

# The Chronicle

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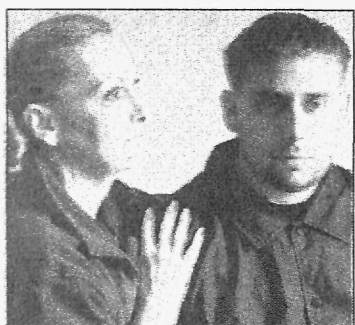
Saturday, May 7, 2005

50 cents



## Perfect Games

Middlesex High's Erica Lordi and Jessica Senz of South Plainfield pitched perfect games Monday. For recap of recent softball games see Page B1.



## Coming Home

After serving a tour of duty in Iraq, Thomas Albee has come home, and begun readjusting to civilian life. Page B4.



## Play Benefits Scholarship

The G.F.W.C. South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club will host a theatre performance to benefit their scholarship fund, presented each year to a graduating South Plainfield High School senior. The play, "What the Butler Saw," will be performed 3 p.m. May 15 at the Circle Playhouse, 416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway. Tickets are \$16. Complimentary refreshments will be served during intermission and door prizes will be awarded. For further information, call (908) 757-3680 or (908) 757-6163.

## How to Help OPSHBX

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. For more on Operation Shoebox, see Page A5 and B4.

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# RVCC's destiny now at crossroads

Departing president plans to help board map out future

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI  
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — "To be effective today, a president has to be good in the classroom, to teach and understand what's going on," said Raritan Valley Community College President G. Jeremiah Ryan. "A president has to be good in the boardroom, has to be able to deal with his board. I think I did pretty well for a pretty long

period of time."

Ryan will no longer do either at RVCC, as he offered his resignation last week to the board of trustees, effective Dec. 31, after months of negotiation.

Ryan, lauded by many as a visionary and an agent of change, is confident that his vision for RVCC will continue to be carried out after his departure, despite arguments with

the board over how to pay for it.

"The flip side of the vision is, how do you pay for it?" he asked, responding to questions about that conflict. "I think I'll engage in that conversation with the board in the coming months here, and whoever succeeds me here is going to have to have a very major conversation with the board, because I don't think the state is going to pull out of its finan-

cial nosedive for another year."

In that case, the college, like all community colleges in the state, will do without state-level aid for another year, he said. That will put more pressure on the counties, "who so far have been wonderful," he said.

"Our two counties have given us the highest percentage of county

Continued on page A2

## From the fire, the Phoenix rises



GEORGE PACCIOLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Felix Garcia thumbs through a book charred by fire at his Green Brook home last month. As newlyweds, Felix and his wife, Fawnda Genovese-Garcia, exchanged vows in the front living room of the home in January. Following the March 26 fire the couple were forced to find temporary housing. Follow as the couple try to rebuild their lives one step — and piece — at a time in a series beginning this week. Page B2.

## Traffic safety project underway

EDISON — Mayor George A. Spadaro recently joined with Edison Council members and neighborhood residents to officially unveil the construction of a new traffic light to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Park Avenue and Stephenville Parkway.

This over \$500,000 traffic safety improvement is a joint Edison and Middlesex County project with the two entities splitting the cost. The new light, being built by Green Construction, is expected to be installed and operational in approximately two months.

"I'm pleased that after several years of planning and development, with the support of the Edison council and in partnership with the Middlesex County Freeholders, we are now seeing the fruits of my administration's efforts to make this intersection safer, improve traffic flows and enhance our quality of life by installing this much needed light," said Spadaro. "I must also commend the efforts of residents in this neighborhood for being active for many years in pushing for this light."

This intersection improvement marks the latest achievement in a multi-year effort by the Spadaro

Continued on page A2

## United Way honors heroes

EDISON — The Edison High School Student Council has been recognized as "Hometown Heroes" by the United Way of Central Jersey.

The non-profit agency paid tribute to the Student Council's 42 students and two teacher advisors and other individuals and organizations at a dinner and awards ceremony held recently at Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg.

In all, 24 individuals and organizations were nominated and six winners were selected. Six corporations were honored as well. This year's theme was "The Power of One."

The group received the "Student Volunteer Group" award for its fundraising efforts in support of several non-profit organizations.

The students, who organize all of the events, have raised more than \$10,000 for group's such as the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society; Buddy Ball, a New Jersey state charity; Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen; Doctors without Borders, and the Tsunami Relief Effort. They also hosted a Matinee Luncheon and Senior Prom for local senior citizens. In February, the Student Council hosted a "Week of Giving" which consisted of various fundraising events, including a donation collection at local supermarkets, a "Hat Day," and "Ice Skating for Charity."

These events raised nearly \$2,000 for local charities. The group, as a whole, has logged more than 50,000 community service hours.

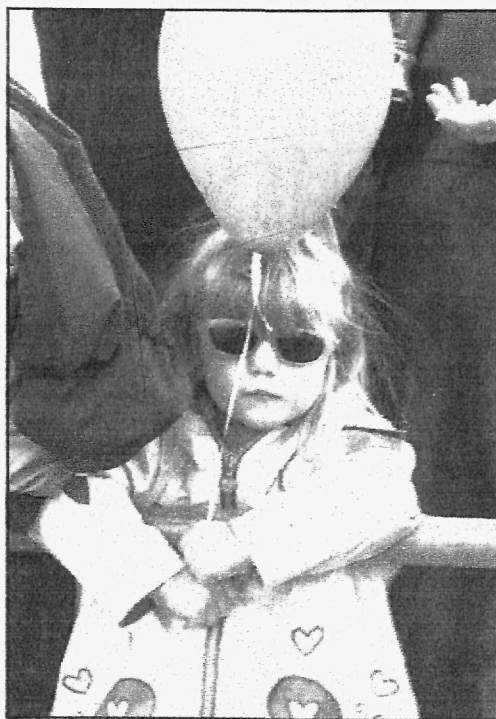
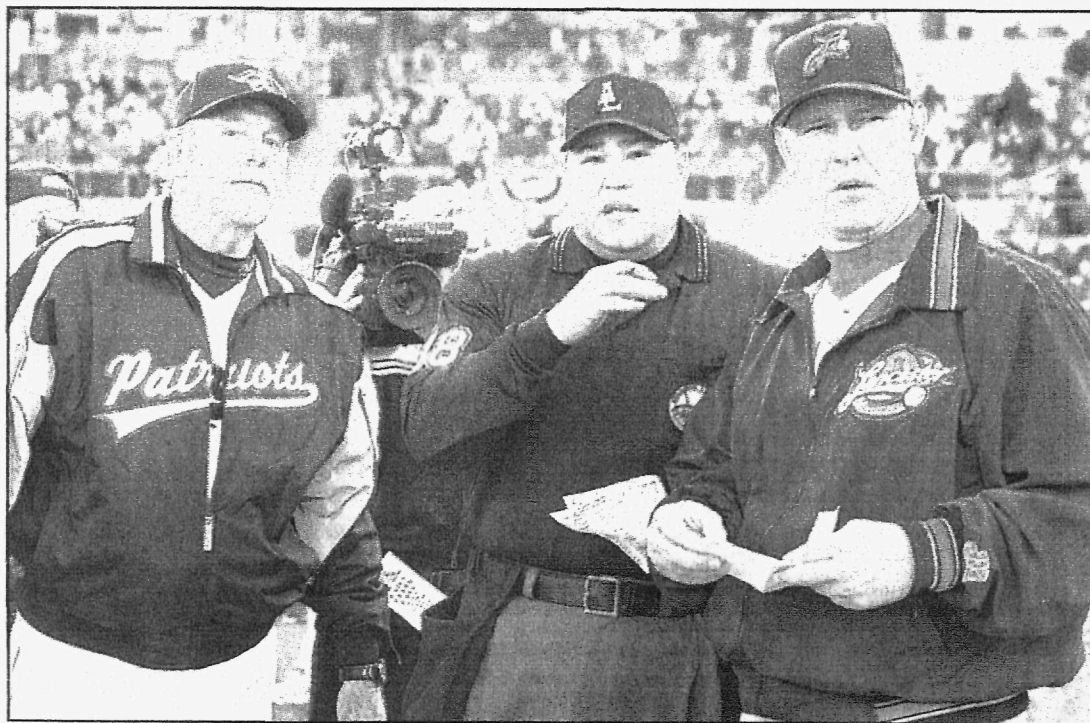
"It's very rewarding to give to the community and see the faces of the people we are helping," said Sushail Dayal, 17, Student Council president.

Dayal accepted the award on behalf of the group.

"Volunteers throughout our service area, everyday and in very meaningful ways, contribute to the quality of life for local citizens," said Gloria Aftanski, president, United Way of Central Jersey. "The Edison Student Council and its advisors are among the many volunteers who quietly provide, with dedication and commitment, vital support and assistance to meet many needs in our community. Each one is a true example that one individual can make a difference whether working alone or in a group."

"We appreciate the students' commitment to help improve the quality of life within this community."

United Way of Central Jersey is a not-for profit fundraising organization that supports and provides funding for 120 social service and health care programs that are administered by 45 non-profit member agencies.



## Play Ball! Somerset Patriots open 2005 season

Somerset Patriots manager Sparky Lyle, left, in photo above, and Lancaster Barnstormers manager Tommy Herr, right, go over the ground rules before the Patriots home opener Thursday night at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. At left, Cameron Marks, 3, watches opening night ceremonies. For the Barnstormers, it was their first game in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball. The Barnstormers won the game 6-2, and went on to take three of a four-game series held at the park through Sunday.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIOLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



# College's destiny is now at the crossroads

Continued from page A1

support of any community college in the state," he said. "They are phenomenal, and have been very generous, and I think they're proud of the college."

Ultimately, however, Ryan recognizes the differences between the counties the institution serves.

"Somerset County has one of the best county governments in the state," he said. "They have money in the bank and are relatively clean."

"Hunterdon County certainly operates differently," Ryan said, describing Hunterdon County as "firmly rooted in the 1950s."

"The current leadership believes that the voters want it to be a small, agrarian county, and I think they're misjudging the population," he said. His aim was to make RVCC into a college

that served the both the needs of students and the economic needs of the county.

The expansion of the biotech program, Ryan said, has been just one way that the college tried to take the needs of the counties it serves into consideration. The biotechnology program is a way to provide students with skills that will enable them to get jobs with the county's largest employers, such as pharmaceutical firms, and provide those firms with the employees they need to stay in the area. Ideally, he said, the college would serve as a "business incubator," providing not only the skills necessary for employment in the region, but continuing education for those already employed.

It is another way the college serves the community that was the sticking point: affordability. John L. McGuire, vice chair-

man of the board and a Hunterdon County resident, said that while not all the trustees were happy with the decision, the board was by and large in agreement.

McGuire also said that the decision was not about the expansive vision Ryan had for the college. "We were all totally consistent on that, it was just a matter of how fast," McGuire said, adding that since state funding has been flat for the past few years, tuition would have to rise to cover the cost.

"Tuition has gone up significantly in the past few years," he said, describing those tuition hikes as "double digit inflation." Tuition rose \$14 per credit hour over the last five years, with a new \$2 increase to take effect for the fall semester, bringing tuition to \$78 per credit hour.

Ryan, however, claimed that the raises in tuition were necessary for the future growth of the colleges. "The issue is, how much is enough, and this is the major disagreement," Ryan said,

adding that he felt tuition should be about \$10 higher than it is currently, and that financial aid will allow students to afford tuition.

"For the college to remain vital and strategic, and to provide constant state-of-the-art, and if you grow you get more tuition money and more state aid, you have to grow," he said. "Growth is the way that community colleges finances improvement."

That growth will hopefully spur enrollment, which has already risen steadily over the past few years.

"I think by the end of the decade, we'll have 8,000 students here," he said. Raritan Valley currently has 6,400 full time students and 16,000 continuing education students, and Ryan projects that the college will serve over 25,000 continuing education students in that time.

Trustee David Livingston, a resident of Whitehouse Station that serves as the superintendent of schools for Somerset County, described Ryan as "an

excellent communicator," a hard-working individual that hires very good people.

"As far as I'm concerned, I feel that Jerry provided vision for the colleges," he said, citing the partnerships established with four-year institutions and with the local school districts. Ryan also implemented a credit-sharing program with most of the four-year institutions in the state as well as some out-of-state institutions such as New York University and Drexel University, in Pennsylvania.

As far as his resignation is concerned, "the discussion of his advantages and disadvantages was not extensive," Livingston said. He described his participation in the process as writing up an evaluation and turning it in.

"There were disagreements between the president and the board over some issues, the major one being spending," said board of trustees chair Raymond H. Bateman, who called such a conflict a common one between college presidents and boards of

trustees.

Bateman said that negotiations over Ryan's departure began in October, and that the board and Ryan had gone back and forth in negotiating a settlement. The settlement includes and extension of Ryan's employment through June 30, 2006 in what Bateman described as a "non-presidential capacity," probably overseeing the implementation of the partnership between RVCC and Kean University.

Bateman insisted it was not a county issue. "It was a significant majority of the board from both counties," Bateman said.

While his tenure as president is nearing a close, Ryan has big plans for the future, which include a stint at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy at Princeton University and writing a book.

"My grandmother always said, when one door closes, another one opens," he said. "The idea of spending a semester at Princeton is kind of engaging for an old fart like me."

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## Tuition fueled split between president, board

By DEB DAWSON  
NJN PUBLISHING

**NORTH BRANCH** — Students at Raritan Valley Community College will pay \$12 less per credit next fall

than they would have if the school's trustees went along with President G. Jeremiah Ryan's recommendation.

Tuition will be \$78 per credit, up from \$76. Ryan wanted to charge \$90 per credit. He said it would have raised another \$1.5 million for the school.

For a full-time student taking 10 courses, \$78 per credit adds up to \$2,340 a year.

The conflict over tuition was the only reason given by the Board of Trustees and Ryan for their decision to part ways. He will serve until the end of the year.

"My proposal was to raise it to \$90, the same as Brookdale (Community College in Monmouth County)," he said. "Monmouth is (demographically) similar to Hunterdon

and Somerset."

Ryan said with the state, federal and RVCC financial aid available, "the people who can least afford it would not have seen the difference," and those not eligible for financial aid "would still pay less than \$3,000, which would still be a bargain. I think this place is undervalued at \$78... these \$1 or \$2 semester increases just don't cut it."

This year students received \$3.8 million in financial aid at RVCC. Had the board gone along with his proposal, Ryan said he would have spent \$600,000 for 10 faculty positions, \$250,000 for customer service support, and \$500,000 for the library, technical upgrades, keeping the campus clean or staff development.

New ventures, including studying whether a satellite learning center should be built in Hunterdon, could cost \$150,000.

