

Two teams victorious

J.P. Stevens and Middlesex came away with victories in their annual holiday football battles last week with the Hawks taking care of township rival Edison and the Blue Jays turning back neighboring Page A6.



Spare a dime?

Each year at this time the Salvation Army brings out its red kettles, and asks shoppers for some spare change. It's a task that takes dedicated volunteers, and a smile. Page A4.

Christmas dinner

will be hosting their 61st annual Christmas Village dinner from 4-7 p.m. today, complete with a buffetstyle dinner, holiday crafts and, of course, Santa Claus himself. The menu offers many classic dishes, such as baked chicken, barbecued pork chops, meat loaf and baked Virginia ham supplied by Hind & Fore of Bridgewater. The exciting menu also includes mashed potatoes with gravy, baked macaroni and cheese, Harvard beets, other vegetables, deviled eggs and cole slaw. The meal is topped off with a

DUNELLEN -- The Dunellen United

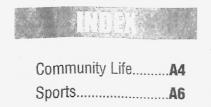
Methodist Church's Friendship Club

puddings. Green Brook Girl Scout Troops 166 and 399 will be present in the dining room to assist in serving the meal. In addition to the traditional menu, they also offer a complimentary piece of fruit with every meal, which may be chosen from a cascading fruit display, supplied by Somerset Farms of North Plainfield, and creat-

dessert, homemade pies, cakes and

ed by the Friendship Club. The dinner is served in the Religious Education Building of the church, which is also decorated with storefronts with snow-covered roofs to look like an old-fashioned Christmas Village. Visitors may buy homemade items such as quilts, stockings and

ornaments. Cost is \$5. For more information, call Violet at (732) 968-2511 or Shirley at (732) 752-7437.



Obituaries.....A5

South Bound Brook joins in library plan

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI

SOUTH BOUND BROOK - The South Bound Brook Borough Council has voted to follow Bound Brook's lead in continuing its association with the Bound Brook Library, which is set to join the

Somerset County Library System in January. The decision means the borough will now join Bound Brook in becoming part of the larger group of libraries, with the Bound Brook Library no longer being an independent facility.

"It's of course been contingent on Bound Brook voting to join the county library system," Council President Dennis Quinlan said at the time. According to Quinlan, the county library system has always been attractive to the borough, but its

residents had easy access to the Bound Brook and Bound Brook's library had positive aspects, facility, so the change was never made.

The Board of Freeholders voted recently to accept the Bound Brook Public Library into the county library system, a move that will go into effect starting Jan. 1. However, the library will close on that date so renovations to the existing structure can begin.

We've been hearing some very good things from satrons," said Margaret Draghi, the children's librarian for Bound Brook, Many patrons that live on the Bound Brook and Bridgewater border or in South Bound Brook have been paying a \$125 per year "privilege" to use the county library system, according to officials.

Quinlan said that while both the county system

the borough only had enough money to join one.

Instead, both towns will be assessed the county library tax. Previously, South Bound Brook and Bound Brook had a contract, where South Bound Brook paid Bound Brook an annual fee toward the operation of the library, and the amount had been negotiated yearly.

However, all patrons of the Bound Brook Library will have to use the current county libraries for the first few months after the change, as the agreement between the borough and the county stipulates that the borough must make repairs to the building, and will continue to fund mainte-

Continued on page A2



Christmas shoppers come to town





GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Black Friday, which traditionally marks the start of the holiday shopping season, began with a bang for retailers around Somerset County. In Somerville, there are a number of events taking place this month to entice shoppers to visit the downtown shops. Friday brought a steady stream into the borough, including Francis MacDonald and her daughter, Karen, pictured above, who visited the Crystal Palace on Main Street. Penny Milligan, seen at left, owner of Hungry Hound, said by 11 a.m. Friday she had already served more than 20 customers. "This is unusual," said Milligan. "This is not a crazy busy day for me." Jan Kucsma, above, owner of the Big Little Railroad Shop, shows off a boxcar featuring characters from the movie Monsters, Inc. She explained that - thanks to an established customer base much of her holiday business takes place during weekends rather than in a big rush on the day after Thanksgiving.

Colleges team-up for job database

Twenty-eight New Jersey colleges and universities have teamed up to offer the region's first on-line jobs database aimed at helping higher education institutions attract and retain a diverse work force.

The New Jersey Higher Education Recruitment Consortium, which is free to job seekers, was launched November 15 and allows job seekers to search the full range of positions at colleges and universities, including professor, secretary, laboratory technician and kitchen staff.

The Web address is www.njherc.org. "If we are going to continue to compete for the best faculty and staff, it is extremely important for us to be included on this Web site," and John Polding, executive director of human resources and labor relations at Middlesex County College: "As this site becomes better known, it will be vital to our recruitment efforts."

The New Jersey database currently lists more than 1,700 academic and staff jobs at the participating colleges and universities, and is growing. Couples looking for two placements in academia may search for jobs at the same institution, a region of the state (north, central, south), or statewide. niversities and college officials have found that difficulty in addressing the job needs of applicants' partners was a major obstacle to attracting a diverse applicant pool.

The Web-based system is the first of its kind on the East Coast and the first statewide Higher Recruitment Consortium in the country, though it was inspired by a similar initiative in California. In that state, two regional groups offer separate databases for colleges and universities in northern and southern portions of

Princeton and Rutgers universities initiated the New Jersey consortium as part of a continuing effort to address work-family issues facing higher education. The consortium is remarkable for uniting both private and public institutions from across the higher-education spectrum - universities, colleges and community colleges - to expand the recruitment of job candidates.

