

The Chronicle

Since 1862

Vol. 142, No. 52

Saturday, December 27, 2003

50 cents

INSIDE

Police drill for terror emergency

By CHERYL ORSON
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY

"Terrorists" took over a Dow warehouse and oil tanker and held about 20 people hostage during a three-hour takeover drill.

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(ESU).

Adding to the intensity of the drill, the hostages were held at gunpoint and explosives set in the room where the pretend terrorists kept the hostages. With the height-rear threshold to life and corporate officials said within

minutes of the takeover being reported, 14 members of the ESU team were stationed around the warehouse. An elongated siege then set in.

After a three-hour standoff, three terrorists were reported "dead" having been "killed" by ESU members using real but unloaded automatic

weapons. No officers were injured but one hostage "died" being executed at gunpoint by the terrorists as part of the scenario.

Setting the scene, a group of seven protestors began the day blockading Dow's gates at its River Road plant. Two of the protestors then turned ter-

rorist, producing a weapon and forcing their way inside the company, daring police to act.

Following the script, the terrorists (played by members of the Union and Passaic county Sheriff's Departments and

Continued on page A-2

Toy drive helps children in need

North Stelton Vol. Fire Co and Rescue Unit's Assistant Chief Edward McDermott with the Marines Toys for Tots donations. For the full story, see page A-3.



Operation Candy Cookie

The Bound Brook Woman's Literary Club got together recently to help alleviate the sweet tooth of some of the area's most needy. For the story, see page A-8.



GUND donates to Marine Corps

The Edison-based GUND Corporation recently donated toys to the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. For the full story, see page A-5.

REMINDER

Hebrew speakers club meeting

Chug Ivrit (Hebrew speaker's club) sponsored by Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah, will meet 10:15 a.m. Dec. 28 at a private residence in the Highland Park area. This group is for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers, and is free and open to the public (both male and female). They chat in Hebrew and read a short photocopied article. For more info, contact Rachel Weintraub at (732) 819-9298 or e-mail: Rachel@weintraubworld.net

INDEX

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Commentary..... | A-4 |
| Entertainment..... | A-8 |
| Obituaries..... | A-6 |
| Sports..... | B-1 |
| Seniors..... | A-7 |
| Calendar..... | A-5 |

From the oldest to the youngest



NICOLE DIMELLA-STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Angelina Olivero, who turned 100 last Tuesday, plays with her great-granddaughter Samantha Oliver, whose first birthday was last Thursday, at their joint birthday party at Girasole in Bound Brook. Olivero lives with her daughter Rose Perrine in Somerset. The party was planned by her grandson John Oliver of Hillsborough.

Children donate money to borough Lions Club

By CHERYL ORSON
Correspondent

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Borough children's acting group Almost Famous Players donated \$1,000 to the borough's Lions Club chapter during the Dec. 11 regular public council meeting.

The money was earned by the group through admissions raised by it during its Halloween Haunted Woods activity held in the newly-refurbished Putnam Park in the last week of October. The group plans to make this activity an annual offering, donating proceeds to various borough organizations.

Group founder Patty Abbott said more than 50 volunteers contributed to this effort, including the cast, crew and staff. She thanked police officer David Franchek stating he

constantly pushed her to do this activity after seeing something similar in another township.

Put together in less than five weeks, Abbott said it was an experiment as well as a lesson in patience and perseverance. The children rehearsed evenings, nights and weekends before the event. In the end, an estimated 800 to 1,000 people, including friends and family, attended the activity.

Calling lifelong borough resident Dan Nigro "a knight in shining armor living next door to the park," Abbott said he went above and beyond for the event. Nigro made a sign announcing the activity, built a set for it, loaned the group a generator and did all the electric wiring for the event.

Emergency service organizations and personnel including

the police, fire department and rescue squad were also thanked for their cooperation in assisting with this event. Councilman Raymond Petronko, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, Officer Al Lamonda and Squad Capt. Ron Seward were thanked as well for their efforts in supporting the activity.

Abbott's son and group member Chris Abbott, 18, a South Plainfield High School junior, thanked the mayor and council for letting them use the park stating "it was a lot of hard work but a lot of fun." Members and high school students Jesse Colby, 18, Jack Levine, 16 and Heather Palitto, 15 were also present as well as member and Grant

Continued on page A-2

New assistant principal named at South Plainfield High

By LIBBY BARSKY
Correspondent

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Since 1969, social studies teacher Steve Novak has worn many hats — teacher, social studies coordinator, general supervisor and coordinator in charge of discipline — during his career at South Plainfield High School. He was also SPHS baseball coach for 26 years with a record of 248 wins with the varsity team. And he also coached soccer for 10 years, was a councilman in North Plainfield starting his term in 1972 and then ran for mayor of North Plainfield and was undefeated from 1975 to 1988.

When South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro became assistant superintendent after Mario Barbieri left the position to become superintendent of schools for Bethlehem Township in Hunterdon County, it created a snowball effect at the high school with Assistant Principal Ken May moving up to principal leaving a vacancy for assistant principal. With Novak formally appointed to the position at a salary of \$92,103 at the Dec. 16 Board meeting, all the district's administrative positions are filled. The search is now on for a high school social studies teacher.

Everyone who spoke at the board meeting had nothing but praise for the selection of Novak.

Superintendent of School Dr. Robert Rosado recalled meeting Novak on a tour of the high school last December (when he was being interviewed for the position of Superintendent). Novak told him, "This is a great place to work and the place you'd want to be." I could tell he was sincere," said Rosado.

"I'd like to complement Dr. Ken May and the Board for this appointment of Steve Novak. He will be a great asset to this district," said former board member Frank Mikorski.

Former social studies high school teacher and current board member Michael English noted that Novak's

"I love my 35 years in South Plainfield. It's a unique community with unique people with tremendous children and that's got to continue. And it's going to continue with educators who care"

Steve Novak
assistant principal

students would miss him.

"We can't replace one of the finest teachers I've ever seen. Everyone of the kids appreciates the fact that he knows everyone and serves them the same way," said English.

"I've dealt with him a long time," said board president Pio Pennisi, whose brother had him as a soccer coach. "He is an excellent teacher. And he will affect more people now."

Novak addressed ending his career as a classroom teacher to become an administrator.

Continued on page A-2

Edison approves township budget

By TODD JACOBUS
Correspondent

EDISON — Local property taxes for the average Edison homeowner will increase by more than \$50 under the 2003-2004 fiscal-year municipal budget.

The Township Council unanimously approved the \$90.1 million budget on Dec. 10.

Taxes will be increased by 3 cents for every \$100 of assessed property value. Edison's average home is valued at \$170,000 and will incur \$51 in additional taxes.

Council members spent more than four months reviewing details of the plan, originally introduced by Mayor George Spadaro in August. The Council was able to shave a penny off of Spadaro's proposed 4-cent increase before approving the budget.

"This year's plan accomplished my goals of expanding and improving high quality and affordable services while continuing to build upon Edison's financial strength," said Spadaro. The budget

calls for expansion in public safety, senior citizen services, and recreation/park programs said Spadaro.

Rising group health care costs and automatic, contractual pay increases were cited by Council members as the main reasons this budget is more than \$4 million than the previous year's plan. Edison will now pay more than \$10 million towards group health insurance.

Six new police officers and eight new firefighters are allotted for in the plan, maintaining the township's reputation as "one of the safest in the state," said Spadaro.

The budget anticipates more than half a million dollars in combined revenues from the town's new third-party ambulance billing and hotel tax initiatives. Another \$774,000 is expected from the sale of additional liquor licenses.

Salaries for the Office of the Mayor increased by more than 9 percent under the new budget, while salaries for Council members held steady.

Helping out Santa



NICOLE DIMELLA-STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patrick Corely, 12, and Christopher Keri, 12, bus tables as part of their community service requirement toward their confirmation at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church during Breakfast with Santa. The event was held by the Middlesex Elks Lodge.

Police drill for terror

Continued from page A-1

employees of Awareness Protection Consultants security group) demanded to see former CEO of Union Carbide Warren Anderson. The scenario has some basis in reality as extremist environmental groups still bear harsh feel-

ings toward him, blaming him for the 1984 Bhopal chemical plant explosion in India killing thousands living in shanty towns around the company.

Continuing with the scenario, two hostages were forced outside at gunpoint. While one was released, the other was "killed. This violent act ultimately resulted in an all-out raid by ESU who burst into the warehouse, chasing the terrorists out. Meanwhile, outside the plant, ESU snipers stood at the ready, poised to shoot the terrorists on sight.

As well as testing the marksmanship and brute force ability of the ESU, the drill also served to test the department's communication and emergency response skills. Police and Dow officials said the drill helped both entities to prepare for and train for such an event as well limiting any potential vulnerability that might exist.

The Dow plant currently produces pellets used for making plastic products, having few chemicals present and rank-

ing low as an actual terrorist target. Despite this, police and Dow officials said it is comforting to know the township and corporation are capable of reacting to this situation and producing a positive outcome.

Township Office of Emergency Management Director Paul Synder said the drill gave his group an opportunity to see how the police department operates under such circumstances. He said it also helps his office to respond to the department's possible needs in such an event.

"It gives us (OEM) an idea of the process they (the police department) are going through. If there are special needs and requirements, this helps us to meet that," said Synder, stating OEM will meet with police officials for a more specific debriefing on this event. "It was a good drill. Various entities worked together to see how they work."

Menorah lighting festivity in Edison

EDISON — Mayor George A. Spadaro, the Edison Municipal Council and Recreation Director Denise Halliwell were joined by community, family and friends for Edison's annual Festival of Lights Ceremony. The Edison Recreation Department once again staged the ceremony outside the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison. As in past years, the history and origin of Chanukah was told while specially invited guests lit the Township Menorah. The special guest this year was a native son with a nationally-known voice. Jeff Caplan is

the host of the top-rated morning show in WCBS News Radio 880. Jeff grew up in Edison, and graduated from Edison H.S. in 1976. After getting a degree from Rutgers he pursued his broadcast career with stops in Princeton, Indiana, Philadelphia and finally New York, where he's been anchoring every morning from 5 to 10 a.m. for the past 12 years.

Immediately after participating with Mayor Spadaro in the Menorah Lighting Ceremony, all those who attended the ceremony joined in the reception inside the Community Center. The popular "Kurt Mann Trio"

provided music outside and inside throughout the evening. Refreshments were served and the Simcha Jugglers and an area ic sculpter John Shersick were highlighted.

The holiday event was sponsored by the Edison Recreation Department and the Human Rights Commission which is chaired by Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg. Rabbi Yossi Hirsch of Chabad House, Edison and Dorothy Rubinstein, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, also helped chair this event.

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Rocky Horror coming to the Brook

BOUND BROOK — Let's do the Time Warp again!

The Brook Arts Center presents a "Rocky Horror" double feature, the play not the movie, performed live by Upside Down Players. There will be two performances only: 8 p.m. Jan. 2 and 3 at the lobby of the Brook Theater, 10 Hamilton

Street.

Cost is \$15. Call (732) 469-7700 and purchase with Visa/MC/Amex. Seating is limited and tickets are going fast.

Please do not bring props for the performance, they will be confiscated at door. Goody bags with props will be available for \$5 at the concession stand.

Rocky Horror will likely be the last production in the Brook lobby prior to the renovation, which is due to start next month (bids were opened for the construction Dec. 22.). The Arts Center is investigating other venues to continue productions while renovations are ongoing.

Children donate money

Continued from page C-1

School student Matthew Nigro, 11. They said the experience was a good one, stating they were also pleased to be able to raise money for a worthy borough organization.

Accepting the \$1,000 on

behalf of the borough Lions Club, Bob Diesch said it was honored to be chosen to receive these much-needed funds. He said the Lions are constantly seeking donations to continue their efforts in helping the blind and disabled, stating it was great of the group to think of it.

Mayor Daniel Gallagher thanked the group for creating the newly established Halloween activity and its generosity in donating to the Lions Club. He said it is expected the group will again stage a similar event in Putnam Park in the Halloween of 2004.

New assistant principal

Continued from page A-1

"Some of my students won't care, some will — but I will shed a tear for each and everyone of them. I really feel that leaving the teaching profession is sad but I'm returning to an administrative role which I held previously for five years (1984-1988). It's the time to do it because of the continuity, the right time to have an effect on not just 125 students but over 1100," said Novak.

Novak is excited about the change.

"It's time. My oldest son is getting married soon and my youngest son, Thomas will be

a freshman in college — I'll have a tuition to pay so I won't be retiring soon. I'm eager to start," Novak said.

Novak speaks enthusiastically about SPHS.

"We (SPHS) have excellent discipline. But (in this position) I want to raise the bar and ask more from the kids," he said.

He is equally enthusiastic about the community that he has taught in.

"I love my 35 years in South Plainfield. It's a unique community with unique people with tremendous children and that's got to continue. And it's going to continue with educators who care," said Novak.

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| 255/70R16 | PIRELLI SCORPION AT | 126.95 | 114.95 |
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| 205/60R15 | PIRELLI P8000 | 99.95 | 89.95 |
| 195/65R15 | PIRELLI P6000 | 115.95 | 99.95 |
| 225/50R16 | SEMPERIT 4000H | 110.95 | 99.95 |
| 245/50ZR16 | SEMPERIT 4000H 96 H | 125.95 | 109.95 |
| 205/55R16 | PIRELLI P8000 | 140.95 | 118.95 |
| 225/60R16 | BRIDGESTONE POTENZA RE92 | 115.95 | 94.95 |
| 255/45R17 | PACEMARK SUPREME GT | 159.95 | 119.95 |
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| 195/65R14 | EMBASSY SPORT TRAC 89H | 69.95 | 49.95 |
| 205/70R14 | PIRELLI P400 | 89.95 | 59.95 |
| 205/70R14 | FIRESTONE SS20 | 119.95 | 69.95 |
| 205/70R14 | BRIDGESTONE S402 ALL SEASON | 99.95 | 78.95 |
| 205/70R14 | BRIDGESTONE TURANZA QL20 | 99.95 | 79.95 |
| 175/70R14 | MICHELIN MX4 R-F 84T | 99.95 | 69.95 |
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North Stelton Vol. Fire Co. and Rescue Unit's Assistant Chief Edward McDermott with the Marines Toys for Tots donations. The fire and rescue department and police held toy drives to help needy children.

Police, Fire and Rescue Squad hold toy drives to help children

By CHERYL ORSON
Correspondent

PISCATAWAY — Just in the nick of time, township service organizations held toy drives to help St. Nick make sure needy children do indeed have a merry Christmas.

The township police department's PBA Local 93 held a toy drive on behalf of the state PBA to benefit Foster and Adoptive Family Services. The organization collected dozens of toys including from members of the township's Republican Organization who brought gifts to their annual Christmas party to help out the PBA in its efforts.

PBA delegate Officer Don Florek accepted the toys donated by this and other organizations, as well as from individuals contributing to this cause. Florek stated his thanks to the overwhelming

responsiveness and generosity of the community, a lot more foster children will have a merrier Christmas this year.

North Stelton Fire Department and Rescue Squad also began its own toy drive this year, hoping to make it an annual event. The toys collected by these emergency responders will benefit Toys for Tots Marine Corp., being delivered to the Metuchen office and going to local needy children.

Assistant Chief Edward McDermott said the fire department usually donated \$100 to a local shelter but along the way also typically collected "an overstock" of toys. This being the case, he said the group decided this year to begin collecting items for the Toys for Tots organization.

More than 60 people, including all of its firefight-

ers, many residents living in the North Stelton area and numerous township officials, donated toys in the organization's first drive.

"We got a good pick-up (truck) full," said a very pleased McDermott, stating everyone got caught up in the spirit of giving.

For those still interested in giving to these and other worthy causes, it's not too late. The PBA is already starting on its annual fund-raising drive to send foster children and their families to Great Adventure for a day of fun and excitement. Donations may be made by contacting Florek at (732) 562-1100. He said this year the PBA hopes to be able to send dozens of more foster children to the amusement park for a summer holiday keeping them smiling until Santa can again visit them next Christmas.

Bound Brook Masquerade Ball

BOUND BROOK — The Bound Brook Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Masquerade Ball 8 p.m. to midnight Feb. 21 at the Elks Club of Bound Brook, 2nd Street and Maiden Lane.

Costumes are not required but a mask is required for entry into the event. Masks of various prices will be available at the door.

There will be dancing in the grand ballroom, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. There

will also games of chance and a Chinese auction.

Advance tickets are \$45 and day of event tickets are \$50. Tickets available starting Dec. 1 in Bound Brook at Wachovia Bank, 432 W. Union Ave. (Rte. 28); Jacob Swerdlow Gallery, 311 W. Union Ave. (Rte. 28); Maria's Café, Hamilton St.; and Spice of Life Café, Mountain Avenue and Main Street. In Middlesex at Hoski Flowers and Gifts in

Middlesex Shopping Center; Kline and Ulmes, 549 Lincoln Blvd; and Middlesex Lumber, 500 Bound Brook Road.

