

The Chronicle

Since 1862

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Saturday, March 12, 2005

50 cents

Middlesex gets funds for field work

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders presented two checks totaling \$1.24 million from the county's Open Space and Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to help two municipalities improve and develop recreational facilities for their residents.

A check for \$1 million was presented to Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien and a check for \$240,000 was presented to

Middlesex Borough Mayor Ronald Dobies at a recent freeholders' meeting.

"My freeholder colleagues and I are committed to preserving open space and expanding the recreational opportunities for all our residents," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "The projects being done in Sayreville and Middlesex Borough fall right in line with our goal for the Open Space and Recreation Program and increase the quality of life

of their residents."

Middlesex will use the \$240,000 grant from the county to complete the restoration of one soccer field and the addition of a second soccer field at Mountain View Park. Work should be completed by this summer.

"On behalf of the residents of Middlesex borough, I thank the board of chosen freeholders for helping us meet the needs of our residents," Dobies said. "Our soccer programs and chil-

dren of all ages will directly benefit from your contribution."

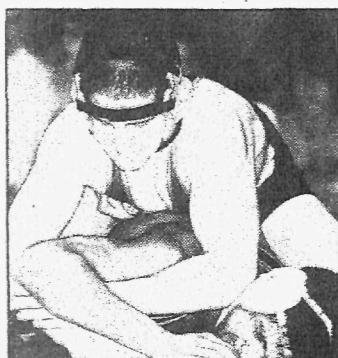
Sayreville will use the grant funds to improve River Road Waterfront Park by adding boat ramps, floating docks and pathways, improving existing docks and completing related work.

O'Brien said he is grateful to the freeholders for their donation.

"This donation will allow the borough of Sayreville give a much needed uplift to a once

vibrant waterfront facility," he said. "Soon the residents will once again be able to walk along the waterfront, go fishing or crabbing, launch watercraft and enjoy the valuable resources the Raritan River has to offer."

The improvements to the park are estimated to cost \$3 million. Sayreville has secured \$1.1 million in State Green Acres funds and a \$1 million Neptune Urban Renewal contribution.



Champ Again

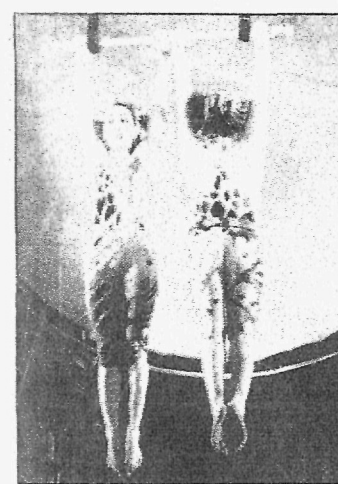
Bound Brook's Andrew Flanagan captured his third Region 5 championship Saturday, one of six area wrestlers to win titles. For results see Page B1.



Try Your Luck

"Lucky Stiff," presented by the Middlesex High School Performing Arts Department, will be held this weekend. The show is based on the novel "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" by Michael Butterworth.

For more, see Page A3.



Playing dress up

Natalie Peyramoure has a lot of clothing to care for. As wardrobe supervisor for the Big Apple Circus, it is her job to check every seam and supervise the preparation of every piece of clothing. Page B2.

Garden Auction

The Piscataway Garden Club will hold its annual auction at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Senior Citizen Center, 700 Buena Vista Ave., behind Kennedy Library.

The auction will include a variety of items, preferably garden-related. All are invited. For more information, call (732) 287-4685.

Commentary.....A-4

Community Life.....B-2

Sports.....B-1

Patriotic singing stars at mall



Amanda Levy, 8, sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" during a competition held Saturday at Bridgewater Commons by the Somerset Patriots to select area residents to sing the National Anthem at games played at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

By TAKESHA PETTUS
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Tears fell from Stacy Gever's eyes as she walked off stage after performing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Bridgewater Commons Mall Saturday.

"I guess I could have done worse," said Gever.

Gever, like 99 other contestants, all competed at the mall to win the chance to sing the National Anthem during games played this season at the Commerce Bank Ballpark, the home of the Somerset Patriots baseball team.

Each year, representatives from the ballpark have held contests to find the best singers in the area to per-

Continued on page A2

A.R.M.S leader greets president

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

Wrapped up in the president's arms, Ronnie Micciulla felt like she could have fainted.

Her dream to meet President Bush came true last Friday morning on the tarmac at Newark Liberty International Airport, where he stepped off Air Force One before traveling to Westfield — a stop

Continued on page A2

Financial contributions are needed

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, in partnership with American Recreational Military Services is seeking cash donations in support of their ongoing effort to supply American forces overseas with a steady supply of personal items, toiletries and snacks.

ARMS is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Service code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

All contributions are dedicated to the purchase of supplies and costs of shipping. ARMS/Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 is an all-volunteer operation. Depending on weight, it costs between \$8 and \$15 to ship each box overseas.

Checks should be made out to ARMS, with the instructions "Operation Shoebox NJ 2005" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, c/o The Chronicle, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, N.J. 08876.

This weekend financial and product contributions for OPSHBX can be dropped off during the St. Patrick's Day parade in Somerville on Sunday, at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater during the opening day of ticket sales and at two area supermarkets, A&P Supermarket in Warren and Shop Rite Supermarket in Bound Brook. For more, see Page A5.

Fashion show benefits autism research

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

GREEN BROOK — Fire eaters, Shaman interpretive dancers and zombie-like models aren't typical fashion show icons, but all were part of The Imbolc Manifesto show held recently at The Willows Restaurant.

Proceeds went to autism research.

"It's not a fashion show," said designer Dee J. Gonzalez, of Metamorphosis LLC, based in Dunellen. "It's a show with fashion. The purpose is to entertain, and my fashions are the main stars."

The show was produced by Gonzalez along with Theodore Garris and Alexandra Hanna of My Intimate World, also based in Dunellen.

Highlights included the Luna Wear line of Gothic inspired clothing. Most outfits featured a camouflage pattern, chain link accessories and dark boots. A tall, elegant model wore a camouflage evening dress with a beaded waste as she strutted down the catwalk with a dark, piercing stare.

Gonzalez's Orisha Wear is a casual clothing line inspired by his Puerto Rican background.

Models grooved in light colors and fabrics to island style music. Checkered patterned gingham made repeat appearances in flounce pants, miniskirts, dresses, halter tops and even on men's jackets. Its light-weight, almost sheer appearance make gingham and these clothes ideal for a vacation in the Caribbean, a day at the beach, a family picnic or a night at the disco, said Gonzalez.

Gonzalez developed the new Independent Woman lingerie line for the My Intimate World collections. The styles highlight the beauty of the plus size woman. Satin and silk as well as chiffon and marabou were staple fabrics of the collection.

"It's a very classy and elegant line. It's sophisticated, but there's a wide variety of colors, not just black," said My Intimate World Marketing Director Alexandra Hanna.

"Beauty comes in every shape and every size," said Gonzalez of his models and the plus size line. "Beauty is beauty. It's as simple as that."

The weekend-long show raised more than \$1,000 for that National Alliance for Autism Research.



Desstynnee Renee Vegliante shows off a fantasy-filled spring dress during the The Imbolc Manifesto show.

LARRY MURPHY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Patriotic singing stars

Continued from page A1

form the anthem. This is the second year that the contest has been held at a mall, and this year contestants vied for 12 available spots. Each of the winners will be given the chance to sing at one of the 70 games held at the ballpark for the 2005 season. In addition, each of the participants will receive a free ticket to a Somerset Patriots ballgame this season.

Most of the competitors believed they did well after their performances. Bruce VanHoven of Booton, a music director at Kinnelon High School, said he attends many of the Somerset Patriots games and thought it would be fun to try out.

"I sing all day with my students it's not that different," said VanHoven.

While Somerset resident Chester Page said he came

back to try out this year after not making the cut last year.

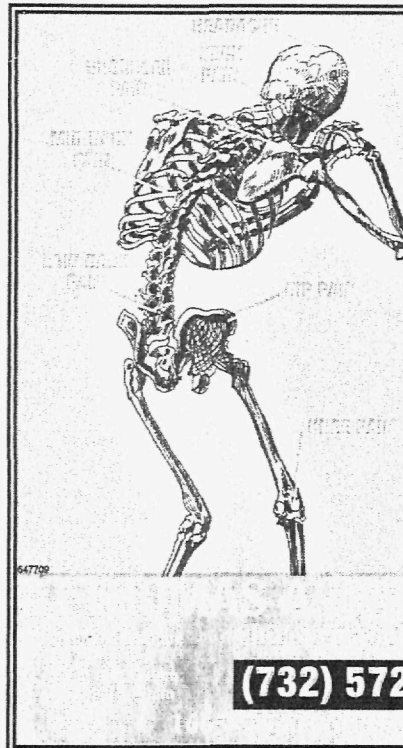
"But that didn't stop me," said Page who is an aspiring singer.

Page said singing in front of a crowd of 4,000 is something he has always dreamed about.

"I just always wanted to sing at a game," said Page.

Shoppers at the mall Saturday were able to watch the performance from all three levels of the mall's rotunda. Performers ranged in age from young to old. There were even some unique combinations, like a duet. Somerville resident Carye Wynn said she sings with her family. The 10-year-old was on hand to give a performance while her mother, Kathleen, looked on.

"This is the biggest crowd I have ever sung around," said the 10-year-old.



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The list of designated drop-off sites continues to expand, but more are needed:

Somerset County

The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville
Commerce Bank Ballpark, 1 Patriots Way, Bridgewater
The 250th Signal Battalion, 42nd Infantry Armory on Hamilton Street in Franklin
The Somerville U.S. Postal Service office at 39 Division St., Somerville
Somerset County Sheriff's Office, County Administration Building, Grove Street, Somerville
Morgan Stanley, 166 West Main St., Somerville
Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, 150 West Main St., Somerville
Alfonso's Italian Restaurant, 99-101 West Main St., Somerville
Beneath It All, 72 West Main St., Somerville
Wachovia Bank, 1 West Main St., Somerville
Dr. William Moskowitz, 205 West Main St., third floor, Somerville
Somerville Center Antiques, 33 West Main St., Somerville
Shop-Rite Supermarket, 611 West Union Ave., Bound Brook

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005

Drop-off sites:

Brook
Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council, 1171 Route 28, North Branch
Raritan Valley Community College Theater and Student Activities office, Route 28, North Branch
Learning Express Toys, 315 Route 206, Hillsborough
Test Sports Club, 1982 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville
US Bicycle Hall of Fame, Main Street, Bridgewater
Felix #9 Diner, Route 22, Bridgewater
Bedminster Post Office, 251 Somerville Road, Bedminster
Shake-A-Paw Petshop, 1422 Route 22, Green Brook
Country Manor Furniture, 272 Route 22 West, Green Brook
Executive Fitness Club, 292 Route 22 West, Green Brook
Shop Rite Supermarket, Route 28, Bound Brook
Dr. Steven C. Balestracci, 154 Adamsville Road North, Bridgewater
Soprano's, 154 Adamsville Road North, Bridgewater
The Cricket, 408 Elizabeth Ave., Somerset
Morgan Stanley, 15 Independence Blvd., Warren
Baja Fresh Mexican Grill, 1595 Route 22 West, Watchung

Attic Treasures, 319 Route 22 East, Sansone Plaza, Green Brook
AAA Vac, 1515 Route 22 West, Watchung Square Mall, Watchung
Borough Hall, Route 22 and Grove Street, Somerville
Gladstone Cleaners, 258 Main St., Peapack-Gladstone
North Branch Post Office, Route 22, North Branch

Middlesex County

Dollar Planet Dollar Store, Route 28, Middlesex
Variety Village, 420 Main St., Metuchen
George's Dry Cleaning, 424 Main St., Metuchen
Quick Sign, 3 Kellogg Ct., Unit 15, Edison
Abbey Carpet, 501 Stelton Road, Piscataway

Hunterdon County

The Hunterdon County Democrat, 8 Minneakoning Road, Flemington
Shop-Rite Supermarket, 272 Route 202/31 North, Flemington

Warren County

Star Gazette & Warren Reporter, 106 E. Moore St., Hackettstown
Franky & Johnny's Island

Park Bar & Grill, 261 Route 46 East (intersection of Routes 46 & 31), Buttzville
Tramontin Harley Davidson, Exit 12, Route 80 Hope Interchange, Hope

Morris County

Legends Harley Davidson, 1895 Route 46 West, Ledgewood
Gearhart Chevrolet, Route 46 East, Denville

Passaic County

Morgan Stanley, 695 Route 46 West, Wayne

Essex County

Morgan Stanley, 150 JFK Parkway, Short Hills

Ocean County

Morgan Stanley, Bayview Corporate Center, 1433 Hooper Ave., Toms River

Union County

Morgan Stanley, 203 Elm St., Westfield

More sites will be added as they become available. If you are interested in hosting a drop-off site, please contact us.

