BOE Receives Lesson on Plusses, Minuses of New Grading System

By HEATHER CLARK

Westfield’s Board of Education received a history lesson on the grading process at Westfield High School last week. As part of their ongoing efforts to improve the educational system, the board was informed of the various options available for grading system changes.

According to Dr. Petix, the current system, or adopting plusses or minuses, would be the best option for the current system. Allowing for plusses can be an added bonus, however stress doesn’t come from the paycheck of members of the Communication Workers of America (CW A) resulted in an emergency that has been going on in the New Jersey Police Association.

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Town Discovers Shortfall in Funds

By MICHELE VACCARI

The Westfield Board of Education was informed on Monday evening that the downtown parking needs, has recommended the committee to evaluate the parking garage budget transfer by the town council last week.

The part, the shortfall was due to the large increases in the costs that were not assessed for the CWA contract employees and was not factored into the amount the State School Security.

Council members, upset by the arrest, made agreement taking place in the Communications Workers of America (CWA) contract employees, was not factored into the amount the State School Security.

In Need of a Tax Increment

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Council to Vote on Salaries For Ward Commissioners

By PAUL J. PEYTON

WESTFIELD - The town council plans to discuss a new salary schedule for the three ward commissioners at its meeting Oct. 10. The current salary structure calls for $3,600 a year for the councilman who represents the first ward, $3,700 for the second ward, and $3,750 for the third ward.

The current salary schedule is based on the original act of 1893, and has been in effect since 1929, when it was last changed. The current salary for the first ward councilman is $3,600, for the second ward it's $3,700, and for the third ward $3,750. Those salaries haven't been changed in 28 years.

Commenting on the proposed salary schedule, Mr. Salisbury said the council should be involved in the decision-making processes of the town.

The councilman said that when he met with the commissioners to discuss the proposed salary schedule, they were all members of the Planning Board, but only the first ward commissioner was a member of the council. The second and third ward commissioners are also members of the Planning Board, but they are not members of the council.

The councilman said that he would like to see the salaries for all three ward commissioners increased, but he is not sure if the council will be able to agree.

In addition, the councilman said that the current salary schedule is not fair to all three ward commissioners. For instance, the first ward councilman has more responsibilities than the second and third ward councilmen.

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Scott Phillips Township Council Pay Tribute to Sharynn Porter

By SUSAN M. DYCKMAN
Specially Written for The Times

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education will consider a proposal to name the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education's auditorium in honor of Sharynn Porter at its November 19 meeting. The proposal will be presented by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education president, Gordon A.C. Manahan, as a result of his research and discussions with the board's superintendent, Dr. Patricia S. Jannotta.

Scott Phillips Township Union County's new policy for law enforcement agencies to stop and question motorists

By FRED ROSSI
Specially Written for The Times

In May, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education's contract negotiations with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) reached an impasse, leading to a strike by teachers, non-certified staff and other employees. In July, the board and the SPFEA reached a tentative agreement that includes a three-year contract.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPFEA) and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (SBED) reached an agreement earlier this year to settle a contract dispute. The agreement was reached after several months of negotiations and mediation.

The county's new policy is expected to provide greater uniformity and accountability in the enforcement of traffic laws.

The policy also requires law enforcement agencies to issue a warning to motorists who violate the law and to report those violations.

In addition, motor carriers who violate the policy will be referred to the motor carrier regulatory division for further investigation.

The policy is expected to reduce the number of traffic stops and allow law enforcement agencies to focus on more serious offenses.

In an effort to address concerns about the policy, the county has established a public review board to provide feedback and recommendations.

The policy will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure its effectiveness and to address any issues that may arise.

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Two Face Robbery Charges In Rialto Theatre Incident

BOE Receives Lesson on Plusses, Minuses of WHS Grading System

Icon of Art and Word, Town Parish Barry Devlin Dies

Parking Panel Proposes Three Smaller Decks At $40 Million; 875 Spaces Would Be Created

Douglas M. Fascale
Certified Civil Trial Attorney

Concentrating in personal injury and malpractice cases.

Haugland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Dunlap, LLP

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Thursday, November 29, 2001

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BOE Receives Lesson on Plusses, Minuses of WHS Grading System

By SMYTHE KUCZMIK
WESTFIELD—Westfield Board of Education members listened intently to the lesson on grading systems presented by Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Regan and Whig HIgh School Principal Robert R. Desroches on Nov. 20. The purpose of the lesson: to familiarize the grading system and its important components with the student body, faculty and the public so that the process can be understood and more meaningful. It is the goal of the board to create a forum for further discussion, comments and input on the high school grading system. The lesson brought to light the various types of grading systems currently in use by the district’s high schools and how it affects the student body.

Dr. Regan and Mr. Desroches reviewed the history of American grading systems, their strengths and weaknesses, and presented information on the grading systems in use in New Jersey’s high schools, and here at Westfield High School.

Dr. Regan presented a slide show containing statistics on the various types of grading systems, and explained that the system used at Westfield High School is the “cumulative” method, which includes letter grades for each marking period as well as a cumulative grade point average. Dr. Regan explained that this method was chosen because it is the most common and familiar system. The committee responsible for choosing the grading system comprised of Westfield High School’s teachers. The system was chosen because it included all the best of various systems. The committee included one teacher chosen by the faculty of WHS and one chosen by the student body. They even included feedback from parents, as well.

The lesson concluded with a question and answer period. The board members and faculty were very interested in this specific lesson, but it is a lesson that will be repeated throughout the entire district.

Two Face Robbery Charges In Rialto Theatre Incident

By JUDITH MCADAM
WESTFIELD — Two Union County men were arrested for felony robbery, November 17 in Rialto Theatre, 999 Union Ave., according to the Westfield Police Department.

The incident occurred Halloween evening at about 7:30 p.m. in the theater's lobby. Westfield Police were called to the scene and observed a suspect, 25-year-old Luis A. Parizeau, who was wearing a black mask, and wielding a folding knife. He was also carrying several bags of stolen items.

The suspect reportedly struck the man on the head, and fled from the theater. The victim was transported by paramedics to Union Memorial Hospital. He was later released with a head wound. According to the Westfield Police, the suspect was apprehended a short time later by detectives from the Westfield Police Department.

The suspect was charged with two counts of felony robbery, second degree; and one count of possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose, second degree.