For tickets by mail, call Mike Schuyler (732) 469-6453. Checks payable to Rotary Charities.

Proceeds will benefit the Bound Brook Chamber of Commerce Community Projects, Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary Charities and Elks Handicapped Fund.

Middlesex High School honor roll

MIDDLESEX — The following students have made the Honor Roll and High Honor Roll at Middlesex High School for the first marking period ending Nov. 5, 2003.

GRADE 9 — HIGH HONORS: Corrine Kalota, Sean Maxwell, Holly Norgard.

HONOR ROLL — Austin Aroldo, Scott Bagonyi, Anthony Bennett, Joseph Bozzomo, Adeline Capozzolo, Stephanie Carrasco, Vanessa Castrillon, Sean Diehl, Danielle Ditaranto, Chelsea Dragone, Brian Dymnioski, Nicholas Feretich, Tristan Figel, Christina Fichner, Kelly Fitzsimmons, Andrea Garcia, Meredith Gilroy, Michelle Griffith, Michelle Herbert, Scott Jennings, Jennifer Kang, Shawn Kelly, Corey Kirschner, Kaitlyn Lacaille, Sasha Lajeunesse, Christine Lawther, Lisa Liuzzi, Cathleen Ludwig, Faith Markunas, Domenica Mastrobuono, Irene Mavrianos, Erica McDonnell, Maria Mendez, Jonathan Mirhige, Jason Montalvo, Joseph Novakowski, Thomas O'Brien, Kaitlin Palchanes, Cara Palermo, Benjamin Peery, Jennifer Perone, Lindsey Poandl, Laurel

Roberson, Irianela Ruiz, Samantha Scudiero, Dana Senna, Matthew Simcha, Carlos Tamayo, Matthew Wells, Kimberly Wigert.

GRADE 10 — HIGH HONORS: Quincy Auger, Matthew Crawford.

HONOR ROLL: Kyle Adams, Carminda Bandeira, Gary Brenner, Alissa Brower, Vincent Casale, Robert Ellery, Timothy Epps, Michael Ferfecki, Shawn Fink, Amber Fisher, Nicole Gallo, Sandra Golis, Meredith Hansen, Jennifer Iandanza, Sumit Krishna, Diana Le, Kyle Lutes, Alison Macher, Juliet Maxcy, Aaron Mazza, Travis Mickel, Stan Naydin, Kathy Parreno, Christopher Peckhardt, Adip Pillai, Katelyn Prasnai, Kimberly Proctor, Brianne Rabouin, Amy Santacross, Mathew Smith, Rebecca Smith, Victoria Stefanelli, Erin Sullivan, Jennifer Tarsan, Jessica Thieme, Crystal Toeltl, Christopher Turlik, Samuel Valente, Anne Vo, Andrew Wahba.

GRADE 11 — HIGH HONORS: Ashely Best, Brett Figel, Grace Jennings, Brian

Kang, Michelle Krupsky, Randy Reiser.

HONOR ROLL: Ana Abourashed, Brittany Casale, Samantha Cirone, Matthew Cronan, Thomas D'Alessandro, David Earl, Rick Esposito, Leslie Ferreira, Susan Frenzt, Nikki Hookham, Matthew Kasallis, Christine Koshel, Timothy Lee, Kelly MacCloud, Shaun Maloney, Lauren Marren, Larissa Mastro, Danielle Roussos, Christopher Roy, Jarad Schaeffner, Christopher Storch, Amanda Sulima, Tara Tagliaferro, Ashley Trinh, Gina Valente, Vanessa Vanegas, Ivan Varela, Kevin Wigert.

GRADE 12 — HIGH HONORS: Melissa Caride.

HONOR ROLL: Michele Adams, Kyle Buono, Rachel Burns, John Capozzolo, Kevin Florczak, Rachel Geschwindner, Lindsey Hopper, Ryan Kusmick, Michael Lore, Susie Malt, Gina Reilly, Sherna Sheth, Tyler Spano, Maureen Sullivan, Jay Teitelbaum, Kimberly Venuto, Lucia Yrupailla, Jessica Zagari.

Augustine appointed to county post

PISCATAWAY — The Middlesex County Educational Services Commission has announced the appointment of Dr. Lillian A. Augustine as Director of the Commission's Professional Development Academy.

Augustine served most recently as the Assistant Superintendent for Learning/Educational Services for the Perth Amboy Public Schools.

A former New Jersey Teacher of the Year and Principal of a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, Augustine is a 1994 recipient of the Educational Leadership Award from the Northeast Coalition of

Educational Leaders (NECEL).

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dents to grow," said Augustine. "The only way to assure progress and change in education is to continually nourish and challenge our teachers in the field."

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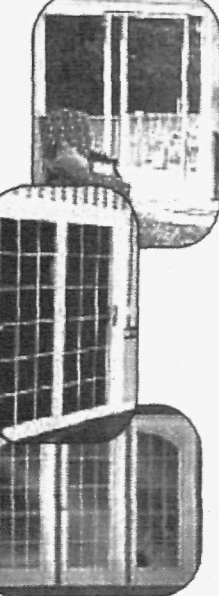
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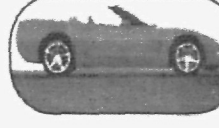
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Commentary

Letters to the Editor

Randolphville threatened again

To The Chronicle:

The charm and integrity of Piscataway's historic Randolphville is threatened again. Piscataway Township is planning various changes to Sidney and South Randolphville Roads, including road realignment and demolition of two Work Progress Administration (WPA) bridges built in the 1930s during the Great Depression.

Randolphville dates back to colonial times and is identified in Walter Meuly's "History of Piscataway." The enclave contains five historic Fitz Randolph sites, including the Ephraim Fitz Randolph Estate (ca. 1784) which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There is also Brook Hollow Farm (ca. 1846), and an ancient family cemetery

— located next to the High School. The area borders a scenic and wild section of the Ambrose & Doty's Brook Co. Park.

Who decided these road changes and bridge demolitions are needed and why? Have any studies recommended this? Has the Piscataway Historical Advisory Commission reviewed the Township's application for compliance?

As a citizen I am deeply concerned that this proposed creation of a straight-away along Sidney and So. Randolphville Roads will increase traffic and could lower safety. I am also concerned that the unique character of the area will be forever ruined.

Why aren't these bridges being restored, as was another WPA bridge on So.

Randolphville Rd., which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

Historic preservation benefits all citizens by: preserving our town's character; providing varied opportunities for recreation, educational programs, tourism and fun; creating jobs; and generally improving property values.

This is why we should preserve Randolphville — by creating a formal historic district. Such action is consistent with the recommendations made in 1979 by the Middlesex County Inventory of Historic, Cultural, and Architectural Resources; as well as the goals of the Piscataway Historic Preservation Ordinance, and the State Plan.

ED MARSH
Piscataway

Beechwood Toy Drive a success

To The Chronicle:

The Beechwood Heights Fire Co.'s fifth annual Toy Drive made a comeback in closing in on its goal of 3,500 toys for needy children. The drive endured a very slow start because of the weather and other factors.

The huge Hall's Warehousing 48-foot trailer next to the firehouse was pretty much full

when it left the Firehouse on Union Ave. in Middlesex with more than 2,300 donated toys. Firefighter Jason Dudley, chairman of the drive, and other members finished up the effort by escorting the trailer to St. Clare's Home for Children in Newark.

Donated toys poured in this past Saturday, and the volunteers at the firehouse had to

hustle to keep up with the crowd. Now that the Toy Drive is over, Beechwood Heights' members want to thank everyone who helped make the drive a success.

St. Clare's Home for Children will distribute the toys to needy children this holiday season.

VIC CAPOLUNGH
Beechwood Fire Co. #2

American Heart Walk a success

To The Chronicle:

Thanks to the great support from residents, businesses, organizations and volunteers throughout Middlesex County, the recent American Heart Walk was a great success.

Closed to 2,500 people joined us to raise more than \$220,000 and help bring attention to the importance of living a physically active life. Thanks to the community's support of the American Heart Walk, more people will have a fighting chance to beat heart disease and stroke, our state's No. 1 and No. 3 killers. On behalf of the American Heart Association, I encourage everyone throughout Middlesex County to be physically active and exercise 30 minutes or longer on most days of the week.

Money raised from the American Heart Walk benefits all of us. Whether through

research advances such as heart valve replacement, the pacemaker or the implanted defibrillator, or through free materials and resources, education and community programs, dollars raised from the American Heart Walk help save the lives of our loved ones, family members, neighbors and friends.

The success of the American Heart Walk would not have been possible without the support provided by volunteers, sponsors and teams. I want to acknowledge the special contributions to the American Heart Walk by national presenting sponsors Subway and NutriSoy, local 2003 "red cap level" sponsor Ethicon Inc.; corporate partner sponsor Merck & Co.; and official media sponsors News 12 New Jersey, Magic 98.3 and WCTC.

"Step Out, Save Lives!"

Exercise Your Heart!" Make exercise a regular part of your life and join us for the 2004 American Heart Walk. For more information, visit www.americanheart.org or call (800) AHA-USA-1.

JOHN BAKUM
President, Middlesex County College, Edison
BARBARA JONES
Vice President, Public and Community Affairs
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick
KEVIN MacCONNELL
Associate Athletic Director
Rutgers University, Piscataway

The writers were co-chairmen of the American Heart Walk held at Middlesex County College. The above letter was submitted on the letterhead of the American Heart Association, which has its area office in North Brunswick.

Prisoners are unready to return to society

To The Chronicle:

Recent news stories state that New Jersey inmates are not ready to return to society and that more ex-cons are returning to prison. One critical statistic missing is that the reading and math skills of the majority of the people sentenced — and subsequently

released — fall well below levels required to function in society on a daily basis.

Funding for basic adult literacy among the general prison population in New Jersey is lacking. Parole officers have no resources to pay for literacy initiatives that can help reduce crimes and the

cycle of incarceration.

Without the skills to be functionally literate, former inmates are not equipped to reenter society, financially support themselves and their families, and fully participate as citizens. Most job applications and leases are written at a tenth grade reading level or above — out of reach for many former prisoners. What illiteracy means is that former inmates may not be able to understand the directions on a medicine bottle, hold a life-changing conversation about communicable diseases or how to overcome alcoholism, read roadway signs, make correct change, find and keep a job, or read to a child. It is estimated that 4 in 10 adults in New Jersey cannot read at a level to function in today's society. New Jersey Reads is a non-profit organization (www.newjerseyreads.org) created to eradicate illiteracy in New Jersey. We need to strike a balance of punishing criminals yet helping them to better function once rehabilitated. This can help to reduce the cycle of repeat offenders.

Individuals with higher levels of literacy are more likely to vote, be employed, solve problems of modern life, earn higher wages, seek education, read, and pursue their goals. It makes good business sense to fund literacy programs for New Jersey prisoners.

PENNI WILD
Executive Director
New Jersey Reads
Trenton

There is a Santa Claus

More than a century ago, on Sept. 21, 1897, The New York Sun published what was to become the most widely read and quoted letter to a newspaper. Its message is as valid today as it was 106 years ago. Below is the full text of that letter and the reply written by Sun editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church.

Dear Editor:
I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West 95th Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the

boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the worlds would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa

Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Holiday is time to resolve all doubts

When "It's a Wonderful Life" debuted in 1946, it was a flop.

The critics hated it; a year after the end of World II, the country was not in the mood for what the deliciously evil Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore in an over-the-top role that fathered Mr. Burns in "The Simpsons") called "sentimental hogwash." Just a year after World War II, audiences and critics, still recovering from almost four years of pain, preferred the harsh realities of "The Best Years of Our Lives," a movie that broke through the usual Hollywood wall of sentimentality. It was only in the 1970s, when the film's copyright protection lapsed and it was shown over and over and over again from Thanksgiving until Christmas, that the movie became cherished. At a time when a freshly cynical nation was recovering from Vietnam and Watergate, we needed a vehicle to remind ourselves that we were capable of being good and decent.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is still mawkish — the device of Clarence coming to Earth as George Bailey's guardian angel still makes precocious children and reasonable adults cringe, and some scenes are contrived beyond cuteness. What makes the movie rise above mediocrity is the performance of Jimmy Stewart; it's an All-American performance that transcends words. There is never a moment when you don't

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak



believe he is absolutely genuine as George Bailey. (Stewart was at the height of his career; just as he was able to bring believability to Clarence, a few months later he was able to convince Broadway audiences of the existence of a 6-foot pooka named Harvey). Never is his acting more luminescent than in the movie's last 15 minutes when his transformation from despair to happiness is achieved without any apparent effort; it is his performance that gives the movie its emotional credibility.

You can tell I have an ambivalent relationship with "It's a Wonderful Life." It would never rank in my top 100 list of best movies, yet it strikes a strong emotional chord because, well, like George Bailey, I was born and raised in a small town and have chosen to remain a small-town boy. It was a decision made years and years ago when I still had a strong, perhaps naïve, faith in the lingering ideals of the 1970s.

I vowed my career choice would never be primarily motivated by money; materialism and conspicuous consumption are not in my psychological vocabulary. Community journalism fit my talents and ideals, just as running a community savings-and-loan fit George Bailey.

It was a lonely decision, especially as my college classmates struck it rich in the Roaring 1980s, then got even richer in the Roaring 1990s. Sometimes it was hard to handle, especially when the people I didn't like in college became millionaires and I struggled with my journalism vows of economic chastity and poverty. Yet, like George Bailey, I tried — struggled sometimes — to remain faithful to my goal of trying to make a positive difference to the community through journalism so the Mr. Potters of the world would remain in their greed-gilded cages.

Whether we like it or not, Christmas is a time when we are (or should be) reminded of the moral choices we have made. It is a time either to come to peace with those decisions or to vow to review those decisions in the new year. It is a time for everything good and decent to be celebrated and cherished in those holy hours before dawn on Christmas morning when a peace, soft and quiet as velvet, descends upon the Earth and erases all doubts.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information will help you get your ideas and community news into The Chronicle:

Call editor Rick Cornejo at (908) 575-6716 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Information can be e-mailed to middlesex@njnpublishing.com.

The sports editor is Dave Allena. He can be reached at (908) 575-6690.

Our address: The Chronicle, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Rick Cornejo at (908) 575-6716.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles, letters and press releases to The Chronicle is noon Monday.

Letter policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary. Send letters to The Chronicle, PO Box 699,

Somerville, NJ 08876. Letters can also be faxed to (908) 575-6683.

Announcements

Wedding, engagements, anniversaries and births are printed without charge in The Chronicle. Send your news and photo to the above address.

If you would like help organizing your announcement, call Pat Udzielak at (908) 575-6703 and ask for a form.

We accept color or black and white photographs. Please do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like your photo returned, send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Photographs

We welcome submitted photos — color or black and white — of community events. If possible, we ask that individuals in the photos be identified and clearly visible.

If you would like to request a photographer at a community event, call at least 48 hours prior to the event and we will do our best to schedule a photographer.

If you would like a reprint of a photograph taken by a staff photographer, which appeared in The Chronicle, call the photography department at (908) 575-6708 and someone will send a copy of the reprint request form.

The Chronicle

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Gund in Edison helped the U.S. Marines Corps with their annual Toys for Tots toy drive.

GUND holds holiday toy drive

EDISON — GUND employees celebrated the spirit of the holiday season this year by participating in the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots program. Employees at the Edison, New Jersey headquarters donated more than 100 new unwrapped toys to the organization.

Along with employee gifts, GUND also donated 60 plush animals in a variety of styles and sizes. U.S. Marines from the Metuchen, New Jersey

Post of Toys for Tots received the toys and plush animals from GUND Headquarters Dec. 11.

"We are pleased to extend a helping hand to this year's Toys for Tots campaign, a cause that truly represents the holiday spirit and GUND's corporate mission to bring happiness to children," said Bruce Raiffe, president, GUND.

Each year, since 1948, active and retired Marines

collect and distribute toys to needy children. The objective of the program is to help needy children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas. The Marines also want to deliver a message of hope that will motivate youngsters to grow into responsible, productive patriotic citizens and community leaders. In 2003, *Readers Digest* named Toys For Tots America's Best Children's Charity.

Author to talk about book

HIGHLAND PARK — Karen Swee, a member of the Highland Park Mystery Book Club, claims to have been addicted to mysteries since reading her first Nancy Drew book as a child. Swee will talk about her critically-acclaimed historical mystery novel, "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Murder" and also sign copies at the Highland Park Public Library, 31 North Fifth Avenue, 7 p.m. Jan. 15.

Set during the American Revolution in New Brunswick

during the British occupation, the author says her goal "is to tell a story that will entertain and pull readers into a wonderful, dangerous, exciting era of American history." Not only did the Highland Park writer research through history books about 18th Century America, she also searched through period diaries, cookbooks, fabric and clothing books to pick up the details of everyday colonial life.