Ray Bateman, chairman of the trustees, said: "We just raised tuition \$9 in a year and a half. Community colleges are supposed to be easy-access, low-cost institutions. I think of the 19 community colleges in New Jersey, we're ninth (in cost) — in the middle."

"The basic problem is: Our counties are generous and the state is penurious. You have to turn to the counties or tuition for the rest. The board is very concerned about continually raising tuition and we must tighten our ship... We must be more careful with our expenditures than we have been in the past."

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## Traffic safety project underway

Continued from page A1

administration to improve intersections throughout Edison, including new lights that were installed at Inman Avenue and Featherbed Lane, Stephenville Parkway and Plainfield Avenue.

Edison is working with Middlesex County to start work this year to improve the traffic lights and intersections at Oak Tree Road and New Dover Road, Woodbridge Avenue and Plainfield Avenue and install a new light at Sugartree Plaza and Oak Tree Road.

"We take traffic safety seriously, and my administration, with the support of the Edison Council, will continue to work with Middlesex Counties to improve intersections and install new lights were warranted in response to neighborhood concerns and request," Spadaro added. "These traffic improvement projects, while creating some short-term inconvenience, do create long-term benefits for all Edison residents."

**SOMERSET PATRIOTS**

**FAN OF THE WEEK!**

**Lauren Richmond**

Lauren is a 6th grader at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School. Lauren's interests include baseball - she is a true Patriots and Yankees fan - going to Broadway Plays, playing the drums, golf, bowling, listening to music, tap dancing and playing with her puppy Bella. She also loves going to the movies and shopping with her older sister Dana. Lauren is a Girl Scout and enjoys being in schools plays. She loves to read and she can't wait for the release of the next Harry Potter book.

Lauren also has a passion for politics and law. Lauren volunteered for the Republican campaign during the 2004 elections and just recently has the pleasure of a visit from Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen to her sixth grade social studies class. Lauren would love to go to law school and aspires to become a Congresswoman or even President. This year Lauren will be attending the Lead American Congressional Forum in Washington, DC

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## Briefs

## Metuchen YMCA has new courses starting

**METUCHEN** — A Girls in Real Life Situations program that helps girls ages 10-14 to become positive mentors will continue next month on May 15 and May 22. There is no charge to participate at these monthly Sunday afternoon meetings that will be held at the Metuchen Branch YMCA, 65 High Street, in Metuchen.

Call the front desk at (732) 548-2044 for more details about either course.

## Janice Garbolino

## Memorial 5K Classic

**EDISON** — On June 4 at 10 a.m., the Janice Garbolino Memorial 5K Classic at Roosevelt Park will be held.

The start and finish will be by the lake at Lakeview School. Walkers are welcome. There will also be a lollipop run for kids, a disc jockey, refreshments and babysitting.

T-shirts will be given to all 5K late entries while supply lasts. The cost is \$15 per person

age 13 and older if registered by June 3; \$20 per person age 13 or older if registered on June 4; \$5 for children 12 and under at all points of registration.

Team fee is \$60 and teams must be registered.

Call Beth Helsby at (732) 548-2044 for details.

## Family Day spring library book sale

**EDISON** — The Friends of the Edison Public Library will hold its spring book sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at Edison Family Day, NJ Convention and Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Ave.

Browse through thousands of gently used books, paperback and hardcover, fiction and non fiction, a wide variety of categories. There will be lots of books for children and young adults, most books costing 50 cents to \$1.50.

Children's librarians will be on hand with information about programs, games, contests, crafts and more. Enjoy all the rides, food music and fun available at Edison Fun Day.

For information, call Graham

Gudgin at (732) 738-4586.

## Borough Improvement League high tea set

**METUCHEN** — The annual High Tea hosted by the Borough Improvement League will be held on 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today from at the Old Franklin School, 491 Middlesex Ave.

Come and enjoy the Victorian-style tea, complete with finger sandwiches, cookies, and sweets, in the 200 year old one-room schoolhouse.

Tickets, which may be purchased in advance or at the door, are a suggested donation of \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the Borough Improvement League, a non-profit organization dedicated to community service and preserving the Old Franklin School.

Reservations are not required, but are recommended for groups larger than four.

For advance ticket sales, reservations, or more information, contact Phyllis Harmon, the High Tea Chair at (732) 548-2173.

## Community Health Fair 'day of health' planned

**PISCATAWAY** — Dr. Lisa Herbert of Piscataway Medical Group will host a Community Health Fair today at the River Road Rescue Squad, 101 Shirley Parkway from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free blood pressure screening, blood sugar screening, and cholesterol testing will be offered.

There will also be a presentation by Dr. Mark Lebenthal of Cardiologist of Cardiology Associates in Somerville. The topic will be "Women and Heart Disease — Know Your Risk."

A suggested donation of \$5 is asked for those interested in trying a chair massage. Proceeds will go to Women for Women International.

For directions or more details, call (732) 885-1800.

**"Minnow Pond" camp and open house today**  
**PISCATAWAY** — The Minnow Pond pre-school at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway will host an Open House today

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Applications are now being accepted for children 2-and-a-half to 5 for summer camp and fall classes.

Call (732) 463-1517 for more information.

## Recovery grant from American Red Cross

**EDISON** — JFVS of Middlesex County is able to offer additional services for those individuals and families affected by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks through a 9/11 recovery grant from the American Red Cross Liberty Disaster Relief Fund.

In addition, in partnership with

United Way of Central New Jersey, JFVS will be assessing individuals for eligibility for financial assistance that is again available to those affected by the attacks.

For additional information, call Laura Balkan at (732) 777-1940.

## Hamfest 2005 radio club "flea market"

**PISCATAWAY** — The Raritan Valley Radio Club HAMFEST 2005 Fleamarket will be held at the Piscataway High School, located near intersection of Old New Brunswick Road and Behmer Road, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 18.

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## Bike rodeo is coming

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — The South Plainfield Police Department will be holding a bicycle rodeo from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14 in Spring Lake Park.

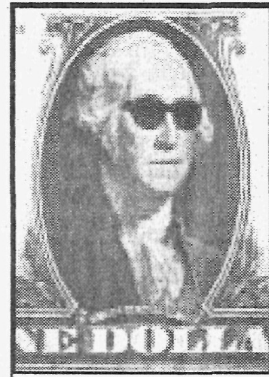
Featured will be an obstacle course emphasizing proper riding techniques and rules of the road. A course covering On Bike Skills Development also will be conducted. Helmet wearing cyclists will negotiate a moderately challenging course of cones to improve their riding abilities.

For cyclists age 14 and under who do not have helmets, a limited supply of helmets donated by the South Plainfield Traffic Safety Advisory Commission will be provided. Those who

bring their own helmets can enter into a drawing to win a new bicycle. Safety-oriented literature will be provided.

Also on May 14 the Police Department will conduct its bicycle registration program, "Baron von Pedaloff," created by retired Patrolman William Frink.

For more information, call (908) 226-7678.



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## Flower sale taking place

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK** — The Ladies Auxiliary of South Bound Brook Fire Company No. 1 sponsors its Mother's Day flower sale from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today at the firehouse on Edgewood Terrace.

Hanging plants, geraniums, bedding plants and decorated items will be available. For more information, call Ada Barber at (732) 469-2436.

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

**THURSDAYS**  
Senior Citizens Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

**SATURDAYS**  
Prayer Service 6:00 a.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 21**  
Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 27**  
Marriage Ministry at 6 Ethel Road, Piscataway 7:30 p.m.

## \*\*\* SPECIAL EVENTS \*\*\*

**SATURDAY, MAY 7**  
Mother's Day Breakfast 8:00 a.m.  
~ Sponsored by the Women's Fellowship and Anna Howard Missionary Society ~

**SATURDAY, MAY 14**  
The Jubilation Choir Gospel Concert 7:00 p.m.  
~ Sponsored by the Lay Organization ~

**SUNDAY, MAY 15**  
The Rainbow Children's Choir Anniversary 10:45 a.m.

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Saturday, May 7, 2005

# Opinion

## Freedom of the press means freedom for all

Tuesday was World Press Freedom Day, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the Windhoek Declaration, a 1991 statement of principles written by publishers, editors and journalists in Africa to preserve and extend press freedom around the world.

By ANDREW ALEXANDER

At a recent gathering of the nation's newspaper editors, President Bush invoked the words of Thomas Jefferson, who said "Our liberty depends on freedom of the press that cannot be limited without being lost."

Then he drew a chuckle when he quoted Jefferson again: "I've given up newspapers, and I find myself much happier."

Jefferson's views aren't in conflict.

The press can be prickly, prying and provocative. Public officials and others in power do not enjoy the incessant scrutiny and critical eye of journalists performing their watchdog role.

But Jefferson realized that a free press, however bothersome and imperfect, is essential for democracies to emerge and thrive.

His seemingly incongruous views are worth remembering on May 3, World Press Freedom Day. Designated by the United Nations in 1993, it is the day each year that we celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom. It also reminds us that in too many parts of the world it is commonplace for governments to harass, detain, fine, attack and kill journalists for their "crime" of trying to tell the truth.

Last year was one of the most deadly for journalists in the past two centuries. Of the 78 who died, nearly a third were lost while covering the conflict in Iraq. But many others perished in tyrannical or lawless societies when they probed too deeply for public information or offered views considered too critical.

Large numbers are in prisons, languishing in unsanitary conditions, without adequate food of medical care. At year's end, more than 20 remained jailed in Cuba alone. And according to the respected New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, China has retained its title as the world's leading jailer of journalists with 42 editors and writers in prison as the current year began.

Throughout our nation's history, the United States has rightly been seen as a shining example of press freedom. But in marking World Press Freedom Day, it is important to recognize that our image is now being tarnished by dangerous trends toward government secrecy and control.

Roughly 30 American journalists currently are at risk of being sent to jail for refusing to reveal the identities of fellow citizens who provided them with information on a confidential basis. It is sadly ironic that when this type of coercion occurs in other countries, our government denounces it as little more than a crude effort by prosecutors and judges to use journalists as an arm of the police.

Similarly, many no longer see America as the model of openness for emerging democracies. While more and more countries embrace the concept of open records, experts say the United States is moving toward greater secrecy.

Some 61 countries have passed laws giving citizens the right to examine government records

and other previously secret information. More than half of these laws were adopted in the last decade.

David Banisar, author of a respected study examining open access laws around the world, recently proclaimed that "a new era of government transparency has arrived." Emerging democracies recognize they must be more open to thrive in the global age of information.

That is why so many are concerned about the trend toward secrecy in the United States.

"Ironically, secrecy has made the most dramatic comeback in the country that purports to be the most democratic," says Thomas Blanton, director of the non-profit National Security Archive at George Washington University.

In its recently released annual report to the president, the federal government's Information Security Oversight Office said that the number of decisions to classify government documents soared from 9 million in 2001 to 15.5 million last year — an 81 percent increase.

At the same time, the agency reported, the declassification of government records declined from 100 million pages in 2001 to just 28 million in 2004.

In his recent appearance at the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention in Washington, President Bush suggested the increased secrecy is necessary for national security. True, government secrecy has expanded in the aftermath of 9/11. And some of it is justified.

But much of the increase has nothing to do with the threat of terrorism. A high percentage of requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) are from ordinary citizens trying to get basic information from their government. Many are requests from those who served in the armed forces who want nothing more than to check on their veteran's benefits or military service record.

The most recent government figures show that the number of FOIA requests for the first time topped 3 million in 2003, a 36 percent increase from the previous year. The sharp increase is not for records involving national security, but rather from citizens seeking information from the Social Security Administration.

This past year, while I was speaking with a visiting group of journalists from a variety of emerging democracies, a few made an unusual plea. They urged greater openness by our government and an end to the threatened imprisonment of journalists. If America is seen as moving toward greater secrecy and control of its press, they argued, it gives license to their own governments to follow the same path.

That's worth thinking about on World Press Freedom Day. Throughout our history, the United States has been a beacon for press freedom, giving hope to the repressed and powerless.

But when we opt for secrecy and press control, we set a horrible example for would-be democracies. And we give cover to the dark forces of tyranny who jail, harass or murder journalists and others who seek nothing more than to tell the truth.

Andrew Alexander is the Washington bureau chief for Cox Newspapers. He serves as chair of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

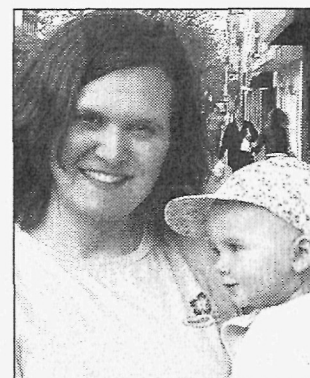
## Question of the week: What do you want for Mother's Day?



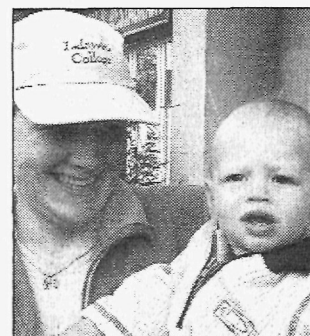
**VICTORIA DeGRAZIO**  
South Plainfield  
"Just to be with my kids."



**MICHELLE DeSCALA**  
Middlesex  
"Any day I don't have to cook or clean."



**AMANDA O'NEILL**  
Somerville  
"Just to spend the day with my family."



**STEPHANIE HAYES**  
Somerville  
"To take a nice walk together with my husband and son in his new jogging stroller."



**BECKY HYDE**  
Basking Ridge  
"In the mountains with my children."

## Letters to the Editor

### Other's support has been a help

To The Editor:

I just wanted to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone that attended and contributed to the "Cullinan v. Cancer" benefit that was held on April 8.

My brother, Joe Cullinan, was recently diagnosed with brain cancer, so the benefit was a great way for everyone to help out Joe and his family while enjoying a wonderful night out with good friends, family and entertainment.

Roughly 400 attended the event held at the Somerville Elks and showed their overwhelming support while raising a tremendous amount for the cause.

Joe's friends from UPS, his workplace, came in droves, along with a large contingent of administrators, coaches, parents and students from Immaculata High School, where Joe's youngest son Jeffrey attends.

Countless friends came from Bridgewater where Joe's three other children, Joe, Lindsay and Heather, attended high school and where Joe currently resides with his wife Nancy and their children.

Many of his hometown friends from Dunellen, as well as past competitors, coaches and teammates from Joe's grammar school, high school,

Holy Trinity, and college, Stonehill, came to wish Joe well, several of whom spoke and shared some endearing memories of times spent with him.