A.R.M.S leader greets president

Continued from page A1

along his cross-country tour to sell his ideas for Social Security reform to the public.

Micciulla, executive director of American Recreational

Military Services, a volunteer group that supports the families of New Jersey Army National Guard troops, was one of a handful of people chosen to meet the president because of her efforts.

"My one dream was to meet the president of the United States," she said. "He was larger than life when he stepped out of the plane."

And, though star-struck as she was, Micciulla seized the opportunity to inform the Bush camp of a bill that, if passed, would allow care packages to be sent overseas to U.S. troops at no cost to their families.

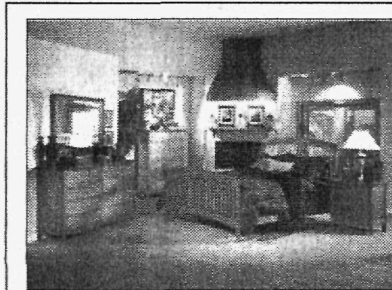
This newspaper, through its Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 program, has teamed with ARMS, the Somerset Patriots, NJ.com, Flemington Car and Truck Country and numerous local businesses, families, veterans and volunteers in an effort to bring personal supplies not afforded by the military to our troops overseas.

The U.S. Postal Service charges about \$10 for each care package shipped overseas, or about \$1 a pound. It costs between \$4,000 and \$6,000 a month to keep the supply line moving.

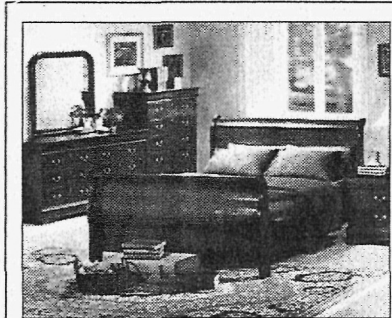
"That's what kills me," said Micciulla, of the \$4,700 recently spent on 543 boxes shipped to Iraq. "That money could have been spent on supplies."

The idea to do away with shipping costs was proposed by Staten Island Congressman Vito Fossella, and has the backing of a number of New Jersey congressmen — Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-7th, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-11th, and Rep. Chris Smith, R-4th.

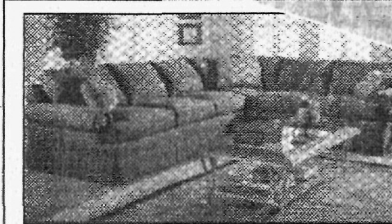
What's in Your Future? MID-WINTER Savings



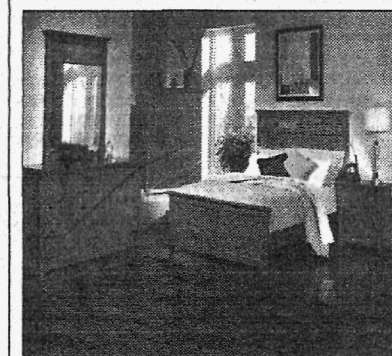
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Louis Phillip, 7 pc. Traditional Bedroom in Cherry
64" 8 Drawer Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, 5 Drawer Chest, Queen Size Sleigh Bed & 2 Night Stands, Armchair optional at additional savings.
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2 Pc Country Plaid Sectional Sofa (91" x 116")
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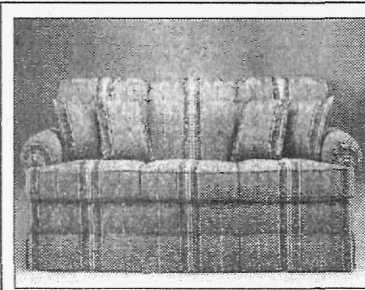
	TWIN	FULL	QUEEN
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Med. Firm 2 PC Set	\$299	\$359	\$419
Pillow Top 2 PC Set	\$399	\$469	\$559
Super Firm 2 PC Set	\$369	\$399	\$449



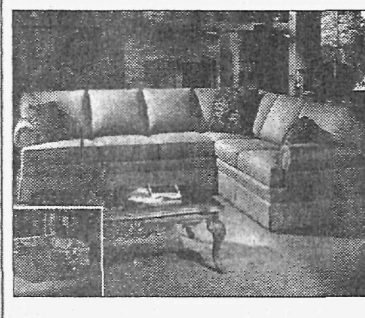
9 pc. Country Cherry Dining Room Set
67" china hutch, 65" china base, farmhouse table extends to 108", 4 hooplock Windsor sidechairs & 2 armchairs, Buffet.
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7 Pc Solid Pine Sierra Grande
69" Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, 5 Draw Chest, Queen Headboard, Foot Board and 2 Night Stands
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Sale \$2249
WOW \$1999



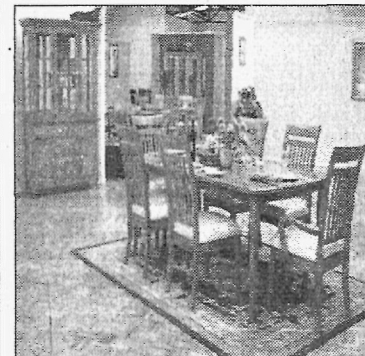
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85" traditional sofa. Large selection of Decorator fabrics to choose from.
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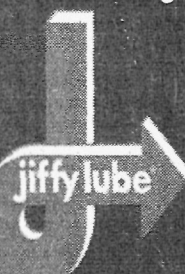
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Above and below, cast members of "Lucky Stiff," being performed this weekend.

'Lucky Stiff' on stage

MIDDLESEX — Middlesex High School Performing Arts Department is presenting "Lucky Stiff" 8 p.m. through March 12.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door.

Middlesex High School is located at 300 Kennedy Drive.

The musical "Lucky Stiff" is based on the novel "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" by Michael Butterworth. The lyrics are by Lynn Ahrens and music is by Stephen Flaherty. "Lucky Stiff" is a musical farce in the best sense of the word — the complicated and hysterically-funny plot involves one dead body, a nerdy English shoe salesman, \$6 million worth of diamonds and a lot of dogs.

"Lucky Stiff" features Brett Figel, Jenna Myers, Tara Tagliaferro, Matthew Kasallis, Chris Roy, Amy Santacross, and Trevor White.



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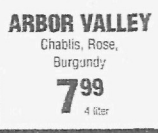
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This Shiraz is firm, even elegant, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger. Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 50 red wine values from around the world.	This Merlot is crisp in texture, dense in flavor, with layers of ripe blackberry, currant and peppery spice flavors that have more up front than on the spice, fresh cedar finish. Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value on October 15, 2004.	This Chardonnay is smooth and round, with balanced butter, citrus, apple, spice and sweet cream flavors that linger nicely on the finish. Rated by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value.	This Shiraz is firm in texture, fleshy enough to put some padding around the blackberry, pepper and vaguely meaty flavors. The wine also finishes fine. Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 65 red wine values from around the world.
BERINGER White Zinfandel 8.99 750 ml	BERINGER FOUNDER'S Cabernet, Chard, Merlot 7.99 750 ml	ROBERT MONDAVI WOODBRIDGE Cabernet, Chard, Merlot 10.99 750 ml	CAVIT Pinot Grigio 11.99 750 ml
JEWEL Cabernet, Merlot Chardonnay 8.99 750 ml	CORBETT CANYON COASTAL CELLARS All Varieties 5.99 750 ml	COVEY RUN Cabernet, Chardonnay 6.99 750 ml	LINDEMANS Pinot Grigio, Chardonnay Bin 65 10.99 750 ml
CLOS DU BOIS Cabernet 13.99 750 ml	J. LOHR RIVERSTONE Chardonnay 9.99 750 ml	RANCHO ZABAGO DANCING BULL Zinfandel 7.99 750 ml	SANTA MARGHERITA Pinot Grigio 18.99 750 ml
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Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing Inter/Adv (9 wks \$75)	EB	Culinary Arts	
Commercial Art/Graphic Design		Cake Decorating (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$10)	PI
Adobe Acrobat & Go Live (9 wks \$75)	EB	American Regional Cuisine (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$25)	PA
Adobe InDesign Basic & Advanced (\$75)	EB	Asian Cuisine (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$25)	EB
Adobe Photoshop Advanced (9wks \$75)	EB	Italian Culinary I (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$25)	EB
Final Cut Pro Basic	EB	Electrical Trades & Electronics	
Final Cut Pro Advanced	EB	Electrical Design Workshop (9wks \$75)	EB
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Baking - Just Desserts (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15)	PI	Floral Design I (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20)	PI
Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks \$75)	EB	Flower Arrangement (9 wks \$75)	EB
Dressmaking (9 wks \$75)	EB	Introduction to Interior Decorating (9 wks \$75)	EB

HEALTH and SAFETY EDUCATION SERIES

Boating Skills and Seamanship (8wks \$35)	EB PA	Nutrition - Everyday Nutrition (9 wks \$75)	EB
Fitness/Wellness Program (9 wks \$75)	EB	OSHA 30 Hour Outreach Program for Gen. Ind. (30 hrs. \$75)	PI
Motorcycle Rider Safety Call 1-800-8WE-RIDE	PI		

TECHNICAL COURSES

Computer Assisted Drafting I (9wks \$75)	EB-PI	HVAC - Cooling and Controls (9 wks \$75)	PI
Computer Assisted Drafting II (9wks \$75)	EB	Refrigeration Handling Certification (5 wks \$150)	PI
Computer Systems Technology-Operating Sys. (42 hrs \$175)	PI	Stationary Engineering I Low Pressure (9wks \$75)	EB-PI

VOCATIONAL ARTS/DANCE COURSES

Creative Origami (9wks \$75)	EB	Yoga (9wks \$75)	EB
Guitar Instruction (9 wks \$90)	EB		

SMALL BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES

The Small Business Lecture Series is offered at the East Brunswick Campus on Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Registration fee: \$50.			
How to Start a Business from A to Z (April 5)	EB	Ebay Simplified (April 26)	EB
How to Write a Business Plan (April 12)	EB	Building a Business Website (May 3)	EB
How to Finance Your Business (April 19)	EB		

SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOPS

Biscotti Bake (\$10)	EB	Chinese (9wks \$75)	EB
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Sensory Integration, Fine Motor Skills, Handwriting 101 and Occupational Therapy Issues in the Classroom	PI	Time Management and Emotional Intelligence	EB
Tuesdays - (4 wks) starts April 5th 7PM - 10PM \$40		Saturday April 9th, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Professional Development Workshop	EB	Registration fee: \$40	
Learn how to design a successful career development plan.		Conflict Resolution and Diversity Awareness	EB
Tuesdays - (9 wks) starts April 5th 7PM - 10PM \$75		Saturday, April 16th - 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
		Registration Fee: \$40	

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Certificate Programs start in September 2005. An Information Session will be held at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at the Piscataway campus, 21 Sutton Lane, Piscataway, NJ. Space in certificate programs is limited. For an Application call the Adult Education Office at 732-257-3300, ext. 1925.

Allied Health Technology	Health Unit Coordinator
Commercial Art/Graphic Design	Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
Computer Applications for Business	Home Inspection
Computer Systems Technology	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Culinary Arts	Maintenance Mechanic
Dry Cleaning	Manicuring
Electrical Trades	Medical Billing and Coding
Esthetician	Plumbing and Pipefitting

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



School Locations

EB - East Brunswick Campus, 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick
PA - Perth Amboy Campus, 457 High Street, Perth Amboy
PI - Piscataway Campus, 21 Suttons Lane, Piscataway
ALL - All three locations

OTHER FEES

*Special Fees/As Noted
**Additional Fees
Out-of-County - Course Fee Plus \$30.00
Materials Fees

FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE

Payment by check to:
Middlesex County Vocational Schools

CUSTOMIZED TRAINING AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS
CALL 732-257-3300 EXT. 1924 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Saturday, March 12, 2005

Opinion

When snow didn't mean school closed

By JIM WHITE

Back when I road the big yellow bus, a day off from school due to snow was a rare gift from Old Man Winter.

Oh the joy, waking up to the sound of radio chatter coming down the hall from the kitchen, where Mom would sit sipping her tea, listening to the read-off of school closings.

