

The Chronicle

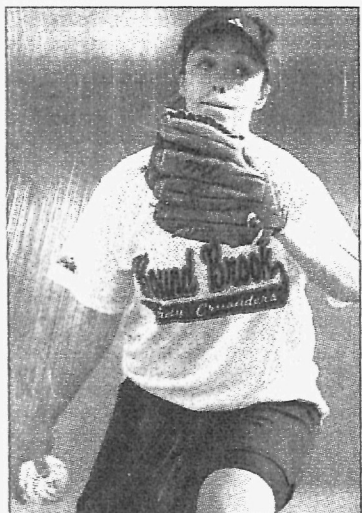
Since 1862

Vol. 144, No. 15

Saturday, April 9, 2005

50 cents

Inside



Second No-Hitter

Bound Brook High's Christy Giamella tossed her second no-hitter Tuesday. For high school softball and baseball and wrap-ups see Page B-1.

REMINDER

Chamber Dinner

The Chamber of Commerce of Bound Brook has scheduled its Annual Installation Dinner Dance for 6-10 p.m. April 16 at Madeline's on Vosseller in Bound Brook. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres from 6-7 p.m. There will be a cash bar and dinner at 8 p.m. The Chamber will present its highest honor, "Member of the Year," to Lyle Strain, who is president of I and P Water Solutions as well as a long time resident of Bound Brook. He will be recognized for his personal service to the Chamber and his commitment to his community. The evening will include door prizes, program and dancing. The cost for the event is \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door. For additional information, call Gayle Piper of Wachovia Bank at (732) 271-3020 or visit www.boundbrook.com.

How to Help OPSHBX

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, in partnership with American Recreational Military Services, is seeking cash donations in support of the 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. Page A5.

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Borough fire department gets grant

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-NJ, announced Monday that the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department received a \$144,364 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase 35 new air packs with the newest safety features. The South Plainfield fire grant is part of a \$750 million federal program this year designed to support more than 5,000 fire protection, EMS deliv-

ery and fire prevention programs. "The firefighters in South Plainfield face new challenges in this post-Sept. 11 world," Ferguson said during a news conference held in the borough. "Especially because of South Plainfield's proximity to New York City, it's crucial that first responders have the resources to meet these new challenges. "Not only does the important homeland security grant allow them to do

their jobs efficiently and safely, but it also eases the burden on community taxpayers." Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, first responders in the 7th District have received more than \$2.8 million in federal homeland security grants. The 7th District includes portions of Hunterdon, Somerset and Union counties and three towns in Middlesex County — portions of Woodbridge, Edison and South

Plainfield. Overall, New Jersey has received more than \$301 million in homeland security funding, ranking New Jersey as the nation's eighth largest recipient of federal security funds. Still, Ferguson and other members of the state's congressional delegation have advocated in Washington for additional funds, including changing the federal formula that distributes security funding.

Somerville recruitment

Uncle Sam ramps up effort

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — A backhoe operator looking for a challenge. A 23-year-old mother from Bound Brook. A Hillsborough man with a love of theater. An 18-year-old wanting to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. What do these four people have in common? They all recently joined the Army, and on Monday reflected on their decisions to sign up at such a dangerous time in U.S. history. "We're still finding qualified applicants willing to do their part and serve their country," said Staff Sgt. Philip A. Martir, an Army recruiter inside the military recruiting station in the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center. "A lot of kids just don't know which way to go. ... It's a wonderful feeling to see someone change their life." Martir, 30, of Piscataway, said the Army offers soldiers 212 job opportunities, everything from combat to computers to clerical work to construction and engineering. For the little more than a year he has



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Army recruiter Staff Sgt. Philip Martir talks with Erin Reilly, 23, of Bound Brook, who recently enlisted in the Army. Her 3-year-old son, Ryan, will stay with his father while she is serving. Her reason for signing up? To improve herself and give her family the chance at a better life in the future.

been in Somerville, Martir said he has signed on about 30 individuals. He said 13 signed up since December, and the Army is on track for making its quota of about 28 commitments for the year in this section of Somerset County. One area man to get on board is Frank Provenzano Jr., the son of Somerset County Sheriff Frank. J.

Provenzano. The 22-year-old said he plans on being a member of the Green Beret, the Army's elite Special-Forces unit. He will begin his training May 22 at Fort Benning in Georgia.

"I'm not getting my feet wet," the Raritan resident said about his decision to join. "I'm diving in all the way." A heavy-machinery operator for a local union, Provenzano Jr. said life can get pretty boring, and he's looking for a challenge.

"Sitting on the side of the road all day in a machine isn't much of a challenge," he said. "I'm going to be around the most highly motivated individuals in the military. ... I want to be the best of the best. ... I want to see the world. I want to go to Germany. I want to go to Italy."

Reached by phone, Sheriff Provenzano said he and his wife are very proud of Provenzano Jr.

"Signing up, volunteering, it's a sacrifice on his part and an experience he'll never really forget," Sheriff Provenzano said. "P.J. is a pretty mature kid, and when he sets his sights on something he usually attains it. ... If it makes him happy finding something and completing it, and protecting us, it makes us very proud."

But Provenzano Jr. acknowledged that his decision to join the Special Forces increases his chances of going to Iraq or some future war zone.

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GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cpl. William White, a recruiter with the Army, talks to James Gill, 18, a new recruit.

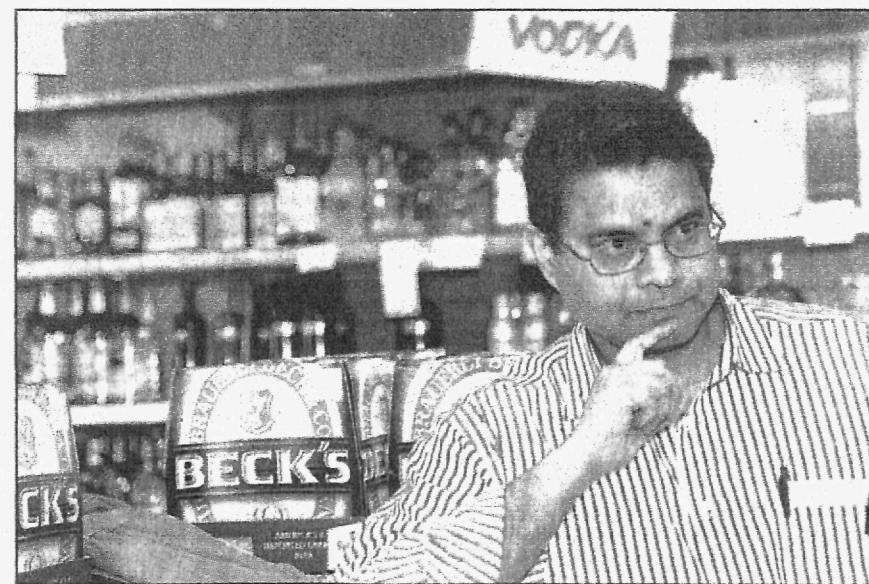
Center redevelopment forcing tenants to leave

By TAKESHA PETTUS
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — Sam Perkari was optimistic when he purchased Path Liquors in 1993. He knew the customer traffic generated from the nearby Pathmark would bring in ample enough customers into his liquor store in spite of the 40 percent vacancy at the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center. Like many other store owners in the development, he put his life savings into the business, hoping to some day retire. But 12 years later it is hard for him to remain optimistic when he is being faced with the possibility of his own store being vacated as plans are underway for renovations to the shopping center. Perkari said he has not had a long-term lease since JSM Properties of Piscataway purchased the property three years ago. In the past few months, Perkari has been on a month-to-month lease agreement with JSM. He was recently denied an additional month on his lease and has been told

he needs to vacate the building. On April 8, Perkari will go to court to try and remain in the building at least until they begin demolition. "That's the only thing I am doing," said Perkari. Perkari said if he is forced to move it could cost as much as \$150,000 in relocation costs. "I am still paying on old loans," said Perkari. The Planning Board recently approved plans presented by JSM calling for a \$66 million renovation to the property. The center will be transformed into a multi-level residential, office and retail facility complete with a fitness center. Like many other tenants at the center, Baskin Robbins store owner Mohan Ayyar has his attorney is working on a way to allow him to remain in the location during renovations. "Everybody's shelling out money," said Ayyar. "This is our survival." But Ayyar said even if he is allowed

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sam Perkari, owner of Path Liquors, wants to remain in the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center, but is unable to renew his lease with JSM Properties, owner of the center, which plans on turning the complex into a multi-level facility with a mix of residential, office and retail use.

SUPPORT OPERATION SHOEBOX: NEW JERSEY 2005
DETAILS INSIDE THIS EDITION OF THE REPORTER

OPERATION
SHOEBOX
NEW JERSEY 2005
Support Our Troops

Uncle Sam ramps up effort

Continued from page A1

"I want to protect people like this," he said while tussling the hair of 3-year-old Ryan, the son of Erin Reilly, also a new recruit who stopped into the station on Monday.

