



DEVASTATION...A five-alarm fire destroyed a row of businesses on South Avenue West on Sunday including Clyne and Murphy Catering, Sound Station, Figaro's barber shop and Rocky the Tailor. Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly reported the fire originated in Clyne and Murphy, but the cause has yet to be determined.



AFTER MATH...On Tuesday, contractors began the long process of cleaning up the destruction left behind by a five-alarm fire on Sunday that gutted Clyne and Murphy, located on the corner of South Avenue West and Westfield Avenue in Westfield. The fire completely destroyed several other business on South Avenue West as well.

APT FOR RENT FANWOOD
\$15752br-1500ft² 2 Bedrm 1 Bath C/A Downtown Fanwood & train station. LG liv room din eat in kitchen. Off street parking, yard on a quiet street. 2nd floor 2 family house, has a private washer and dryer in the basement. Tenant pays the utilities. No smoking or pets allowed. (908) 358-3013 seanpdelaney@hotmail.com Sean Delaney

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Mens TREK 7200 Multitrack bike. 21 speed, 22.5" frame, Bontrager tires, silver/gray, like new. \$175. Call (862) 485-3419

FREELANCERS WANTED
Strong, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed to cover local government meetings. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in their beats in order to develop news stories. Please email resume and clips to: editor@goleader.com

2 BDRM CONDO VAIL CO
2 Bdrm, 2 Bath Condo Sleeps up to 8. Available at Sheraton Mountain Vista, Avon, Colorado. 1 Mile from Beaver Creek. Available Spring Break Friday 3/31 - Friday 4/6 Please email SALFANO1230@gmail.com for pricing info. Look up on the web: Sheraton Mountain Vista

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Neil B., great kid. Even greater card tricks, plus more magic He'll appear, and disappear.... After guaranteeing your entertainment. Ages 8 and older. Call (908) 456-2679

HARVEST HELP WANTED

February through November, Intergrow Greenhouses, Albion, NY needs workers to pick quality fruit and cut leaves. Piece rate of \$0.15 per 11 lbs. premium tomato box, \$0.015 per 3 leaf/plant with guaranteed hourly rate of \$10.57. Intended to fill 45 temporary openings. Guaranteed opportunity to work 3/4 of total work days. Free housing provided to out of area workers. Work tools provided without cost. One time transportation and subsistence expenses reimbursed to workers who reside outside community area after working 50% of contract period. Report to: NYS Job service, Job Order #1005332, Orleans Center for Workforce Development, 458 West Avenue, Albion, NY 14411 Phone #: (585) 589-5335 Grower Paid Advertisement

AUTO FOR SALE
1999 Chrysler Cirrus Good 1st car. Maintenance up to date, new tires, reliable \$2,000 OBO Rob (908) 232-4407 auto@goleader.com

Union County to Host Forum Tonight on Gang Awareness

WESTFIELD - Members of the clergy, social service and community organizations and other interested members of the general public are invited to a special presentation on Gang Awareness on Thursday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m., at the John H. Stamler Police Academy, 1776 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, on the Union County Vo-Tech campus. This free presentation is being presented by the Union County Human Relations Commission. "This is the second in a series of public forums to increase our understanding and capacity to intervene to prevent and reduce street violence in our communities," said Peter McTiernan, who co-chairs the Commission with James Keefe. "Acknowledging the presence and

impact the gang culture has in our communities, the purpose of the forum is to discuss and share ways that our community can address these issues and work with youth to encourage healthy choices, relationships and affiliations," said Commissioner Alfred Brown, who chairs the Commission's Interfaith Community Network. Individuals representing law enforcement, the clergy and other social service agencies will share programs and activities they are undertaking in their communities. Free parking is available on the site, and the facility is wheelchair accessible. For more information or to receive information on future forums, call (908) 889-9028.