Swee's main character,

Abigail Lawrence, tavern mistress of a popular New Brunswick watering hole, is a widowed, businesswoman, who is witty enough to outsmart the toughest British officers. The single mother of an adolescent girl, Abigail must protect herself, her daughter and her property when a suspicious traveler is murdered in her inn.

For more information about this author talk at the Highland Park Public Library call (732) 572-2750.

Development planned for Magic Fountain site in Edison Township

EDISON — Mayor George A. Spadaro joined with developers from American Dream Properties, Amboy Avenue business owners and the Edison Chamber of Commerce to break ground on a \$3 million mixed-use building at the former Magic Fountain site in Edison's Clara Barton neighborhood — the first major private investment in the Amboy Avenue downtown district following Edison's completion of a streetscape beautification project this past summer.

"Through my administration's comprehensive efforts, we have begun to turn Amboy Avenue into a destination point, with the installation of brick pavers, sidewalk bumpouts, new benches, trees and streetlights," Spadaro said.

"American Dream Properties has realized the enormous potential Amboy Avenue now has," Spadaro added. "I am truly pleased to welcome their mixed use project as a landmark in the Clara Barton neighborhood revitalization effort."

"Downtown Plaza," at 906-910 Amboy Avenue, is being constructed where the old Magic Fountain, which burned down, was located. The project is a three story building featuring street level retail stores, to encourage

window shopping, and luxury townhouses on the two stories above. To replace the loss of the Magic Fountain, the developers expect the building to have a new ice cream parlor that would feature outdoor, café-like seating. The building has been designed in a 1920's motif to mesh with the architectural style of the former Clara Barton School, as required by Edison's new master plan. The classic façade will feature brick, limestone and stucco, with cupolas, balconies and metal awnings. There will also be a 1.2 acre wooded buffer behind Downtown Plaza, critical open space purchased by Edison with its local Open Space Trust fund for the benefit of the Clara Barton neighborhood. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2004.

"This project is another step toward fulfilling my vision of a thriving downtown for Clara Barton," noted Spadaro. "Amboy Avenue will become the place where people can bring their children to browse through the local shops, get an ice cream cone, sit outside to enjoy a cup of coffee and reconnect with their neighbors," Roshanski said. "So many of our neighbors in Edison have become insulated, spending their time at home, at work or at a

strip mall. Amboy Avenue will change all of that, strengthening the Clara Barton community."

American Dream Properties is a developmental company owned by Zigga Roshanski and Michael Seidner, who both are longtime Edison residents and professional engineers who have built more than 3,000 single family homes, condos, and apartments in Edison over the years.

The developers say the project is geared toward first-time homebuyers and professionals, attracted to Downtown Plaza's close proximity to the Metuchen Train Station, NJTRANSIT bus routes, the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 287, 27 and Route 1.

Roshanski noted that he has decided to move his office to Downtown Plaza because of its many features and prime location.

"People now are attracted to vibrant shopping districts, where they are just steps away from activity," Roshanski stated. "It is exciting to see Mayor Spadaro's wonderful transformation of Amboy Avenue come to life. As longtime Edison residents, we are proud to help make these improvements a reality."

This week

Monday, Dec. 29
SOUTH PLAINFIELD - Back Handspring clinic for gymnasts and cheerleaders. American Gymnastics Academy, 4475 S. Clinton Ave., 5 p.m. Members \$20; non-members \$25. Registration: (908) 753-2421.

Friday, Jan. 2
BOUND BROOK - "Rocky Horror Double Feature," local adaptation of famous movie. Brook Theatre, 10 Hamilton St., 8 p.m. Jan. 2, 3. \$15. Reservations: www.brookarts.org or (732) 469-7700.

Monday, Jan. 5
METUCHEN - "The Anger Challenge," first in three-part Women Helping Women series. First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave., 7 p.m. Members \$10; non-members \$15. Registration required: (732) 549-6000.

In The Future
DUNELLEN - Chili Cook-Off benefiting Project Graduation of Dunellen High School, 400 First St., 4-8 p.m. Jan. 10. Adults \$6; students \$4. Tickets/entries: (732) 752-0341.

METUCHEN - AARP Chapter meeting at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Route 27, 1:15 p.m. Jan. 12. Guests welcome. (732) 548-2332.

METUCHEN - Therapy Group for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Women Helping Women, 224 Main St., 1:30 p.m. Jan. 13. \$50. Registration required: (732) 549-6000.

METUCHEN - "Strong Girls" teen workshop: "Crashing the Clique Culture." First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave., 6:30 p.m. Jan. 15. \$25. Registration required: (732) 549-6000.

METUCHEN - AARP Trip for "The Rainmaker" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Bus leaves Borough Hall, 212 Durham

Ave., 10 a.m. Feb. 26. \$55. Reservations: (732) 548-9395 by Feb. 12.

MIDDLESEX - Get Online: "Internet and E-mail for Senior Citizens," first in 10-week class. Middlesex High School, Bound Brook Rd., 3:30 p.m. Jan. 12. \$30. Registration: (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

MIDDLESEX - Spanish I, first in 8-week class for adults. Middlesex High School, Bound Brook Rd., 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12. \$70. Registration: (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

MIDDLESEX - Excel I, first in 4-week class for adults. Middlesex High School, Bound Brook Rd., 7 p.m. Jan. 13. \$95. Registration: (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

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Forward Thinking **Fleet**

Jose Manuel Chacon

BOUND BROOK — Jose Manuel Marin Chacon, 38, died Dec. 21, 2003.

Born in Costa Rica, Mr. Chacon lived most recently in Bound

Brook and was a landscaper. Services will be today in Costa Rica. Local arrangements were by the Bridgewater Funeral Home.

Kelly Denkovic

DUNELLEN — Kelly D. Denkovic, 43, died Dec. 20, 2003 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Born Sept. 26, 1950 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, she lived in Dunellen before moving to High Bridge in 2001.

Mrs. Denkovic was an administrator. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Jersey City State College in 1983.

Surviving are her husband of 14 years, Bill; her parents, William R. and Doreen McArA Gilliland of Danbury, Conn.; a daughter, Dineen, and two

sons, Daniel and Christopher, all at home; two sisters, Heather Gilliland-Luongo of Basking Ridge and Holly Walczak of Danbury; three nieces and a nephew.

Services were held Tuesday at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon, of which Mrs. Denkovic was a parishioner. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Clinton.

Arrangements were by the Martin Funeral Home in Clinton. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Denkovic Children's College Fund, 3 Hoffman Road, High Bridge, NJ 08829.

Frank S. Clark

MIDDLESEX — Frank S. Clark, 78, died Dec. 20, 2003 at Alzheimer's Care at Praxis in Easton, Pa.

Born June 14, 1925 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., he was a son of the late John and Sarah Phillips Clark.

Mr. Clark lived in Kingston, Pa., before moving to Middlesex in 1966. He was with the Veterans Administration for 30 years and retired in 1991 from the transportation department of the VA hospital in Lyons.

He was in the Marine Corps Reserve during World War II and a motorcyclist.

Surviving are his wife, Joyce

Penny Clark; two sons, Christopher and wife Luanne of Washington and Jon and wife Stacie of Flemington; a stepson, Eric Nielsen and wife Dianne of Flemington; two sisters, Marion Eicke and Margaret Williams, both of Kingston, Pa.; a grandson, Christopher, and a granddaughter, Kaitlyn, both of Washington; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Adult Day Care Center, 120 Finner Ave., Suite 102, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Gerald Ulmes

DUNELLEN — Gerald A. Ulmes, 76, died Dec. 19, 2003 at his home.

Born Oct. 3, 1927 in Brooklyn, he was a son of the late August and Catherine Braun Ulmes.

Mr. Ulmes lived in Bound Brook before moving to Dunellen in 1943. He retired in 1998 after 50 years as a co-owner of Fabritech, custom steel fabricators in Piscataway.

He was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret Herres Ulmes; two sons, David and wife Jill of

Cokesbury and Michael and wife Susan of Millford; a sister, Dorothy Trice of Lecanto, Fla.; two sisters-in-law, Annette of Newport, N.C., and Jeanne Dunne and husband Tom of Mantoloking; and three grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. John the Evangelist Church, following services at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Donations may be sent to Haven Hospice, JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Franklin Middaugh

DUNELLEN — Franklin Norman Middaugh, 79, died Dec. 19, 2003 at Integrated Health Services of New Jersey at Somerset Valley, in Bridgewater.

Born May 24, 1924 in Plainfield, he was a son of the late William and Levona Lanning Middaugh.

Mr. Middaugh lived in Dunellen before moving to North Plainfield in 1999. He was self-employed as a mason contractor until his retirement at age 65.

A life member of the

Veterans of Foreign Wars in Dunellen, Mr. Middaugh was a member of the Windows to the Sea Society in Piscataway and the American Legion in Dunellen.

Surviving are his wife, Patricia; two sons, Brett of Brick and Scott of Deltona, Fla.; a daughter, Linda Bodemer of North Plainfield; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Burial was in Readington Cemetery.

Ralph Sorrentino

MIDDLESEX — Ralph Francis Sorrentino, 34, died Dec. 12, 2003 at his home in Kissimmee, Fla.

Born in Plainfield, he lived in Middlesex, Scotch Plains and Woodbridge before moving to Kissimmee in 2001.

Mr. Sorrentino was an accountant in Union County and more recently in Kissimmee. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting, magna cum laude, from Kean College of New Jersey in 1993.

A standout wrestler in high school, Mr. Sorrentino was a coach in the Westfield Wrestling League from 1999-2001.

Surviving are his wife of 17 years, Ann Marie Appezzato Sorrentino; his mother and stepfather, Anastasia and

John Konick of Clark; his father and stepmother, Michael and Mary of Lakewood; a daughter, Brianna Marie, and a son, Tyler Preston, both at home; three sisters, Stacy M. Bischoff of Freehold, Kimberly Sorrentino-Rolnick of Westfield and Cynthia Sorrentino-Segura of Hillsborough; a brother, Michael J. Jr. of Garwood; many stepsisters and stepbrothers; six nieces and five nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Dec. 19 at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Scotch Plains, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains. Committal was in Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

Rosalie Bagienski

BOUND BROOK — Rosalie Smigielski Bagienski, 88, died Dec. 19, 2003 at Harborside Healthcare-Woods Edge in Bridgewater.

Born in Hudson, Pa., she lived in Bound Brook before moving to Bridgewater in 2002.

A homemaker, Mrs. Bagienski was a member of the Leisure Club and Altar Rosary Society at St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman

Catholic Church.

Surviving are her husband, John S.; a son, Richard of Durango, Colo.; and a granddaughter, Heidi Bagienski Ambrosia of Gilbert, Ariz.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, following services at the Bridgewater Funeral Home. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hillsborough.

Virginia P. Weston

PISCATAWAY — Virginia P. Weston died Dec. 20, 2003 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Roselle, she lived in North Plainfield before moving to Piscataway in 1980.

Mrs. Weston was a member of the 69th Infantry Division Auxiliary and the Atlas Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Westfield.

Her husband, George, died in 2000.

Surviving are a daughter, Pamela Maiolo and husband

Vincent of Piscataway; a sister, May Lystash of Clark; and a granddaughter, Susan Peck and husband Jonathan of Somerset.

Services were held Tuesday at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen.

Arrangements were by the Piscataway Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Road, Dunellen, NJ 08812 or the Arbor Rescue Squad in Piscataway.

Rose Marino

EDISON — Rose Marino, 98, died Dec. 19, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in the Bronx, she lived in North Plainfield before moving to Edison in 1994.

Mrs. Marino was a seamstress her working life and retired from the Middlesex Dress Co. in South Plainfield. She was a member of International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 149 in New York.

She was a volunteer worker for bingo games at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church in North Plainfield, where Mrs.

Marino was a member of the Altar Rosary Society.

Her husband, Matthew, died in 1929.

Surviving are two sons, Angelo and wife Antoinette of Edison and Frank and wife Yolanda of Somerset; a daughter, Jennie Barra of Malcrest, Fla.; seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the James W. Conroy Funeral Home, South Plainfield, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Luke's Church. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

Leila May Dilley

DUNELLEN — Leila May Dilley, 86, died Dec. 18, 2003 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born June 28, 1917 in Reaville, she was a daughter of the late Russell E. and Laura T. Hockenbury Dilley.

Miss Dilley lived in Dunellen for most of her life. She worked from 1939-69 in the bindery department of the Art Color Printing Co. in

Dunellen. She joined C.R. Bard in Murray Hill in 1972 and retired from that company in 1983.

For many years she was the secretary of the Sunday school at the First Presbyterian Church, which Miss Dilley joined on Jan. 5, 1930.

Two brothers are deceased: Roger R., killed in action in 1945 during World War II, and Charles W. in 2000. A sister, Dorothy W. Goldsmith, died in 1997.

Surviving are a sister, Anna R. Vaughan and husband Fritz of Whitmore Lake, Mich.; a brother, Walter E. and wife Betty, with whom Miss Dilley lived; a sister-in-law, Lois of Frederick, Pa.; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 at the First Presbyterian Church, 218 Dunellen Ave. Officiating will be Dr. Jeffrey Hayes Wildrick, a pastor.

Arrangements are by the Mundy Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Dunellen Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 216, Dunellen, NJ 08812.

Alex Nagy

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Alex Nagy, 83, died Dec. 18, 2003 at his home.

Born in Woodbridge, he lived in Warren before moving to South Plainfield in 1969.

Mr. Nagy was an exempt fireman with the Mount Bethel Fire Company in Warren. He was a member of the Italian-American Progressive League in North Plainfield, Elks Lodge 2298 in South Plainfield and the South Plainfield Senior

Citizens Club.

He was an Army veteran in the Pacific during World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Rose DeBisco Nagy; a daughter, Sandy Lombardo and husband Michael of Branchburg; and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the McCriscin Home for Funerals. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to JFK Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Bertha Lemire

BOUND BROOK — Bertha Louise Lemire, 66, died Dec. 17, 2003 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Mrs. Lemire was born in Newark and had lived in Bound Brook since 1970. She also had a summer home in Ortle Beach.

She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Bound Brook and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Her father, Edward C. Van Pelt, died in 1956. Her mother, Louise A. Van Pelt, died in 2003. A grandson, Miguel A. Ojeda, died in 1999.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph A. Jr.; two daughters, Patricia A. of Bound Brook

and Dawn L. Ojeda and husband Miguel of Piscataway; a son, Joseph A. III and wife, Jessica of Bound Brook; two sisters, Alma E. Peters and husband Walter of Wall and Louise H. Del Monico and husband Emilio of Scotch Plains; three brothers, Charles E. Van Pelt of Piscataway, Thomas R. Van Pelt and wife Barbara of South Bound Brook and George F. Van Pelt and wife Chantal of Manville; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Presbyterian Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery.

Andrew Koford

MIDDLESEX — Andrew A. Koford, 88, died Dec. 16, 2003 at Integrated Health Services of New Jersey at Somerset Valley, in Bridgewater.

Born Oct. 6, 1915 in Brooklyn, he was a son of the late Andrew and Caroline Schier Koford.

Mr. Koford had lived in Middlesex since 1963. He retired in 1986 after 30 years as a plumber associated with Local 24 in Newark.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and a parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church.

A brother, Robert, died in 1994.

Surviving are his wife, Myrtle Howell Koford; a daughter, Mary Ellen of Las Vegas, Nev.; a grandchild, a niece and a nephew.

Private arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home in Dunellen.

Evelyn B. Miller

EDISON — Evelyn B. Douglas Miller, 92, died Dec. 14, 2003 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Bayonne, she lived in Edison before moving to Westfield in 2000.

Mrs. Miller retired in 1977 after 35 years as an assembler with the Morgan Doll Co. in Bayonne. She was an usher for services at the Angelic Baptist Church in Bayonne.

Her husband, Eddie, died in 1967. A sister, Margaret Douglas, died in 1999. A brother, Robert Douglas, died in 2001.

Surviving are a sister, Sarah Carrington of Edison; a sister-in-law, Ethel Douglas of East Orange; two nieces, a nephew, two great-nieces and a great-nephew.

A memorial service was held Dec. 19 at the Boylan Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Holmes

DUNELLEN — Wayne M. Perrucci, 57, died Dec. 14, 2003 at Orlando Regional Medical Center in Orlando, Fla.

Born Oct. 21, 1946 in Plainfield, he lived in Dunellen before moving in 2000 to Winter Garden, Fla.

Mr. Perrucci was a former vice president of operations for the Hillside Warehouse and Trucking Co. in Edison. He retired in 1999 after seven years with the trucking company.

His mother, Evelyn McAloney Perrucci, is

deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Linda; his father, Mario of Forked River; a daughter, Christine Giese of Winter Garden; a son, Wayne Jr. of Lawrenceville; two sisters, Sandra Daniels of Edison and Amy Mainenti of Forked River; two brothers, Mario Jr. of Brigantine and Patrick of Forked River; and five grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Dec. 19 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Middlesex. Arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Holmes

BOUND BROOK — Mary Ann Holmes, 77, died Dec. 16, 2003 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in Hazleton, Pa., and had lived for many years in Bound Brook.