Great music played by The Troupe, Joe's friends from high school, and by Brian Quinn, who helped spark the crowd as well!

It's hard to express how truly grateful our family is to all that helped to make the benefit a huge success. There is no doubt that the generosity and support shown that evening has given Joe an enormous emotional boost which will help him to persevere through an otherwise difficult time in his life.

For the rest of us that were fortunate enough to witness the outpouring of love for Joe, we are reminded that the love from our family and friends is a true testament of a life well lived! Please continue to keep Joe and his family in your prayers.

Once again, thank you for making the "Cullinan v. Cancer" benefit a spectacular night!

**KEVIN CULLINAN**  
Lavallette

The writer is assistant coach of the boys basketball team at Immaculata High School.

## Medevac location saves precious time

To The Editor:

In the mid-50s my wife Mary Ann and I settled down in a quiet community not far from Somerset Airport.

The population was about 22,000 versus 44,000 today. There was no Golden Triangle (Bridgewater Commons) shopping center, no Interstates 78 or 287 and no large housing developments. Overhead passenger aircraft, large industry and commercial development were at a minimum.

These monsters were on the horizon and as each one approached we rallied against them and lost. Each one brought with them increased population, pollution and noise. We now live with a constant background noise level and vibration 24 hours a day.

Some of our neighbors closer to the highways are subject to the same noise levels and house rattling that Medevac opponents are objecting to, not several times a day but constantly from 5 a.m. until late in the evening.

We appreciate the fact that these issues have two sides to them and even though we rallied against them we have learned to live with and avail ourselves to the conveniences they have brought us. While we still would prefer not to deal with the noise and pollution, we love the ability to easily travel from place to

place on the interstates and be able to hop on a jet and fly almost anywhere we choose.

In addition to the noise and pollution these changes have enabled those who are now objecting to the NorthStar medical emergency helicopter, their monster, to move into and increase the density of our community. Each one of them including myself use our cars and other noise-producing devices every day without much thought as to how the cumulative noise from them is affecting others.

The operation of Medevac at Somerset Airport will indeed create some noise as do other emergency services in other parts of the community. However, its relocation will save precious time in responding to a medical emergency occurring more than half the distance between its previous location and Somerset.

In addition, the presence of a Medevac unit has far more pluses than any of the other progress that I have mentioned above. I pray that we, or any one of those against this service, will not have to in the future be personally thankful for its availability as we have become for those changes that we once objected to.

**BOB CROSBY**  
Bridgewater

## Helicopter holds hidden agenda

To The Editor:

It is clear that Steve Parker doesn't live anywhere close to Somerset Airport, because if he did, he certainly would not sleep better at night having the helicopters there. Those of us who make up the nearly 600 homes in Bridgewater, over 50 in Bedminster and 90 in Branchburg surrounding the airport know too well that the noise, and eventually the lights that will result from allowing Medevac to operate there, will keep us all awake.

Just out of curiosity, Mr. Parker, are you the same Mr. Parker who is the son-in-law of Dan Walker, the airport owner? It seems to me that your interest isn't in the welfare of your neighbors, but your own pocketbook! Could it be that the greedy airport owners smell money coming from the helicopter traveling

visitors of Donald Trump's new golf course and Richard ranson's new resort and are using Medevac as an excuse to allow prohibited aircraft at this airport?

The fact is that there are numerous other airports in the area that will afford area residents the same level of safety. These include Morristown Airport which is close to a trauma center, is larger and has a control tower and Picatinny Arsenal a much larger facility already equipped to handle this type of aircraft.

Putting Medevac at either of these locations won't change our bucolic quality of life for which brought us to this part of New Jersey in the first place while still keeping us safe.

**RANDI SCHWERINER**  
Bridgewater

## Quotable

"I wish I could describe it. Gun after gun firing. It was just nonstop firing for about 15 minutes. Lots of flashes of light. A lot of noise."

**Thomas Albee**

"I don't even have my wedding pictures anymore. I had to get pictures from my sister. My children's baby things are gone. I know life is more important. But how do you replace the baby quilt you held your babies in."

**Fawnda Genovese-Garcia**

"Somerset County has one of the best county governments in the state. They have money in the bank and are relatively clean."

**G. Jeremiah Ryan**

## 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.



# Young actors' talents benefit troops in Iraq

A hearty "thanks" to the cast of "Darn Yanks," 42 hard-working Branchburg youngsters who put their collective heart and soul into the adaptation of "Damn Yankees" last weekend at the Whiton School.

Both performances were sold out; the auditorium was packed with proud parents, families and friends.

Directed by siblings Miranda and Joe DeStefano, the red, white and blue show was sponsored by the Branchburg Recreation Department. Several weeks ago, we received a call from Mary Beth Ferris, the department's program coordinator, who proposed that the performances be dedicated to U.S. soldiers serving overseas.

This year, the department chose Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 as the recipient of its efforts; in past years, other charitable causes have benefited.

Rather than charging admission, those who came to see the play were asked to bring grocery or toiletry items that could be sent to the troops. The audience responded to the publicity campaign launched in the

**Rod Hirsch**  
Executive  
Editor



weeks prior to the performances in a big way.

Not only did they drop off thousands of donated items, they also reached into their pockets and dropped \$311 in bills and loose change into a collection jar placed outside the auditorium.

Mary Beth and her staff sorted the items, and delivered more than 20 boxes and bags to The Chronicle office on Monday.

We've asked her to write a letter detailing the production and the earnest efforts of the young cast, which will be copied and sent inside each of the boxes that will be wrapped in Somerville May 14 for shipment to U.S. troops in Iraq.

A special thanks to Mary Beth and her staff, the directors, the parents who supported their



**The cast of "Darn Yanks" performs on stage Saturday night at the Whiton School in Branchburg.** Sponsored by the township Recreation Department and directed by Miranda and Joe DeStefano, the show was a benefit for Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

children's efforts, and most of all, the young thespians who made us all proud. The soldiers salute you!

## Somerville Supply Line

Somerville residents, elected officials and the business community will join with the volunteers of Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 May 14 in downtown Somerville to participate in "Operation Somerville Supply Line," a four-hour event during which we'll pack, wrap and ship boxes for U.S. armed

service personnel from the Central Jersey region who are serving in Iraq and the Mideast.

Frank Valanzola, a vice president at the Morgan Stanley branch office in downtown Somerville, and a charter member of the growing circle of OPSHBX volunteers, is coordinating the event, sponsored by the Somerville District Management Association, the Somerville Merchants Association, The Chronicle, the Somerset Patriots and other civic groups.

Posters advertising the event are posted in the windows of

downtown Somerville storefronts.

We hope this event will act as a blueprint for other communities, civic organizations and business groups in Central New Jersey. Please let Frank know whether you'd be interested in hosting a similar event at your school, office, or in your downtown business district.

Rod Hirsch is executive editor of The Chronicle. He can be reached at (908) 575-6684 or email rhirsch@njnpublishing.com

# Professional eaters challenged by big 'burger

By **ROD HIRSCH**  
Staff Writer

The question is: Why? Why do people climb Mt. Everest?

Why do runners torture their bodies to finish 26.2-mile marathons?

Why would anyone want to eat a 7.5-pound hamburger?

Notoriety? Bragging rights? Financial rewards? A book deal?

Or is it simply a matter of the challenge and being able to say "I did it?"

The answer to some of those questions will become more clear this Monday at the Clinton Station Diner in Clinton when upwards of 30 contestants - 10 teams of three - are expected to sink their

teeth in to the diner's extra beefy "Zeus" hamburger, which actually weighs 12.5 pounds with the oversized bun and all the trimmings.

"America's Biggest Burger Eating Competition" begins at 1 p.m. at the diner, which is at Exit 12 off Route 78. It will be a timed event, with one "Zeus" served to each team. The team which cleans its plate first will be declared the winner.

"We're trying to promote this as entertainment," explained Arnie "Chow Hound" Chapman, president of the Association of Independent Competitive Eaters.

Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005 will benefit from the event, with the \$30 entry fee from each contestant

donated to the organization; each of the teams is also being sponsored by local businesses, with the \$100 sponsorship also donated to OPSHBX.

Mike Zambas, owner of the Clinton Station Diner, will host the event. He concocted the "Zeus" burger to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the diner a few months ago, and soon after, joined with the volunteers of Operation: Shoebox New Jersey 2005, donating 15 percent of his Monday night dinner receipts every other week to the all-volunteer effort which collects items to be sent to U.S. soldiers and Marines in Iraq and the Mideast. Chapman heard about "Zeus," and contacted Zambas, who suggested the charity event.

The contestants are "professional" eaters, men and women like Chapman who relish the opportunity to sink their teeth into quantities of burgers, hot wings, Tostitos, pastrami sandwiches and other foods just to see how much they can eat in a measured period of time.

Chapman had his first "taste" of victory in 1991 when he downed 11 1/2 hot dogs in six minutes to win \$100 at a contest sponsored by Nathan's along the boardwalk in Coney Island.

A few years later, Chapman says he came in second to "some guy named Biteman - I'm not kidding" - in a pickle eating contest on Long Island. Stung by his loss, Chapman came back the following year

and downed "4 big ones" in three minutes to trounce Biteman.

"I'd like to think that at some level I've eaten competitively all my life," Chapman explained, the youngest of three brothers.

Chapman estimates the winning time will be somewhere between 35 and 40 minutes.

He'll be joined on his team by "Dominick the Doginator" and "Gentleman Joe."

OPSHBX volunteers will be on hand to collect donated items and accept contributions.

Find out more about the contest at the AICE website, competitiveeaters.com, or by calling Zambas at (908) 713-0012 or Chapman at (516) 632-9794.

## Calendar of Events

**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. For further information, see [www.competitiveeaters.com](http://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:** "Operation Somerville Supply Line," Somerville officials, business organizations 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 14:** "Aerobathon," fund raising event, Powerhouse Gym, Route 22, Bridgewater. Call for details (908) 595-1111.

**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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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!

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<input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm	<input type="checkbox"/> Socks
<input type="checkbox"/> Feminine products	<input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline/plns
<input type="checkbox"/> Ear swabs	<input type="checkbox"/> Snack food
<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry detergent	<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal/protein bars
<input type="checkbox"/> Bug wipes/bug strips	<input type="checkbox"/> Fleece blankets
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipes (travel size)	<input type="checkbox"/> Microwaveable foods
<input type="checkbox"/> Razors	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard candy/gum
<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials
<input type="checkbox"/> Eye drops	<input type="checkbox"/> Batteries (any size)
<input type="checkbox"/> Spices/Tea bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Calling cards

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The Reporter |

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## Mary Ann Malchitsky

BOUND BROOK — Mary Ann Malchitsky, 74, died April 28, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born July 24, 1930 in Beaver Meadows, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Nicholas and Mary Kanyak Matchick.

Mrs. Malchitsky had lived in Bound Brook since 1954. She was a retired assembly worker with Timex Corp. She earlier worked at factories in the Bound Brook area and at the Duplan Silk Mill in Hazleton, Pa.

She was a member of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church. Her husband of 36 years, Thomas, died in 1987. A sister, Margaret, died in 1996. A brother, Nicholas, died in 2003.

Surviving are a son, Dale of

Bound Brook; four sisters-in-law, Mildred Matchick of Elk Creek, Va., Mary Rock of Collegeville, Pa., Irene Hannisick and Eleanor, both of Freeland, Pa.; a niece, Noreen Campbell of Galax, Va.; five nephews, Gary Fedorcha of Slaton, Pa., Bruce Fedorcha of Columbus, Ohio, James Matchick of Hillsborough, Mark Porambo of Shenandoah, Pa., and Todd Matchick of New Brunswick; and many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Joseph Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery.

## Marie Mondoro

DUNELLEN — Marie Dixon Mondoro died April 27, 2005 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune.

Born in Brooklyn, she lived in Dunellen for 47 years before moving to Manasquan in 1998.

Mrs. Mondoro was with Lockheed Corp. in Watchung for 25 years and retired as an inspector. She was a member of the Women's Association at the Italian-American Social Club in North Plainfield.

Her husband, Jerry Sr., died

in 1995.

Surviving are two sons, Jerry Jr. of Basking Ridge and Ralph of Elizabeth, Pa.; a daughter, Patty Mondoro Ross of Manasquan; a brother, Irv Dixon of Dunellen; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Saturday at the Scarpa Funeral Home in North Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Kidney Foundation.

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## Katherine Kuzio

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Katherine Golski Kuzio, 87, died April 28, 2005 at the Bridgewater home of her sister, Margaret.

Born in Manville, she lived in Bound Brook before moving to South Plainfield in 1950.

Mrs. Kuzio was a retired assistant in the Library of Science and Medicine, on the Busch Campus of Rutgers University in Piscataway. She earlier worked for Johns-Manville Corp. and the Somerset County Vocational and Technical School.

She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the

Americas, the Friends of the South Plainfield Library and the Altar Rosary Society at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church.

Also surviving are her husband, Michael; two daughters, Joanne Parrish and husband Ben of Charlotte, N.C., and Kathy of Tampa, Fla.; two sons, Paul of South Plainfield and Michael of Littleton, Colo.; two grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at Sacred Heart Church, following services at the McCrisky Home for Funerals. Entombment was private.

## David R. Stout

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — David R. Stout died April 28, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Somerville, he lived in Bound Brook before moving to South Bound Brook in 2004.

Mr. Stout was a service technician for 34 years with the Approved Fire Protection Co. in Piscataway. He was an exempt fireman with the Ivy Hook & Ladder Company of the Bound Brook Fire Department.

Surviving are his wife, Carole L. Wode Stout; his mother,

Anna of Somerville; three sons, David M. and wife Liz of Middlesex, Darrin M. and wife Sharon of South Bound Brook and Don M. and girlfriend Jennifer Sturtevant of South Bound Brook; two daughters, Denise M. Nagrodski of Hillsborough and Donna M. O'Leary and husband Joseph M. of Washington; a brother, Harry of Minnesota; a sister, Carolyn Kelly of Philadelphia, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Bridgewater Funeral Home.

## Gertrude Thompson

MIDDLESEX — Gertrude T. Thompson, 74, died April 26, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in New York City, she lived in Succasunna before moving to Middlesex in 1976.

Mrs. Thompson was an electrical assembly worker in Middlesex prior to her retire-

ment.

Surviving are a daughter, Katherine Torode of Succasunna; a sister, Terry Ondris of Murray Hill; and a grandson, Emmanuel Torode of Succasunna.

Services were held Saturday at the Davis & Hepplewhite Funeral Home in Succasunna.

The Reporter Somerset Messenger-Gazette • The Chronicle

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## Helen Rucinski

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Helen Rucinski, 87, died April 27, 2005 at the Merwick Rehab Hospital & Nursing Care in Princeton.

