



Serving the Town Since 1890

The Westfield Leader

OUR 108th YEAR - ISSUE NO. 17-99

USPS 680020
Periodical - Postage Paid at Westfield, N.J.

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Published
Every Thursday

232-4407

FIFTY CENTS

School and Law Authorities Examine Safety In Wake of Shootings at Colorado High School

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Because Isaiah Shoels, 18, was popular and African-American, he was murdered. Matthew Kechter, 16, lifted weights and played football. He was executed because he was an athlete. Cassie Bernall, 17, carried a Bible to school. She was murdered when she huddled under a library desk after praying and admitting that she was Christian.

In the end, approximately 20 students at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, were sent to local hospitals with gunshot and shrapnel wounds and 15 others were fatally wounded, including a teacher and the gunmen who killed themselves on the morning of Tuesday, April 20.

For Eric David Harris, 18, and Dylan Bennet Klebold, 17, if a student was a minority, an athlete, or a Christian, they did not deserve to stay alive. The students reportedly armed themselves with one sawed-off shotgun, one 9-millimeter semi-automatic rifle, two pistol-grip shotguns, and 30 handmade pipe bombs.



Michelle H. LePoidevin for The Westfield Leader
IN MEMORIAM...The American flag at Westfield High School is currently flying at half-mast in honor of the victims of the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

At 11:30 a.m., that morning, Eric and Dylan, who were reportedly part of a 12-member hate group tagged The Trench Coat Mafia, entered the cafeteria and began shooting their classmates while they ate lunch and

proceeded to kill students as they read books and studied in the school library. As their victims died, they laughed and continued their spree.

Trembling under library desks and hiding in closets, the students had

but one split second to prepare for the possibility of their own mortality. Something they were probably not thinking about as they ate their breakfast and dressed for school that morning.

As the tragedy at Columbine High School reverberates throughout the country in a horrifying ripple effect, Westfield school officials are gripped with the fact that no community is immune to such shattering violence.

"Actually, Westfield is very similar to Littleton, Colorado. The same thing could happen right here," worried one Westfield parent after learning about massacre in Littleton on Tuesday evening.

In an interview with Westfield High School (WHS) Principal, Dr. Robert G. Petix, Student Assistance Counselor Maureen Mazzaresse, and Director of Guidance of Westfield Public Schools, Cass Jakubik, Mrs. Mazzaresse stated, "The question that everybody is asking is 'Could this happen here?' We would be foolish to say anything other than, 'Yes.'"

However, she stressed that the high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Elected School Bd. Members Sworn In At Tuesday Meeting

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Board of Education congratulated re-elected board members Anmarie Puleio and Arlene Gardner and new member William Wallace to three-year terms during its re-organizational meeting on Tuesday, April 27.

At a reception held prior to the meeting, the newly-elected board members were sworn in while family members and well-wishers looked on.

During the reorganizational meeting, Board Secretary and Business Administrator Robert Berman requested the nomination and election for the office of President.

Board Member, B. Carol Molnar, nominated current Board President Danielle M. Walsh for reelection to the position, attributing the qualities of an effective leader to Mrs. Walsh. She added that the school board has accomplished several goals while Mrs. Walsh has held the presidency.

Re-elected Board Member and Chairwoman of the board's Long Range Planning Committee, Mrs. Puleio, seconded the nomination of Mrs. Walsh.

After she was unanimously re-elected, Mrs. Walsh stated: "It is truly a privilege to serve again to the Westfield Board of Education." She added that she is also proud of the board's achievements, the dedication of the staff, administration and

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William J. Foley and the support of the community.

Turning to the office of Vice President, Mrs. Walsh called for nominations and election. Board Member, Ginger Hardwick, who originally held that position, nominated Mrs. Gardner. She called the newly-elected Vice President "hardworking, dedicated, enthusiastic and insightful."

Mrs. Gardner was unanimously elected to her new position. She will also continue her role as Chairwoman of the board's Policies Committee.

Board Member Thomas Taylor explained that the school board needed to "clean house" as part of its reorganizational meeting by approving certain elements of its operation and services.

Therefore, the board approved the designation of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Star-Ledger* as its official newspapers for legal advertisements.

The appointments of Mr. Berman as Board Secretary, Tamar Sydnegens as Assistant Board Secretary, Liy-Huei L. Tsai as Treasurer of School Moneys, and Howard McNicholas, Jr. as Attendance Officer were unanimously given the green light.