Reilly, 23, of Bound Brook, will pursue a position in the Army's Military Police, and hopes to eventually become a police officer after fulfilling her four-year commitment to the Army. She ships out to Fort Letterwood, Miss., in June.

She acknowledged the possibility of her being sent to Iraq does concern her.

"Because of my son, it does weigh on my mind a lot," she said.

"I know it's going to improve me, and put me in a better situation for him," she said. "This will give us both a better life in the end."

Ryan, she said, will stay with his father while she is away.

Martir said it is a misconception about the Army that if you sign up you are automatically part of the infantry.

"People think you sign up for the Army and three weeks later you're in Iraq. But it doesn't work that way," he said.

Martir said recruits must first complete nine weeks of basic training, followed by job training which lasts anywhere from six weeks to a year. Then there is more training with individual units.

And for Special Forces recruits like Provenzano Jr., the training is even longer — a five-year commitment including a year of initial training plus a six-month apprenticeship.

"Is it hard? Yeah. Is it scary? It is for some people," he said. And for those who are sent to war, Martir added: "You train with the most powerful force in the world. Chances are you're going to be OK."

George Galesky, 21, of Hillsborough, signed up a year ago and has yet to be sent off to war. An office worker for the Allegheny District Veterinary Command, located in Carlisle, Pa., Galesky said his unit oversees the care of military dogs and pets at the base.

"I wouldn't have done office work without the Army," he

said.

Galesky said he is considering police work when he gets out in 2008, or he may stay on longer and pursue a college degree in technical theater — which deals in stage lighting and sound — through the Montgomery GI Bill or the Army College Fund.

"It's one of my loves," he said. Fresh out of high school, 18-year-old James Gill has been working side jobs since graduating in 2004.

The former Hillsborough resident who recently moved to Bound Brook said he based his decision to join the Army on "family tradition." He said most of his relatives have served in the Army, Air Force or Marines. He wants to be a tank driver.

"My grandfather was a tanker (in World War II) and that's what I'm going to be," he said.

Gill, who is off to Fort Knox, Ky., on the 22nd of this month, said he would not be able to afford college if not for the Army, and plans to pursue a degree in the criminal justice field after he finishes boot camp.

He acknowledged the timing concerns his parents.

"They're worried about it, of course, going in, in a time of war. But they know it's my decision and they support me."

On Iraq, Staff Sgt. Martir, who has two tours of Kosovo under his belt, said he stands by the Army and the government's decision to go to war.

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
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
Girl Scouts of Rolling Hills Council, 1171 Route 28, North Branch
Somerset County Park Commission main office, North Branch Park, Milltown Road, Bridgewater
Somerset County Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge
Leonard J. Buck Garden, 11 Layton Road, Far Hills
Warrenbrook Golf Course, Warrenville Road, Warren
Spooky Brook Golf Course, Colonial Park, Amwell Road, Franklin
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
Art 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
Sherman & Son Jewelers, Bridgewater Commons Mall (second level), Bridgewater
Sherman & Son Jewelers, Somerset Shopping Center, Route 202/206, Bridgewater

Middlesex County

Dollar Planet Dollar Store, Route 28, Middlesex
Summit Federal Savings & Loan, Washington Avenue, Dunellen
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
More sites will be added as they become available. If you are interested in hosting a drop-off site, please contact us.

The Chronicle

◆ Since 1862 ◆

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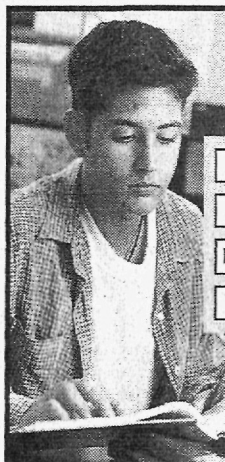
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There is also a **Seminar**, on **Sunday, May 1**, at the Clarion Hotel in Edison
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Registration: ONLINE AT - WWW.PMINJ.ORG or contact Mike Ahern via fax or e-mail at(732) 336-3489, mahern@telcordia.com

*New PMI
membership fees -
see PMI/NJ website



Seniors 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. April 13 — Mystery Trip, \$65 ***

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 Voesseller Ave. in Bound Brook. For further information, call club president Sal Barbati (908) 725-5444.

Event Schedule:

April 11 — Membership meeting, 1 p.m. at school cafeteria.

Middlesex

Borough

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Seniors meet the second Tuesday of the month, April 12, at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Jean Mooney, former director of the County Office on Aging will speak about the Homestead Rebate. There will also be election of officers. Members are asked to bring boxes of pasta for F.I.S.H. For information on trips call Ellie Procacci (732) 752-3093 or Mary Jane Stoddard (732) 356-2093.

Trips and Events:

May 27 — Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. "Best of Branson" (bus is filled)

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.

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.

South Bound

Brook

The South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Community Club meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, April 6, 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.

Events and Trips

April 17-24 — Branson, Missouri, 8 days, 7 nights \$698 per person includes round trip motor coach, most meals, excursion admissions, gratuities. For information - reservations, call Elsie at (732) 356-4338.

Briefs

"Sounds of Broadway" at Quibbletown today

PISCATAWAY — The North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club will be presenting a concert "Sounds of Broadway" 8 p.m. today. The program, featuring the 25 voice all-male chorus, will perform at Quibbletown Middle School, South Washington Ave.

The free program is sponsored by the Piscataway Cultural Arts Advisory Commission and will feature familiar, beloved songs from hit Broadway shows that are sure to have the audience tapping their toes and humming the

tunes long after the show is over.

Nursery school holds open house today

EDISON — The Oak Tree Nursery School, 445 Plainfield Road, will hold an open house on 2-4 p.m. today to celebrate its 35th Anniversary and the Week of the Young Child.

Former teachers and students will be on hand for the occasion.

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

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Calendar

Saturday, April 9

PISCATAWAY - Freedom Fund Awards Gala: 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. for the Metuchen Edison Area Branch of NAACP, at Four Points SheratonHotel, Piscataway. Tickets: \$75 - Black Tie, Music by WINCEYCO. Contact Mary Martin (732) 968-7262 for tickets and information.

Monday, April 11

EDISON - Edison Garden Club: 7 p.m. Edison Main Branch Library Conference Room, 340 Plainfield Avenue featuring "Ikebana" by Niki Graf of Rutgers, Cook College. Public invited, light refreshments. Call Mary (732) 549-3579 for details.

Tuesday, April 12

CARTERET - Widows or Widowers Meeting: 7:30 p.m. at Carteret Community Center at Pershing and Cooke Avenues. Light refreshments and socializing after business meeting. Call Lois at (908) 757-0515 for details.

Thursday, April 14

Edison - Adult Learning Dance Socials: Featuring Tropical Salsa and Authentic Argentine Tango 6:45 to 9 p.m. at Edison VFW Post 3117 at 1970 Woodbridge Ave.; first class at 7. Admission \$10, singles or couples welcome. Call (732) 388-4605 for details and directions.

Friday, April 15

EDISON - Dance Parties: 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. at Edison VFW, 1970 Woodbridge Ave. \$12, light refreshments included. Couples and singles welcome, ballroom, latin and swing styles. Call (732) 388-4605 for details.

BOUND BROOK - Spring Rummage Sale: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at United Methodist Church of Bound Brook, Asbury Hall, 150 West Union Avenue and Livingston Street. Clothing for all ages, men and women, toys, books, household items. Call church office at (732) 356-1372 for directions.

Saturday, April 16

MANVILLE - Vendors, Crafters Wanted: Indoor-Outdoor Flea Market and Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. rain or shine. VFW Hall, 600 Washington Ave. Benefit: First Aid and Rescue Squad. Call (908) 725-9308 or (908) 725-1246 to reserve space.

BOUND BROOK - Spring Rummage Sale: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at United Methodist Church of Bound Brook, Asbury Hall, 150 West Union Avenue and Livingston Street. Sale today: paper bag, \$3 or plastic bag \$5. Clothing for all ages, men and women, toys, books, household items. Call church office at (732) 356-1372 for directions.

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What's Happening in April 2005 at North Stelton AME Church!

123 Craig Ave. Piscataway, N.J. 08854	SUNDAYS Worship Services Church School 7:45 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
(732) 287-5184	WEDNESDAYS Bread of Heaven Bible Study 12:00 noon
Fax: (732) 287-2221	Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
	THURSDAYS Senior Citizens' Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
	SATURDAYS Prayer Service 6:00 a.m.
	Special Events
Reverend Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Sr. Pastor	Reverend Kenneth L. Saunders' 16th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration Wednesday, April 20-Friday April 22 Special Worship Services ~ Guest Speakers & Choirs ~ 7:30 p.m.
	Sunday, April 24 Worship Service ~ Reverend Howard Grant ~ St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Church, Newark, N.J. 9:45 a.m.