Born in Jersey City, she was a daughter of the late Zygmund and Stella Sobieski Rucinski.

Miss Rucinski lived in Manville, South Plainfield and Toms River before moving to Princeton in January 2004. She retired after over 37 years as a tester with Western Electric in Kearny.

She was a member of the Pioneer Retirement Club at Western Electric and the Altar Rosary Society at St. Maximilian Kolbe Roman Catholic Church in Toms River.

Surviving are a sister, Irene Cornish of Hillsborough; a brother, Rev. Joseph of Lawrenceville; three nieces; two nephews; and many great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Manville, following services at the Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home in Manville. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hillsborough.

## Max Brown

BOUND BROOK — Max Brown, 89, died April 22, 2005 at the Bridgewater Care Center in Bridgewater.

Born in Pottsville, Pa., he was a son of the late David and Goldy Lebesky Brown.

Mr. Brown lived in Bound Brook before moving to Bridgewater. He retired in 1974 after more than 25 years as a chemical worker with Union Carbide Corp.

A member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in Bound Brook.

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# 'God gave me back my son'

## Mother and son sharing war tale

By JIM WHITE  
Staff Writer

On April 1, 2003, Thomas Albee and his fellow Marines let it rip — guns blazing into the blackened sky, hundreds of high-explosive rounds tearing into open desert from 155 mm Howitzer cannons.

"I wish I could describe it," said Albee, now 25, of Raritan. "Gun after gun firing. It was just nonstop firing for about 15 minutes. Lots of flashes of light. A lot of noise."

This show of force was actual-



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tish Albee with her son, Thomas, who recently returned from serving with the Marines in Iraq.

ly a diversion, he said, so Army Rangers and Navy SEALs would have a better chance of not being detected while they slipped in and out of an Iraqi hospital located in the southern city of An Nasiriyah, where the now famous Army Private Jessica Lynch was being held after she and her unit were ambushed on March 23, 2003.

Albee was in Kuwait and Iraq for the start of the war as an artillery cannoner with the Marines' Task Force Tarawa — Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment. He returned home in June 2003.

"She's lucky, a lot of people put their lives on the line to go pick her up," Albee said of Lynch, adding she was first captured about a mile from where his unit was dug in at the time, just outside An Nasiriyah, a

tough nut to crack, but a city the Marines needed to take in order to secure the main highways that pass through it.

He quipped: "Yes, there actually are highways in Iraq."

Albee and his mother, Tish Albee, of Hillsborough, recently paid a visit to this newspaper and talked about their wartime experiences, those of a young Marine a long way from home and a Marine mom who could

only pray for her boy's safe return.

"I had a husband in Vietnam. That was painful," Tish Albee said. "But nothing is as painful as having a child over there (Iraq). Someone you gave birth to. Someone you have to take care of. Until you are a mother or father of a son or daughter over there you cannot relate at all."

While positioned outside An Nasiriyah, the Marines would fire in and over the city, taking out targets within and preventing outside advances by enemy combatants looking to join the fight.

"There was very heavy resistance," Thomas Albee said of the siege. And he said he has a lot of respect for his fellow Marines who operated inside the city and did not have the luxury of distance between themselves and the enemy. "It was bad. I had a lot of friends in that city. A lot of people were killed."

"I couldn't watch the news," his mother said. "He wanted to be a Marine since he was a little boy. I tried to talk him out of it, but he was determined, and I'm proud of him."

Thomas Albee said the enemy dressed as civilians and used hospitals and mosques as military strongholds. Others pretended to

surrender, only to then ambush, he said.

The city was eventually taken by the Marines, but, he said, Iraqis across the country sort of duped U.S. and coalition forces by melting into the civilian population, which led to the premature declaration of the end of major combat operations, May 2, 2003.

"They gave up and they waited," Thomas Albee said.

Early in the war he said his unit came across a number of enemy positions that were like ghost towns — abandoned tanks, folded uniforms and piles of guns and weapons.

"They waited until we let

our guard down, and this country paid dearly for that. There have been a lot more deaths since the end of major military operations," he said.

After the declaration, Thomas Albee said his role switched to security — securing bridges, searching civilians and vehicles and maintaining military checkpoints. And it was at that time he got a taste for humanitarian work, something he said he wished he could have done more of, though, at the time, the war was far from any rebuilding phase.

To get involved with Operation: Shobox, call Rod Hirsch, executive editor of The Chronicle, (908) 575-6684.

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## Workshop points out evils of heroin

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI  
Staff Writer

"At the moment, New Jersey has the dubious distinction of having the purest and cheapest heroin in the country," said Marilyn Flock, of the Somerset County Office of Youth Services.

With the recent arrest of two Hillsborough high school students for drug charges involving the sale and possession of heroin, the drug is on many residents' minds.

To address concerns about heroin, the Office of Youth Services and the Somerset Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency is sponsoring a forum on heroin next Friday, featuring a film, a talk given by Detective Sergeant First Class David Schlueter of the New Jersey State Police, and representatives from Teens In Recovery.

Designed for parents, educators, and professionals who work with children, the seminar is one of a year-long series of Community Connections workshops.

"The goal of this forum is to help professionals recognize the growing dangers of heroin," said freeholder Peter S. Palmer in a statement. "By increasing awareness of substance abuse, we can work together to help the youth in our communities."

The film, titled "Heroin: The Ride that Never Ends," will hopefully be shown at the county's schools, Flock said.

The DEA worked with prevention groups to create the film, Special Agent Douglas S. Collier, public information officer for the New Jersey division of the DEA, said.

According to Collier, the film is part of a statewide initiative to encourage prevention. "We know that quantitatively, the new user group is under the age of 26," Collier said. "The positive thing is that we're collaborating with prevention groups to address this problem," rather than wait to deal with an epidemic when and if it happens.

Heroin has not yet reached epidemic status in the state, Collier said, but despite a drop in its purity over the year before, heroin seizures in the state were still the purest in the nation.

The DEA "came to us and said, 'we can't arrest our way out of this,'" said Brenda Esler, assistant director of the Somerset Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency. The film, she said, addresses "a combination of information about the drug and its effects, and the unique problem New Jersey faces with availability and purity."

Esler added that the presentation by Teens in Recovery, who also make an appearance in the film, will make a big impact, because "they talk about what lengths they would go to to get drugs."

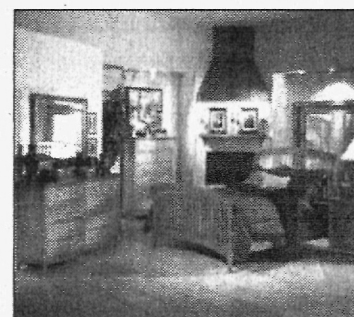
The workshop will be held on May 13 at 9 a.m. at the Somerset County Human Services Building at 92 E. Main St., Somerville. Participants should register by May 10.

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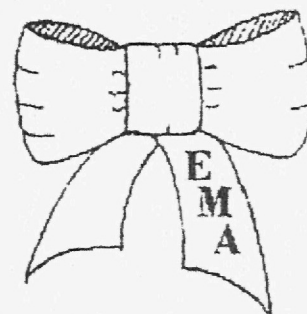
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**FROM THE SOUTH:**  
Take Rt. 1 North. Shortly after crossing the Raritan River take the exit for Woodbridge Ave. (514 East). Once merged onto 514 follow for approximately 2 miles. Bear right at the sign for Mill Road/Middlesex County College. Once on Mill Road, travel to the next traffic light and turn left into the College entrance. Make an immediate right and follow the road around the perimeter of the parking lot, obeying traffic cones and barricades.

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## Senior Citizens Calendar

### Bound Brook

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

**Upcoming Trips and Events:**  
For information, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Non members are welcome.

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

May 11 — Larison's Turkey inn, play "I Do, I Do" \$49  
May 31-June 2 — The Hamptons - \$375 (non-members welcome), Call Frank (732) 356-6310 for details.

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**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.

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 Barbatì (908) 725-5444.

**Event Schedule:**  
May 9 — Membership meeting - 1 p.m. school cafeteria.  
May 22 — Spring Social, 4 p.m. school cafeteria.

### Edison

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

Important senior issues will be presented at Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., May 14 at 10 a.m. Topics: living wills, power of attorney, health directives, assisted living, active adult communities and reverse mortgages. Free with refreshments served. Call library at (732) 287-2298 or go to circulation desk.

### Metuchen

**The Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP**, will hold its monthly meeting May 9 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave. (Route 27). The monthly board meeting is at noon and the

general meeting starts at 1:15 p.m. The speaker at the general meeting will be Susan Costello who will speak on the bridges program. Refreshments will be served. Guests are always welcome.

The chapter is currently accepting new members; call Thomas Costello for further information at (732) 548-7901.

### Middlesex Borough

**Our Lady of Mount Virgin Seniors** meet the second Tuesday of the month, May 10, at 1 p.m. in the church hall.

**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 (Route 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.

## Weekend Calendar

**Saturday, May 7**  
**MANVILLE - Mother's Day Flower Sale:** 8 a.m. till dark, corner of South Main Street and Wilhousky Street in Rhythm's parking lot, sponsored by Manville Fire Co. #3 and Ladies Auxiliary. Call (908) 526-0403 for details.

**Tuesday, May 10**  
**PISCATAWAY - Wellness Program:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., F.E. Parker Home, 1421 River Road, presented by Karen Reinhard, MSW, LSW, Assistant Dementia Care Coordinator. Call (732) 545-3110 for details.

**Thursday, May 12**  
**PISCATAWAY - Wellness Program:** 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. F. E. Parker Home, 1421 River Road, presented by Social Services Department. Call (732) 545-3110 for details.

**Saturday, May 14**  
**EDISON - Trash and Treasure Sale:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, 445 Plainfield Road: Household goods, toys, books, baby items plus baked goods will be available. Call (732) 549-4178 for details.

**IN THE FUTURE:**  
**EDISON - Caregivers Support Group:** May 16 6:30 to 8 p.m. at JFVS, 515 Plainfield Ave. Suite 201. "Is It Safe To Leave Loved Ones Alone?" No fee - newcomers welcome. RSVP necessary - seating limited. Call (732) 777-1940 to register.

**MIDDLESEX - Stem Cell Research Talk:** May 19 at 7 p.m. at Middlesex Library Community Room sponsored by Friends of the Library. Call library at (732) 356-6602 for details.

**HIGHLAND PARK - Street Fair and Craft Show:** May 22 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Exhibitors sought. Call (908) 654-1400 for booth information and costs.

**BOUND BROOK - Spaghetti Dinner:** May 22, 2 to 6 p.m. at Bound Brook Elks Lodge 1388, 305 East Second Street. Donation \$7. Call Mary Ann at (908) 236-8291 for details.

**MIDDLESEX - Decorative Painting and Design Class:** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. May 26 at Middlesex H.S. Art Room \$20 per class, plus \$15 materials fee. Call (732) 317-6000 ext. 20206 for more information.

**EDISON - Memorial Day Parade:** 2 p.m. May 29 in Stelton section of town. Interested in participating, Call Evelyn at (732) 548-4648 for details.

**BOUND BROOK - Strawberry Festival:** June 3, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Bound Brook Presbyterian Church, corner of Mountain and Union Avenue. Cost \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and free age 3 and under. Proceeds for Deacon's Fund. Call (732) 356-3575 for details and directions..

**PISCATAWAY - Giant Yard Sale:** June 4, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Stelton Vol. Fire Company firehouse, 70 Haines Ave., Spaces available for \$15. For space info. Call Margaret at (732) 985-0282, opt 6.

**MIDDLESEX - Decorative Painting and Design Class:** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. June 9 at Middlesex H.S. Art Room \$20 per class, plus \$15 materials fee. Call (732) 317-6000 ext. 20206 for more information.

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Saturday, May 7, 2005

# Merkler home runs lift South Plainfield

Bill Merkler highlighted a 10-hit attack with a pair of home runs to lead the way as the South Plainfield High baseball squad outslugged North Brunswick 15-6 Monday in Greater Middlesex Conference White Division action to boost its record to 11-4 for the campaign.

Mike Benak doubled a blasted a two-run homer during a five-run sixth winning when the Tigers put away the decision. Michael Downes earned the victory on the mound by shutting out North Brunswick over the final three innings.

Edison 7, J.P. Stevens 3 — Needing a victory to get remain above the .500 level the Eagles received a complete-game effort from Nate Fabretti and defeated their township rival for the second time this spring in GMC-Red Division play Sunday night at Commerce Bank Park.

Fabretti (3-0) fanned seven batters with walking anyone and scattered eight hits to lift Edison to 9-8 for the season and drop Stevens to 8-8. Mike Shymaski tripled and Cal Costanzo doubled as Edison made the most of six hits against the Hawks' Gary Turner.

John F. Kennedy 16, Middlesex 6 — Thirteen walks and six errors did in the Blue Jays Monday in their GMC-White Division game with Kennedy (8-7) as Middlesex fell to 6-5 despite actually out-hitting the visitors 6-4. Matt Campanella and Dennis Rivera accounted for all of the Middlesex

offense as both went 3-for-3 with a home run and triple. Campanella's blast chased home three runs, while Rivera hit a two-run shot.

East Brunswick 7, Piscataway 2 — Kent Scriven went 2-for-3 and knocked in a run but East Brunswick's Matt Meetsch handled the rest of the Chiefs' lineup to pitch the Bears (8-4) to a GMC-Red Division triumph over Piscataway Monday. The loss dropped the Chiefs to 6-8 for the season.

Pingry 10, Bound Brook 0 — Scoring in each of its first four at-bats 12th-seeded Pingry (5-5) dominated the 13th-ranked Crusaders in a five-inning opening-round game of the Somerset County Tournament Monday. Bound Brook, which lost for the fifth straight game to fall to 4-5 on the year, was limited to five singles by Park Smith.

South Plainfield 12, Woodbridge 1 — Chris Stallone blasted a three-run homer in the third inning for a 4-1 lead and the Tigers pushed across four more in the fourth en route to a easy victory over Woodbridge (4-9) April 29 in White Division play. Nick Cesare drove in three runs with a double and two singles to lead a 12-hit attack, while Mike Benak went 3-for-4 and knocked in a run. Chris Bakazan (2-1) tossed a four-hitter with four strikeouts for the victory.

J.P. Stevens 11, Perth Amboy 1 — Andrew Biancosomo belted a three-run homer to snap a 1-1 tie in the top

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

of the third inning and Mike Chupka followed with a homer as the back-to-back shots gave the Hawks the lead for good in a rout of Perth Amboy (2-12) April 29 in a Red Division game that lifted Stevens to 9-7 for the season. Gary Turner scattered five hits to earn the victory, while Jason Bonnell finished with two hits and two RBI to lead a nine-hit attack.

