

The Chronicle

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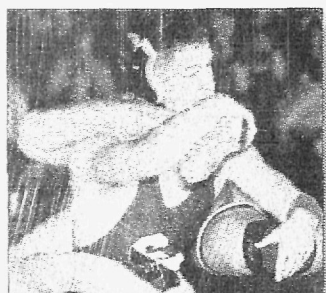
Vol. 144, No. 4

Saturday, January 22, 2005

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INSIDE



Tiger roll to 8-0 record

Sam Martin was one of 12 Tigers to record falls as the South Plainfield High wrestling squad continued to roll Tuesday night by shutting out Colonia 82-0 for an 8-0 records. For results see Page B1.



Club earns honors

The Piscataway Garden Club has been awarded a Certificate of Merit for Historic Preservation by the Central Atlantic Region of the National Garden Clubs. Wini Applegate, president of the Garden Club of New Jersey, at left, presents the Hazel Bowne Sternat Award to Mary Ann Sisco, Piscataway Garden Club Awards chairman.

Resident gets grant

Sally J. Nadler of Highland Park has been recognized for continued commitment to the Women's Fund of New Jersey Inc. of Union with a \$250 grant to the organization. Nadler is one of many recipients to receive a PSEG Dollars for Doers grant.

PSEG annually honors and rewards the exemplary achievements of employee volunteers and the non-profit organizations they serve through two programs: Dollars for Doers, which provides up to 200 grants at \$250 each and Recognizing Excellence in Volunteerism, which provides grants of \$1,000, \$3,000 or \$10,000 to nonprofits served by employee volunteers.

ART AUCTION

Art auction held today

The Education Foundation of South Plainfield will be holding its annual art auction today at the High School, 200 Lake Street. The preview is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person. Tickets will be available at the door and refreshments will be served.

The Auction will be presented by Ross Galleries from New York. They have many pieces of art available, as well as celebrity signed items that will be brought by special request — signed baseballs, record albums and guitars.

INDEX

Commentary	A-4
Community Life	A-6
Sports	B-1
Obituaries	A-5
Police Log	A-3

Metuchen introduces friendship program

METUCHEN — For many middle school administrators around the state a barrage of hurt, angry or upset students struggling with bullying and relationship issues continually walk through their doors.

School administrators know all too well how challenging and time consuming it is mediating fights between even the "best of friends."

In its on-going effort to create a positive, healthy environment for learning and growing, Edgar Middle School in Metuchen recently held an innovative full-day program

for its entire group of eighth grade girls called "The Ups and Downs of Friendship."

Principal Kathy Glutz and Vice-Principal Mike Knoth called in relationship experts from Women Helping Woman to design and conduct this program for girls.

"We wanted to provide our eighth grade girls with strategies to cope with the conflicts that are so common with adolescent and pre-adolescent girls, but which can be so devastating," said Glutz. "Social circles at this age can be so intimidating — including

someone one day and excluding her the next, sharing a friend's secrets throughout the group.

"The program custom designed for us by Women Helping Women's Strong Girls Program was exactly what we needed. We've already seen tremendous results from it."

Working with the school's staff of guidance counselors, the Strong Girls Program offered Edgar Middle School the opportunity for the students to express their feelings in small, safe groups. An initial large group educational work-

shop dealt with the issues of friendship, aggression and the concept of the "frien-emy."

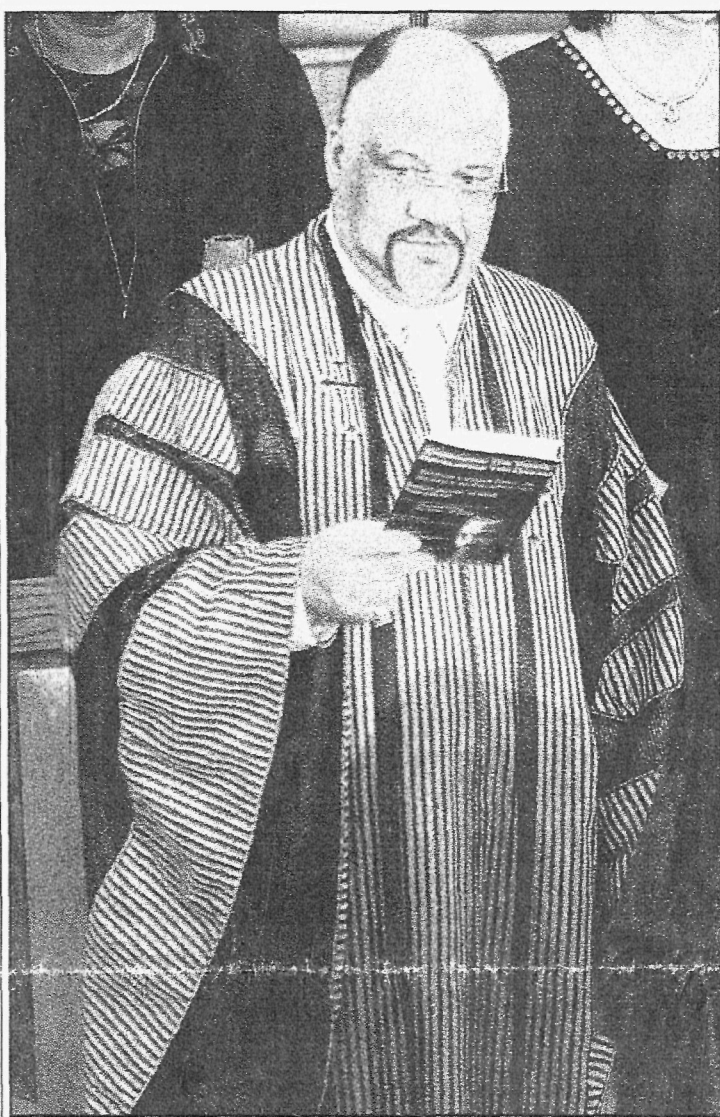
"The most impressive thing to me was that so many students were opening up and sharing," said Glutz. "Their expertise and ability gave our school staff the confidence to follow their lead and do the necessary work with the students."

Since 2003, when New Jersey mandated that schools provide anti-bullying programs, the issue has hit the forefront.

"Since we presented this

program in October we haven't had one instance of bullying with the girls," said Knoth. "We've had an increase in participation and referrals for peer mediation since then. That means the students see these issues as problems that can be solved. I consider that to be very positive indeed! We are already making plans to bring this program to our seventh grade girls."

For more information on Women Helping Women's Strong Girls Program, call (732) 549-6000.



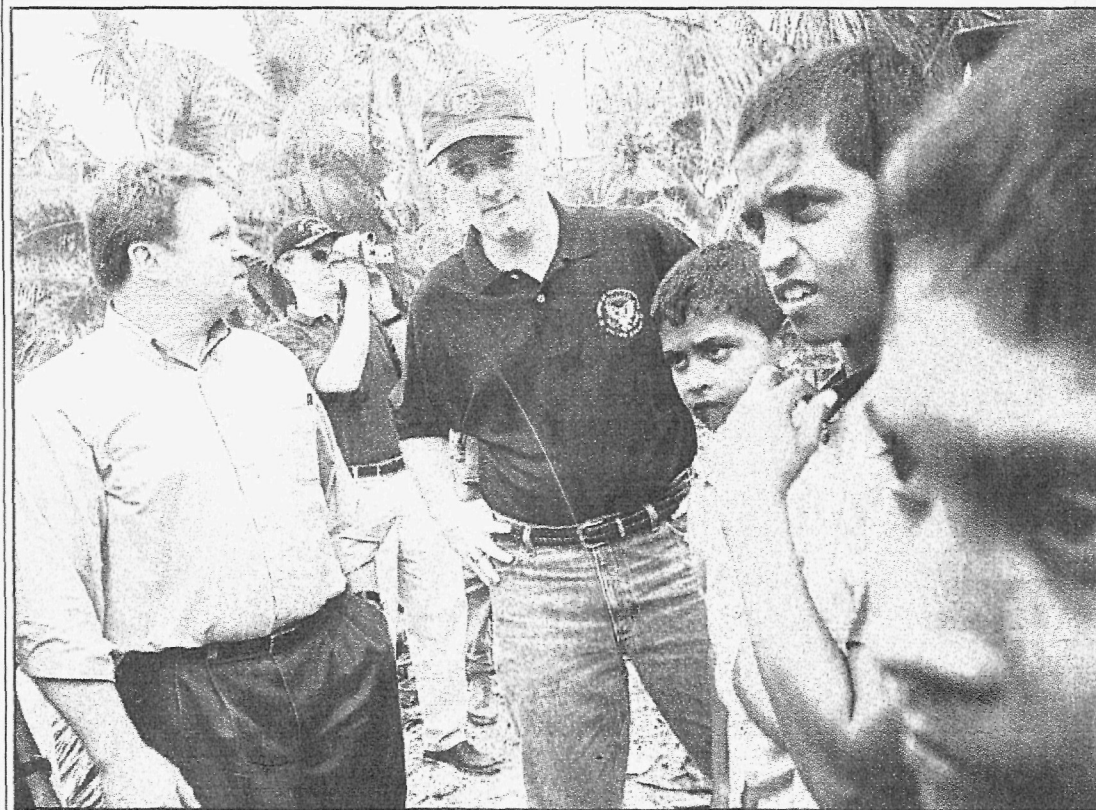
The dream lives on



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Church honors King's legacy

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, left, pastor of North Stelton A.M.E. Church in Piscataway, was keynote speaker for the Piscataway Civil Rights Advisory Commission's annual program honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Held Sunday, the program included the music performed by the church's choir, pictured above. The theme of this year's memorial was "Embracing the Vision — Developing the Dream."



MATT RAINEY/THE STAR-LEDGER

Getting a first-hand look at the damage caused by the Dec. 26 Tsunami in Sri Lanka are U.S. Reps. Mike Ferguson, R-7th, center, and Chris Smith, R-4th.

New Jersey delegation gets look at tsunami devastation

By RICK CORNEJO
Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — New Jersey Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-7th, recently back from touring tsunami-devastated South Asia, is calling for an increase in aid to the region.

"This disaster is biblical in proportions," Ferguson said after returning from a six-day trip to the region. "I couldn't get over the extent and totality of the devastation in Indonesia."

Ferguson was one of several elected New Jersey officials who toured the wide-ranging region, including Sen. Jon Corzine, Rep. Frank Pallone, D-6th and Rep. Chris Smith, R-5th.

"What I couldn't get over is everything was absolutely

smashed to smithereens," he added. "The only way you could tell there had been houses are the concrete slabs they had set on were left behind."

"It was a real indication of the force and power of the tsunami."