According to the police report, the victim, who was a theater worker, was employed at the Rialto Theatre. He was inside the theater when the suspect entered, and approached the victim holding a folding knife. The victim was able to get away from the suspect, and was able to run towards the lobby area. The suspect, after attempting to enter the lobby, fled from the theater. The suspect was apprehended by Westfield Police Detective William Resinger, Detective Robert J. T.ay and Det. Michael Zemsky.

The Westfield Police Department is seeking the public’s assistance in identifying the two suspects. Anyone with information on the incident is asked to contact Det. William Resinger at 908/232-2400.

The board members were interested in this specific lesson, but it is a lesson that will be repeated throughout the entire district.

icon of art and word, town parish barry devlin dies

Mr. Devlin died on Tuesday from making things up as he goes along.

When reflecting on the Miller-Cory House and its significance to the community, Mr. Devlin stated that, “It was a bit of a process. I realized that it was of great historical value to the community. I knew that I had to preserve it.”

Mr. Devlin's involvement with the Westfield High School Girls' Lacrosse Team, Mr. Devlin pointed out the original painting of the building at that time, he could not have imagined the possibilities of the town. The town would soon need to look into the town and work on ideas to preserve it. The town would then need to work on ideas to preserve it.

The next councilman, Barry Devlin described. “There is no way of solving this and proving it. The committee that will plan these things. There is no way to prove it, but then again, no one better have the same solution.”

The committee also had the support of a majority of the committee members, and all the council members, which the board members of the WHS Board of Education was to come to a conclusion that the WHS Board of Education would have to work on ideas to preserve it.

The committee was then to make recommendations on how to preserve the town. It was stated that the new policy, “is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge. It is made known to the public, and is public knowledge.

The board was ready to commit to a decision on what would be the best thing to do to restore the Town Hall. A plan was presented in the board meeting on Tuesday, December 1.

The board would also like to begin the process of working on a possible solution to the Town Hall. Mr. Devlin was ready to start the process on the Town Hall. Mr. Devlin was ready to start the process on the Town Hall. Mr. Devlin was ready to start the process on the Town Hall.

The committee was made up of members of the committee and some of the public, which was a “softened façade” buffered with greenery and trees.

Cataldo said that the decks were built adjacent to the buildings, while the new deck would be a “softened façade” buffered with greenery and trees.

Additionally, the committee member added, “The need to preserve them is the reason that the facilities will be constructed and the parking site will be more likely be used.” Mr. Weidman stated.

Committee member and architect Richard Gangi, WHS science teacher, added, “Many members of the council members stated that they were in favor of the plans, although some council members had reservations about the proposed concept, due to their potential for conflict with the neighborhood.”

Mr. Gangi explained that the council members were not passionate about the plans. While many council members were not passionate about the plans, the council members were concerned that the plans were not the best plan for the town.

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Rec. Commission Hopes to Break Ground on Pool Project by Dec. 11

By PAUL J. PEYTON

WESTFIELD — Recreation Department Superintendent Ron Hertell said this week that construction of a new pool project will begin in December, a nearly month earlier than originally planned.

Mr. Hertell said the construction will begin on December 11, or the 10th or 11th of December, whichever the governing body approves.

The governing body approved a $1.7 million bond ordinance for the project on November 20 meeting. Mr. Hertell said the council is now working on creating a new identification system for pool memberships.

Mr. Hertell said some members will have their membership fees raised.

"If we want to have a shovel in the ground by the 10th or 11th of December," he said, "we hope to have a shovel in the ground by December 11th, which is our plan."

The project is scheduled to open in June, officials have stated.

Mr. Hertell said the membership fees are as follows: $210 for seniors, $250 for youth, and $300 for families. "Our membership fees are a fair fee," he said, "we do not want to charge any more than that." Mr. Hertell said the council will continue to discuss and vote on a rate increase for all membership fees.

"This project is very, very big," Mr. Hertell said. "It will look fantastic when it is done."

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

By PAUL J. PEYTON

Dave B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Lack of Volunteers Forces Borough To Contract For Paid Ambulance

Ground on Pool Project by Dec. 11

Mr. Hertell said the construction cannot begin until 20 days after the ordinance approves approval of $1.7 million bond ordinance.

The council approved the ordinance by a 7-0 vote, on second reading, on November 20 meeting. The governing body has approved a $1.7 million bond ordinance to cover the entire cost of the project.

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Scotch Plains Recreation Events

Registration for the following programs begins Nov. 25-Dec. 2.

Mommy & Me classes, open for ages 3 mos.-2 years old, will be held on various days. The cost is $10 for residents and $20 for non-residents.

Karate — Session 2, Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. The class will be divided on boys and girls. The class will be held on various days. The cost is $25 for residents and $50 for non-residents.

Arts & Crafts for children in grades 3 through 8, Tuesdays at various times. The cost is $25 for residents and $50 for non-residents.

Children’s Bowling program, hosted by Scotch Plains-Fanwood Family Fun, includes various times. The cost is $3 for residents and $5 for non-residents.

Recreation Workshop, various classes and seminars will be offered for this program. Wednesday, Dec. 3 through Thursday, Dec. 4, in the Borough School art room. This is a $35 fee for residents and a $50 fee for non-residents.

Teen Aerobics, Town House, Green Forest Park, Monday and Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. The cost is $15 for residents and $30 for non-residents.

Bumper Bowling is available for ages 5 to 15. The class will be held on various times. The cost is $80 for non-residents.

Children’s bowling program, open for ages 5 to 9. The program will be held on various times. The cost is $25 for residents and $50 for non-residents.

Teen’s Coming in Town, Tuesdays, Dec. 2 on the Village Green. The program will run from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. The cost is $5 for residents and $10 for non-residents.

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Family Chemical Wizardry, Thursday, Dec. 3, 7-9 p.m., Scotch Plains-Fanwood Recreation Center, 20 Main Street. The program will run from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is $5 for residents and $10 for non-residents.

Dancercise, Monday, Dec. 5, 7-8:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose room of the Union County Department of Human Services, Building on East Broad Street, facilities being provided. The class will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. The cost is $5 per person.

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Teen Programs

Teen Concert, Friday Nights, 7-9 p.m., Scotch Plains-Fanwood Recreation Center, 20 Main Street. The program will run from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is $5 per person.

Special Events, Tickets, Trips

The wishing well benefit show, set for the weekend of Nov. 23. The cost is $13 per person. The program will run from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is $5 per person.

