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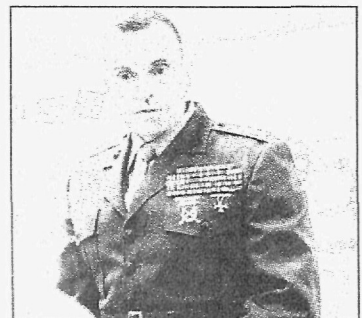
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OPERATION: SHOEBOX NEW JERSEY 2005
Details inside this edition of The Reporter.



Time To Play Ball

Baseball, softball and other spring sports were scheduled to get going yesterday. For pre-views on Edison High baseball and South Plainfield softball, see Page B1.



A welcome homecoming

Lt. Col. Vincent A. Coglianese, a commanding officer with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit who recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, shared his experiences with third grade pupils at Van Holten School in Bridgewater, teaching them a valuable lesson about the differences between living in a democratic society and one that is just ending years of oppression. Page B2.



Kitchen lessons

Members of the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School's Culinary Arts Program got a first-hand lesson in the kitchen of a Bridgewater Commons Mall eatery, part of a series of real-world programs aimed at giving students a hand-on experience in their chosen fields. Page A3.



Play To Expand

EDISON — The Edison Scrabble Club is soon to expand its play to twice a week. This club for Scrabble players meets at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Ave. Weeknight sessions are from 7-10 p.m. Tuesday. Weekend sessions are from 1-5 p.m. Saturday beginning today. For more information, call Lois at (732) 906-5496 or Walt at (732) 721-9218.

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Paul R. Nardoni Oncology Pavilion opens at Somerset Medical Center



Ellen and Paul R. Nardoni pose for a wedding photo on a winding staircase. The couple were married only a short time when Paul succumbed to Hodgkin's Disease at the age of 32 on April 17, 2001. On Tuesday, Somerset Medical Center will unveil a new addition to the hospital, an oncology wing named in Paul's honor.

Cancer victim's legacy: 'Seize the moment'

By ROD HIRSCH
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — Outside on the brick façade of the new addition, the sign reads "The Paul R. Nardoni Oncology Pavilion."

But inside it's Paul's Place. Earlier this week, his wife Ellen walked the hallways and poked her head into the rooms of the new facility at Somerset Medical Center, making certain that everything would be ready for tomorrow's invitation-only reception for friends, family and others involved with the Paul R. Nardoni Foundation.

The facility will begin accepting patients next week, with a tour and open for staff and friends of the hospital scheduled Tuesday.

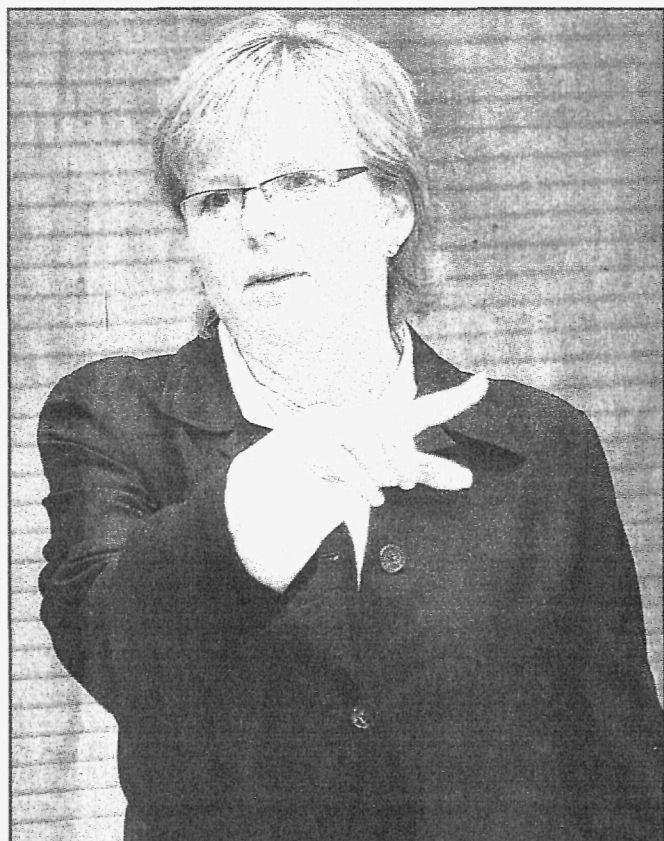
Nardoni's wife, his parents and friends have made sure that the 35-bed state-of-the-art facility epitomizes the spirit of its namesake, a young man who preferred to go barefoot and sail the Mediterranean, a man who adored the outdoors, loved the Rockies and loved to snowboard, a world class chef who demanded a good meal when he went out and never thought twice about sending it back to the kitchen if it didn't meet his exacting standards, a rabid baseball fan and man of conviction not afraid to question Yankee manager Joe Torre to his face, a man who scoffed at the odds, and a son and husband who revered family, loved people and loved life — even when it conspired to steal his vitality at an age when most people are just beginning to live life.

Those who knew him will tell you he had a sharp tongue and a soft heart, a zest for life and a determination to live life to its fullest.

"He never put a limit on himself. When he got up in the morning, he'd always ask, 'What are we going to do today?'" his wife explained.

Nardoni succumbed to Hodgkin's Disease at the age of

Continued on page A2



Ellen Nardoni talks about the Paul R. Nardoni Oncology Pavilion during a tour of the new wing of the Somerset Medical Center.

GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PISCATAWAY Budget has flat tax rate

PISCATAWAY — For the first time in recent memory, township residents will cast ballots on a proposed school budget that includes no increase in the tax levy.

The 2005-06 budget maintains current instructional programs that have steadily increased standardized test scores throughout the district, and it maintains class size and extracurricular programs such as athletics, band, and other student activities, officials said.

The proposed budget also includes a second question on the ballot. Voters will be asked to determine whether the district should provide full-day kindergarten. If approved, this initiative will add \$26.82 per year to the tax bill on the average home assessed at \$109,000.

"This is a phenomenal budget that will strengthen student achievement and home property values," said Paul A. Herman, president of the Board of Education. "This is a student-centered, education-driven budget that is still sensitive to the needs of taxpayers."

Superintendent of Schools Robert L. Copeland said the proposed budget directs dollars to where they matter most — classroom instruction, curriculum supervision and redesign, and student services.

"The administration worked with the board to develop a fiscally-sound program budget that focuses on student achievement," he said. "This budget emphasizes early intervention and instruction, rather than later remediation."

The 2005-06 proposed budget totals \$86.7 million, with \$66.8 million raised through the local tax levy, the same as the 2004-05 school budget.

Although the proposed budget includes a spending increase, the administration has applied fund balance, or surplus, and alternative sources of income to offset the additional costs. The district is also committed to keeping as many special education students as possible in their local schools rather than sending them to out-of-district private schools that charge high tuitions.

"The board of education is very aware of the burden on Piscataway taxpayers who do not receive their fair share of state school aid, compared to other similar districts," Herman said. "We are using all available sources of funds to provide tax relief."

Holding the line on taxes was no easy feat, commented Jerry T. Mahoney, vice president of the board of education and chair of the Finance Committee. "Energy costs will increase, transportation is up 15 percent, insurance is up 15 percent, and state aid is flat for the third year in a row."

Among the educational initiatives included in the proposed school budget is the expansion of the AVID program at the middle and high school levels. AVID is a program that assists

Continued on page A2

Fan Fest welcomes Patriots' loyal supporters

By ROD HIRSCH
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset Patriots' front office staff got to work on the 2005 season even as the infield dust settled from the final out of the 2004 season, and with just four weeks to go before opening day, the official start of the pre-season kicks off today at the ballpark with a "doubleheader" — Open Tryouts and Fan Fest.

There's no admission charge for the fifth annual Fan Fest, which begins at 1 p.m., but for those players who hope to catch the eye of manager Sparky Lyle and pitching coach John Montefusco, there's a \$40 sign-up fee to audition. Proceeds are donated to the Patriots Charity Fund. Sign-ups begin 9 a.m. For those who want to arrive early, the try-outs are open to the public, begin at 10 a.m.



and conclude at 1 p.m.

The team will also host a special collection event for Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 in conjunction with Fan Fest. Patriotic fans will be eligible for a free ticket.