Mrs. Holmes worked in the Bound Brook school system for 20 years, retiring in 1989 as the head cook at Bound Brook High School. She was a parishioner of St. Mary of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are her husband,

William; three daughters, Shirley Ann Carhart of Manasquan, Theresa Mary of Jackson and Donna Marie of East Amwell; two sisters, Lee T. Sario of Bound Brook and Ann Rodrigo of Middlesex; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Dec. 19 at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Classes at Middlesex Community School

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Community School has scheduled three courses that begin after New Year's.

All classes meet at Middlesex High School off Bound Brook Road. The schedule:

"Internet and Email for Senior Citizens," 3:30 p.m. Monday for 10 weeks beginning Jan. 12. This introductory course is taught by Ron Coupland. Cost is \$30.

"Spanish I," 7:30 p.m.

Monday for eight weeks beginning Jan. 12. Bill Hottenson teaches this course for those who want to learn practical Spanish. Cost is \$70.

"Excel I," 7 p.m. Tuesday for four weeks beginning Jan. 13. Coupland also teaches this course, which covers entering data, formatting, editing, calculating basic formulas and managing files for spreadsheets. Cost is \$95.

For registration, call (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

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Rev. Ronald Owens, Sr. Pastor

WORSHIP
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1st & 5th Sunday, 9:30am

Church School: Sun. 9:30am
Bible Study: Wed. Noon & 7:00pm

Piscataway Community Worship Center
555 S. Randolphville Rd.
Meeting At Lake Nelson SDA School Gym
Sunday 11:AM Worship
"We are a friendly fellowship"
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732-752-2346

Calvary Chapel
Services at **Somerville Elks**
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(Next to Quick Check)
Sunday Service & Childrens Church
10:00 A.M.
732-537-0283
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& "Sound of Reign"
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Meals on Wheels needs volunteers

EDISON — Volunteers are needed to help deliver kosher Meals on Wheels in Middlesex County.

Seniors and disabled people receive two kosher meals a day, Monday through Friday. All meals are distributed from the Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County.

Volunteers are asked to participate at least two days a month. For those who can't drive, they can volunteer as a navigator to help the driver deliver the meals.

If you are interested, call Sara Ullman or Fran Starr at (732) 777-1940.

Dunellen briefs

Chili cook-off in Dunellen Borough

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen High School Class of 2004 Project Graduation is hosting a chili cook-off Jan. 10.

For more information, or to enter your chili, call Lou Anne Stebor at (732) 752-0341.

Entertainment 2004 books available

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen United Methodist Church has entertainment 2004 books now available.

The book features savings for dining and entertainment. Six different regions are offered from which you can order.

Call Shirley at (732) 752-7437, Brenda at (908) 753-9016 or the Church at (732) 968-4347.

Travel and Nature Luncheon Club

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Public Library sponsors the Tuesday Travel and Nature Lover's Luncheon Club every Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Club members meet to share their travel experiences over a brown-bag lunch. Club members can discuss recent trips, help plan their next adventure, share horror stories and tales of wild escapades, compare photographs, present slides and exchange tourist tips. Travel and nature videos from the library's collection are also available to club members.

The program is free and all are welcome. For more information, call (732) 968-4585.

Bound Brook briefs

Time to license dogs in the borough

BOUND BROOK — January is dog registration month in the borough.

Dog owners must present a certification of rabies vaccination which is valid through the licensing year. The fee for a non-neutered dog is \$11.20 and for a neutered dog \$8.20.

After Jan. 31 there will be a mandatory late fee.

Licenses may be obtained by mail.

For more information, call Maritza at (732) 356-0833, ext. 635.

Cat licensing is in March, but 2004 licenses are currently available.

Elks Lodge New Year's Eve Dance tickets

BOUND BROOK — The Bound Brook Elks Lodge 1388 is sponsoring a New Year's Eve Spanish-American Dance 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. Dec. 31.

Admission is \$35 per person. There will be food, entertainment and dancing.

The lodge is located at 305 East Second Street.

For tickets, call (732) 868-1653.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Bound Brook

The Bound Brook Seniors meet 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Asbury Hall of the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. Everyone welcome to join.

Upcoming

For information, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310.

Outsiders are welcome.

Atlantic City trips are the third Tuesday of each month, leaving 9:45 a.m. from El Imperial. Everyone welcome. Call Ed Kimmel at (732) 469-1263.

St. Mary's Leisure Club, Bound Brook club sponsors bus trip to Atlantic City Casino Taj Mahal every fourth Tuesday of each month. Cost \$19.

2003 meeting dates — Membership meeting will be held every second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

For information, call Sal Barbaty at (908) 725-5444.

Dunellen

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 55 years and older. Every Friday meetings from 10 a.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall on South Avenue. Bus transportation is provided. Atlantic City - Third Tuesday every month. Bus leaves 9:45 a.m.

For information call (732) 968-1285; President of Dunellen Senior Citizen Club, Ida Cihanowyz

Middlesex

Middlesex Bus transportation is available for Borough Seniors. Sign up by calling (732) 356-0414. Wednesdays are Senior Day at the club.

For information on any issue of interest to the senior population contact Sheila at (732) 356-0414.

Middlesex Borough Senior Citizens - Watchung Terrace at Middlesex

For information call Flo Wines (732) 271-0278.

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Seniors — Club meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Entertainment books for 2004 are now available. For books, call Marty at (732) 469-1722 or Fran at (732) 356-3380. The price is \$30 per book.

For information on trips call Ellie Procacci (732) 752-3093 or Mary Jane Stoddard at (732) 356-2093.

Middlesex Saturday Seniors Club — For more information, call Delia at (732) 356-7793.

Jan. 12 — Trip to the Trump Marina Casino. Cost is \$18 with a return of \$12 in coin. The bus will leave the Middlesex Recreation Center, 1400 Mountain Ave., at 9 a.m. For reservations or information, call Delia at (732) 356-7793.

South Bound Brook

The South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Club, Inc. meet 2 p.m. each Wednesday at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall on High Street. Business meeting is conducted on the first Wednesday, and the following Wednesdays are Socials when games are played and refreshments are served.

This club is open to all seniors 55 years old and older in South Bound Brook and the surrounding area. For information/reservations call Catherine (732) 356-4080 or Emma (732) 356-4338.

Dec. 28 — Christmas Party/McAteer's. Noon to 4 p.m.

April 24 to May 1, 2004 — Bermuda Cruise. Eight days, seven nights. \$899 per person, double occupancy - outside. Price includes bus, cabin, shipboard meals/amenities, port charges and taxes.

Reservations must be made by Dec. 15. Call Ethel at (732) 356-5552.

South Bound Brook Senior Citizen Center, 113

Clinton Ave., offers the following programs:

Monday and Wednesday — Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday and Thursday — Bingo and cards, 10:30 a.m.

Donate your car to KARS-4-KIDS and receive a FREE 3 Day / 2 Night Hotel Stay!

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| TRAVEL TIME ALLOWED | | MONWEEK | WEEKEND |
| Shape Skis..... | \$15 | MOUNTAIN CREEK | \$29 |
| Snowboards..... | \$15 | HUNTER | \$32 |
| Snowblades..... | \$15 | SHAWNEE | \$29 |
| Helmets..... | \$10 | CAMEL BACK | \$31 |
| XC Skis..... | \$20 | HIDDEN VALLEY | \$20 |
| | | BLUE MOUNTAIN | \$30 |

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| | | |
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| Bottom File Hot Wax Sharpen | Stone Grinding Hot Waxing Edge Beveling 24 Hour Service | Snow Boards Tune-Up Overnight Service |
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ADULT EVENING SCHOOLS COURSE OFFERINGS FOR WINTER 2004

Registration in school where course is offered

January 5, 6, 7, 2004 6 to 8 pm

Dr. Karen McCloud-Hijazeh - Superintendent
Loretta M. Keimel - Director of Adult Education

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

TRADE AND INDUSTRY COURSES

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|----|
| Adobe Photoshop I (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | Electrical Trades | |
| Adobe Photoshop II (9 wks \$75) | EB | Electronic Devices & Circuits (12 wks \$100) | EB |
| Adult Basic Skills | | Continuing Education Code Course (10 hrs \$75) | PI |
| Adult Basic Skills Mathematics (9 wks \$75) | EB | Guitar Instruction (9 wks \$90) | EB |
| Adult Basic Skills Reading and Writing (9 wks \$75) | EB | House Plant Identification & Propagation (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Auto | | Industrial Electronic Controls PLC (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Automotive Computers I (9 wks \$75) | PA | Machine Shop | |
| Auto Body & Fender Repair (9 wks \$75) (Mat. Fee \$20) | PI | Blueprint Reading (12 wks \$100) | EB |
| Auto Eng Perf. & Diagnostics I (9 wks \$75) (Mat. Fee \$15) | EB | Machine Shop CNC (12 wks \$100) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB |
| Auto Mechanics Basic (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB PI | Manicuring* (300 hrs \$600) ** | EB |
| Auto Brakes (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Marketing | EB |
| Auto Steering & Suspension (9 wks \$75) (Mat. Fee \$15) | PI | Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair (9 wks \$75) | PI |
| Building Trades Blueprint Reading (9 wks \$75) | EB | Oil Painting Advanced (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Cake Decorating (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$10) | EB PI | OSHA Outreach Program for General Industry 30 hrs \$75 | PI |
| Carpentry | | Photography Basic (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB |
| Home Woodworking (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Plumbing | |
| Construction Trades - Algebra I & II (9 wks \$75) | PA | Master Plumber Renewal Cont Ed Course (6 hrs \$75) | PI |
| Cooking | | Plumbing Code (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Cooking & Catering (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Silkscreen Printing (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB |
| Italian Culinary I (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Small Appliance Repair (12 wks \$100) | EB |
| Mexican Culinary I (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Small Engine Repair (9 wks \$75) | PI |
| Dry-Cleaning I (9 wks \$75) | PI | Website Design (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Electrical Trades | | Website Design-Flash (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Math (10 wks \$85) | EB | | |

TECHNICAL COURSES

| | | | |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| CAD - Computer Asst Drafting I & II (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | Heating & Heat Controls (10 wks \$85) | PI |
| Computer Systems Technology* MW/10wks (\$150) | PI | Hydraulics (12 wks \$100) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB |
| Computer Sys Tech A+ Operating System* MTW/10wks (\$300) | PA | Refrigeration Handling Certification* (5 wks \$150) | PI |
| Digital Electronics (9 wks \$75) | EB | Solid State (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning | | Stationary Engineering | |
| Cooling & Controls (10 wks \$85) | PI | Stationary Eng. I Low Pressure (12 wks \$100) | EB PI |

OFFICE OCCUPATIONS / COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| Accounting I (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | Microsoft Word for Windows (9 wks \$75) | ALL |
| Accounting II (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | Microsoft Word Advanced | EB PI |
| Microsoft Access (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | P.C. Fundamentals (9 wks \$75) | ALL |
| Microsoft Excel (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | PeachTree (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Microsoft Excel Advanced (9 wks \$75) | EB PI | QuickBooks (9 wks \$75) | EB PI |
| Microsoft Office (9 wks \$75) | PI | Typing/Keyboarding Basic/Advanced (9 wks \$75) | PI |
| Microsoft PowerPoint (9 wks \$75) | EB PA | | |

CONSUMER AND HOMEMAKING COURSES

| | | | |
|--|----|---|-------|
| Baking - Just Desserts (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | PI | Floral Design II (9 wks \$75) | PI |
| Cooking (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) | EB | Interior Decorating (9 wks \$75) | EB PI |
| Dressmaking (9 wks \$75) | EB | Pattern Making I (9 wks \$75) | PA |
| Flower Arrangement (9 wks \$75) | EB | Quilting & Patchwork (9 wks \$75) | EB |
| Floral Design I (9 wks \$75) | PI | Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks \$75) | EB |

HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES*

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------------------------|----|
| Defensive Driving Point & Insurance Reduction Course (6 hrs \$50) | EB PI | Motorcycle Rider Safety | PI |
| | | Call 1-800-8WE-RIDE | |

VOCATIONAL ARTS / DANCE COURSES

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Creative Origami (5 wks \$75) | EB | Yoga (9 wks \$40) | EB |
|-------------------------------|----|-------------------|----|

TEST PREPARATION COURSES

| | | | |
|--|----|--|----|
| WorkKeys® Reading for Information (12 wks \$100) | PA | WorkKeys® Applied Mathematics (12 wks \$100) | PA |
| WorkKeys® Applied Technology (12 wks \$100) | PA | | |

HOME INSPECTION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM*

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Heating Inspection II - Jan. 5 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB | Interior & Insulation Inspection - Mar. 23 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB |
| Air Cond. & Heat Pumps - Jan. 26 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB | Comm. & Professional Practices - April 19 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB |
| Plumbing Inspection - Feb. 11 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB | Fast Track Schedule - Call 732-257-3300 ext. 1925 | |
| Exterior Inspection - March 3 (30 hrs - \$300) | EB | | |

SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOPS*

| | | | |
|---|-------|--|----|
| Cookie Bake Extravaganza - \$10 | EB PI | How to Start Your Own Successful Business - \$50 - 6 wks | EB |
| How to Play Piano by Ear - \$35 | EB PI | Valentines Day Dinner - \$20 | EB |
| Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People - \$35 | EB PI | | |

View the complete Schedule and Course Descriptions at www.mcvts.net

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FEES
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10 wk Course - \$85
12 wk Course - \$100

OTHER FEES
*Special Fees/As Noted
**Additional Fees
Out-of-County - Course Fee Plus \$30

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

EB - East Brunswick Campus, 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick
PA - Perth Amboy Campus, 618 New Brunswick Avenue, Perth Amboy
PI - Piscataway Campus, 21 Suttons Lane, Piscataway
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Saturday, December 27, 2003

Entertainment

Car accident changed her life

JASON SCHWARTZ
Correspondent

HIGHLAND PARK — The day a car nearly killed her changed borough resident Benigna Molnar Willman's life forever.

One day in 1959, the 19-year-old nursing student was leaving her house and crossing the street. When she was about two feet off the sidewalk, a distracted driver who was arguing with her husband came right along the curb and drove over her head and ankles. The accident put her into a coma for three months and paralyzed her from the waist down for more than a year.

"I was grateful that I was alive and all my classmates were taking care of me as well were the doctors that I knew," said Willman, 63. "I wasn't angry at what happened, but was a little concerned as to what was going to happen because I really thought I was going to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life."

So, she thought in terms of what she could do to earn a living out of a wheelchair and the only thing she could think of was what she could do with her hands.

"I was fortunate enough to have inborn talents that I was able to utilize and not dwell on what could not be," said Willman. "So, I decided to go into business and have other people working for me. I opened children's daycare centers in New Brunswick, one in Milltown and when I moved to Highland Park, I continued on with daycare here and I turned to painting

and sketches."

Thus the New Brunswick native began her art career.

Willman will be presenting her work in a show called "Memories" at the Highland Park Public Library. A reception was held last Saturday for the show.

"At this exhibit, two of my pieces have already been sold," she said.

"I try to do as realistic as possible. In other words trees and houses look like trees and houses, but I also like to put

women's bust (features) and it drove me crazy so I had to draw it."

But as the piece started to develop on the canvas, she started seeing other images she was using.

"When you look at the painting, you are going to see one of two women: you're either going to see the bust of the female that I originally started, or you're going to see a complete female, from head down to her knee area," said Willman. "And then if you

out the artist in others that has seen Willman establish a very impressive teaching career.

"I taught third through eighth graders at St. Ladislaus Church in New Brunswick for 19 years and I've been working out of Lake Nelson Seventh-Day Adventist Church Piscataway for four years teaching k (Kindergarten) through fifth grades," said Willman. "And I've also taught at St. Peters in Highland Park and at Solomon Schecter Day School of Raritan Valley in East Brunswick."

She also has been teaching children and adults privately out of her home for the past 40 years, does lessons at nursing homes and does volunteer work wherever she can.

"She has a lot of patience and she's very good with children," said Quinto. "Children take to her and they are encouraged by her. They come to her looking for something to do, and they wind up developing their talent."

And it's this developing that Willman said is why she enjoys helping others to learn.

"Because I get a great deal of satisfaction out of seeing what I'm able to get out of someone else's ability or what I can teach them," said Willman. "A talent is wasted if it's not developed."

The show will run through December at the library located at 31 North Fifth Avenue in Highland Park. For more information contact the Highland Park Library at (732) 572-2750.

"I wasn't angry at what happened, but was a little concerned as to what was going to happen because I really thought I was going to be in a wheelchair the rest of my life"

Benigna Molnar Willman

unusual things into pictures," said Willman. "I like to do abstract pictures made up of things that if you look carefully, you'll see something."