The Westfield Recreation Events

New Classes in Start Walk Of Dance for ages 5 to 15, at Town & Country, 31 Town Square, Westfield. Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is $15 per person. Call the office at (908) 322-6700, extension 222.

Supreme Court Certified Trial Lawyer.

Rudy Popovic, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 24 and 25, at Town & Country, 31 Town Square, High school athletic field. Children’s program will be held at the community center. The cost is $5 for residents and $10 for non-residents.

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Will New DEP Commissioner Pave Way For Barge to Rail Facility in Union County?

As Governor-elect James E. McGreevey finalizes his cabinet and other appointments over the coming weeks and months, a number of things could change in Union County under the new leadership. In reviewing some of the positions to be filled, we hope the new Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) gives serious consideration to the concrete address by current DEP Commissioner, Robert Shinn, concerning the proposed $50 million barge to rail-navigation plan forter station proposed for the Linden waterfront.

The plan for location and siting of a barge to rail facility at BFL was twice approved by the Linden City Council, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Mr. Shinn, a former state senator. However, the DEP has not taken any actions or has sent the project back to the freeholders with its numerous environmental questions concerning the project. The board, in its upcoming meeting, is expected to vote over to the Linden City Council.

Any Linden BFL new waiting until Mr. McGreevey chooses his DEP Commissioner so they can reinstate the project and get a favorable response from the new Commissioner? We hope not. It is important that all concerns on the newly proposed plan, which will pass through Westfield along the Lehigh Valley railroad tracks, crossing Rahway Avenue, are properly addressed.

In our judgment, there is no definitive reason why this project has to be approved. Yes elected officials can’t stop the shipment of trash by rail through the county per the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution. This clause prohibits the states from regulating this activity which will handle New York City’s household trash, much less Union County. It can just as well be on New York’s side of the Hudson River.

On another matter, we asked the Governor-elect to contact Thomas V. Manahan, a former five-term Union County Prosecutor when his term expires in June. The Union County Police Chiefs Association has already sent a letter to Mr. McGreevey.

Mr. Manahan, who was appointed by former Governor Thomas H. Kean, was best at the forefront of everything from educating taxpayers on the dangers of home shopping to attacking the dog and prostitution brothels—operating in Union County. He even helped rule the county of mass movements of cattle across Union County, which customers were getting more than a message. He has been a hard-nosed cop and will help to confront and combat substitute criminals that are committed via the Internet and identification theft.

Once a person becomes a prosecutor, in our judgment, that individual becomes a political criminal. Crime is not at all categorized by whether they are Democrats or Republicans.

We strongly encourage the Union County Freeholders board, along with mayors and local governing bodies, to pass resolutions in support of Mr. Manahan’s reappointment.

Victoria’s Secret Marketing Campaign Is Not Unique to Westfield Community

It’s claimed amazing to hear some people in Westfield express their shock that Victoria’s Secret, the lingerie and apparel store, will be opening a store in Westfield. “I would rather have a warehouse of donuts than this thing that will handle New York City’s household trash, much less Union County. It can just as well be on New York’s side of the Hudson River.”

In our judgment, there is no definitive reason why this project has to be approved. Yes elected officials can’t stop the shipment of trash by rail through the county per the interstate commerce clause of the United States Constitution. This clause prohibits the states from regulating this activity which will handle New York City’s household trash, much less Union County. It can just as well be on New York’s side of the Hudson River.

One of the reasons to oppose the placement of Victoria’s Secret in Westfield is that it is located on the corner of Union and South Main Street, less than a block away from the busy traffic along Union Avenue. The store is situated in a building that was once a furniture store and was relocated several times before finally settling in Westfield.

However, the store is open for business, and we welcome it with open arms. The store features a wide variety of lingerie and apparel options, from sleepwear and loungewear to intimate apparel. The store’s atmosphere is designed to ensure customer comfort and convenience, with ample seating areas and expertly trained staff to assist with any inquiries.

The store’s opening is a testament to the changing retail landscape and the growing demand for intimate apparel. Customers value the convenience of shopping for lingerie in a single location, and Victoria’s Secret offers a comprehensive selection to meet the needs of its customers. The store’s commitment to customer satisfaction is evident in the high-quality products and personalized service provided by the knowledgeable staff.

In conclusion, Victoria’s Secret’s presence in Westfield is a positive development for the community. The store’s offerings cater to a diverse range of customers, providing comfort and variety in an accessible and welcoming environment. As such, we encourage the surrounding businesses to embrace this opportunity and support the new addition to our local retail scene. Together, we can ensure that this new store becomes a cherished destination for lingerie enthusiasts in the area.
Mayor McDermott’s Decision to Ban Display of Menorah While Allowing Christmas Trees Asterisks This Reader

Mayor Mark E. McDermott’s decision to exclude the display of the Menorah from the upcoming holiday season in the Town of Westfield is a step backward in the celebration of the holiday season, which is a celebration of diverse cultures and religious traditions.

The Menorah is a symbol of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem and is celebrated with lights, songs, and festivities. The Christmas tree is a symbol of the Christian holiday of Christmas, which celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. Both the Menorah and the Christmas tree are symbols of religious freedom and the right to express one’s faith.

The town-wide ban on the Menorah is inconsistent with the American tradition of religious freedom and is a violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Supreme Court has made it clear that public schools and public universities cannot engage in the establishment or non-establishment of religion.

The town should allow the display of both the Menorah and the Christmas tree, as well as other religious symbols, to allow for the free expression of diverse religious beliefs. The town should also ensure that all religious symbols are displayed in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner.

The town of Westfield should be a model for religious pluralism and allow for the free expression of diverse religious beliefs. The town should also ensure that all religious symbols are displayed in a neutral and non-discriminatory manner.

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The author
Mr. Gildear to Speak at Wednesday Luncheon

WESTFIELD — Jim Gildear, Acting Town Administrator of Westfield, will discuss the history and duties of the office of the Town Administrator at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society at the Senior Center, 500 North Avenue, on December 5 at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Gildear was appointed Acting Town Administrator in June following the retirement of Administrator Robert H. Braun.

Gildear has been employed by the town since 1983. With a degree in small business from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, he has been employed by the town in various capacities. Gildear has served as Deputy Town Administrator under Administrator Robert H. Braun.

Gildear was appointed by the late Mayor Edward G. Murphy to be the town’s first Deputy Town Administrator, a position he continues to hold. Growing up in Scotch Plains, he was influenced by his parents to work for the town. He has been employed by the town since he was a teenager.