Because a snow day back then was a day of abandon — a time to trade textbooks for Flexible Flyers, classrooms for snow forts, dodge balls for snowballs.

Kids across New Jersey were given the chance again early last week when the sky dumped a good 6 to 7 inches of the white stuff. And though it didn't begin to stick to the roads until sundown, just about every school in Somerset County was closed Feb. 28, and some the next day, too.

And because of that Monday-into-Tuesday storm, now most of the county's 20 districts have either used up their allotted three or four snow days, or are close to doing so.

Not a worry when I was a kid going to school in Central New Jersey. It would take the likes of an avalanche to keep us home.

I guess we — kids and adults — were just a tougher breed of people.

Now, seems like schools close if the wind is too strong.

"Busing generally determines what happens," David Livingston, superintendent of schools for Somerset County, said in light of last week's closings. "We have a lot more kids than we did 25 years ago."

With more students there are more bus routes and more potential hazards during inclement weather, he said.

Livingston said it is up to each school district to decide whether to close or not. He said snowstorms in districts like Watchung Hills Regional make it tougher to stay open because kids are bused in from all over — Watchung Borough, Warren, Long Hill and Green Brook for example.

On the other hand, the decision to close or allow early dismissals is made more difficult by the fact that there are less and less stay-at-home moms nowadays.

"And parents are more vocal about it as well," Livingston said. "You get flak if you close. You get flak if you stay open."

He added, "But if it's unsafe, we are going to air on that side and make up the days at the end of the year."

Schools are required to be open 180 days or they lose state funding, he said. If a school uses up all its snow days, students must go later into June.

Jim White is a staff writer at NJN Publishing.

Legislation affects local school districts

By JIM CODY

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, I had the opportunity to attend the 32nd Annual Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D.C.

FRN invites local school board members like myself from every congressional district to commit to grassroots advocacy of public education. Over the weekend delegates from across the country were trained for lobbying on Capitol Hill to reform and fully fund The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I would like to share with members of our 6th District some of the things I learned that especially affect our districts about these federally funded mandates in terms of shortfalls and the "unintended consequences" of the legislation's implementation over the last two years.

The National School Boards Association has developed a bill that addresses many of the challenges facing districts as a result of current law.

— Adequate Yearly Progress — No school board member, administrator, or teacher would question the value of sound accountability, but under NCLB law, schools may be labeled as "in need of improvement" if just one sub-group (special ed students, limited English proficiency students, economically disadvantaged students, several racial and ethnic groups) falls under proficient test score levels in reading or math.

This labels a whole school as "failing" — an unfair term used by the media to exploit the punitive implications of this policy. This labeling can also direct unnecessary blame against specific groups of students whose performance has resulted in a highly regarded school as "in need of improvement."

The NSBA bill pushes for more flexibility of AYP ensuring that public reporting accurately reflects student, school, and district performance.

— Funding — Between NCLB and IDEA the federal government has fallen short of its promise to fully fund these mandates by \$65 billion dollars.

This has resulted in all tax payers experiencing a kind of federal tax as our communities are forced to pay for these unmet costs and mandates. For instance, for educating disadvantaged students, Congress is only providing 60 cents for every dollar promised. Our school districts must make up the additional 40 cents.

Coupled with New Jersey's S-1701 bill which limits budget surplus to only 2 percent, this burden can be a dangerous mix as districts must always be prepared for the unexpected expenses that arise from out of district placement fees, aides, new classes, and legal fees that are associated with special education demands.

— Highly Qualified Teachers — Under

NCLB, teachers are required to have substantial coursework (middle school) or a degree and certification (high school) for each subject they teach. This presents a problem for smaller districts like mine that are forced to compete with larger districts for HQT.

In areas like science and math this is especially problematic given the shortage of teachers in those disciplines.

I believe this can create a kind of apartheid where the "haves" continue to have and the "have not's" continue to have not. Districts that have higher salaries often attract teachers from smaller and less affluent districts who struggle to fulfill HQT requirements.

Finally, a quality teacher is not someone who is simply knowledgeable in a subject area. To send the message that knowledge of subject area constitutes quality teaching is absurd and undermines the dignity of the profession. Superior knowledge in a subject by no means guarantees superior teaching.

— No Child Left Untested? — Again, school boards welcome increased accountability for students' achievement. However, the heavy reliance on tests to measure learning simplifies the complexities of the learning process. Critical thinking and analytical problem solving are essential skills for success in college that many standardized tests fail to challenge students to perform.

NCLB also does not access Writing, Arts, and Music, areas where many students excel and show tremendous growth and development in their school years.

— More to Come — George Bush now wants to move NCLB to the high schools and in his State of the Union Address asked Congress to approve \$1.5 billion for a new high school initiative to evaluate the academic performance of high school students.

Until we fervently assess what we're doing in the elementary grades and until NCLB and IDEA are fully funded and reformed to address the implementation challenges of NCLB this decision seems rash and not in the best interests of educators, administrators, tax payers, and our children.

During my stay in Washington, the offices of Frank Lautenberg, Jon Corzine, and Frank Pallone were very receptive and appreciative of our delegations' concerns, stories, data, and advocacies.

It is only through grassroots efforts and public consensus that we can effect change.

Write our senators and Congress to let them know of your concerns so that your local board members can truly make sure that no one's child is left behind by a federal government that has reneged on its promises.

Jim Cody is a member of the Board of Education in Dumellen

Question of the week:

Do you support President Bush's plan to give more people choice with their Social Security contributions?



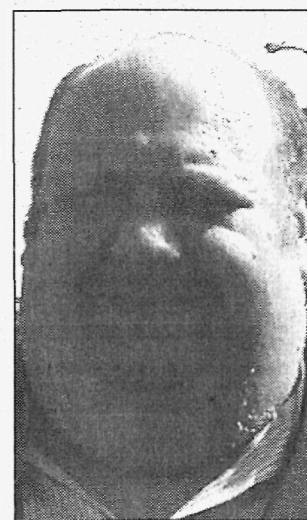
ANTHONY TENISCI
Manville

"I'm against it because if what they invested in the market goes flat, they'll lose what they had."



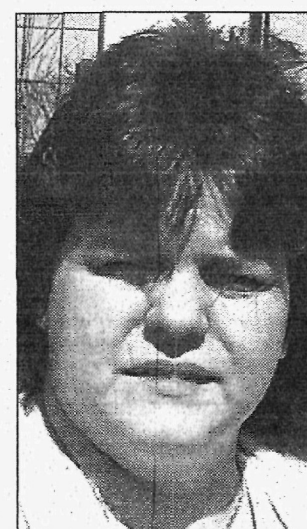
ROBERTA McDOUGAL
Middlesex

"Yes, I do. I think if it's handled properly, it will."



MILES LESSEM
Cherry Hill

"No, I don't. I don't think it's been proven all people can manage their own money efficiently."



CYNTHIA LANE
Somerville

"To an extent."

Letters to the Editor

Republicans seek delegates

To The Editor:

The Dunellen Republican Organization is seeking individuals interested in serving as delegates to the Middlesex County GOP Convention on Saturday, April 2, 2005.

This year finds the GOP faced with a great decision — who will represent our party in the race for Governor?

With over six candidates seeking the party nomination, the opportunity to have a candidate reflect your values has never been greater.

If you want to have a major impact on the political system, this is the time.

No prior political experience is necessary, just be a

registered Republican or undeclared voter, have strong convictions, and the ability to attend the county convention.

The Dunellen GOP will cover all costs.

Become part of Middlesex County's most successful GOP organization and make a lasting difference on our state and our community.

Those interested may contact the Dunellen Republican Chairman, Roger Dornbierer, at (732) 319-7143, or by e-mail at chairman@dunellengop.com

ROGER DORNBIERER
Dunellen Republican Chairman

Culture influencing environmental views

To The Editor:

Would you like to learn the truth about the environment without becoming a geologist, climatologist or Princeton supercomputer programmer specializing in general circulation models of global warming? Would you like to read genuine dialogue on climate change, not just the talking points and apocalyptic predictions of extremist groups? An honest discussion of climate change has never appeared on network or cable television, and scientific evidence only appears in books and technical journals ignored by politicians, the general public and radical environmentalists.

But environmental myths have now been exposed in a novel and very effective manner — with a novel. Undeniable environmental truths, referenced to scientific evidence, are woven into a novel by Michael Crichton called "State of Fear," written in language understandable to the layman. The popular writer and creator of "Jurassic Park" have provided a scientifically sound rebuttal of the environmental hysteria that has engulfed rational dialogue since the publication of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" in 1962.

Why is it important for the public to become informed about climate change?

Because as evidence accumulates that global warming is a natural and not manmade phenomenon, environmental activists have invented a new fear concept — abrupt climate change — to force the U.S. government to quickly adopt the mandates of the Kyoto global warming treaty.

Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) has been told that the snows of Mount Kilimanjaro are melting due to global warming. He has introduced legislation, nearly adopted in November 2003, which would mandate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and devastate the U.S. economy while having no measurable effect on global warming. Sen. McCain is misinformed.

The snows are melting due to lack of moisture, not global warming. No moisture — no snow — no replenishment of the snowcap on Mount Kilimanjaro. After viewing the science fiction movie "The Day After Tomorrow," Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) said he will now support Sen. McCain's bill.

The senators have been deceived by false information, emotional fear, Hollywood fiction and ignorance of the mountain of scientific evidence on global warming. The public and the senators should read "State of Fear."

LEO F. JOHNSON
Bedminster

Local Red Cross appreciates help

To The Editor:

America is a special place, where someone you may not know will give you their blood, save you from drowning or provide you with shelter.

In 1943, President Roosevelt recognized the American Red Cross as a true reflection of that humanitarian, volunteer spirit and proclaimed March as Red Cross Month, a tradition that has been honored by every president since.

The Greater Somerset County Chapter of the American Red Cross has dedicated this month to recognizing some of the countless people in our community who make the lifesaving work of the Red Cross possible.

Although hurricanes and tsunamis make the headlines, the day-to-day work of the Red Cross is centered on communities like ours and done by volunteers. In the past seven months, our neighbors volunteered a cumulative 25,192 hours through the Red Cross.

Through the American Red Cross, there is a place families can turn to for food, shelter and comfort when fires, floods and other emergencies strike. None of this

would be possible without the generous help of our donors and supporters.

As chair of our local Red Cross chapter, I believe we can take great pride in what we've done together. Thanks to your support of the Red Cross, there was a place where so far this fiscal year over 3700 of our neighbors could go to learn first aid and CPR and even how to save lives with automatic external defibrillators (AEDs).

This year, the Red Cross was also the place where 20 families separated by military service were able to stay connected and exchange messages about family emergencies. And over 5500 of our neighbors chose their Red Cross as the place to give blood, the gift of life.

Much has changed since that first Red Cross Month in 1943. But one thing has not. Somerset County is still a place where neighbors help neighbors, and your support of our Red Cross is a true reflection of that spirit. Together, we can save a life.

WILLIAM S. SUNDHEIM
Chair, Greater Somerset County Chapter
American Red Cross

The Chronicle

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Publisher	David Tomasini	908-575-6731
Executive Editor	Rod Hirsch	908-575-6684
Editor	Craig Turpin	908-575-6698
Advertising Director	Robin Chandler	908-782-4747
Circulation Manager	Ted Wnoroski	908-575-6670
Production Manager	Linda Zetterberg	908-575-6710



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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) 575-6698 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Information can be e-mailed to middlesex@njpublishing.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 Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

OPSHBX gets more support

Mr. President

Our good friend and partner Ronnie Micciulla, president of American Recreational Military Services, greeted President Bush at Newark Airport last Friday when he arrived for his appearance at the National Guard armory in Westfield, sat on the stage during the president's speech, and had an opportunity to speak with the president for a few minutes.

Ronnie has been spearheading an effort to collect, wrap and ship packages to soldiers overseas since the fall of 2003, and has earned the respect of the military community in the state of New Jersey, which is how she wound up being invited by the White House to meet the president.

She had hoped to lobby the president about a Congressional proposal to allow free shipping of packages to military personnel overseas, using as an example the 543 boxes that were wrapped Feb. 27 by her group and the volunteers from Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

The postage bill for that shipment was \$4,723.

Ronnie had also hoped to present the president with one of our Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 lapel pins, as well as

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



a copy of The Chronicle, but those items, as well as a camera carried by her daughter, were confiscated by the President's security detail.

However, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-8th, who had accompanied the president from Washington aboard Air Force One, paid a visit later in the day to The Chronicle office for an editorial board meeting. The Central New Jersey congressman heartily endorsed the efforts of the Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 volunteers, and slipped on one of our T-shirts, promising to wear it again during one of his frequent jogs around the nation's capital.

T-shirts for sale

Quality T-shirts with the handsome Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster and logo are now available. We sold 30 Saturday at the Bridgewater Commons during the Somerset Patriots' auditions for the Star

Spangled Banner. In the first week we have had the T-shirts, over 100 have been sold. The shirt features the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a full-color reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster.

The shirts cost \$10 and are available at The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive and other locations as they become available. An up-to-date list will appear in The Reporter each week. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSHBX.

Buy one for yourself, buy a few as gifts. We can also reproduce the shirts in quantity for veterans' groups, corporations, or other sponsors, and include the name of your company or organization on the shirt. Call and ask for details.

Volunteers also collected items for the soldiers during the auditions at the mall's center court.

Also, during the auditions, \$250 in cash and \$200 in checks were dropped off, in addition to enough donations of goods to fill one of our large drop-off boxes.

Monday night Clinton Station Diner in Hunterdon County donated 15 percent of its gross receipts to OPSHBX. According

to a representative of the diner, some \$400 was raised.

Shopping sprees

Several supermarkets in Central New Jersey have agreed to host six-hour shopping sprees to benefit the soldiers overseas. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be posted outside each of the stores and hand out shopping lists as you enter the store, and collect the items you're donating when you leave the store. Check the schedule on this page.

Last weekend, OPSHBX volunteer Veronica Findlay and her Girl Scout troop were posted at the King's Supermarket in Bedminster.

We'd like to thank the store managers at each of the locations we visit, and hope that other food stores follow their example and will support the cause.

We'd also like to thank in advance those of you who add the soldiers' needs to your shopping list.

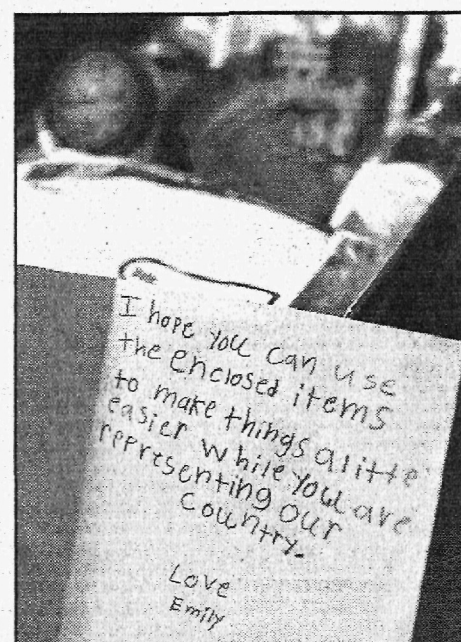
On Parade

A large float decorated with banners from Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 and NJN Publishing will roll down Main Street in Somerville as part of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Sunday. OPSHBX volunteers will accompany the float, passing out the list of needed items. With thousands expected to attend, we're hoping many in the crowd will stuff the flyers in their pockets and bring the list to the grocery store the next time they go shopping. We also hope to spread the word to out-of-towners who visit Somerville to partake of the festivities.

Honor Roll

Special thanks to the Girl Scouts of the Rolling Hills Council, the Bridgewater Rotary, and the Hamilton School in Bridgewater, as well as members of the DYFS office in Somerville for dropping off bags and boxes stuffed with toiletries, books and snack food at our office this past week.

We were also pleasantly surprised by a phone call from George Lawrence, adjutant of the Tri-Boro Memorial Post No.



Members of the Rolling Hills Girl Scout Council dropped off shoeboxes filled with donations, as well as notes to the soldiers serving in Iraq, last week. In addition to the many drop-off sites located throughout the county, donations can be taken to The Chronicle, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville.

GEORGE PACCIOLLO/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

5479, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Dunellen. We met George at a meeting of the Green Brook Dunellen Rotary Club the previous week, where we were invited to talk about OPSHBX.

George visited The Reporter last week to present OPSHBX with a check for \$5,000. In return, the post asked that we enclose a letter in the next shipment of boxes that heads overseas. We will, and want to share part of that letter:

"As VFW members, it is our duty to ensure that the voices of our soldiers who return home will forever be heard, and the memories of our fallen soldiers will never be forgotten. It is also our duty to make sure the needs of our brothers and sisters-in-arms are being met ... thank you for your service to our great nation. God bless you and please come home safe."

With that donation, we're fast approaching the \$20,000 mark, thanks to the generosity of the central New Jersey community.

Pump it up

Kevin Beegle, president of the Executive Fitness Club, 292 Route 22 west, is pushing club members to their limits.

On April 3, club members will participate in a special fundraising event for Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

"Challenge Yourself, Support The Soldiers" will challenge club members to work out on the exercise equipment, with donors pledging money to be collected based on the success and duration of each member's workout.

Beegle is also offering a mem-

bership package that will benefit OPSHBX. For each new membership that is sold during the month of March, five percent of that total will be donated to Operation: Shoebox 2005 New Jersey.

So if you've been putting off turning that flab into muscle, now's the time to do it. There's a good reason and good cause. Call (732) 752-5800 for further information.

Super Saturday

March 12: Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Somerset Patriots kick off 2005 season ticket sales; fans bringing items for the soldiers will be given a voucher good for one free ticket to a game during the season. (908) 252-0700.

March 12: Soldiers' Shopping Spree, A&P Supermarket, Mountain Boulevard, Warren, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will hand out shopping lists to shoppers as they enter the store and ask them to drop off donated items as they leave the store.

March 12: Soldiers' Shopping Spree, Shop Rite Supermarket, Route 28, Bound Brook, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will hand out shopping lists to shoppers as they enter the store and ask them to drop off donated items as they leave the store. (732) 302-9299.

Rod Hirsch is executive editor of The Reporter. Contact him at (908) 575-6684 or email rhirsch@njnpublishing.com

Calendar of Events

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April 1: Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, 150 West Main St., Somerville, Willie Lynch Trio benefit, \$5 donation requested; food specials with 20 percent



donated to Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005. Soldiers' Salute patriotic drinks, \$6, with \$1 from each drink donated to the soldiers. (908) 203-0700.

April 2: Fan Fest, Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, players' open tryouts. Fans are requested to bring items for the soldiers. (908) 252-0700.

April 2: Soldiers' Shopping Spree, Pathmark Supermarket, Veterans Memorial Drive West, Somerville, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will hand out shopping lists to shoppers as they enter the store and ask them to drop off donated items as they leave the store.

April 3: "Challenge Yourself, Support The Soldiers." Executive Fitness Club, Route 22, Green Brook. Club members will work out on exercise equipment; donors will pledge money to be collected based on each participant's workout. Also, five percent of each membership sold during March will be donated to Operation Shoebox. (732) 752-5800.

OPERATION: SHOEBOX NEW JERSEY 2005

Support Our Troops

Salute the sacrifice of our troops deployed around the world by donating care package items through OPERATION: SHOEBOX NEW JERSEY 2005.

The Reporter, along with our community partners, are collecting small, personal items that will be packaged and shipped to the brave men and women serving overseas.

Care package items can be dropped off at the following locations, during normal business hours:

The Reporter	Somerset Patriots	42nd Infantry Headquarters
44 Veterans Memorial Dr. E Somerville	1 Patriots Park Commerce Bank Ballpark Bridgewater	Hamilton Avenue Armory Franklin

Contact The Reporter's Executive Editor, Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684 or e-mail shoeboxnj@njnpublishing.com for more information.

Send your message of support today - support
OPERATION: SHOEBOX NEW JERSEY 2005!



UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS RESERVE

The Reporter



A.R.M.S.
AMERICAN RECREATIONAL
MILITARY SERVICES



UNITED STATES
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

We're looking for the following items to be sent to our troops overseas:

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suntan lotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Spices | <input type="checkbox"/> Snack food | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Bug wipes/bug strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Tea bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Cereal/protein bars | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries (any size) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes (travel size) | <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine products
(w/o wings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Razors | <input type="checkbox"/> Small drink mixes | <input type="checkbox"/> Microwaveable foods
(Can or box) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear swabs | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard candy/gum | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye drops | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline/pins | | |

*Donated items must be in their original packaging.

Photo Courtesy of The Army National Guard Official Web Site

Diane C. Pepe

DUNELLEN — Diane C. Stout Pepe, 51, died Feb. 28, 2005 at the South Plainfield home of a brother-in-law.

She was born in Plainfield and lived in Saylorsburg, Pa., before moving to Dunellen.

Mrs. Pepe was with the payroll department of Phillipsburg Honda for two years. The 1971 graduate of Dunellen High School earlier worked for Nitta Casings Inc. in Somerville.

Surviving are her mother, Geraldine Wiggins of Dunellen; a son, William of Fort Hood, Texas; two daughters, Teesha Stout of Richmond, Va., and April Whitfield of Dunellen; a sister, Michele MacGregor of Framingham, Mass.; and an aunt, Lillian Powell of Plainfield.

Services were held Saturday at the Sheenan Funeral Home.

Dominic Franzoso

MIDDLESEX — Dominic E. "Mim" Franzoso, 88, died March 2, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. He was born in Manville and had lived in Middlesex since 1953.

Mr. Franzoso was a retired plant supervisor with Elizabethtown Water Co. in Raritan and Millstone Borough. He was a member of Elks Lodge 1488 in Middlesex, the Somerset Valley YMCA in Bridgewater and Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church.

Deceased are three brothers, Anthony, Paul and Sam; and a sister, Theresa Mason.

Surviving are his wife, Frances Oliver Franzoso; two daughters, Mary Frances

Klein and husband George of Martinsville and Anne Frank and husband Stephen of Bridgewater; three brothers, Nick of Naples, Fla., Louis of Manville and Peter of Hillsborough; a sister, Rose Kotch of Manville; four grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Services were held Saturday at the Sheenan Funeral Home, Dunellen, followed by a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Donations may be sent to Somerset Valley YMCA, Bridgewater Facility, 601 Garretson Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Victoria Konrad

MIDDLESEX — Victoria Wilowski Konrad, 90, died Feb. 28, 2005 at her home.

Born in East Lyme, Conn., Mrs. Konrad lived in the Bronx and Manhattan before moving to South Bound Brook in 1938. She had resided in Middlesex since 1943.

She was a saleswoman with Best & Co. in Watchung until it closed in the 1970s. She earlier was a laboratory technician with Bakelite Corp. in Piscataway.

Mrs. Konrad was a charter member of the Elks Ladies associated with Elks Lodge 2301. She also was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the

Pierce Hose Company; the Middlesex Flower Club; the Middlesex Women's Club; and the PACE Club in Bound Brook.

Her husband, Louis, died in 1981.

Surviving are a son, Martin and wife Joan of Bridgewater; a grandchild, a great-grandchild, two nieces, two nephews and a great-niece.

A funeral Mass was held March 4 at St. Mary of Czesochowa Roman Catholic Church in Bound Brook. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.

Katherine Weber

MIDDLESEX — Katherine Weber, 51, died Feb. 22, 2005 at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Middlesex before moving to St. Petersburg in 2004.

Mrs. Weber was a registered nurse at Mease Dunedin Hospital in Dunedin, Fla.

Surviving are her companion, Joseph D. Greene III of St. Petersburg; her parents, Arthur and Gloria Stauch of Clark; three sons, Jared, Eric and Richard, and two daughters, Kerri and Amanda, all of Middlesex; a brother, Kenneth Stauch of Dunellen; and a sister, Janet Stauch of St. Petersburg.

A memorial service will be at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Dunellen United Methodist Church, 150 Dunellen Ave., Dunellen. Arrangements are by the Anderson & McQueen Funeral and Cremation Center, Tyrone Chapel, in St. Petersburg.

Walter Hewitt Sr.

DUNELLEN — Walter R. Hewitt Sr., 68, died Feb. 27, 2005 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Plainfield, he lived in Warren and Piscataway before moving to Dunellen in 2003.

Mr. Hewitt was the retired owner of Hewitt Roofing in Warren.

A brother, Charles Wilbur, is deceased.

Surviving are his former wife, Jeanne Dennick of Whiting; two sons, Walter R. Jr. of Dunellen and Charles D. of Bridgewater; a brother, Warren of Vernal, Utah; two sisters, Lucille Zimmerman of Somerville and Betty of Stuart, Fla.; four grandchildren and a nephew.