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 maintains a supply line of personal items that are shipped to soldiers overseas on a monthly basis. OPSHEX volunteers will be at the ballpark all day collecting donated items needed by the troops — toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, eye drops, ear swabs, razors, lip balm, suntan lotion, snacks, drink mixes, bug spray and other personal items. Volunteers will also be taking orders for Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 T-

Continued on page A2

How to contribute

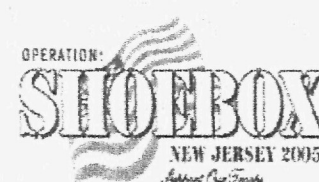
Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, in partnership with American Recreational Military Services is seeking cash donations in support of their ongoing effort to supply American forces overseas with a steady supply of personal items, toiletries and snacks.

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 Reporter, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, N.J. 08876.



Fan Fest welcomes Patriots' supporters

Continued from page A1

shirts, with all proceeds going to buy supplies or pay for shipping costs.

For every fan who buys a ticket and donates items for the soldiers in Iraq, the Patriots will add a second ticket for free.

There will be live music, clowns, and contests with special prizes. A speed pitch booth will be set up on the concourse, along with carnival style games for all children, including the "Moon Bounce" and other games. Patriots' mascot Sparky will be at the ballpark to meet and greet fans.

Once the try-outs conclude, there will be an 1880's-style baseball game played on the field between the Flemington Neshanock and the Elizabeth Resolutes.

Last year, the Patriots signed two players who showed up for the try-outs - first baseman/outfielder Paul Ottaviani and pitcher Bryan Malko.

Though the Patriots were a huge success at the box office in 2004, setting a new single

season attendance record of 376,000, they came up short in the standings. The defending 2003 Atlantic League champions failed to reach the playoffs in either half of the season.

"I guarantee you right now, we're going to be in the playoffs at the end of this year," manager Sparky Lyle said last week during a brief visit to the ballpark.

That's exactly what fans are expecting from a revamped lineup that will include the likes of All-Star third-baseman Billy Hall, a fan favorite who rejoins the team after a two-year absence. Hall, who played for the Patriots during the 2000-2002 seasons, holds the Atlantic League record with 104 stolen bases in 2000.

Once Lyle and Montefusco are done evaluating the talent, they'll mingle with fans in the grandstand and on the concourse, signing autographs.

Fan Fest also includes raffles for special prizes such as taking batting practice with Lyle throwing off the mound, throwing out the Ceremonial First

Pitch at Opening Day, and a chance to serve as the batboy or batgirl for a game.

The Patriots' front office personnel are looking forward to Fan Fest, too.

"It's our season kick-off without the pressures of opening day," explained Patrick McVerry, Patriots president and general manager. "It's always a lot of fun; I truly enjoy seeing the fans back in the ballpark."

"Our staff is real excited," he continued. "We're kind of cooped up here all winter inside the ballpark, so just preparing for the fans, cleaning up the ballpark and getting on the concourse to walk around the stands again, we're real anxious to get out and about."

Headquarters, the Patriots Gift Shop, will be open with new Patriots apparel, hats, and novelty items. Season ticket holders will be able to pick up their season ticket books at the Box Office. There are a limited number of season tickets still available.

Cancer

Continued from page A1

32 on April 17, 2001.

He had gone through a regimen of chemotherapy, immunotherapy and a stem cell transplant. Yet, weakened by the cancer that wracked his body, he never lost sense of purpose, his love of life or concern for others' well being.

Even as he faced the inevitable, Paul embraced life, planning a Mediterranean cruise from Athens to Istanbul for his wife and parents on one of the four-masted schooners he worked on and loved so well.

Caring about others — that is his legacy.

When you're sick, bedridden, hooked up to tubes and monitors, your perspective changes; the things you took for granted, little things, are sometimes beyond reach or reason. Nardoni lived in that world off and on for five years, rarely complaining but often critical that his caregivers overlooked the little things that matter most.

He couldn't cure cancer — but he could do something to ease the day-to-day regimen of boring routines, empty hours and discomfort that characterized the overnights and extended stays in sterile and impersonal hospital rooms.

Even as he suffered, his overriding concern was for those who spent countless hours visiting with him in the hospital.

In his dying days, he implored his wife, parents and friends to work on the little things.

Nardoni's wife, his parents Roseann and Ren and sister Renee have done just that.

"Paul never gave up and he made sure that we never did either," said his mother, Roseann Nardoni, president of the foundation, based in Whitehouse Station. "His message was living, not dying."

They established the Paul R. Nardoni Foundation to carry out his wishes.

They started small, presenting a gift of \$11,500 to the hospital in 2002 to decorate and renovate the family room in the oncology unit. They bought new furniture, a personal computer and printer, air mattresses, DVD players, VCRs, CDs and DVDs, puzzles, craft supplies, books, board games, even crayons. The gift also helped to establish a special needs fund for medication, wigs and prosthetics.

Each of those gifts embody the "life is meant to be lived" philosophy of the foundation — providing creature comforts, diversions and an opportunity for family to visit, relax and enjoy the moment.

The small gift was the start of a relationship that blossomed. The foundation continued to work closely with

Somerset Medical Center, and in 2004, made a commitment to the hospital's \$100 million "Breaking New Ground" capital campaign, presenting \$500,000 to the hospital, a gift that would ensure Nardoni's desires would be carried out.

The gift helped Somerset Medical Center realize its goal of establishing a cancer care unit in central New Jersey that affords doctors, their patients and families an opportunity to stay closer to home, eliminating much of the stress and angst that comes with having to travel to New York City of Philadelphia hospitals for treatment.

Each one of the rooms is a tribute to Nardoni, who was guided by a simple philosophy — Carpe Diem (Seize the Day).

The Latin term is written in large letters across the wall of each room in the unit. "It was a feeling he had, it was something he did each day," his wife explained. "He would grab your cell phone, and program those words; he did it to mine, my dad's, his mother his father. Seize the day — it was kind of like a little family thing."

The foundation established a Carpe Diem program that makes special things happen for cancer patients and their families, like a romantic carriage ride in New York's Central Park, or a quiet dinner for two at a restaurant.



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Budget has flat tax rate

Continued from page A1

average students who are capable but falling short of their potential.

Also included in the budget are SAT preparation at Piscataway High School, including administering the PSAT to all freshmen and sophomores; Read 180, a program for fourth and fifth graders who need assistance with reading skills; the elementary Gifted and Talented program; a Summer Enrichment program for at risk students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and the placement of FM transmitters in ten classrooms. These benefit all students, but particularly those with hearing impairments.

In unanimously adopting the proposed budget with her colleagues, board member Peggy Friedman said, "Piscataway is a school system that has turned the corner, a district that is on the road to success."

Board member Edward Eodice Jr. commended the administration for crafting a budget that reflects the board's decision to keep taxes down, but still supports student achievement. Board member Catherine Sucher Greeley praised district efforts to expand in-district special education programs and hold increases to a minimum.

In order to provide additional information about the upcoming budget, there will be two town meetings for all residents 7 p.m. Tuesday at Eisenhower School and 7 p.m. April 11 at the Administration Building.

A program to describe Full-Day Kindergarten will be held 8:30 a.m. April 9 at Randolphville School. Childcare will be provided for this event.

For additional information about the school budget or the upcoming meetings, visit www.piscatawayschools.org or call (732) 572-2289, Ext. 2520.

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The Chronicle

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Middlesex Briefs

Busy Bee school holding open house

DUNELLEN — Busy Bee Nursery School is currently accepting registrations for their 2005-06 school year programs. An open house will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. today. For additional information, call (732) 968-7650 for details.

Slovakia folklore group performance

MANVILLE — Through the co-operation of the Raritan Valley Slavic Cultural and Heritage Society of St. Paul's Evangelical

Lutheran Church and St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church and Manville VFW Post #2290, the Cecinka Slovak Children's Folklore Group will give a free performance at the Manville VFW Post #2290 Hall at 600 Washington Ave., 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Edison holding a candidates night

EDISON — The Township Parent-Teacher Advisory Council will be hosting a Candidates' Night 7 p.m. Wednesday at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, 50 Woodrow Wilson Drive. Every

candidate for the upcoming Board of Education election on April 19 in Edison has been invited to participate.

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 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.

Each segment of the program will feature ensembles from Grant School, the Middle School, and the High School. Each of the three concert segments will require a separate ticket.



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Calendar

Saturday, April 2

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - Hawaiian Luau: 7 to 10 p.m. at South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. sponsored by S.P. Cultural Arts Commission featuring Mele Kani Polynesian dance troupe. Dance to the music of D.J. Chris Waryn. FREE admission and refreshments. Call (908) 753-0327 for details.
BOUND BROOK - Cherry Blossom "Charity Ball": 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.

Sunday, April 3

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - Beach Boys Broadway Revival: Bus leaves at 11 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. \$90 per ticket sponsored by South Plainfield Recreation. First come, first served. Recreation Office open M-F 8:30 to 5, (908) 226-7713 for further information.