St. Joseph's 3, Edison 2 — Bryan Elvina doubled in one run and Cal Costanzo, who finished 2-for-3, singled in the other as the Eagles forged a 2-2 tie in the top of the sixth, but a throwing error on a sacrifice bunt in the seventh plated the winning run from first as St. Joe's (15-4) pulled out a decision in a game for a share of first place in the Red Division April 29. Nick Reider took the loss despite a five-hitter.

Gill-St. Bernards 12, Bound Brook 2 — Gill St. Bernard's (9-1) scored six times in the bottom of the first and coasted from there in handing the Crusaders (4-4) their four straight loss in a non-conference six-inning game April 29. Bound Brook managed only five hits with losing pitcher Jay Clark getting a double and Dan Owsik and John Suk accounting for the RBI during a two-run sixth.

Old Bridge 4, Piscataway 3 — Kent

Scriven and Russ Hopkins belted solo homers with Hopkins' shot knotting the game at 3-3 in the top of the seventh inning for the Chiefs, but Old Bridge scored on a wild pitch in the eighth inning to earn the Red Division triumph April 28. Matt Skoczylas had a double for Piscataway as both teams had six hits.

Cardinal McCarrick 13, Dunellen 7 — The Destroyers held an 11-7 advantage in hits but four errors and some walks left them on the short end of this Gold Division game April 28 against McCarrick (10-2). Mike Bartolotti went 3-for-4 with a two doubles and two RBI, John Schleppbach finished 3-for-3 with a double and Matt Grasso hit a two-run homer for Dunellen, which fell to 4-10.

Middlesex 6, South River 3 — Matt Campanella tossed a complete-game sixth hitter, fanning nine without allowing a walk and hit a pair of solo home runs as the Blue Jays rallied to trim South River (6-8) in Blue Division play April 28. Trailing 2-0 Middlesex scored five times in the fourth when Campanella started things with a homer, while Anthony LaSala later doubled in a run.

Spotswood 6, Metuchen 0 — The Bulldogs were victimized by Mike Hohman's two-hitter in a Blue Division contest April 28 as division-leading Spotswood moved to 11-2 for the campaign and dropped

Metuchen to 5-7 that wasn't put away until a three-run top-of-the-sixth outburst.

Piscataway 3, St. Joseph's 0 — Receiving their best pitching performance of the season the Chiefs knocked off Red Division-leading St. Joseph's April 27 behind David Gerena's three-hitter in which he struck out three and did not walk a batter. Robert Rose put Piscataway in front with an RBI single Russ Hopkins delivered a two-run single during a three-run fourth inning.

South Plainfield 14, Sayreville 4 — Nick's Cesare's three-run homer and a two-run double by Andy Miller highlighted an eight-run second inning as the Tigers whipped Sayreville (5-7) in White Division play April 27. Cesare (4-1) also picked up the pitching decision with a six-hitter in the six-inning game, and Billy Moates blasted a two-run homer as South Plainfield had nine extra-base hits among the 19 hits it collected.

Edison 6, East Brunswick 2 — Bryan Elva keyed a four-run fifth inning when Eagles scored four times with a two-run triple and Nate Fabretti scattered seven hits and struck out five in going the distance as Edison handed East Brunswick a Red Division setback April 27, Mike Owsiany had a pair of hits and drove in two runs for the winners, while Julian Lagunas and Nick Reider had doubles in the eight-hit attack.

# Jays' Lordi, Tigers' Senz hurl perfect games

Erica Lordi tossed five innings of perfect softball as undefeated Middlesex High continued on cruise control with its 11th victory in a 15-0 rout of Cardinal McCarrick in Greater Middle Conference Blue Division play Monday.

In striking out 13 for the game Lordi, the Blue Jays' senior ace, allowed just two fair balls to McCarrick (2-8) as Middlesex defeated the Eagles for the second time in seven days. In the first meeting April 26 Lordi pitched a five-inning one-hitter with nine strikeouts in a 19-0 romp.

Middlesex jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the first with Anna Abourashed knocking in two runs with a single, and the Blue Jays scored in every inning, including five times in the fifth. Addie Capozzollo drove in three runs with two the Blue Jays' nine hits, while Megan Reilly contributed a triple and Lordi added a double.

South Plainfield 3, North Brunswick 0 — Jessica Senz tossed her second perfect game of the campaign when she set down all 21 North Brunswick batters in a GMC-White Division triumph Monday that pushed the Tigers' record to 11-4 for the season.

Senz fanned only four batters, but the South Plainfield defense was flawless behind her and the offense did the most with six hits, included a two-run homer by Lacey Santone. Kelly Downes doubled twice and singled in three trips and scored two of the South Plainfield runs.

J.P. Stevens 7, Edison 0 — Bolting to a 3-0 lead after one inning keyed by Brittany Lobell's two-run double and extending the advantage to 6-0 in the third the Hawks coasted past rival Edison to remain unbeaten in GMC-Red Division

## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

play with its 11th victory Monday.

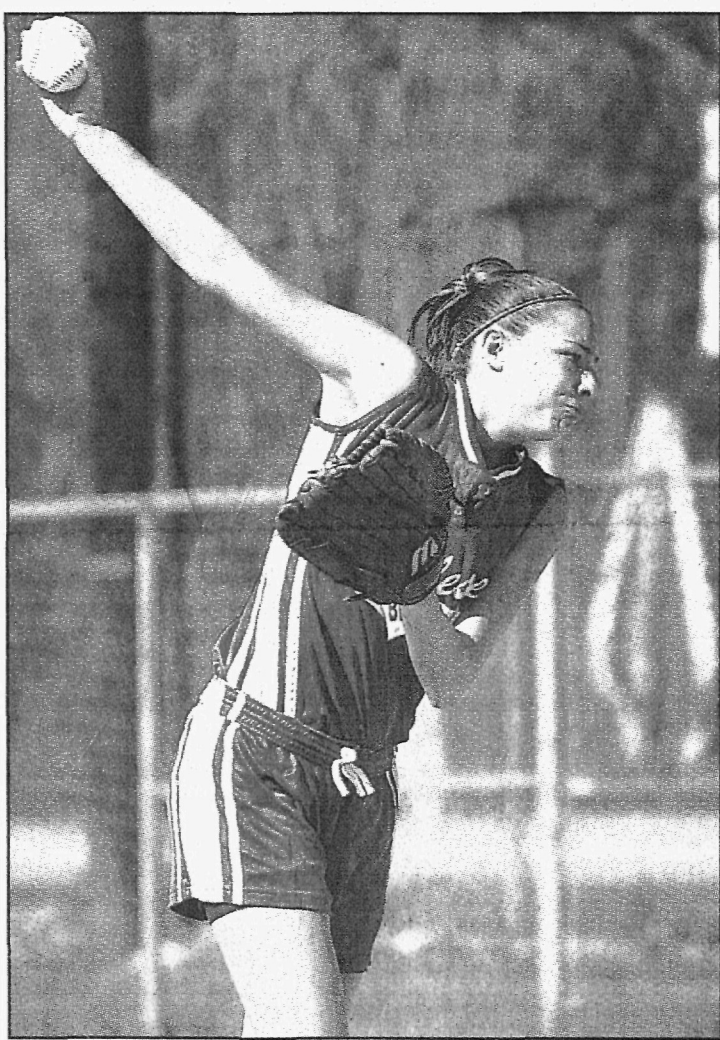
Becky Garibotto scattered six, including two by Nicole Steiner, to earn the pitching decision as Stevens improved 14-2 on the season. Garibotto collected two hits at the plate and knocked in a run, while Iris Delgado and Kim Shjarback also banged out a pair of hits apiece in a 12-hit attack. The Eagles fell to 10-8 with the loss.

Dunellen 7, Dayton 1 — Cassie Shotwell (8-3) fired a three-hitter and struck out 11 to pitch the Destroyers past Dayton (4-6) in non-league play Monday and improve to 9-3 on the season.

Michelle Pakenham's three-run triple fueled a four-run first inning, while Ashley Lyles drove in two runs with a home run and a double and Shotwell helped herself with a solo homer and a single as Dunellen collected 10 hits.

Mount St. Mary 5, Bound Brook 4 — Ashley DeLong delivered a two-run double in the top of the seventh inning to give the 10th-seeded Crusaders a 4-3 lead, but seventh-rated Mount St. Mary (10-1) rallied to tie the game in the home half of the inning and then won it in the eighth in the second round of the Somerset County Tournament Monday to drop Bound Brook to 9-4 on the year.

East Brunswick 8, Piscataway 3 — Out-hit by just a 10-8 margin the Chiefs, however, could not recover after falling behind 6-0 after two innings in GMC-Red Division play Monday against East Brunswick (10-4). Christine Lepski belted a home run for the only extra-base hit for Piscataway, which fell to 1-13.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Middlesex High's Erica Lordi gets set to pitch against Spotswood earlier this season. The Blue Jay ace tossed another no-hitter Monday, notching a perfect game in which she fanned 13 of 15 batters as Middlesex improved to 11-0 with a 15-0 rout of Cardinal McCarrick.

J.P. Stevens 9, Perth Amboy 0 — Jackie Almasi tripled, doubled, singled and knocked in one run to pace a 15-hit assault and Becky Garibotto pitched a two-hitter with 12 strikeouts as the Hawks whipped Perth Amboy April 29 in Red Division play. Brittany Lobell doubled,

drove in four runs and scored three times, while Kim Shjarback doubled and singled in two trips for Stevens, which iced the game with three runs in both the fifth and sixth innings.

Dunellen 14, East Brunswick Vo-Tech 0 — A 10-run second-

inning locked up this Gold Division victory for the Destroyers April 29 as they banged out 13 hits, including six for extra-bases, to rout EBVT (4-6). Cassie Shotwell had the game's only triple and pitched a two-hitter for the pitching triumph, while Michelle Pakenham smacked a pair of doubles.

Edison 3, Sayreville 1 — Locked in a 1-1 game entering the bottom of the sixth inning the Eagles earned the Red Division victory over Sayreville (5-10) April 29 on a two-run double by Marlee Mackinnon. Carrie Mokar matched the Bombers' starter Amanda Olender with a six-hitter, while striking out five and walking three. Rachel Ruch singled home a run in the first inning to give Edison an early lead.

Woodbridge 2, South Plainfield 1 — Needing to keep winning to remain alive in the White Division race the Tigers were stunned by Woodbridge (4-9) April 29 to fall three games behind Colonia. Jessica Senz was the hard-luck loser despite a two-hitter. She struck out 12, but the Barrons got both hits and an error in the sixth to score twice. Carlie Kazimir tripled and singled, and Melissa Szeliga had two hits.

Old Bridge 2, Piscataway 0 — Sherry Kestenbaum had another strong outing but once again the Chiefs struggled at the plate as Old Bridge's Nicole Tommisen limited them to three singles in the Red Division game. Kestenbaum tossed a five-hitter, but couldn't prevent Piscataway from losing once again.

Middlesex 12, South River 0 — Doing all their scoring in the first three innings, including an eight-run third, the Blue Jays rolled past South River (5-7) April 28 in a five-inning Blue Division game. Erica Lordi

pitched a one-hitter with 11 strikeouts, while Shana Vitaliano went 3-for-3 with three RBI. Heather Delgado knocked in two runs with a triple and a single, and Megan Reilly added a double, single and three runs.

Dunellen 10, Woodbridge Vo-Tech 0 — Josie Denny pitched a five-inning four-hitter and struck out 10 batters in picking up her first pitching decision and helped herself with two hits and two RBI, while Ashley Lyles tripled, singled and drove in three runs in a nine-hit attack as the Destroyers blanked Woodbridge Vo-Tech (1-7) in Gold Division play April 28.

J.P. Stevens 3, Old Bridge 1 — Becky Garibotto tossed a five-hitter and struck out seven while contributing an RBI single at the plate as the Hawks tripped Old Bridge (6-6) in a Red Division battle April 28. Iris Delgado also had a run-scoring single, and Jackie Almasi had two of the five hits collected by Stevens.

Metuchen 9, Spotswood 0 — Lauren Rush fired a three-hitter and the Bulldogs offense back her with 14 hits in a Blue Division rout of Spotswood (2-13) that pushed Metuchen to 7-5 for the year. Christina Mantak and Justine Moersdorf had big days at the plate for the winners as Mantak was 5-for-5 and Moersdorf went 4-for-5, including a double, with two RBI apiece.

East Brunswick 3, Edison 2 — East Brunswick (8-4) countered both Edison runs with one of its own in the bottom of the inning, including one in the fourth to earn the Red Division triumph April 28. Carrie Mokar took the loss despite a five-hitter, while Rachel Ruck had a solo homer for the Eagles. Mokar and Ashley Knudsen had triples to account for the other run.

# Gsell, Owens homer as Patriots top Newark

Their offensive struggles continued Tuesday night but with superb pitching from Brian Tollberg and the bullpen, the Somerset Patriots were still able to hand Newark its first loss of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball season.

Tollberg threw six innings of shutout ball and shortstop Tony Gsell and centerfielder Jeremy Owens belted home runs as the Patriots emerged with a 2-1 triumph in front of 1531 fans at Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium.

Tollberg (1-0), who's yet to permit an earned run in two starts, yielded three hits and four walks while striking out five batters before Dave Elder and Brad Clontz maintained the shutout during the seventh and eighth innings. The Bears (4-1) reached Robert Marquez for a run in the final stanza before Shane Heams came in to get the last out with runners at sec-

ond and third.

Gsell, an Immaculata High graduate, went 2 for 4 and his homer in the fourth broke up a scoreless battle. Signed during the off-season for his speed, Owens ripped a lead-off homer in the ninth one pitch after Bears' reliever Jake Brooks thought he'd struck him out. Following the home run, Brooks was ejected after arguing with the home-plate umpire.

Designated hitter Jeff Nettles came through with his first two hits of the season for the Pats (2-4), who totaled seven hits to five for Newark, and Ryan Radmanovich also went 2 for 4.

Lancaster 5, Patriots 3 — Lancaster's Barnstormers thoroughly enjoyed their first weekend in the ALPB as they took three of four games from the Patriots, capping the performance with Sunday's triumph in front of 5725 fans at Commerce Bank Park in

Bridgewater.

The Patriots continued to struggle on offense, totaling just five hits against four Lancaster pitchers. Leadoff man George Sandel, playing third base, went 2 for 4 with a stolen base, Gsell and Chris Eickhorst both smacked doubles and Nettles had a sacrifice fly ball.