Services were held March 4 at the Scarpa Funeral Home in North Plainfield. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Dorothy Brown

EDISON — Dorothy Brown, 80, died Feb. 25, 2005 at the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice.

Born Oct. 15, 1924 in Jersey City, she lived in Garwood before moving to Edison in 2004.

Mrs. Brown was a homemaker.

Her husband, Charles Michael, died in 1999.

Surviving are a son, Charles M. Jr. and lifelong companion Earl C. Lewis of Maywood; three daughters, Kathie Witos

and companion Bruce Spence of Edison, Peggy Witos and husband Jim of Edison and Trish McDonald and husband Bob of Nazareth, Pa.; five grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Feb. 28 at Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church, Fords, following services at the Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Albert Rodzinak

MIDDLESEX — Albert Rodzinak, 74, died March 7, 2005 at his home.

Born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., he was a son of the late Mary and John Rodzinak.

Mr. Rodzinak had lived for over 40 years in Middlesex. He retired in 1992 after 25 years as a warehouseman with Supermarkets General Corp.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

Deceased are a sister, Mary Auringer; and five brothers, John, Joseph, Anthony, Stephen and Michael.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Marian Dzanko

Rodzinak; a son, Stephen; a daughter, Karen Maruska Rodzinak; three sisters, Katie Glowinski, Ellie Koschak and Lucy Radzwill; two grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church. Entombment was in the mausoleum at Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Middlesex Rescue Squad, 1400 Mountain Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Letitia Van Syckel

DUNELLEN — Letitia H. Van Syckel, 90, died March 3, 2005 at her home.

Born April 4, 1914 in North Branch, she was a daughter of the late Harold H. and Nora B. Clark Mehaffey.

Mrs. Van Syckel lived for many years in Dunellen. She and her husband, Aaron John, owned the Van Syckel Agency in Dunellen for real estate and insurance. He died in 2004.

She worked on an aircraft production line at General Motors Corp. in Linden during World War II. Mrs. Van Syckel was a past president of the auxiliary to the Dunellen Elks lodge.

A brother, Donald G. Mehaffey, and a sister, Arlene Cosgrove, are deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Frederick R. Scharnikow Sr. and wife Audrey of Annandale and William L. and wife Lisa of Raritan Township; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and her health aide and companion, Marian Habana.

Services were held Monday at the First Presbyterian Church, of which Mrs. Van Syckel was a member. Burial was in Readington Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Dunellen Rescue Squad.

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'Seussical' coming to Dunellen High School

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen High School Drama Club will be giving the Dunellen theater-going public of all ages a gift: a production of the Broadway whimsical musical sensation, "Seussical The Musical," based on the works of the beloved children's author, Dr. Seuss.

"Seussical The Musical" will open on March 16 with a free senior citizen performance at 5 p.m. Other performance dates include, March 17-19 at 7:30 p.m. and March 20 at 2 p.m. in the Dunellen High School auditorium.

General admission is \$8.00 and \$6.00 for children, students, and Seniors.

Written by the Tony-Award winning musical team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty and co-conceived by

Written by the Tony-Award winning musical team of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty and co-conceived by Eric Idle of Monty Python fame, "Seussical" follows the adventures of Horton, an elephant, whom one day hears voices coming from a speck of dust. He soon discovers that within this tiny speck exists the smallest planet in the universe. And upon this tiny planet, live tiny creatures known as Whos.

Eric Idle of Monty Python fame, "Seussical" follows the adventures of Horton, an elephant, whom one day hears voices coming from a speck of dust. He soon discovers that within this tiny speck exists the smallest planet in the universe. And upon this tiny planet, live tiny creatures known as Whos.

Although ridiculed by the other animals in the Jungle of Nool for believing in some-

thing he cannot see, Horton stubbornly persists in his belief that the Whos exist...no matter how small.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Who are having some adventures of their own, including a war over which side of the bread gets buttered. Jojo, the smallest child in the city of Who, played by Eric Switzer, parallels Horton's journey as he is ostracized for the unpopular act of thinking, an

activity not encouraged by the parents and teachers of Whoville.

As Jojo and Horton attempt to do what they think is right, the two encounter several obstacles before the other animals of the jungle come to understand that "a person's a person no matter how small."

During the course of the story, the Cat in the Hat, played by Michael Menta, pops in and out of scenes,

narrating, playing numerous characters, and helping the younger members of the audience keep track of what's going on.

Patrick Pangan, will portray Horton, the Elephant, who spends part of the show sitting on an egg laid by Mayzie La Bird, played by Nicole Cordobes, to enable her to take a vacation. Other Seuss Characters brought to life include Gertrude

McFuzz (Marissa McGrath) and the Sour Kangaroo (Amanda Fortuna). Lynda Scionti directs the show, aided by Cindy Chattin's musical direction, Charissa Chattin's clever choreography, costumes by Ellen Fitzpatrick, and set and props by Jane and Michael Landy.

Crazy, "Seussian" props, a creative and whimsical set, and the miles of tale feathers for Gertrude, Mayzie and The Bird Girls will add to the zany evening of entertainment. So bring the entire family to Dunellen High School's production of "Seussical The Musical, it promises to be an evening of wacky family fun.

To reserve seating for the show, or for additional information, call (732) 968-6438.

Senior Citizens 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.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. every second Monday in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy School located at 201 Voessler Ave. in Bound Brook. For further information, call club president Sal Barbati (908) 725-5444.

Event Schedule:
March 13 — St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 4 p.m. school cafeteria.
April 11 — Membership meeting, 1 p.m. at school cafeteria.

Dunellen

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held each Friday at 10 a.m. at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. We are currently looking for new members, come out and enjoy! Why stay home, we serve coffee and tea, bring your own sandwich, and enjoy the company of your peers.

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 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave. (Route 27). The monthly board meeting is at noon and the general meeting starts at 1:15 p.m. The speaker at the next meeting, March 14, will be Mike Harris who will talk about "Eliminating Income Taxes on Social Security." Refreshments will be served. Guests are always welcome. The chapter is currently accepting new members; call Ruth Hancock for further information at

Job search subject of seminar on March 23

EDISON — Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County is holding a seminar titled "Ways to Uncover Hidden Job Leads" March 23 at its offices, 515 Plainfield Ave.

Times are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Each session covers job search techniques and effective networking.

Registration is recommended; e-mail d.markowitz@jfv.org or call (732) 777-1940. The program is part of the Career Enrichment Series at the Jewish Family & Vocational Service.

(732) 548-2332.

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 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 at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Members are asked to bring boxes of pasta for F.I.S.H.

Trips and Events:
June 15-18 — Niagara Falls, Toronto. Details to follow.
For information on trips, call Ellie Procacci (732) 752-3093.

Piscataway

The Piscataway Senior Center has announced its 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 10-11 a.m. This is a drop in class. Sign up at the Reception Desk. The Visiting Nurse Association will visit the center the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. No cost. Sign up at reception desk.

March 16 — St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$2.25; sign up at Nutrition Desk.

April 18 — Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure Screening by St. Peter's Mobile Health Unit, 10-11:30 a.m. Appointments required. (732) 562-1133. No cost.

May 11 — Vision Screening 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Senior Center. Sign-up required, no cost. (732) 562-1133.

South Bound Brook

The South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Community Club meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall, 122 High St. Bingo is played every Wednesday and refreshments are served. A box of pasta per member will be collected at the meeting for the food bank. The club is open to all seniors, 55 years and older residing in South Bound Brook. For information or reservations, call Catherine (732) 356-4080.

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SUNDAYS

Worship Services 7:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAYS

Bread of Heaven Bible Study 12:00 noon
Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

123 Craig Ave.
Piscataway, N.J.
08854

THURSDAYS

Senior Citizens' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

SATURDAYS

Prayer Service 6:00 a.m.

Special Events

Men's Fellowship Weekend

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, March 18-19

Friday - Cooking Gents Family Fun Night 6:30 p.m.
Adults \$10; Seniors and Children \$8

Fax: (732) 287-2221

Saturday - Continental Breakfast & Worship Service 8:00 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Elder J. T. Miller

SUNDAY, March 20

Men's Day (one service only) 9:45 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Vernon Byrd

SATURDAY, March 19

Annual Fashion Show & Luncheon 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Stewardess Board No. 1
Tickets: \$15
Vendor Space is available

FRIDAY, March 25

Good Friday Service 7:30 p.m.
"THE SEVEN LAST WORDS"

EASTER SUNDAY, March 27

Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.
Trustee Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Sunday School Program 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

Please call the church office at (732) 287-5184 for more information.

Briefs

Easter bunny brunch in South Plainfield

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Columbiettes of South Plainfield will hold their annual Easter Bunny Brunch on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the Sacred Heart School Cafeteria.

The cost is \$10 per person regardless of age. All children in attendance, ages seven and

under, will receive a basket full of goodies from the Easter Bunny.

Because of earlier admittance time this year, the menu will consist of breakfast as well as luncheon items and will be served as an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Reservations must be made in advance by calling Christine at (732) 968-4257.

Fish and Chips Dinner at St. Mark's today

METUCHEN — St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Metuchen will hold its annual Fish and Chips dinner on Saturday.

The meal will be catered by the Thistle Restaurant of Kearny. Open seating will be from 5 to 7 p.m. and take out dinners are also available. Reservations are requested, chicken dinners may be ordered in advance. Adult meals are \$12 and children's meals are \$6.

The church is located at the corner of Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave (Route 27) in Metuchen. Call (732) 548-4308, Ext. 10, for reservations, questions or directions to the church.

Cub Scout Pack 26 consignment sale

DUNELLEN — A Children's Consignment Sale will be held on March 19 at the Dunellen Presbyterian Church Annex Building, located between 1st Street and Dunellen Ave. The event is sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 26 and the doors open at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. with a half-price sale beginning at 2 p.m.

The sale consists of gently used baby and children's clothing, toys, games, furniture and baby accessories. Bring the children and browse the tables.

Photojournalist will show unique creatures

BOUND BROOK — Geraldine Breen, photojournalist, will show how *Las Islas Encantadas*,

Galapagos are more than a Jurassic Park of strange animals, plants and geology, and how they became unique. The program will start at 8 p.m. March 21 at the Congregational Church, located on the corner of Church and High Streets. All are welcome. Free event. Call (732) 356-2428 for more information.

Pasta festival tickets are now available

DUNELLEN — The Rotary Club of Dunellen - Green Brook invites the public to its 16th Annual Pasta Festival at the Willows on the Monday nights in April — 4, 11, 18 and 25, plus the first Monday in May, May 2.

All-you-can-eat pasta dinner will be served from 5 to 8 p.m. with a choice of three sauces, marinara, meat and vodka to accompany your choice of spaghetti, penne or linguini with bread and butter served on the side.

The Willows Restaurant is located at 1013 Washington Ave., Green Brook. The cost is \$6 per person, with salad and beverages at reduced rates.

The Rotary Club of Dunellen - Green Brook is a service organization that assists local community groups and people, provides scholarships to area students and is a leader in the international battle against polio.

For more information regarding supporting this club, call Ron at (732) 968-0101.

Nursery school holds open house in April

EDISON — The Oak Tree Nursery School, 445 Plainfield Road, will hold an open house

on Saturday, April 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. to celebrate its 35th Anniversary and the Week of the Young Child.

Former teachers and students will be on hand for the occasion. Visitors may view a photo display of past years and artwork created by current classes. Registration information for 2005-2006 will be available.

Oak Tree Nursery School is a non-profit, non-sectarian, state certified school. For more information call the school director at (732) 494-2120.

Music and art fest at borough high school

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The public schools of South Plainfield will present its 36th Annual All District Music and Art Festival on Thursday, April 7, at South Plainfield High School starting at 6:25 p.m.

The festival will feature performances of instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as displays of art created by the district's many talented students.

The music performances will take place in the auditorium while the displays of art will be located in the gymnasium. The concert will be performed in three segments.

The first part of the concert will be devoted to orchestral music.

After a short intermission, the second part of the program will feature vocal music performances.

Following another short intermission, the concert will conclude with performances of symphonic and jazz bands.

Each segment of the program will feature ensembles from Grant School, the Middles

School, and the High School. Each of the three concert segments will require a separate ticket.

Middlesex Pool now accepting applications

MIDDLESEX — The Community Pool in Middlesex is accepting applications for the 2005 season.

Applications for membership by Middlesex Borough residents may be obtained at the Middlesex Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Ave., or at the library. The applications are only being accepted for residents of Middlesex at this time.

There are jobs at the pool for the snack bar and front desk. These applications can be picked up and dropped off at the Borough Clerk's office.