Students get in the kitchen

BRIDGEWATER — Students in the Culinary Arts Program at Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School participated in a unique learning experience at McCormick and Schmick's Seafood Restaurant located in the Bridgewater Commons Mall.

Executive Chef Shaun Jackson taught the students his method of filleting and preparing salmon. He also gave them some insight into the production end of the business.

This type of educational support from the business community gives students an opportunity to enhance their own techniques in preparing menus they have created in their classroom kitchen. Jackson will offer another workshop for the students on Tuesday.

At the present time there are two graduates of the Culinary Arts Program employed by McCormick and Schmick's, Joseph Becker and Josh Falzone.

For more information call John Vingara, culinary arts instructor, at (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7237 or Ext. 7227.

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Board-certified surgeons at Somerset Medical Center specialize in obesity surgery and have performed more than 400 gastric bypass surgeries. Join them at a free information seminar where they will discuss this laparoscopic procedure and answer questions you have about weight loss surgery.

Find out if weight loss surgery is right for you. You might not just change your life. It could be the first step towards saving it. For more information, call 877-SMC-LOOK (877-762-5665) or visit somersetmedicalcenter.com/bariatric.



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Saturday, April 2, 2005

Opinion

Who gets the money?

In Somerset County, \$300,000 in homeland security funds will be spent to create a county-wide reverse-911 phone system. In Newark, a portion of an emergency preparedness grant was used to purchase a \$174,804 garbage truck and fund part of the purchase price of a second one.

Both were made in the name of protecting citizens in the event of a terrorist attack or other kinds of mass-scale disasters. One, when applied to this role, makes sense, the other does not, unless you consider hauling debris vital to protecting people as an attack is taking place.

The reverse-911 phone system is a great asset to Somerset County. During a press conference held Tuesday to announce the funding, Somerset County Sheriff Frank Provenzano said the system can be used for more than just terrorist attacks — it can warn those in low-lying areas of impending flooding, it can help in putting out Amber alerts or warn of a toxic spill. It is a practical addition that will help people.

The county got the funds to create the system by applying for a grant from the Federal government. That pool of money came from the Fiscal Year 2005 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill, a cumbersome title that basically created yet another funding source for homeland security projects.

One question, though, is who decides what money Somerset County should go after and what the money should be used for?

In the case of the \$300,000, the funds had to be used for technological upgrades. There also

can be no question that a reverse-911 system makes sense for the county. But what about questionable uses of homeland security money? Such as, for example, a garbage truck.

There have been millions dolled out to states, counties and municipalities nationwide — from New Jersey to North Dakota to American Samoa. Yet, New Jersey, with its ports, airports, expressways and bridges and tunnels connecting New York City with the rest of the country, gets a smaller portion of the pot each year. Federal homeland security grants to the state were cut more than 30 percent this year.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the state has received more than \$300 million in counterterrorism funds. But, when you compare the money spent with our population (some 8.638 million), it's a sobering \$6.45 per person.

In American Samoa, it's \$37.74 per person and in North Dakota, \$30.82.

When speaking about the cutbacks, New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey said the Garden State will have to scale back its plans to purchase field hospitals, decontamination shelters and protective clothing for search and rescue teams.

At some point, citizens need to become involved with how homeland security money is spent at every level, from the federal down to the local. We have input on expressway projects and whenever there is a plan for a new pocket park, so why not when it comes to our nation's security?

Prescription drug program helping

By BOB FRANKS

All too often we hear the heart-wrenching stories of patients who make a difficult choice — a choice between buying food or buying life-saving, life-enhancing prescription medicines.

I recently met Lisa Yourman, the mother of two children with cystic fibrosis, who was once confronted with that choice. Her daughter Sarah, an effervescent 14-year-old, takes over 60 pills a day for her illness and has prescription drug bills that total nearly \$11,000 per month.

While Lisa wants Sarah to have the best medicine available, cost is unquestionably a concern. Fortunately Lisa found help through a pharmaceutical company's patient assistance program, which provided discounted drugs for Sarah.

Not everyone is as lucky as Sarah. Most patients don't know that help is available and don't know where to turn. As a result, the majority of patients go without their necessary medication in order to meet other urgent needs.

New Jersey's pharmaceutical and medical technology industry doesn't believe anyone who truly needs prescription medicine should have to weigh those choices. We believe that patients should have and must have access to the world's best and most effective medicine wherever their doctors prescribe them. We also believe that patients should be able to access them as simply and as quickly as possible.

In an effort to get medicine into the hands of those patients who cannot afford it, we have created Rx4NJ. The purpose of the program is to make it easier for patients to find out about programs they may qualify for and how to easily connect to them. There are no age requirements and the program is absolutely free of charge.

Rx4NJ, a partnership for prescription assistance, is supported by a broad network of patient advocacy groups, health care and civic groups, and New Jersey's pharmaceutical and medical technology companies. All these partners share a common goal: to help low-income, uninsured patients get free or nearly free brand-name medicine.

Rx4NJ will enable patients, caregivers and medical professionals to access more than 150 pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs as well as an equal number of state, federal and patient advocacy — and now it's all in one place.

By simply calling (888) RX FOR NJ or visiting www.rx4nj.org, patients will quickly, simply and confidentially learn which programs they may qualify for. Patients will have access to programs covering more than 1,400 branded prescription medicines.

In addition, those who contact Rx4NJ will learn about government programs for which they may qualify. Highly trained and bilingual specialists will help patients fill out forms and identify programs.

Last year more than 5 million patients received prescription medicine through one or more patient assistance programs. Still there is a vast underserved population in New Jersey that needs access to help. In the coming months Rx4NJ will be conducting an aggressive promotional and outreach campaign to let patients know that help is now available.

Our goal is simple but compelling. We want to make sure that every New Jersey patient who qualifies for a patient assistance program receives the help he needs.

The writer is president of the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey, a trade association that serves as principal sponsor of Rx4NJ. He is a former congressman from New Jersey.

Question of the week:

Should taxpayers have a say in how homeland security money is distributed?



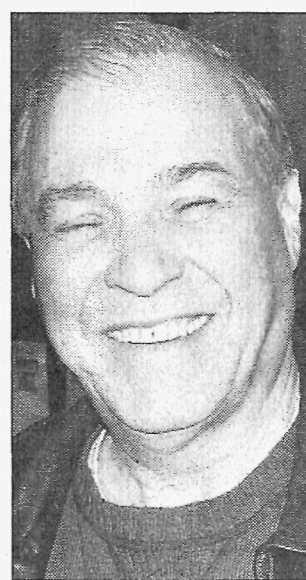
MIKE CLINTON
Branchburg

"No, because the local residents don't have any idea what the priorities are. This is a burgeoning field, therefore we should let the professionals handle it."



ANITA EIGEN
Bridgewater

"Yes — absolutely. I don't trust the government with respect to the integrity of what they report."



MARTY EIGEN
Bridgewater
"Yes."



KRISTEN REN
Martinsville
"Yes."

Letters to the Editor

Heart disease remains killer

To The Editor:

In the world of medical research men and women are not the same. Most of us are aware that the two sexes tend to suffer from different diseases. It is also increasingly clear that women do not always benefit from the treatments that work for men.

Heart disease, stroke, diabetes and depression all affect the sexes differently.

The Divisions of Preventive Medicine, a consortium of some of our nations leading medical institutions, have placed a new emphasis on gender-specific research. One prominent result is that aspirin lowers stroke risk in women but does not afford the same protection as it does for men, where it reduces risk of heart attack. The aspirin study underscores the value of conducting clinical studies that determine how illnesses and treatments affect women and men differently.

The Institute of Medicine, a component of the National Academy of Sciences, released an extensive report regarding the influence gender has on human health. The report explores the unique responses men and women have to medications and diseases. They conclude that while progress has been made to include women in clinical studies, in order for the research to be truly valuable, the actual differences between the genders must be investigated and understood as well.

We know that heart disease is the leading cause of death in women, exceeding even breast cancer. However women with heart disease have not been diagnosed as early as they might have been because the symptoms they exhibit are dif-

ferent than the typical symptoms seen in men. In addition, New Jersey has the highest rate of women suffering from AIDS in the nation and a higher than average rate of breast cancer.

In light of these facts, the State Legislature, in 2003, created a special office to focus on these crucial health concerns. The New Jersey Office on Women's Health was created with a mandate to promote the prevention and early detection of diseases in women. It was to fund research efforts, as well as provide information and outreach services. Unfortunately, although the office was assigned a variety of additional responsibilities, it never received any state funding which would have enabled it to fulfill its laudable mission.