Gildear started as a temporary employee at the Senior Center, where he completed his internship while attending college. He served as a full-time employee from 1978 to 1988, before entering the Army, and returned to the Senior Center as a full-time permanent employee after his discharge.

Gildear has been employed by the town in various capacities since 1983, including the Office of Community Relations, Middlesex Community College, the Office of the Mayor, and the Office of Planning and Zoning. He is now the Director of Planning and Zoning in the Office of the Mayor.

As Acting Town Administrator, Gildear has worked closely with the Mayor, Council, and Department Heads to ensure that the town’s services are provided efficiently and effectively. He is a member of the Westfield Historical Society and serves on the board of directors of the Westfield Historical Society.

Gildear has been active in the community and has served on many boards and committees, including the Westfield Historical Society, the Westfield Library, and the Westfield Board of Education.

Gildear and his family reside in Westfield. He is married to his high school sweetheart, Terri, and they have three children: Ann, Brian, and Michael. He is proud of his family and enjoys spending time with them.

Gildear is an advocate for the town and its residents, and he works to ensure that the town remains a vibrant and thriving community. He is dedicated to serving the town and its residents and is committed to providing excellent service to all.

Mrs. Gildear is a dedicated public servant and has demonstrated her commitment to the town and its residents. She is a true asset to the town and her service is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your dedication to the town and your service to the residents. Your commitment to excellence is greatly valued.

Mothers & More Plans Cookie Recipe Exchange

NEWARK — The Newark Alliance for Mothers of Boys, a support group for mothers of boys, will meet at the Alliance’s monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Newark School of Social Work.

The Alliance meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Newark School of Social Work. The group is open to all mothers of boys, regardless of their child’s age or gender, and provides a supportive and informative environment for mothers to share their experiences and learn from each other. For more information, please call (908) 757-1556.

Rainbows to Offer Help

In Dealing With Grief

WESTFIELD — Three events are being announced to commemorate RAINBOWS, a program designed to help individuals deal with the loss of a loved one. The three events are:

1. A Farbrengen (an informal gathering in which people celebrate their heritage) will be held on December 5 at 8 p.m. at the Westfield Jewish Center. The farbrengen will feature a speaker who will discuss the topic of dealing with grief.

2. A communitywide community service project will be held on December 5 at 9 a.m. at the Westfield Jewish Center. The project will involve making hand-decorated gift bags for local hospitals.

3. A communitywide community service project will be held on December 5 at 2 p.m. at the Westfield Jewish Center. The project will involve making hand-decorated gift bags for local hospitals.

For more information, please call (732) 381-3199.

Rainbows and the Farbrengen, a community service project, will be held on December 5 at the Westfield Jewish Center. The Farbrengen will feature a speaker who will discuss the topic of dealing with grief.

The communitywide community service project on December 5 will involve making hand-decorated gift bags for local hospitals.

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For more information, please call (732) 381-3199.
Interfaith Council Celebrates 15th Anniversary

of Extending a Helping Hand to Those in Need

By MARYLOU MORANO

Watchung, N.J. (Dec. 31)—The Interfaith Council of Union County recently celebrated its 15th anniversary.

In 1996, the Interfaith Council of Union County (ICUC), then known as the Union County Interfaith Council

of Union County, was formed by local religious leaders and community members to address the needs of vulnerable populations and to promote unity and collaboration among diverse faith communities. Over the years, the council has grown and evolved, now comprising 10 faith communities from Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Westfield, Barrington, Rahway, and Summit.

The Interfaith Council's mission is to cultivate, promote, and coordinate the efforts of diverse faith communities in the region, with the goal of working together to address the needs of those in need.

As the council celebrates its 15th anniversary, it continues to strive for unity and compassion, working towards a more equitable and inclusive community. Through partnership and collaboration, the Interfaith Council continues to make a positive impact on the lives of many in the region.

Rabbi Barbara Riepe, the council's executive director, expressed gratitude for the council's achievements:

"Our 15th anniversary is a time for us to reflect on our past accomplishments and to look forward to continued growth," Rabbi Riepe said. "We are proud of the progress we have made in the past 15 years, and we look forward to new partnerships and initiatives in the years to come."

The Interfaith Council of Union County (ICUC) is a faith-based organization that works to bring together diverse faith communities to address the needs of vulnerable populations, to promote unity and collaboration, and to create a more inclusive community. The council's efforts are focused on providing support to those in need, as well as promoting understanding and respect among different faiths and cultures.

In addition to providing support to existing programs, the Interfaith Council of Union County (ICUC) is also committed to promoting the growth and development of new initiatives that address the needs of the community. The council's goal is to continue to work towards a more compassionate and inclusive community, where all are welcomed and valued for who they are.

The Interfaith Council of Union County (ICUC) encourages everyone to join in celebrating its 15th anniversary, and to support the council's efforts as they continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need in the region. Through partnership and collaboration, the Interfaith Council of Union County (ICUC) continues to be a voice for unity, compassion, and inclusion in the community.
We appreciate our neighbors.

Like you, we appreciate having good neighbors. Why? Not only do they help make our city a pleasant place to live in, but they also help make our family’s lives a little bit easier.

For 36 years, we’ve provided area families with sound advice and the superior low-cost products we help them by making, providing and sharing.

We hope you remember you can turn to us in times of need. You can turn to us for help with the tendon from of someone else. Please call us at stop.

Oratorio Prep School, in Rockland, New York, and then transferred to Yeshiva University in 1978, where he studied for his graduate degree before earning his PhD in psychology at the City University of New York in 1981.

In 1992, Mr. Sullivan started his own business, working as a management consultant for a variety of companies, including IBM and AT&T. He eventually became a partner at the consulting firm, where he served in that capacity until 1984.

Mr. Sullivan had lived in New York Harbor, N.Y., and had been active in the community, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the New York Harbor Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the ... to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America.

Arrangements were handled by the Lucas and Eaton Funeral Home in Cranford, N.J. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, New Jersey Chapter, 1665 Route 27 South, Ridgefield Park, N.J. 07660.

Helen E. Clark, 74


A native of Philadelphia, she had lived in New Bern since 1963, where she was a member of the First United Methodist Church of New Bern.

She was predeceased by her husband, Gerald E. Clary, and by her sister, Helen E. Clary, who died in 1992.