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

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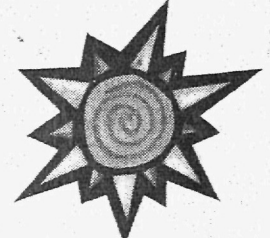
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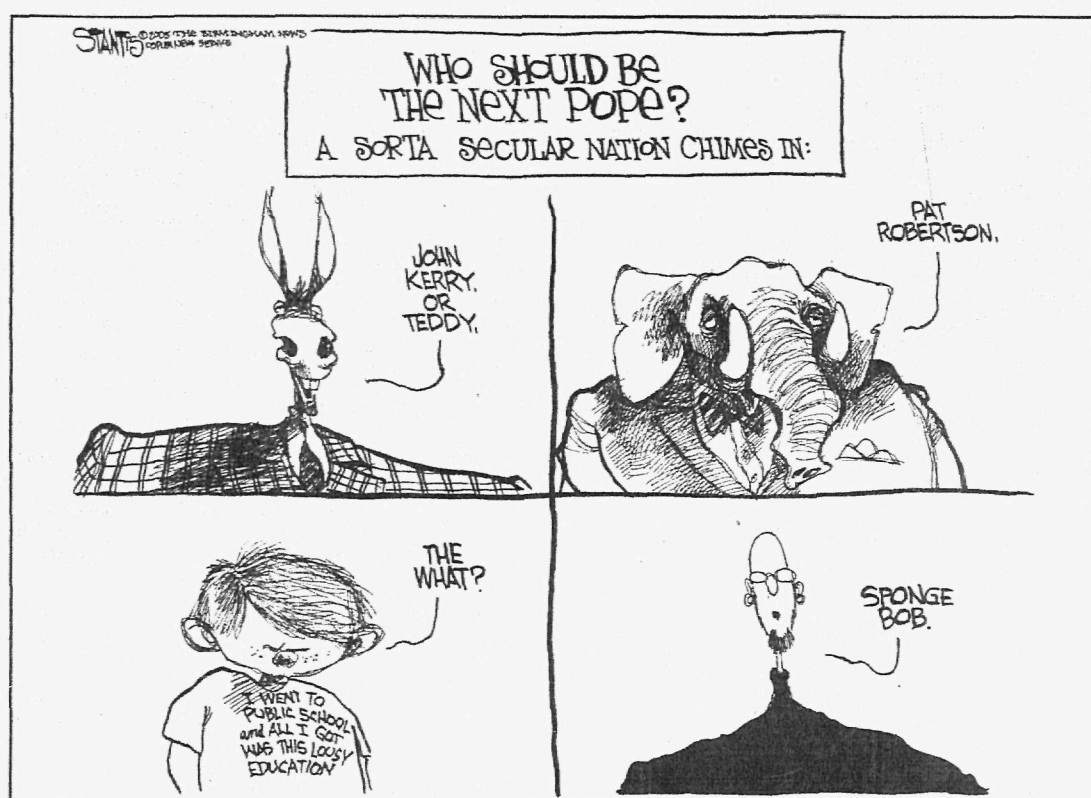


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Commentary



Getting off the roads

It's getting rough out there, and this week proved it.

Heavy rains flooded the Delaware River, forcing evacuations and leaving many bridges connecting New Jersey to Pennsylvania closed. The result, traffic that would normally filter onto county routes and back roads diverted in Central Jersey onto Route 78, the backups stretching from Warren County at the western border of the state to Somerset County. Further delays occurred on Route 287 leading into Middlesex County, and all of Somerset County's and Middlesex County's most-likely-to-flood-when-ever-it-rains roads were closed, just adding to the commuting nightmare.

And we haven't even touched on gas prices, which crept back above the \$2 mark last week. With the possibility that New Jersey will add new gasoline taxes to help offset transportation budget shortfalls, there is no end in sight to increased gas costs.

There's no doubt about it, commuting into and out of Somerset County has been getting tougher and tougher. It's no surprise to county planning officials who, for the past year, have been working to produce a transit-orientated development plan. There have been public hearings, meetings and analysis, the results being presented last week to the county Planning Board.

The recommendation? What officials have been

calling for all along — the enhancement of existing commuter rail service by utilizing three existing train stations in Bound Brook, Branchburg and Somerville.

Both Somerville and Bound Brook can use their stations as a way to bring developers into their downtowns, something that has already taken place in Somerville. JSM Properties recently got local planning board approval to redevelop the borough's shopping center into a facility with a mix of housing, retail and office space, complete with a fitness center. Its location across from the train station means it could become a commuter's dream, particularly those bound for New York City.

The plan for Branchburg is more dramatic, with a proposal to ask NJ Transit to move its station west, to the North Branch section, which would link it with existing office and warehouse areas, as well as housing.

In addition, NJ Transit still has plans to extend its West Trenton Line from Ewing in Mercer County to Bridgewater, creating a link between that line and the Raritan Valley Line.

If all of this development actually takes place, will it help the current commuter nightmares?

That's hard to say, although if just a small percentage of those currently driving on the roads take to mass transit as an alternative, it will help. And right now, we need all the help we can get.

An environmentalists' must-have book

Most environmental books aren't generally best sellers. Usually, they find a comfortable niche among those who consider themselves environmental activists.

But "H2O: Highlands to Ocean" deserves a wider audience.

Authors Tony Hiss and Christopher Meier undertook the "first close look at the outstanding land and waterscapes of the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Region."

According to Hiss: "Much is at stake. The next 20 years may determine what future is in store.... The report sets out to create a useable regional/bioregional scorecard and checklist that can tell us the shape we are in and what to do next."

More than 15 million people in this metropolitan region make it one of the most densely populated places in North America. And most of the region's natural wonders have been covered over with generations of pavement. One has to look closely to find enduring natural treasures among the artifice.

But, the Highlands to ocean region is home to the Highlands, the Palisades, the Hudson River, New York Harbor, the Passaic River with its Great Falls, the Great Swamp, the Hackensack River and Meadowlands and the Raritan River and Bay.

Hiss and Meier provide a wealth of information about these treasures, and relate them directly to the land under our feet and the waterways we drive over every day. The book's short sections make it an easy read, and the historic and scientific infor-

mation sprinkled throughout should interest everyone.

"H2O: Highlands to Ocean" points to 14 indicators of the region's overall health. Water, which includes water quality, wetlands, droughts and floods, sturgeon and striped bass; Flyover, the Atlantic Flyover used by hundreds of millions of migratory birds, highlighted here by harbor herons and peregrine falcons; Land, exemplified by the Highlands, black bears, bog turtles and sprawl; Air, air quality and asthma, and Global Climate Change.

The news is mixed, but the authors remain optimistic about the future. The authors encourage us to "live regionally" as a way to think globally and act locally.

One thing that sets this book apart is its mixing of interesting, instructive stories with traditional data and analysis. Most environmental reports are not what anyone would consider light reading. The authors of "H2O: Highlands to Ocean" take their readers on a few field trips to make and reinforce some key technical and scientific topics.

Anyone interested in the land, water, air, and wildlife of the New York and New Jersey metro area, or curious about what a broad range of current environmental indicators are trying to tell us about prospects for the future, should read this book.

The writer, Michele S. Byers, is executive director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation

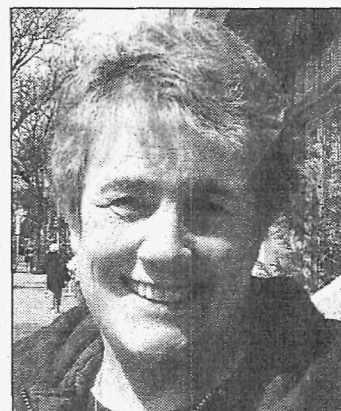
Question of the week:

Will additional mass transit relieve congestion on county roads?



JOHN T. STEFANO
Millington

"No. It will never happen. New Jersey is not a mass transit state and New Jerseyans are addicted to their cars."



ALLEDA RADZIEWICZ
Somerville

"I don't think that more mass transit will make a difference in traffic. If people never take mass transit, I don't think adding more trains will encourage them to change their daily routines."



JEFF ELDER
Somerville

"Sure, it's obvious!"



JEANMARIE FELDMAN
Bridgewater

"No, because the amount of people in the suburbs who have cars, and I feel they won't utilize it. It won't be cost effective. Better bus service would be a plus."



GRACE KERSTING
Somerville

"It probably would."

Letters to the Editor

School budget needs support

To The Editor:

I have been a constant presence in South Plainfield since 1963, as a resident and educator.

My start with our schools was motivated by a simple desire to make a difference and help people.

Whether that has happened is not known. What I do know is that it has been a great way to spend a lifetime. We have an amazing community and it has been a privilege to work with our students.

This letter is sent to endorse the school budget and urge a "yes" vote. I recognize that there are some people who are thoroughly familiar with the budget document and the hundreds of pages of supporting documentation. These people have concluded, based upon their knowledge, that they cannot support it or our students.

