

## 22nd District News Restrict Medicine Sales to Curb Crystal Meth

Assemblywoman Linda Stender, Fanwood

TRENTON - Legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22, Fanwood), if enacted, would control the availability of methamphetamine by placing restrictions on cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, the prime ingredient for making crystal meth. "Crystal meth is manufactured by cooking over-the-counter cold pills in a home laboratory," said Asw. Stender. "Crystal meth causes more damage to the brain than alcohol, heroin or cocaine. The average cost to clean up a crystal meth laboratory can range from several thousand dollars to several hundred thousand dollars. By placing common sense restrictions on the sale of pseudoephedrine, we take a big step in our fight against one of the most dangerous substances in our war on drugs."

store counter or in a locked case so that customers must ask for assistance. The measure would prohibit retail stores from selling in any single transaction more than two packages of medication containing more than 15 milligrams of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine. Any pharmacy or retail distributor caught violating the measure would be subject to fines up to \$500 for a first offense, and fines up to \$1,000 for subsequent offenses. "Every pound of crystal meth produced leaves behind five pounds of toxic waste that is routinely dumped into streams, fields and sewage systems," said Asw. Stender. "Often times, municipalities are left footing the bill for the clean-up of a crystal meth lab. The cost of cleanups is just one more reason why we need to do everything in our power to restrict access to the chemicals used to make crystal meth."

## Record First Q' Earnings Reported By Town Bank

WESTFIELD - The Town Bank recently announced record earnings for the first quarter ended March 31, 2005 of \$515,000, or \$0.27 per basic and \$0.26 diluted share, compared to a net income of \$270,000, or \$0.15 per basic share and \$0.14 diluted share one year ago, according to Robert Downes, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer. On March 31, 2005, total assets were \$147.1 million, compared to \$111.5 million a year earlier, reflecting a growth of \$35.6 million or 32 percent. Total deposits increased to \$130.1 million as of March 31, 2005, from \$97.6 million on March 31, 2004, resulting in an increase of \$32.5 million or 33 percent. Loans outstanding rose from \$82.9 million to \$114.9 million, representing an increase of \$32 million, or a growth of 39 percent. Mr. Downes said, "Clearly, The Town Bank continues to strengthen its position as a community-based provider of financial products backed by superior customer service and personal attention. During the first quarter, we concentrated our promotional initiatives on building core relationships with our retail consumer and

small business client base. Our market is reacting very favorably to our special regard for customers and user-friendly products and services, which has become the hallmark of our community-centered banking operations." The bank is headquartered at 520 South Avenue, and operates a branch office at 44 Elm Street in Westfield. For more information, please call (908) 301-0800. On the Internet, see www.townbank.com.



FAMILY FUN...A young mother watches as her daughter makes sand art at an event hosted by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School National Honor Society thanking families who are making sacrifices while their loved ones serve in Iraq.

## NHS Hosts Carnival for For Iraq Military Families

By BETSEY BURGDORF  
Specially Written for The Leader and The Times

SCOTCH PLAINS - Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) National Honor Society (NHS) hosted a heartwarming event last Saturday for families whose loved ones are stationed in Iraq, serving the 250th Battalion. Invitations were sent out to approximately 200 families inviting them to a day of food and fun at the Westfield National Guard Armory on Rahway Avenue. The NHS hosted the event free of charge "as a thank you," NHS Vice President Michelle Switch said, "by fundraising and seeking donations from local vendors."

"We fundraised all the money for everything," NHS Publicity Chairwoman Liz Elko told The Leader and The Times. "We sold pizza and cookies, and we also received donations from local places." Northside Trattoria in Westfield donated the food. The Party Stop and Party City donated the decorations that the students hung high from the rafters at the Armory with help from a Verizon Telephone Company cherry picker, which was also donated. Members of the society, which started at SPFHS last year, created all the games. They enlisted the help of the talented student body to perform music, create balloon animals and make the blown up trampoline. "Sometimes the military doesn't hit our kids," said NHS Advisor Maureen Basta. "But this time it did." She said that the students came up with different ideas for events and voted and "this one was unanimously picked."