New Jersey is currently in the throes of solving an enormous budget deficit. However, recent negotiations indicate there is promise of Horizon Blue Cross converting from a not-for-profit to a for-profit entity. The mechanism employed would create a large pool of funding dedicated to health care initiatives. It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me and see the wisdom of dedicating some of this funding to increase our evolving knowledge about how disease uniquely affects women.

The Office of Women's Health can be a vehicle enabling New Jersey to truly improve the health and longevity of our mothers, our daughters, our spouses, our friends.

SEN. BARBARA BUONO,
D-18th

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Bankruptcy is being abused

To The Editor:

Each year, 1.5 million people in the U.S. file for bankruptcy. Under current law, many people with the ability to repay at least a portion of the money fail to do so. They simply walk away from their financial obligations.

The U.S. Senate recently passed legislation making it easier for banks, retailers, credit card companies and other creditors to recoup some of the money they are owed by people who file for bankruptcy. As a mortgage lending institution, First Hallmark Mortgage Corporation endorses this legislation.

The bankruptcy system has been abused for far too long. We favor a system that will protect lenders/creditors from such abuse while at the same time, afford protection to consumers with unfortunate circumstances who truly need bank-

ruptcy protection to function and regroup. We are confident this bill will do just that.

As a lending institution that specializes in a bankruptcy bailout program, we know all too well the financial difficulties consumers face. Many are in dire need, but there are also many who have the ability to repay at least some portion of their debt. Unfortunately, current bankruptcy law gives them a free ticket to shirk their responsibilities. It's time to make those who abuse the system stand up and be accountable.

We encourage the New Jersey congressional delegation and President Bush to follow the Senate's lead by passing this bill and signing it into law.

BRIAN RICCIONI
Chairman,
First Hallmark Mortgage Corporation,
Franklin

Defibrillators, CPR save lives each day

To The Editor:

I'm like many of you. I'm a New Jersey resident, a father, I'm involved in my community and I go to work every day.

Like many of you, I never gave too much thought to the importance of CPR and defibrillators. That was until I almost died on a baseball field on June 28.

I'm writing on behalf of the American Heart Association to urge New Jersey residents, citizens and parents to learn CPR and support defibrillator programs in your community at all athletic and sports facilities, such as ball fields, gyms, arenas and stadiums.

The year prior to my incident some coaches and I worked to obtain a defibrillator for the Lawrence Junior Baseball Softball Association. It was precautionary. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. graciously helped us with the acquisition, but I never imagined it would be my life that would be saved.

On June 28, I went to see my son play in a baseball game. For some reason I went to the wrong field. For me that day it was the right field because the defibrillator was at that field. I was having a conversation when I suddenly collapsed. I was 53 and I

was clinically dead. I had no heartbeat or pulse. I was not breathing.

Surviving cardiac arrest, which kills at least 250,000 people very year, is all about time, says the American Heart Association. Few victims survive after 10 minutes. Without early CPR brain damage can begin in 3 to 5 minutes.

I was very lucky. Other parents and coaches immediately called 911 and started early CPR. Early CPR keeps oxygen going to the brain and buys a little time. The defibrillator was rushed to me and I was shocked back to life after about 7 minutes.

April 8-16 is CPR Week. The theme of CPR Week is "Heroes Aren't Born, They're Trained — Learn CPR." How true that is. More than 70 hospitals, health departments and other public sites are partnering with the American Heart Association to offer the public CPR training for free. Call (877) AHA-4CPR to learn more, or to find a site near you. Learn CPR and you might some day save a parent, a child, a friend or neighbor, even a baseball coach.

PATRICK COX
Lawrenceville

Quotable

"It's important for children these days to appreciate what our men and women are doing (overseas). These kids are used to being safe and things being fair. It's not like that all over the world."

Nancy Havran

"It's our season kick-off without the pressures of opening day. It's always a lot of fun; I truly enjoy seeing the fans back in the ballpark. ... We're kind of cooped up here all winter inside the ballpark, so just preparing for the fans, cleaning up the ballpark and getting on the course to walk around the stands again, we're real anxious to get out and about."

Patrick McVerry

The Chronicle

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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@njnpublishing.com.

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

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

Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

Patriots offer free tickets

Fans who donate items for U.S. troops in Iraq get added bonus

Big doings at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater this weekend, as the Somerset Patriots launch their 2005 pre-season festivities Saturday with Fan Fest and Open Tryouts for players who think they've got what it takes to wear a Patriots uniform.

The Reporter staff will be on the concourse with entries for its popular Fan of the Week and Player of the Week contests; alongside of us will be volunteers taking orders for Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 T-shirts, which are being sold to support the efforts of the non-profit organization to buy supplies and ship those packages to U.S. military personnel in Iraq and the Mideast.

Our volunteers will be wearing the shirt, which 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 also available at The Reporter office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSHBX. Shirts ordered at the ballpark will be packaged and shipped the following week. We have sizes from small to double X. A \$2 charge for shipping and handling will be added to the purchase price of those shirts ordered at the ballpark.

Fans can also show their support for OPSHBX by bringing a bag of personal items for U.S. soldiers and Marines serving in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. Volunteers will collect donated items at the ballpark all day.

For those fans who donate items for the soldiers, as well as purchase a ticket for the upcoming season, the Patriots will reward them with a second free ticket to a game.

Support the Patriots and support the troops - bring a bag filled with items shown on the list in the public service advertisement on this page.

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



Around and about

This is a busy weekend for OPSHBX and its volunteers.

It kicks off tomorrow night at Mannion's Pub & Restaurant, 150 West Main St., Somerville. The popular Willie Lynch Trio will perform as they usually do Friday nights, with a \$5 donation requested at the door which will benefit OPSHBX. There will be food specials with 20 percent donated to OPSHBX, as well as the red, white and blue Soldiers' Salute patriotic drinks which cost \$6; Mannion donates \$1 from each drink to the soldiers.

In addition to the Patriots' Fan Fest at Commerce Bank Ballpark Saturday, there will be a Soldiers' Shopping Spree event at the Pathmark Supermarket, Veterans Memorial Drive West, Somerville, from 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.

On Sunday, OPSHBX volunteers will be joined by our fellow volunteers from American Recreational Military Services to pack boxes with all the donated items, letters and cards that have been collected the past several weeks for shipment to the Mideast next week. If you'd like to help out, join us between 1 and 5 p.m. at the 42nd Infantry NJ National Guard Armory on Hamilton Street in Franklin.

Opening Day

The Scotch Plains Fanwood Youth Baseball Association

whose membership includes 900 players between 6 and 15 years old kick off their 50th anniversary with a parade and opening day ceremonies April 9. Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 will be part of the festivities. Gene Torpey, league president, is asking players, parents and friends to bring donated goods to Booth Field at Westfield Road, where they'll be collected before and during the opening game, which begins at noon.

Sunday School greetings

Linda Weller, coordinator of Sunday School programs at Kirkpatrick Memorial Presbyterian Church in Ringoes, mailed us three large cards and a stack of smaller cards with hand-written greetings to the soldiers in Iraq from her Sunday School students. She wrote:

"Enclosed are cards from our preschool through Middle school Sunday school classes that we would like sent to our military personnel through Operation Shoebox. The children in these classes wanted to express their thanks and appreciation to the many men and women who are serving in Iraq and the Middle East and we hope they will be encouraged through these cards and well wishes. We want to thank you, as well, for organizing this drive, and appreciate all you are doing to support our troops - God bless your efforts."

The cards will be shipped to the soldiers next week, along with the supplies we've collected over the past three weeks.

Thanks from Iraq

There's nothing better than knowing our efforts are appreciated by the soldiers we're working for. Here's an e-mail we received last week from Iraq:

Hi. My name is SFC Delroy McKay. I want to thank you for the care packages you sent me. It really helped to brighten our day. All the troops in HHC 42d Discom want to thank Operation Shoebox for their support.