Ferguson said the farm fields in the affected area are choked with debris, further hurting the survivors.

"It will take them years to clean out those fields," he said.

Currently, President George W. Bush has pledged \$350 million in U.S. aid to the region.

"That number will go far higher," Ferguson said.

"America, at the end of the day, will be the biggest contributor. We are an extremely

generous nation," added the Central New Jersey congressman.

Ferguson, whose congressional district includes Somerset County, said he also wants to make sure the aid goes to helping the region rebuild its economy and help the affected nations become more prosperous.

Ferguson said money is set aside for foreign and natural disaster aid every year. He estimates the aid for the tsunami victims will deplete the natural disaster aid fund.

"It will have to be replenished," Ferguson said.

Congress also recently approved legislation allowing taxpayers who make charita-

Sleep Center helps with sleepless nights

By ADAM HOCHRON
Staff Writer

When doctors first suggested Carol Campbell have a sleep study done two years ago, she spent a sleepless night wired from head to toe in a cold hospital room where she found the people unwelcoming.

But on Nov. 27, 2004, Campbell, who just turned 50, had her first experience of a night at the Sleep Center at Somerset Medical Center, which she hopes will help her begin a new chapter in her life.

"It was wonderful," Campbell said. "I can't say anything bad about it compared to the other place."

Campbell said not only was the test better, but the surroundings were as well.

"The people there were attentive and funny and laughing so it was a good experience," she said. "I felt relaxed and not nervous."

Campbell is one of over 900 people who have visited the medical center's Sleep Center since it opened to see if they are one of more than 18 million people who suffer from sleep disorders, which are only now starting to gain national prominence.

National attention

The dangers of sleep apnea became the focus of national attention after the death of National Football League player Reggie White. Medical examiners ruled that his death was the result of sleep apnea.

"Mr. White's premature and sad death is a sad reminder of the toll that is taken by this prevalent condition," explained Dr. Michael J. Sateia, president of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. "However, this disorder is readily treatable."

The academy estimates that between 15 and 20 million Americans suffer from some form of sleep apnea.

This is the first of a two-part series looking at sleep apnea, which affects between 15 and 20 million Americans, those who suffer with it and those who try to treat it. Coming next week: A personal account on living with sleep apnea.

Additionally, men are twice as likely as women to have obstructive sleep apnea.

According to Sateia, obstructive sleep apnea is most easily recognized by several symptoms.

"Loud snoring and daytime sleepiness, manifest primarily by drowsiness and involuntary dozing in sedentary situations, are the primary indicators of obstructive sleep apnea," he said.

Scary nights

Dr. Carol Ash of the Sleep Center at Somerset Medical Center compared sleep apnea to trying to sleep while someone is trying to choke you.

"It generates a huge amount of pressure making it harder for the heart to beat," Ash said. "This makes the adrenaline and heart beat go up."

Ash said stressing the importance of treatment is one of the best ways to ensure patients get the help they need.

"The number one reason for noncompliance is because people haven't had the necessity stressed to them that treatment is important," she said. "This isn't just a doctor telling a patient you have to do this, it's a team effort."

The American Sleep Apnea Association Web site defines

Continued on page A2

Continued on page A2

New Jersey delegation gets look at tsunami devastation

Continued from page A1

ble donations this month to aid relief efforts to deduct those donations on their 2004 federal tax returns.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, contributions to tax-exempt charitable organizations that provide assistance to individuals in foreign lands qualify as tax-deductible contributions for federal income tax purposes, provided the U.S. organization has full control and discretion over the uses of the donations.

At least 175,000 people were killed throughout southern Asia and as far away as Africa's eastern coast when the tsunami struck following the Dec. 26 undersea earthquake off the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia.

After two days in Indonesia, Ferguson traveled to the island-nation of Sri Lanka where he said the devastation was not as severe. While in Indonesia he did not get to meet with as many survivors as Sri Lanka, where there was "a lot of personal contact" with

victims.

"That was the really incredible part of the trip," Ferguson said. "I got to spend time with these children we are helping."

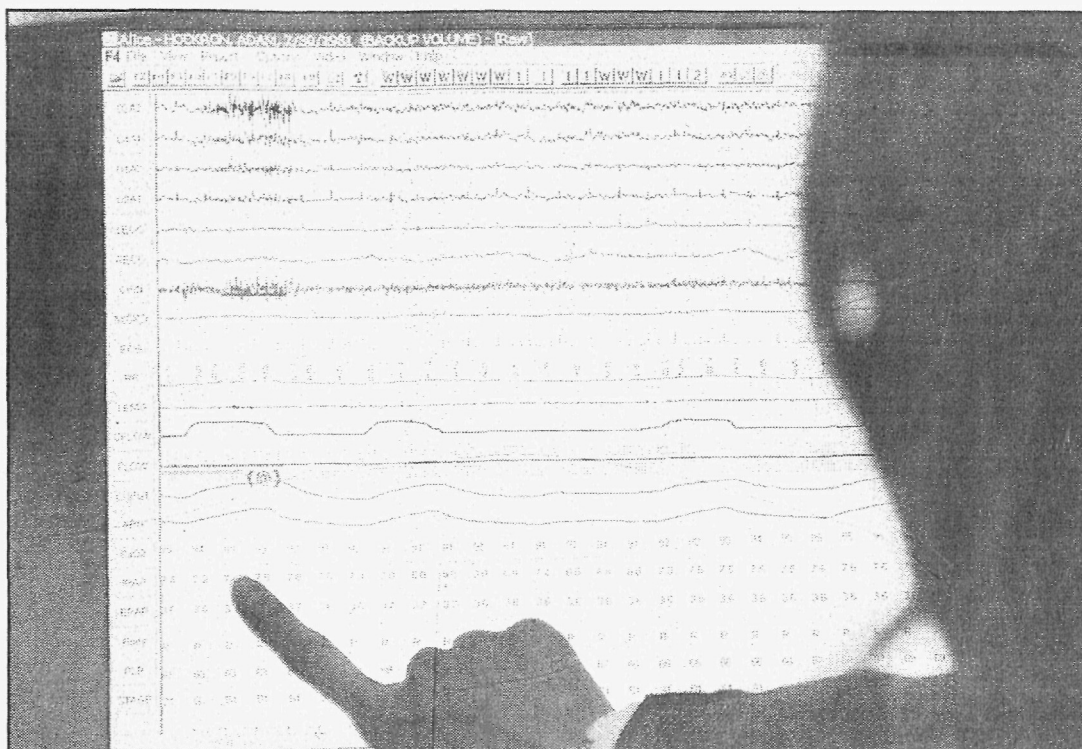
Ferguson toured the city of Galle in the southern region of Sri Lanka and even lent a hand giving out aid to victims.

"Most of the people I talked to had lost someone in their families," he said, noting two young boys he spoke with who had lost their grandparents, father and sister.

"What really struck me is these kids still had hope," Ferguson said. "They had genuine resiliency."

The people of Sri Lanka seemed to very much appreciate the aid pouring in from across the world, the congressman said.

"They seemed to be particularly appreciative of the American marines and military personnel who are rebuilding their school," Ferguson said. "We should be so proud of the men and women who serve in our military. They are America's best ambassadors."



Dr. Carol Ash of the Sleep Center at Somerset Medical Center monitors heartbeat, eye movement and breathing patterns during a staff writer Adam Hochron's stay at the clinic. The data is recorded for further analysis.

GEORGE PACCIOLLO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sleep Center helps with sleepless nights

Continued from page A1

apnea as being the Greek word for "without breath." The three types of apneas are obstructive, central and mixed, which is a combination of both. With all versions, people who are untreated stop breathing while sleeping, sometimes hundreds of times a night for over a minute.

Included in sleep disorders is hypopnea, which is defined as beneath — or less than normal — breath. It isn't the stoppage of breathing, but a reduction, which can have similar affects.

For people with obstructive sleep apnea their airway is blocked, which is usually due to the soft tissue in the back of the throat collapsing. With central apnea there is no blockage but the brain does not communicate with the muscles to ensure normal breathing during sleep. Obstructive is the most common.

Whether by blockage or no communication to the muscles, the brain has to work to resume breathing, which interrupts a person's sleep cycle and can make someone who slept for 12

hours feel like they didn't get any sleep at all, depending on the number of events that occur in a given night.

Factors which can contribute to a person being a candidate for apnea include being male, overweight and over 40.

For those who do suffer from apnea there can be some very serious consequences. It can cause headaches, weight problems, difficulty with short-term memory and other cardiovascular problems. These can also contribute to problems at work and car accidents.

Symptoms can include anything from loud snoring to severe sleepiness, which includes falling asleep at inopportune times.

Familydoctor.org estimates that people with apnea can stop breathing for 10- to 30-seconds at a time and that events can happen up to 400 times per night. Professionals say there are other things that can be done to help treat apnea, including abstaining from alcohol, smoking and sleep medicine.

Daily exhaustion

Jordan Singer is your average 46-year-old business owner. He works long days and at night he needs his sleep. But Singer noticed recently that he wasn't able to sleep at night and would spend most of the day fighting off the urge to doze off.

"I'm a very hyper, gung-ho type of person, so when I'm falling asleep at my desk at two in the afternoon, you know there's a problem and it's time to do something about it," Singer said.

But Singer didn't know what his problem was.

He visited his cardiologist, who decided he should get a sleep study.

"I have always been a terrible sleeper, but over the past six to eight months the amount of time I've been sleeping has been degenerating," he said. "It got to the point where I needed to take Ambien (a sleep medication) just to sleep for an hour or two."

"Eventually it reached a point where I'd be waking up, gasping for air."

But it wasn't just at night when Singer would feel the affects of his lack of sleep.

"My wife and I would drive to the Flemington Outlets, and on the way home I'd absolutely pass out," he said.

The Bridgewater resident said he would also pass out at the end of the day coming home from work, but still couldn't sleep well at night.

Singer said while his doctor suggested the sleep study he was still uncertain about having it done.

During his first night at the center, the staff determined that he needed to be fitted with a mask. The mask, part of a continuous positive airway pressure therapy, covers the mouth and nose to create a continuous flow of air into the mouth, preventing apnea from occurring.

"First they put me in the bed to see if I kept breathing, but within 20 minutes they came in

to tell me I needed the mask," Singer said. "The overnight thing is what worries most people. 'What are these people going to be doing to me?'"

Singer said within a half-hour he began feeling calmer.

"It's a new experience, and a little bit scary using the mask," Singer said. "It was an interesting experience. It's not scary like you think it's going to be."

While the mask helped Singer sleep better in the beginning, he was also sleeping alone.