Car show to benefit area Rotary club

DUNELLEN — The Rotary Club of Dunellen - Green Brook is planning its 19th Annual Antique-Custom Car Show-Swap Meet on Sunday, June 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Skinner Plaza.

Vender spaces and sponsor applications are now available. Call Mike Ryan during the day at (732) 969-0003 or Rich Kline during the evening at (732) 752-2114.

This event is always fun for the family; there will be games, prizes, food and martial arts demonstrations. The rain date will be June 12.

Proceeds from this event go to the Dunellen - Green Brook Rotary Club's Scholarship programs.

Calendar

Saturday, March 12

DUNELLEN - Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 12 at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 400 New Market Road, includes vegetables, beverage and dessert. Donation Adults, \$10; Children under 10 \$6. Call (732) 968-6781 for more information.

Friday, March 18

METUCHEN - Tricky Tray Auction: March 18, doors open 5 p.m., auction starts 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 includes dinner and cash bar, at Raritan Center, 27 Sunfield Ave. No one under 18 permitted. Call Karen (732) 494-3499 for more information and tickets.

IN THE FUTURE:

METUCHEN - "Gospel Café": March 19 at 7 p.m. Spirit filled evening of poetry, singing, dance, scripture reading and open mic. Ages 18 to 35 are welcome. Adult ministry of New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton Street, Metuchen; Rev. Ronald L. Owens, Sr. Pastor. Call (732) 549-8941 for details.

PISCATAWAY - Easter Bunny Breakfast: March 20, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Possumtown Fire Company, 85 Stratton Street South. Adults \$5, Seniors \$5, Children 4-12, \$4, 3 and under are free.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - St. Patrick's Day Party: 8 p.m. to midnight March 19 at the Knights Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. \$20 per person which included dinner and open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ. Call Jim Shea (908) 756-0478 or (908) 755-6203 for tickets. Seating limited.

MIDDLESEX - Easter Worship Service: March 27, 10:30 a.m. Christian Life Church, 272 Lincoln Blvd. Middlesex Call (732) 560-5800 for details.

EDISON - Twin Brooks Spring Dog Show: March 27, 8:30 a.m. until done. At the New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison. AKC points awarded. \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and children \$1. food and vendors available. **ALSO:** TBKC Blood Drive service available. Call (908) 647-1357 or (973) 746-5986 for details on entering and show.

DUNELLEN - Rap and Hip Hop Concert: 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 1 at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, 218 Dunellen Avenue, featuring "United Kingdom". Grades 6 and up invited. No Cost. Call Joe Quatrone, Youth Director at (732) 267-6143 for more information.

BOUND BROOK - Cherry Blossom "Charity Ball": April 2, 7 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Bound Brook Elks Lodge 1388, 305 East Second Street. Couple, \$80, Single \$45, includes social hour, dinner and dancing. Call (732) 868-1653 for details.

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Saturday, March 12, 2005

Five area wrestlers claim championships

Flanagan, Jones, Damon Harrington, Murray win

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

REGION 5

FLEMINGTON — While Andrew Flanagan continued on his path in a bid for a second state title with another dominant effort, four other area wrestlers captured gold for the first time.

Flanagan paced a quintet of *Chronicle*-area performers to Region 5 championships as the Bound Brook senior won his third crown. Crusader teammates Jesse Harrington and Pat Murray posted final-round upsets to win, while Piscataway teammates Robert Damon and Chris Jones produced back-to-back crowns.

With a 144-11 career mark Flanagan entered last night's state tournament pre-quarter-finals one victory shy of matching the state mark of Absegami's Ryan Goodman, who set the record last year.

After opening with a fall in 3:48 and then logging an 16-0 decision for a technical fall in 1:41 in the semis Flanagan moved to 36-0 for the year by decking Hunterdon Central's Zubin Karimattam in 3:01 in the title bout at 152 pounds.

Now all that's left for Flanagan is completing his mission in Atlantic City.

"It's kind of bittersweet," he said. "I'm happy with my career and everything I've accomplished, but I'm sad because I love the people in Bound Brook. They've done so much for me, and they made me grow. I give a lot of credit to my coaches and teammates who have always supported me."

"Anything less than a state championship will be unsatis-

fying. It's going to be special going down there with two of my teammates. You have to go down and wrestle. It's not any different than doing it here. You just have to do it before 17,000 people."

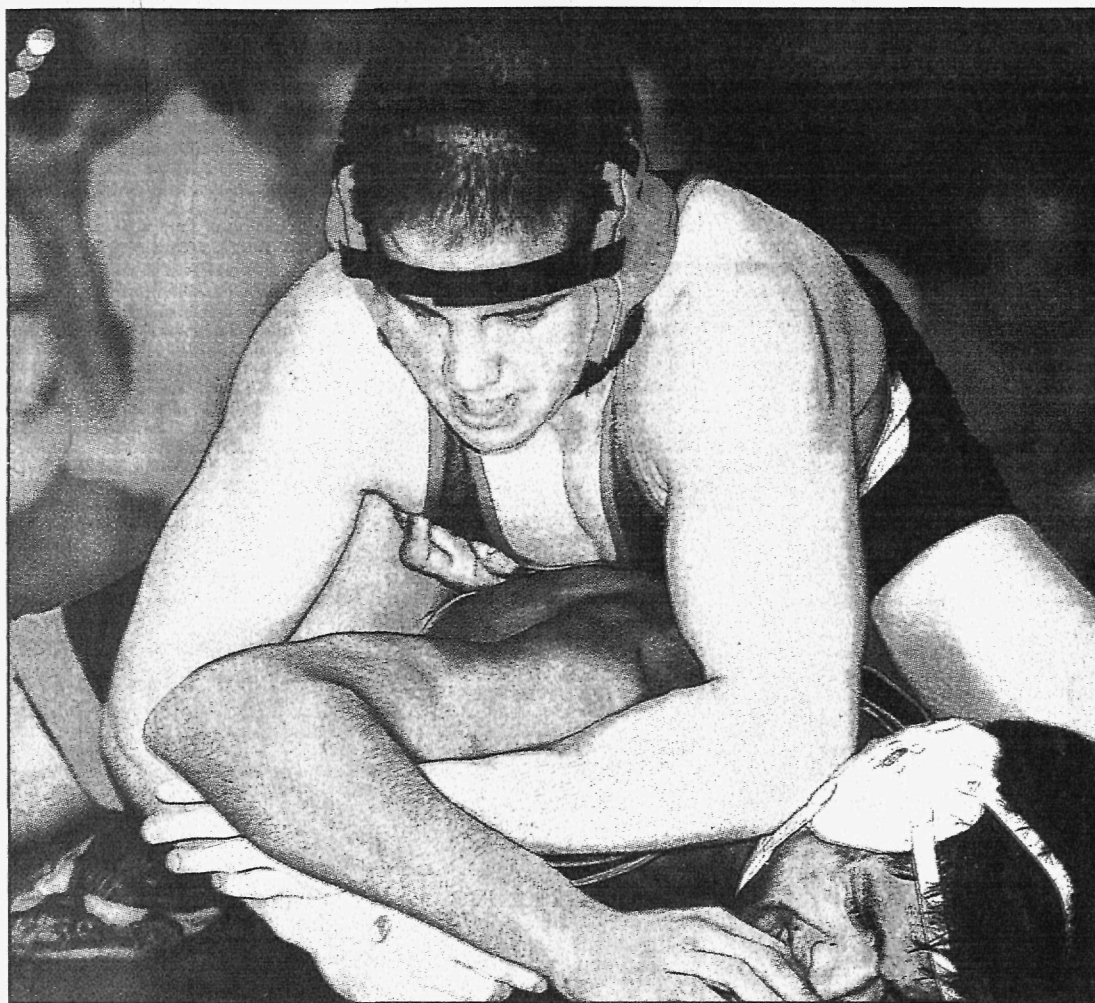
Harrington earned the right to do that with a shocking upset at 140 pounds as the junior with a season's record of 32-3 stunned three-time region champion Joe Bubenheimer of Woodbridge 9-4.

After advancing with pins in 5:31 and 3:11, the second-seeded Harrington, who was fourth a year ago at 130, broke away from a 2-2 deadlock to whip Bubenheimer, who entered with a 35-0 mark and had third- and second-places finishes in the state tournament on his resume, with 9-4 verdict.

That effort earned Harrington, who had lost earlier this season 6-4 to Bubenheimer, the Outstanding Wrestler Award.

"I went into the match full of confidence," he said. "Once I got the lead I knew I had to wrestle a full match and not take anything for granted. Nick Murray is one of my work-out partners, and after watching him win I wanted it even more. It feels great."

Murray, Flanagan's cousin, also upset the seeding by knocking off top-ranked Corey Ritchings of East Brunswick in the final with a dominant performance. The second-rated sophomore, who improved to 33-2, opened a 6-0



Bound Brook High's Andrew Flanagan works over Zubin Karimattam of Hunterdon Central en route to a fall in 3:01 in the 152-pound final of the Region 5 Tournament Saturday. For Flanagan, a returning state champion, it was his third straight region title.

lead in the second period and claimed a 7-2 victory. Earlier he had 18-2 (technical fall) and 15-4 decisions.

"I was pretty confident," said Murray, who was fourth at 125 last year. "My coach told me I had been wrestling region quality all year and to just go out and do my thing. I always set my goals high, and I just want to build on this. I want to win a state champi-

onship."

Damon and Jones both remember the heartbreak of final-round losses of a year ago, and both delivered titles this time around as top seeds.

Jones (27-2) turned in the most dramatic outcome of the finals when the senior produced a four-point move right before the final buzzer at 189 pounds to earn a 9-7 victory over second-ranked Vince

Otero of Sayreville. Jones reached the title round with 5-1 and 11-6 decisions.

"It feels great to win," he said. "I have no idea what kind of moved I used. It was desperation. I had beaten (Otero) twice before and I knew he'd come on strong. In those closing seconds I couldn't see myself losing after having beaten him twice, and I knew I had to make something up."

Damon took the mat before Jones and had no similar drama in dispatching Bridgewater-Raritan's Jon Rothman with a 10-1 decision. The unbeaten junior, who won his 30th bout when he defeated Rothman, opened the tourney with a fall in 1:46 and then won 11-1.

"It feels good. My coach told me I deserved this," he said. "I've beaten (Rothman) before, but he gave me a good match. I've only been wrestling for three years, and this is my second time going to Atlantic City. I'm going to take the matches one at a time, and go as far as I can."

Two other area wrestlers, Metuchen's Jack Barrett and Edison's J.C. Bandiero, dropped final-round verdicts, but advanced to last night's preliminaries along third-place finisher Pavel Stuchinsky of J.P. Stevens.

Barrett, who finished the tourney with a 28-4 record, held the top seed at 145 after placing third a year ago 140 and Metuchen senior moved to the final on an injury default and 6-3 victory before being toppled by Delaware Valley's second-ranked C.J. Inglin 8-2.

The second-seeded Bandiero carried a 32-0 record into his title bout with Somerville's top-rated Kyle Sutphen and put up a battle before dropping a 4-3 decisions. The Edison sophomore advanced to the final with a 56-second pin and a 10-6 decision.

Stuchinsky brought a 23-4 record into the event and had the top seed at 215, but after a 4-1 decision and a 35-second fall the senior was pinned in the semis. He bounced back to take third by pinning in 1:40 and then edging Perth Amboy's Alex Sanchez 3-2 in the consolation final.

McCray rallies to earn crown, seven Tigers in all reach A.C.

UNION — With Ed McCray leading the way seven South Plainfield wrestlers earned spots in the state tournament with top-three finishers at the Region 3 Tournament Saturday at Union High School.

The Tigers sent six to the championship round but only McCray came out a winner as he captured the 135-pound title. Patrick Hunter, Billy Ashnault, Jimmy Conroy, Paul Richey and Kevin Criley all came home with runner-up honors.

Rob Maistickie also earned a ticket to Atlantic City with a third-place finish, but two other Tigers, Nick Dorey and Pete DeAndrea, just missed will consolation-round setbacks.

McCray, who was second at 125 while wrestling for Rahway last year, went against top-rated Steve Mineo of Scotch Plains-Fanwood for the title and captured the crown by decking last season's 130-pound region champion 42 seconds into overtime.

It was McCray's third straight pin in the tournament as he opened with falls in 2:47 and 1:43 and sixth straight over two weekends. He trailed Mineo, a two-time region winner, 6-3 with time running out in regula-

REGION 3

tion when he picked up a penalty point and a takedown to force overtime.