Hopefully, all the sacrifices we are making will help bring freedom to the Iraqi people. Again, thank you for caring. SFC Delroy McKay

Kudos to the contributors

Thanks to the folks at Gearhart Chevrolet, Route 46 East, Denville in Morris County, for sending along a huge quantity of items to be shipped to the troops in Iraq. Special thanks to OPSHBX committee member Frank Valanzola, vice president of the Morgan Stanley office in Somerville, for spreading the word to Gearhart, as well as other far-flung locations throughout New Jersey. Likewise, we want to thank the generosity of those who dropped off items these past few weeks at the Executive Fitness Club in Green Brook, AT&T in Bernardsville, The Rolling Hills Girl Scout Council office in North Branch, the U.S. Post Office branches in Somerville and North Branch; Somerset Medical Center in Somerville; Linden Police Department; the Somerset County Sheriff's Department; Dollar Planet in Middlesex, Alloy Metal in Branchburg, Hamilton School in Bridgewater, Mannion's Pub in Somerville, the Somerville Antiques Center, and special thanks to George Lawrence of Dunellen, who brought in several cases of items from Johnson & Johnson. We also received a donation of five cases of water from Trinity Water Co., who delivered the water to Nature's Holiday on Main Street, Somerville.

Loose change

A plastic jug on the counter-top of the Clinton Diner off Route 78 in Clinton yielded \$95.75 in pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollar bills that will be spent on supplies and postage for the troops. Keep emptying out your pockets. Those pennies and nickels add up.

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 Drop-off sites:

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

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
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
Somerset Medical Center main lobby, 110 Rehill Ave., Somerville

Capelli Salon, 1171 Route 202 North, Branchburg

Natural Medicine and Rehabilitation, 745 Routes 202/206 South, Bridgewater

Sal's Talk of the Town, 1987 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville
Bucky's/The Closet, 45 So. Main St., Manville

Middlesex County

Dollar Planet Dollar Store, Route 28, Middlesex
Variety Village, 420 Main St., Metuchen

George's Dry Cleaning, 424 Main St., Metuchen

Boro Ace Hardware, 655 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen
Metuchen Savings Bank, 429 Main St., Metuchen

What's The Scoop, 410 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

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	1 Patriots Park	Hamilton Avenue Armory
Somerville	Commerce Bank Ballpark	Franklin
	Bridgewater	

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!



The Reporter



UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPS RESERVE

A.R.M.S.
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MILITARY SERVICES

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

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|--|---|--|---|---|
| <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

Laura Gaburo

BOUND BROOK — Laura Lynn Gaburo, 93, died March 21, 2005 at Morton Plant North Bay Hospital in New Port Richey, Fla.

Mrs. Gaburo was born in Branchburg. She lived in

Bound Brook, Raritan and Somerville before moving in 1972 to Port Richey, Fla. She had resided most recently in Tarpon Springs, Fla.

She was a homemaker and a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Dunedin, Fla.

Her husband of 50 years, Alfred T., died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, Alfred of Flemington and Tom of Alma, Neb.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were by the Faupel Funeral Home in Port Richey.

Joan E. Kletz

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — Joan E. Kletz, 66, died March 17, 2005 at Harborside Healthcare-Woods Edge in Bridgewater.

Born in Stroudsburg, Pa., she lived in South Bound Brook before moving to Hillsborough in 1965.

Mrs. Kletz was a personnel manager with the W.T. Grant Co. in New Brunswick and Kmart in Somerset. She retired in 1978 after a career of 20 years.

Her husband, Thomas E., died in 1999.

Surviving are two sons, Thomas and wife Parti of Hillsborough and Christopher and wife Carol

of Fairfield, Pa.; a daughter, Lynda Williams and husband Robert of Hillsborough; a sister, Cynthia Williams of LeRayville, Pa.; and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held March 22 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, East Millstone, of which Mrs. Kletz was a member. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hillsborough.

Arrangements were by the Cusick Funeral Home in Somerville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Hillsborough Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 660, Neshanic Station, NJ 08853.

Raymond A. Conway

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — Raymond A. Conway, 69, died March 20, 2005 at his home.

Born in Middlesex, he was a son of the late Raymond "Mickey" and Mary Steff Conway.

Mr. Conway had lived in South Bound Brook since 1967. He was a repairman and salesman for 31 years with the Singer Co.

He also was a manager and equipment supplier with the South Bound Brook Little League. An animal lover and bird lover, Mr. Conway was a member of the Twentieth Century Wagon Trainers.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Jean Blowars Conway;

three sons, Keith of Somerset, Alan of Manville and Jonathan of Friedensburg, Pa.; four grandchildren; two aunts, Blanch Steff of Bound Brook and Irene Wallace of Middlesex; an uncle, Don of Middlesex; many cousins; and his animal companions, Crystal and Kall.

Services were held March 24 at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home in Bound Brook. Donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 600 First Ave., Raritan, NJ 08869 or Somerset Regional Animal Shelter, 100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

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Sondra L. Brown

MIDDLESEX — Sondra L. Fielding Brown, 68, died March 27, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in Grove City, Pa., and had lived in Middlesex since 1965.

Ms. Brown retired in 2002 after 35 years as an admissions secretary in the emergency room of Somerset Medical Center.

Surviving are her mother and stepfather, Marguerite and Joseph Stumpf of Greenville, Pa.; three sons, Bradley and wife Theresa of Bartlett, Tenn., Brian and wife Anne of Mertsville, Pa., and Charles and wife Kelly of South Bound Brook; two daughters, Vicki Fonseca and husband Jorge of Middlesex and Kelly of Dunellen; two brothers, Dennis Fielding and John "Ed" Fielding; two sisters, Esther McClimans and Kathryn "Cindy" Gould; 10 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Wednesday at the Middlesex Funeral Home.

The Reporter Home Improvement

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Saturday, April 2, 2005

Spring sports get started this weekend

Edison baseball squad will look to rebuild

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

EDISON — Untested at the varsity level in some spots and young in others the Eagles will face a big challenge this spring to approach last year's performance.

With only one pitcher and three other position players returning from a year ago when it went 18-8, finished second in the Red Division and reached the GMC Tournament semifinals, the Edison High baseball squad has its work cut out as it will bank on a junior-dominated team to get the job done.

Vinnie Abene begins his third season as head coach knowing what happens this year will depend on how his quartet of junior hurlers develops.

There's no doubt our pitching will be the key," he said. "Those guys will have to keep us in the game. I've been here for six years, and it's the most inexperienced team that we've had, especially with the pitching.

"We always worry about our division first. We hope to lingering around in May still with a shot to win it. We always set a goal of qualifying for the state tournament. Only time will tell how we do. The five guys who will be pitching will tell a lot about how the season goes."

Nick Reider was the only one of the five junior right-handers to see time on the varsity mound a year ago, and he had

some very good efforts as the No. 4 man in the rotation as he fashioned a 5-2 record. He figures to the Eagles' top gun this spring.

The next four spots are still to be worked out as Jon Mendez, Dave Zavistoski, Nate Fabretti and Mo Riley are vying for their spots in the rotation.

"Nick has been solid during the scrimmages," Abene said. "He throws strikes. He's a workhorse out there. I'm going to throw him as often as I can. He can play anywhere on the field, but I want to rest him so he's ready to go when he has to pitch.

"The other guys look like pitchers who haven't pitched against varsity hitters before. They're having a problem, finding the zone. They're finding out that when they get behind a varsity hitter and have to come in with a fastball they're going to get hit. I have no problems giving any of them the ball, but there are going to be some growing pains."

Along with the changeover in pitching staff Edison will also miss the services of Derek Gianakas behind the plate. Junior Tim Lowe and sophomore Kyle Costanzo are vying for that spot.

The Eagles' three returning starters are seniors Mike Shymanski and Jack Spernal and Zavistoski. Shymanski will play third base for the third straight year, Spernal returns in center field,

while Zavistoski will switch from second to shortstop.

Junior Ed Meyer will start at first base with senior Rakesh Patel also getting some time there, while sophomores Julian Lagunas and Kevin Ryan are vying for the start at second. Mendez will play shortstop on the days when Zavistoski pitches, and Rieder will likely by the DH.

Competing for the two corner outfield posts have been seniors Mike Owsiany and Mark Chudman along with junior Bryan Elvina.

"We're returning only two guys to the lineup, so we're going to have seven new guys in there," Abene said. "We're expecting a lot from our third baseman Mike Shymanski. As a senior we need him to step up and lead the younger guys.

"We're going to have to make a lot of things happen. We'll have to play small ball — move guys around. We have to score when we have the opportunity. When we have guys in scoring position we're going to have to take advantage of those situations.

"I think we'll be solid defensively. We're returning two guys up the middle (Spernal and Zavistoski), but we lost our catcher. I think we'll make the routine plays. I don't think we have anyone that is going to make the outstanding play, but we'll make the play right at us."

Taking a swing



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Piscataway High's David Gerena takes a cut during play last year. The spring sports season got under way yesterday — weather permitting of course — for area teams.

Senz gives South Plainfield chance to compete

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Once again the Tigers have the one key ingredient that every softball team needs — a quality pitcher capable of shutting down the opposition.