"My wife slept on the couch because the noise coming from the mask was too much for her to sleep with."

The noise was caused by the mask being losing its seal with Singer's mouth and nose, which resulted in a loud noise as the air rushed out. The mask now fits better, and, Singer said, after only two nights of wearing it, he was already sleeping better than he had in months.

"When I wear it I feel like Tom Cruise in Top Gun and that people should call me Maverick," he joked.

Varied treatments

Edward Grandi, executive director of the American Sleep Apnea Association, said there are many treatments for apnea. Some of them are less appealing than others, and not all guaranteed to be effective.

On the surgical end there is a procedure known as UBBB, where doctors remove the uvula and other excess tissue with a scalpel or laser.

One of the newest surgical procedures is known as the Pillar Procedure where three small stents are inserted into the soft palate, which keep the back of the throat from collapsing.

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According to Verizon, the company will set aside 5-percent of each enrolled customer's monthly long distance usage to benefit K-12 education in the area.

The Chronicle

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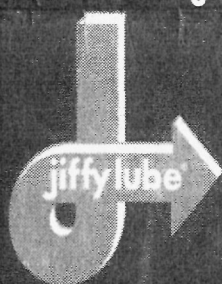
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Hospice reopens in Edison

EDISON — The Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice reopened Jan. 11 during an intimate ceremony that paid tribute to the families whose loved ones received hospice services.

The ceremony also ushered in a new era for the Roosevelt Care Center, which was to open a new long-term care and rehabilitation facility this week. The hospice is on the hospital's grounds in Roosevelt Park.

Families, hospice staff and volunteers joined county, state and local officials at the hospice building, which was moved 300 feet from its original position and totally refurbished.

The building was originally dedicated in 1991 in memory of Cheung, whose late husband served as medical director of Roosevelt Hospital. When plans to construct a new 180-bed rehabilitation and long-term care facility were laid, it was clear the hospice building would have to be moved or torn down and

"The memories, sentiments and feelings associated with this building by so many of our neighbors, over so many years, are irreplaceable."

David Crabiel,
Freeholder Director,
Middlesex County Freeholders

replaced to make room for the new building.

"The memories, sentiments and feelings associated with this building by so many of our neighbors, over so many years, are irreplaceable," said Middlesex County Freeholder Director David Crabiel.

"It was with that thought in mind," he said, "that the (freeholders) agreed to move the hospice intact rather than build a new one or incorporate its services in part of the new 180-bed facility."

Leonard Roseman, chairman of the Middlesex County Improvement Authority, which owns and operates the

hospice, said: "This stand-alone hospice building was created to provide a homelike environment to terminal patients and their loved ones."

"It has been the place where grief was poured out and healing began. The hospice program remains one of the most important services we can provide to the residents of our county and this building offers privacy and respect to all those who go through it."

With its home-based philosophy and interdisciplinary approach, the hospice program involves a team of doctors, nurses, social workers,

chaplains, counselors, home health aides and trained volunteers. Collaboratively they address the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the patient and family, always putting the patient's wishes first.

Patients and their families may choose to receive care at the hospice. People also are served in their homes and in long-term care facilities in the community.

"We have assembled a team of compassionate, dedicated professionals and volunteers who hold the hands, both literally and figuratively, of the residents and families who come here," said Frank Damiani, who oversees hospice operations as director of resident care for the Roosevelt Care Center.

"Our staff and volunteers help our residents face death with dignity and comfort and assist their families through one of the most difficult passages in life," he said.

For more information, call (732) 321-6800.

★★★Police Log★★★

MIDDLESEX

Flannery Construction reported a theft of copper pipes from a fenced storage yard located on Egel Avenue between Jan. 9 and 10, police said.

Someone cut a hole in a chain link fence to gain entry into the yard. The copper is valued at \$200, police said.

The theft was reported at 8:25 a.m. Jan. 10 and Cpl. Jeffrey Dugan investigated.

BobCat of Central Jersey, located on Lincoln Boulevard, reported the theft of a vehicle door at 8:38 a.m. Jan. 10, police said.

The theft occurred between Jan. 7 and Jan. 10. Police reported that someone removed a steel frame and glass door from a BobCat skid steer loader model S250. The door is valued at \$710. Off. Craig Comiskey investigated.

Two students from Middlesex High School reported a theft of property from a locker at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 11, police said.

A 15-year-old female reported that a compact disc player along with four CD's valued at \$75 were taken from her locker. Another student, a 14-year-old female, reported that a digital camera valued at \$299 was also taken out of the same locker. The theft occurred on the morning of Jan. 10. Off. Craig Comiskey investigated.

Police link man with past holdups

BOUND BROOK — A man who held up a service station last week is reportedly linked to four holdups over the holidays.

According to a release from the Somerset County prosecutor's office, the suspect came to the Middlebrook Exxon station on West Union Avenue around 8:45 p.m. Jan. 10. He pulled a gun from a black backpack and demanded money from the attendant on duty.

The suspect was a white man age 20-24 wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt, dark jacket and blue bandana, according to the release. He took the money from the attendant and ran south on Vosseller Avenue. Bound Brook police searched the neighborhood with no results.

According to the prosecutor's office, the suspect fits the description of a man who committed four robberies in Manville between Dec. 19 and Jan. 3. A convenience store, ice cream shop, auto parts store and sports cards shop were targeted in those holdups, according to the release.

Anyone with information is asked to call Bound Brook police at (732) 356-0800, Manville police at (908) 725-1900 or the county prosecutor's office at (908) 575-3300.

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Commentary

A question of green

Since the dawn of the age of rapid development in Central Jersey, the definition of open space has been in a constant state of flux. Or, more accurately, it was defined by the individual.

What was one resident's parkland was another's open field.

In 1994, Somerset County, at the forefront of controlling development and preserving open land in New Jersey, took a bold step and created 3-cent open space preservation tax. That tax today brings some \$14 million annually into the fund.

Back in 1994, the county set a goal to protect 10,500 acres and today more than 9,500 acres is protected from development. Setting the bar higher, in 2000 the county Park Commission unveiled a new master plan calling for 20,500 acres to be protected.

Now, with thousands of acres of land protected, the inevitable question has been raised: What do we do with all this open space?

The park commission is in the middle of creating a capital facilities master plan, and when the Freeholders got together for their annual reorganization meeting, one idea was to ask voters if they would support using Somerset County Open Space Trust Fund money to do capital improvement projects in county parks.

The question could be put to voters in

November.

And it's not an easy one to answer.

When it comes to adding to its stockpile of open space, the county has some bold goals, which will take money. It also has a large tract of land that came with the purchase of the Natirar property in Peapack-Gladstone on which to create a county park. And, for sure, managers at each of the county's existing parks have a long list of improvements they would like to see at their facilities. All of which will require money.

Dipping into the \$14 million pot to make improvements to present parks and help develop some of the new purchases is just what is needed to help maintain the delicate balance between preservation for its own sake, and preservation for the greater good of the area.

As is often the case, simply preserving land is not enough to maintain the support of those funding the purchase, particularly if they live somewhere in the county where less land has been preserved.

There has to be some intrinsic value — a sense of ownership — and that stewardship comes through people actually using the land, be it for biking and hiking or playing tennis, if they are going to see the value in protecting it.

Let's hope the freeholders understand this, and place the question before voters in November.

Can't someone help?

On Tuesday night the Freeholders tabled a proposal to approve a \$214,600 plant management contract.

Plants, as in the green, leafy kind. The contract called for Corporate Landscape Specialists of Clayton to install and maintain the planters and plants in the Somerset County Administration building and the prosecutor's building for three years.

That's \$71,533 per year. Even if the contractor stuffs 1,000 plants into the boxes, we're talking \$71.50 per plant. Just how expensive is it to buy some plants, fertilize, prune and water them? Or better yet, to hire a full-time person to do the work and buy the plants from a local landscaper?

Those were the questions the freeholders asked themselves, and what ultimately lead them to consider altering — or throwing out

— the contract.

Before the meeting the question had been raised about getting volunteers from local 4-H Clubs or students from Rutgers Cooperative Extension, which helps oversee area 4-H's, to do the work, but the answer was the work was too labor intensive and needed to be done on a weekly basis.

At its core isn't the 4-H a place where youth can learn about responsibility through working with plants and animals — something that takes a daily commitment?

And what about the county's own Parks Department? Yes, there is a lot of parkland that needs daily maintenance, but sparing an employee a few hours a week certainly has to be less expensive than \$71,533 a year.

Letters to the Editor

Public has say in wildlife control

To The Editor:

Hunters bemoan that the Fish and Game Council is attacked via bill A-2852. This restructures the council with animal welfare representatives and a committee for non-lethal management.

In 1963 Dr. Paul Tillett stated that the hunters and farmers were given oversight of wildlife because of the "indifference of the public." Hunters and farmers have dramatically declined and the public is no longer indifferent. Thus the current council is obsolete.

Farmlands have been replaced by suburban sprawl owned by many, yet we have no say how the wildlife on our properties is managed. We are subjugated by biased hunters and farmers with a penchant for killing.

The Division of Fish &

Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council boast that wildlife is under their scientific management. True science is impassionate. Consider the bias of hunters and farmers and you have slanted science. They are invested in species overpopulation for the game code or to extend bag limits and seasons. Pheasants are bred for overpopulation and hunting. Most council members have no academic credentials and qualify by just being hunters or farmers.

Hunting does not save taxpayers. Decades of managing deer for maximum proliferation has put the burden on taxpayers via community-based deer management. Taxpayers pay \$225 to \$1,000 per deer to be removed by sharpshooters, equally ineffective as deer management.

By law the Supreme Court had to block the bear hunt. Title 13:1B-28 states "comprehensive policies" be in place (none exist for bears) and policies are "subject to the approval of the commissioner." Hunters celebrated the law when they believed it protected the council's autonomy to make all wildlife decisions.

The hunters are losing control of wildlife management in New Jersey and for sound reasons. They have lost credibility, have lost the respect of the citizenry, have been exposed as pseudo-scientists and are ruttin in the killing heritage from which the world has evolved.

Write your assembly representatives in support of A-2852.

JANET PISZAR
Millburn



Donations help United Way help

To The Editor:

As we begin a new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank the greater Somerset County community for their many gifts of caring in 2004.

Donations to the Somerset County United Way Community Care Fund made it possible for our organization to provide critical financial support for 94 health and human services programs through our 55 affiliated agencies in 2004. Thousands of individuals and families received nourishing food, had access to legal assistance or received help in finding or maintaining housing for themselves and their families. At-risk teens and those recovering from substance abuse received supportive counseling. And, hundreds of seniors were able to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalized care.