Past curricula and existing textbooks were also approved for the 1999-2000 academic year, as well as policies earlier approved by past boards. The school board also ap-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Behavioral Warning Signs For Troubled Youth Revealed By Violence Institute of New Jersey

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

"I'm just thinking about my son. I'm trying to keep my head together," stated Michael Shoels regarding the April 20 murder of his son, Isaiah, 18, during a shooting spree at Columbine High School in Littleton,

Colorado, by fellow students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold.

Isaiah was one of 15 fatal victims. How can local children, parents and administration recognize behavioral warning signs in adolescents which might trigger tragedy? How can they prevent themselves from becoming

victims of violence?

The Violence Institute of New Jersey at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) has volunteered a list of "behavioral indicators" which might help parents, peers and authorities to be aware of dangerous behavior in today's chil-

dren.

UMDNJ officials suggested that if a student has few or no friends, demonstrates patterns of despair, anger, extreme self-centeredness, preoccupation with weapons, violence and death, chronic truancy, drug use, or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

BOE Bids Farewell To Susan Jacobson

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

"Twelve years is a major part of your life. I gave it 150 percent. I gave it everything I had," reflected Susan Jacobson regarding her record term as the longest serving member of the Westfield Board of Education.

Mrs. Jacobson served as the school board's President, Financial Chairwoman, and Vice President. She shared with *The Westfield Leader* this week her feelings about her contributions to the board, as well as the opportunity to be an established member of the "family" she called the Westfield Board of Education.

Reviewing her tenure on the school board, Mrs. Jacobson said she is proud that she helped to "create a school system that we can all be proud of." She highlighted the establishment of 16 additional classrooms without a referendum as one of the milestones achieved during her tenure.

When she began her journey on the board, Mrs. Jacobson explained that she was especially concerned with ensuring that Dr. Mark Smith, who had come on board as Superintendent of Schools, was comfortable in his new role.

"I wanted to do my part to be sure

that the new superintendent had all the help he needed," she remembered.

Mrs. Jacobson, who was first elected after a campaign comprised of 13 candidates in 1987, stated that she hoped her role on the school board would help shape the district and keep the schools moving forward.

As a freshman member, she regarded the Westfield community as being "very positive and supportive," a sentiment she still feels today.

"In the 12 years that I have served, I have seen the community become younger and more involved in the education system and with what happens in our schools,"

Mrs. Jacobson observed. She noted that the current slate of board members, which she lauded, has prevailed over division which it experienced over time. "It seems to have come back into focus in agreeing on the agenda of what is best for the kids," she stated.

Highlighting the involvement of parents in the Westfield community, as well as passage of the \$11.7 million bond referendum in December and the adoption April 20 of the district's \$54 million operating budget for 1999-2000, Mrs. Jacobson observed that 1998 and 1999 were extremely productive periods.

"To be able to accomplish the things we have done has been phenomenal," said the former board member. "We've also been very responsible with our budgets."

Praising the accomplishments of current Superintendent of Schools, Dr. William J. Foley, Mrs. Jacobson noted, "However long he stays, he will have a tremendous impact" on the board and the education of the school district.

She advised that the board should keep a close eye on the utilization of the rooms at Westfield High School.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Susan Jacobson

Search Ensues In Vandalism At Cemetery

By DEBORAH MADISON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Police are still looking for leads and suspects responsible for vandalism done to headstones at the Revolutionary War Cemetery on Mountain Avenue sometime during the evening of Saturday, April 17.

The damage to the 12 overturned headstones, four of which were broken, is believed to have been caused by more than one person as the historical headstones weigh in excess of several hundred pounds.

The cemetery, which was founded by the Church in the 1720s, is home to 71 Revolutionary War Soldiers as well as numerous founding fathers of the township. The cemetery currently accepts cremains only, due to a lack of land availability, officials revealed.

David Rogers, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee, has assessed the cost of repairs to be in excess of \$1,000. Most of this cost will be covered by the Presbyterian Church's insurance, and some of the repair work will be donated by the monument company which

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Council Holds Off on Joining Bergen Health Insurance Pool

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Westfield Town Council has opted to take a wait-and-see approach in terms of the way the town purchases its health insurance for municipal employees. The town's current insurance contract expires January 1, 2000.

Currently, Westfield pays roughly \$1.3 million in health insurance for 170 employees, out of a total municipal budget of \$23.6 million. Westfield and the other members of the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund (JIF), an insurance pool formed to have better control on casualty and reduce property and casualty insurance premiums paid by the towns, began looking into forming a fund to reduce health insurance costs.