Returning state champion Jimmy Conroy had the unenviable task of going against last year's 112-pound state champ Mike Grey of Delbarton in the final at 119. Grey, who has never lost to a New Jersey opponent and owns two state championships, earned the Outstanding Wrestling Award after decisioning Conroy 10-4.

Conroy, who won his state crown at 103 last year, lost for the first time in 33 bouts this year and suffered his fourth career loss against 102 victories. He pinned his first two opponents 1:32 and 3:51 to reach the final.

Ashnault, the third seed at 112, faced top-rated Ryan Wilson of Rahway in the title bout and dropped a 5-0 verdict. Ashnault used a pair of falls to advance to the final as he opened by pinning in 3:55 and then packed his semifinal foe in 5:11.

Hunter held the top seed at 103 and reached the title round with a technical fall by winning 15-0 in 2:08 and then post a 12-

3 major in the semis, but he came up short against third-seeded Frank Perrelli of Delbarton in a 3-2 setback.

In another one-vs.-three final at 145 Ritchey failed to back his top ranking when he dropped a 20-9 decision to Jionni LaValle of Hanover Park. Third in the same class a year ago, Ritchey opened with a 45-second pin but then had to outlast fifth-seeded Anthony Ferrante of Scotch Plains in a 7-5 bout.

Criley reached the final as the third seed at 189 on the strength of a 12-4 major in the opening round, a tech fall (17-0 in 3:01) in the quarters and a 9-4 verdict in the semis, but then ran into defending champion Shane Mallory of New Providence and dropped a 4-0 decision.

Maistickie had the top ranking at 215 at the start of the tourney, but after opening with a 16-4 major he faltered in the semis and lost a 6-2 decision to fourth-seeded Nick Somers of Madison, the eventual champion. Maistickie, however, kept his season alive by winning his wrestleback semifinal 14-4 and then decking Jesse Boyden of Brearley in 5:22 of the consolation final.

nine points apiece for the Bulldogs.

J.P. Stevens 58, Woodbridge 54 — Trailing 40-31 in the third quarter the Hawks outscored fifth-ranked Woodbridge (15-8) 27-14 the rest of the way to avoid an upset in the North 2 IV quarters March 2. Kathryn Ruhno (18), Amy Bonk (12), Brittany Mullings (12) and Tania Kennedy (11) all connected for double figures in the victory.

Piscataway 54, Plainfield 34 — Caitlin Wesnesky popped in 17 points, Nicole Lilenfeld tossed in 13, while Asia Jenkins and Tiffany Patrick added nine apiece as the Chiefs rolled past 11th-seeded Plainfield in the North 2 IV opening round March 2.

South Plainfield 41, Holmdel 38 — After trailing 20-12 at halftime the Tigers rallied past 12th-rated Holmdel in the opening round of North 2 III play March 2 when Niya Santiago's basket snapped a 35-35 deadlock. Nicole Arndt led the way with 14 points, Blaire Houston scored nine and Santiago added eight.

Delaware Valley 44, Middlesex 38 — Converting only 4 of 14 from the foul line and outscored 13-7 in the third quarter after being knotted at 18-18 at halftime the sixth-ranked Blue Jays were eliminated in the opening round of Central Jersey II play March 2 by 11th-rated Delaware Valley. Ashley Best, Ana Abourashed and Chrissy Santoro had eight points each for the Middlesex, which finished at 15-8.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bulldogs advance to CJ I title game

Refusing to surrender a sizable lead against a team that had already proven it could come back against them the Bulldogs earned the right to play for a sectional championship Saturday.

Facing second-seeded South River, which had twice overcome 14-point deficits to win GMC-Blue Division games this season, the Metuchen High boys basketball squad held off another late bid by the Rams to claim a 64-49 decision in the Central Jersey Group I semifinals.

Metuchen was to face fifth-rated Florence, which had won its three games by almost 25 points per outing, for the title Tuesday night, but the game was pushed back because of bad weather to Wednesday at the earliest.

For third time this season the third-ranked Bulldogs had control of the game late, leading 49-35 with 5:33 remaining. South River (15-8), however, closed to within six with 1:34 to play before Metuchen iced the verdict by connecting on 11 free throws.

Marcus Blakely, who had eight points in the opening session when Metuchen forged an 18-12 lead, added 10 of his team-leading 20 points in the final period.

Nick Storts finished with 11 points, Kevin Rush pitched in 10 and Jerry Nichols followed with nine for the Bulldogs, who moved to 17-8 for the season, their first winning campaign in 17 years — also the last time they played for a sectional title.

New Brunswick 66, South Plainfield 61 — If it's hard to beat a good team three times in a season then the Tigers learned how difficult it is to defeat the same opponent four times as New Brunswick gained a measure of revenge for three earlier losses in the quarter-finals of the North 2 Group III Tournament March 3.

GMCT champion South Plainfield just got past the 11th-rated Zebras (15-9) in the previous game, but couldn't do it again as New Brunswick rallied from used a 19-12 showing the fourth quarter to win after the third-

seeded Tigers had grabbed the lead at 49-47 with an 18-12 tally in the third quarter.

South Plainfield senior standouts Darren Smith and Marquis Jones led the offense with 24 and 22 points, respectively, and Matt Baszika chipped in with eight but it wasn't enough as the Tigers finished the year at 19-6.

Keansburg 53, Dunellen 50 — The top-seeded Destroyers, who started the season by winning 13 straight, saw it come to an end in the quarter-finals of CJ I March 3 when ninth-rated Keansburg pulled out the verdict with a 13-9 edge over the final eight minutes.

Dunellen, which had three chances to tie the game when down 52-50 and got off a three-point attempt before the buzzer, received 16 points from Dean Hoski, 13 from Todd DeNapoli and 10 from Tim Sweeney as it closed out the campaign with a 17-6 record.

Metuchen 69, New Providence 60 — After recovering from a 26-21 halftime deficit to knot the game at 37-37 after three quarters the Bulldogs went to overtime against sixth-seeded New Providence and prevailed with a 17-8 run sparked by a combined 11 points from Marcus Blakely and Lamar Nichols March 3.

Jerry Nichols pumped in 21 points to pace the Metuchen attack, while Blakely, Dujuan Miller and Jon Brown chipped in with 11 points apiece.

East Side 55, Piscataway 54 — With a chance to tie the game with 3.9 seconds to play the Chiefs converted only one of two free throws and dropped a narrow verdict to ninth-seeded Newark East Side (13-7) in the opening round of the North 2 Group IV Tournament March 2.

Piscataway, the eighth seed, led 40-36 entering the fourth quarter following a 10-4 effort in the third period but could not hold on. Brandon Wilkinson popped in 18 points to lead the Chiefs, who finished at (14-11), while Rodney Freeney pitched in 11.

Stevens, Dunellen bow in semifinals

Facing top-seeded Irvington in the North Jersey 2 Group IV semifinals March 4 the J.P. Stevens High girls basketball squad got off to a fast start but could not sustain it in dropping a 54-43 decision March 4.

With Tania Kennedy doing some damage early the fourth-ranked Hawks surprised Irvington by grabbing a 16-11 edge after one quarter, but the Blue Knights responded with a 16-9 second period to take a 27-25 edge at halftime. Irvington was on top 41-36 entering the final eight minutes when it pulled away with a 13-7 showing.

Kennedy dropped in 18 points to lead the Hawks, the GMCT champions who finished their season with a 21-4 record, while Kathryn Ruhno pitched in 13.

Dayton 40, Dunellen 39 — With an opportunity to reach the Central Jersey Group I title game the second-rated Destroyers could not protect the ball in the closing seconds and lost a heart-breaking verdict to third-seeded Dayton, which went on to win the championship, March 4.

Catherine Scerra, who led the Dunellen attack with 19 points, gave her team a 39-38 edge with 13 seconds left, and a held ball gave possession back to the Destroyers with 10 seconds to play.

Needing to foul and no yet in the bonus situation, Dayton (17-9) forced Dunellen to inbound the ball three times, and on the third Cristine Zavocki (20) stole the ball and scored on an uncontested layup

GIRLS BASKETBALL

at the buzzer.

Lauren Staats added 10 points for Dunellen, which closed out the season at 15-8.

Bayonne 65, Piscataway 41 — With Head Coach Pat Mayo going against her daughter Jen (17 points) the Chiefs could not keep pace with third-ranked Bayonne (21-3), which raced to a 22-9 lead after one quarter and coasted in the North Jersey 2 Group IV quarter-finals March 3.

Tiffany Patrick and Caitlin Wesnesky topped sixth-seeded Piscataway, which ended the campaign with a 16-9 record, with 13 and 10 points, respectively.

Shabazz 64, South Plainfield 28 — Meeting the state's best team the previous two years South Plainfield was overwhelmed in the opening half when fourth-seeded Shabazz (23-4) roared to a 35-12 lead in the North 2 Group III quarter-finals March 3.

Danielle Arndt netted 12 points and Blaire Houston added eight for the fifth-rated Tigers, who closed out the season with a 18-7 ledger.

Dunellen 46, Metuchen 29 — Catherine Scerra pumped in 22 points and Lauren Staats chipped in with 13 as the Destroyers rolled in the CJ I quarters against seventh-seeded Metuchen (11-11). Katy Rosini and Geri Koval notched

Minding the buttonholes and needles

Wardrobe supervisor keeps acts flying high

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — When the lights go up inside the big top at the Big Apple Circus, and the acrobats start their stunts or the dancers start spinning about, Natalie Peyramaure's biggest hope is that none of the performers pop a button or tear a seam.

But as the wardrobe supervisor with the Big Apple Circus, Peyramaure is backstage during each show, waiting on hand with safety pins and thread just in case there is a wardrobe malfunction.

"Sometimes, nothing will happen for three weeks in a row," she said. "But then maybe it will happen twice during every show."

At any given moment, you're likely to find the washing machine and the drier running in the wardrobe trailer. Peyramaure and her assistant Kasasha Anderson, wash the shirts and the more durable parts of the costumes everyday. More fragile items are dry cleaned once a week.

Peyramaure explained that when the directors start working on a new show, the designers come up with costumes for the performers. It's her job to complete alterations and care for the costumes while traveling and in between shows.

Peyramaure especially enjoys the wide variety of colors and fabrics used in "Picturesque," the title of this year's show. Picturesque is a tribute to artists who've been inspired by the circus.

The Mongolian Angels, who perform aerial acrobatics, use their costumes to reference Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian expressionist and abstract painter. Kandinsky, best known for using streaks and blobs of oil paints in his "Composition" series of paintings, was portrayed through the brightly colored costumes worn by the Mongolian Angels. Their stretch body leotards, with colors from the entire palette, had frayed mesh streaks and larger sections of crushed velvet.

Almost out of a scene from the film "Moulin Rouge," the Can-Can girls paid tribute to Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, a French post impressionist painter. In their bright and richly ruffled dresses, the Can-Can girls energetically kicked their heels up to

Toulouse-Lautrec.

Rene Magritte, a Belgian surrealist, was the inspiration for another acrobatic act called Surreal Fun. Clad in Derby hats and vests made out of a cloud pattern, the acrobats created optical illusions by walking in, out and through and flipping over a set of doors.

The costumes for the Degas inspired ballerinas and horse act were among the most difficult to care for, said Peyramaure. The ballerina dancers twirled about in the ring in fluffy, flowing mesh and silk tutu skirts, looking like they just stepped out of Degas' "Dancers Preparing for an Audition."

"You can't wash these," said Peyramaure. "We bring them to a dry cleaner every week so we have to take good care of them in between."

Circus juggler Picasso Jr. looked like he stepped right out of Pablo Picasso's harlequin paintings. Dressed in a cubist inspired jumpsuit of checkered pattern silk and nylon, Picasso Jr. juggled ping pong balls with his mouth.

The show's music is just as important as the costumes, said Company Manager Julie Parkinson.