Now all the South Plainfield High has to do is produce a defense that can back up the efforts of senior pitcher Jessica Senz and put a couple of runs on the scoreboard each game and it figures to be a force once again the Greater Middlesex Conference.

Beginning her fourth season as the Tigers' top hurler Senz is the one of the few givens South Plainfield will have at the start of the season as some of the five other veteran players will find themselves in new positions this spring.

Don Panzarella begins his 24th season as head coach not knowing completely what to expect because of the various changes that have been made.

"We have a few kids coming back who have been around, but we also have a lot of young kids, too," he said. "I think we're capable of being competitive. I'm hoping Jess can keep us in games, and if we play good defense we should be OK. I have an all-county pitcher, and any time you have a pitcher like that it's a good place to start.

"We could end up with a whole new infield, and we'll have some young players on the varsity for the first time. It's going to tough because we're dealing with so many new kids in the lineup. They're going to make mistakes, but they have been getting

better every day.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge. It's the first time in a long while I've had this many young players. So far in our scrimmages we've been up and down. I've seen some good things, and I see some things we need to work on."

Whether the Tigers can approach last year's 20-5 record and runnerup finish in the GMC's White Division remains to be seen.

"It's tough to say what we can do," Panzarella said. "Defending champion Carteret will be good again, and teams like Kennedy, Colonia and North Brunswick should all be improved. I think we'll have an excellent division.

"Every game is going to tight. You can't afford to make mistakes if you

want to be successful in this division. In the past we've always had pitching and great defense. We really have to improve on the defensive end because pitching is so dominant in the conference."

Senz, who record every decision a year ago, will have another new catcher as junior Melissa Szeliga take over behind the plate after starting in leftfield a year ago.

Last year's first baseman/DH tandem of juniors Jessica Miller and Charlie Kazimir has been thrown somewhat of a curve as Kazimir will be limited to DH duties due to a shoulder injury after handling most of the time at first last year, while Miller and sophomore Lauren Fry should both get time at first.

Lacey Santone, a junior who start-

ed at second base for her first two years, takes over at shortstop with the second base assignment being vied for by a pair of sophomores, Stephanie Falzarano and Kelly Downes.

Falzarano is also a possibility at third base, where sophomore Donna Garcia is also in contention to start. Senior Caitlin English is the lone holdover in the outfield, and she will again play right. Sophs Megan Boyle and Dorothy Cameron will handle the other two spots.

"I have a handful of girls that have faced varsity pitcher, and I'm counting on them to show the new players the way," Panzarella said. "Some of the younger kids don't get cheated on their swings, and hopefully they'll learn from the older kids."

Patriots resign Jensen, Radmanovich



BRIDGEWATER — Starting pitcher Justin Jensen and outfielder Ryan Radmanovich, who played major roles in the Somerset Patriots' 2003 Atlantic League of Professional Baseball championship run, have again signed to play with the Bridgewater club after uneven seasons last year.

Another pitcher Somerset is bringing back this year is righthander Shane Heams, who worked mostly out of the bullpen last season.

Jensen, who missed a good portion of the 2004 campaign after suffering a concussion when hit in the head by a batting-practice line drive, concluded the year with a 3-6 record and a 7.63 earned run average. The 31-year-old lefthander pitched just 59 innings in 13 starts, allowing 98 hits and 23 walks.

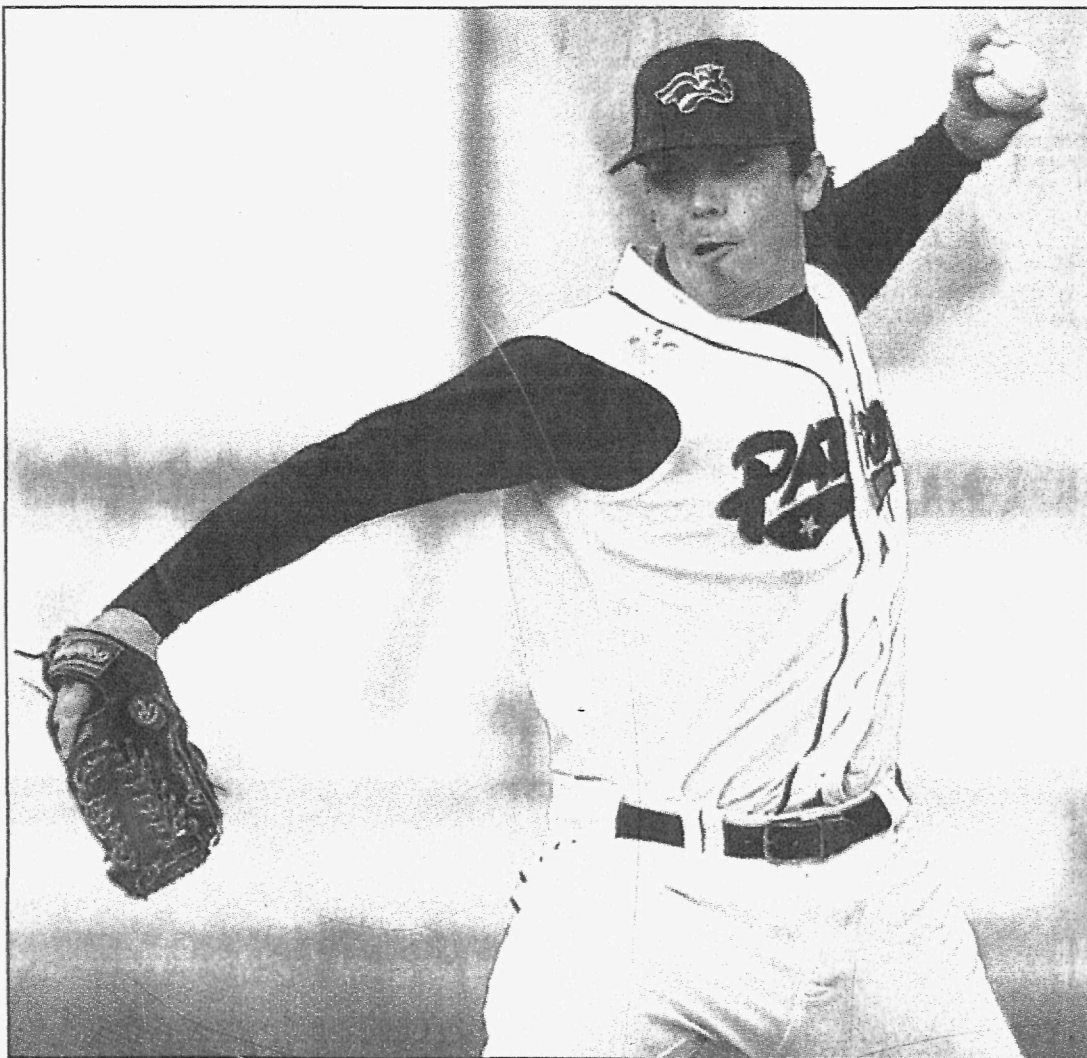
The previous year Jensen went 9-3 with a 2.88 ERA and 79 strikeouts in 19 games and in 1999 he was the ALPB's Pitcher of the Year, going 12-5 with a 2.76 ERA in 24 outings. Jensen, who's had experience in the Detroit Tigers, Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees organizations, has a lifetime 3.79 minor league ERA.

"We're looking for both pitchers to help solidify our staff," said Patriots President/General Manager Patrick McVerry. "Though Justin had a rough 2004 season, we know what he can do when he's at 100 percent."

"We were all very happy with the way Shane helped carry our bullpen last season," he added.

Making 36 of his 40 mound appearances in relief last year, the 29-year-old Heams went 6-2 with a 4.90 ERA, allowing 72 hits and 46 walks in 68 innings.

Heams, who's pitched three seasons at the Triple-A level,



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Somerset Patriots announced the re-signing of Justin Jensen, see here in action last year against the Bluefish, Monday.

has a career 34-21 minor league record with a 4.01 ERA in 276 innings. He was on the U.S. squad which earned a gold medal during the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

Radmanovich, 33, who signed with the Pats last week, finished the 2004 season with a .244 batting average, was second on the team with 25 doubles and also belted 11 home runs and drove in 41 runs in 88 games. He missed almost the entire month of August when he helped Team Canada take fourth place in the Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

In 2003, the lefthanded swinger hit .282 with a team-leading 21 homers and 65 RBI in 87 games.

"We're very happy to welcome Ryan back," said McVerry. "Last season was a great year for Ryan, who had the privilege to represent his country in the Olympics. We know the type of player he is and look for him to provide a lot of power and consistency to our lineup."