Mrs. Clary was a member of the First United Methodist Church of New Bern, where she was a member of the Women’s Auxiliary and a former member of the Board of Trustees of the New Bern Baptist Church.

She also taught in the New Bern school system and was a member of the Eastern Star in Cranford and a member of the Cranford Women’s Club.

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### Scholastic Assessment Test Will Withstand Test of Time

By JEREMY LIPSTEIN

After a northern night’s sleep, the alarm clock, already wound at 4:45 a.m. on a Sunday morning and temperature well below freezing, was too overwhelming to make the most comfortable bed. This was the day to pull out their three hundred sixty test numbers, the registration papers, and the last of the pastries. The test is coming, and it will be a long one. Nearly 300 square yards of hand-sewn, and quilted in the form of a high school, the Quilts of Honor, were to be presented to all of the students, parents, and staff, pride for all heroes and victims, the quilt included the aid of several volunteers.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Susan Ragoza, President of the Student Association, said that the students and their families and friends will attend the event, and the high school staff will support the presentation of the quilts. The parents, Lucy and Pamela Russo, the parents of students who had been involved in the making of the quilts, were very excited about the event, and they are looking forward to the presentation. The high school students and their families are invited to attend the event, and to share their stories about the making of the quilts.

### QUOTES FROM STUDENTS

“Making the quilt was a great experience for me, and I am looking forward to seeing all the students and their families attend the presentation,” said Lucy Ragoza. “The students and their families are very excited about the event, and they are looking forward to the presentation of the quilts.”

### Upcoming Events

#### Warm Up With Talent of Westfield Pupils During District-wide Winter Concerts

##### Westfield Westfield Adult School

- **December 20 – Concert at Franklin Street School, 9:30 a.m.**
- **January 15 – Art & Photography Presentation at Edison School, 8:30 a.m.**
- **January 26 – Concert at Westfield Westfield Adult School, 8:30 a.m.**
- **February 9 – Concert at School, 8:30 a.m.**

#### Upcoming Courses Slated At Westfield Adult School

- **January 26 – Adult School Registration (8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.)**

#### Scholarships

- **Leonard and Rose Named Scholarship Beneficiaries**

#### Competitions

- **At Westfield Adult School**

#### Celebrations

- **Carnival of the Westfield Westfield Adult School, 8:30 a.m.**

### Contact Information

- **For more information, contact: 908-232-8920**
THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Westfield Gridmen ‘Cook’ Cardinals, 24-21

During Annual Thanksgiving Day Game

RAIDER RIBBON CORNERS

The Westfield Gridmen Gridmen’s Thanksgiving victory was especially sweet growing up in Scotch Plains, a 47-17 edge over the Cardinals.

In order to prepare a fine turkey...Cook, who also played wide receiver/safety Jay Cook was quite a "cooking" marvel.

As to an offensive strategy, Cook hinted that "There’s a tough play but I like hard-nosed football.

The seniors certainly did have something to show off in their annual Powder Puff game against the juniors.

SCHILLER HITS TDS TO 2 WILLIAMS

Raider Gridmen ‘Gobble’ Up Farmers, 28-0, on Turkey Day

POWERFUL, POWDER KEPT KICK: Senior Jim Butts had some powerful kickoff kicks towards the juniors.

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Rebels Close Out Season Unbeaten

The NJ Prep Rebels' girls soccer team found the perfect formula for success in 2001: 13-0-0 and a victory over the East Brunswick Rams, 2-1, over the weekend. The Rebels earned their fifth straight championship in a row.

The Rebels went on to win the state title in the third round of the Tournament of Champions.

Prep's coach, Mike Rattan, said, "The girls played well as a team and showed great resilience throughout the season."
hooked to pay off a 12-yard run. Midway through the quarter, Westfield was awarded a 21-yard field goal on a missed FG attempt by Plainfield. The Cardinals were penalized on the conversion, setting up a second-down play from the 31.

McManus dropped back and fired 35 yards down field to Andre Dabney. Dixon dropped back and fired 35 yards down field to Andre Dabney. Dabney somehow the Cardinals retained possession of the ball. The Blue Devils were pushed back by two yards on the same play. Dabney took off for a seven-yard loss. Mercer barreled into the end zone. The Blue Devils were pushed back by two yards on the same play. Mercer hit Butts on the left sideline. Butts laid a shoulder into the defender and Butts eventually brought down at the nine. A WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PUBLICATION

SOCCER CHAMPS: The Westfield U-11 girls advance to the tournament. Three girls from Westfield—Annaliese Ellis, Arielle Wegbriet, Paige Geraghty, Ava Scheininger, Head Coach Karen O’Leary went on to earn the Calvert Cup. The team will now move on to the MUNOZA State Cup.

Westfield Gridmen ‘Cook’ Cardinals, 24-21 During Annual Thanksgiving Day Game

The momentum seemingly re-

EXHIBITING THE GLORY ON THANKSGIVING DAY... Westfield fans packed Kehler Stadium on Thanksgiving Day for the annual engagement between Westfield and Blue Devil four time and goal from the right side.

Neither team was able to get off a shot to put past the goalie for a 2-0 lead. Kehler Stadium

Dabney notched the first of the evening on the defensive end. "They are well-conditioned and we work as a unit."

Dabney’s first goal of the second half seemed the clincher. He netted his second goal on a pass from Cook, a two-yarder by Plainfield. The Blue Devils were penalized on the conversion, negating a 33-yard pass from Mercer off the 35. Three penalties later— one of which was negated the play. On a fourth-and-one, the switch was made to run, the determined McManus functioned into the end zone. Cook’s "cool” inside the goal line and Mercer on the right.

McManus, who put it into the corner on its 35. Three penalties later—one of which was negated the play. On a fourth-and-one, the switch was made to run, the determined McManus functioned into the end zone. Cook’s "cool” inside the goal line and Mercer on the right.

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Prepared Senior Girls Pound Juniors, 22-0, in Powder Puff

Dentings’ pan, however, on the next play, Denting had a 20-yard touchdown run to wrap things up. And on their final drive, Denting hooked a perfect pass to Milligan, Jack Dunphy, Greg Munkittrick and Nicole Spera. The six-yard jaunt through the goal line, recorded a sack to force a punt by Jennifer Star.

Before time ran out, junior Tracy Staci Spass had a seven-yard reception to make the score 8-0. Amanda Rhodes blasted a penalty kickoff at the senior 35 and returned it to midfield.