Westfield currently purchases its health insurance from Horizon Blue Cross - Blue Shield of New Jersey. The Suburban JIF, which includes Westfield, Scotch Plains, Mountainside, Summit, Bernardsville, Bedminster and Bernards Township and Watchung, formed a steering committee to look into a health insurance pool.

Since 1,000 employees are needed

to join an insurance fund, Town Administrator Edward A. Gottko explained Tuesday night that JIF officials have been looking at the Bergen County Health Insurance Fund as a possible option. The Suburban JIF has roughly 600 employees at present.

Bergen is one of roughly a half dozen health insurance funds for public entities state-wide.

"We are still interested (in the Bergen plan). We think that it is still a viable option," he told *The Westfield Leader*.

By state law, a municipality cannot

reduce its health insurance coverage. It can change, however, the way it purchases insurance.

Second Ward Councilman James J. Gruba, who sits as a Commissioner on the Suburban JIF board as well as chairing the Town Council's Finance Committee, explained that through the JIF, Westfield should be getting a dividend in next year's municipal budget.

"We entered into this (health insurance) process with expectations of great savings," Councilman Gruba

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader
ALL IN THE FAMILY...Westfield Mayor Thomas C. Jardim and his wife, Karen Fountain, and their baby daughter, Cecile, all got into the act of cleaning up Brightwood Park last Sunday, April 25, with the help of students in Roosevelt Intermediate School's Environmental Program, as well as a group from Temple Emanu-El.



Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader
LENDING A HAND...Temple Emanu-El of Westfield's park committee, formed for families interested in volunteering their time to cleanup Brightwood Park, are shown here with town and elected officials and Public Works Department employees at the park last Sunday, April 25.

Tax Collector's Office Open Late Monday

The office of the Westfield Tax Collector will be open from 7 to 9 p.m. this Monday, May 3, in addition to the regular office hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Quarterly property bills are due Monday since May 1 falls on Saturday. When the first of the month (when taxes are due) falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date is extended to the next business day.

There is a five-day grace period for all taxpayers.

INDEX

Arts Page 25 Obituary Page 10 Social Page 6
Editorial Page 4 Religious Page 11 Sports Page 13

CYAN YELLOW MAGENTA BLACK

Elected BOE Members Sworn In At Meeting

proved the designation of its banks for investment purposes and official depositories.

The appointment of Richard Kaplow, a Westfield attorney, was not only approved but lauded by board members who were impressed and pleased with his past service and anticipated working with him in the future. The board also approved Lester Aron of a Newark law firm for other legal services.

The appointment of architectural/engineering, medical and auditing services was also reviewed and approved by the school board.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Foley reviewed an "Option C" and an "Option D" for the 1999-2000 School Calendar. These options regarded the revisions to the calendar for the spring vacation in April.

Option C, which includes Passover and Good Friday during the Spring Vacation was considered the most respectful of religious observance by Dr. Foley and Board Member Eileen Satkin.

The vacation would commence on Wednesday, April 19 and end on Wednesday, April 26.

Option D, which Dr. Foley noted is the alternative favored by most parents and faculty, would allow an earlier vacation and supply two full weekends during the break.

Mrs. Hardwick noted that a faculty

member revealed that it was difficult to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exams when the vacation was held in April's later weeks, causing the teachers to favor Option D.

If this option is officially approved, Spring Vacation would be held from Monday, April 10 to Friday, April 14 and include Friday, April 21. Monday, April 17, to Thursday, April 20, would not be included in the break.

In either situation, one unused snow day would cause schools to close on April 20. Two unused snow days would close schools on April 20 and 24, and three unused snow days would close schools on April 20, April 24, and Friday, May 26.

The bylaws of the Westfield Board of Education require the board to vote on the calendar revision approximately 30 days from the first read. Mrs. Gardner opted to amend the by-laws and call for final vote on the revision on Tuesday, May 18.

If the by-laws were not changed, the board would have met on Tuesday, June 8, to decide the fate of Spring Vacation for the upcoming year.

Mrs. Satkin, who strongly favored Option C for its inclusion of religious holidays, was the only opposing vote.

In other business, Dr. Foley reported that 68 percent of students attended the Saturday opening of Westfield High School on April 24 to make up for a snow day. He also called staff attendance "excellent."