"We want to collaborate effectively to develop a family-friendly recruiting movement that will help New Jersey

Continued on page A2

Work begins on new academic building

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI

NORTH BRANCH — Feet to shovels, a group of college, county, and state officials officially started construction Monday on the new and soon-to-be largest academic building at Raritan Valley Community College.

The 44,000-square-root building at the northern end of the campus will house 17 classrooms and a multimedia lab, and was designed by SSP Architectural Group of Somerville.

"This building will be our largest academic building at the college and it's going to be full of neat stuff," said RVCC President G. Jeremiah Ryan. "It'll allow us to unleash some pent-up frustration at the college, as we're over-

The new building will also allow the college to expand some of its programs, particularly the college center, which coordinates the partnerships the college has with other institutions.

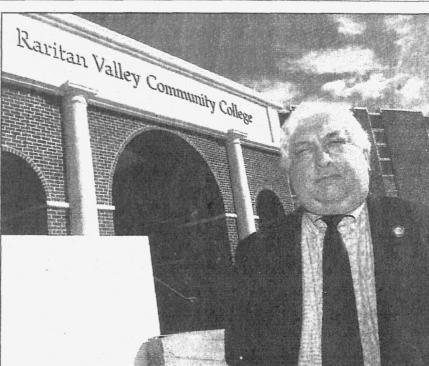
With Raritan Valley Community College President G. Jeremiah Ryan set to step down at the end of the year, the board of trustees needs to pick a strong leader to help keep the college on its current path.

"This place is hot; this place is busy," said Ray Bateman, chair of the college's board of trustees. "By March of 2007, we will be parading teachers and students into the facility."

The new building is just one of several construction projects at the college, which is undergoing major renovations to its physical plant in addition to the facilities expansion.

"This place is almost construction central of Hunterdon and Somerset counties," said Bateman, citing the

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

G. Jeremiah Ryan, president of Raritan Valley Community College, stands outside the main entrance to the campus, located in North Branch. Ground was broken Monday on a 44,000-square-foot building that will house 17 classrooms and a mulRight in Your Backyard

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Database

Continued from page A1

institutions retain a diverse group of faculty and staff," said Gilda Paul, director of the New Jersey consortium, which is housed at Princeton University.

"We hope to someday be part of a national group of education consortia as more colleges and universities collaborate across the country."

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approach their job searches and the way institutions engage in higher education recruitment.

"This a terrific way to show-case all that New Jersey higher education has to offer and greatly increase the diversity of our applicant pool," said Karen Stubaus, associate vice president for academic affairs at Rutgers. "Equally important, we believe the special feature for dual-career couples will make it easier to jointly place couples in academic and staff positions around the state, which is often a challenge in academia."

A whodunit



COURTESY MIDDLESEX HIGH SCHOOL

Cast members of "The Butler Did It" rehearse a scene from the production, which will be performed at Middlesex High School 8 p.m. tonight. Tickets at the door are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For additional information, call (732) 317-6000. "The Butler Did It" is written by Tim Kelly and produced with authorization by Baker Plays, Inc. Stars Middlesex High School Seniors Rebecca Smith as Haversham, Sandra Golis as Miss Maple, Ken Johnson as Father White, Amy Santacross as Laura Carlyle, Chris Peckhardt as Rick Carlyle and Nicole Gallo as Rita. Also starring juniors Cara Palermo as Perri Flimsey, Lauren Burke as Charity Haze, Nick Feretich as Chandler Marlowe and sophomore Mike Yoson as Louie Fan. Directed by Danielle Richards with Technical Direction by Skip Adams

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Library

Continued from page A1

nance of the building. Library staff are currently working with the companies that provide the computer systems at each to figure out how Bound Brook patron's cards can be read at the county libraries.

"At this point, we are hoping that the county system will read the Bound Brook said Draghi. Otherwise, Bound Brook residents will have to bring in their old cards in and have a new card issued, she said.

When the Bound Brook library reopens after the repairs, estimated to take about three months, there will be some minor changes. The Bound Brook library's schedule will change slightly, Draghi said, and it will stay open Wednesday evenings and possibly Saturdays during the sum-

"The fact that Bound Brook has voted to join the county system has been nothing but a win for South Bound Brook," Quinlan said.

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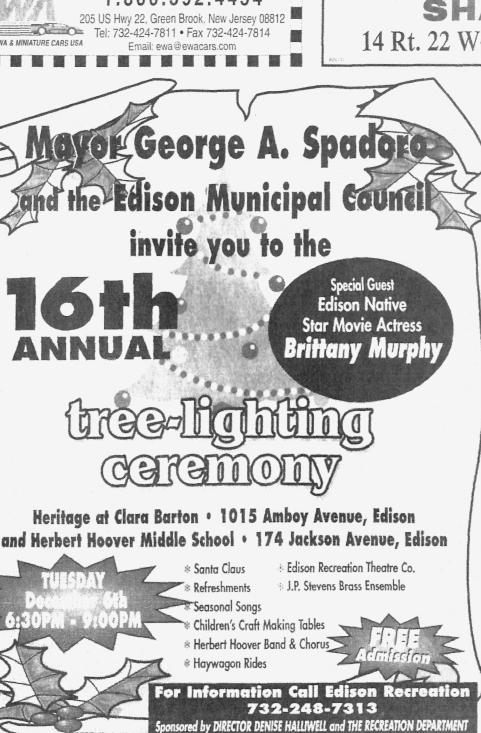
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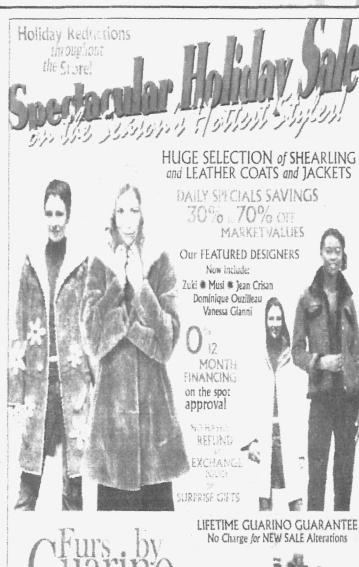
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RVCC

Continued from page A1

power plant upgrades, the new ring road, new parking lot, and plans for a university center and a new arts building.