One painting, called "Lady in the Leaves," is not for sale at the exhibition at the library. It was influenced by an equally abstract event that came out of Willman herself looking carefully.

"When I would go to sleep at night and shut my bedroom light off and look out my street window, the light would reflect onto the leaves of the trees," said Willman. "I used to see this silhouette of this

look at it another way, all you're going to see is the complete head of the female close-up. So it's like two pictures in one."

Jeanne Quinto of Metuchen, who has known Willman since she was 18 years old and went to nursing school with her, said what makes her friend's artistic abilities special isn't just what winds up on the canvas.

"Not only is she a good artist, she has the ability to bring out the artist in others," said Quinto. "Not all artists have this ability."

And it's this ability to bring



The Women's Literary Club of Bound Brook recently filled tins with cookies and candy to donate to charity this holiday season. Pictured are club president Cleone Dill, publicity chairwoman Doris Psak and social services chairwoman Barbara Pyle.

Operation Candy Cookie held by club

BOUND BROOK — "Operation Candy Cookie" was held by the Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook, GFWC, a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Club, at the Dec. 1 meeting.

Home Life-Social Services chairpersons Barbara Pyle and Irene Batty were in charge and more than 200 cans were filled with home made cookies and candy. All members of the Woman's Literary Club baked cookies and decorated coffee cans that were filled for the holidays to be given to SHIP — a charity organization that feeds the homeless and helps those in need. The other half will go to Somerset County for the homeless as a gift from the Literary Club. This is an ongoing project that is completed every year at this time.

During the course of the year, the club does many things to offer its help when it is needed. President Cleone Dill along with other members of the club will deliver to both organizations.

Coming up next month, the club will be entertained by "The Cat's Meow." The hostesses will be Gladys Chersack and Bette Johnson on Jan. 5 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Church St., Bound Brook at 1 p.m. The Arts Performing Department (drama, literature and music), chairman Margaret McKay and her co-chairman Pat Romancheck will hold "Creative Writing" on Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. at the home of Gladys Chersack in Bound Brook, with co-hostesses Doris Psak and Margaret McKay. Members will read poems, plays and short stories that they have written or stories that they would like to share.

A card party will be held in January, the date to be announced.

On Jan. 28 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Shirley Haelig the officers and chairmen of departments and committees shall constitute the Board of Directors meeting.

Living Soil poster and bumper sticker contest

MANALAPAN — "The Living Soil" is the theme of the 2004 Conservation Poster and Bumper Sticker Contests. Without soil nothing lives. Healthy soils support healthy environments and healthy environments support healthy life. It is wise to promote the conservation, management and care of soil.

The Poster and Bumper Sticker contests are open to

students from Monmouth and Middlesex Counties. Both contests are divided into four divisions: Grades 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. Freehold Soil Conservation District local prizes include \$100, \$75 and \$50 United States savings bonds. All first place winning local entries are submitted for state level competition — state level prizes included \$200, \$100 and \$50 United

States savings bonds.

A Grand Champion for the Bumper Sticker Contest will be selected at the state level and that bumper sticker will be produced and distributed statewide.

Teachers of students who win first place at the state level will receive a \$100 stipend to purchase conservation or science related materials for their classroom.

State level winners are honored at a special ceremony to be held in Trenton in May.

Contest entry forms are available by calling Freehold SCD office at (732) 446-2300 ext. 25 or by e-mail at info@freeholdscd.org. Provide your name, address and zip code with your request.

The contest entry deadline is April 14, 2004.

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South Plainfield Middle School greenhouse will operate once again

By LIBBY BARSKY
Correspondent

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Middle School's greenhouse will go green again thanks to a county grant.

Middle School science teacher Dana Maratto received a grant award of \$987 from the Environmental Awareness contest offered by the County of Middlesex Department of Planning and Solid Waste Management.

The grant will be used to purchase the necessary materials — the lights, seeds, soil, fertilizer — to grow plants in the school's greenhouse. Part of the school's environmental awareness program will have students creating compost from cafeteria waste, said Maratto.

"I'm purchasing large plastic bins to have students use it for composting. That's the first step. I will have the students go to the cafeteria after the lunch periods are over and they will sort through and take items out to compost them," said Maratto.

The greenhouse is attached to Maratto's classroom. It was in disuse when she began teaching at the Middle School last year. Maratto did not know how long the greenhouse had been unused.

"When I walked into it the first time it was filled with leaves. Then I began cleaning it out," Maratto said. "Now with the grant, the greenhouse will be used for a lot of lab activities. The students aren't just going to learn about composting they'll learn about other things." Maratto expects to start

experiments using the greenhouse in January and expects to use the plants that are started in the greenhouse to make the outside area around the greenhouse more attractive.

Other plans include starting a gardening club.

"There are 12 students who said that they were interested in starting one," said Maratto, who also wants to use the seedlings that are started in the greenhouse as a fund-raiser for Mother's Day "so we can put money back into the greenhouse," she said.

The Board of Education accepted the environmental awareness contest grant award Dec. 16. At the same meeting the Board approved the application of the Middle School Human Relations Commission to apply for the \$2850 V-Free Mini Grant offered by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission. The purpose of the grant is to address violence, vandalism and victimization — the three V's.

The Board also approved the Middle School to apply for a \$2500 Teach Grant sponsored by Best Buy Children's Foundation. The grant rewards schools that integrate technology into the curriculum.

The Board is also considering an in house grant proposal made by Superintendent of School Dr. Robert Rosado. In order to encourage innovative programs by teachers and administrators, Rosado is requesting that the Board fund 15 mini grants of \$500 each.

Sports

Middlesex, Piscataway, JPS win openers

Putting together a balanced effort, the Middlesex High girls basketball squad opened its season in impressive fashion last Saturday as the Blue Jays whipped Cardinal McCarrick 59-34 in a GMC-Blue Division game at home.

Megan Reilly led the winning attack with 15 points and Jessica Wells followed with 12 as five Blue Jays scored at least seven points. Dana Ferraro missed a triple-double by a point and an assist as the senior pulled down 15 rebounds while collecting nine boards and nine assists.

Middlesex, a senior club with big ambitions, got off to a 14-6 start after one period and extended the lead to 32-15 at halftime. The Blue Jays then rested the starters after opening a 50-

20 advantage through three periods. **Cranford 55, Metuchen 31** — A decent first half in which the defense kept the Bulldogs in the game (19-11) was wasted when Cranford got untracked in the third quarter with a 16-8 surge en route to a non-league victory at home last Saturday. Kristen Edmonds dropped in 12 points to lead Metuchen, which fell to 1-1.

Piscataway 43, Bishop Ahr 40 — With newcomer Asia Jenkins pumping in 24 points the Chiefs gave a quick indication that last season (3-17) should be a bad memory turned around this winter as Piscataway edged host Bishop Ahr in a GMC-Red Division game.

Playing with its their best returning

GIRLS BASKETBALL

player, Lauren Guarneri, and trailing 35-24 entering the fourth quarter, the Chiefs rallied behind Jenkins and Tiffany Patrick, who combined for 17 of the 19 points in the final session. Patrick followed Patrick with nine points.

J.P. Stevens 54, East Brunswick — Stephanie Marciano poured in 22 points and Kathryn Ruhno added 11 as the Hawks began their bid for the GMC-Red Division title with a romp over visiting East Brunswick Dec. 19.

After managing only an 18-16 edge at halftime, Stevens broke open the game in the second half when

Marciano dropped in 16 points.

South Plainfield 68, Carteret 44 — The opening night clash between two of the three co-GMC-White champions from a year ago proved no contest as South Plainfield built an 18-6 lead through eight minutes and rolled past visiting Carteret Dec. 19.

The Tigers' talented backcourt duo of Jessa Jones and Danielle Arndt led the way with 29 and 18 points, respectively, with Jones adding 10 rebounds. Ngozi Okparaeeke contributed eight points and 10 boards for South Plainfield, which had the game in hand at halftime with a 46-25 lead.

Metuchen 54, South River 50 — Outscoring host South River 40-22 in

the middle periods to grab a 50-35 lead, the Bulldogs held on for an opening-night victory Dec. 19 in GMC-Blue Division play as Edmonds and Tara O'Neil dropped in 24 and 16 points, respectively, to lead the way.

South Brunswick 50, Edison 29 — Tiffany Eckert tossed in 13 points but received little support as the Eagles lost their opener to visiting South Brunswick in a GMC-Red Division game Dec. 19.

Johnson 58, Bound Brook 22 — Falling behind 20-2 after one quarter, the Crusaders could not recover as they lost their opener to host Johnson Dec. 19 in MVC-Sky Division play. Stephanie Kenn led Bound Brook with eight points.

Tigers roll past Carteret behind Smith, Robinson

Clicking on all cylinders right from the start, the Tigers served immediate notice about taking defense of their division title seriously.

Facing Carteret in a GMC-White Division contest that opened the season for both teams Dec. 19, the South Plainfield High boys basketball squad roared to a 24-11 lead after one quarter and extended it to the advantage to 46-25 at halftime in recording a 82-45 triumph on the Ramblers home court.

South Plainfield's overall team performance was some dominant it needed only six points from junior standout Marquis Jones as Darren Smith connected for 20 points to lead the attack. Ian Robinson and Gary Houston followed with 17 and 10 points, respectively, and Corey Gilmore added nine.

Cranford 54, Metuchen 30 — Falling behind 17-7 after eight minutes and 32-16 at halftime, Metuchen could not keep pace with visiting Cranford last Saturday in slipping to 0-2 with the non-conference loss. Kevin Rush dropped in 12 points as the only Bulldog in double figures.

Cardinal McCarrick 70, Middlesex 22 — Powerful Cardinal McCarrick bolted to a 41-10 halftime lead and coasted to a GMC-Blue Division triumph over host Middlesex last Saturday in the opener for both teams. Matt LaVigne topped the Blue Jays with six points.

South Brunswick 49, Edison 46 — Host South Brunswick got a three-point lead at the buzzer from Cliff Breese (20 points) to edge the Eagles in a GMC-Red Division game that opened the season for both teams Dec. 19.

Kurt Gregory poured in 22 points for Edison to lead all scorers, and Anthony LaGrasso added 14, including two on a layup with 53 seconds left following his own steal to knot the game at 46-46. The Vikings broke a 24-24 halftime tie with a 10-6 third quarter before Edison rallied.

East Brunswick 46, J.P. Stevens 40 — Down by just

BOYS BASKETBALL

14-13 at halftime, the Hawks fell behind 21-6 third period and even a 21-11 surge in the final period could not help in a GMC-Red Division loss that opened the season Dec. 19.

Andrew Biacosino dropped in 16 points to pace Stevens, while Jason Callender and Mike Scocca added nine and eight points, respectively.

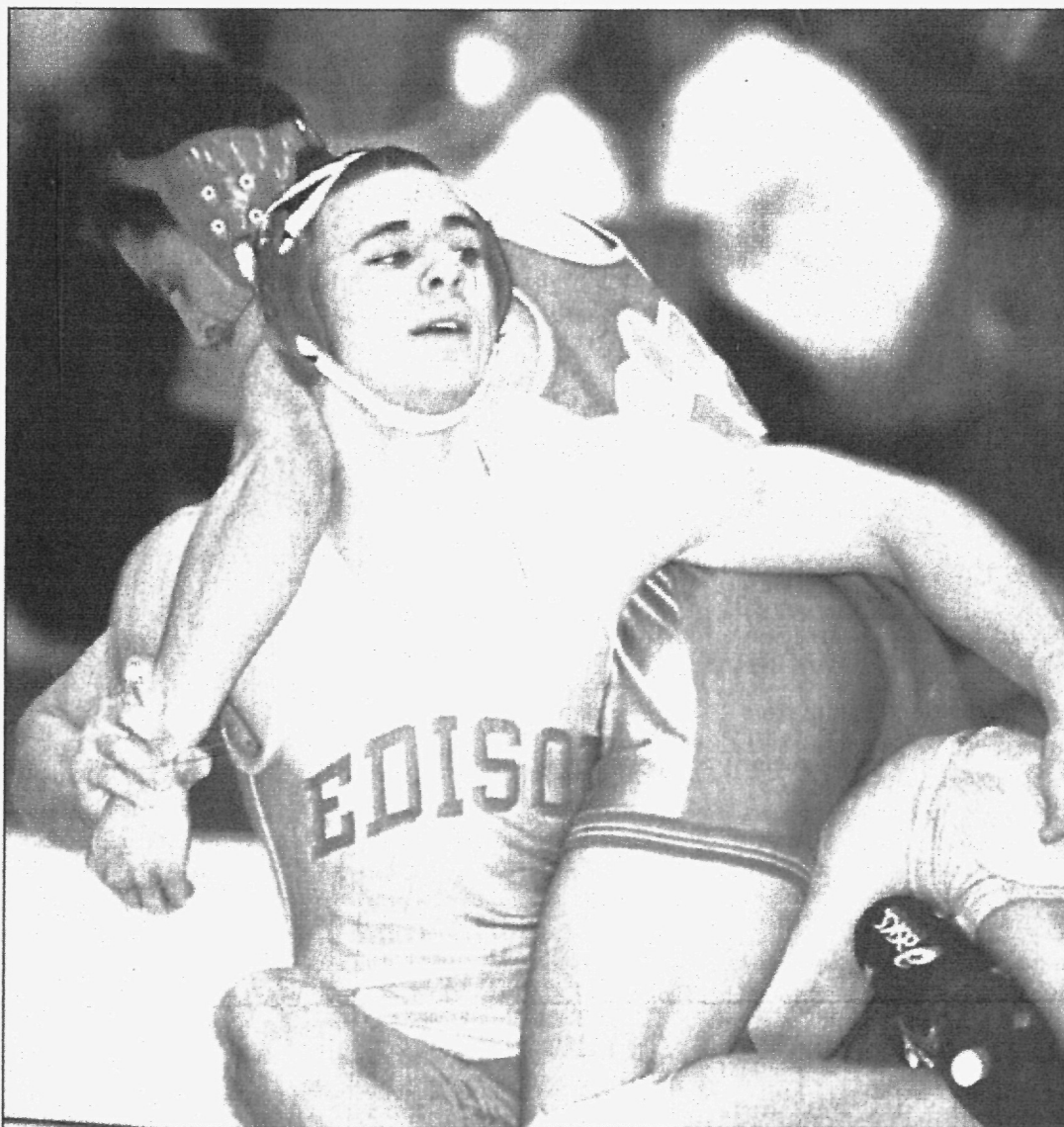
St. Joseph's 46, Piscataway 41 — St. Joseph's opened some daylight with 15-7 third period for a 31-24 lead and then had to hold off visiting Piscataway before claiming the victory in the GMC-Red Division battle that opened the season for both squads Dec. 19.

The Chiefs had a chance to take the lead with less than a minute to play, but they failed to convert the opportunity and the Falcons made their free throws to close it out. Brandon Beckford dropped in 13 points to pace the Chiefs, while Brandon Wilkinson scored nine and Manny Perrotte added eight.

Perth Amboy Vo-Tech 90, Dunellen 82 — Trailing 65-49 entering the final period, the Destroyers cut the deficit to six but could get no closer in a loss to host Perth Amboy Vo-Tech in a GMC-Gold Division game that opened the season Dec. 19. Jacquan Barnett poured in 27 points, John Scalzo pitched in 17 and Todd DeNapoli added 16 for Dunellen.

South River 39, Metuchen 33 — South River got off to a 13-7 start after one quarter and made the lead stand up for a GMC-Blue triumph over host Metuchen Dec. 19 in the season-opener for both teams. Mike Pierkarski's nine points led the Bulldogs.

Roselle Park 34, Bound Brook 27 — Despite a strong defensive effort, the Crusaders dropped their season-opener against host Roselle Park in MVC play Dec. 19 when the offense couldn't get untracked. Anthony Persaud and Jon Caban netted eight points apiece to lead Bound Brook.



Edison's Mike Grogan captured the 145-pound title to help the Eagles take second place as a team behind Notre Dame in The Edison Tournament last Saturday to start the season.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Six champions pace Tigers to crown

WRESTLING

Crowning six champions and placing 13 among the top three finishers, South Plainfield High's wrestling squad got off to a flying start by rolling to a 217-158 victory over Seton Hall Prep in the seven-team Morris Knolls Tournament last Saturday.

Jimmy Conroy and Billy Ashnault got the finals off to solid start for the Tigers as they recorded falls in 57 seconds and 1:58 at 103 and 112 pounds, respectively, while heavyweight Ryan Elliot capped the title round by decking his opponent in 1:49.

Stan Martin logged a 15-5 major decision at 130, Paul Ritchey earned a 3-0 decision at 145 and Guy Severini earned a 3-1 verdict 152 for South Plainfield's other first places. Mike Jakubik (119) and Joe DeBiase (171) came home with runnerup finishes. Nick Dorey (125), Nick Curcio (135), Pete DeAndrea (140) and Kevin Criley (189) won their consolation bouts for third place.