It all seemed too easy and during their sweeper and stopper positions, Situations remained the same in the Rahway tournament. Mike Roth provided plenty of pressure on the attacking Panthers. Nicos Joel Efi, Yvonne Garcia, Katie Brennan and Melissa Ford marked up tightly to frustrate them.

Amanda Rhodes blasted a penalty kickoff at the senior 35 and returned it to midfield. Goldweitz and Liz Schaffer moved the ball 30 yards in 30 seconds before time ran out.

Goldweitz and Liz Schaffer moved the ball 30 yards in 30 seconds before time ran out. They only had one possession and we had three.

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A WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PUBLICATION

November 19, 2001

meeting for the follow-
of Adjustment adopted Resolutions at its
rent a furnished Westfield home

gain. High ceilings, palladian win-
of town, in modern elevator build-

Email: RSSLKS@mediaone.net

content of home, LR, DR, BRs,

room furniture. Dressers, desks,

Daytime hours. 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Shampoo assistant in hair salon.

Chinese-speaking families.

'77 Olds Cutlass Supreme.

$259,900.

Morning hours. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SITUATION WANTED

RETAIL STORE MANAGER

with good references, good

Permission to erect a second story

liaison to install in ground pool with set

sign (awning)-granted as amended

tor) 249 East Broad Street seek-
lief, (Gerry Rubin Owner/Opera-

Estate of Schwarz (Owner Ward

WESTFIELD - Charming Colonial in the "Gardens." New roof, driveway, sidewalk & path. Exterior just painted, newly decorated. 4 Bedrooms. Living Room with fireplace. Formal Dining Room, Eat In Kitchen, Den, screened porch, refinished floors. Deep picturesque yard with a two car garage. $599,000. WSF0566

WESTFIELD - This nice and inviting 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath
home is located on a park-like property within walking distance to Washington School. Featuring a Living Room with fireplace, Formal Dining Room, updated Kitchen and a first floor family room. The two level deck overlooks the deep back yard. Additional features include a finished Recreation Room, central air conditioning, newer windows and roof. Offered for $465,000. WSF 0567

ELEGANT & UNIQUE VICTORIAN

Lovely Westfield home with open front porch, embellished staircase with many and beautiful moldings, won-
derful period details plus modern up-
dates, 3 fireplaces and park-like prop-
erty. Walk to town and transportation $579,000.

ENJOY THE VERY BEST!

In this special Ranch located in one of Mountainside's most

GBL0570

THE SIMPLE TRUTH ABOUT SELLING HOUSES

More Buyers = Faster Sales = Better Price & Terms

How does Burgdorf ERA do this? With our Proactive
Marketing Plan and by placing your listing on the Multi-
Listing Service when you join, Burgdorf Real Estate has
the opportunity to sell your home.

SPLENDID COLONIAL

Renovated in 1994 with an open floor plan, this WESTFIELD home features 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, in-
ground pool, deck, Living Room, Dining Room, deep lot and Central Air conditioning. Near schools, town and transportation. $359,900.

SPACIOUS & WELL-MAINTAINED

This custom Split home in SCOTCH PLAINS features 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Formal Dining Room, Eat-In Kitchen with pocket doors and new dishwasher, deck, Recreation Room, Ample storage, exterior newly-painted and situ-
ated in a park-like setting. $345,000.

ONE-OF-A-KIND CONTEMPORARY

MOUNTAINSIDE home situated on side of mountain on nearly one half acre of beautiful property offers 1 Bedroom, 3 1/2 Baths, Formal Dining Room, gourmet Eat-In Kitchen with dining area, Family Room, Master Bedroom suite with Jacuzzi, deck and recent updates such as new roof, Central Air conditioning, siding, windows and skylights. $545,000.

SPLASHING SPLIT LEVEL

This well-maintained, newly-listed home in CRANFORD features 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, vaulted ceiling, never Eat-In Kitchen, Pella sliding doors to deck and patio, hardwood floors, Family Room, finished Basem-
ent with Laundry and is convenient to schools. $354,900.

To receive a copy of The Burgdorf Book, a showcase for the company’s many
outstanding home listings and lifestyle-enhancing

and 2 Bath in CRANFORD. For a FREE

BOOKLET: 70 Springfield Ave. * Westfield, NJ 07090 * (908)233-0065

Call Jackie or Debbie

@ 732-323-0300

House wanted near Kitchen, windows, refinished hardwood floors, deep yard, walk-up attic, Central Air conditioning, never finished basement with full bath and is near town. $259,900.

WANTING FURNISHED HOME

For Outstanding District 209 Central Avenue (908) 233-5555

Dollies, drawers, desks, dressers, chairs,

everything, good experience. Reasonable price. Please contact Elaine (908) 544-3035

BABY-SITTING

Chinese-speaking, families. Call to arrange

CAREGIVER

Reliable college student available for

care of many family, individual

WOODLANDS - Brand new home

77 Oak College Supremes,

GARAGE SALE

Fri., Nov. 30 & Sat., Dec. 1

9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Furniture, appliances, clothes,

everything. Everything must go.

e-mail: CSargent@farbrook.org

Greenview Rd., Westfield

Contents of home, LR, DR, BRs, Bath, Formal Dining Room, Great

LOVELY CENTER HALL COLONIAL

Newly constructed in

FANWOOD offers 4 Bedrooms, 2 1/2 Baths, Formal Dining Room, Bay window and fireplace, Living Room with fireplace.

Kitchen with separate dining area, 1st floor Laundry and Powder Rooms, hardwood floors and near town, schools and transportation $389,900.

REAL ESTATE BROKER

Colleen Mayer, Secretary

2 hrs./wk. All training provided.

Childcare reimbursement available!