Starting pitcher Greg Modica, who was impressive in a pair of late-season outings for the Pats last year, gave up six hits and four runs, all earned, in 4 1/3 innings before Dave Elder relieved him and struck out five batters in 2 2/3 innings of shutout, hitless ball.

Lancaster scored three times in the second. Ex-Patriot Norm Hutchins tripled with two out, Juan Castro singled and Justin



Hileman belted a two-run homer to left field.

Somerset got two runs back in the third when Eickhorst doubled, Sandel singled him in and, following a stolen base, Emiliano Escandon delivered another RBI single to make it a 3-2 game.

The visitors added a run in the fifth before the Pats came up with another run in the home half of the inning as Gsell, who'd reached with a walk, scored on Nettles' fly ball. Quincy Foster's home run off Marquez in the ninth concluded the scoring.

Lancaster 4, Patriots 3 — Highlighted by Billy Hall's steal of home, the Pats scored the game's first three runs in the third frame on a rainy Saturday

night but Lancaster bounced back to win in front of 4970 fans at CBP.

Ryan Kellner began Somerset's big third with a double, then scored on an error. Owens singled and scored on a double by Hall, who then moved up to third on a ground-out and swiped home (his fourth steal of the year) easily as Ross Peebles tossed a wild pitch on the play.

The 'Stormers got to within 3-2 in the sixth when Jose Ortiz ripped a two-run homer off starter Derek Lee and then went ahead in the seventh against reliever Heams, whose throwing error on a bouncer back to him contributed to the visitors' two-run rally.

Patriots 2, Lancaster 1 — Although managing just three hits themselves, the Pats picked up their first victory of the season April 29 behind the superb pitching of Scott Sobkowiak

and Elder as 4389 fans looked on.

Sobkowiak, making his first ALPB start, pitched five innings of shutout ball, allowing four hits, two walks and fanning four batters before Elder came in. In two innings, he walked two and permitted no hits while striking out six.

The Pats won it in the ninth on Owens' sacrifice fly ball. Entering the inning with the score tied, Mamon Tucker reached on an error and stole second before Radmanovich walked. Following Kellner's sac bunt, Owens delivered his fly ball which ended the game.

A Kellner sac bunt had also helped Somerset score the game's first run in the seventh without the benefit of a hit but Lancaster pulled even in the ninth off Marquez, who yielded a hit to Oreste Marrero and a run-scoring two-out double to Justin Hileman.



# Homeowners' worst nightmare

Green Brook newlyweds struggle to rebuild their dream house and their shattered lives

**Editor's note:** This article is the first in a continuing series that will look closely at how a family picks up the pieces, rebuilds and goes on with their life in the aftermath of a fire that destroyed their home.

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI  
Staff Writer

**GREEN BROOK** — The cozy house surrounded by tall trees was more than a home to Fawnda Genovese-Garcia. It symbolized her independence, her strength and determination.

She moved into the house in July of 2000. To do so, Fawnda had saved up every penny for 10 years while living with her daughter in a Bound Brook apartment following a divorce from her first husband. After Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999, which flooded much of the borough, she knew she needed to get out.

From the moment Fawnda first saw the two-story Williamsburg Colonial salt-box-style house, she knew she had to have it.

"The second I saw it, I loved it," said Fawnda of the 55-year-old house. "It was just so me. When I first opened the door, I saw the



wide-plank pegged floor and knew I had to buy it."

She bought the house on Mother's Day five years ago.

"It was the best present I could give myself," said Fawnda, who painted the entire exterior and every room inside by herself in the summer of 2002.

The outside, a warm cream with green shutters and a cranberry door — and the rooms inside — peach, strawberry pink and sea foam green — are now scorched black from a fire that destroyed the inside of the house more than a month ago.

The garden, where Fawnda would spend endless week-end hours planting and tending to her sprouting narcissus, hydrangea and daffodils, is now covered with broken glass, charred pieces of furniture and debris.

Fawnda was at the movies

with her husband, Felix Garcia, on the evening of March 26, when a fire broke out in the first floor of her home.

"We went to see 'Miss Congeniality 2.' I was just going to stay home and work on getting ready for Easter," she said.

As they were walking to the car, Fawnda got a call on her cell phone requesting her presence at police headquarters. Immediately following, she got another call from a friend who broke the news about the fire.

"I was just devastated," said Fawnda, who with Felix, went to the police department. "I wanted to go to the house but they wouldn't let me. I wanted to make sure my cats got out."

Firefighters were able to save one cat; the other, "Baby Emma," has not been found.

For more than two weeks after the fire, the couple, just married about three months ago, made a hotel room at the Howard Johnson on Route 22 their home. In their room were the few things they were able to recover from the house — some documents, including birth certificates and passports protected by a fire box; Fawnda's jewelry and the Bible Felix brought with him from Ecuador.

"I don't even have my wedding pictures anymore," said Fawnda. "I had to get pictures from my sister. My chil-



The outside of the house is scorched and littered with debris from inside. Blue tarps cover holes in the roof of the house.

dren's baby things are gone. I know life is more important. But how do you replace the baby quilt you held your babies in."

The couple is now living in a one-bedroom apartment at Crystal Ridge Club in Watchung. They expect to

stay there until they finish rebuilding.

Felix, a bilingual teacher in Elizabeth, moved to the United States from Ecuador in 2000. The couple met at a Lions Club dinner dance last February. One year later, they were married. Before moving to the States, Felix was a civil rights attorney. He's currently

pursuing his attorney's license in the United States, but the fire represents a giant step backwards.

"I lost all of my papers from the last 30 years," said Felix, who was getting ready to renovate one of the rooms in the house into an office. "All of the cases I worked on, just gone."

The couple contacted their insurance company, Penn National, immediately after the fire. On Easter Sunday an adjuster was on the scene. An investigation into the cause of the fire took more a month, primarily because the family was not home when the fire started.

Finally, the insurance company's fire investigator determined electrical problems had sparked the fire. Still, it will take some time before the bulk of the claim is paid out to Fawnda and Felix.

Despite the tragedy, the mental scars and the scarred house, it's hard for the couple to stay away.

"You want to go there all the time, just to make sure nobody's breaking in," said Fawnda, who mentioned that she received a few calls from neighbors telling her that strangers were rummaging through the debris on her front lawn. "You're very protective of the little you have left. But every time I go there, I'm so upset. I just stand outside and cry."

The last four months, having been particularly momentous, give Fawnda plenty of reasons to cry.

In late January, her father died. Five days after the funeral, her 35-year-old son Shawn, a specialist with the Army, left for Iraq. In mid-February, Fawnda and Felix married in the front living room of the house.

Now, just three months after the wedding, the room where they exchanged their marriage vows shows the ravages of the fire. Gaping holes in the walls and ceiling give an idea of how the fire spread from the living room to the second floor. In the kitchen, a picture on the refrigerator shows Felix and Fawnda sharing a first kiss as man and wife in front of white shelves adorned with knickknacks.

Those same shelves — or what's left of them — are now gray and covered with dirt and water stains.

The fire, said Felix, has brought the newlyweds closer together.

"This has been very hard, but I love her and that's the most important thing," he said.

For Fawnda, waiting is the hardest part. Now that the cause of the fire has been determined and the insurance company has made a settlement, the couple said the path to rebuilding their lives will be comprised of baby steps. The two will live paycheck to paycheck as they try to deal with the insurmountable bills — mortgage bills, cable bills, utility bills for their new apartment and the car bills.

In Part II, appearing in next week's edition of The Reporter, Fawnda and Felix struggle to pay their bills and continue to work while trying to rebuild their lives.

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Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6pm

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"Where worship is joy and joy is worship"

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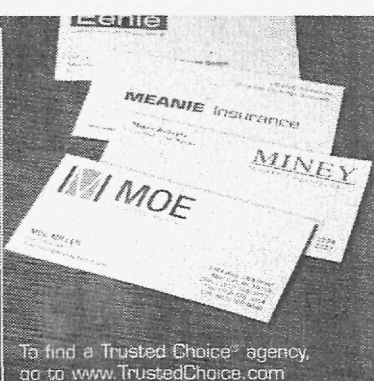
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Council want You to get  
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**FISHING  
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Everyone entered will have an opportunity to catch specially tagged fish, and win a prize.

• KIDS DERBY - from 8 am - 9 am

for all anglers between the ages of 1 & 15

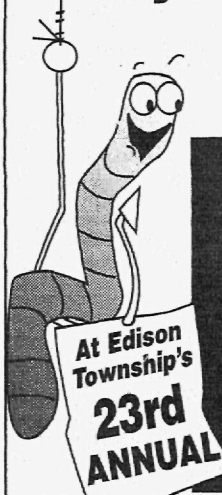
• REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE • ENTRY FEE \$5

All anglers between 16 & 70 must have a current fishing license and trout stamp

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Additional Information Contact Edison Recreation

- 328 Plainfield Ave. (732) 248-7313 • Daily 8 am - 4:30 pm





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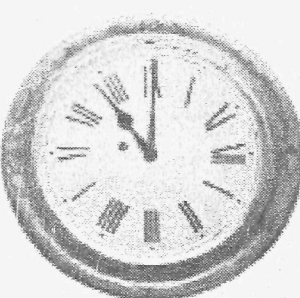
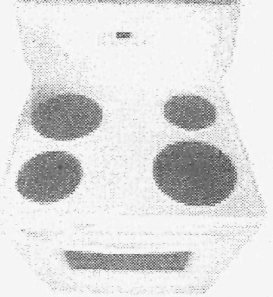
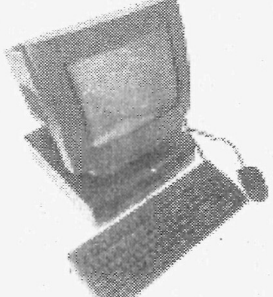
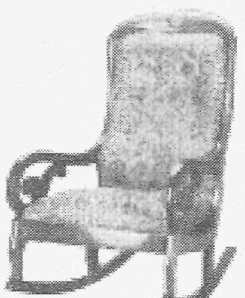
Auto Classification 1385

Employment Classification 201

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

## What do you want to sell?



To place your  
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call:  
**1-800-559-9495**

### Announcements 110

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### Employment 201

#### Education 201

**PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER**  
Lead Assist & Aide F/T or P/T Immediate hire 5 Lush acres, country setting 1083 Route 523 Readington Twp.  
Dart's Mill Daycare  
Fax: 908-782-8973  
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#### Child Care 202

**TEWKSBURY** After School Summer Care, Easy 10yr old boy, M-Thr. Call Kim 732-302-1700 908-439-9755

### Classifieds Get Results!

### Employment Agencies 205

**Immediate Job Openings! STAFFING ALTERNATIVES**  
Call 732-246-1687

### Drivers 230

**DRIVER**  
CDL, dump truck, Warren-Union, NJ counties. Year round, benefits.  
Call: 908-484-9200

**DRIVER** - Knowledge of carpentry & current CDL Class A req'd Good pay & benefits. Deliveries in Tri-State area. ENJOY CO. So. Pltfd. (908) 754-6600

### Drivers 230

**DRIVERS**  
Large road const. seeks exp'd tri-axle night drivers for stone deliveries & PT drivers for Sat. Call Joe 908-850-4411 ext 115

### Driver/Warehouse

For plastic distributor in Branchburg. Some Heavy lifting. Good pay & bnfts. No CDL. 908-534-6111

### Driving Instructors

\*\*\*\*\*  
• Exc pay for cert. instructors  
• No scheduling involved  
• We schedule, you teach  
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732-748-8500  
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### Drivers 230

**DRIVERS**  
Class A & B drivers. Company drivers needed for busy greenhouse located in Pittstown, NJ. One year verifiable experience preferred with a clean MVR. Local and QTR. \$15/hr-class B or \$40/mile. \$15/stop-class A. Opportunity for owner operators. Great Pay!!  
Contact Greg at: 800-288-8484 x211

### General Help 240

**CUSTODIAN**  
• 12 month. Ft position  
• Black Seal license required  
• CDL license preferred  
• Prior experience as a custodian, preferable in a school setting  
• Ability to work independently  
• High School Diploma or equivalent  
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### General Help 240

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Somerset County  
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### Carpenter

**LEAD CARPENTER**  
With exp for busy framing crew. Good pay for the right person. 908-788-7419

### Carpenters

5+ yrs. experience. Must have transportation. 908-782-4242

### Child Care

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

### General Help 240

#### COUNTER PERSON

For Dry Cleaner in Westfield. Excellent pay. Experience preferred. Call Mike 908-403-2002

### General Help 240

#### CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Flemington specialty line insurance firm looking for self starter with strong computer skills and great telephone demeanor. Salary negotiable, benefits package. Send resume to:  
PO Box 169  
Flemington, NJ 08822

### General Help 240

#### DISPATCHER

EOE in Glen Gardner. Hours 6:00AM-4:30PM. People skills a must. Basic computer skills needed. Will train on company software. Benefits offered. Knowledge of NJ roads & Weigh Master Certificate a plus. Fax resume with salary requirements to:  
732-990-3302

### General Help 240

#### DRIVER/WAREHOUSE

For distributor in Somerset. Some heavy lifting. Good pay and benefits. Ref's. Call 732-805-9400, Fax: 732-805-9401

### General Help 240

#### EQUESTRIAN INSTRUCTOR

Advance potential Farm Manager. Advanced lessons & summer camps. Year round. Benefits. Possible lodging. 908-413-7005

### General Help 240

#### EXP. PAINTER

Licensed, fluent English. DL req'd. 908-526-0126

### General Help 240

#### FARM HELP NEEDED

Grain/Hay farm seeks experienced equipment operator. Call 908-439-9619

### General Help 240

#### GARDEN CENTER

FT: Now Hiring store help. Plant knowledge a plus. Apply in person.  
The Garden Gate  
101 Route 31  
Flemington NJ

### General Help 240

#### GLAZIER

Immediate opening for entry level position available at glass and mirror company located in Ne-shanic Station, NJ. Mechanically inclined candidate will be trained in all facets of commercial glazing. Excellent salary and benefits. Valid driver's license required.  
Call Scott at 908-782-0812.