These are just some of the ways that lives that been changed for the better thanks to your gift to United Way.

Your support has also enabled Somerset County United Way to reach out to the community in new and innovative ways.

The John G. Locke DDS Pediatric Dental program, a partnership between United Way and the Food Bank Network of Somerset County, debuted in 2004. This program works to identify and provide dental care to young children of low-income families.

United Way's youth mini grant program has helped to enrich the lives of students throughout the county. Thirty-four P.E.A.C.E. grants were awarded to 22 schools in 14 school districts and 21 mini grants of up to \$1,000 each were awarded to youth organizations. These grants made possible programs that encouraged artistic pursuit, allowed students to interact with and learn from senior citizens, offered the opportunity to experience other cultures

and encouraged young people to adopt healthy lifestyles. Each grant included a service component, requiring the students to undertake a project that would give back to the community.

And, United Way's community programs broke new records in 2004, not just in the number of recipients as we continue to see an increase in need, but also in the number of donors, volunteers, businesses and service organizations that provided support year 'round.

More than 5,300 baby care items, such as blankets, clothing, formula, diapers and more, were collected and distributed to low-income new and expectant mothers in our area through the Baby Bundles program.

In April, 445 volunteers assisted 26 conservation, environmental education, animal welfare and other nonprofit agencies with 38 projects in observance of Earth Day.

During the summer months, more than 25,800 new school supplies and items of clothing, worth an estimated \$61,765, were collected and distributed to 3,600 elementary and middle school children of low-income families at 39 schools throughout Somerset County.

At United Way's Day of Caring in September, more than 1,770 volunteers turned out to help 81 nonprofit agencies with 163 different projects. This was followed in October by more than 100 youth volunteers who helped eight local agencies for Youth Make a Difference Day.

In November, families took center stage, with more than 350 volunteers of all ages who spent a Sunday afternoon helping with 19 projects at National Family Volunteer Day.

Students and youth groups did their part by collecting more than 5,000 winter coats through the Wrapped in Love

program.

And, most recently, our Gifts of the Season program broke all previous records. In its 14th year, this partnership between United Way, the Food Bank Network of Somerset County and the Somerset County Board of Social Services, provided holiday gifts to more than 4,770 low-income families and individuals. More than 10,000 gifts were donated by employees and members of 102 local businesses and service organizations.

This ability to design programs and build partnerships to address the specific needs of our community is what makes United Way unique. But throughout this process, our most important resource remains the same — you.

Thanks to our volunteers and an effective use of resources, more than 88 cents of every dollar donated to this United Way supports programs that provide food and shelter, quality child and elder care, emergency services, youth development, healthcare services and more. Thanks to you, Somerset County United Way remains an effective and vital catalyst for change. For additional information on how you can help your community through United Way or one of our 55 affiliated agencies, visit www.somersetonline.org or call (908) 725-6640.

On behalf of the thousands of people who were helped in 2004 by your financial gift or your gift of volunteer service, the entire Somerset County United Way Board of Trustees and the dedicated United Way staff wish to offer our sincere thanks. I am proud to live in such a caring community — Somerset County, a great place to live, work and volunteer!

JOHN GRAF JR.,

Chair, Somerset County United Way Board of Trustees

Fast Track law needs to be repealed by acting governor

The New Year brings a fresh start. For New Jersey's Acting Governor, Richard Codey, it's a chance to do much good for New Jersey's environment. So just what can he do?

First and foremost, he can repeal the damaging Fast Track Act!

As a trade-off for the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, the State Legislature passed a so called 'smart growth' act to make it easier to build in areas targeted for future growth. But in reality, the act 'fast tracks' development for much of the state, threatening to drastically compromise existing environmental, health and due process standards.

Before leaving office, then-Governor James McGreevey slowed down the start of Fast Track for six months. A group of State Senators and Assemblymen also drafted a bill to repeal Fast Track. If he does nothing else for New Jersey in 2005, Acting Governor Codey must work with these Legislators and others to pass the repeal before New Jersey is placed on the fast track to more sprawl!

Acting Governor Codey can accept Citgo's offer to clean up and donate Petty's Island in Pennsauken Township, Camden

County, for a new urban park.

The last bit of open space in the region, and the fourth largest island in the Delaware River, Petty's Island is home to nesting bald eagles, as well as endangered and non-endangered wildlife.

Pennsauken Township, however, is backing a development plan for 700 homes, a hotel and conference center and a golf course on the island, and is threatening to condemn the land. Governor Codey can short-circuit these development plans, save an environmental treasure for the region around Camden and Philadelphia, and create a legacy along the lines of Liberty State Park in Jersey City!

And Petty's Island highlights the need for better rules to preserve endangered species. Would you believe that in the 30 years since New Jersey passed a law protecting endangered species, a complete set of rules to implement the law has never been issued? Draft rules exist, and Acting Governor Codey can release them for public review and adoption.

Acting Governor Codey can protect forest habitat by fixing our Farmland Assessment Program. Currently, farmland assessment rules treat forests

as agricultural crops and encourage the cutting of timber, frequently resulting in lost biodiversity and native plant regeneration. New rules would encourage better forest stewardship and habitat restoration.

Lastly, the Acting Governor can implement the State Plan. Former Governors, including Kean, Florio, Whitman, DiFrancesco and McGreevey took steps towards bringing state agency policies and programs in closer alignment with our smart growth State Development and Redevelopment Plan, but much more could be done to make sure the State Plan has an impact on sprawl.

These actions would dramatically improve New Jersey's environment for 2005, and ultimately make for a better quality of life for New Jerseyans. What better legacy could a governor hope for?

I hope you'll contact me at (888) LAND-SAVE or info@njconservation.org or visit NJCF's Web site at www.njconservation.org. For more information about conserving New Jersey's precious land and natural resources,

Michele S. Byers represents the New Jersey Conservation Foundation

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The Chronicle is here for you

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

Call editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6694 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.

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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 Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6694.

George Plesa Sr.; Bound Brook mayor

BOUND BROOK — George Plesa Sr., mayor of this borough from 1980-83, died Jan. 15 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville at age 74.

He also was on the Bound Brook Borough Council and the Bound Brook Board of Health. Mr. Plesa was a butcher at the A&P supermarket in Middlesex for 46 years and retired in 1997. He spent 20 years on the executive board of United Food and Commercial

Workers Local 464.

A member of American Legion Post 63 for 33 years, he was in the Navy from 1948-49 and the Naval Reserve from 1949-55.

Mr. Plesa was born May 27, 1930 in Manville, a son of the late Michael and Anna Plesa, and had lived in Bound Brook since 1951. He was a member of St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough.

Two brothers, John and

Michael, and a sister, Sue Bodnarchuk, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Elizabeth Magalak Plesa; a daughter, Beverly of Eatontown; a son, George Jr. of Brick; and a sister, Ann Wirzman of Hillsborough.

Services were held Thursday at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home, followed by a Divine Liturgy at St. Mary's Church. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hillsborough.

Joseph DiMura

MIDDLESEX — Joseph T. DiMura, 79, died Jan. 9, 2005 at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank.

He was born in Middlesex and lived in the borough all his life.

Mr. DiMura was the co-owner of DiMura Auto Rebuilding in Middlesex from 1953-80 and its president as well. He then worked for the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department and retired in 1991.

He was a member of the American Legion in Middlesex, the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Manville and the Tri-County

Senior Citizens Club. Mr. DiMura was a former member of the Elks Lodge in Middlesex.

As a veteran of World War II and the Korean War he saw combat with the Navy, Merchant Marine, Army Air Corps and paratroopers.

His wife, Marian Thompson DiMura, and a daughter, MaryAnn Walsh, died in 1993. Two brothers, Bobby and Jimmy, are deceased.

Surviving are two sons, John of Somerville and Jesse and wife Corky of Edgewood, Md.; three daughters, Barbara Eibes and husband John of

Middlesex, Nancy Prudente and husband Ron of Deltona, Fla., and Sandra Mosher and husband Dean of Stroudsburg, Pa.; a brother, Jerry of Green Brook; two sisters, Mary Scotti of Sea Girt and Grace McDonough of Middlesex; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Jan. 15 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church, of which Mr. DiMura was a member. Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery, East Millstone.

Arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home in Dunellen.

Geno Yannetta

BOUND BROOK — Geno Yannetta, 66, died Jan. 15, 2005 at his home in Somerville.

Mr. Yannetta was born in Catlettsburg, Ky. He lived in Forney, Texas, and Bound Brook before moving to Somerville in 1985.

He was a painter for 16 years with the Somerset County Division of Facilities and Services. A graduate of Bound Brook High School, Mr. Yannetta was a member of Eagles Aerie 2137 in Bridgewater and American Legion Post 12 in Somerville.

His father, Joseph, is deceased.

Surviving are his mother, Blanche Allemen of Somerville; a son, Joseph of Dunellen; four brothers, James Williams, Glenn, Joseph and David; and five sisters, Pattie Saraceni, Donna Brzezienski, Kathy Jones, Jannett Moscano and Barbara.

A memorial service was held Jan. 19 at the Cusick Funeral Home in Somerville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, 195 Little Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Thomas Kumbatovic

PISCATAWAY — Thomas J. Kumbatovic, 65, died Jan. 8, 2005 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Mass.

He was born in New York City and lived in Piscataway before moving over 30 years ago to San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. Kumbatovic was the chief financial officer of Pacific Growth Equities in San Francisco for 12 years. He was an Air Force veteran and a former member of St. Frances Cabrini Roman

Catholic Church.

Surviving are his companion, Aaron Laabs; his mother, Teresa; two sisters, Helen Fette and Elizabeth A. Kozlowski; a brother, Robert; three nieces and a nephew.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Raritan. Entombment was in the St. Bernard Mausoleum, Bridgewater.

Arrangements were by the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville.

Martha Golembeski

BOUND BROOK — Martha Golembeski, 87, died Jan. 10, 2005 at Harborside Healthcare-Woods Edge in Bridgewater.

Born May 15, 1917 in Bayonne, she was a daughter of the late Anthony and Elizabeth Zuchowski.

Mrs. Golembeski had lived in Bound Brook since 1952. She was a member of the Catholic War Veterans Ladies Auxiliary and also the Altar Rosary Society at St. Mary of

Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband of 27 years, Stephen "Tippy," died in 1979.

Surviving are a sister, Jane Siaweleski of Carolina Shores, N.C.; three nieces and two nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Jan. 14 at St. Mary of Czestochowa Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bridgewater.

Margaret Starnick

PISCATAWAY — Margaret Gallagher Starnick, 67, died Jan. 4, 2005 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Starnick was born in Avoca, Pa. She lived in Newark, Hillside and Piscataway before moving in 1992 to Little River, S.C.