EDISON TOURNAMENT

The host Eagles sent eight wrestlers to the finals of its tournament last Saturday and came away with five indi-

vidual champs, but their bid for the team title fell short as Notre Dame pulled out a 1831/2-174 victory over the Eagles behind four winners.

Edison logged three falls during the final round with J.C. Bandiero logging the quickest one when he decked his opponent in 39 seconds at 112 pounds. Mike Grogan, meanwhile, needed only 52 seconds to put away his man at 145, while Ed Kidney captured the crown at 189 with a fall in 5:26.

Bob Wolff posted a 13-0 major decision to take 160, and Mike Merritt claimed an 8-5 verdict at 160 for the other Eagles first places. Matt Gabriel (119), Sean McQueeney (130) and Vincent Cortese (135) also reached the finals before losing with Gabriel dropping a 4-3 decision.

ROBIN LEFF INVITATIONAL

In the non-scoring 15-team Robin Leff Invitational, which included Old Bridge and Woodbridge, at Southern Regional last Saturday, Bound Brook advanced

five to the championship round and came away with one champion.

Andrew Flanagan, fifth in the state last year at 135 pounds, captured the title at 140 with a fall in 1:51 for the Crusaders' title, while three of his four teammates that reached the final all dropped narrow decisions. Dave Shubick lost a 3-2 verdict at 119, Nick Murray lost a 5-2 bout at 125 and Jaime Martinez fell 5-4 at 135. John Jannuzzi finished second at 171.

Middlesex 58, Colonia 14, New Providence 48, Middlesex 21 — Mike Hall and Rob Ellery logged a pair of falls apiece as the Blue Jays opened their season by splitting a pair of matches last Saturday.

Hall won in 3:2 at 119 against New Providence and claimed his victory in 1:47 at 125 against Colonial, while Ellery won in 3:24 at 152 against Colonia and in 3:22 at 145 against New Providence. Heavyweight Chad LaSala recorded a fall in 1:40 and picked up a forfeit, while Dom Natoli swept his two bouts with a 4-2 decision and a pin in 1:47.

Early winter weather putting a chill on fishing efforts

By MANNY LUFTGLASS
Correspondent

Brrrrr! Enough winter awreddy — and we're only two days into winter! So the snow came and rain appeared and melted it all away, and then it snowed again Sunday. OK, we have seen a sufficient amount of the wet stuff for December. Save some for the next three months, please.

I fished, sort of, twice since we last met and can at least report I caught a few. But it sure wasn't like the past couple of Decembers, though. Most of the first snowstorm was still on the ground when I drove over to Merrill Creek Reservoir in Warren County the first day. The boat ramp was unusable because of the snow but I intended to fish from shore anyway.

My first stop was off Fox Farm Road and while the wind was very light, my outside temperature indicator read 31 degrees. I fished from shore with a variety of normally pro-

ductive baits but never had so much as a single bite. I then went back to the boat ramp area for another try but again, nary one bite. This was with slider floats that had live shiners or frozen herring on the hook. I also tried baby nightcrawlers fished on bottom.

The only action I saw was a huge loon that popped up near one of my floats. I guess it could've been worse — he might've seen and swallowed one of my float baits. I've hooked two loons already at Round Valley Reservoir and I gotta tell you, the first indicator is wild until the "fish" gets to the surface and shows you its wings!

Next day I was getting real serious. I hooked up my boat and bought some shiners from Steve at Lebanon Bait and went to Round Valley. There were four other boats on the lake, so at least I wasn't going to be the only nut out. The wind was out of the east, blowing from five to 15 miles

GONE FISHIN'

an hour. When it went five, nice, but as it cranked to 15, not nice at all on the very cloudy day. I had enough clothing on to walk the frozen tundras of the Arctic but I still wasn't a very happy camper.

Two anchors were set over 104 to 106 feet of water and I got busy. Slider floats proved to be useless set from 10 to 16 feet down. The snow had simply cooled the high water off too much, I suppose, and nothing was feeding up high. I put lines down to the bottom and tried to vary depths. One line was reeled up 10 turns and I actually got two very nice bites this way.

Hit No. 1 was a good one — it took drag and I stood up with the rod, let the fish take line and pull the rod tip into the water before I stopped the line from being released with tight finger pressure on the spool and

slammed to the sky. And luck being with me, I hooked the critter, which went 21.5 inches in length and went on my stringer for the next night's dinner.

I wasn't as lucky with bite No. 2, though. The same deal as above — say 85 feet down and a live shiner was hit nicely. I did everything right, I thought, and stuck the fish with the hook but 10 feet up, it got away.

Two more bites followed, these on "Uncle Nick" set-ups, dead on bottom with a few inches of slack. The bait, though, wasn't a live shiner but instead I was using thawed-out frozen herring, baits that had died with their air bladders expanded, making them float, popping up off bottom on the slack line.

Hit No. 3 was stuck into and I caught the fish, a modest 17 or 18 inches, and it swam away in comfort after the release. Another frozen herring was hit and I slammed into a much nicer fish, which I estimated at

23 or 24 inches before it, too, went back into the lake with a happy face.

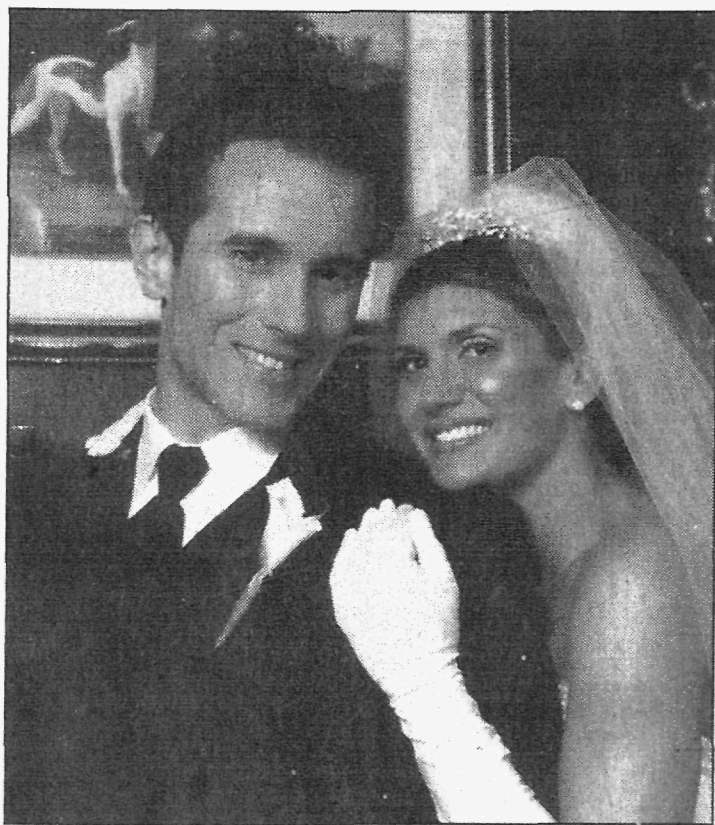
That was it for me but if you add to my day the fact as I was quitting, a beautiful eagle flew over my head, my one successful trip for December got even better!

So how about you? Have you tried flounder fishing yet in the Shark River in Belmar? The season closes Jan. 1 so if you haven't fished the river yet, you'd better do so quickly. The Shark is the best place to try in December.

I would love to hear from you this winter for sure, with current reports, but if you would like to summarize your year, space permitting, I'd be happy to share your successes with your fellow readers. Send me a fax with the normal basic details, or if you prefer, write a letter. My fax number remains (908) 996-7421 and my address is Box 556, Annandale, N.J. 08801.

'Scuze me, gone fishin'.

Weddings & engagements



Danielle Beth and David Jason Hnatiuk.

Datz weds Hnatiuk in December wedding

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Danielle Beth Datz, daughter of Linda and Theodore Rankowski of Holland, Pa. Bucks County and Alan and Alyson Datz of Warrington, Pa. was married to David Jason Hnatiuk, son of Gregory and Mary Ellen Hnatiuk of South Plainfield.

They were married on December 14, 2002 in St. Andrew's R.C. Church in Newtown, Pa. with a double ring ceremony officiated by Rev. Joseph Accardi.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Alan Datz and her mother, Linda Rankowski.

Matrons of Honor, Michelle Krause and Nicole Blatstein of Newtown, Pa. are sisters of the bride. The Maid of Honor, Elke Schweikert of New York City is a close friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Laurie Hnatiuk of Manchester, N.J., sister-in-law of the bride; Liz Stewart of Putnam Valley, N.Y., Pamela Helbling of New York City, Poly Wilk-Tedesco of New York City, and Erica Kupferschmidt of Holland, Pa. all friends of the bride. Flower girl was Schyler Blatstein of Newtown, Pa., niece of the bride.

The Best Man was Jeffrey Hnatiuk of Manchester, N.J.,

brother of the bridegroom. Ushers included Scott Blatstein, and Todd Krause, both of Newtown, Pa. brothers-in-law of the couple. Also, Jack Wagner of New Brunswick, David Rundella of South Plainfield, William McLaughlin of Hoboken, Brian Arenstein of New York City, and Sean Sasiak of Wayne, N.J. Ring bearer was Drew Krause, nephew of the bride.

The bride graduated from Council Rock H.S., Newtown, Pa. and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Health Care Management from Towson State. She is a free lance make-up artist in New York City.

The bridegroom graduated from St. Joseph's H.S. in Metuchen and received his Bachelor of Art degree "Magna Cum Laude" in Communications and Television Broadcast from Monmouth University in West Long Branch. He is a free lance music supervisor for MTV, ABC, and NBC in New York City and a Professor at New York University (NYU) Music Department.

After a reception at the Pen Ryn Mansion in Bensalem, Pa., they honeymooned at Playa Del Carmen in Mexico. They reside in Hoboken.

Benjamin to wed Pratt in October 2004 wedding

HIGHLAND PARK — Keith and Julie Benjamin of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and Donald and Alice Pratt of Highland Park along with George and Miriam Frankel of Highland Park have announced the engagement of Amy Rebecca Benjamin of Rochester, NY to Andrew Justin Pratt, of Rochester, NY.

The bride-to-be graduated from Wyoming, Pa. Seminary, 1997; Columbia University,

2001 and is attending the University of Rochester School of Medicine, Class of 2005.

Her fiancé graduated Highland Park High School, 1997 and Columbia University, 2001. He is employed as an Account Manager for Manning and Napier Advisors, Rochester, NY.

An October, 2004 wedding is planned.

Trip to see "The Rainmaker"

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — AARP Chapter 4144 is sponsoring a theater trip Tuesday, Jan. 13 for "The Rainmaker" at the Hunterdon Hills

Playhouse. Cost of \$60 includes round-trip bus fare and a full-course dinner. For reservations, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Edison High School first marking period honor roll listings released

EDISON — Edison High School has issued its honor roll for the first marking period of the 2003-04 school year.

Named to the "All A" honor roll:

Grade 12 — Jacqueline Alvarez, Kathryn E. Andrews, Nicole Bien, Amanda L. Drost, Matthew H. Frohnhoefer, Diana P. Garcia, Lauren E. Goldberg, Courtney Moniz, Kaitlin Quinn, Joshua Rosen, Liang Tao and Roseann Villalva.

Grade 11 — Hina Aslam, Hertzler Awuy, Lyndsey F. Balinskas, Fatima Boolani, Brian L. Callahan, Anmol Gupta, Jessamy Klapper, Amytza Maskati, Elline Molina and Kristine A. Villapando.

Grade 10 — Alina Amin, Patrick J. Callahan, Natalia A. Ciesla, Timothy J. Duchlinski, Sreevidya Kalidindi, Stephen S. Kempa, Eswarya Kolli, Mehreen F. Merchant, Kim Miranowicz, Bryan A. O'Gorman, Sudha Sarode, Shivam Shah, Abhinav Somani, Johnathan Vaknin and Eunice Yu.

Grade 9 — Tanya Abraham, Shariq Ahmad, Bin Chen, Kurt Cheng, Calvin Costanzo, Krishanti Daryanani, Adora Ekeocha, Ana M. Jimenez, Theodore T. Keating, Santiago Lopez Ramirez, Evelyn Martinez, Shahir Monsuruddin, Pamela P. Panahon, Brian Pascal, Gunatit A. Patel, Nicole M. Sayben, Rachel D. Solomon, Jianian Daniel Tran and Josephine Young.

Named to the "A/B" honor roll:

Grade 12 — Danielle Abigador, Mirna J. Aguilar, Nida Akram, Nikhil S. Asrani, Yevgen Avramych, Nicole M. Bailey, Jamie Barba, Victoria A. Benick, Sarah M. Benson, Kofi Boadi, Alberto M. Bohorquez, Amy N. Boles, Kareem Bonna, Nichole M. Bonner, Beatriz Bravo, Kevin Brzezinski, Daniel Buhler, Megan Bussiere, Jennifer L. Cadic, Yheller V. Cano, Deanna Catalano, Scott S. Chaneski, Winnie Chang Doris Cheung, Jaclyn Clarke, Diane L. Coniglio, Michael Constanza, Christina Darold, Jeremy M. DaSilva, Brian Deak, Rachel Dearaujo, Dhaval B. Desai, Puja Desai, Tasha Desai, James A. DeWitt, Brianne Dinitz-Sklar, Sergio D. Duarte, Shubhadeep Dutta, William Dynarski, Tiffany Eckert, Kristine M. Eger, Monica M. El-Rahab, Kristian Elvina, Esli M. Espada, Nicole Fasarakis, James Fischer, Ashley Francovitch, Christina M. Gaillard, Michelle Gancedo, Kadijatu N. Gbondo, Cassandra N. Gibbs, Randy Girsang, Christine Gladis, Anthony Gomez, Jessica Goncalves, Erin E. Gourley, Ashley Grice, Vincent M. Grillo, Michael K. Grogan, Amanda S. Guzzi, Steven Harageones, Paul Heishman, Barbara Hicks, Sang B. Hong, Christopher M. Howell, Kevin Hutson, Melissa Ibarra, Stephanie Israel, Aakash Jain, Vishal Jain, Xujiang Jiang, Latisha S. Johnson, Sumi Joseph, Laura Kantelehner, Patrick Keogh, Liene Kepite, Asad Khan, Tabassum Khan, Gregory D. Klemm, Wayne E. Koehler, Hariklia Kourounakis, Ashley Krug, Christopher Lam, Timothy S. Langan, Brian Lee, Hana Lee, Matthew Leshchanka, Tian Ling, Keith M. Lorfing, Lingxiao J. Lu, Kristen Lyman, Susan MacCloskey, John Maione, Nicole M.

Manning, Rebecca Mansbach, Saira Martinez, Misha Matalia, Lauren McCartney, Linda A. McDevitt, Martin McElrath, Shazia Memon, Joahna S. Mercado, Sebastian Mesa, Parshant Mittal, Joseph Molinaro, Guddu Mony, Stephanie Morris, Anne Mozolic, Senthil Mudaliar, Nicole Musicant, Diaa Musleh, Amanda Nagy, Krisztina A. Nagy, Rupa K. Nallamothu, Thushar Nalval, Jessica P. Ng, Olivia Ng, Luz H. Nieves, Koni Nino, Mary C. O'Connor, Melissa Olsen, Shannon Pagliarini, Ajay Patel, Ankit Patel, Ankur Paresch, Dharmeshkumar J. Patel, Dipak Patel, Hiren G. Patel, Lisa R. Patel, Mayuri H. Patel, Neel Patel, Niki Patel, Priya D. Patel, Ravi Patel, Vishal Patel, Sara Pellicane, Sandeep Pericherla, Jessica E. Pichette, Andrew E. Powers, Franci Rader, Sami U. Rahman, Eiljah Reyes, Melissa Rivera, Roberto J. Rivera, John S. Rocco, Marina Rombom, Diana M. Scholz, Martina Sencakova, Mikhail Shakhnovich, Lauren Shiffner, Maria Sideris, Samantha L. Sileo, Kunal Singh, Vimla P. Singh, Nicole Sona, Carlye A. Spitzmiller, Jennifer Staples, Corey Stryker, Shanie-Ann Sturridge, Kathryn F. Suchman, Sara Swingle, Lindsay Timari, Kate M. Tivald, Cindy C. Tran, Anna E. Urey, Jamie L. Wasson, Jamie F. Winters, Hae Yoon Won, Lourn-Seer Wu, Hyun J. Yang, Sana Yousuf, Susan Zavistoski and Laila Zouhour.