There are others, however, who have not read the document and may be unsure.

I am asking them for a "yes" vote.

There are a great many fact-based arguments, based upon our last 10 years of history,

surrounding this budget. Allegations of bad decisions, misuse of surplus funds to maintain an artificially reduced tax rate, and incompetent budget administration have all been made. All of these could be argued at length.

However, there is one certainty about this budget: a defeat will generate a dismantling of our schools, as we know them. The listing of further looming cuts is a horrible scenario. It includes our ability to guide and direct our schools. It includes the cutting of massive amounts of teachers. It includes the cutting of virtually every extra-curricular activity available to our students.

We have made significant progress in recent years. Please, and I do not use the word lightly, help us help our students. Support our schools and students.

If any reader wishes to discuss the facts of our budget further, I am available for that conversation. Please contact me directly.

ANTHONY F. MASSARO
South Plainfield

Robotics meet was successful

To The Editor:

Recently the New Jersey FIRST Robotics Regional Competition was held — the event's ninth year. I want to thank the many who made this year's competition possible.

First, thanks to the regional sponsors — Johnson & Johnson, Bristol-Myers Squibb, New Jersey Institute of Technology and Prosperity New Jersey. Next, thanks to our multiple team sponsors — ADP, Mercedes-Benz USA, Bristol-Myers Squibb and the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies.

I also want to thank the more than 200 volunteers who support our regional. Without their commitment and passion for FIRST we would never be able to stage such a well-run event. Finally, thanks to the hundreds of students, teachers, engineers, business professionals, parents and mentors who gave thousands of volunteer hours since the beginning of the year. Applause to all.

FIRST — For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology — is as much about building relationships as it is about building robots, all while working to inspire our youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. FIRST can be a life-changing experience — just

try it.

Finally, my congratulations to the local teams that competed at the New Jersey regional — Team 41, Watchung Hills Regional High School; Team 56, Bound Brook High School and Ethicon; Team 75, Hillsborough High School and Johnson & Johnson Consumer and Personal Products Worldwide; Team 102, Somerville High School and Verizon/Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics; Team 136, Plainfield High School and National Starch/Johanson & Johnson; Team 224, Piscataway High School and PSGA/Johanson & Johnson/Rutgers; Team 303, Bridgewater-Raritan High School, Midland School and Bihler of America; Team 613, Franklin High School; Team 869, Middlesex High School and Cordis Corp.; Team 1279, Immaculata High School and National Starch, part of the winning alliance; Team 1403, Montgomery High School and NASA, and Team 1626, St. Joseph's High School, Metuchen.

In the eyes of FIRST every team that competes is a winner — so congratulations to all the winners.

DONALD H. BOWERS
Branchburg

The writer is a founder of the New Jersey FIRST Robotics Competition.

Screenings are vital to keeping healthy

To The Editor:

Nearly 15,000 Americans, including many from New Jersey, die each year from internal bleeding caused by ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms.

It is estimated that 2.7 million Americans age 60 or older may have this life threatening condition. AAA is one of the most preventable, yet often neglected vascular conditions. In fact, it is highly treatable and curable in 95 percent of men and women when detected before rupture occurs.

Recently, Federal legislation allowing Medicare to cover the costs of AAA screenings was introduced. The Vascular Society of New Jersey applauds this initiative. The Screening Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Very Efficiently Act (HR-827) will provide easy, affordable exams for seniors who are most vulnerable to this condition.

For our senior citizens in

New Jersey, this legislation is particularly significant since we have a high population of residents over 60 years of age.

AAA usually strikes suddenly and without warning. It typically is not detected during routine physical exams. The VSNJ maintains that preventative AAA screenings will be a sound health care investment. In the long run, it will result in savings to our Medicare program. As vascular surgeons, we, more than anyone, know the cost of routine screenings will pale in comparison to the cost of rehabilitating victims who may have survived a ruptured aneurysm.

The Vascular Society of New Jersey, representing more than 130 vascular surgeons in the State, urges our representatives in Washington to support this legislation.

Dr. CLIFFORD SALES
President,

Vascular Society of New Jersey
Trenton

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.

State troopers back U.S. troops

New Jersey State Troopers assigned to Troop B, Somerville Barracks, have donated a box full of items for U.S. troops in Iraq that the troopers collected themselves. The four squads divided the list of 26 items equally so as to avoid duplication.

The troopers also donated \$200 from their Health and Welfare Fund to help defray the cost of shipping the items to the troops overseas.

Special thanks to Major Heidi Scripture, Sgt. Ken Villano, Sgt. Joe Scardigno, and Trooper Thomas DiStefano.

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



purchase a ticket for the upcoming season, the Patriots will reward them with a second free ticket to a game.

Community service projects

Twin brothers Austin and Sean Shackleton organized a drive that involved 1,200 Confirmation students at St. Bernard's R.C. Church in Bridgewater, as well as members of the parish. The 14-year-olds, assisted by their mother, Maureen, an OPSHBX committee member, have been supplying a steady stream of donated items for several weeks, with Maureen and her husband loading up their pick-up truck for several trips to the army in Franklin.

Kara Lazauskas, 13, of Neshanic Station organized a similar initiative at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Three Bridges. The church bulletin helped to publicize her CCD project, and the parish responded, dropping off dozens of bags of donated items in the front hall of the church.

Kara's mom, Jean, delivered a van loaded with donated items to The Chronicle office.

All should arrive in Iraq sometime next week.

"Darn Yanks"

The Branchburg Recreation Department, along with 42 young thespians in grades 1-8, are staging an original production entitled "Darn Yanks" April 29-30 at the Whiton Elementary School on Whiton Avenue in Branchburg.

The evening performances will benefit Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, according to Mary Beth Ferris, program coordinator. Based on previous years' plays, crowds of 500 people are expected at the 7:30 p.m. Friday performance and 7 p.m. Saturday performance, according to Ferris, who explained that the required admission will be a bag of donated items which will be sent to the soldiers. The producers will also accept cash



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Jersey State Police Sgt. Joe Scardigno, left, and Trooper Thomas DiStefano of Troop B, Somerville Barracks, load a box of supplies into a truck Tuesday that will be sent to U.S. troops in Iraq. Troopers from the barracks worked off the list of needed items as requested by the soldiers, and contributed cases of toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss and other personal items. The troopers also contributed \$200 from its Health and Welfare Fund to defray costs of shipping the items.

donations, which will be handed over to OPSHBX.

643 boxes to go

Volunteers from OPSHBX and its partner, American Recreational Military Services, were joined by radio talk show host Mary Walter on Sunday at the 42nd Infantry armory in Franklin; by day's end we had packed and taped 643 boxes for shipment to U.S. troops in the Mideast.

The next time we'll get together to box and wrap packages will be May 14 in downtown Somerville. OPSHBX will host a special event in conjunction with the DMC as well as other elected officials. We invite everyone in Somerville to donate items or volunteer their time packing the boxes that will be sent overseas.

The event will be held from noon-4 p.m. at the downtown shopping center on West Main Street. If you're interested in becoming a part of this event, please call (908) 575-6684.

OPSHBX and ARMS volunteers will get together the following day to package more boxes for shipment at the Franklin armory on Hamilton Street. Volunteers are needed that day, too.

Soggy Scouts

Boy Scouts from Troop 83 in

Somerville exemplify the absolute best in perseverance and dedication, spending six hours in last Saturday's driving rain standing outside the Pathmark Supermarket in Somerville soliciting contributions from shoppers as they entered the store.

One of their leaders, Tom Mitchell, dropped off ten large trash can liners filled with bags at The Reporter office later that day. In the process, he got soaked to the skin. On Monday, another volunteer, Christine Fellin, dropped off two more bags, and a plastic jug with \$136 and change the scouts collected outside the store.

Good job!

Beneficial benefit

Our good friend and OPSHBX volunteer Pat Mannion hosted a benefit Friday night in Somerville at Mannion's Pub and Restaurant, featuring the Willie Lynch Trio, and by night's end, patrons had tucked over \$400 into a plastic jug; Mannion rounded off the figure, and presented a check for \$500 to OPSHBX on Monday. Thanks, Pat, and thanks to all who donated to the cause.

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

Calendar of Events

April 9: Somerset Patriots Fan Fest and Open Tryouts, Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 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.

April 18: Clinton Station Diner, Route 173 & Bank Street, Clinton (off Route 78), 15 percent of the dinner receipts from 4-9 p.m. will be donated to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. (908) 713-0012.

April 25: "Parade of Veterans," Main Street, Somerville, 5:30 p.m., Somerset Patriots "Welcome Home" parade; fans are asked to bring donated items to Borough Hall prior to start of the parade, where they will be collected by volunteers. (908) 252-0700.

April 28: Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Somerset Patriots Opening Day vs. Lancaster Barnstormers; 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.