### General Help 240

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN/PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

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### General Help 240

#### FOOD DEMONSTRATORS PT

Starting rate \$8.00/hr  
CDS has part-time positions in Bridgewater for outgoing people to demo our vendor products. Must have a positive image and work flexible hrs. Strong comm skills req. We will train the right people! Retail/restaurant exp a plus! Call 800-598-2497 x8222 or email cdswhs222@daymon.com www.clubdemo.com EOE

### General Help 240

#### HAIR STYLIST

With following FT/PT NAIL TECHNICIAN To take over following PT Call Rose: 908-236-7373

### General Help 240

#### INSTALLER

Mech skills, valid DL req'd. Able to lift heavy mat's, neat & personable. FT + OT. Exc bnfts. Fax 908-756-0228 Call 756-0544

### General Help 240

#### KENNEL HELP

FT Day & evening shifts available. Reliable, DL required. May lead to long term opportunity. Call Club Canine 908-735-7404

### General Help 240

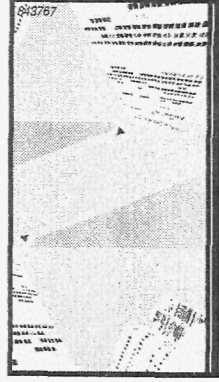
#### NURSERY HELP

Full Time. Weekends a plus with also flexible hours. 908-237-2053

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# BEST LOCAL JOBS

**Sales Associates/ Bridal Consultants**  
PART-TIME  
needed for busy bridal boutique in Morris County. No experience necessary - will train. Enjoy flexible hours and a competitive salary in a fun environment. Must be outgoing, detail oriented and reliable.  
Fax resume to 973-889-0818 or call Janet or Jill at 973-285-9081



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The Somerville District Management Corporation is seeking a full-time executive to administer and manage the Special Improvement District of the Borough of Somerville.  
A complete description of the position, qualifications, etc. may be found at: www.findsomerville.com click on "Our Town."  
The DMC is an equal opportunity employer.

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**OAK CREST DAY CAMP**  
Earn \$ and have a fantastic summer!  
Great Summer Camp Jobs Available for College and HS Students 17+  
Teachers and Coaches!  
★Group Counselors  
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We are seeking talented and motivated people with outstanding communication and selling skills along with artistic ability to join our sales staff. Full time - no experience necessary - will train. Excellent compensation program.  
Please call: 908-874-4074  
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alexis\_mayor@nascoservices.com  
or call 877-832-6473, option 0, ext. 5787



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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF NURSING**  
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Full time, Full benefits, including tuition reimbursement & free CEUs at Harborside University  
**CENTRAL SUPPLIES COORDINATOR**  
Part time  
Will train candidates with computer literacy, some healthcare experience preferred.  
Fax resumes to Jill C. Keating, H.R. Director  
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**Laborers/Driver**  
Must have driver license. Immediate opportunity in Lambertville area. Call: 609-773-0375

**MAINTENANCE**

**PROFESSIONAL**  
Experienced FT maintenance professional needed for general maintenance.

Contact Roy at  
Garden State Growers  
908-730-8888 x216  
Or Fax 908-730-6676

**OFFICE RECEPTIONIST**

**/ASSISTANT**  
FT: motivated individual needed to answer phones, assist salespeople, and manage daily flow of a small company. MUST be computer literate and be able to multitask.  
Fax Resume to  
908-777-1445  
Attention: Amanda

**OPTICIAN**

for professional offices in Hopewell/Lambertville. Knowledge of insurances helpful. Includes dispensing, inventory control. Full benefits offered.  
Call: 609-466-0655 or  
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Warehouse/Customer Service 20-25 hrs/week. Elliot Beverages  
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**PLUMBING**

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With experience in repair & alteration work. Clean driving record, good pay & benefits. Start immediately. Call 908-236-7550

**RECEPTIONIST**

FT. For distributor in Somerset. Good communication skills, good phone manners. Fax: 732-805-9401

**RECEPTIONIST**

**/GENERAL OFFICE**  
PT 20 hours per week \$10/hr. Bridgewater computer consulting firm with opportunities for advancement. Knowledge of Microsoft Word & Windows a must. Excel helpful. Bilingual a plus. EOE  
Call: 908-725-0111 x601  
For more information

**RESTAURANT**

Corporate Café seeking a Grill Cook & Delivery Driver. FT. M-T. Call: (908) 218-6034 or Fax Res. (908) 218-9332 EOE.

**RESTAURANT**

Immediate Openings:  
**Managers, Waitstaff, Kitchen Staff**  
Metro Café Diner  
908-284-2240

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**GARDEN MERCHANDISER**  
Like plants and flowers? Work with wholesale grower to create displays, maintain plantings, and support sales in large retail garden centers in northern NJ. Be people-oriented, hard-working, and multi-tasking. Plant knowledge a plus. Car and mobile phone required. Expenses reimbursed. Full-time, seasonal.  
Call: Jerry  
908-730-8888 x206

**ROOFER'S**

**HELPER NEEDED**  
Full Time: Driver's License required, \$13/hr.  
Call 908-217-5859-Anytime

**SALES**

**DIRECTOR**  
Experienced Executive to manage corporate accounts. Knowledge of horticulture products, preferably in a wholesale distribution or retail environment.  
Contact: hr@gardenstategrowers.com  
or Call 908-730-8888  
Ext. 212

**TRANSPORTATION****SUPERVISOR**

The Express-Times is seeking a transportation supervisor to be responsible for the supervision of 23 Full Time and 10 Part time drivers. Duties will include scheduling, loading and delivery of The Express-Times and several weekly publications. Candidates should be familiar with Northampton, Monroe, Warren, & Hunterdon Counties.

This position offers a full benefits package consisting of medical, dental, vision, life, AD & D, and 401k plan as well as vacation, paid holidays and more.

Please send a resume and a letter stating on why you should be considered for this position to:

Elaine Kehler  
HR Director  
The Express-Times  
30 North 4th Street  
Easton, PA 18042  
EOE

**Medical Help 250****OB/GYN**

Flemington office has the following openings: CMA, RN/LPN, CRNT, F/T, P/T. Send resume/CV to PUGH, PO BOX 2523, Flemington, NJ 08822

**Medical Help 250****CHHA'S COMPANIONS**

Provide non-medical assistance for weekend live-in position in Flemington. Many other positions available. English speaking & car a must.  
Call Visiting Angels  
888-495-3600

**PART-TIME**

Medical Billing company seeking self starter who is detail oriented and organized. Medical insurance exp a plus. We offer a flexible schedule and pleasant work environment.  
Please fax resume to:  
908-359-3682

**Part Time Help 255****DELIVERY DRIVERS**

**Wednesday Evening**  
Deliver Newspaper bundles to stores, carriers. Post Offices, schools and fill vending machines. Not house to house delivery.  
Applicant must have good driving record & knowledge of delivery area. Hourly wages plus mileage for use of your full size van to carry 1,000+ pounds.  
Flemington Route  
Route starts about 2:30pm from Flemington  
Fax Resume to  
908-777-1445  
Attention: Amanda

**MILFORD ROUTE**

Route starts about 3:30 pm  
From Flemington through Frenchtown  
Take about 5 hours, 20 miles, 2050 papers for 45 stoos

**\*Ervinna Pa**

\*Milford

\*Little York

Takes about 5 hours, 50 miles, 3555 papers for 33 stoos.

**CLINTON AREA ROUTE**

Starts about 3:30 From Flemington to Clinton Area & Rt. 78 West

Takes about 4 hours, 50 miles, 50 stoos

**HUNTERDON COUNTY**

**DEMOCRAT**

8 Minnekaoning Rd  
Flemington, NJ

908-782-4747

Call John at Ext 607

If no answer please leave message with your vehicle type and phone number. EOE

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT**

Medical office in Somerville has part time position of three and one half days available. Fax resume to 908-575-7930 or call Phyllis 908-722-7990

**OFFICE HELP**

in German, French, Spanish, Polish 908-528-1717

**OFFICE HELP**

PT. For filing, mailing & related duties. Please call 908-230-3386 or 908-806-6279 ext. 34 for more information. EEOC

**PART TIME DRIVERS**

Needed for luxury sedans. No CDL required. Must have clean driving record. Daytime hours. Weekends available. 908-236-7422 for an interview.

**PART-TIME**

Medical Billing company seeking self starter who is detail oriented and organized. Medical insurance exp a plus. We offer a flexible schedule and pleasant work environment.  
Please fax resume to:  
908-359-3682

**Sales Help 265****ADVERTISING SALES****PROFESSIONAL**

(Outside Sales)

NUN Publishing with 13 weekly publications including the Hunterdon County Democrat, Somerset Reporter and the Warren Reporter is seeking an extremely organized, motivated, self-starter to join the outside sales team.

We don't want an average salesperson, because we are not your average company. We are looking for a talented professional that is eager to develop new relationships, demonstrates the ability to be creative in developing new ideas for customers, loves a challenge, has tireless energy and a commitment to achieve goals. Newspaper/Print Advertising sales experience a plus!

Send your resume to:  
Sherry M. Ferello  
NUN Publishing Company  
PO Box 32  
Flemington, NJ 08822

or Email to:  
Sterello@NUNPublishing.com  
reference "Advertising Sales Professional (Outside Sales)" in the subject line.

**SALES**

PT make your own hours, easy sale. 732-764-0542

**Trades 275****CONSTRUCTION**

Experienced equipment operator wanted.

Contact Roy at  
Garden State Growers  
908-730-8888 x216

**Trades 275****ELECTRICIANS**

Experienced. Start immediately. Benefits available. Steady work. Must have driver's license.  
908-237-4681

**Situations Wanted 280**

**HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS**  
All nationalities/Lic. Bonded  
**AURORA AGENCY**  
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732-222-3369

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Reliable caregivers provide up to 24 hr. non medical care in your home. Hygiene assistance, meal preparation, light housekeeping & companionship. Affordable rates. Top background checks. Call:  
Visiting Angels  
1-888-495-3600

**Real Estate Sales****Condos & Townhouses****320**

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act and the New Jersey Civil Rights Law, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, familial status, creed, ancestry, marital status, or sexual orientation, or national origin, or on intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

**Real Estate Rentals****Branchburg Twp****COTTAGE FOR RENT**

Country setting. All new renovations! 2 bdrms, lg rm, full kitchen \$1,100/mo. + utils.  
Call 908-725-6998

**HIGHBRIDGE - 2 & 3 BR**

apts. Deck, yd., in town, pet OK \$950 & up heat/hot water incl. 908-284-0327

**PUBLISHER'S NOTICE**

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**Homes for Sale 330**

**ADULT COMM./W/nd Gap, PA**  
Beautiful 3BR, 2BA, Ranch home on small private lake, fabulous place to live. \$115,000 Call Bob 610-381-6024

**A NO DOWN PMT LOAN**

Call Today To Qualify For A Special NO-Money Down Low Closing Cost Conventional mortgage. Act Now While Funding Lasts!! Call  
Annie Jaffe at  
Ivanhoe Financial, Inc.  
7 days/24 hrs. Toll Free  
1-877-209-9495

**HILLSBOROUGH: 4 bedroom**

2 1/2 bath colonial located in the desirable western end of Hillsborough Township. House boasts a Formal Dining Room, Screened in Porch, and 2 car garage. 1 mile from elementary school. House is listed with Elsie Howard of Prudential NJ Properties at (908) 874-3400. Asking price is \$469,900; but will entertain all offers.

**HOLLAND TWP Custom built**

contemporary home, 11.6 secluded, wooded acres w/ views. Low taxes. 3 BR, 3 full baths, large kit, DR, LR w/woodstove, cathedral ceiling, fam rm w/woodstove, 3 decks, 3 car garage. \$699,900. Call 908-995-9619

**Homes for Sale 330**

Call 908-995-9619

**Program**

**Absolute Mortgage Co.** 877-606-RATE

30-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 5% 30 5.390

15-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% 30 5.020

30-yr. Jumbo 5.750 0.00 10% 30 5.780

5/1 ARM 4.625 0.00 5% 30 4.640

3/1 ARM 4.250 0.00 5% 30 4.270

15-yr. Jumbo 5.125 0.38 10% 30 5.270

Lowest Rates! Free Float-Downs!

Fees are Only \$399.

www.absolutemortgageco.com

e-mail: Support@AbsoluteMortgageCo.com

**Aapex Mortgage**

800-344-2739

30-yr. Fixed 5.125 2.00 5% 30 5.382

15-yr. Fixed 4.625 2.00 5% 30 5.061

30-yr. Jumbo 5.250 2.00 5% 30 5.462

5/1 ARM 4.750 2.00 5% 30 5.107

1.25% loans, 100% financing, Jumbo Loan specialists, weekend hours, 100% stated, 100% investment.

**A Custom Mortgage Sol.**

800-259-9510

30-yr. Fixed 5.000 2.00 5% 30 5.110

30-yr. Fixed 5.250 1.00 5% 30 5.360

15-yr. Fixed 4.500 2.00 5% 30 4.790

MTA ARM 1.000 0.00 5% 30 3.900

A-D Credit. 80/20 Purchase. No Doc to \$1m. Loans to \$4m.

**AHM Mortgage**

800-924-9091

30-yr. Fixed 5.500 0.00 5% 45 5.540

30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 5% 60 5.660

15-yr. Fixed 5.125 0.00 5% 45 5.160

5/1 ARM 4.750 0.00 5% 45 4.610

5/1 Jbo ARM 4.875 0.00 5% 45 4.730

Direct Lender! No Income Loans! No Broker fee, Orig. or Appl. Fee! No Cost Refi Avail! Close at Home! Princeton.

**Real Estate Rentals****CLINTON HIGH End 1 BR,**

w/new steel appl., granite counters, wood flrs., & lots of privacy on golf course. \$1,425 908-982-6107

**Homes for Sale 330**

**HOLLAND TWP - Southern Colonial** 1 1/2 acre @ end of cul-de-sac, low taxes, 2 car gar attach, 4BR w/walk-in closets, 2.5 BA, Jacuzzi in M/BA, custom kit w/ceramic tile & brickst bar, C/vac, A/C, 2 second hand heat, pool off dk, bsmt, attic w/pull dwn stairs, + m over gar., lg great rm w/fpl, pool, sewer & water, Enc. school system. \$839,900 Call for appt. 908-995-9616

**HOLLAND TWP**

SUN. 5/1 & 5/8 12PM - 4PM

It's bigger than it looks! 3 BR, 2 BA, DRICK CAPE on 1 acre, 2 car det gar., bsmt, many upgrades. Beautiful move in condition, must see! On Milford/Mt. Pleasant Rd. 7 mi. to Rt. 78. \$384,900 by owner. Call 908-303-9825

**Income Property for Sale**

335

BLOOMSBURY - 4 Family, Nets \$25K, Realtor Market analysis \$375K. By Owner \$349K. Hampton Duplex Nets \$21K. Lebanon Twp Duplex Nets \$16K 908-284-0327 lv FAX # for spec. sheet.