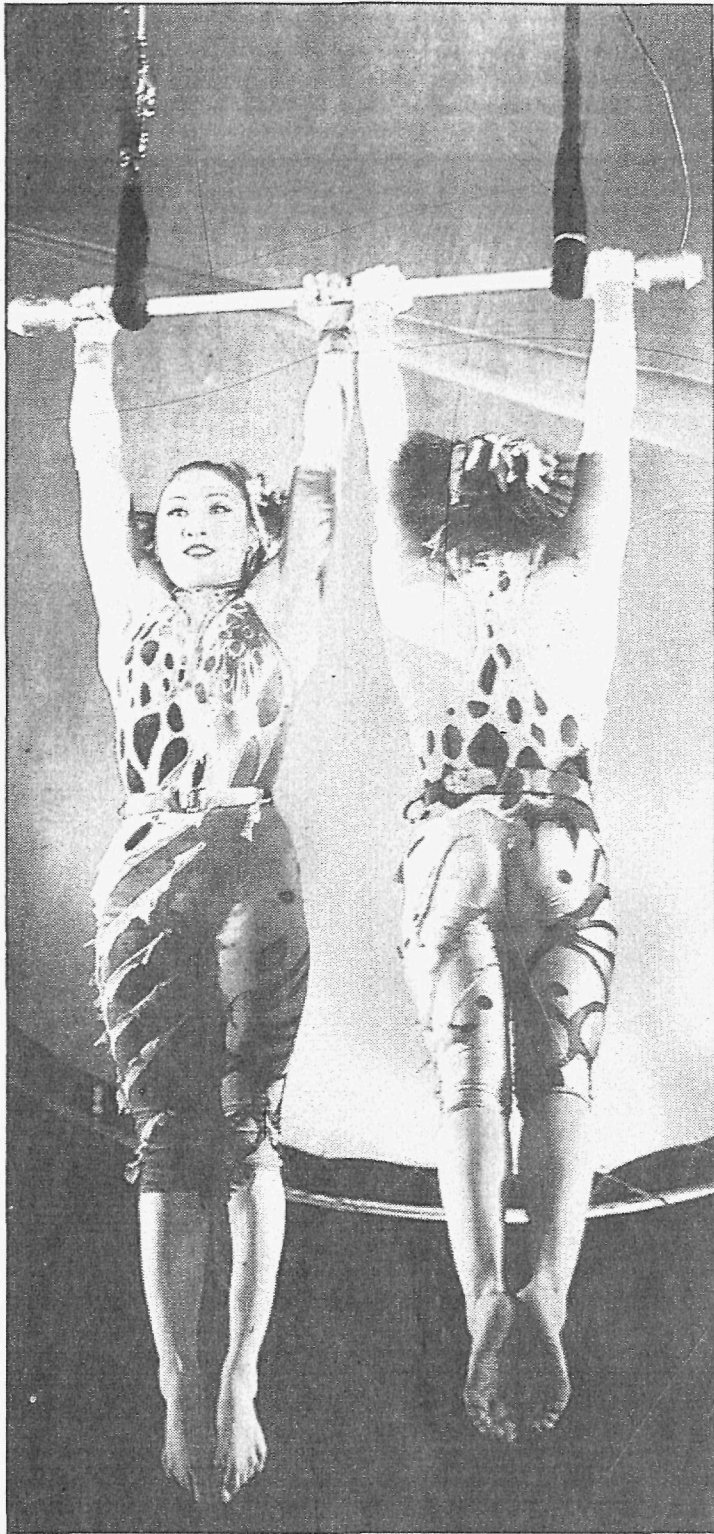
"We took the artists and looked at their paintings, but more, we looked at their styles," she said. "We used the style of the times of the painters for some of the music and expanded on that."

Rob Slowik, musical director and Big Apple Circus band conductor, said each season, the directors decide on a style for different acts and provide him with samples. Slowik takes those samples to his composers who then create the soundtrack for the acts.

"We're always changing it, though," said Slowik. "To make it faster, or slower or more aggressive to fit the act."

This year's show runs the gamut of musical styles with classical, rock, funk and jazz, said Slowik. The eight-piece band's biggest challenge is making sure its tempo and style fits with the performance.

"It's like a soundtrack for a movie," said Slowik. "You've got to have the build up in the right place and accent all the tricks."



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Natalie Peyramaure, pictured above, wardrobe supervisor for the Big Apple Circus, in the circus' costume shop, where the outfits are stored and worked on. Peyramaure shows off a costume inspired by Russian expressionist painter Wassily Kandinsky. Max Binder, at right, dresses as a harlequin as a tribute to Pablo Picasso in "Picturesque."



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kasasha Anderson, pictured above, assistant to Wardrobe Supervisor Natalie Peyramaure, mends a piece of clothing at The Big Apple Circus. At left, the Mongolian Angels perform in costumes inspired by Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian expressionist painter famous for his work in the early part of the 20th century.

The Big Apple Circus will be at the Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater through March 27. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at (212) 307-4100 and the Somerset Hills YMCA at (908) 766-4755. The circus box office in front of the Big Top at the Commerce Bank Ballpark opens tomorrow. For additional information, call (800) 922-3772.

Below is the this week's and next week's performance schedule for The Big Apple Circus' Picturesque:

**Saturday, March 12 — 12:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 13 — 12:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16 — 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 17 — 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.**



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Legal Notices

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
Docket No. F-1652-05
STATE OF NEW JERSEY, by: MITCHELL A. COFFMAN, Plaintiff, vs. Plaintiff's Note and Mortgage and may be liable for any deficiency and for any lien, claim or interest you or they may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein by the Plaintiff.
You may contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County in which this action is pending by calling (732) 228-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County in which this action is pending by calling (732) 249-7600.
DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK
Superior Court of New Jersey
DATED: March 4, 2005
B51 1T 3/12/05

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF CO-OP APARTMENT
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, the secured party, or its successor in interest or legal representative, will sell the collateral hereinafter described at public auction.
On THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005 AT 2 PM at the law offices of SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Marlton, New Jersey 08053, the following goods will be exposed to sale at Public Auction with reserve:
Four Hundred Seventy Five (475) shares of capital stock of Northridge Tenants Corp., together with any substitute, replacement or additional shares of the Corporation issued and allocated to 70 College Drive Edison, New Jersey 08817, together with any interest in the common elements and all of the corresponding right, title and interest in that certain proprietary lease between entered December 31, 1984 between Donald Carter and

Northridge Tenants Corporation, and subsequently assigned to Elyse J. Poulin on April 30, 2003.
The aforesaid shares of stock and proprietary lease entitles the owners thereto to possession of a cooperative apartment located at 70 College Drive, Edison, New Jersey 08817, subject to the terms of the aforesaid proprietary lease, any substitutes, replacement or extensions of the lease articles of incorporation and bylaws of Northridge Tenants Corp. The aforesaid documents may be inspected by contacting the managing agent.
The sale is held to enforce the rights of Federal National Mortgage Association successor in interest to Fleet National Bank as the secured party arising under a security agreement executed by Elyse J. Poulin, as debtor on April 30, 2002.
The security agreement secures the original indebtedness of Elyse J. Poulin to Fleet National Bank as evidenced by a promissory note dated April 30, 2002 in the principal sum of \$32,400.00 and thereafter assigned to Federal National Mortgage Association.
The secured creditor has elected to sell the aforesaid goods at a public sale in accordance with N.J.S.A. 12A:9-504 because of the debtor's default and failure in a payment due December 1, 2001 and all payments thereafter to the present time, in accordance with the terms of the promissory note.
The underlined indebtedness, in the approximate amount of \$42,421.03 as of February 24, 2005, plus interest, late charges, co-op association dues, attorney's fees and costs of sale, which may accrue in accordance with the promissory note or any other term of repayment agreement between the debtor and the secured party is not part of this auction and is not being sold.
The collateral may be redeemed by the debtor up to the date of the sale by payment of all amounts due in certified funds to the attorney for the secured party.

The purchase price for the collateral shall be the highest bid and shall be payable in cash or by certified check or bank check, of which a 10% deposit is required with the successful bid at the time of auction and the balance of the purchase price shall be payable within thirty days (closing date). The secured party reserves the right to bid at this sale, shall not be required to post a deposit and may credit against the purchase price bid all sums due to the secured party under the security agreement. Should the successful bidder fail to deliver the balance of the purchase price within the time period, the collateral may, in the sole discretion of the secured party, be resold and any loss arising from such resale shall be the responsibility of the former successful bidder.
The sale may be subject to further conditions and revisions as may be announced at the start of the auction. The collateral appurtenant thereto may be inspected at the offices of Shapiro & Diaz, LLP immediately prior to the sale.
The Co-op apartment will be sold as is subject to superior liens, if any, subject to the rights of tenants or occupants in possession, if any, and subject to rights of the cooperative corporation. Possession is to be obtained by the purchaser. Please direct all inquiries with respect to the collateral to SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, SAMANTHA A. CLIFFORD, ESQUIRE 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Marlton, New Jersey 08053 (856) 810-1700, ATTORNEYS FOR SECURED CREDITOR.
DATED: March 12, 2005 and March 26, 2005
B52 1T 3/12/05

NOTICE OF ABSENT DEFENDANTS
(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: VASILIOS PELLIOS
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Marlton, NJ 08053, an answer to the complaint (and amendment to complaint, if any) filed in a civil action in which WACHOVIA BANK, N.A. FORMERLY KNOWN AS FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANK, SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE NATIONAL STATE BANK is Plaintiff and THOMAS C. OLIVER AND DOLLENE OLIVER, HIS WIFE are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, MIDDLESEX and bearing Docket # F-3658-05 within Thirty-five (35) days after the date of this publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint (and amendment to complaint, if any). You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex, 24 Market Street, Trenton, NJ 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.
This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated August 7, 1997, made by THOMAS C. OLIVER AND DOLLENE OLIVER, HIS WIFE, as Mortgagee(s), to THE NATIONAL STATE BANK recorded on August 25, 1997, in Book M35509 of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, Page 601, and (2) to recover possession of the concerned premises commonly known as: 54 E. GREYSTONE ROAD FKA 280 E. GREYSTONE ROAD, OLD BRIDGE, NJ 08857.
If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling (201) 249-5000. You may also contact the lawyer referral service of the County of Venue by calling 908-828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Venue by calling 908-249-7600.
You, VASILIOS PELLIOS, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you may have an interest in, or subject property by reason of a lien, encumbrance, or otherwise which may be perfected against the property being foreclosed and for any right, title, claim or interest you may have in, to or against said mortgaged premises.
DATED: March 12, 2005
DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
B54 1T 3/12/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1635-05
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SOIL REMOVAL, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO AMEND THE FEE SCHEDULE SET FORTH THEREIN
The above ordinance was introduced at a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on March 8, 2005 and will be further considered for the final passage after a public hearing at a Public Meeting of said Borough Council to be held at the Municipal Building, in said Borough on March 22, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.
Kathleen Anello, RWC
Borough Clerk
B54 1T 3/12/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1635-05
REGULATING MASSAGE, BODYWORK AND THERAPY ESTABLISHMENTS
Notice is hereby given that the following Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey held on the 8th day of March, 2005 in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey.
Kathleen Anello
Borough Clerk
B55 1T 3/12/05

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Merchandise Classification 550

Classified in-column deadline: Monday at 5 p.m.

Announcements

Adoption 105

Adoption - A childless, college educated, successful single woman wishes to adopt newborn baby. Will be raised in a home filled with LOVE, joy, warmth and lots of TLC. All expenses paid. Call Angela 1-800-403-1079 pin#77

Announcements 110

Disclaimer
The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette & The Chronicle reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject any classified advertising at any time and will not be responsible for errors after the first appearance in this newspaper. The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette & The Chronicle liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error and will not be liable for failure to publish an ad.

Coming Events 170

DUNELLEN CUB SCOUTS PACK 26 HOLD CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE
Cub Scouts pack 26 is holding a Children's Consignment Sale on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Dunellen Presbyterian Church's Annex Building. Located between 1st Street and Dunellen Ave. The door opens at 8am. 3pm with 1/2 price sale will begin at 2pm - 3pm. Did you know that in the past 5 years, the population of elementary age children has nearly doubled? As a result, Cub Scouts is becoming very popular. Each year Pack 26, continues to grow and more boys are staying in scouting and crossing over to Boy Scouts. In today's society, the boys are so involved in sports, karate and so many other activities after school that Scouting is generally the first activity the boys choose to give up. Thus far, Pack 26 has been successful in keeping scouts interested and to recruiting new scouts. However, our pack needs to raise funds, so that we can continue to offer the scouting activities that they love, such as camping, hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities and trips and to ease the financial burden on many parents. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used to help the lower costs to parents for scouting activities, awards, and badges and to aid those Scout families who cannot afford the personal costs of scouting. Please show your support, the sale will consist of gently used baby and children clothing, toys, games, furniture, baby accessories and so much more. Bring the children and browse the tables.

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Drivers 230

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General Help 240

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Part Time Help 255

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Condos & Townhouses 320

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