April 29-30: Branchburg Recreation Department presents "Darn Yanks," performed by 42 students in grades 1-8, Whiton Elementary School, Whiton Avenue, Branchburg, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7 p.m. Saturday. Admission-by-donation only! Playgoers are asked to donate items for U.S. troops. (908) 526-1300, ext. 187.

May 2: Clinton Station Diner, Route 173 & Bank Street, Clinton (off Route 78), 15 percent of the dinner receipts from 4-9 p.m. will be donated to Operation Shoebox. (908) 713-0012.

May 9: Association of Independent Competitive Eaters sponsors hamburger-eating contest at Clinton Station Diner, Route 173 & Bank Street, Clinton (off Route 78). Teams of three will attack and consume 7-pound "Zeus"



hamburgers - the world's largest hamburger - in a timed event. Entry fees, sponsor fees to be donated to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. Teams and sponsors needed. For further information, see www.competitiveeaters.com on the Internet or call (908) 575-6684; (516) 632-9794 or (908) 713-0012.

May 12: Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, Somerset Patriots vs. Newark Bears, 7:05 p.m., 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.

May 14: "Somerville Supply Line," Somerville officials and residents will gather with Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 volunteers to box and ship items for U.S. troops, noon-4 p.m. Landmark Shopping Center, West Main Street, Somerville. Donations of needed items requested. (800) 350-3326.

May 15: Volunteers from Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 and American Recreational Military Services will box and ship items for U.S. troops, 1-5 p.m. 42nd Division armory, Hamilton Street, Franklin. (732) 937-6290.

May 16: Clinton Station Diner, Route 173 & Bank Street, Clinton (off Route 78), 15 percent of the dinner receipts from 4-9 p.m. will be donated to Operation Shoebox. (908) 713-0012.

May 19: Commerce Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater, Somerset Patriots vs. Bridgeport Bluefish, 7:05 p.m., 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.

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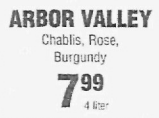
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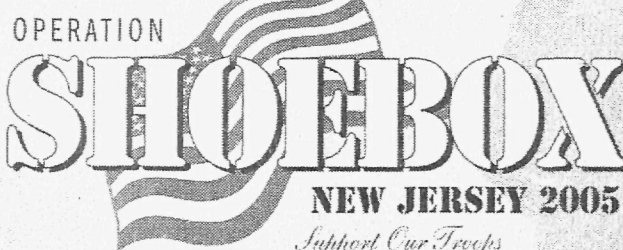
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Salute the sacrifice of our troops deployed around the world by donating care package items through OPERATION SHOEBOX: NEW JERSEY 2005.

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

Look for our drop-off boxes at a store or business near you! Pick up The Reporter each week for updates and information. For details on becoming a drop off location, contact The Reporter's Executive Editor, Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684. Send your message of support today!

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

- ☐ Suntan lotion
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Herbert S. Brody

BOUND BROOK — Herbert Stephen Brody, 79, died April 2, 2005 at his home.

He was born in New Brunswick, a son of the late Dr. Morton S. and Adele Brody, and had lived in Bound Brook since 1970.

The younger Dr. Brody was a urologist in a New Brunswick practice maintained by his father. He received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Cornell University and attended Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y.

As an Army soldier in World War II he was assigned to an anti-tank unit with the 422nd Infantry Regiment. Dr. Brody was wounded in action at the Battle of the Bulge and was

held in a German prisoner of war camp for three months before being liberated. He was awarded a Purple Heart.

Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Cecilia; three sons, Marcus of Jerusalem, Israel, Noah of New York state and Sawyer of Bound Brook; and a brother, Arthur of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Services were held Monday at the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville with Rabbi William Kraus officiating. Burial was in the Temple Shalom Cemetery, Bridgewater.

Donations may be sent to Saint Peter's Foundation, 254 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Frederick R. Clark

MIDDLESEX — Frederick R. Clark, 58, died March 23, 2005 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mr. Clark was born in Plainfield. He lived in Westfield and Camp Lejeune, N.C., before moving to Middlesex in 1975.

He owned the F.R. Clark Trucking Co. in Middlesex for 28 years. Mr. Clark was a member of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, the Disabled American Veterans in Somerville and American Legion Post 306 in Middlesex.

A life member of Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 27, Mr. Clark was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Susan A. Perry Clark; three sons, Jeffrey and Russell, both of Middlesex, and Paul and wife Maria of Middlesex; a daughter, Wendysue of Middlesex; two sisters, Judy Trudson and Shirley Fielder; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the Middlesex Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

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On Page B2**

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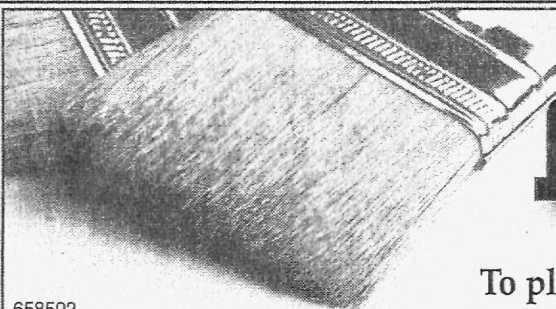
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Sports

Campanella's two-hitter lifts Middlesex

Hooked up in a pitchers' duel the Middlesex High baseball squad outlasted South River 1-0 in nine innings Tuesday behind the outstanding performance of Matt Campanella to get its season off to a good start in a Greater Middle Conference Blue Division battle.

Campanella went the distance to earn the victory as he limited the Rams to a pair of singles and fanned 14 batters without allowing a base-on-balls.

The Blue Jays snapped the scoreless battle in the bottom of the ninth when Joe Lepski was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Dennis Rivera sparked Middlesex's eight-hit offense against South River with a 3-for-4 showing.

Bound Brook 22, Newark Central 7 — Exploding for seven runs in the top of the first inning and adding 14 over their final three at-bats the Crusaders moved to 2-0 for the young season with a romp over Newark Central (0-2) in Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division play Tuesday.

Dan Owsik paced Bound Brook's 16-hit attack by collecting three hits, including a triple and a double, and driving in four runs, while Matt Pecht belted a two-run homer. Jay Clark also tripled, while Kevin

Porras and Mike Roberts added doubles. Jimmy Pemberton picked up the victory on the mound.

East Brunswick 5, Edison 3 — Trailing 4-0 after five innings Edison threw a scare into GMC-Red Division preseason favorite East Brunswick with a late rally, but the Eagles failed to complete the comeback as the Bears escaped with their second victory while dropping Edison to 0-2 Tuesday.

Edison broke through in the sixth when Mike Shymanski delivered a two-run single and Ed Meyer followed with a run-scoring single to close the gap to one run, but a force-out at the plate and a line-out ended the threat. In the seventh the Eagles put the first two runners on base, but a failed bunt attempt and two hard-hit outs ended the game.

Old Bridge 9, J.P. Stevens 8 — In a back-and-forth game that saw the Hawks score three times in the top of the sixth to knot the game at 8-8 Old Bridge scored the decisive run in the home half of the sixth frame on a fielder's choice to earn the GMC-Red Division triumph Tuesday.

Stevens, which slipped to 1-1, finished with 10 hits as Jason Callender, Mike Ciupka, Gary Turner and Nick Triano collected each with Callender collecting two

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

of the four extra-base hits in the game on a triple and a double. James Zinno and Andrew Biancosimo chipped in with two-base hits for the Hawks.

Sayreville 9, South Plainfield 4 — Holding a 5-3 lead Sayreville (1-1) opened some breathing room with a five-run sixth inning to hand South Plainfield its first loss in a GMC-White Division encounter Tuesday.

Mike Downes smacked a double and a triple for the Tigers, who slipped to 1-1, but South Plainfield could manage only single runs in the second, fourth and sixth innings.

St. Joseph's 13, Piscataway 8 — Despite an offensive showing that had the Chiefs with a 13-6 advantage in hits and two home runs sloppy play in the field and poor pitching cost Piscataway in this GMC-Red Division game with St. Joseph's (2-1) Tuesday.

Russ Hopkins belted a three-run homer in the fourth inning and David Gerena hit a two-run shot in the fifth as Piscataway (0-2) closed to within 6-5, but St. Joe's, which took advantage of six walks, two

errors and three passed balls, scored three times in the fifth and four times in the sixth to regain command.

Spotswood 6, Metuchen 2 — Two throwing errors on the same pickoff play opened the gate to a four-run third inning for Spotswood and the Bulldogs could not recover in the season-opening GMC-Blue Division game for both club's Tuesday.

Metuchen, which held an early 1-0 lead on a first-inning run, managed only four hits in the game, one on a double by Lenny Bing, as the Chargers' Willie Beard worked five innings of three-hit ball. Kevin Rush took the loss for the Bulldogs, who allowed six hits.