WESTFIELD - Voluntary Services Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad want persons willing to

train as Emergency Medical

Experience helpful but willing to

Babysitting: At Home, Part-time

EXPERIENCE HELP WANTED

Babysitting: At Home, Part-time

Home helper needed to

Home helper needed to

Need driver

This well-maintained, newly-listed

This well-maintained, newly-listed

Westfield - This nice and inviting 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath

Home for sale includes 2 Bedrooms,

WESTFIELD - Charming Colonial in the "Gardens." New roof, driveway, sidewalk & path. Exterior just painted, newly decorated. 4 Bedrooms. Living Room with fireplace. Formal Dining Room, Eat In Kitchen, Den, screened porch, refinished floors. Deep picturesque yard with a two car garage. $599,000. WSF0566

WESTFIELD - This nice and inviting 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath
home is located on a park-like property within walking distance to Washington School. Featuring a Living Room with fireplace, Formal Dining Room, updated Kitchen and a first floor family room. The two level deck overlooks the deep back yard. Additional features include a finished Recreation Room, central air conditioning, newer windows and roof. Offered for $465,000. WSF 0567

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FOOD FOR THE NEEDY... After a successful donation drive in Westfield, Brownie Troop No. 513 of Wilson Elementary School in Westfield purchased five boxes of Girl Scout Cookies for distribution to the less fortunate. Troop No. 513 leader was Caroline Gelinne, front row, Pilar Martinez, Ellie Callinan, and front row, Katie Martin. Thanks Range, Berry Fitzgerald and Beth Robinson, thanking for for the day.

Leutwyler, and front row, Pilar Martinez, Ellie Callinan, Caroline Gelinne, Troop No. 513 of Wilson Elementary School in Westfield purchased five boxes of Girl Scout Cookies for distribution to the less fortunate. Troop No. 513 leader was Caroline Gelinne, front row, Pilar Martinez, Ellie Callinan, and front row, Katie Martin. Thanks Range, Berry Fitzgerald and Beth Robinson, thanking for for the day.

Kimberly A. Haley
NJAR Million Dollar Club - Gold Level 1998 & 2000

Among Wyckwood’s Finest

WESTFIELD – This charming colonial is located on a quaint tree-lined street in the heart of Wyckwood. It boasts 8 rooms, two and a half baths, formal Dining Room, Living Room with fireplace and 2-car garage. Additional features include a lovely entrance foyer, large Family Room, first floor Laundry and finished Recreation Room. The eat-in Kitchen has sliders to a deck overlooking the professionally landscaped yard. Offered at $799,900.

Coldwell Banker
Residential Brokerage
Kimberly A. Haley
(908) 301-2004 – Business
K Haley@home.com – Email

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday December 2, 1 - 4 p.m.


GRACIOUS COLONIAL
WESTFIELD- Start the New Year in the splendor of this 4 Bedroom, 2.5 Bath home. Featuring Family Room with fireplace, year round Sunroom, and 2 car garage. Visit our website for a virtual tour. Offered at $559,900.

Niki Fry Sales Associate
NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club - Silver Level 2000

“for The Perfect Home For You, Contact Niki Fry Today!”

Gracious New Manor Home
Builder of over 25 Manor Homes offers Master Suite + 5 BRs, 8,000 SF, Pristine 6+ wooded acres on Bernardsville Mountain. Large level property. Inlaid floors, special trim. $2,500.00. Contact Fahey Realtors (908) 204-0600

Weichert
Working together to give the American Dream of Homeownership a strong future

MARTHA SCHILLING, GRI
Top Producer Month of October
NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club
Weichert Million Dollar Sales Club

BRENDA PUTZER
Outstanding Achievement - October
Weichert Million Dollar Sales Club
Market Club

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAIN
In the matter of an Application of Xian Feng Lin for a Change of Use of Home based Games of Chance and Permit to Operate a Home based Games of Chance outside the Borough of Scotch Plains filed with the Clerk of the Township of Scotch Plains, on the 16th day of December, 2000. By the Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, at the Regular Meeting held at 7:00 p.m. on December 6, 2001 at the Municipal Building, Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

AN ORDINANCE PERMIT-THE HOLDING, OPERATING AND CONDUCT OF HOME BASED GAMES OF CHANCE

You, Contact Niki Fry Today!”

The Planning Board of the Township of Scotch Plains, at its meeting held on the 6th day of December, 2001, approved an application for a Change of Use of Home based Games of Chance and Permit to Operate a Home based Games of Chance outside the Borough of Scotch Plains, for the holding, operating and conduct of Home based Games of Chance, located at 297 Mountainside Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

The purpose of the application is to permit the operation of Home based Games of Chance outside the Borough of Scotch Plains. The permit will be subject to the conditions imposed by the Planning Board at the time of the application.

The Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains, by the above Ordinance, has determined that the proposed Home based Games of Chance is in harmony with the general welfare of the people of Scotch Plains, New Jersey and in the public interest. Therefore, the above Ordinance and Resolution are hereby adopted, and you are hereby notified that the Ordinance and Resolution is available for inspection during business hours.

You, Contact Niki Fry Today!”

An ordinance is hereby adopted by the Township of Scotch Plains, for the holding, operating and conduct of Home based Games of Chance located at 297 Mountainside Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

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AMERICAN COMMUNITY THEATRE

Perform in "Richard Rodgers – A Centennial Celebration of His Music" on New Year’s Eve…Maestro David Wroe and the Society, will conduct the Handel Society, will perform in "Imitations of Life" will run from December 2 through December 4 at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, New Jersey. December 1, at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO).

WESSELSON – The Jordan School of Music, in collaboration with the Greater Newark Community Arts Network, will present the 2001-2002 season.

MUNNMEIDE – Massery College in Allentown, Pa., has presented Monticello, a production of Jere McFadden and community arts network. The Jordan School, the society, will perform in "Imitations of Life" will run from December 2 through December 4 at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, New Jersey. December 1, at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO).

THE PERFECT WAY TO SPEND NEW YEAR’S EVE…Maestro David Wroe and the Society, will conduct the Handel Society, will perform in "Imitations of Life" will run from December 2 through December 4 at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra in the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, New Jersey. December 1, at the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO).

THE TIMES of Scotch Plains – Fanwood Thursday, November 29, 2001 Page 17

NINE MORE DAYS” By Rona Laskin, an all original theatrical panel, was inspired by the hundreds of butterflies the artist saw around Roselle Reservoir. She began painting them in 1978 and it is currently on view at the Roselle Public Library. If you are interested in purchasing a panel, please call (908) 699-1900.

TWO vices – chocolate and caf-

A WATCHUNG COMMUNICATIONS, INC. PUBLICATION

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FANWOOD

BARBARA BRENNER

To Perform in Roselle Concert

TALKING ABOUT A CAR

Talk of the Town

ENRICO CHIRICO

Performances of “Brown’s School Days” by Charles L. Webster Brown are in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. For tickets or further information, please call (908) 654-3260.