She was a purchasing administrator for four years with Siemens Corp. in Piscataway. Mrs. Starnick earlier was a payroll clerk with the Prudential Insurance Co. in Iselin.

She was a member of the Women's Club of Piscataway; the Junior Women's Club of

Piscataway; and the prayer group at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church, in Middlesex.

Her husband, George, died in 2000.

Surviving are four daughters, Theresa Liland of Piscataway, Anne Cooke of Conway, S.C., Elizabeth King of Middlesex and Joan DeBiase and husband Joseph of Manville; a son, Raymond of South Plainfield; a sister, Mary Reginald Quinn of Little River; two grandchildren; and a lifelong friend, Barbara Watson of Piscataway. Services were held Jan. 8.

Sherry Lynn Hughes

DUNELLEN — Sherry Lynn Talada Hughes, 57, died Jan. 13, 2005 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born Nov. 22, 1947 in Somerville and lived in Dunellen for most of her life.

Ms. Hughes graduated from Dunellen High School in 1965 and was an executive secretary with Bell Labs in Murray Hill.

She attended the First Presbyterian Church.

Her mother, Muriel A. Reger Talada, died in 1998.

Surviving are her father, Bernard L. Talada Jr., with whom Ms. Hughes lived; a daughter, Kelly Hughes Gomez of Albuquerque, N.M.; and two grandchildren.

Services were held Jan. 17 at the Mundy Funeral Home.

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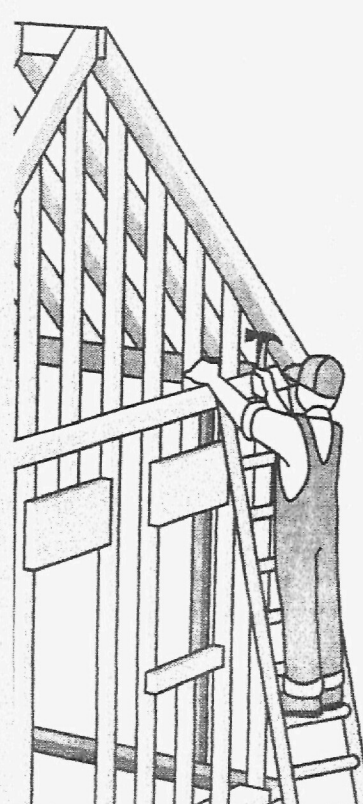
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Military News

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Vrajesh I. Patel** has arrived for duty at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. He is a radiologic apprentice assigned to the 5th Medical Support Squadron.

He is the cousin of Jagat R. Patel of Edison.

Marine Corps 1st Lt. **Richard M. Zjawin**, son of Chong and Walter Zjawin of Metuchen, participated with more than 2,100 Marines and sailors assigned to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) in the 15,000 service-member sweep of Fallujah.

Zjawin is currently working to ensure security and stability in the cities of Kandari and Nasar Wa Salam.

Members of Zjawin's unit have conducted more than 120 patrols, 13 platoon-reinforced raids and a

company-reinforced search of Kandari. Most importantly, they insured that the 1st Marine Division did not have to worry about its rear supply routes and communications during the fight in Fallujah.

Zjawin is a 1997 graduate of Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison. He joined the Marine Corps in June 1998.

Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice **Shannon J. Helly**, daughter of Alexandra F. and Brian J. Helly of Metuchen, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May.

During the eight-week training program, Helly completed a vigorous training curriculum consisting of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival,



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Forum Theatre Company of Metuchen presents "The People Garden" for one performance only 11 a.m. today. Written and directed by Paul Armento, the production is a musical that resonates with the adage "Everything I ever needed to know I learned in kindergarten." A substitute teacher and her class experience a day of havoc and fun as the children discover many important lessons including getting along with others, telling the truth, and accepting things that cannot be changed. Catchy songs, funny skits, lively choreography, and dynamic characters make this show enjoyable for young and old. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$10, with discounts for groups of 20 or more, and can be ordered by calling (732) 548-0582. The theatre is located at 314 Main St. For additional information, visit www.forumtheatrecompany.com.

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School holds open house

BOUND BROOK — Holy Family Academy will be having an open house from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 5.

Registration packages for the 2005-2006 school year will be available. All parents and children are welcome to attend classes in session, tour the school, meet the principal and talk with parents of currently enrolled students.

Holy Family Academy educates children in grades Pre-K through 8th grade from over

20 central New Jersey towns. It offers half-day and full-day pre-school, full day kindergarten, after school care and early drop-off.

Registration for all grade levels is open until March 31 and then will be subject to availability by class.

The school, located at 120 East Second Street, can be contacted at (732) 356-1151 for further information. For additional information, also visit www.hfawildcats.com.

Campus Notes

Two area students have graduated from Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa. Receiving their degrees at fall commencement exercises Dec. 18:

James C. Pollex of 321 Grandview Ave., Piscataway, bachelor's degree in speech communication.

Melissa A. Riccio of 500 Blue Ridge Ave., Piscataway, bachelor's degree in speech communication.

Bianca S. Taylor of Piscataway was named to the honors list for the fall 2004 semester at Virginia State University in Petersburg, Va. She is majoring in biology.

Christopher Chao of Edison has received a four-year dean's academic scholarship to attend LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas. The son of Mr. & Mrs. James Chao attends the Timothy Christian School in Piscataway.

Edward Powers, a teacher at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, was named an Unsung Hero by Saint Michael's College of Vermont. **Wayne Youngmans**, a graduate of St. Joseph High School and a student at Saint Michaels, nominated Powers for the award.

Come celebrate at Wardlaw-Hartridge!



Wardlaw-Hartridge students celebrate the completion of our new Middle School

Admission Reception
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Saturday, January 22nd, 2005
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Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:10A-1, at public auction on: Jan. 28th, 2005 @ 10 AM at 2460 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the South Plainfield Police Dept. through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same. The motor vehicles may be examined at: Contact: Traffic Safety S.P. P.D.

YEAR	MAKE	VIN#	STATUS	DESC.	MIN. BID
1988	Chev.	1GCB514E0J2148878	Resale	S10	\$1500.00
1986	Volvo	YV1FX8847G2012361	Resale	4Dr.	\$2000.00
1990	Toyota	J72AT6F4L0018367	Resale	Celica	\$2500.00
1994	Toyota	J72EL43S3R0464116	Resale	Tercel	\$2400.00
1996	GMC	1GTCS1444TK521774	Resale	Sonoma	\$2200.00
1989	Dodge	J8TF24D2XPC16984	Resale	D50 Ram	\$2500.00
1993	Chry.	1C3YA3630PP670816	Resale	LeBaron	\$2000.00
1990	Ford	1FMEU15N8LLB24312	Resale	Bronco	\$1800.00
1992	Chev.	J81RF436S7536675	Junk	Storm	\$2000.00
1985	Ford	1FTBR10A4FJC25200	Junk	Ranger	\$1800.00
1986	Cad.	1G6CD47564203690	Junk	Deville	\$2000.00
1992	Toyota	4T1W1K12E8NU003232	Junk	Camry	\$1700.00

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Karl W. Schaefer
Traffic Safety Officer
B22 1T 1/22/05

\$19.72

NJ DOT NOTICE

SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:35-1 et seq., in the NJDOT MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, until 10:00 A.M. on 2/10/2005 and opened and read for.

ROUTE 130 OVER MAE BROOK, CONTRACT NO. 080993030, PARTIAL CULVERT REPLACEMENT, NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP, MIDDLESEX

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Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, Business Registration, proof of valid business registration shall be submitted by a bidder with its bid proposal at the time of bid for 100% State funded projects.

Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act," N.J.S. 34:11-56.46 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. Drawings, specifications, and bid documents may be inspected or obtained for a fee of \$22.00, for full size drawings, at the NJDOT Engineering and Operations Bldg., 1st floor, Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08626 during business hours. Names and addresses of prospective bidders for this project may be acquired by telephoning 609-530-8585 during business hours. Their fax number is 609-530-4503.

Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Steril Court
Mt. Arlington, NJ
973-770-5141

Route 79 and Daniels Way
Freehold, NJ
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1 Executive Campus Rt 70 West
Cherry Hill, NJ

MIDDLESEX BOROUGH
In compliance with the "Open Public Meeting Law" P.L.

\$5.10

1975 C231, the following schedule is set for the meetings of Mayor and Council for the year 2005:

January 4, 11, 25	July 12, 26
February 1, 8, 22	August 2, 9, 23
March 1, 8, 22, 29	September 13, 27
April 12, 26	October 4, 11, 25
May 3, 10, 24	November 1, 22
June 14, 28	December 6, 13, 27

Agenda meetings commence at 7:00 p.m. on the first, second, and fourth Tuesday of the month in concurrence with the above dates.

Public meetings commence at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in concurrence with the above dates.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Anello, RMC
Borough Clerk

\$8.50

B21 1T 1/22/05

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK PLANNING BOARD

The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application (#16-04) by Mendez, with respect to property located at 408 East Main Street (Lot 7.01, Block 12). The property is located in the B-2 zone.

The relief sought was waiver of formal site plan requirements for change of use from chiropractic to accounting and travel services.

The application was approved as to substance on October 28, 2004 and approved as to form on January 13, 2005.

\$5.10

B23 1T 1/22/05

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Sports

Saturday, January 22, 2005

Unbeaten Dunellen rolls to ninth victory

Even without the usual big numbers from Todd DeNapoli, Dunellen High's basketball team still had more than enough to remain perfect for the season.

Going against Perth Amboy Vo-Tech in GMC-Gold Division play the Destroyers pushed their record to 9-0 for the season and 5-0 in division play by using a 26-10 second-quarter showing to open a 41-15 halftime lead and cruise to a 66-44 victory Tuesday night.

While DeNapoli, the club's top scorer, was limited to 10 points to go with 10 assists, there was plenty of production elsewhere, including a 17-point outburst by Kyle Lendach in the second period for all of his points. Tim Sweeney finished with 15 points and eight rebounds, and Dean Hoski added 12 points.

Cardinal McCarrick 65, Metuchen 52 — In a GMC-Blue Division battle Tuesday night the Blue Jays went up against Cardinal McCarrick (9-3), which was leading the division at 5-0, and saw a 10-point third-quarter lead erased by 17-0 run and they could not recover.

Jerry Nichols connected for 15 points to lead Metuchen, which slipped to 9-3 for the season, while Jon Brown and Marcus Blakely followed with nine and eight points, respectively.

John F. Kennedy 61, Middlesex 48 — Outscored in each period including 20-14 in the third the Blue Jays could not

keep pace with Kennedy (3-7) in GMC-Blue Division action Monday night.