The new academic building is being planned with an eye for the future. According to Jeanne Perantoni, the principles of the prin pal in charge of design and planning for the project with SSP Architectural Group, that was part of the challenge.

"This building is designed so that it can be expanded on both sides as the college grows," she said, noting that additions would curve back toward the science center and out to the theater.

"The other tough challenge was to stay within the budget," said John Maso, executive director of facilities and grounds for the college. The building is estimated to cost between \$10 million and \$15 million, and will be financed through the counties with the state reimbursing half the

The week brought other news on the college as, on Tuesday, the board of trustees at Raritan Valley Community College elected a new chair at Tuesday's meeting, and the college anticipates that a new president will be chosen as early as January. Dr. John L. McGuire was unanimously elected as the new chair, and the board recognized former chair Raymond Bateman's 26year service to the college.

The presidential search committee, of which McGuire is the chair, will meet later this month to narrow the field of candidates found by firm A.T. Kearney. "We've narrowed down the pool to 10 candidates, and I think we've got a very strong field," said McGuire.

A. T. Kearny received between 70 and 80 applications for the position, and using criteria determined by the search committee, narrowed the field down to 10, which includes four men, six women, and seven either sitting or acting community college presidents, McGuire said.

The committee is set to meet at the end of December to interview the top candidates, McGuire said. "If all goes well, by the time we've finished that day, we'll have picked out the top three.'

The Chronicle

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Knights holding Santa breakfast

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Knights of Columbus hold their annual "Breakfast with Santa" from 9 a.m.-noon today in the Knights' hall at 334 Hamilton

Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and \$15 for a family. Bacon, eggs and French toast are on the menu

Reservations are required; call Steve Belanger at (908) 791-

Dunellen offering meals with Santa

DUNELLEN -- All children in this community are invited to a "Breakfast with Santa" from 9 a.m.-noon today at Faber School on High Street.

Cost is \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. For advance tickets, call (732) 968-1698.

Proceeds benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2006 at Dunellen High School.

Christmas Village comes to Dunellen

DUNELLEN -- The Dunellen United Methodist Church opens its 61st annual Christmas Village the weekend after Thanksgiving.

A cafeteria-style dinner is served from 5-7 p.m. today in the church at 150 Dunellen Ave. Fresh fruit is provided free. Toys, candy, baked goods,

homemade items and other merchandise can be purchased beginning at 4 p.m. For tickets, call (732) 752-7437 or (908) 647-6797.

Edison church opens

Live Nativity to all EDISON — The Community Presbyterian Church holds a live Nativity from 6-8 p.m. today.

This free program includes a petting zoo and a Christmasrelated craft. No registration is necessary.

For more information, call (732) 287-1666. The church is on Glenville Road near Edison High School.

South Plainfield has Western line dancing

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The Cultural Arts Commission sponsors a country and Western line dance at 7 p.m. today at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave.

Dress in your country best for this free show. Georgeanne Valis of the Colorado Café in Watchung provides instruction.

Edison 'Wonderland' of holiday dance

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society presents a "Winter Wonderland" of dance at 3 p.m. tomorrow 4 at John P. Stevens High School, 855 Grove Ave.

Students from five dance schools in Middlesex County are represented. They include:

Yvonne's School of Dance, under the direction of Yvonne Ambrosio and Dawn Belle.

DanceForce, under the direction of Evonne Ryan. Jo-Ann's Dance Studio-The

Performing Arts Center, under the direction of Jo-Ann Ortman and Tara Catalina. Spotlight on Dance, under the

direction of Carolyn Stefanchik. Edison Recreation Dance and Theater Company, under the direction of Jamie Marie

Admission is \$13. For tickets, call (908) 753-2787.

Woman's Club offers holiday recital Dec. 7

METUCHEN — The Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club holds its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 7 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Middlesex and Oak avenues

Artene Britt gives a holiday recital as the club program. Guests are welcome and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Diana at (732) 548-0925.

Food donations can be dropped off at office

EDISON - San Barbara Buono, D-Middlisex, is sponsoring an ongoing community lood drive in her district office. All items collected will benefit M.C.F.O.O.D.S. Middlesex

County's Emergency Food Distribution Network. This organization serves over 60 local food

pantries and soup kitchens and provides nutritious foods and necessities to needy Middlesex

County families and individuals. Please bring non-perishable donations -- no glass items, please — to the office, 100 Plainfield Ave., Suite 1, Edison. For more information, call (732) 819-8141

Dunellen Library holds book drive this month

DUNELLEN --- Once again this year the Dunellen Public Library is collecting donations of new hardcover and paperback books for distribution to disadvantaged children throughout Middlesex County during the holiday season.

Keep," is a project of the Libraries on Middlesex, a consortium of public libraries, and the Middlesex County College Library.

New hardcover and paperback books suitable for children from preschool through adolescence Public Library through Dec. 15.

Contributions may be made payable to Libraries of Wagner, Monroe Township Public Library, 4 Municipal Plaza, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 or brought to the

The program, called "Books to

may be brought to the Dunellen Funds are needed to purchase additional books for distribution.

