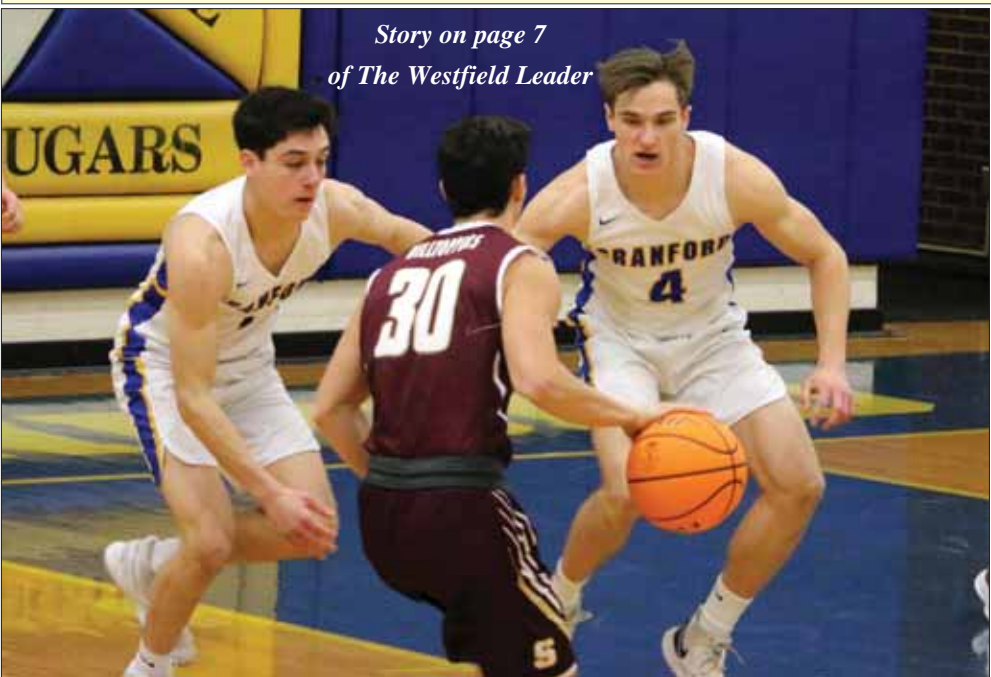
Blue Devil Boys Wake Up; Stop Madison Cagers in OT, 58-49





Blue Devil Boys Wake Up; Stop Madison Cagers in OT, 58-49





**** Cougar Cager Boys Topple Summit Hilltoppers, 48-38 ****





**** Cougar Cager Boys Topple Summit Hilltoppers, 48-38 ****