Radmanovich, who played in 25 major league games for the Seattle Mariners, has six seasons of Triple-A experience with Seattle, the San Diego Padres and Pittsburgh Pirates and has a career .272 minor

league average in 1230 games.

TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets for all 70 Somerset home games are now available at the park. Prices are \$12 for executive field box seats, \$9.50 for field box seats, \$8.50 for upper box seats and \$5 for Turf Club seating.

Game times for the 2005 season are 7:05 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:35 Sundays. Somerset will host 12 fireworks shows and various promotional and theme nights. Season tickets and group tickets are also on sale. For further information call (908) 252-0700 or visit the team's website at www.somersetpatriots.com.

Fundraising benefit will assist Cullinan

BRIDGEWATER — A special "Cullinan Versus Cancer" benefit event will be held 7 p.m. Friday, April 8 at the Somerville Elks on Route 28 in Bridgewater. The evening's festivities will raise funds for former Holy Trinity High basketball star Joe Cullinan, a Bridgewater resident who's battling brain cancer.

Cullinan, diagnosed with the disease this winter, is a former Dunellen resident who was a superb guard for Westfield's now-defunct Holy Trinity from 1968-72 and then played at Stonehill College in Massachusetts.

He and his wife Nancy now live in Bridgewater with their four children — Joe, Lindsay, Heather and Jeff. The latter is an Immaculata High freshman who finished the basketball season playing regularly in the front court with the var-

sity. Joe Cullinan's athletic prowess was an inspiration for many aspiring athletes and now the community has an opportunity to give something back to him and his family. The April 8 event will feature food, drink, music and plenty of memories, and those attending are invited to wear their favorite team jersey.

Donations can be mailed to the Somerville Elks (375 Union Avenue, Bridgewater, 08807) or given at the door. Checks should be made payable to: Somerville Elks c/o Joe Cullinan.

For further information call Pierce Fraunheim Jr. at (908) 448-1496, Michael Fraunheim (610-533-9872), Pat Torpey (609-731-8608), Tom Wernoch (908-625-2459) or Kevin Cullinan (848-565-1762).

SPORTSCENE

RVCC TENNIS LESSONS

Raritan Valley Community College's Corporate and Continuing Education Division is holding a tennis instructional clinic for youngsters ages 8-16 on Saturdays between April 16-May 14. The beginners session is noon-1 p.m. and intermediates 1:15-2:15 p.m. The beginners class will emphasize fundamentals and the intermediates will work on drills to master shots and improve match strategy. The fee is \$60.

For further information call (908) 526-1200, extension 8235, or e-mail cce@rvcc.raritanvalley.edu. Youth program brochures can also be picked up at the CCE office, located in the lower level of the school's College Center, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

SOMOGYI HOOPS CAMP

The 17th annual John Somogyi Shooting Camp, co-directed by former state high school basketball championship coaches Neil Home and John Somogyi, will be held June 18-19 at Rutgers Prep in Somerset. The camp, open to boys and girls ages 9-17, will include two 3.5-hour sessions that will help players improve on their shooting techniques and give them individual and partner drills for further practice. Each participant will have their shot videotaped and analyzed.

Somogyi, who once held the New Jersey high school boys scoring record of 3310 points as well as the national mark for career free throws (1034) while playing at St. Peter's High in New Brunswick, amassed a career coaching record of 275-111 at St. Peter's, St. Joseph-Metuchen, Madison Central and McCristin high schools. Home, who coached at Somerville and also was the Pioneers' athletic director, accumulated a 290-135 record and won

state championships at Westfield and Union Catholic high schools.

For further information on the camp call Somogyi at (732) 946-8929.

COURSES OPEN

County golfers again have five regulation courses from which to choose as the Somerset County Park Commission has officially opened the 2005 season.

Neshanic Valley on South Branch Road in Branchburg, Green Knoll on Garretson Road in Bridgewater, Warrenbrook on Warrenville Road in Warren, Quail Brook on New Brunswick Road in Franklin and Spooky Brook at Colonial Park in Franklin are open 8 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 7 a.m.-6 p.m. weekends.

County resident ID cards and tee-time reservation applications are available at each SCPC course. Greens fees at Green Knoll, Spooky Brook, Warrenbrook and Quail Brook range from \$18 during the week to \$20 on weekends for Somerset County residents and \$35 and \$40 for non-registered golfers. County seniors are charged \$11 during the week.

Neshanic Valley rates are \$49 for registered golfers, \$65 for non-registered and \$39 for seniors. These rates include a gas cart.

Registration for play at any of the five courses is available every day of the week at Spooky Brook and Neshanic Valley. Annual registration rates are \$35 for adult county residents, \$25 for senior county residents (age 60 and over), \$25 for junior county residents (age 18 and under) and \$45 for non-county residents.

Information about all SCPC facilities may be obtained by calling the park commission at (908) 369-1458, ext. 428.

Welcome back, Uncle Vinny

Marine lieutenant colonel back from Iraq visits Bridgewater school

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Perhaps 8-year-old Maria Wood summed it up best when she and her classmates were asked by their teacher what they had learned from "Uncle Vinny," a New Jersey native and Marine lieutenant colonel who paid a visit to the Van Holten School last week to talk about his recent



tour in Iraq.

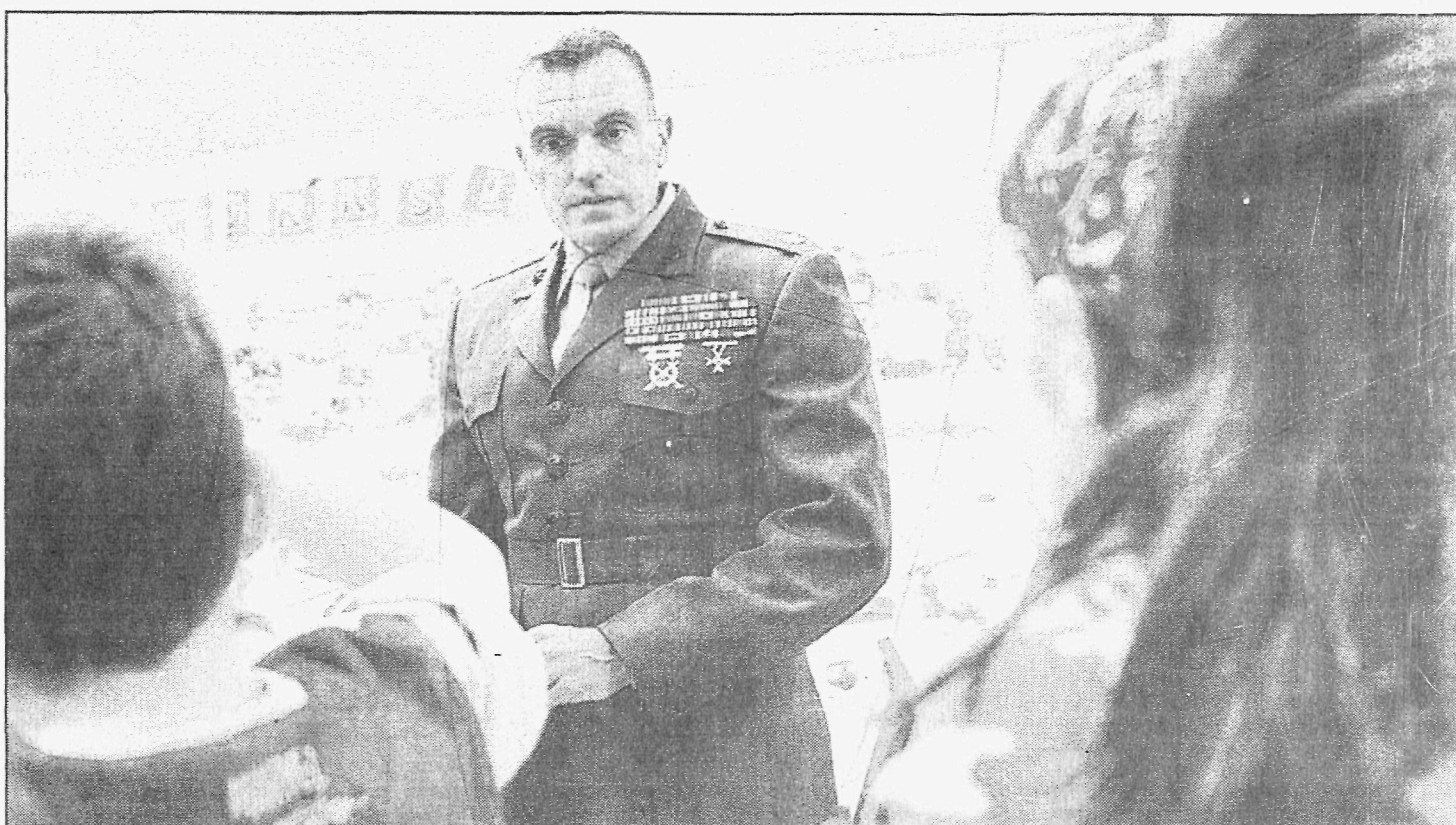
Inside schoolteacher Nancy Havran's third-grade classroom, where she has made Iraq part of the curriculum, Lt. Col. Vincent A. Coglianese — commanding officer with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and friend of the father of a former and current student of Havran's — fielded questions from the class, shared a slideshow of photos from his unit and spoke on a number of topics including what life is like for children in Iraq, the realities of war, and how important it is to have men and women willing to fight for this country.