Middlesex and mailed to Leah Dunellen library.

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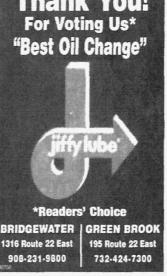
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Middlesex Life

Weekend Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 3
BERNARDS - Winter Holiday Festival, seventh annual event of Lord Stirling Stable, 256 S. Maple Ave., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 3-4. (908) 766-5955 or www.flssnj.org.

Sunday, Dec. 4 BRIDGEWATER - Blood Drive at Blessed Sacrament Church, Washington Valley Road, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) NJ

BRIDGEWATER - Penny Sale and raffle of auxiliary to Finderne Rescue Squad, 476 Union Ave., 1:30 p.m. \$3. (908) 707-9559.

HILLSBOROUGH - "Christmas! Sing of the Wonder" with community choir of South Branch Reformed Church, 870 River Road, 7 p.m. Donation. (908) 369-4956.

Monday, Dec. 5 SOMERVILLE - Adult CPR course of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5, 13. \$40. Registration: (908) 725-2217. SOMERVILLE - Holiday Jazz with the Gordon James Band. Somerville Public Library, 35 West End Ave., 7 p.m. Free. Registration recommended: (908) 725-1336, Ext. 10.

Tuesday, Dec. 6 BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "Blood on the Sun" (U.S., 1945). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Registration recommended: (908) 234-2325, Ext.

SOMERVILLE - Holiday Luncheon for Friends of the Somerville Public Library, 35 West End Ave., 1 p.m. Volunteers wanted: (908) 722-4054. BERNARDS - "Holiday Time at Longwood Gardens." Trip leaves Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10:30 a.m. Adults \$40; students, seniors \$30. Prepayment required: (908) 766-

BERNARDS - "Star Bright": nature hike for ages 2-3. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10:30 a.m. \$8 parent and child; \$4 each additional child. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

FRANKLIN - Awards Luncheon and annual meeting of Somerset County Business Partnership. The Palace at Somerset Park, 333 Davidson Ave., noon. \$95. Reservations: (908) 218-4300.

Wednesday, Dec. 7 BEDMINSTER - "Business Planning Information for Small Businesses" with Susan Preston. Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Registration: (908) 234-2325, Ext. 2. BRANCHBURG - "CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer," first of twopart course. Raritan Valley Community College, 5 p.m. \$99. Registration: www.raritanval.edu/cce

Thursday, Dec. 8 BRANCHBURG -

or (908) 218-8872.

"Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Response for Special Events." Raritan Valley Community College, 8 a.m. Free. Registration; www.raritanval.edu/epmm or (908) 526-1200, Ext. 8284.

BRANCHBURG - "Gentlemen's Guide to Good Manners for Fathers and Sons," first of two-part class. Raritan Valley Community College, 6:30 p.m. \$55. (908) 526-1200, Ext.

BRANCHBURG - "International Letters of Credit and Incoterms" with Roger S. Cohen. Raritan Valley Community College, 6:30 p.m. \$42. Registration: www.sbdcrvcc.com or (908) 526-1200, Ext. 8516. BRIDGEWATER - Blood Drive at Somerset County Library, 1 Vogt Drive, 3-8 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) NJ BLOOD.

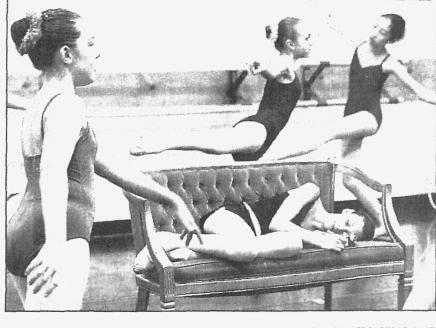
BRIDGEWATER - Starlight Social for "spiritual professional singles" ages 20-40. Houlihan's, 1288 Route 22 East, 7 p.m. Reservations required: (732) 764-9073.

Friday, Dec. 9 SOMERVILLE - Blood Drive at Immaculata High School, 240 Mountain Ave., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

Saturday, Dec. 10 SOMERVILLE - Holiday Music with Linda Russell. Old Dutch Parsonage, 71 Somerset St., 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. \$10. Reservations required: (908) 725-1015.

Sunday, Dec. 11 BEDMINSTER - Holiday Music with Fred Miller. Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 2 p.m. Registration: (908) 234-2325, Ext. 2. BRIDGEWATER - Pancake-Sausage breakfast, all-you-can-eat meal of Finderne Reformed Church, 581 Bridgewater Ave., 8:30-11:30 a.m. Adults \$5; children \$3; blueberry, pecan pancakes \$1 extra.





PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Ten-year-old Robyn Moyer of Belle Mead, above, rests on a chair during a recent rehearsal of "The Nutcracker" at the Belle Mead Ballet School of Hillsborough. At left, Samantha Wyland, assistant director of the Belle Mead Ballet Company, warms up her dancers.

Girls get their shot in 'Nutcracker'

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI

Audiences from both New Jersey and Iowa will experience Jane Venezia's fully narrated and condensed version of "The Nutcracker."

The Rocky Hill resident was in Iowa City recently when the Belle Mead Ballet Company's professional dancers, sets and costumes flew across the country to perform the ballet. The curtain went up for four performances over the Thanksgiving weekend and for a special school performance on

"It's an opportunity to broaden the scope of our audience," said Venezia, who contracted her company to work with student dancers from eastern

Venezia, the professional dancers, costumes and sets will travel back to the state to join the student dancers of Belle Mead Ballet School of Hillsborough for seven performances of the show throughout the county this month.