## Fanwood Dems To Host Pizza With Candidates

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Democratic Committee will host an informal fundraiser in support of Fanwood's 2005 Democratic nominees for Borough Council on Tuesday, May 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., located upstairs at the Sun Tavern, 15 South Avenue. The suggest donation is \$35 per person. "This is an opportunity for Fanwood residents to meet and talk with Joan Wheeler and Bruce Walsh, our candidates for Borough Council, and local Democratic leaders," said Assemblywoman Linda Stender, Chairwoman of the Fanwood Democratic Committee and a former mayor of Fanwood.

Mr. Walsh is an attorney with offices in Westfield and Staten Island. He previously served on the Fanwood Borough Council from 1988-1990, and again from 1993-1998. He currently serves on the Fanwood Planning Board. Ms. Wheeler is the Associate Administrator at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County. She has worked in system development and hospital administration in public and private health care systems over the past 40 years. For further information about the May 24 fundraiser and other activities of the Fanwood Democratic Committee, call Bill Populus at (908) 789-7577.

## Ferguson: D.C. Plane Scare Brought Back 9/11 Memories

By PAUL J. PEYTON  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WASHINGTON, D.C. Although it turned out only to be a pilot and student pilot of a small plane who was lost, for many who were in the Nation's Capital including Congressman Mike Ferguson (R-7th, Warren Twp.), last Wednesday's terrorism scare was anything but ordinary life in Washington. It brought back memories of the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001.

Capital. "So we are talking real courage and heroism" of the Capital Police officers said Congressman Ferguson. He called his wife after he was out of danger to tell her that he was okay. He also gathered with his staff to ensure everyone was safe.

Some terrorism experts interviewed after the incident believed authorities over-reacted and may have put evacuees in danger if the plane had released biological or chemical agents. Congressman Ferguson said there would be a lot of second-guessing but there wasn't time to determine the reason for the plane's close proximity to Washington, the type of plane or the number pilots. "There were simply too many variables," Congressman Ferguson said. This time of year there are thousands of visitors in Washington including school tours. Press reports noted that Former First Lady Nancy Reagan was at the White House as was Vice President Dick Cheney and First Lady Laura Bush. President George W. Bush was reportedly bicycling in Beltsville, MD. They were moved to secure locations, as well. In the end it turned that pilot and student pilot were headed from Pennsylvania to an air show in North Carolina, according to the Associated Press and were lost. A Black Hawk helicopter and two F-16 fighter jets were scrambled within minutes and fired warning flares at the Cessna 152, according to published reports, when the pilots did not acknowledge radio calls from authorities, the article stated. The Associated Press report identified the two men as Hayden Sheaffer of Litzitz, PA, and student pilot, Troy Martin of Akron, PA. They were forced to land and were taken into custody and questioned by the Secret Service, FBI and local authorities.



Mike Ferguson

Congressman Ferguson was on the floor of the House of Representatives voting when the order to evacuate the Capital came in. "It is rare to see (plain clothed) Capital police on the floor of the House. It is extremely rare to see one sprinting across the floor," he told The Westfield Leader and The Times of Scotch Plains and Fanwood during a phone interview Thursday from his Washington office.

Seconds later Capital police officers were at all the exits of the House chambers, at stairwells and exterior exits to quickly guide Congress members and out of the building. Television reports showed thousands person persons running from the building. "And we didn't stop until we were four blocks away (from the Capital)," said Congressman Ferguson. "It was a frightening time. I haven't felt like that since the morning of 9-11," the Congressman said. Congressman Ferguson's Press Secretary, Abby Bird, said all government buildings were evacuated including the Cannon building which houses Congressional offices, including Congressman Ferguson's. Congressman Ferguson said Capital police showed professionalism in their rapid response to what was viewed at the time as a potential act of terrorism. "They did not tell us what the threat was," he said, noting there simply was no time for explanations. The only information Capital police officers had at the time was that a plane was quickly approaching the

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Simi Chardonnay	\$12.99	750ml			
BV Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay/Pinot Noir	\$7.99	750ml			
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$8.99	750ml			
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml			

Your Favorite Vodka			Your Favorite Rum		
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Ketel One	\$33.99	1.75L	Bacardi Silver	\$18.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$24.99	750ml	Bacardi Gold	\$18.99	1.75L
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Tanqueray	\$30.99	1.75L	Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Hendricks	\$27.99	750ml	Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Beefeater	\$28.99	1.75L	Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
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			Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$8.99	5L
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