Westfield Students Win Top Award At Model UN

WESTFIELD - Westfield High School students won the top award in the Model United Nations conference held this month in Hershey, Pennsylvania, which was attended by approximately 1,600 students from nearly 60 schools in New Jersey, Delaware and Massachusetts. The Westfield High School delegation - comprised of 122 students - earned the Premier Delegation award, presented to only two delegations in the entire conference that show the best overall performance. This year's officers, Rebecca Tunis, Rob Cassie, Kevin Oster, Brian Pollack, Zoe Greenburg, Sarah Chandler, Jennifer Mandelblatt, Liz Kuehn, were in charge of running committees of students throughout the weekend. Individuals from the Westfield High School delegation took home the following awards: Markian Borkowsky, Aiden Hughes, Elizabeth Griesmer, Alana Basil won the Premier Diplomat award. Isabel DoCampo, Alex Breakstone, Geoffrey Ko, Eric Oberman, Ben Schwartz, Isabelle Smelkinson, Claire Dorwart, and Leo Kleinman-Lynch were nominated Premier Diplomat for being the best debater in their committee. These students were nominated by officers and adult advisors. Markian Borkowsky, Kyra Sagal, Rebecca Harris, Isabelle Smelkinson, Katie Rembisz, and Andres Chang received awards for their Outstanding Country Research Paper, which is the preparatory writing done before the conference. Madeline Schreiber was awarded Outstanding First Year Delegate. Nine Westfield High School delegates were chosen to attend the Conference on National Affairs this upcoming summer. This conference, which takes place in North Carolina, and has delegates from all 50 states to participate in a simulation. These students are: Kevin Oster, Alana Basil, Megan Mulrooney, Ben Schwartz, Brian Pollack, Clara Smith, Hannah Bass,

Elizabeth Griesmer, and Jennifer Mandelblatt. The Westfield High School Model UN officers for the 2012-2013 school year were announced, and are as follows: Isabelle Smelkinson, Ben Schwartz, Aiden Hughes, Alex Jeffrey, Megan Mulrooney, Geoffrey Ko, and Jennifer Mandelblatt. The entire 2011-2012 Westfield High School Model UN delegation also took home an Outstanding Delegation award, given to the delegations that prepare and present their paperwork on time. "All of our delegates displayed tremendous skill, knowledge and passion winning commendations as well as awards," said Daniel Farabaugh, co-advisor with David Della Fera to the Westfield High School Model UN. The club is run in conjunction with the Westfield YMCA. According to the Model UN website, the purpose of Model UN is to be an educational experience that helps today's students become tomorrow's leaders, discover their passions, and change the world.

Scutari, Stender Bill Cracks Down On Hidden Pre-Paid Debit Card Fees

TRENTON - Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22, Linden) and Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22, Fanwood) on Thursday announced plans to crack down on the maze of hidden fees that have cropped up in the growing and lucrative pre-paid debit card industry. The lawmakers have introduced legislation (A-2144) that would regulate prepaid debit accounts by limiting the fees that may be charged in connection with the accounts and requiring financial institutions holding prepaid debit accounts to disclose certain information to consumers. The legislation was inspired by numerous reported accounts of the exorbitant hidden fees that, in some cases, depleted funds deposited by consumers. Meanwhile, the industry continues to blossom, with analysts predicting that over \$200 billion will be loaded onto pre-paid debit cards this year by consumers. "Since prepaid debit cards are most often used by those with little to no credit or those without a bank account, undisclosed and hidden prepaid debit card fees serve as another example of these financial institutions unfairly taking advantage of those already struggling in these tough economic times," Senator Scutari said. "By requiring prepaid debit card companies to disclose their fees upfront and to limit the type and frequency that these fees are charged, consumers will be able to make informed decisions on whether they wish to purchase and use these cards." "The pre-paid debit card industry has been described as the Wild West where very few regulations exist," Asw. Stender said. "Low-income families and struggling students are among those that rely heavily on these types of cards. Without disclosure and accountability, this industry will continue to prey on the young and the poor." The bill would prohibit a financial institution from charging an activation or enrollment fee or any other fee that is not expressly permitted by the bill. The legislation would also require financial institutions to provide a consumer whose funds are contained in a pre-paid debit account with a monthly account statement that sets forth certain details for each electronic