Cardinal McCarrick 7, Dunellen 0 — The Destroyers built a 4-1 advantage through three innings but could not hold on in falling to Cardinal McCarrick (1-0) Monday in a GMC-Gold Division game that left them with an 0-2 mark. Chris Pakenham knocked in three runs with a pair of singles, including a two-run knock in the third, and Kyle Quinn had a run-scoring single.

South Plainfield 7, Monroe 2 — Nick Cesare worked six innings on the mound, allowing one run and striking out six, and helped himself at the plate with a double, single

and three RBI to pace the Tigers pace Monroe in their season-opener April 1. Chris Bakazan paced the offense with two doubles and a single in four trips with two RBI.

J.P. Stevens 5, Piscataway 2 — Stevens built a 5-0 lead through six innings on the strength of Gary Turner's work on the mound before Piscataway scored two twice in the seventh and had two men on base when Nick Triano retired the final two batters for the save in the Red Division clash April 1. Andrew Biancosimo had two hits, including a run-scoring double for the Hawks, while Russ Hopkins had two hits and Allen Hudson had an RBI single for Piscataway.

Bound Brook 12, Roselle 7 — John Iberra led an 11-hit attack with a 3-for-3 performance that included a double and four RBI to carry the Crusaders to a season-opening triumph over Roselle April 1. Mike Laracuenta also finished with four RBI for Bound Brook, while Jay Clark earned the pitching victory.

South Brunswick 4, Edison 0 — Nathan Fabretti's one-out single in the fifth inning proved to be the Eagles' lone hit as South Brunswick's Travis Smart posted a shutout in the season-opener for both clubs April 1.

Stevens wins on Garibotto three-hitter

Becky Garibotto held off a seventh-inning threat and made a sixth-inning run stand up to pitch the J.P. Stevens High softball team to a 1-0 victory over Old Bridge Tuesday in a Greater Middlesex Conference Red Division clash.

The Hawks scored the game's only run when they collected three of their five hits against Amy Sievert in the sixth. Iris Delgado started it with a single, and she moved to third on a hit by Caitlyn Seamster before Brittany Lobell delivered a single to knock in Delgado.

Garibotto (2-0) limited the Knights to three hits, but one was a lead-off double in the seventh. She escaped the jam on a fly ball to left, a good defensive play on a foul, pop up to Seamster and a strikeout. Stevens improved to 2-0 with the victory.

Edison 6, East Brunswick 5 — Twice over-coming two-run deficits in the late going the Eagles captured a hard-fought GMC-Red Division verdict Tuesday when they scored three times in the bottom of the eighth inning to edge East Brunswick.

After the Bears (0-2) scored twice in the top of the eighth Edison came back to win on singles by Ashley Knudsen, who finished with three hits, and Lindsey Balinskas, a run-scoring error, a sac fly by Marlee Meckinson and an error on a ball hit by Carrie Mokar.

Kelly Karp scattered eight hits and was aided by errorless defensive play as leveled her record and the team's ledger at 1-1.

South Plainfield 7, John F. Kennedy 0 — Even with some new faces in the lineup the Tigers have already shown they'll be formidable again this season as they ripped Kennedy (1-1) in GMC-White Division play Tuesday to improve to 3-0 for the campaign.

Jessica Senz fired her second shutout of the young season, fanning eight without a walk while spacing four hits, while the defense played error ball and the offense did sufficient damage with seven hits.

Melissa Szeliga paced the offense with a 3-for-4 performance that included a double and two RBI, while Jessica Miller singled twice and scored two runs for the Tigers, who put the game away with a five-run sixth. Megan Boyle contributed a double.

Bound Brook 28, Newark Central 0 — For the straight game the Crusaders won by a lop-sided football score as

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Christy Giamella tossed her second no-hitter of the young season as 2-0 Bound Brook pummeled visiting Newark Central in Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division play Tuesday.

Giamella, who struck out nine in the five-inning mismatch, sparked Bound Brook's 25-hit attack with a 5-for-5 performance that included two home runs — one a grand slam — a triple and nine RBI. Chrystal Miranda also smacked a grand slam for the winners, while Nina Jefferson contributed a home run.

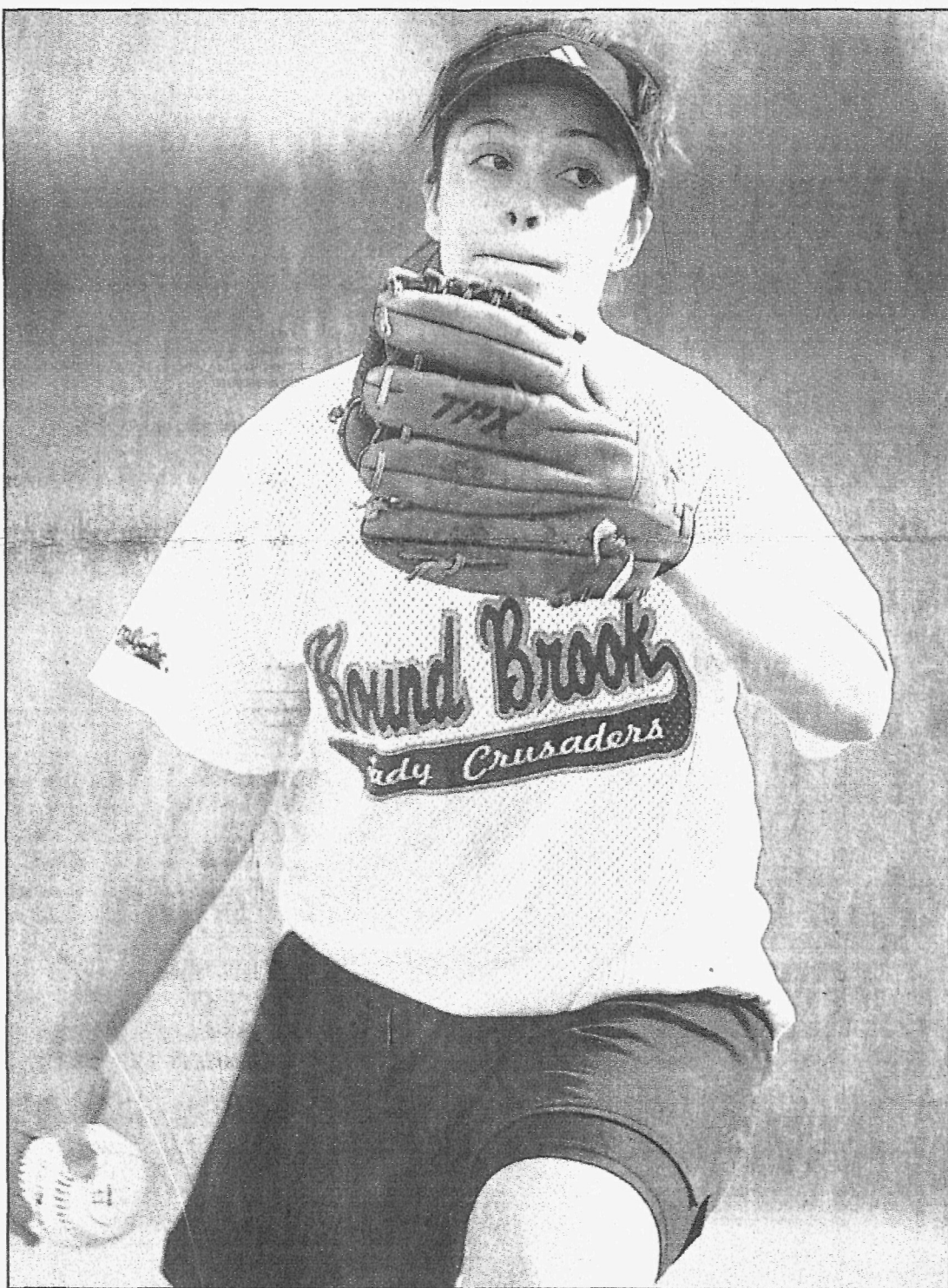
Sayreville 1, Piscataway 0 — The Chiefs wasted a strong performance in the circle by Sherry Kestenbaum by failing to mount an attack as Sayreville made a first-inning run stand up in GMC-Red Division play Monday.

Kestenbaum allowed only the one run on six hits, but Sayreville's Amanda Olender, who also doubled in the game's only run, was slightly better with a five-hitter. The loss dropped the Chiefs to 0-2, while the Bombers evened their record at 1-1.

Middlesex 12, South River 0 — Erica Lordi began her senior year starting where she left off by firing a one-hitter, striking out nine and walking none and blasting a grand slam and adding a double in the Blue Jays' five-inning rout of South River Monday in GMC-Blue Division action. Anna Abourashed stroked a double and a triple for Middlesex, which collected 10 hits.

South Plainfield 12, Sayreville 1 — Lacey Santone paced a 16-hit barrage with a 3-for-4 showing that included a two-run homer, double and three RBI as the Tigers ripped Sayreville in a five-inning White Division game Monday. Carlie Kazimir collected two doubles and a single in four trips while knocking in two runs, while Jessica Senz scattered four hits for the victory.