Jabree Sunkins was really the only Middlesex player to have an effective night scoring-wise and the junior dropped in 15 points to share game-high honors with Mustangs' Cory Rosenbaum. The loss dropped the Blue Jays to 3-8 for the campaign.

Dayton 65, Bound Brook 58 — After digging themselves a hole at halftime when they were down 37-10 the Crusaders made things interesting in the fourth quarter with a 23-13 showing but it wasn't enough against Dayton (5-4) Tuesday night in MVC-Valley Division play.

Julio Rodriguez paced Bound Brook, which fell to 1-7 for the year, with 16 points, while Marek Marszalek followed with 15 points and added five assists and five steals. Matt Malesurgo chipped in with 13 points while grabbing 21 cars.

Paterson Catholic 69, South Plainfield 53 — After using a 14-4 run in the third period to take a 38-32 lead the Tigers were outscored 37-15 the rest of the way as Paterson Catholic (7-3) used its superior height advantage to wear down South Plainfield and earn a victory in the Freedom Fighters Hoops Challenge Monday night in Paterson.

In falling to 9-3 for the season the Tigers wasted a combined 41-point performance from Marquis Jones (21) and

BOYS BASKETBALL

Darren Smith. Kimmani Barrett poured in a game-high 26 points to lead the winners, who improved to 7-3.

South Brunswick 64, Piscataway 41 — Falling behind 20-9 after eight minutes and then 42-19 at halftime the Chiefs were never in their showdown of undefeated GMC-Red Division clubs Monday night as South Brunswick rolled to its 11th victory in 12 starts and moved to 7-0 in division play.

Brandon Wilkinson dropped in 17 points to lead Piscataway, which slipped to 9-4 on the season and 6-1 in Red play. Dwayne Gratz followed with 10 points and Kent Scriven had nine, but the Chiefs' leading scorer Rodney Freeney was limited to two points.

Metuchen 79, Edison 62 — Building a 47-39 advantage heading in the final session Metuchen pulled away with a 32-24 fourth-quarter showing to earn a GMC cross-over victory over neighboring Edison Saturday to earn its eighth victory.

Marcus Blakely turned in huge effort for the Bulldogs by dropped in 22 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, while Kevin Rush followed with 15 points by converting 10 of 13 from the foul line. Metuchen also had five other players score at least seven points led by Lamar Nichols's nine.

Sean Oganhoiki paced the Eagles with 16 points, while Nick Reider and Kyle Ringer finished with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

North Hunterdon 53, J.P. Stevens 51 — Taking on North Hunterdon in non-conference play Saturday the Hawks battled back from a five-point deficit in the final minutes but surrendered the winning points on a rebound with 11 seconds left and then missed a layup that would have tied the game.

Andrew Biancosino drained a three for the final points in a team-high 16-point night and Jason Callender, who had 10 points, followed with a basket with 35 seconds to go as Stevens forged a 51-51 deadlock, but Kevin Kitching won it for the Lions. Ryan Washing had 12 points for the Hawks.

North Brunswick 55, Piscataway 53 — After erasing a 33-24 deficit with nine straight points — five by Ryan Shea — to end the third quarter the Chiefs could not finish it off and dropped a GMC inter-divisional to improving New Brunswick (5-5) Saturday in overtime.

Rodney Freeney tossed in 16 points to lead the Chiefs, who committed a turnover with 23 seconds left in OT with the game tied at 53-53, while Kent Scriven and Dwayne Gratz finished with 10 points apiece.

New Providence 85, Bound Brook 47 — Falling behind 45-23 at halftime the

Crusaders could not keep pace with 7-1 New Providence in Valley Division play Saturday. Julio Rodriguez accounted for the bulk of the Bound Brook offense with a 21-point effort.

Bishop Ahr 54, Middlesex 37 — The Blue Jays found themselves in a 19-10 hole after eight minutes and could not recover in dropping Blue Division game to Bishop Ahr (5-3) Jan. 14. Robbie Tolomeo collected 16 points for Middlesex, while Wesley Johnson finished with eight.

South Plainfield 54, North Brunswick 48 — Kevin Siedenburgh (17) and Matt Baszika combined for 33 points and Marquis Jones added 13 as the Tigers avoided a huge upset at the hands of North Brunswick (3-6) in White Division play Jan. 13.

Dunellen 62, Pingry 58 — A 20-10 third quarter proved to be the difference as the Destroyers held off Pingry in a non-conference encounter Jan. 13. Todd DeNapoli poured in 23 points, while Tim Sweeney followed with 15 and Dean Hoski added 12 for Dunellen.

Piscataway 67, Perth Amboy 57 — Rodney Freeney (19), Brandon Wilkinson (16) and Ryan Shea (13) combined for 48 points to lead the Chiefs as Piscataway used a 16-7 fourth quarter to pull away from Perth Amboy (5-5) in Red Division play Jan. 13.

South Plainfield shuts out Colonia to go 8-0

Winning 12 of the 14 bouts with pins, the South Plainfield High wrestling squad blanked Colonia 82-0 Tuesday night in a GMC-White Division mismatch to boost its record to 8-0 for the season.

Mike Jakubik recorded the quickest fall when he decked his opponent in 36 seconds at 152 pounds, while Viet Vo in 58 seconds at 125 and Bryan Hunt in 47 also pinned in less than a minute. Nick Dorey (130) in 1:58, Pete D'Andrea (140) in 1:32 and Sam Martin (160) in 1:54 also had first-period falls.

Billy Ashnault (112) in 2:18, Jimmy Conroy (119) in 2:22, Mark Wagner (171) in 5:16, Kevin Crilley (189) in 3:56, Rob Maistickle (215) in 2:33 and heavyweight Preston Johnson in 3:00 also pinned for the Tigers, while Paul Ritchey (145) posted a 13-4 major decision and Patrick Hunter (103) received a forfeit.

John F. Kennedy 40, Edison 37 — Surrendering the match's only forfeit proved to be the swing points that cost the Eagles a GMC cross-over decision against John F. Kennedy (6-6) Tuesday night as Edison fell to 1-5.

J.C. Bandiero (125) in 3:02, James Pang (145) in 4:34, Bob Wolf (171) in 3:34 and Ed Kidney (189) in 1:05 registered pins for the Eagles, while teammates Cary Thompson (119) in 4:59 and Brandon Swift (140) in 2:43 logged technical falls and Matt Gabriel (130) earned a decision.

Monroe 37, Middlesex 34 — Once again the only forfeit of the match was given up by the area squad and proved to be the difference as Middlesex dropped a narrow GMC-White Division decision to Monroe (6-2) Tuesday night to slip to 4-4

for the year.

Vinny Ziccardi (103) in 2:39, Dom Natoli (119) in 45 seconds, Joe Bizzomo (171) in :54 and Bryan Reilly (189) in 1:29 each recorded a fall for the Blue Jays, while Niko Kostopoulos (112) earned a 9-1 major decision. Nick Desiato (125) and Ryan DeNapoli (152) added decisions.

Piscataway 58, West Windsor-Plainsboro South 11 — Winning 11 of 14 bouts, including seven by pins the Chiefs easily took care of business in a non-league encounter with West Windsor-Plainsboro South Saturday to even their record at 4-4.

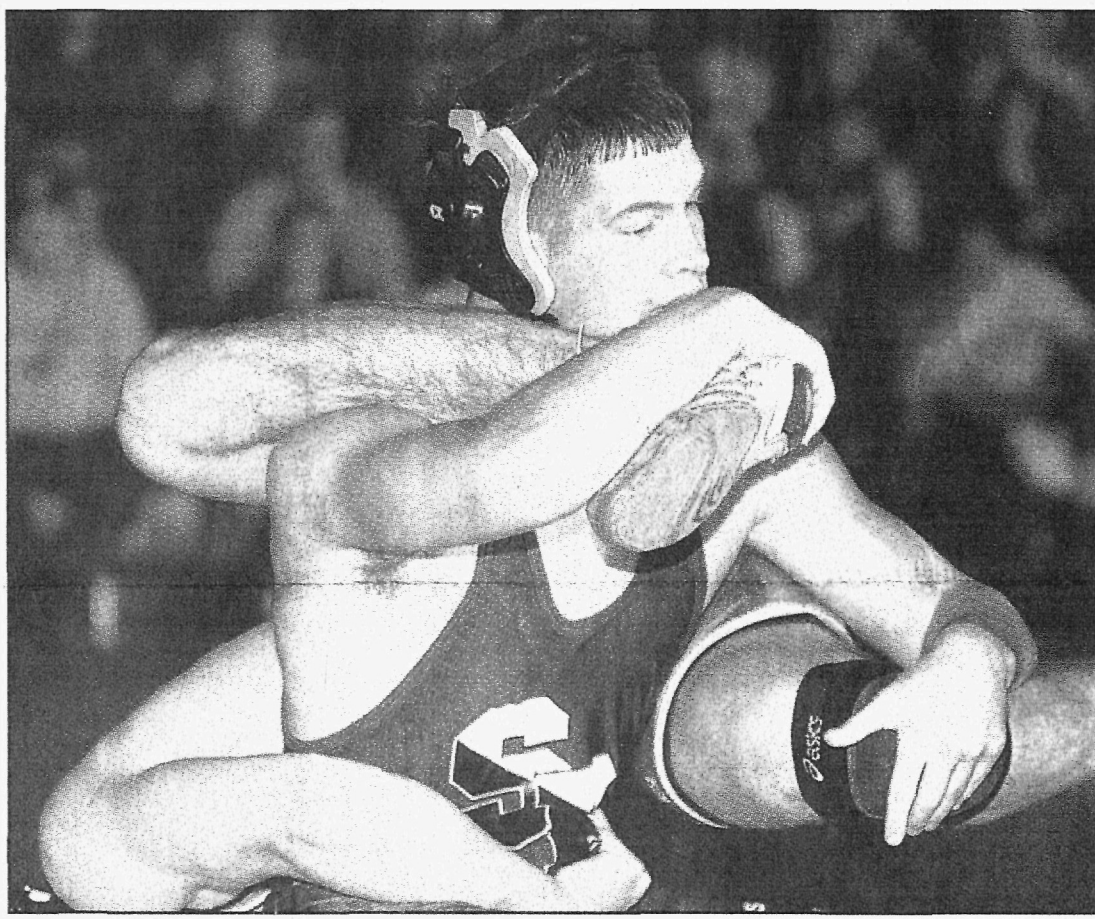
C.J. Adams (103) in 3:35, Brian Cesare (112) in 5:55, Barry Garrard (130) in 1:35, Terrence Williams-Park (135) in 2:25, Matt Damon (171) in 2:17, Chris Jones (189) in 1:59 and heavyweight Sean Mohan in 1:23 each collected a fall for Piscataway.

