



BROWNIES COME TO TOWN...On Thursday, February 24, Brownie Girl Scout Troop No. 165 of St. Agnes in Clark visited the office of *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times* to learn about newspapers.

Ann Ormsby Cary Announces BOE Co-Campaign Managers

WESTFIELD — Ann Ormsby Cary has announced that Carol Fahrentold and Elaine Jackler have become the Co-Campaign Managers of her bid to win a seat on the Westfield Board of Education.

"Ann would bring to the board a balance of skills. From her years as a senior vice president at United Way, she learned how to be an effective part of a large organization that is dedicated to addressing the special needs of individuals. As the co-president of the Tamaques PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), she has the firsthand experience necessary to understand the challenges faced by our students, our teachers and our school administrators," said Mrs. Fahrentold.

Currently, all three women are officers of the Tamaques PTO. Ms. Ormsby Cary and Mrs. Fahrentold are co-presidents and Ms. Jackler is the co-vice-president. Along with the rest of the members of the PTO Board, they oversee more than 10 fundraising events and 30 service events for the children.

This year, they are spearheading an effort to buy new playground equipment for the school.

"While working with Ann on the PTO Board, I learned that she listens to all viewpoints before making deci-

sions which impact the Tamaques community. As a member of the board of education I believe she will reach out to the Westfield community to learn what is important to us and make decisions which are best for all," said Ms. Jackler.

Before becoming co-president of the PTO, Ms. Ormsby Cary served as co-vice president of the PTO. She ran the Book Fair at Tamaques for four years and served as variety show director for five years. She has also served as a room parent and is currently chairing the spring plant sale. At the Edison Intermediate School, Ms. Ormsby Cary has served as a chaperone on the eighth grade trip to Washington and is currently co-chairing the eighth grade party committee.

"Carol, Elaine and I feel that parental involvement is vital to the quality of the educational experience our children receive here in Westfield," said Ms. Ormsby Cary. "I am in the schools every week, whether it's reading to my son's class in elementary school or chaperoning Night Place at the intermediate school. Having spent so much time in the schools has given me insights that will be very useful for being an effective member of the board of education."

IRS Alerts Taxpayers to Top Dozen Scams in 2005

SPRINGFIELD — The Internal Revenue Service unveiled its annual listing of notorious tax scams this week — the "Dirty Dozen." Taxpayers are advised to be wary of schemes that promise to eliminate taxes or otherwise sound too good to be true.

The list includes: Trust misuse, frivolous arguments involving outlandish claims, return preparer fraud, credit counseling agencies, "Claim of Right" Doctrine, "No Gain" Deduction, Corporation Sole, Identity Theft, Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions, Offshore Transactions, Zero Return and Employment Tax Evasion.

The IRS removed four scams from the Dirty Dozen this year: slavery reparations, improper home-based businesses, the Americans with Disabilities Act and EITC dependent sharing. The agency has noticed declines in activity in some of these schemes. But taxpayers should remain wary because the IRS has seen old scams resurface or evolve.

The IRS reminds taxpayers to be

vigilant about cons that may not be on the Dirty Dozen list. New tax scams or schemes routinely pop up, especially around tax time.

The "Dirty Dozen" for 2005 includes several new scams that either manipulate laws governing charitable groups, abuse credit counseling services or rely on refuted arguments to claim tax exemptions. The agency also sees the continuing spread of identity theft schemes preying on people through e-mail, the Internet or the phone. Sometimes, con artists pose as representatives of the IRS.

Involvement with tax schemes can lead to imprisonment and fines. The IRS routinely pursues and shuts down promoters of these scams. But taxpayers should also remember that anyone pulled into these schemes can face repayment of taxes plus interest and penalties. Persons who suspect tax fraud can call the IRS at 1-800-829-0433.

Detailed information on tax subjects can be found on the Internal Revenue website at www.irs.gov.



21st District News Assemblyman Munoz Blasts Felon Rights Legislation

Assemblyman Eric Munoz, Summit

Assemblyman Eric Munoz has announced that he will lead the fight to keep convicted felons from deciding what laws will govern the people of New Jersey.

On February 3, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved Senate Bill No. 2215. The author of the legislation, Senator Wayne Bryant (D-Camden) had urged lawmakers to give individuals convicted of serious offenses the right to choose for criminals on parole or probation for certain crimes, Assemblyman Munoz said. "This law will give thousands of convicted felons across New Jersey the right to choose what laws the citizens of New Jersey will abide by and leaders who will represent us," said Assemblyman Munoz.