Grade 11 — Kiki Abd Elhady, Patricia L. Aguilar, Shazia Ashraff, Raz Avraham, Silvia Bae, Michael B. Balka, Dasha Barger, Kristina Bascandzieva, Kevon Beccles, Diana Beno, Laurie Bertolotti, Maya Bhat, Jessica R. Bracey, Jade Chan, Cui-Mei Chen, Tin Yee Cheung, Mark Chudnow, Jacklyn Cocozziello, Kerri L. Colletto, Alex M. DeLuca, Eric M. Dengelegi, Karissa DiChoso, Cory Disbrow, Kimberly Donnelly, Kinjal Doshi, Gregory Ducore, Ch'nel D. Duke-Hobby, Rhiza M. Esguerra, Owais A. Farooqi, Jasmin Flores, Kellie S. Fyffe, Ryan Goldmann, Megan Hall, Janette Hand, Kristen R. Hand, Andrei V. Herescu, Jeffrey B. Ho, Leying Ho, Sang-Eun Hong, Stephanie Huang, Katelyn Hughes, Adam M. Jaskula, Jagni Joshi, Kelly R. Karp, Allison Kasala, David Katz, Sarah J. Khan, Stephanie Kline, Chih-Ting Ko, Colin L. Korczyk, Radha D. Kulkarni, Munish Kumar, Shailja Kundani, Alexandra Lawler, Sau-Pei Lee, Scott C. Lee, Danielle N. Macan, Christine E. Mackey, Daniella M. Mandico, Silvia Mantilla, Nicole Matos, Kelly McGeehan, Nicole Melchior, Baneen Merchant, Monica H. Milik, Rukhi K. Mirza, Jennifer Mockovack, Veronica J. Mockoviak, Myriam R. Megollon, Carrie Mokar, Adam H. Moskowit, Shahira R. Motani, Kimberley Muller, Braden Normant, Julia Nuzzo, Lauren J. O'Shea, James Pang, Megha Patel, Niketa J. Patel, Prateeti Patel, Rakesh Patel, Elizabeth T. Patrick, Ryan C. Petersen, Nicholas Pizzaiia, Joseph Pontoriero, Julianne Powers, Robert I. Pudner, Kelly Quinn, Richard M. Rechtsteiner, Kyle Ringer, Siobhan C. Riordan, Courtney K. Roarty, Matthew D. Rogers, James P. Ruch,

Evan I. Ruffini, Pavea Saha, Maricel B. Saroca, Shubha Sarode, Arthur V. Sawyer, Jason Scriffiano, Melissa T. Sestito, Javon A. Shields, Michael Shymanski, Vince M. Solomon, Megha Sood, Thomas Stalling, Carlos Suarez, Samantha M. Taliaferro, Kimberly Thomas, Olivia Trotman, Mattheos I. Tsakon, Amara Ugboaja, William A. Van Emburgh, Elizabeth Vazquez, Allison Williams, Thong Win, Harija S. Yalamanchi, Huajie Yan and Alan Yeung.

Grade 10 — Jacqueling Abrahante, Sagar S. Agrawal, Akbar Ahsan, Eronmwon O. Aifuwa, Sophia Ali, Yanush Ali, Alvin D. Arun Kumar, Erin M. Baginski, Matthew J. Barbato, Michelle J. Beaumier, Barbara A. Beno, Alexandra Berry, Anthony M. Bertucci, Ramnath Brahma, Marissa Bravo, Richard L. Buck, Megan Burak, Abhinava Butchibabu, Gabriel A. Cadavillo, Joseph Caiola, Thomas C. Calara, Shawna Carroll, Nicole M. Casper, Arnold Ryan Castro, Kevin Chan, Allen Chang, Rubbia Charania, Sunny Chawla, Lihong Chen, Yu Chen, Tiffany M. Cheng, Sagar Chhangawala, Brian Chiang, Karen Cox, Shaunai Crawford, Jason J. Criss, Aminata Dabo, Heather J. Dauber, Gaurav Dhand, Kristen N. Donnelly, Clifford A. Edwards, Lindsey Fulton, Christopher W. Gadowski, George C. Galio, Shiyang Gandhi, Justin Gazzara, Michael G. Girsang, Mark Goldsmith, Emily Gonzalez, Christopher P. Gorski, Anthony Greder, Richard Gulick, Patricia P. Gyasi, Amanda H. Hanas, Victor H. Hernandez, Brian J. Hughes, Tiffany A. Hur, Teddy Ikun, Karan Jain, Anantha Krishnan Jambu, Hyo-Sung Jung, Michael Kang, Timothy J. Kapitan, Samuel J. Kaplan, Cerise Karmondy, Amar B. Khunti, Caroline Kihara, Jennifer Kim, Kiri M. Koehler, Vinit Kothary, Katelyn LaRocca, Adam D. Latham, Karen J. Lee, Brittny Lier, Carly S. Lincoln, Kathleen R. Lithgow, Anthony M. Lombardo, Timothy B. Lowe, Victoria Lutz, Brianne F. Macy, Stephanie L. Madolid, Nicole M. Maffucci, MEssinia Makropoulos, Marina Margovskaya, Philip Maroon, Jennifer M. Martin, Melissa E. Martin, Michael A. Mazzei, Dhruv Mehra, Christopher Menechella, Jessica H. Merrill, Edward C. Meyer, Matthew J. Miller, Chasity Millet, Ashley D. Morris, Caroline R. Mozolic, Charity Mukuria, Randy Ng, Katherine T. Oakes, Kelechi Okengwh, Erica Padilla, Prithwiraj Pal, Anish H. Patel, Isha A. Patel, Janki M. Patel, Khushabu N. Patel, Nilam R. Patel, Shail Patel, Patrick S. Pezzello, Tien Pham, David Phan, Nicholas Piereth, Indu Radhakrishnan, Michael A. Ratajczak, Adnan H. Riaz, Maurice W. Riley, Raymond Sahar, James M. Sayben, Faba Shaji, Eric Shapiro, Gounyi Shin, Hassan Shoaib, Jungwook Song, Lindsay A. Sovart, Matthew Sullivan, Brian C. Surjanhata, Joanna Tamayo, Pratik B. Thakar, Christine Tirajoh, Jason C. Tonic, Amanda E. Ussak, Russell Van Note, Stephano Vargas, Manan N. Vyas, Casey E. Wasson, Hero Wenur, Christopher White, Erika Y. Wong, Daniel Worede, Kal, Joseph L. Wright, Catherine Yeh, Angela G. Yeung, Sarah

Zhang and Adeel C. Zia.

Grade 9 — Ivie I. Aifuwa, Oluwadamilola Akinola, Anusha Alagarasan, Samantha Allen, Tajudeen Alli, Ariba Alvi, Ryan Amberger, Mina Amin, Tara P. Aucoin, Elizabeth Awad, Jordan Baer, Rima G. Bakhr, Dennis W. Balka, Jenna Bartholomew, Diana Blanco, Michelle Boitel, Stephanie Borwegen, Erika L. Bravo, Jennine Bruder, Ashley L. Campbell, Jennifer Cardona, Kristen Casabona, Carl K. Chang, Jay Chang, Steven Chick, Timothy S. Choi, Joshua Chudnow, Brian Colletto, Ashley M. Cunha, Andrew D'Amato, Kimberly L. D'Amato, Mili Dave, Rucha V. Dave, Alicia N. Delago, Teitram Dindial, Mary A. Doan, Talissa Dorsaint, Yasmine Doumi, Heather A. Drost, Jennifer Durham, James R. Eger, William C. Einhorn, Aranda Ekeocha, Rudy Escobar, Jakub Filip, Armando G. Forero, Krystal I. Fortune, Allison M. Fritsche, Jay Ganatra, Vincent A. Gazzara, Joelle N. Giambra, Alison R. Gibbons, Jaclyn Glatter, Samantha Grippio, Abby Hansson, Deidre Helfrich, Diana Hernandez, Jackie Ho, Tina Hoang, Scott H. Hoffman, Jatoo Howard, Jonathan Huang, Annika Huq, Noorulain Iqbal, Imani N. Jackson, Nickardo Johnson, Chinnu Joseph, Argie Kantilierakis, Jonathan Kelly, Monisha Khanna, Nelson M. Knight, Anthony V. Knowlton, Ewelina A. Krawczyk, Kristina Lacik, Julian Laguna, Thomas Law, John R. Lawson, Jeffrey Lazaro, Sonya Lee, Angelica V. Liu, Wei Liu, Christina M. Long, Catalina Lopez, Michael A. Lungo, Grace Mah, Michael E. Malamud, Sumaya Malik, Steven Manicasteri, Sumble Manzoor, Justin Marcelino, Diana M. Marchese, Anthony Martin, Omar Maskat, Christopher Meagher, Taysha Medina, Abena C. Mensah-Bonsu, Scott Migliore, Meggan A. Millar, Anthony C. Misistia, Manan Modi, Noelle A. Mongcopa, Tiffany Nagy, William E. Nagy, Shannon Nemeth, Jacqueline Nuzzo, Christopher T. O'Hara, Muzz Orillaza, Christian T. Ottens, Joyeta Pai, Diana Palacios, Richa M. Parikh, Alvaro R. Parra, Valerie Patalano, Ashish H. Patel, Barkha Patel, Bijal A. Patel, Dharatee Patel, Disha Patel, Kevalbhai Patel, Kirtana V. Patel, Komal R. Patel, Ritesh N. Patel, Roshni B. Patel, Sheela Patel, Navin Patibandla, Lauren Perrine, Brian Perry, Fredrick Pollex, Shipra Prasad, Neil Ramchandani, Kathryn Rechtsteiner, Ariana Reyes, Abigail J. Rickelman, Albert Rivera, Alexander Romero, Gregory W. Roman, Jennifer L. Ruszala, Jessica Sachinwalla, Ruman Sadiq, Viola A. Saleh, Alexander Sanchez, Brittany Sanders, Amber C. Schardt, Andrea Schmidt, Kristin M. Sciarrillo, Sapan Shah, Giah Shin, Allison L. Silber, Daniel Silverstein, Kathryn Sloum, Justin Smith, Timothy C. Smith, Monica Sosa, Krystal E. Spencer, Kari Spiess, Khadijah Sterling-Scott, Kaitlin Stryker, Vincent Tedesco, Janet N. Thai, Jeet Thaker, Gary M. Thompson, Codi Trembley, Johan Urena, Conan Vasquez, Sanjayamand Vijay, Kirsten Watt, Tashel Weir, Adrienne White, Christian E. Wolan, Anna Yousuf, Bin Yu and Richard M. Yuhua.

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The keys to giving out perfect presents

To some people, the most difficult aspect of the holidays is finding the perfect gift for friends or loved ones. Not every person is easy to buy for, and hours spent searching the stores can cause even the most steadfast holiday shopper to throw in the towel. There is, however, a selection of gifts that are appropriate for many, and this may be the answer to your worries about finding the perfect gift.

Of course, no single gift is perfect for everyone. According to "Present

Perfect: The Essential Guide to Gift Giving" (Mobius Press), by Sherri and Larry Athay, the best gifts share several common characteristics: appropriateness, perceptiveness, selflessness, generosity, indulgence, surprise and evocation.

Appropriateness - The perfect gift is fitting for the occasion and the relationship. A tin of homemade Christmas cookies to a coworker would be a thoughtful gesture.

Perceptiveness - A gift that reflects the giver's attention

to the tastes and preferences of the recipient is preferred. In essence, it's a compliment that says, "When I saw this, I couldn't help but think of you!"

Selflessness - The giver should only desire to please the recipient - expecting nothing in return. This "no-return" policy includes any satisfaction the giver anticipates from the observations of others about the extravagance of the gift or the generosity of the giver.

Generosity - Resourceful gifts reveal how special the

recipient is to the giver. Often, endowments of the giver's time, effort or creativity are the most generous and memorable characteristics of a gift.

Indulgence - It pampers, it humors, it appeases, it satisfies - the perfect gift says there is something extraordinary about the recipient in the eyes of the giver.

Surprise - Careful and discreet planning can catch even the most suspecting recipient off guard. A spontaneous gift even can be more fun.

Middlesex briefs

Pool needs person to manage snack bar

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex Community Pool are planning already for next summer. They have an opening for a responsible and motivated adult to manage the snack bar. This person would be responsible for staff supervision and procurement of inventory. Applications are available at borough hall at the clerk's office.

Registration for adult yoga classes

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex Recreation is now accepting registration for adult yoga on Monday nights.

The class will be held at the Beechwood Firehouse from 7:45 to 9 p.m. The session is eight weeks and costs \$50.

Registrants must be 18 or older and post high school. A certified yoga F.I.T. instructor teaches the class.

Forms are available at the recreation department. For more information, call (732) 356-7966.

Playgroup and Pre-K Art registration

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Recreation Department is now accepting registration for the winter session of Toddler Playgroup and Pre-K Art.

Playgroup is for 1 to 4 year olds on Monday and Tuesday

mornings for an hour. An adult attends the class with the child. The session is 10 weeks long and the cost is \$35 for residents and \$60 for non-residents.

Pre-K Art is offered Thursday mornings for 4 and 5 year olds not attending kindergarten. The session is 10 weeks long and the cost is \$45 for residents and \$80 for non-residents.

Class size is limited and payment secures a spot in the class. For more information, call (732) 356-7966.

Help build a playground by buying a brick

MIDDLESEX — Hazelwood Elementary School has launched its "Buy-a-Brick" campaign to raise funds for a new playground.

The existing playground does not meet the new state and federal guidelines.

The customized bricks/pavers can carry messages, logos or names of supporters. The four-by-eight brick is \$75; the eight-by-eight brick is \$125. Brick sizes go up to 24-by-24.

Forms available at the school office or by calling Barbara Lally at (732) 261-7050.

Middlesex and stars and stripes umbrellas

MIDDLESEX — Hazelwood Elementary School will be selling Middlesex umbrellas for \$10.

The Hazelwood PTO will be selling many other items such as tied-died T-shirts, Hazelwood

Huskies coin holders, sports bottles and seat cushions.

All items are for sale Fridays after school or by contacting Hazelwood School PTO for more information by calling Laura Meixner at (732) 742-3679.

Music Boosters selling Sally Foster giftware

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex High School Music Boosters are selling Sally Foster giftware.

To see the items or make a purchase, go to SallyFoster.com and put in account number 0680462 to place an order.

Items will arrive at the end of November.

If you don't have a computer, call (732) 317-6000, ext. 21952 or ext. 21918 and leave a message.

Music Boosters selling entertainment books

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex High School Music Boosters are selling entertainment books.

Call (732) 317-6000, ext. 21952 or ext. 21918 and leave a message.

Republican group meets second Wednesdays

MIDDLESEX — The Borough of Middlesex Republican Organization meets every second Wednesday of the Month at the Beechwood Fire House on Rt. 28, starting at 7:30 p.m.

All interested and concerned Middlesex Residents are invited to attend.

For more information and to learn more about what's happening on council log and campaign 2003 on to www.gopmiddlesex.com. Music Boosters selling

Kids Stuff books

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex High School Music Boosters are selling Kids Stuff books, which have a large variety of coupons to be used.

Call (732) 317-6000, ext. 21952 or ext. 21918 and leave a message.

Earn money for school with Verizon program

MIDDLESEX — If you have Verizon long distance, you can help earn Middlesex Borough Watchung Elementary School extra money for school supplies.

Just call 1-877-927-3348 and sign up for the Extra Credit for Schools. If you have any questions, please call Tracy Abate (732) 563-2258.

Shop at mall, help Watchung School

MIDDLESEX — Watchung Elementary School has been chosen to participate in the School Tools program sponsored by Bridgewater Commons.

The program runs Aug. 2003 to May 2004. Save your receipts and take them to the Premier Shoppers Lounge located on the lower level, Lord & Taylor wing and have them log your purchases for the Watchung Elementary School Tools program.

For more information, call Lori Ciesla at (732) 563-4255.

Campus notes

Three people have earned diplomas in therapeutic massage from the Somerset School of Massage Therapy in Piscataway. The graduates are:

Sarah A. Della Fave of Edison, who holds a bachelor's degree from Drew University.

Romeo Vergara of Metuchen, who plans a career in neuromuscular therapy.

Amanda P. Whitehead, who holds a degree from Princeton University.

David Lukac of Bound Brook has completed studies in air conditioning, refrigeration and heating technology at the Union campus of the Lincoln Technical Institute. The son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Lukac Jr. graduated from Bound Brook High School.

Erin Bunker of Piscataway has become an assistant in the Office of Multicultural

Affairs at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa.

She is building the Pennsylvania Multicultural Affairs Consortium database under the direction of project mentor Brian Johnson. She also is setting up a roster of non-white alumni in cooperation with the university's alumni relations office.

Bunger is a sophomore majoring in biopsychology and pre-medicine at Susquehanna. The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Bunker graduated from Piscataway High School in 2002.

Amanda J. Wormann of Piscataway has received the Presidential Scholarship from Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pa. The grant is awarded to incoming freshmen based on test scores and high school record.

Wormann plans to major in occupational therapy.