J.P. Stevens 14, Piscataway 1 — Becky Garibotto tossed a two-hitter and her offense backed her with 11 hits as Stevens opened its season April 1 with a five-inning romp over Piscataway. Iris Delgado tripled, singled twice and drove in one run, while Caitlyn Seamster contributed a double, single and an RBI. Kristina Feltz added a pair of hits and scored twice.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bound Brook High's Christy Giamella gets set to release a pitch against Newark Central Tuesday. Giamella fired her second no-hitter with nine strikeouts and went 5-for-5 with two homers and nine RBI in a 28-0 romp.

South Plainfield 1, Monroe 0 — Jessica Senz hurled a one-hitter with six strikeouts and was backed by perfect defense as the Tigers edged Monroe April 1 in the season-opener game for both sides. Donna Garcia drew bases-loaded walk to force in the game's only run in the sixth inning, while Carlie Kazimir with 3-for-3 with a double to account for all but one of South Plainfield's hits.

Bound Brook 27, Roselle 0 —

Christy Giamella opened the season with a no-hit, 12-strikeout performance April 1 as the Crusaders routed Roselle in a five-inning game. Nina Jefferson collected five of Bound Brook's 32 hits and stroked a pair of doubles along with Giamella, who finished with four hits.

Dunellen 5, South Amboy 2 — Cassie Shotwell pitched a three-hitter with 10 strikeouts as the Destroyers trimmed

South Amboy April 1 in the season-opener. Michelle Pakenham knocked in the first two runs with a single as Dunellen built an early 5-0 lead and made the most of five hits.

St. John Vianney 1, Edison 0 — Edison failed to get a hit and struck out 15 times against St. John Vianney's outstanding hurler Tricia Reingle and wasted an opening-day four-hitter by Kelly Karp, who limited the visitors to a fourth-inning run.

Flanagan takes third in national tournament

Although Andrew Flanagan didn't come home with a coveted national title the Bound Brook High standout did finish his scholastic career on a victorious note and with a medal.

The owner of a 148-11 career mark in high school and New Jersey's all-time leader in victories, Flanagan competed in the National High School Coaches Association's Senior National Championships over the weekend in Cleveland and came home with a third-place finish.

Wrestling at 152 pounds, the weight where he won his second of two state

titles last month, Flanagan rebounded from a 6-4 loss to Ryan Morningstar of Iowa to work his way through the wrestlebacks and then rip Shane Vernon of Oklahoma 7-1 in the bout for the bronze medal.

GOLF

Rick Buck earned medalist honors with a 40 for the par 35 layout at Oak Ridge as the Edison High golf team won for the first time after two losses with a 181-197 victory over Bishop Ahr in Greater Middlesex Conference play

HIGH SCHOOL WRAPUP

Tuesday. Jack Fudacz followed Buck with a 44, while Kyle Drost shot a 47 and John Jung came in with a 5-for the Eagles.

Metuchen 196, John F. Kennedy 206 — The Bulldogs moved to 2-0 for the season Tuesday with a 10-stroke decision over Kennedy (1-1) as Dave Kotler shot a three-over par 38 on the Tamarack White layout to lead the way. Noah Fessler followed with a 50, while Mike England and Steve Coscia both finished with 54s.

South Plainfield 172, North Brunswick 225 — Sam Martin and J.R. Licato fired 42s, Dan McNeesh was right behind with a 43 and Pete DAndrea had a 45 as the Tigers opened their season Monday with a GMC victory over North Brunswick over the par 35 Tamarack Gold layout.

Metuchen 191, Bishop Ahr 194 — David Kotler led the way with a 43, Bill Vohnd carded a 44 and Noah Fessler finished with a 50 as the Bulldogs edged Bishop Ahr Monday in the season-opening match on the par 35 Oak Ridge course.



Eickhorst signs with Patriots

BRIDGEWATER — Immaculata High product Chris Eickhorst and pitcher Scott Sobkowiak have signed to play for the Somerset Patriots this season.

Eickhorst, a South Bound Brook native, originally joined the Pats' roster in late July last year and seeing action mostly as a reserve catcher hit .257 with 19 hits (five doubles), 16 runs scored and two runs batted in while playing in 26 games.

A standout catcher at Immaculata, where he graduated in 1998, and Kean University, Eickhorst will likely help Somerset as an outfielder or first baseman this season. He played Double-A ball with the St. Louis Cardinals organization before signing with Somerset.

"He's probably more like our fifth or sixth outfielder and a backup first baseman," said Patriots President/General Manager Patrick McVerry. "He may be our third catcher but right now we're looking for another catcher."

The Patriots hope Sobkowiak can help improve a starting pitching staff that was highly erratic in 2004. The righthander appeared in a 1991 game with the Atlanta Braves after playing Triple-A ball for them and also played with the Cincinnati Reds organization.

Last year he pitched for Rockford of the Frontier League, going 8-7 with a 4.20 earned run average and totaling 89 strikeouts in 15 games. He has a lifetime minor league record of 39-31 with a 3.74 ERA and 584 strikeouts in 571 innings.

Also, lefthander Justin Jensen, who was signed last week by the Patriots, informed McVerry two days later he's decided not to play this year after experiencing considerable arm soreness following a throwing session.

Jensen, who missed two months of the season with a concussion after getting struck on the head by a batting-practice liner, finished the 2004 campaign with a 3-6 record and a 7.63 earned run average in 13 starts.

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Independent Contractor's "Very Lucrative Opportunity" AEXGroup, a leading transportation broker of courier services, is seeking Independent Contractors who can run their business with a sense of urgency to service time - critical routes in NJ, NY, LI, PA. PREFERRED: a 1998 or newer, i.e. cargo van, mini van, SUV or car. Apply online at www.aexdrivers.net or call 1-800-670-9693

DRIVER

Wanted. Ask for Dean or Darryl. 908-782-4440

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Drivers: DRIVE OUR TRUCK - 40-42 cpm; DRIVE YOUR TRUCK - 90 cpm Plus Fuel Surcharge. Company drivers, start at 40 cpm with 3 months experience...41 cpm with 1 year...and 42 cpm with 3+ years! Receive full benefits with your choice of medical plans, pharmacy discount, paid vacation more. Opt for an assigned truck and take it home in most areas - we'll get you home every 14 days! Own your own truck? We'll give you 90 cpm for both loaded, empty miles. With fuel surcharge, you average over \$1 per mile! There's no forced dispatch, and we offer paid plates/permits and savings on tires, maintenance. Receive a settlement each Thursday; voluntary benefits are also available. Drive your truck or ours - either way, we'll make sure you take home more! 1-800-234-3748 or www.cfdribe.com

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Earn More \$\$\$ Drive for CFI! Regional OTR NE, XM Radio Service Provided. Class A CDL required. 800-CFI-DRIVE (800-234-3748) or www.cfidrive.com

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General Help 240

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General Help 240

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Person needed to assemble First Aid Kits in Branchburg (NJ). Speak/Read English. \$9-\$11/hr. + Benefits Ph. 908-707-8680 x207

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Grounds Maintenance Crew
Heron Glen Golf Course
Start Immediately. Call Jason for details 908-246-5044 or 908-237-1390

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Flemington Hyundai is looking for great people to service its new state-of-the-art facility located in Flemington, NJ. We currently have openings for the following positions:

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If you want a Great Opportunity, along with Great Hours & Great Pay come see us. For an interview please call 1-908-788-4227 or apply in person: 180 Route 202-31 North Flemington, NJ 08822

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Exp carpenters & helpers needed for busy framing crew. Good pay for the right person. Own transportation. 908-788-7419

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Work in your own home. Apply at Monday Morning Inc 908/526-4884

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Various shifts available, days, nights weekends. Primary responsibility is to answer calls for help and link them to resources. Good telephone manner, compassionate, computer literate, English/Spanish a plus. Send resume to: Hunterdon Help Line 908-237-0296 or helpinhe@patmedia.org

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Seek exp. IT Consultants for assignments throughout USA with current skills including .NET, GIS, Gentran, Sybase, EJB, Lotus Domino, Impromptu, C#, C++, JAVA, Weblogic. Willing to relocate as needed. Resume only: Trigen Tech., 100 Metroplex Dr., Edison, NJ 08817, Ref. Tech /02/05.