School, Law Officials React To Colorado Shootings

school remains ever-vigilant in its efforts to maintain an atmosphere which clearly identifies its policies, reaches out to troubled students, and refuses to tolerate any form of violence.

"We are not afraid to look for signs of distress," encouraged Mrs. Mazzaresse regarding students who may exhibit strange or dangerous behavior.

"I would bet that if we had students like those boys (Eric and Dylan) in our school, we would have reached out to them," she urged.

Maintaining that WHS keeps communication open between staff, parents and students, she stated, "Nobody looks the other way. We are all very aware of our kids."

Both Mrs. Mazzaresse and Mr. Jakubik stated that if a student such as the Columbine gunmen had been WHS students, or if students feel threatened in the high school, the counselors approach the student in question, administration intervenes and parents are contacted.

Mr. Jakubik assured that if a parent chooses not to become involved in such a process, the school will take legal action via the Department of Youth and Family Services. He stated that this measure is not meant to be disrespectful, but a "protective judgment."

Mrs. Mazzaresse revealed that she has witnessed mixed reaction since the Columbine tragedy. "Kids look at each other a little differently," she noted. "Some students are aware that what they say can be harmful to others."

However, she added that some students seem completely disaffected.

Commenting on an April 22 article in *The Star-Ledger* which reported that Westfield students wanted "a unified town where they could 'break the mold' and interact with peers of diverse backgrounds without prejudice," the three school officials stated that WHS students are taught to appreciate diversity through seminars and workshops.

Dr. Petix noted that although a student jokingly brought a toy gun into WHS following the Columbine incident and was later disciplined, a child would be expelled if a real gun was discovered.

"There is zero reason for any child to bring a gun to school," he urged.

When questioned about the possibility of posting security guards at WHS or operating random locker checks, Dr. Petix stated, "It is important to have as little security as necessary in the school. Security guards make people feel there is a reason to have security guards."

Although the principal stated that signs which mandate that visitors to the school must report to the Main Office are securely posted at the doors of WHS, these signs were not visible at each entrance.

The three school officials stated that they were not aware of any group in WHS which is named or imitates the principles of The Trenchcoat Mafia.

Alienation, a Nazi influence, a previous experience with violence, drugs, perilous pop culture, and/or biological influences were cited by these officials as possible reasons why Eric and Dylan went on their killing rampage.

Dr. Petix stated that he spoke to students on the Public Address system the morning after the massacre and urged the students to value respect and diversity with mutual respect and keep the lines of communication open between themselves, administrators, and their parents.

He concluded that WHS administration strives to maintain a policy of respect and trust of its students, but if a student is considered dangerous or suspicious, school officials reserve the right to search a student's locker and take action.

Judah Parnes, a Westfield High School student, told *The Westfield Leader*, "There are people who feel alienated, but not alienated enough to be violent."

Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan assured, "We have an understanding between schools and law en-

forcement which requires officials to report to law enforcement officials and to recognize violence in our schools."

"We must rely on school officials to report disturbing trends or any conduct that could give rise to violence," Mr. Manahan added.

Dispelling the belief that such tragedies only hit home in urban neighborhoods and schools, the prosecutor referred to an incident in 1998 when a student from New Providence had threatened students and teachers, with weapons later discovered in his home.

"Another trend that law enforcement officials cannot miss - these extremely violent acts that have taken place are taking place in suburban schools. Many people think this is limited to urban schools. It could very well happen anywhere," he stressed.

Mr. Manahan told *The Westfield Leader* that school officials should never overlook any activity or overt threat.

The importance of maintaining a "climate of tolerance" in the home of the student was also considered vital by the prosecutor.

"Certain students believe they are alienated by their fellow students," he urged.

"We, in law enforcement try to keep ahead of the curve, but many times in these suburban areas, activities are not brought to our attention," warned Prosecutor Manahan.

However, he noted that school officials in Union County are reporting incidents with greater frequency and mandating that if a student is found with a weapon, he or she will be expelled.

"We have had relatively few incidents of weapons being brought into schools in Union County," Mr. Manahan said. "But, we have heard of threats about using them."

"We are very concerned about copycats," he concluded.

Since the Columbine tragedy, students from communities such as Red Bank, West Deptford, Parsippany, and Cherry Hill, have reported incidents of bomb threats, brazen students porting trenchcoats, or death threats to students and teachers.

The entertainment industry, which has been partly blamed for the tragedy by its influence over growing adolescents, has started to monitor its actions.