**Real Estate Rentals****Branchburg Twp****COTTAGE FOR RENT**

Country setting. All new renovations! 2 bdrms, lg rm, full kitchen \$1,100/mo. + utils.  
Call 908-725-6998

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Call 908-995-9619

**Real Estate Rentals****Apartments 405**

**CLINTON GARDENS - Spacious 1 & 2 BR apts.** DW, AC, patio, balcony, laundry, ample parking. Junction of 22, 31 & 78. Walk to town. 974-35-1183 or 908-735-2994

**CLINTON High End 1 BR,**

w/new steel appl., granite counters, wood flrs., & lots of privacy on golf course. \$



### General Merchandise 580

Snow Blower Ariens 824, 24" SHP. Elec. start, 8 spd, new, w/8 hrs use. \$699. 908-534-2513

\*\*\*\*\*  
SPA & HOT TUB COVERS  
\$99 & UP. Cover lifters  
\$169. 888-772-7810

SPINNET Piano, 35 yrs +, Kohler & Campbell, very good cond., \$895 908-574-0982

WASHER/DRYER - Maytag Neptune, \$800. Electric Maytag Range \$475. GE Profile Side-by-Side Fridge \$900. KitchenAid Dishwasher \$250. All Almond. 908-730-6175

### General Merchandise 580

WOODEN SWING SET - Slide and Glider, fort room. Aged 2-10. Hardly used! \$350. Call 908-595-1333

Lawn & Garden 581  
DARK RICH SCREENED TOP SOIL - 10 yds, \$250, Fill Dirt, \$150. Leave Message. 908-534-4766

FRUIT TREES - Berry plants, asparagus, mushroom, gooseberry, currants, grapes, flowering cherry, plum, crabapple, weeping cherry. 35 John Ringo Rd., located across from Mom's restaurant & next to the church. Case Nursery 908-782-3269 Mon - Sat 1-9.

### Lawn & Garden 581

HONDA 4514 TRACTOR - 14 hp, hydro trans., 42" snow blower, 38" deck, exc. gar. kept. \$2500. 908-534-8242

Honda Harmony Push Lawnmower, brand new, never used. \$275. obo 908-277-1325

TORO WHEEL HORSE - 2yr old Kohler eng. 18hp, 48in deck, hydrostatic drive, cruise control, asking \$1200 908-534-2664 lv msg.

Trees For Sale  
Mostly Evergreens  
and Flowering Trees  
Services Available  
908-995-0784

### Musical Instruments 585

PRICED TO SELL  
BALDWIN PIANO - oak, good condition \$350  
908-782-4686

GEORGE HART FLUTE FOR SALE - Just 1 year old paid \$600. 80. 2 cases included 908-782-7892

Piano - Baldwin Acrosonic Spinnet with bench. Was \$1,584. - Asking \$1100. Call 732-748-1771

### Garage & Yard Sales 600

Bridgeview - 253 Riverview Dr. Sat. 5/7 - 9:30PM. Furniture, yard & lawn items. HH good, kids toys, sporting goods, clothing.

### Musical Instruments 585

PIANO Hammond Spinnet walnut cabinet, w/bench, good cond., \$800. Call 908-996-7295

PIANO KIMBALL CONSOLE w/bench. Tuned regularly. Beautiful cherry finish. \$1,200. 908-782-1902

VIOLIN Full size, exc. cond. Rich, full sound, case incl. \$900. 080 Call 908-534-5775

### Garage & Yard Sales 600

Clinton Township - Saturday May 7 9-3pm 351 Highway 28 2 miles W. of Som. Circle. HH items, toys, tools, books, indoor & outdoor furniture and much more...

CLINTON TOWNSHIP - Saturday May 7 from 9am-1pm, 8 Briar Lane off of Petticoat Lane, Off of Route 22. Empty Grandmas house, many bargains. Linens, trunks, antique, Christmas, Dot Matrix printers, toys, much more.

CRESTVIEW ESTATES - Pittsford Neighborhood garage sale, Pittsford area, Pennington Rd. to Hill and Dale, Sat. 5/7 from 9am-3pm

Far Hills  
VNA RUMMAGE SALE  
N.J.'s Largest  
Fairgrounds Rt. 202  
May 6 & 7, 9:30am-3:30pm  
May 8, 12:30pm-3:30pm  
(1/2 price & bag day)  
Rain or Shine  
For info call 908-766-6445

LG. 20+ FAMILY-100 Commons Way, Bridgewater, corner of Hamilton. Sat. 5/7, 9-3. RD 5/8. All proceeds go to Somerset Regional Animal Shelter. www.forsas.com

Neshanic Flea Market is now reopened for its 35th year. We have wonderful food. Open Sun. from 7am - 3pm 908-369-3660.

### Miscellaneous 1067

GET ORGANIZED - Are your closets out of control? Afraid to open the linen closet? Can't find anything in your kitchen cabinets? Call me to get your house back in order and give you a peace of mind. 908-996-2180. Excellent references.

PEST CONTROL  
Termites, carpenter ants, & insect control. Call CKM Pest Control 908-756-2268

### Painting & Paperhanging 1075

PAINTING/PAPERHANGING  
20 yrs. exp. Ref's. avail. Free estimates. Call Ken. 908-892-1103 or 610-558-8808.

STEINMAN & DAUGHTER  
Int'l. Ext. Paint Paper Hang Window Repair Putty Caulk Wash 35yrs Exp Insured (908) 526-3382

### VIDAL PAINTING

Interior & Exterior, power washing, deck treatments. Exc references. Insured. Free Estimates! SCHEDULING SPRING AND SUMMER EXTERIOR JOBS

### Mason Contractor

Specializing in Brick, Block & Concrete. No job to big or small. Over 25 yrs. experience. Fully insured. Free est. Call 908-526-3500

### Pools & Spas 1090

ST. NICK'S POOLS  
Swim Spa Dealer Fiberglass Pools - Repairs 908-464-3323

### Garage & Yard Sales 600

MULTI FAMILY  
BRIDGEWATER GARAGE SALE - Saturday May 7 9-3pm 351 Highway 28 2 miles W. of Som. Circle. HH items, toys, tools, books, indoor & outdoor furniture and much more...

BRIDGEWATER - RETIREMENT COMMUNITY BIG INDOOR SALE. SAT. 5/7 8:30 - 3PM. Furniture, pictures, household items, collectibles, furnishings, antiques, books and much more! Info call 908-955-6111. Arbor Glen, 100 Monroe St. (off Rt 28 between Gaston Ave. and Adamsville Rd.

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Swim Spa Dealer Fiberglass Pools - Repairs 908-464-3323

### Pets & Animals

Horses 630  
BARN AVAILABLE  
Indoor/Outdoor arenas  
1 mile off I78  
908-454-6994

Boarding Tewksbury Quality service oriented horse & rider care facility. 24 hr. supervision. All weather riding ring w/jumps, outside course w/jumps & miles of trails. Beginner horse owner & rider welcome. Horse training available. Ponies/horses avail. for lessons, lease & sale. 908-439-2571.

BOMB PROOF - indoor/outdoor arena or trail, 14 yr., old Bay/White sock pony mare, Super 1" pony! Solid and quiet enough for beginner but will hunt around a 3 ft. course, been shown locally, mini thru children. Sadly out grown, \$6500. 908-500-3220

IRISH - Sport Horse 6 yr., 16H, D.Bay. Green w/ a plus attitude, sweet, quiet temperament and brave. Suitable for jumpers, eventing and hunter paces. In-training. \$15K neg. 908-683-8686

ENGLISH BULLDOG - 10 year old male, free to good home. 908-236-2698

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPS - AKC, exceptional quality, genetics & temperament a priority. 215-757-6969

HIMALAYAN KITTENS: CFA reg. Adorable. Home raised w/parents 1" shot. \$525. 908-632-9188

LAB PUPPIES AKC Int'l. champion sire. Blk/yellow/choc. 908-246-8509 or 732-469-5685.

### Financial & Business Opportunities

EARN \$\$\$ @ HOME!  
Home based online biz. Ex. \$\$\$ potential. Full training & support. Free info! Visit www.workathomewealthgo.com

### Professional Services

Child Care/Nursery  
Schools 734

MONDAY MORNING INC.  
Reliable, insured care for infants & toddlers. 908/526-4884

### Senior Citizens Services

POLISH REFERRAL SERVICE INC. providing live-in/out housekeeper for elderly. Lic. & Bonded 908-689-9140

### Tutoring & Instruction

MUSIC A MAGICAL GIFT  
Piano teaching in my Bridgewater home. Please call 908/721-1892 Natalie 908-507-4749

### Recreational Vehicles

Motorcycles 1305  
HARLEY DAVIDSON FLHTC '88 - (No touring package), 13K Mi., very good cond. \$8K/offer. 908-782-7620

Campers & RVs 1320  
STARCRAFT SPACEMASTER 1224 POP-UP '97 - Sleeps 7, Screen Room, exc cond \$4500 732-669-1187

Boats & Motors 1330  
CHALLENGER TRI-HULL 14 FT W/TRAILER - 9.9 Mercury outboard, w/troll motor & battery, low hours. \$800 732-381-8733

Grumman, 14 ft. split seat fisherman, '87, 9.9 HP Yamaha outboard & trailer, Best offer, 908-362-8409

O'DAY SAILBOAT 19' - 2001 main sail, 1998 trailer, and 2001 GHP Yamaha outboard. Plus extras \$3900. OBO 908-730-7268.

TRACKER 16 FT '97 - deep V w/cass. kit, asking \$6500. 908-868-5532, 908-234-9152

### Transportation

Audi A6 Quattro '98 - Grey Fully loaded, moon roof, heated lthr seats, cd chng'r, very GD Cond. 73k miles \$11,500 908-369-0029

BMW 1981 733i four door sedan. Pristine Restoration. Over \$45,000 invested. Email hooverd@patmedia.net for photos & restoration list. \$17,000 Call 908-782-2557

BMW 328i convertible, '98, 5 spd. manual, sports and cold weather package, HD sound, Black & beige int., 107K miles, \$11,999. obo 908-632-0966

BMW 330i '01. prem & sport pkg, titanium silver, 47k mi, under warranty, excel cond., \$24,000 obo 908-647-2075

BMW 525i '01 Black w/black int., exc. cond. in & out. very low mil., \$22,500. 908-769-1701

BMW 525i '92 - 151,000 mi, well kept, dependable, beauty. \$6000. 908-672-2051

BUICK Roadmaster Estate Wagon '94, runs, 170K, \$1000/obo. Call 908-369-4657

CHEVY BLAZER LS 95' - Auto, white, 130K. Scyl. 4WD, good cond, air, PW, PB, \$3000 OBO 908-369-1935

CRYSTLER PT/CRUISER '01 - Limited Edition, exc. cond, one owner, 14K, loaded, \$10,900 908-735-5296

FORD Escape XLT '01. FWD, loaded, good cond. 74K miles, \$9,000. MUST sell. Call 908-578-7974

Ford Explorer XLT, '02, 4WD, 42k miles, leather, moon roof, tow pack., 3" row seat, 6 disc CD, fully loaded. Excel cond. \$16100. 908-236-8474

FORD MUSTANG '85 - 5spd, runs great, fogs, pw, pl, new paint & tires. MUST SELL ask \$5,200. 908-806-3453

### Transportation

Autos For Sale 1305  
FORD SUPREME '89 - 4 door, 1 owner, low mil. exc. cond. white, AM/FM cassette, ht. & A/C Best offer

FORD TAURUS WAGON '95 130K, new tires, runs well, needs some work, but motor fine, \$1700 732-381-6774

GMC Jimmy '91, 4x4, loaded, trailer hitch, just passed inspection, 137K. \$2100. 908-725-9177

HONDA CIVIC DX '90 - Hatchback, 5 spd, 108K, good condition. \$1100 732-669-1698

HONDA S2000 '02, only 5,500 miles, garaged, never out in rain or snow. Serious inquiries only. \$25,995. 908-534-3855

INFINITI I30T 2000 - silver black leather interior, sunroof 6CD changer \$3K, exc. cond. \$9,199 908-399-7244

LINCOLN CARTIER '92 - clean & original owner, 82K, \$3,000/OBO 908-889-5609

MAZDA MILLINA '97. 84K, power, am-fm cd, auto, good condition \$5495. 908-392-2840

Mercedes 1987 560 SEC Stunning 2 door Coupe. Over \$33,000 invested. Email hooverd@patmedia.net for photos & restoration list. \$17,000 Call 908-782-2557

MERCEDES 300E '90 - 145K good cond, tan, \$3,600/OBO Call evening 201-255-0440

MERCEDES BENZ 86' 560 SL Light gray on palomino leather, both hard and soft tops. Perfect Cond. Always garaged, 82K, \$21,500 OBO 973-226-2077

### MERCEDES C240

4dr, auto, 71k miles, 6CD changer, mint cond. Garage kept, one owner. \$17,600. 973-998-4263

MERCUY VILLAGER ESTATE '00 - exc. cond., auto., seats 7, lthr int., \$8,500. 908-377-5944

NISSAN 300 ZX '96 - Dealer maintained, papers, must be seen, 58K, \$14,000 908-782-4361

SAAB 900S '96 - 4 cyl, 5 spd, 4 dr, black, A/C. several thousand \$ in maintenance past 3 years. Looks/runs great! \$3850. Lots of extras. 908-730-6411 or 610-758-7456. See photo #24 at www.seecar.net

VOLKSWAGEN GLX 2002, V6, blue/gray, 4 dr, auto, excellent cond., ext. warranty goes w/car, beige leather int, 41k miles, \$14,500. 908-403-0332

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI '00 - Silver, 5 speed, PW, moonroof, leather, 6 CD, 76K Mi., \$6,750 or best. 908-806-6869

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HONDA CIVIC DX '90 - Hatchback, 5 spd, 108K, good condition. \$1100 732-669-1698

HONDA S2000 '02, only 5,500 miles, garaged, never out in rain or snow. Serious inquiries only. \$25,995. 908-534-3855

INFINITI I30T 2000 - silver black leather interior, sunroof 6CD changer \$3K, exc. cond. \$9,199 908-399-7244

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4dr, auto, 71k miles, 6CD changer, mint cond. Garage kept, one owner. \$17,600. 973-998-4263

MERCUY VILLAGER ESTATE '00 - exc. cond., auto., seats 7, lthr int., \$8,500. 908-377-5944

NISSAN 300 ZX '96 - Dealer maintained, papers, must be seen, 58K, \$14,000 908-782-4361

SAAB 900S '96 - 4 cyl, 5 spd, 4 dr, black, A/C. several thousand \$ in maintenance past 3 years. Looks/runs great! \$3850. Lots of extras. 908-730-6411 or 610-758-7456. See photo #24 at www.seecar.net





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