"The Nutcracker" is the story of young Clara who gets a Nutcracker as a gift from her uncle. The Nutcracker comes to life in Clara's dreams, rescues her from an army of angry mice and brings her on a journey to the Land of Sweets.

Venezia's "Nutcracker" is not the traditional version of the ballet. She took a two-and-a-half hour production and trimmed it down to an hour and 20 minutes with full narration. The condensed and narrated version appeals to those who aren't familiar with the story, with ballet and for chil-

"Children have a hard time watching a real ballet without loosing attention," said Samantha Wyland, the company's assistant director. "They can understand this."

Additionally, many of the parts in the ballet are played by young girls.

"Young people are coming to the performances," said Venezia, who also created several original narrated ballets including "The Wizard of Oz" and "Beauty and the Beast." "It's more accessible and relatable for the children.' Ten-year-old Robyn Moyer, of Belle Mead, plays

"I like the party scene when Clara gets the Nutcracker," said Moyer, who's been taking dance

lessons since she was 3 years old. Participating in the performances also allows the young girls to gain valuable dance experience and most importantly, have fun. Many of the stu-

dent dancers play multiple parts allowing them more time on stage, which gives them more of a vested interest in the entire production. "I've been able to learn a lot of dance moves," said Hannah Novak, 9, of Hillsborough, who plays a girl in the party scene, a soldier and other parts.

Nora Zobele, 9, also of Hillsborough, has been dancing since she was 2. She loves "The Nutcracker," especially the party scene. "It's really fun," said Zobele, who plays a girl in

the scene, a soldier, and is also in the waltz scene. You have a chance to run around." The young girls admit that before they get on

stage, they get the jitters while waiting in the

"But as soon as you get on stage, you smile," said 9-year-old Marissa Tavaglione, who plays the lead Chinese dancer. Tavaglione also loves that there are opportuni-

ties for dancers even younger than her. The production's dancers range from 6-year-olds to adults. "My favorite (scene) is the Mother Ginger scene," she said. "It gives the little kids a chance

to dance and have fun." Though the girls give up most of their Saturdays for rehearsal and attend dance class at least twice a week, they wouldn't trade this experience for

"Their dance friends are their best friends," Wyland said. "They absolutely love it. Their par- .org/ticket_info.shtml.

ents have to drag them out of here at the end of

Performing side-by-side with professional dancers allows the students to learn from and be inspired by their older and more experienced counterparts.

"When ever we see them rehearse, we think 'why can't we do that when we're older," Novak said. "I always look up to them," Tavaglione echoed. "They were once our age and they learned how to

do those moves." The Belle Mead Ballet Company is currently celebrating its ninth season of productions. The company was recognized in 2000 as a non-profit organization. The company received a \$4,000 from the NJ State Council of the Arts and Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission to fund the

2005 creation of "The Little Mermaid" and to sup-

port the tour of "The Nutcracker."
"The Nutcracker" will be performed at Ridge High School in Basking Ridge 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and at Montgomery Upper Middle School in Montgomery/Skillman 4 p.m. Dec. 11. The company will also perform the ballet as part of the Mercer County Community College Kelsey Theater's Children's Performance Series at 2 and 4 p.m. Dec. 17 and 18. A performance for schools

will be held 9:45 a.m. Dec. 16. Tickets for the Basking Ridge and Montgomery performances can be purchased by calling the Belle Mead Ballet Company (908) 874-8800 or email bellemeadballet@hotmail.com. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Stop by in person 4-7 p.m. Monday through Friday or 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at The Belle Mead Ballet School, 1 Jill Court, Unit 12, Hillsborough. Tickets for the Kelsey Theater at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor can be purchased by phone at (609) 584-9444 or (609) 586-4800, Ext. www.kelsevatmccc or at



GEORGE PACCIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gloria Pearce of Bedminster makes a donation to the Salvation Army outside the Wal-Mart in Manville last week.

Salvation Army braves cold for less fortunate

By JIM WHITE

Staff Writer
MANVILLE — Many just ignored the bell-ringers while making their beelines to Black Friday sales. Others stopped and gave what they could - some pocket change here, a buck or two there, and even as much as a five dollar bill at times.

"I love to see them here. I was disappointed last year when Target wouldn't allow them," said Gloria Pearce of Bedminster after depositing a handful of cash into one of the red kettles outside the Wal-Mart in Manville last week.

Target banned the bell-ringers from its stores last year as a part of its no-solicitation policy.

"Thank you. God bless you," Capt. Aloir Andrade of the Salvation Army repeated over and over to Pearce and other considerate customers outside Wal-Mart last week as the holiday shopping season officially kicked off.

He and other members of the

Salvation Army's Bound Brook Corps rang bells and manned the traditional Christmas kettles for much of the day despite near-freezing conditions.

"We need the help of the people," he said. "This is a great place

Funds collected through the annual Kettle Campaign, which ends Dec. 24, go toward food, clothing and toys for families and individuals who might otherwise go without these things during the holidays.

Last year the various Salvation Army branches in New Jersey assisted more than 200,000 people. "Anyhody who needs it, we help," Andrade said. "We work for God."

The Bound Brook Corps of the Salvation Army serves people in Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Middlesex Borough, Raritan, Somerville and South Bound Brook. For more information, call its office at (732) 748-1146.

Main Street attracts **Black Friday traffic**

By TAKESHA PETTUS Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE - While most holiday shoppers were busy fighting back crowds and searching for parking spaces at mega malls across the nation on Black Friday, the official start of the holiday shopping season, patrons who visited downtown Somerville had no problems fairing.