Assemblyman Munoz noted that, currently, state laws also punish criminals by relinquishing their ability to vote.

"Why allow convicted drug users and dealers who sell drugs to our kids the ability to vote?" Assemblyman Munoz continued. "With rising crime rates in our state it is time to get tough on crime, not soft."

S-2215 has been released from committee for second reading and now heads to the entire Senate for consideration.

"Giving these criminals the power to choose what laws will govern our state is fundamentally wrong," said Assemblyman Munoz. "I don't believe the people of New Jersey want convicted felons to decide what laws we will live under."

In other news from the assemblyman's office: State Assembly Speaker Albio Sires has ap-

pointed Assemblyman Munoz to sit on New Jersey's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.

"It is my honor to serve on this advisory panel," said Assemblyman Munoz. "It is a tremendous responsibility, yet I anticipate it being a very rewarding experience."

New Jersey's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect is charged with improving the quality of child protective services offered by the state. The Task Force's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, promoting community awareness through public service announcements, offering reform measures for DYFS (Division of Youth and Family Services), and establishing guides for professionals to identify, investigate and treat child abuse.

"We need to be vigilant in our protection of society's most vulnerable citizens," added Assemblyman Munoz. "Ensuring that children are raised in a safe and healthy environment is a fundamental responsibility of the state."

Assemblyman Munoz said his tenure on the Task Force will also focus on preventing and addressing abuse and neglect issues surrounding developmentally disabled individuals residing in state-funded facilities.

"I am proud to have sponsored legislation that addresses some of the troubling issues surrounding abuse and neglect of the developmentally disabled," Mr. Munoz said. "My appointment to the Task Force will allow me to continue pursuing these important goals."

President to Address 2,000 on Friday at Westfield Town Meeting

WESTFIELD — Approximately 2,000 people will hear President George W. Bush speak at the Westfield Armory on Friday, starting at 10:42 a.m.

Congressman Mike Ferguson said that requests for admittance have been flooding his office, and they have handled them on a first come, first served basis. As space is limited, there is no more room left for the event.

Announcement
Westfield High Will Be Open on Friday
Westfield High School will remain open on Friday, March 4, with classes in session as scheduled. Because of President Bush's meeting at the Armory in the morning, Open Lunch privileges will be suspended.



MANY CHOICES...Adult classes begin at Westfield High School on Monday, March 7. Registration is ongoing for the duration of classes, concluding on May 2. Ninety-six different courses are offered for the Spring Semester including current events, arts, sports, languages and ESL. Pictured conferring on the curriculum, from left to right, are: Alicia Weaver, Director of the Westfield Adult School, Joanne Hone, Liaison from the League of Women Voters, and Gail Boothe, President of the Board of Trustees.

Town Bank Net Income Exceeds \$1.3 Mil. In '04

WESTFIELD — Robert W. Dowens, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of The Town Bank, recently announced the Bank's 2004 year-end results, reflecting strong asset growth.

Mr. Dowens noted that at December 31, 2004, the bank's total assets were \$126,076,000, reflecting an increase of \$23,004,000 or 22.3 percent when compared with total assets of \$103,072,000 for the same period a year ago. The bank's total deposits also increased \$20,007,000, or 22.3 percent, to \$109,635,000, while loans outstanding increased \$30,232,000, or 37.9 percent, to \$109,924,000.

For the year ended December 31, 2004, the bank recorded net income of \$1,364,000, or \$0.74 per basic and \$0.72 diluted common share compared with net income of \$698,000 or \$0.52 per basic and \$0.51 diluted common share a year ago.

In the fourth quarter of 2004, The Town Bank showed strong results as well, with net income of \$437,000, or \$0.24 per basic and \$0.23 per diluted share compared with \$193,000 or \$0.10 per basic and diluted share for the same period a year ago.

Mr. Dowens attributes the bank's continued success to "a significantly higher level of net interest income in 2004 due to our asset and loan growth. Our achievements are a direct result of the consistent support of everyone involved with the bank."

"The Board of Directors, the Advisory Board, shareholders and staff," he noted, "have continuously emphasized the importance of understanding customers' needs and delivering quality products and services to meet those needs."

The Town Bank has been awarded a five-star rating by Bauer Financial, an independent bank rating firm.

Established in 1998, The Town Bank's main office is at 520 South Avenue. It has an in-town branch office at 44 Elm Street, and plans to establish a branch office at 245 North Avenue in Cranford later this year.

The bank provides a full range of products and services to individual consumers, professionals and other small businesses both in Westfield and the surrounding communities.

For additional information, call (908) 301-0800 or visit their website at www.townbank.com.



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