Brett Purysa (140) logged a technical fall in 5:33, while A.J. Hrabar (119) earned a 14-2 major decision, Shayne Beckford (160) won 9-4 and Rob Rabouin (125) picked up a forfeit.

Metuchen 45, Middlesex 36 — Jack Rems (135) in 3:46, Harry Peterson (140) in 3:13, Jack Barrett (145) in 3:35, James Alexander (152) in Brett Foley in 57 seconds each pinned as Metuchen won the final five bouts to trim Middlesex in a GMC cross-over match Saturday.

Rich Nalepa (189) in 36 seconds and heavyweight Lenny Bing in 1:26 also pinned for the Bulldogs (3-3), while Mike Jachim (119) added a 6-0 decision.

Vinny Ziccardi (103) in :56, Niko Kostopoulos (112) in :33, Dom Natoli (130) in 2:19, Joe



South Plainfield High's Sam Martin, seen here in action earlier this season, had one of the 12 pins collected by the undefeated Tigers in their 82-0 rout of Colonia Tuesday night for their eighth victory.

Bizzomo (171) in 1:02 and Bryan Reilly (215) 1:54 registered falls and Nick Desiato had a forfeit for Middlesex (4-4).

Middlesex 40, Franklin 36 — Niko Kostopoulos (112), in 26 seconds, Tony Dispenziere (119) in 3:39, Nick Desiato (125) in :34, Dom Natoli (130) in 1:58 and heavyweight Bryan Reilly in 5:52 each pinned as the Blue Jays edged Franklin to gain a split in Saturday's tri-meet.

Joe Bizzomo earned a 12-3

major and Vinny Ziccardi (103) added a forfeit for Middlesex, which held a 40-12 lead with five bouts to go and held on for the victory.

Franklin 37, Metuchen 31 — Harry Peterson (140) in 2:39 and Jack Barrett (145) in 5:37 logged back-to-back falls to give the Bulldogs a 31-28 edge but Franklin won the final two bouts to pull out the non-league victory Saturday.

Steve Bisogne (130) also

pinned, winning in 20 seconds, while Mike Jachim (119) recorded a 12-4 major, Ryan Semone (112) took an 8-1 decision and Sam Vinci (103) had a forfeit to account for Metuchen's other points.

Woodbridge 45, J.P. Stevens 19 — Hamilton Cook (125) pinned in 5:01, but that proved to be the Hawks' lone fall in a loss to Woodbridge Saturday in a GMC cross-over match. Greg Zannetti (103) won a 10-2

major, while Moses Tam (112), Travis McCarthy (135) and heavyweight Pavel Stuchinsky added decisions.

South Plainfield 60, Woodbridge 12 — Winning 11 of 14 bouts — five by pins and three by forfeits — the Tigers crushed Woodbridge Jan. 14 in a GMC-White Division match to improve to 7-0 on the season.

Ed McCray (135) in 2:35, Mike Jakubik (145) in 45 seconds, Sam Martin (171) in 5:11, Kevin Crilley (189) in 4:21, Rob Maistickle (215) in 1:24 each record a fall for South Plainfield, which got consecutive forfeits from Patrick Hunter (10-3), Billy Ashnault (112) and Jimmy Conroy (119).

Nick Dorey (130) carved out a technical fall, winning 16-0 in 3:35, while Viet Vo (125) just missed one of his own with an 18-4 decision. Paul Ritchey (152) won 12-6 for the final points.

Roselle Park 45, Bound Brook 28 — Andrew Flanagan (152) in 54 seconds, Mike Roberts (215) in 3:41 and Rich Perry (HWT) in 1:51 collected pins, while Nick Murray (130) and Jesse Harrington (140) earned tech falls, but those proved to be Bound Brook's other victories in an MVC loss to Roselle Park (5-0) Jan. 14 that left the Crusaders with a 3-5 record.

Perth Amboy 30, Piscataway 26 — Leading 26-11 with four bouts remaining the Chiefs lost all four matches Jan. 14 to fall to Perth Amboy in a Red Division encounter. Rob Damon (171) in 2:30 and Chris Jones (189) in logged back-to-back falls for Piscataway, while Terrence Williams-Park contributed a tech fall. A.J. Hrabar (119), Rocco Contessa (145) and George Williams (152) added decisions.

Middlesex soars behind Reilly, Bizzomo

Taking care of business quickly, the Middlesex High girls basketball squad roared to its seventh victory of the season Tuesday night by routing John F. Kennedy 63-36 in GMC-Blue Division play.

The Blue Jays used an 18-9 opening session to take the lead, and then they put the game away with a dominant effort on defense in the second period when they outscored Kennedy 20-3 for a 38-12 halftime advantage.

Meghan Reilly topped all scorers with 17 points for the Blue Jays, who have lost only three times, while Nicole Bizzomo followed with 15. Anna Abourashed and Quincy Auger contributed seven points apiece as six players scored at least six points.

Dunellen 45, Woodbridge Vo-Tech 9 — In a mismatch in GMC-Gold Division play Tuesday the Destroyed limited winless Woodbridge Vo-Tech (0-7) to a single point in the middle periods while scoring 29 themselves and coasted to an easy victory.

Josie Denny turned in the big effort for Dunellen, which improved to 6-3 for the season, with 15 points and eight rebounds, while Lauren Staats and Michelle Pakenham followed with eight points apiece.

Bound Brook 59, Newark Central 32 — Overcoming a 9-6 deficit an 18-2 second quarter for a 24-11 halftime lead and using a balanced effort the Crusaders earned their second victory of the season by routing Newark Central (0-8) in MVC-Valley Division play Monday.

Krystal Miranda dropped in 12 points

and Allison Slater tossed in 10 as Bound Brook (2-5) had six players score at least six points. Christy Giamella and Chrystal Rheingold added eight points apiece, while Stephanie Kehn contributed eight rebounds and seven points.

Cardinal McCarrick 43, Metuchen 42 — Kristen Edmonds did all she could to lift the Bulldogs to a GMC-Blue Division upset Tuesday night, but McCarrick (9-2) had the last word when Lauren Zarantanello hit a jumper with two seconds for the final two of her 21 points.

Edmonds finished a game-high 27 points and added five steals for Metuchen, which had the lead late after trailing 33-28 entering the final period. The loss dropped the Bulldogs to 4-6 on the year.

South Brunswick 66, Piscataway 57 — Despite outscoring South Brunswick 34-16 in the middle periods to take a 43-38 advantage into the final session the Chiefs failed to hold on in dropping a GMC-Red Division verdict Monday night as the Vikings closed with a 28-14 final session.

Asia Jenkins pumped in a game-high 26 points for Piscataway, which slipped to 6-5 for the season, while Brittany Myatt followed with 15.

J.P. Stevens 54, Paterson Catholic 45 — Getting off to a fast start the Hawks claimed a victory in this non-league matchup Saturday as they grabbed a 19-11 lead after eight minutes and extended it to 29-18 at halftime against host Paterson Catholic (3-5).

Tania Kennedy dropped in 19 points to pace the Stevens attack, while Kathryn Ruhno and Amy Bonk provided solid support with 14 and 12 points, respectively, with Bonk also contributing 11 rebounds.

South Plainfield 53, Old Bridge 41 — Moving up a division in a GMC cross-over game Saturday the Tigers continued their winning ways against a struggling Old Bridge squad (1-10) as a 21-10 third period proved to be the big difference in their eighth triumph.

Blaire Houston dropped in a personal-high 15 points to lead South Plainfield, while Danielle Arndt was right behind with 14 and Carol Willis chipped in with 11.

Edison 41, Metuchen 33 — Breaking away with a 20-10 run during the second and third quarters Edison made its 24-14 lead stand up Saturday for a GMC cross-over victory.

The Eagles' Kristin Sciarillo won a scoring dual with Metuchen's Kristen Edmonds by finishing with an 18-14 edge to lead the way for the winners with Edmonds' total a season-low. Katie Rosini scored nine points for the Bulldogs, while Kelly Ruch added eight for Edison.

Piscataway 47, New Brunswick 37 — Jumping out to a 14-8 lead after eight minutes the Chiefs turned back the upset bid of New Brunswick (2-8) in a GMC cross-over encounter Saturday. Asia Jenkins popped in 22 points and Brittany Myatt followed with 13 to lead Piscataway.

TRACK & FIELD

Piscataway, Metuchen capture second-places

PRINCETON — Piscataway High sprinters turned in another outstanding effort Saturday at the NJSIAA Indoor Track & Field Group IV Relay Championships at Princeton University with first-, second- and third-place finishes.

Led by the performance of the winning 1,600-meter squad the Chiefs finished in a tie with Columbia for second place with 26 points, but both were well off the winning effort of Jackson, which captured a pair of events and totaled 43 points on the day.

Seeded last in the six-team final Piscataway's 4 X 400 unit dominated the race by foul full seconds with their winning time of 4:03.91 less than a second off the meet standard. Asia Jenkins, Ayanna West and Ronnah Parham gave the lead to anchor Michelle Losey who pulled away late to easily turn back runnerup Washington's bid.

Piscataway's sprint medley squad narrowly missed winning that race as well as the same

group as in the 1600 lost in a photo finish to Washington, which turned in a 4:19.97 to edge the Chiefs' by .03 of a second.

The Chiefs also came very close to the title in 4 X 200 but their time of 1:47.66 left them .41 of a second behind champion Winslow and .27 of a second behind Jackson as Washington, Parham, Losey and Collene Cumberbatch combined for the third-place showing.

The final two points for Piscataway came in the shot put, where Piscataway finished fifth. J.P. Stevens, meanwhile totaled eight points, all coming in the high jump.

In the Group I boys competition Metuchen came home with runnerup honors with 28 points as the Bulldogs finished just four points behind champion Shore.

The 800meter squad came home with gold as Marcus Farris, Dan Ziznewski, Justin Smoot and Greg Lewis teamed for 1:37.33 to defeat Shore by .62 of a second.