All along Main Street most stores were open by 11 a.m., with only a handful remaining closed until noon. At the Hungry Hound, West Main Street, owner Penny Milligan's store was bustling with customers. Within an hour of opening, Milligan said she had served about 20 customers.

"This is unusual," said Milligan. "This is not a crazy busy day for me." But those who visited the pet specialty store browsed through the various items available for purchase. From pet hats, clothing and leashes, to pictures, dog chew toys and treats, the store carries a wide variety of

pet-friendly gifts. Pam Sweer, a native of Somerville who now resides in Lancaster, S.C., said she happened by the store and wanted to see if there would be something interesting to buy for her two dogs.

Sweer said although she doesn't normally purchase things for her pets, many of her friends purchase pet gifts for her pets during the holidays. But Sweer just couldn't resist the gourmet dog cookies sold at the store. Handmade with pet-friendly foods, Milligan makes the cookies

At the Big Little Railroad Shop on West Main Street, owner Jan Kucsma said her business already has a set client base. While many of those patrons were likely spending time with family on Friday, Kucsma said they will come in regularly and do their usual weekly shopping. "We have a set of customers," said

Kucsma. "They'll be in tomorrow." Kucsma said, instead, those who come into her shop Friday would be looking to purchase a new train set for a child or pieces in order to build shop.'

"Things are normally off to a slow start. They eat and do other things then they come here to shop."

> Mary Pekun Owner, Crystal Palace

onto an existing set for an adult. Prices for train sets at her shop range from as little as \$99.99 for a new set for a child and increase depending on the caste, size and accessories.

"People love trains," said Kucsma. 'That goes back to everybody's child-

Hayes MacArthur of MacArthur's, West Main Street, said his business does not see an influx of business during the holidays.

"Our business is not really based on the holiday season," said MacArthur.

Instead, MacArthur said, the business usually picks up just prior to the start of Thanksgiving. The store, which specializes in washers, dryers, ranges and refrigerators, no longer carries electronics like televisions, DVD players and computers, so many looking to purchase those kinds of items do not visit the store. Instead, MacArthur said, many usually come in to purchase new ovens or refrigerators before the holidays to make sure they are prepared for upcoming dinners.

At the Crystal Palace, West Main Street, things were steady but not busy by 11:30 a.m., according to owner Mary Pekun. She said her store usually picks up business around 2 p.m. after most of the holiday shoppers have gone to the malls and shopping outlets to get the Black Friday mega sales.

"Things are normally off to a slow start," said Pekun. "They eat and do other things then they come here to

Loretta Lichota

Gryniak Lichota, 86, died Nov. 22, 2005 at her home in Manville.

She was born in Jersey City, a daughter of the late Stanley and Johanna Gryniak, and lived in Piscataway before moving to Manville in 1958.

Mrs. Lichota was a former Brownie leader in Piscataway, where she was a former member of the Ladies Auxiliary to the New Market Volunteer Fire Company. She was a member of the Altar

Heart Roman Catholic Church in Manville.

Her husband, Walter V., died in 1995. A son, Gregory A., died in 1991. A granddaughter, Teresa A. Hoffman, died in 1979.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia L. Hoffman, with whom Mrs. Lichota lived; a son, Walter R. Sr. of Phillipsburg; a sister, Helen Laass of Piscatavay; a grandson, Walter R. Jr. of Phillipsburg; two granddaughters, Kristine Hoffman funeralhome.com.

PISCATAWAY - Loretta Rosary Society at Sacred of Albany, N.Y., and Beverly Haring of Newtown, Pa.; and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 25 at the Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home, Manville, followed by a funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Hillsborough.

Donations may be sent to Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills, 12 Olcott Ave., Bernardsville, NJ 07924. To send a condolence, visit www.fucilloandwarren-

"Mark" Doswald, 82, died Nov. 28, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Dr. Doswald was born in

Horgon, Switzerland, and came to the United States in 1945. He lived in New York City and Bound Brook before moving to Bridgewater in

He was the former chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Somerset Medical Center. Dr. Doswald, who earned his medical degree from the University of Zurich, also was an obstetrician and gynecologist in the Navy.

He was a former member of the American Cancer Society. Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Angie Cardillo Doswald; a daughter, Linda Cardillo Farr and husband Thomas of Lemoyne, Pa.; two stepdaughters. Sheryl Patrick and husband Michael of Bridgewater and Lisa Henderson and huster, Annalise Gass and husband Jean-Pierre of Lucerne, Switzerland; a grandchild; two step-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

may be sent to American Heart Association, 2550 U.S. Highway 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301. To send a condolence, visit www.branchburgfuneralhome.com.

Joseph Chichon Sr.

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BOUND BROOK - Joseph T. Chichon Sr., 91, died Nov. 26, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Brooklyn, a son of the late Konstanty and Sophia Chichon, and lived in New Brunswick before moving to Bound Brook in 1999.

Mr. Chichon spent 41 years with the New Brunswick Fire Department and retired in 1978 as its deputy chief. He also owned Chick's Inn in

New Brunswick for 45 years. He was a life member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association and Elks Lodge 324 in New Brunswick.

Mr. Chichon was a retired member of the New Jersey State Police and Firemen's Association.

As well he was a member of the New Jersey State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association, Local 500; the International Association of Fire Fighters; the New Brunswick Exempt Firemen's Association;

Knights of Columbus Council 257, the Monsignor John O'Grady 4th Degree Assembly and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, all in

New Brunswick.

a daughter, Barbara Lessing; a son-in-law, Gary Lessing; a brother, Gus; and a sister, Helen McLaughlin.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Elinor B. Totten Chichon; two sons, K. Thomas and wife Carol of Vermontville, N.Y., and Joseph Jr. and wife Patricia of Ringoes; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Boylan Funeral Home, New Brunswick, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Peter's Church.