Barbara Brenninger, who also makes the most of her dramatic White in his time, Brick grants her the most "triumphal role" of the entire production of "The Tempest." It is a role that she has performed in the past and is one that she has been waiting to play. With the upcoming concert, she is looking forward to a return to the stage after a long absence.

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Daniel "JN": On a little more serious note, tell us what "Savannah" means to you.
Adem Turner: "Savannah" is a city in the Eastern part of Georgia, it’s a very historic city, a little bit like Charleston but more historic and a little bit more modern. It’s a very beautiful city.
Daniel "JN": What’s the most inspiring thing you’ve seen in your career?
Adem Turner: The most inspiring thing I’ve seen in my career is probably when I was a student in London and I was on a tour with the BBC Symphony Orchestra. We were performing in the Royal Albert Hall, and there was a little boy on stage with a painter’s brush who was painting the musicians. It was a very inspiring moment.
Daniel "JN": How do you like performing with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra?
Adem Turner: I love performing with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. They’re a fantastic group of musicians, and it’s always a pleasure to work with them.

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**Order "Savannah"**

So, before he became known as one of the most talented actors of his generation, Benjamin Bratt was just a young man growing up in Seattle.

Benjamin Bratt was born in 1963 to a Mexican father and a Native American mother. He grew up in a family that valued education, and his parents instilled in him a love for learning.

Benjamin Bratt's journey to stardom began in the early 1980s, when he landed a role in the television series "L.A. Law". His performance in the show earned him critical acclaim and brought him to the attention of Hollywood.

Later, Benjamin Bratt went on to star in films such as "Selena", "Miss Congeniality", and "Selena Queen", for which he received an Academy Award nomination. His acting career continued to flourish, and he became known for his powerful performances in films such as "American Crime Story" and "God's Country".

Benjamin Bratt is also a passionate advocate for social justice, and he has used his platform to speak out on issues such as immigration reform and environmentalism.

Benjamin Bratt's life story is a testament to the power of determination and hard work, and his contributions to the entertainment industry have left an indelible mark on the world of film and television.

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**TALK OF THE TOWN**

**Teens & Local Figures, One-on-One**

**Joseph Niele: Director, WHS Drama Teacher**

**TICKET INFORMATION**

**By MICHELLE L. POIDEVIN**

With no hesitation, San Francisco-born Benjamin Bratt is the kind of guy you take home to meet the family. He’s warm, funny, self-effacing and a fast-talking, non-committing guy. He’s not the former actor who ever divorced three spouses, his family’s history, or standing for the greater good.

And, if you hadn’t noticed, he’s got the eye on the ladies. Aside from his talent as an actor, ratings went through the roof of many Vickers homes, and he released a book this year.

**ARTIST OF THE WEEK**

Benjamin Bratt

**Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times**

**By ADAM TURNER**

Benjamin Bratt has taken on some of the most challenging roles of his career, and his performance in "American Crime Story" is no exception.

Bratt’s portrayal of O.J. Simpson is mesmerizing, and his ability to portray the polarizing figure with such raw emotion is a testament to his acting prowess.

The story of O.J. Simpson is a complex one, and Bratt’s performance is no different. He brings a level of sensitivity and nuance to the role that is both surprising and refreshing.

But Bratt’s work doesn’t end there. He’s currently filming "God’s Country", and his performance in the film is already generating buzz.

In conclusion, Benjamin Bratt is one of the most talented actors of his generation. His performances are always captivating, and his ability to bring depth and nuance to his characters is something to behold.

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**Black Friday or Any Other Day?**

The Friday after Thanksgiving is known to many as “Black Friday”, it was born from Target. A spilling of shoppers, rows of vibrant red and blue, and a variety of items — all that says the holiday weekend’s victory has not been established yet.

There were a few red and green banners with tassels, a simple display of pumpkins, a jolly bear hung up-side-down and a modest tree. Holiday cards were nowhere to be heard, a handful of shoppers stood in a line, offering their relationships, and one could almost see little Andy Lee who allowed The Grinch to return Christmas to the little village of Whoville.

My sincerest belief is that store executives have decided to tone down this hype this year, taking into consideration that this is a holiday season clouded by a heavy wear of sadness. It’s hard to assess what color of customer would look better on Amaryl when the raging amounts of families will be played by people this season. For some, Uncle Greg won’t be making his famous eggnog. Cousin Liz can’t stay at the piano when it’s time for caroling. Dad won’t be recreating Santa’s family party, and making sugar cookies with Mom will be far from the holiday preparations.

Our towns are usually aglow with lights on the lampposts, and the many-windowed shops wear with images of cheerfulness and laughing elves. This is not just the time. Making cards to acquaintances can come with a second thought for those fearful of arthritis, even though it might just be a little flour from cookie making on the occasion. Appreciation might arise while looking at airline tickets, as we wonder how many will make it home for the holidays. It’s predicted that most kids would rather read fresh books or police officer action figures under the tree, instead of violent video games.

While it is almost bizarre and anti-holiday to be surrounded by downgraded of decorations and festivities a normally fertile period it seems only proper and justly respectable that storytellers keep the normal gift to a minimum, focusing instead on both the meaning of the season and those who are a family member for us.

As for me, I won’t miss the tinny tuned or hearing “O Little Town of Bethlehem” joyed into my wall’s. I won’t long the eerie remote-controlled Santas in every window, or the need to be laden with heavy gifts to keep the world at ease. While I lean near the tree, holding my goddaughter, as she unravels toys, I will feel more deeply the emptiness of those visiting gravestones or reflecting on photos of holidays gone by when Coton Lutz used to gather the family around the piano for an evening of song.

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**Pen & Ink**

**With Michelle H. La Plaunt**

**These Holidays Will Be Underrated, And The Proof Is At Your Local Mall**

**Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times**

**By MICHELLE L. POIDENVIN**

**IN CONCERT IN WESTFIELD**

**Ukrainian Masters of String Quartets**

**By MICHELLE L. POIDENVIN**

**In Concert in Westfield**

**7:30 at the Presbyterian Church**

Westfield’s Festival of WAC (Westfield Arts Council) on December 1st at 7:30 p.m. will present the “Ukrainian Masters of String Quartets.”

The Ukrainian String Quartet will perform music by Ukrainian masters of the domra such as the famous soloist and composer Marcin and Lutoslawsk. The program will feature music of the famous Ukrainian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky and will include: "Pyotr Tchaikovsky" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and "Georgian Polka" by Georges Bizet.

The concert will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and admission is free to the public.