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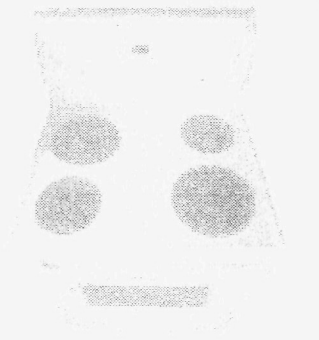
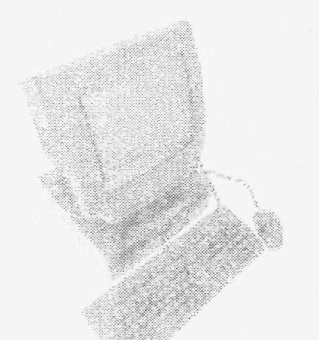
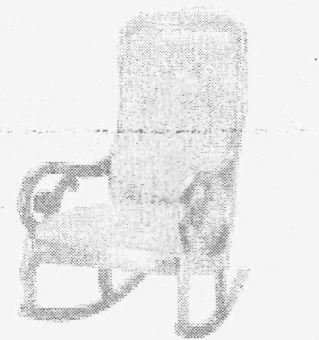
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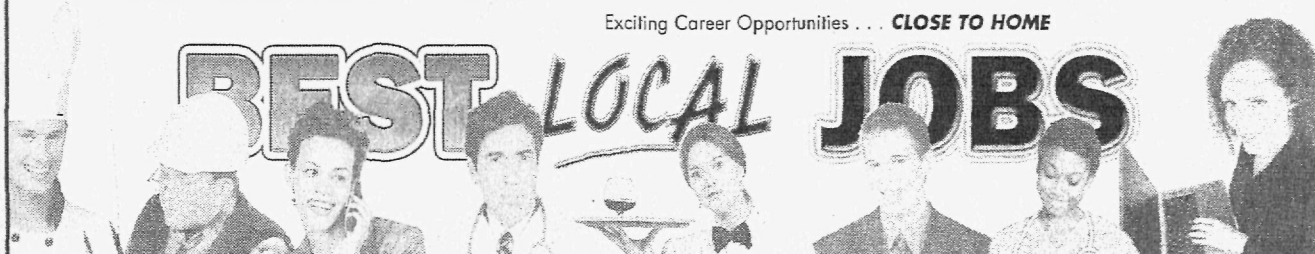
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Babysitter training offered by Red Cross

The American Red Cross has scheduled babysitter training for boys and girls ages 11-15.

Three-day and one-day versions are available. The three-day version meets 3:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday, Jan. 24, 25 and 28; or Monday, Tuesday and Friday, Feb. 7, 8 and 11. The one-day version meets 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12 or Monday, Feb. 21.

All training is in the Red Cross office at 14 W. Cliff St., Somerville. Injury prevention, first aid and basic child care skills are covered.

Boys and girls from Middlesex, Bound Brook and South Bound Brook are welcome. Fee is \$50. Full-fare and part-fare scholarships are available.

For registration and more information, call (908) 725-2217.

Kindergarten registration begins for Edison schools

EDISON — Kindergarten registration in the Edison Public Schools for the 2005-06 school year takes place in February and March.

Pupils must be 5-years-old on or before Oct. 1 to be eligible for kindergarten, a full-day program in the public schools.

Enrollment packets are available at all elementary schools and from the Board of Education office at 312 Pierson Ave. Packets can be picked up 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Monday through Thursday. Complete all the forms in the packet and bring it, along with the child and the required documents, to the school board office on the registration date assigned.

Elementary schools and their dates for kindergarten registration:

Woodbrook School — A-M, Wednesday, Feb. 2; N-Z, Thursday, Feb. 3.

James Monroe School — Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 8-10.

Washington School — A-M, Wednesday, Feb. 9; N-Z, Thursday, Feb. 10.

Lincoln School — A-I, Tuesday, Feb. 15; J-P, Wednesday, Feb. 16; Q-Z, Thursday, Feb. 17.

John Marshall School — Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 23-24.

James Madison Primary School — A-I, Tuesday, March 1; J-P, Wednesday,

March 2; Q-Z, Thursday, March 3.

Lindenau School — A-M, Wednesday, March 9; N-Z, Thursday, March 10.

Menlo Park School — A-I, Tuesday, March 15; J-P, Wednesday, March 16; Q-Z, Thursday, March 17.

Martin Luther King School — A-M, Wednesday, March 23; N-Z, Thursday, March 24.

Benjamin Franklin School — A-M, Wednesday, March 30; N-Z, Thursday, March 31.

Required documents are a birth certificate or passport; a vaccination record; proof of custody, if applicable; a current utility bill; a current property tax bill or deed, for homeowners; a current apartment lease, for renters.

If you are not sure as to which school your child would attend, call (732) 452-4570. Questions about registration are also answered at that phone number.

Senior Calendar

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.

Upcoming Trips and Events:

For information, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Non members are welcome.

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

Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's Bound Brook club sponsors bus trips to Atlantic City Casino Taj Mahal every fourth Tuesday of each month. Bus departs from St. Mary's Church Parking Lot at 10:15 a.m.

Dunellen

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 55 years and older. Meeting held each Friday at 10 a.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall on South Avenue. Bus transportation is provided.

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

Edison

Edison Chapter of AARP #3346 reminds members that new applications are being accepted.

Metuchen

The Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP, will hold its monthly meetings starting Monday, Jan. 10 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave. (Route 27). The monthly board meeting is at 12 p.m. and the General Meeting starts at 1:15 p.m. The speaker at this meeting will be Esther Gelard, speaking on "Identity Theft." Refreshments will be served. Guests are always welcome.

The chapter is currently accepting new members; call Ruth Hancock for further information at (732) 548-2332.

Trips:

Feb. 17 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, "George Washington Slept Here" \$58 per person includes transportation, lavish luncheon, admission, gratuities and taxes. Bus leaves 10 a.m. Call Miriam at (732) 548-9395 for further information and tickets, which must be bought by Feb. 1.

Middlesex Borough

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

The Middlesex Borough Office on Aging is collecting old cell phones to distribute to the home-bound for emergency 911 use. If you have one to donate, call the office at (732) 356-0414.

For information and to register for any of the above programs or issues of interest to the senior population in Middlesex Borough, contact Sheila at (732) 356-0414.

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Seniors meet the second Tuesday of the month Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Members are asked to bring boxes of pasta for F.I.S.H. On Feb. 8, in lieu of the Penny Sale we will have a raffle. Members are asked to donate NEW prizes for the raffle table.

Trips and Events:

March 9 — Atlantic City - \$17 per person.

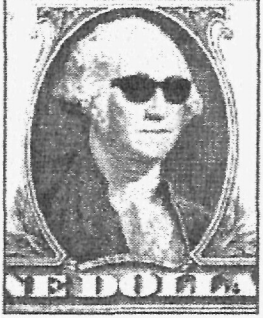
May 27 — Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Best of Branson" \$61 per person.

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

Piscataway

The Piscataway Senior Center has announced their schedule of upcoming events at the Center, located at 700 Buena Vista Ave., behind the J. F. Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane (Rt. 18). Group meetings for Tai Chi will be Wednesday's from 10 to 11 a.m. This is a drop in class. Sign up at the Reception Desk.

Jan. 26 — Chinese New Year Celebration, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$2.25; sign up at Nutrition Desk.



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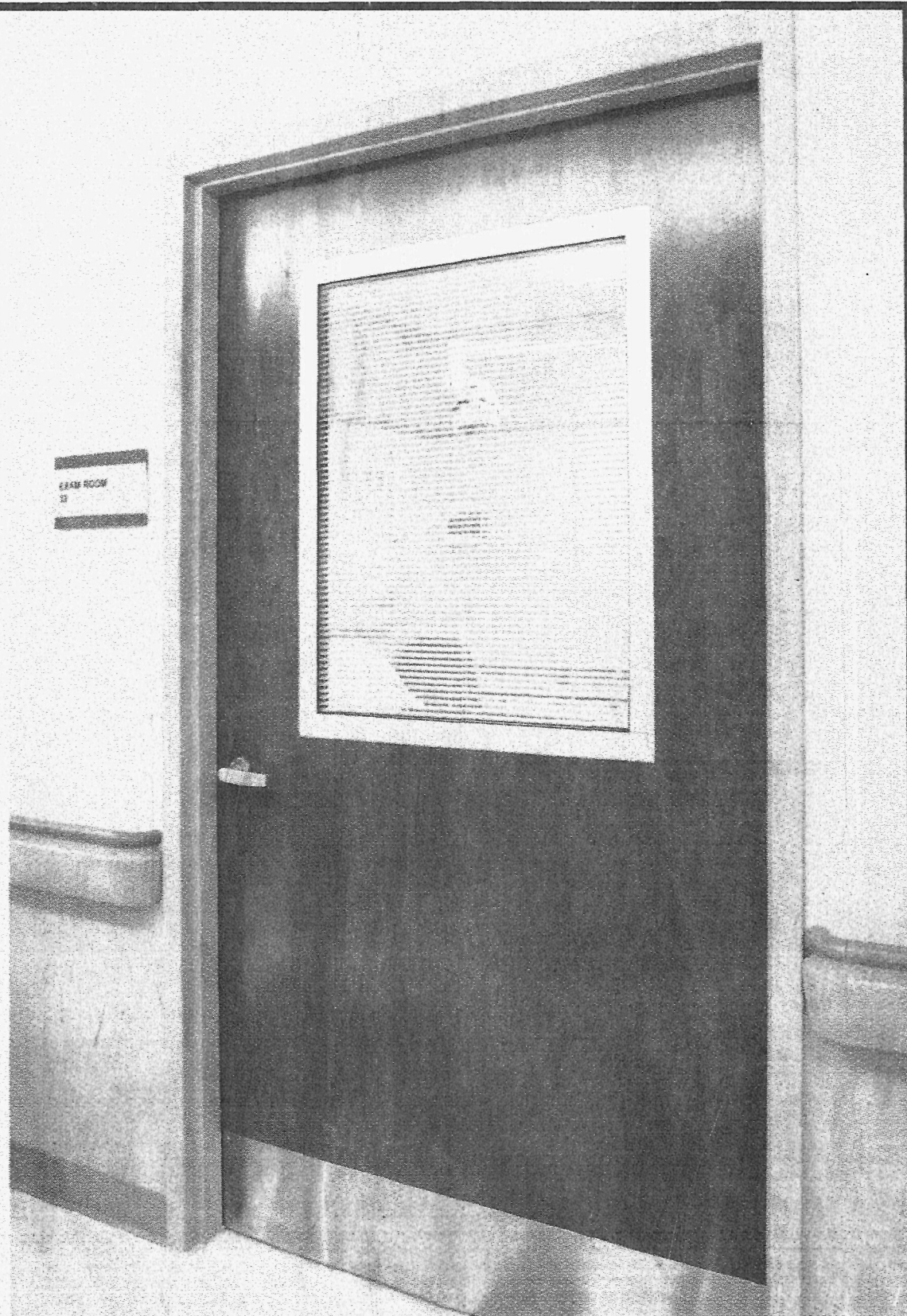
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