Burial was in St. Peter's Preceding him in death were Cemetery, New Brunswick.

Albert 'Mark' Doswald

BOUND BROOK - Albert

Services were held Thursday at the Branchburg Funeral

In lieu of flowers, donations

Bernice Buchanan

METUCHEN - Bernice A. Hrasko Buchanan, 80, died Nov. 21, 2005 at her home in Locktown.

She was born in Newark and lived in Metuchen before moving to Locktown in 1980.

Mrs. Buchanan was with Johnson & Johnson for 25 years, retiring in 2000 as a payroll manager.

Her husband of 37 years,

William H., died in 1985, Also preceding her in death was a brother, George Hrasko.

Surviving are two daughters, Barbara of Flemington and Denise of Delaware Township; a sister, Elaine Graves and brother Frank of Piscataway; three grandchildren; a greatgrandchild; and her extended family, the Kelly family of Union Beach.

Services were held Thursday at the Grace Community Church in Bridgewater with Rev. Raymond Cannata, the pastor, officiating. Burial was in Oaklawn Memorial Park, South Brunswick.

Arrangements were by the Branchburg Funeral Home. To send a condolence, visit www.branchburgfuneralhome.com.

Maria Demcoe

band Robert of Clinton; a sis-

Falanga Demcoe, 78, died Nov. 22, 2005 at her home.

Born March 29, 1927 in New York City, she lived in Perth Amboy before moving to Metuchen in 1951.

Mrs. Demcoe was a cafeteria worker for seven years at Metuchen High School. She also worked for Metuchen Food and Liquor.

Her husband, Joseph, and a daughter, Georgianna, died

Maria in 1991. Also preceding her in death was a brother, Patsv Falanga.

Surviving are two sons, Allen J. and wife Janet of South Brunswick and Douglas A. and wife GraceAnn of South Plainfield; a daughter, Brenda Hunter and husband Michael of Metuchen; eight grandchildren; two greatgrandchildren; and a cousin, Rachel Mercurio of Iselin.

A funeral Mass was held Nov. 25 at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, of which Mrs. Demcoe was a member. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Flynn & Son-Koyen Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the VNA of Central Jersey in care of the Flynn Charities Program. To send a condolence, visit flynnfuneral.com.

Diane Maslo

MIDDLESEX - Diane A. Sauerborn Maslo, 52, died Nov. 28, 2005 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Mountainside before moving to Middlesex.

Mrs. Maslo was a secretary with Atlantic Metals in Springfield and with the Mountainside Recreation Department. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Kean College of New Jersey in

Preceding her in death was a brother, Edward Sauerborn. Surviving are her husband of 25 years, Herbert P.; her parents, Arthur and Theresa

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Sauerborn; two brothers, Donald and James; and a sister, Janice.

A funeral Mass was held yesterday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Catholic Church. Burial was Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.

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Jays down Dunellen | Chiefs bow to Franklin

MIDDLESEX — Coming off a heart-break- of scores, both on runs by Esposito, who got ing playoff loss the Blue Jays could have been excused for any kind of a letdown.

But with so many seniors playing their final game that wasn't the case as the Middlesex High football team put together one final impressive performance running the ball to grind out a 33-19 victory over rival Dunellen in a Thanksgiving Day eve battle.

Dan Esposito turned in the top effort in a Middlesex ground game that produced more than 330 yards as the senior fullback carried 13 times for 138 yards and three touchdowns. Classmates Matt Campanella and Dom Notoli scored one TD apiece.

The Destroyers were always in striking distance of Middlesex, especially in the first half when the visitors scored first as Steve Bovo capped a 66-yard, 10-play maneuver with a 14-yard run, and later when Mike Cassidy went in from the 2 to make it a 15-13

In between Middlesex (8-2) notched a pair

the initial points when he bulled his way in from the 1 in the opening period and then extended the lead when he bolted 47 yards in the second quarter. Esposito kicked the extra-point following his second TD.

Later in the second period Campanella completed his only pass of the game but it was good for 9 yards a touchdown to Nitoli as the Blue Jays took a 21-13 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Middlesex picked up the only points of the third quarter when Campanella scored on a keeper from 44 yards out as the Blue Jays received the second-half kickoff and needed only four plays to pad its lead to 27-13.

Dunellen (3-7) used seven plays to make things interesting as Bovo capped the short drive with his second touchdown of the game with a 5-yard run as the Destroyers pulled within 27-19 with six minutes to play. Following the ensuing Esposito picked a third TD, this one from 55 yards.

to have five days earlier, the Chiefs couldn't hang on to win a game they wanted but didn't need.

Hosting Franklin in its annual Thanksgiving Day battle Nov. 24, the Piscataway High football squad surrendered a touchdown with 1:47 remaining after twice coming back from a touchdown behind to drop a 22-21 decision for its second loss of the year in the non-league clash.

Piscataway, which Phillipsburg last night for the North Jersey 2 Group IV title, had a short turnaround after defeating Irvington in the semifinals, and took some time to get going against the Warriors, but after claiming a fourth-quarter 21-14 lead the Chiefs saw Stanley Howard notch his third TD of the game and add the ensuing two-point conversion.

The Chiefs wasted another big game from Kevin Woolfolk, who carried 31 times for 141 yards and a pair of 1-yard scoring runs, but Howard was nearly as good with 116 yards on 19 touches.