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John Adams Middle School first period honor roll

EDISON — The John Adams Middle School all "A" HONOR ROLL for the first marking period:

GRADE SIX: Julianne Byun, Jessica Chen, Monica Chitre, Alyna N. Dada, Ashley Dunbar, Dipa B. Gandhi, Chetna Gangwani, Nina Guttapalle, Yui Ikegawa, Sean Kudrick, Jeffrey L. Lue, Zachary J. Margulies, Ting Ting Meng, Yanqing Miao, Ethan L. Nadler, Ajay P. Parikh, Neha S. Patel, Pratik G. Patel, Vivian Perng, Colleen D. Schreier, Vania Y. Wang, Daniel Wei, Winston E. Wu, Cynthia Zhang, Sarah H. Zhang, Jeri C. Zhao.

GRADE SEVEN: Dennis Q. Ai, Douglas Atmatzidis, Neel Belani, Christopher Brown, Harini Bupathi, Xin Cao, Jamie Chang, Michelle Chang, Ruth Chao, Andrew Chien, Jacqueline Dai, Drashti D. Dalal, Adarsh Doshi, Sarah Duer, Jillian Earley, Gina Egidio, Lara Friedman, Mihir A. Gandhi, Siddhartha A. Gandhi, Dylan Ganguzza, Bhavik Gupta, Brittany A. Harris, Jennifer L. Hayes, Matthew Hoops, Erin Johnson, Yuriy Khondo, Phoebe Y. Kim, Eugene Kramer, Raymond Lee, Bingwan Li, Kathleen Liu, John C. Lu, Kira Magnani, Zyra Malik, Ling (Elena) Miao, Tara Nadkarni, Avani Patel, Bhavesh D. Patel, Bijal H. Patel, Hersh C. Patel, Kunal Patel, Nisha R. Patel, Leo Primo, Kenneth Pu, Allison Richman, Aditya P. Sai, Alex Scarlett, Dana E. Schleifstein, Nirali Shah, Suneri A. Shah,

Rutinee Simmasalam, Brian Siwek, Kevin Song, Pengpeng Song, Selena Suhail-Sindhu, Nora Tofighbakhsh, Marina S. Tropeano, Lillian Tso, Christine Wang, Kapil Wattamwar, Wesley Wey, Amy Winograd, Colleen Wittich, Jonathan D. Wong, Joseph R. Wood, Katherine Y. Wu, David Zhao.

GRADE 8: Thilini S. Ariyansa, Trisha Bakshi, Kanika Chandra, Andrew Y. Chen, Nabil Choudhury, Sheung Y. Chua, Jaclyn D. Cohen, GE (Jason) Fang, Ritam Ghosh, Amanda Kahrman, Amy Kao, Sarah Kass, Mark D. Khanin, Min Jung (April) Kim, William Kuan, Stephanie N. Lo, Spruha Magodia, Anthony Montalbano, Ashley Y. Park, Jay Racanelli, Luba Smolensky, Yu Chen Wang, Julie Xie, Edward Z. Yang.

The "A-B" HONOR ROLL for the first marking period:

GRADE 6 — Hassan A. Ahmad, Mohammad A. Ahmed, Onaiza Ali, Andrea Alvarez, Emily J. Anderson, Zachary Aster, Stephany Ayoubi, Gary A. Babayants, Shiral Bajpay, Melissa Baum, Nicole S. Baytala, Agnitha R. Bodd, Jo Castellanos-Monroy, Paul Chae, Sivram S. Cheruvu, Amy chien, Jonathan S. Cho, Chiagozie Chukwunke, Jason M. Chung, Zachary B. Cohen, Joshua Coley, Teresa Cruz, Eric Cuiffo, Louis T. Delia, Tara Delmonaco, Joseph A. DiLeo, Seijean P. Gahng, Shweta Gohil, Jacqueline E. Goldberg, Zachery C.

Grunberg, Brandon P. gumbs, Jazmine Gutierrez, Kyle J. Herron, Jeffrey H. Herskovitz, Andrew S. Horenbein, Sophia Hsu, Zara Hudu, Willie R. Johnson, Anthony Juliano, Ryan M. Keiser, Ahad A. Khan, Ashley Kim, Frederick Kim, Robert Kraynak, Christine M. Lambiase, Connor X. Lamparello, Melissa E. Lionakis, Hsiang-Kai Liu, Alex M. Lucchekko, Krisel L. Manglapus, Sarjil Mansuri, Yogesh Mavilla, Jayson L. Miao, Michael Montalbano, Donald M. Montemaro, Ian M. Muhlgier, Justin L. Mui, Brittany Mulligan, Neel S. Nadkarni, Jillian D. Ng, Francis J. Osolnick, Jerold G. Pamintuan, Ruchita Parekh, Bijal D. Parikh, Neha K. Parikh, Andrea Park, Tiffany A. Parris, Avni Patel, Jinel C. Patel, Nisha Patel, Preya M. Patel, Rohan K. Patel, Year Y. Patel, Victor Paulose, Matthew L. Petrucelli, Emily Phillips, Vincent Pizzi, Louie Primo, Renee Pujol, Vincent E. Rienzo, Kendall Rotondo, Anthony S. Rovito, Danielle A. Rovito, Corey D. Rubin, Dimitri A. Scerbo, Ashka Shah, Khelly Shah, Mansi Shah, Nirav Shah, Shyam R. Shah, Justine B. Shann, Jonathan D. Shao, Darshana M. Sharma, Deanna X. Shih, Kelley Shih, Noreen S. Sidhom, Farrah S. Singh, Pavel Sokolov, Jake Speling, Brittany D. Springsted, Apoorva Tadepalli, Helen Tan, Amit Patel, Arth M. Patel, Dhruv Patel, Helina K. Patel, Hitisha A. Patel, Neel H. Patel,

Emma L. Urbanowicz, Vivianne Verissimo, Lanece Womack, Lawrence L. Xie, Sean Yang, Kevin Zhang.

GRADE 7 — Jasper R. Abarquez, Sapna Advani, Haemi Ahn, Bandana Ahuja, Nathalie Aupont, Saeeda Aziz, Anisha Bapna, Jordan Birnbaum, Salvatore Boccia, Gregory Cannell, Nicole M. Cantor, Jessica L. Catalini, Brian Caycho, Sonia S. Chandi, Brandon V. Chen, Christopher Chen, Valerie Chen, Valerie Chen, David Chesson, Kanika Chopra, Sonia Chugh, Meredith T. Chupka, Gabrielle Clarke, Kevin Cullen, Stephanie B. Curtis, Beth Dempsey, Kunal Deodhar, Christopher DiPalo, Meghan Dominick, Michael Dzema, Meghan Farrell, Stephani Faust, Jason Gelb, Jennifer E. Giardina, Alexander Grajewski, Nicole Hantz, Priya Jaisinghani, Kristi A. Jopling, Dhruvi S. Kalangi, Ramya K. Kanumuri, Wilson Kao, Brian Karabinchak, Anthony R. Kelly, Harsh B. Khmar, Deepak Khanna, Jyotsna Khara, Jin Seon (Esther) Kim, Jinseon Kim, Aum Kotecha, Yin-Liang Lai, Melissa J. Lang, Lauren Lascalia, Stephen Lin, Michael Loeffler, Jack Marcus, Kerry Masterson, Kara Morse, Tushar Nagananda, Priya Narang, Matthew O'Connor, Adewonu Ogunfowora, Karan D. Pal, Jennifer Paradise, Dhara Parikh, Cassie Park, Amit Patel, Arth M. Patel, Dhruv Patel, Helina K. Patel, Hitisha A. Patel, Neel H. Patel,

Neha K. Patel, Shaili B. Patel, Sonali Patel, Sruti Patoori, Johnathan Peroza, Gabriella Pinho, Shiva S. Poola, Ashka Raja, Yi Ren, Michelle Rochman, Arielle Romm, Alina Roy, Rumela Roy, Caitlin Sabell, Prasad Sawant, Neil A. Sen, Ami G. Shah, Matthew J. Shea, Zachary Shery, Michelle A. Sica, Daniel Silbert, Ruta Sutariya, Julian F. Sy, Rekha Tabjula, Punit Tilani, Caleb Tou, Gabriella Trepper, Eleonora Volynets, Genna M. Wallerstein, Simon Wang, Yuan-Chun Wang, Eitan Wolkowitz, Joceun A. Woo, Brittany Young, Selena J. Yuen.

GRADE 8 — Rehman B. Ahmad, Nazia Ahmed, Azariah Ali, Huma Ali, Zainab Ali, Brenda R. Alshowarbi, Arslan Ashraf, Arun S. Ayva, Leah Bailey, Santosh Balachandran, Mukund R. Bangalore, Dana Bishara, Maria A. Bromberg, Alex M. Cacoilo, Gina Chang, Albert Chao, Emily Chao, Esther Chen, Felicia Chen, Tiffany Chen, Nnamdi Chukwunke, Sean Coughlin, Walt D. Craig, Samantha Creange, Kristen Cuzzolina, Hiten K. Desai, Vincent Desario, Michael B. Dia, Adrienne Szema, Kristen R. Ebbrecht, Anjan N. Gandi, Gregory Gerold, Meeta Gidwani, Sammy Gulrajani, Sunny Gulrajani, Liangjie Guo, Ankit Gupta, Aphrodite Hadjiloucas, Riyaz T. Haslani, Julieanne M. Herron, Jessica R. Hladky, Louis Huang, Shirley Huang, Mustafa Jafri, Evan Jay, Shan Jiang, Avani K. Kapur, Matt I. Kass, Joshua M.

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Briefs

Library open day after Christmas

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Public Library will be open Dec. 26.

Hebrew speaker's club meets Dec. 28

HIGHLAND PARK — Chug Ivrit (Hebrew speaker's club) sponsored by Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah, will meet 10:15 a.m. Dec. 28 at a private residence in the Highland Park area. This

group is for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers, and is free and open to the public (both male and female). They chat in Hebrew and read a short photocopied article.

For more info, contact Rachel Weintraub at (732) 819-9298 or e-mail: Rachel@weintraubworld.net

Bookmobile not in service during holiday

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Public Library's

Bookmobile will not be in service during the Christmas and New Year holidays from Dec. 22 to Jan. 2. The Bookmobile will resume service Jan. 5.

During this time, Bookmobile customers will have access to materials at the J.F. Kennedy Library and the J.W. Westergard Library.

The library will be closed Dec. 24 and 26 for the Christmas holiday.

Gymnastics clinic offered Dec. 29

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — American Gymnastics Academy is offering a backhandspring clinic for students and coaches 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 29.

Cost is \$20 for AGA members, \$25 for non-members. For more information, call

(908) 753-2421.

Historic commission meets Dec. 29

EDISON — The Edison Township Historic Preservation Commission will meet 7 p.m. Dec. 29 in council chambers of the municipal complex.

Get Up & Dance at Metuchen YMCA

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Branch YMCA is accepted registration for Get Up & Dance program for children.

The program includes jazz, ballet, modern and hip hop dance styles.

The program is on Thursdays from 4 to 4:45 p.m. Cost is \$32 for family mem-

bers, \$40 for non-family members. For more information, call Julisa Fiumaro at (732) 548-2044.

HAWKS helping kids with their homework

METUCHEN — Helping Another Wonderful Kid Succeed (HAWKS) is a John P. Stevens High School club that volunteers its time during the week to help children enrolled in aftercare at the YMCA with their homework.

They meet Monday and Wednesday at the Metuchen YMCA, 65 High Street.

Call Christine Tolley at (732) 548-2044 for more information.

Entertainment books for sale

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling entertainment books for \$30. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Playgroups at B.R.A.T.Z.

METUCHEN — Baby Playgroup will be held each Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon, regular, playgroup will be

held each Monday 10 a.m. to noon at B.R.A.T.Z., 24 Jersey Ave.

Family Friends is a non-profit parenting group. For more information, call (732) 828-6600.

75-minute swim and gym class at YMCA

METUCHEN — The Metuchen YMCA is offering a toddler 75-minute swim and gym class 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Cost is \$94 with Y Preschool Membership or \$82 with Family Membership.

Call (732) 548-2044 for more information.

Domestic Violence Intervention Team

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Domestic Violence Crisis Intervention Team is available for counseling, information, resources and referrals.

Call (732) 743-2517. All calls are confidential.

Elks selling 2003 Entertainment Books

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling entertainment books for \$30. Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Literacy Volunteers looking for tutors

PISCATAWAY — The Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex are looking for people who want to help an adult learn to speak and understand English.

Day or evening training classes are available. Call (732) 432-8000 for more information.

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Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK PLANNING BOARD

The Board has received an application for a change of zoning from R-1 to R-2 for a property located at 10 Haddon Street, Bound Brook, New Jersey 07005. The property is currently zoned R-1. The Board has received an application for a change of zoning from R-1 to R-2 for a property located at 10 Haddon Street, Bound Brook, New Jersey 07005. The property is currently zoned R-1. The Board has received an application for a change of zoning from R-1 to R-2 for a property located at 10 Haddon Street, Bound Brook, New Jersey 07005. The property is currently zoned R-1.

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

IT IS ORDERED that the following parties be notified of the proceedings in the above captioned matter and that they appear at the hearing on the matter on the date and at the time specified below.

NOTICE

Take notice that application has been made to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bound Brook, 280 Hamilton St., Bound Brook, N.J., to transfer to SLIT, INC., trading as Sensations Sports Bar & Restaurant, for premises located at 353 Talmadge Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, the Premises, located at 353 Talmadge Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805, heretofore issued to Talmadge Liquors, Inc., trading as The Showplace Liquor Lounge, for the same premises at 353 Talmadge Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805.

The persons who will hold an interest in this license are: Lynn A. Nardone, Pkwy, 45 Highway 200, Warren, NJ 07059.

Stockholder, Director, President, Steven B. Lazarus, 503 Hughes St.

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and
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NJN PUBLISHING CLASSIFIED HOLIDAY DEADLINES

For Publication Dates of:
 Thursday, January 1st
 Friday, January 2nd
 Saturday, January 3rd

Warren County Dec. 26th by 5pm
 Star Gazette & Warren Reporter

Somerset County Dec. 29th by 3pm
 The Reporter, Messenger - Gazette & Chronicle

Hunterdon County Dec. 29th by 5pm
 Hunterdon County Democrat, Hunterdon Observer & Delaware Valley News

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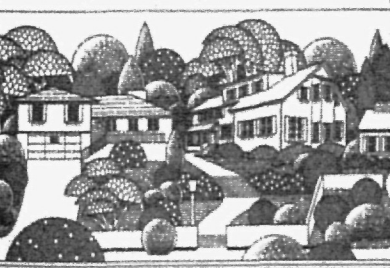


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Looking for a Federal or Postal Job? What looks like the ticket to a secure job might be a scam. For information, call the Federal Trade Commission, toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP, or visit www.ftc.gov. A message from NJN Publishing and the FTC.

Process medical claims from home! Use your own computer! Find out how to spot a medical billing scam from the Federal Trade Commission. 1-877-FTC-HELP. A message from NJN Publishing and the FTC.

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SPECIAL \$2,000 CLOSING COST WITH 3% DOWN OFFER OR \$2,000 CREDIT TOWARDS AN AVAILABLE FURNITURE PACKAGE*

Directions: Rt. 78 West to Exit 3. Proceed 1/2 mile to Rt. 519 and turn right. Make first left onto Stryker Rd. Cross over Rt. 57, continue on Stryker Rd. Make first left on Baltimore St. and follow signs to the Sales Center. Qualified buyers only. *CLTV Minimum 560 - 620 FICA Score, subject to POS disclosure. *Subject to FHA financing and approval. *Closing cost and furniture package offers can not be combined. Closing cost offer valid until Jan 31, 2004. Furniture package applicable only to buyers who close within three months or less.

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Deliver Newspaper bundles to stores,
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Applicants must have good driving
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Hourly wage plus mileage for use of full
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Route starts about 2:30 PM
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*Readington
*Whitehouse
Takes about 4 hours, 50 miles, 1,000
papers for 33 stops.

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Route starts at 3:30pm
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*Whitehouse
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candidate will demonstrate experience and skill in
organizing, managing and directing varsity, JV and
freshman football program. The ability to
successfully assign, supervise and evaluate
assistants as well as to develop and manage a
program budget is required. Must demonstrate the
ability to communicate and work with community and
local recreational programs.
Must possess or obtain CPR certification.
Send letter of interest and resume by January 19,
2004 to:
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Hunterdon Central Regional HS
84 Rt. 31, Flemington, NJ 08822
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large, hi-profile equine
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will include maintenance
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The Township of Clinton
Police Department will
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Applications will be
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Headquarters, 1370 Rt
31N Annandale, NJ,
between the hours of
8:30AM and 4:30PM,
Monday, January 5,
2004 through Friday
January 16, 2004. All
applications must be
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4:30 PM. Any and all
previous applications
and/or resumes will not
be accepted or
reviewed. All applicants
must complete a new
application. All
applicants must
possess a New Jersey
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Municipal Police
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freshman football program. The ability to
successfully assign, supervise and evaluate
assistants as well as to develop and manage a
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Part of a large agency
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of A/P and A/R, billing,
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in Word, Excel and
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5 years min. exp. in job-
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