According to the April 23, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, a movie, "Killing Mrs. Tingle" which is scheduled to be released in late August may feature reams of red tape. The movie, produced by Miramax, is a dark comedy about high school students who try to murder a teacher they hate.

Union County Sheriff Ralph G. Froelich told *The Westfield Leader*, "The kids should be part of the solution and we should seek ideas from them." He noted that a hotline for students should be established to allow them to voice their frustration and provide counseling from trained professionals.

In response to the alleged disregard by Littleton authorities regarding reported death threats by the hate group to fellow students, Sheriff Froelich agreed that that action by law enforcement officials was negligent.

"Shame on us in law enforcement, or in education, or as parents if we receive legitimate information and then not to follow up on it," he stressed.

He added that many principals and superintendents claim that such tragedies couldn't happen in their schools.

"That is not the right way to deal with this," he stated.

Sheriff Froelich, who has been involved in law enforcement for approximately 40 years, stated that he is appalled about how easy it is to obtain information on bomb-making.

"It seems to be pretty obvious that these kids (Eric and Dylan) were on the outside," the Sheriff stated. "This had to be seen by somebody."

WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

• A Hort Street resident reported that someone broke the rear window on his 1985 Toyota while it was parked in his driveway.

• A Highland Avenue resident reported the theft of an Apple laptop computer valued at \$2,000 from his vehicle, which was parked on the street where the victim lives. The computer was later recovered by Watchung police in a vehicle in a store parking lot on Route 22.

Authorities also arrested Henry Faulkner, Jr., 35, of Plainfield in connection with the case. Faulkner was charged with receiving stolen property, third degree; shoplifting, possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana, possession of narcotics paraphernalia and possession of a controlled dangerous substance in a school zone, Watchung authorities said. He was released after posting bail, which had been set at 10 percent of \$15,000.

• James L. Scott, 38, of Plainfield was charged by NJ Transit police at the Westfield Train Station with theft of services and disorderly conduct after he allegedly refused to pay his train fare, local authorities confirmed. Scott was released on his own recognizance.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

• Carmen Fontanes, 57, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with attempting to shoplift \$244 worth of clothing and costume jewelry from a North Avenue department store, according to police.

Fontanes was released after posting \$275 bail.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

• A North Avenue motel reported the receipt of a check for which funds were not available. The check had been issued to cover a rental fee at the establishment, authorities said.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

• A home on Benson Place was entered and a living room table lamp was damaged. In addition, a videocassette recorder was taken from the residence but was later recovered several blocks away, according to police.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

• Police received a report that profanity had been written on the rear door of a medical building on East Broad Street.

• A Scotch Plains resident reported that her bicycle was stolen from the south side train station.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

• A resident of Weston, Florida reported that one or more individuals attempted to enter his motor vehicle while it was parked at a local motel. Police said someone tried to punch out the lock on the driver's side door but that entry to the vehicle was not gained.

• Centennial High School on Westfield Avenue reported the theft of a fire extinguisher from a school bus.

• A Westfield woman reported the theft of a cellular telephone from her motor vehicle, which was parked in Municipal Lot No. 5 on Central Avenue.

Police Continue Search For Cemetery Vandals

employs Mr. Rogers.

"The headstones will be restored, but this delicate process will take some time," Mr. Rogers reported.

Sarah Burke, the Church Administrator explained that because of their age and historical significance, the headstones are irreplaceable, and "we all care greatly about them."

After falling into disuse for many years, the Cemetery was refurbished in the 1960s, and now operates as an educa-

tional site for schools and other organizations, such as the Boy Scouts.

The book, "Colonial Cemetery, Westfield, NJ," by Herbert Halsey, chronicles all of the people laid to rest there as well as a history of the grounds.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Westfield Police Department and ask for Sergeant John Parizeau at (908) 232-1000. All callers will remain anonymous.

Westfield School Board Bids Farewell to Susan Jacobson

and continue open communication and decision-making with citizens and parents.

Mrs. Jacobson added that the board must also continue to "touch base often" with residents regarding budget issues, being ever-cognizant of the needs of the taxpayers.

During the Board of Education's re-organization meeting Tuesday, Board President Danielle M. Walsh presented Mrs. Jacobson with a resolution honoring her years of dedicated service.

Mrs. Walsh called the retiring board member "a true friend" who volunteered "12 years of unselfish service." She added that she hopes Mrs. Jacobson will continue to share her ideas and opinions as the board proceeds without her.

Reading a poem she was given about making a solid difference in society, Mrs. Jacobson said at the meeting that she realized she had indeed made the Westfield community a better place by her decisions and actions as a board member.