And Maria seemed to get it. "Be grateful," she said, about the sacrifices made by U.S. servicemen and women. "We are the people of the future and they're helping us."

Coglianese, 45, born in New Brunswick and raised in Spring Lake, first visited Havran's class three years ago after of tour in Afghanistan, and agreed to come back after returning Feb. 17 from an eight-month tour in Iraq where he operated inside the Sunni Triangle, north of Baghdad.

Havran said Coglianese provides her students with an opportunity to learn about how things are for children in other countries, like Iraq.

"It's important for children these days to appreciate what



Marine Lt. Col. Vincent A. Coglianese talks to pupils in Nancy Havran's third grade class at Van Holten School in Bridgewater. Coglianese just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq and last visited the school three years ago after returning from Afghanistan.

our men and women are doing (overseas)," she said. "These kids are used to being safe and things being fair. It's not like that all over the world."

"We're (the United States) so involved with everyone around the world, the children need to have an appreciation for what goes on all over the world. ... We try to get them a little more globally involved."

Entering the classroom, Coglianese, who was greeted with the words "Uncle Vinny is here," broke the ice by asking the children what grade they are in.

"Third!" they replied in unison.

"The best three years of my life were third grade," he said.

And when asked what all the medals on his chest are for — including a Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Joint Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star, the Navy Achievement Medal and the Military Outstanding Service Medal — he quipped, "Perfect attendance in school."

The children, who had researched Iraq on the Internet before Coglianese's visit, then rattled off questions for the Marine, including what kind of food did he eat while over there, and why such a difference in life expectancy between Iraqis and North Americans, among others.

Q: "What do children (in Iraq) do while the war is going on?"

"They go to school," he said matter-of-factly, adding his unit, with the help of paid local Iraqis, fixed nine different schools.

"They were just brick buildings with no windows, no plumbing, no desks, no books," he said.

"Kids are kids. ... They love soccer. They're just like you guys," he said.

Q: "Do you think the children liked you there?"

Coglianese said most Iraqi parents he and his men encountered were happy to have the Marines there.

"Because the bad guys come to town and they live there," he said. "But the bad guys are scared of us. The bad guys are chickens."

He added: "When people grow up, for whatever reason some choose to be bad. ... But the kids mob you. The kids loved us."

Q: "How long will the war go on?"

"As Americans we want everything now," said Coglianese. "But insurgencies take a long time. ... It's gonna take a few years." He said he believed the Middle East would be worse off if the United States pulled out now.

Q: "Did you ever shoot someone?"

"Let's just say we all shot at people, and leave it at that," he responded. "War is a terrible, terrible, terrible thing. I can joke about it now, but I was happy when my last Marine left Iraq."

Q: "Were you ever bombed?"

"Yeah, we got bombed a lot," he said. "We got mortared many times. But then we got aggressive ... and we stopped that."

Q: "Did you ever have a friend that ever got killed?"

The Marine responded quietly: "Yeah, I did, I did, I sure did."

Coglianese said he lost one man directly under his command and 30 from the unit.

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1995	Ford	1FALP6531SK119073	Resale	Contour	\$2200.00
1993	Ford	1FTFT15V8PA42616	Resale	F150	\$2500.00
1995	Honda	1HGE68667SL027646	Resale	Civic	\$2800.00
1996	Dodge	1B3ES42C4TD527374	Resale	Neon	\$3000.00
1992	Dodge	1B4GH44R0N328576	Resale	Coravan	\$2000.00
1987	Honda	1HGC15542A026949	Resale	Accord	\$1800.00
1995	Nissan	JN1CS2653FW032865	Junk	200	\$1200.00
1993	GMC	1GKCT18W6P025405	Junk	Jimmy	\$1500.00
1992	Honda	1HGB677NVA190252	Resale	Accord	\$1200.00

SOUTH PLAINFIELD POLICE
Karl W. Schuetz
Traffic Safety Officer
608 1T 4/2/05

\$18.36

DUNELLEN BOROUGH

NOTICE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, "BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS" - FEE SCHEDULE

ORDINANCE 05-04 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN, NEW JERSEY, THAT: Ordinance #05-04 entitled DUNELLEN BOROUGH FEE SCHEDULE ORDINANCE was finally adopted after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Borough Council on Monday, March 21, 2005 in the Municipal Building, Dunellen, New Jersey.

William M. Robins
Acting Municipal Clerk

B65 1T 4/2/05

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

PLANNING BOARD

The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application (#20-04) by Ralph Permas and Surinder Singh, with respect to property located at 109-111 East Main Street (Lots 5 (part), 6 and 7, Block 9). The property is located in the BR (business residential) zone. The relief sought was site plan approval, bulk and parking variances for a development of site as a Dunkin Donuts store. The application was approved as to substance on January 13, 2005 and approved as to form on March 24, 2005.

The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application (#24-04) by Cellular Telephone Company (d/b/a AT&T Wireless), with respect to property located at 10 Hamilton Street (Lot 10.01, Block 12). The property is located in the BR (business residential) zone. The relief sought was a use variance and final site plan approval to add 12 antennas and one E11 antenna on rooftop of existing theatre building. The application was approved as to substance on January 27, 2005 and approved as to form on March 24, 2005.

The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application (#13-04) by George Athanasopoulos, with respect to property located at 204 East Main Street (Lot 46, Block 1). The property is located in the B-2 zone. The relief sought was site plan for expansion of bar into adjacent space formerly used as a rug store. The application was approved as to substance on August 25, 2004 and approved as to form on September 9, 2004.

\$11.22 B66 1T 4/2/05

NOTICE OF ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:

VIRGINIA THOMAS, WEST PUBLISHING COMPANY 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 MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. is Plaintiff and CHARLES THOMAS A/K/A CHARLES A. THOMAS are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, MIDDLESEX County, bearing Docket # F-2520-05 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 April 24, 2003, made by CHARLES THOMAS, UNMARRIED, as Mortgagee(s), to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. recorded on May 29, 2003, in Book 8471 of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, Page 489, and (2) to recover possession of the concerned premises commonly known as: 402 SANDFORD STREET A/K/A 402 SANDFORD STREET, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901.

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 908-828-0853. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Venue by calling 908-248-7600.

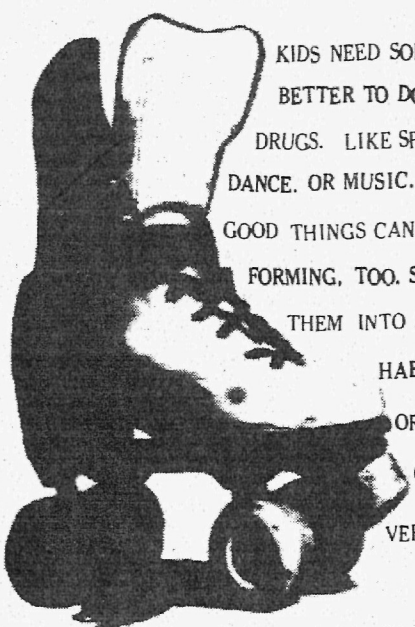
You, VIRGINIA THOMAS, WEST PUBLISHING COMPANY, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you may have an interest in the subject property by reason of a lien, encumbrance, or otherwise which may be perfected against the property being foreclosed and for any right, title, claim or interest you may have in, to or against said mortgaged premises.

Dated: April 2, 2005

DONALD F. FHELAN
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
B67 1T 4/2/05

\$17.34

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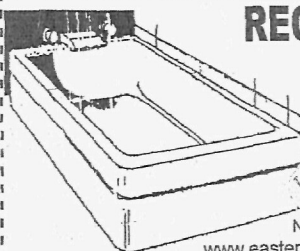
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