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For power equipment & ATV store. Customer sales & parts inventory. Some exp., computer capability, & pleasant personality a must. Excellent pay & benefits. Room for advancement. Wait's Outdoor Center 908-782-5654

CSR

Nationwide service company seeking individual for fast paced environment to assist with customer accounts. Phone & computer skills a must. Fax resume to 908-707-9822

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General Help 240

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FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED

Have a few hours morning, evenings, and a background in writing? We want to hear from you! We are in need of correspondents to cover events, municipal meeting in Warren County. We will train motivated individuals. Send resume, letter of interest to: The Warren Reporter 106 E. Moore St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840 or Fax to (908) 852-9320

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PT: Nights and weekends. Contact Dave's Sunoco 908-788-5518

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for salon in Union styling wigs for display & assisting technicians with blowouts. Training available. Excellent salary for the suitable candidate. Please call 908-687-8484 Tues - Sat

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Needed to join us as we move to our new high traffic location in Flemington. Great opportunity for experienced professionals who want a great place to work! For a confidential interview call 908-303-6870

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Exp. pref. but Will Train. Call: 908-507-2887

HELPER

Needed for playground installations. Must have trans. & exp. w/ tools. Must be able to speak Spanish. Call: 908-236-8631 Ask for Carlos

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Independence Manor Assisted Living Seeking PT Housekeeper. Flex hours, competitive salary. Contact Angelica @ 908-788-4893

LUBE TECHNICIAN

No experience necessary. Will train to ASE-L1 certified technician. Call Chris at 840-226-5165

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Needed for power equipment store for repairing of mowers, tractors, Polaris, ATVs, snowmobiles & so on. Exp. pay & benefits. Call Waits Outdoor Center. 908-782-5654.

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Make \$100 - \$300/day. No experience Required. FT/PT. All looks needed! call 1-800-799-6151

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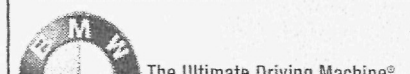
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BRANCHBURG Moving Sale 1103 VanArsdale Drive, Whiton Rd off 202. Sat & Sun, 12-6pm. All household items for sale.

CLINTON TWP. 26 Hillside Dr. Behind NHR HS follow arrows. Sat 4/9 & Sun 4/10, 9am - 3pm. No Early Birds.

MOVING SALE 144 Nottingham St. Hastings Square, Long Valley, NJ. April 9 & 10 9:30-3:30

RINGOES - Moving Sale, Route 202 to Wersville Rd. Sat 4/9, 9am - 3pm. Yough Cards, toys, books, household items, clothes.

Garage & Yard Sales 600

Estate & Liquidation Sale Hillsborough - 1198 Dukas Parkway West, Off 206 4/7, 8 & 9, 9:30-3:30 pm, loads of antiques and collectibles, furniture, bric-a-brac, linens, china, old papers, books & photos. Complete liquidation of greenhouses and contents, rooms of tools, machinery, furnaces + tons more. Extraordinary sale!

Yard Sales NJ 602

MOVING SALE 4/8 thru 4/23 Open house every Fri. & Sat 9am-3pm. Furniture, Oriental Rugs, antiques, art work, accessories, lamps, household of other items. Appt. needed for week days. 1 Bedford Ct. Annandale Call 908-730-9295

Estate & Tag Sales 603

CONTENTS OF FINE HOME including exceptional art & art pieces, furn., china, rugs, ext. sculptures & planters. Brown Jordan patio furn., exerc. equip., 2 full time positions available. Assistant manager/assistant instructor. Housing available. 215-794-5103

Estate & Tag Sales 603

BUY ALMOST ANYTHING One item to entire estate. Call Mike 908-619-7023

Estate & Tag Sales 603

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BOARDING AT LIGHTFIELDS Lessons and leasing. Go to www.lightfields.com or call 908-534-6701

Estate & Tag Sales 603

Watchung - 4/9, 9-4pm, 32 Crestwood Dr., Watchung. Contents of fine home incl. exceptional art and art pieces, furniture, china, rugs, ext. sculpture and planters. Brown Jordan patio furniture, exercise equip. & numerous distinctive accent pcs. By K & E Sales - Dir: 78 E. to Exit 40, bear R. cross Hillcrest Rd., First L. Crestwood Dr., House at top of hill.

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ALL LIONEL FLYER & OTHER TRAINS Top cash prices paid. 800-464-4371 or 973-425-1538.

Wanted To Buy 625

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Wanted To Buy 625

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Wanted To Buy 625

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Horses 630

OXFORD Horse farm for rent. 6 acres, paddocks, barn and run-in shed. \$1000. mo. refs. req. 908-453-4979 or 718-984-3445

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**3.05%
APY**
with a balance of \$15,000 and over.***
Plus many other free services included.

Free Business Checking For Life®

**Open an account today and never pay to
write a check again.**

**FREE first order of checks
FREE Independence VISA® Business CheckCard
FREE online banking
NO monthly maintenance fees
NO deposit charges**

Home Equity Loan

**No fees, points, closing costs or appraisal fees.††
Tax-deductible interest.†††**

**HOME EQUITY LOAN
5.25%
APR^{§§}
15 YEAR FIXED RATE**

**get a \$100 gift card
for the Home Depot®^{§§§}
when you close on
your loan**

Home Equity Line

**No fees, points, closing costs or appraisal fees.††
Tax-deductible interest.†††**

**HOME EQUITY LINE
3.74%
APR^{§§}
FIXED FOR 6 MONTHS**

13 Month CD

Your money will work harder with this great rate.

**3.56%
APY^{§§§}
13 MONTH CD**

Stop in our new Edison branch, or call 732-287-0648.

EDISON OFFERS AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Special grand opening offers available only at our Edison branch, 1876 Route 27, Edison, NJ, from 4/8/2005 through 5/31/05, excluding Free Business Checking For Life. *Instant Win: First 125 people each day who arrive at our Edison branch at 10:00 AM on 4/8/05 and 4/9/05. Limit of one prize per customer and must be 18 years of age or older. Not open to Independence Community Bank employees and their families, Independence Community Bank affiliates and its advertising and promotional agencies. Complete rules and regulations are available at the branch upon request. Sweepstakes: Open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Not open to Independence Community Bank employees and their families, Independence Community Bank affiliates and its advertising and promotional agencies. Complete rules and regulations are available at the branch upon request. No purchase, account or loan relationship necessary to enter. Only official entry forms filled out by hand will be accepted. Winners will be chosen by random drawing at our Edison branch on Monday, 5/9/05 and will be promptly notified. Complete rules and regulations will be available at our Edison branch starting 4/8/05. **Bonus rewards points will be issued upon the opening of an Independence RewardsPlus Checking® account, obtaining an Independence Visa® Debit Card and enrolling in Visa® Extras. Independence Community Bank reserves the right to change this offer at any time. ***You must deposit a minimum of \$100 to open this account. This is a variable rate account—See Balance Tiers, Interest Rates and Annual Percentage Yield may change at any time. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) noted is accounts as of 4/8/05. 3.05% APY earned on accounts with a minimum balance of \$15,000 and greater. Accounts with a balance of \$5,000 to \$14,999.99 will earn 1.00% APY. Accounts with less than \$5,000 do not accrue interest. \$15.00 service fee will be imposed if the average daily balance for the month falls below \$5,000. Overdraft and service charges may apply—fees could reduce the earnings on the account. †Offer expires 5/31/05. New accounts must be opened by 5/31/05 and will be considered a "Free Small Business Checking Account" as long as the account is open, active and in good standing. This offer applies to small business checking accounts only. Personal accounts are not eligible. †††Taxpayers itemizing deductions on their tax return may be eligible to deduct interest on the value of your home, your income, amount of debt and credit history. This offer is not available for the refinancing of existing Independence Home Equity Loans or Home Equity Lines of Credit. Certain other restrictions apply—consult your local Independence Community Bank representative for additional important details. ††††Restrictions or statements of opinion. Offer subject to change or withdrawal at any time without prior notice. ††††Consult your tax advisor regarding the deductibility of interest and potential tax savings. SAPR (Annual Percentage Rate) Independence Home Equity Loan—The amount of the 15-year fixed rate home equity loan with automatic payment from an Independence Checking Account. For a 15-year loan, the monthly payment is \$9.04 per \$1,000 borrowed. Rates are accurate as of 4/8/05 and are subject to change. Additional terms available. Independence Community Bank is not affiliated with The Home Depot®. The Home Depot® is a registered trademark of Home TLC, Inc. Applications must be received by 5/31/05 and subsequently approved and closed—available only for Home Equity loans. Your \$100 Gift Card to The Home Depot® will be mailed to you once you close on your loan. Allow 2-4 weeks from time of closing to receive your Gift Card. §APR (Annual Percentage Rate). The introductory rate of 3.74% is fixed for six (6) months following which and is not closed at any point. This rate requires automatic payment from an Independence Checking account and a \$25,000 initial draw or transfer of debt at account opening. After the first six (6) billing cycles, the APR is variable monthly and equal to the highest Prime Rate published in The Wall Street Journal for the last business day preceding the first day of each billing period plus .50%. The non-discounted APR is 5.25% as of 4/8/05. The maximum APR that can apply is 10.9%. §§§Minimum amount to open is \$500. Minimum to earn stated APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is \$500. Early withdrawal penalties may apply and may reduce the earnings on the account. The rate is effective as of 4/8/05 and is subject to change.

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