Mrs. Jacobson cited the extensive time commitment involved in board service as both the hardest and easiest aspect of leaving the board.

While most people were wrapping

up a weary day and settling down to watch television or read a book, Mrs. Jacobson acknowledged that she avidly anticipated the Tuesday night board meetings. She said she found them "interesting, invigorating, and exciting."

However, with a new grandchild on the way and her close ties to kin, Mrs. Jacobson stated she is pleased that she will be able to commit more time to her family.

She concluded that she hopes the board will remain "legislatively proactive, not reactive." She maintained that it is important to force legislators to understand how their decisions impact school boards and their operation.

Although Mrs. Jacobson will be absent from the board, she will certainly not be forgotten. "I'm available. If they (the school board) need my services, all they have to do is call."

Erratum

In last week's front page story on the Westfield school board election, the vote count on the school budget was incorrect.

The school tax levy passed by a count of 1,687 to 777.

Dr. Thelma Warshaw To Present Discussion About Skin Cancer

WESTFIELD — Dr. Thelma Warshaw will be seen on television for a discussion about skin cancer during the month of April. The program is sponsored by the Overlook Hospital Foundation as part of a series entitled "Thirty Medical Minutes."

The program will air on Channel 36-Comcast Cable on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. The show can be viewed in Springfield, Summit, Berkeley Heights and New Providence throughout this month.

Dr. Warshaw, who is the head of the Dermatology Department at Overlook Hospital in Summit, maintains a practice in Westfield.

www.goleader.com/

Violence Institute Tells Behavioral Warning Signs

extreme mood swings, a red flag of warning should be raised.

Threats of harming others, poor impulse control, defiance of authority, and an exposure to violence are also indications that an adolescent may be capable of violent behavior.

Once these warning signs are identified, how can a peer, parent, or school administrator point the troubled child in a safe, non-violent direction?

Authorities at UMDNJ suggest that schools must establish clear policies which include all personnel, police officials, and parents which mandate intervening when violence occurs, as well as "post-crisis counseling."

Schools must also establish a system to identify troubled youth and refer them to counselors who can nip such behavior in the bud before it snowballs and results in tragedy. Such counselors, or "adult confidants" may also include peer listeners or mediators, according to

UMDNJ officials.

Such counselors could lend an ear to a troubled teen and help them identify the sources of their anger and frustration before someone becomes victimized. Peer support groups, with counselors and troubled teens, would also be helpful once formed.

Neighborhoods and schools should also establish programs to make issues such as violence, drug prevention, mental health, and anger management public and open for discussion.

In a recent Internet survey, pollsters speculated that poor parenting was the lead reason for why Eric and Dylan went on their shooting spree that Tuesday morning in Colorado.

Parental involvement is perhaps one of the main ingredients in helping to promote anti-violent behavior in adolescents. UMDNJ suggested that parents and guardians should be provided with resources and open meetings to discuss school safety issues.

COMCAST @ Home High Velocity Internet Service. It's Here.

- No More Dialing
- No More Busy Signals
- No More Phone Lines
- Internet Using TV Cable
- Instantaneous Connection
- 3 E-Mail Addresses



<http://westfieldnj.com>
speed@westfieldnj.com 908-654-4100 (24 hrs)

Westfield Library to Host Andy the Clown at Event

WESTFIELD — Andy the Clown will perform at the Westfield Memorial Library on Tuesday May 11, at 4 p.m.

Known for his creativity and enthusiasm, "Andy," a New York City actor, specializes in comedy shows which invoke audience participation.

Free tickets to the show will be available at the Children's Desk beginning on Saturday, May 1. Chil-

dren must have a valid Westfield library card to attend.

The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. For more information, please call (908) 789-4090.

This education and arts program has been made possible in part by a 1999 HEART (History, Education, and Arts Reaching Thousands) grant from Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Pre-Season Air Conditioning Sale!!



YORK
 Heating and Air Conditioning

Avoid Mid-Summer Breakdowns

This spring, get a new air conditioning system and save up to 50% on your electric bill. Get a 5 year parts & labor warranty. We offer 52 years of expert installations. Visit our new Westfield showroom to see the newest equipment made by York. If your equipment is over 15 years old, now is the time to change it for a new high efficiency York unit and get up to a \$550 utility rebate.

Kretzenberg & Org
 Since 1947
 615 Central Avenue
 Westfield
 (908) 928-0800