fund transfer during that month. The bill would also require financial institutions to provide consumers with a table of any fees that may be charged in connection with the prepaid debit account and an estimate of the average total monthly cost to a typical consumer for using a prepaid debit account, together with any application, offer, or solicitation for a prepaid debit account. A financial institution would also have to provide a wallet-sized summary of any fees that may be charged in connection with the prepaid debit account and a toll-free telephone number for customer service relating to the prepaid debit account, and, on the access device, a toll-free telephone number and website at which the consumer can access disclosure of the fees that may be charged in connection with prepaid debit accounts. Any person found to be in violation of the bill would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per day for each day that the person is in violation. The legislators also applauded U.S. Senator Bob Menendez for his efforts at the federal level to pass the Prepaid Card Consumer Protection Act, which would limit fees consumers who use these cards can be hit with and ensuring that consumers can get their money back if their card is lost or stolen.



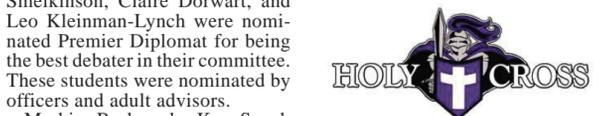
MODEL UN OFFICERS...Westfield High School Model UN officers for the 2012-13 school year pictured, left to right, are: Ben Schwartz, Meagan Mulrooney, Geoffrey Ko, Alex Jeffrey, Isabelle Smelkinson, Jennifer Mandelblatt, and Aiden Hughes.

Tickets On Sale for SPFHS Rep. Theatre's Anything Goes

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD - Get ready to sail away with an evangelist-turned nightclub singer, Public Enemy 13, a stowaway leading man, a debutante, a seask English Lord and a cruise ship full of equally colorful characters in Cole Porter's classic *Anything Goes*. Tickets for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School production in March are on sale now. *Anything Goes*, a show of pure urbane joy that pokes gentle fun at society swells, has proven to be highly adaptable to any era, as it currently enjoys a smash revival on Broadway with Tony® Award-winner Sutton Foster. *Anything Goes* is chock full of Cole Porter's greatest hits, including "I Get A Kick Out of You," "You're The Top," "It's DeLovely" and "Friendship." The title song, which closes the first act, showcases the cast in a rousing tap number. As Broadway director/choreographer Kathleen Marshall put it, "Tap dancing is so joyous, so uplifting, so exhilarating. It takes the audience along for a ride." Featuring sophisticated characters in fabulous clothes, with humor that both adults and children can appreciate on different levels, you'll leave the theater wondering "Why can't people be that witty today?" Performances will be held on Friday, March 16, at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 17, at 8 p.m., Sunday, March 18, at 2 p.m., Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m., Friday, March 23, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 24, at 8 p.m. All take place at the Many Ungar Memorial Auditorium at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains. To reserve tickets, email Reptix@verizon.net or call Randi Traiman at (908) 322-6533. Prices are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Students and \$10 for Seniors (age 60 and up. Senior "Gold Cards" may be used for Thursday night performance only). Please include desired performance dates, number and type of tickets and total amount due when emailing. Payment may be mailed with ticket order or made at the time of ticket pickup. Tickets may be picked up in the auditorium lobby of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 667 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Monday, February 6. No ticket pickup on Monday, February 20. Tickets must be picked up on a Monday or Wednesday evening prior to the performance date.



BON VOYAGE...The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Repertory Theatre's cast of *Anything Goes* rehearses for Act 1, which closes tap number. Tickets for the production in March are on sale now. To reserve tickets, email Reptix@verizon.net or call Randi Traiman at (908) 322-6533. Prices are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for Students and \$10 for Seniors (age 60 and up - senior "Gold Cards" may be used for Thursday night performance only).



Holy Cross Announces Dean's List

WORCESTER, Mass. - College of the Holy Cross announced that Seton Hartnett of Westfield, a sophomore majoring in Spanish, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester. She is the daughter of Ed and Mimi Hartnett.



FUTURE LEADERS...The Westfield High School delegation, pictured above at the Model UN conference held this month in Hershey, Pennsylvania, was one of only two delegations earning the Premier Delegation award for best overall performance.