Both teams put up a touchdown in the opening session with Howard scoring from the 1 and Piscataway answering when DaJuan Gratz hauled in a 43yard scoring pass from Tony Logan. Howard then scored from the 5 in the second period as the Warriors went up 14-7 at half-

Following a scoreless third quarter Piscataway tied the game on Woolfolk's first scoring run, and with 7:45 to play Allen Hudson recovered a fumble at the Franklin 31 for the Chiefs. Five runs by Woolfolk produced a 1-yard TD run with 5:30

remaining as Woolfolk scored

Marquis Salazar's third PAT kick made it 21-14

North Plainfield 29, South Plainfield 28 - Derrick Eatman came up with a pair of fourth-quarter scoring passes to bring the Tigers from behind, but South Plainfield couldn't hold on as North Plainfield came back to win the non-conference battle on a TD with 41 seconds to play Thanksgiving

Eatman delivered an outstanding effort throwing the ball as he connected on 11 of 19 passes for 247 yards and four touchdowns, including scoring passes of 29 and 49 in the fourth quarter - the second with 2:52 to play - when South Plainfield overcame a 21-14 deficit.

North Plainfield, however, responded with a 57-yard drive finished off by Jerome Washington's fourth TD of the game. Washington followed with the two-point PAT run for the victory, and for the game carried 31 times for 234 yards.

Alan Maglaque grabbed a 24yard scoring pass from Eatman to open the scoring in the first period, but Washington bolted 49 yards in the second period for the Canucks to forge a 7-7 halftime tie.

After Mike Jakubik, who caught three passes for 71 yards, scored on a 35-yard pass from Eatman in the third period, North Plainfield (6-4) got a pair of 5-yard scoring runs from Washington to take a take its 21-14 lead with 158 to play in the third session

South Plainfield (4-6), however, needed less than three minutes to respond as Anthony overtime.

Coming off a victory they had his 27th touchdown, and Cassano was on the receiving end of Eatman's 29-yard TD pass with 44 seconds gone in the fourth quarter, but the missed PAT kick left the Tigers down a point.

Manville 27, Bound Brook 21 - After coming back from a touchdown down three times, the third with 20 seconds left in regulation, the Crusaders failed to match Man's touchdown in overtime and fell in the annual Thanksgiving Day battle in Mountain Valley Conference

Getting the ball back at its 47 with 44 seconds left when Matt Melsurgo recovered a fumble while the Mustangs were trying to run out the clock, Bound Brook scored in three plays as Willie Smith connected with John Caban for a 42-yard scoring strike, and Smith followed with the two-point PAT run to knot the game at 21-21.

Getting the ball first in overtime, the Crusaders wasted their opportunity when Smith was intercepted, and Manville made them pay as Leonardo Rodriguez capped the decisive possession with his third TD of the game on a 5-yard run.

Eduardo Rosario, who carried 14 times for 83 yards, matched an early touchdown by Manville with a 6-yard run, but the Mustangs went up 14-7 by the close of the first quarter as Rodriguez picked up his second touchdown of the quarter.

It stayed that way until the third quarter when Caban caught a 25-yard scoring pass from Smith to close to with 14-13, but Manville extended its lead in the fourth period before Bound Brook rallied to force

Stevens turns back Edison

EDISON -- Needing a little more than six minutes to take command, the Hawks capped their season in the best way they could - with a victory over their cross-town rival.

In the 39th renewal of the Battle of Edison the J.P. Stevens High football squad (4-6) continued its mastery over Edison (1-9) as the Hawks bolted to a 21-0 lead with 6:21 elapsed and never allowed the Eagles to get closer than two scores the rest of the way.

Following the opening kickoff Edison fumbled inside its 20 and Nelson recovered for the Hawks. Three plays later Nelson (137 yards, 2 TDs) went in from the 6 to put his club in front to stay. The next time he touched

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yards for his second touchdown.

Nelson's performance earned him the Most Valuable Player award as he accounted for almost all of the Hawks' 160 offensive yards. But while Nelson delivered the big effort on the attack, it was Kenny Melford that produced the game's biggest defensive plays.

With Stevens up 14-0 Melford stepped in front on a receiver, picked off John Cirri's pass and brought it back 39 vards for the first of his two defensive touchdowns and a 21-0 cushion.

Edison managed to cut into the deficit in the second half as Terry Roland picked a deflected pass off the hands of a Stevens

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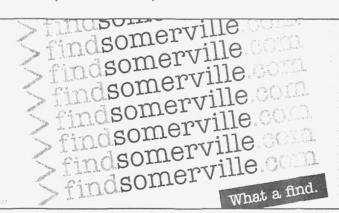
CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA

the ball, this time following an defender out of the air at the Eagle punt, Nelson bolted 35 Hawks 32 and went on to score, Hawks' 32 and went on to score, completing a 40-yard scoring pass from Cirri, but Stevens converted another Edison miscue into points when quarterback Greg Sica scored from the 6 for a 28-7 advantage at halftime. Melford struck again just

three plays into the second half when he intercepted Cirri once again, this time at the Eagle and turned it into his second touchdown and a 35-7 lead.

The Eagles fought back by converting a pair of short-field possessions as Zach Tivald went 29 yards later in the third quarter Maurice scored from the 2 in the fourth period, but that was as close as Edison would







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PAN AM MORTGAGE, LLC 800-660-7987						60-7987	ANY INCOME, ANY	LIGHTHOUSE MOI	RTGAGE S	ERVICE	CO	8	00-78	34-1331	CONSISTENTLY	
www.PanAmMortgage.com					CREDIT. 120 +	Servicing all of Nev	y Jersey						LOW RATES.			
30-YR FIXED	5.63	2.00	5.89	30	20	100-359	PROGRAMS, BUY	30-YR FIXED	6.00	0.00	6.09	45	20	135-359		
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OPTION ARM	0.95	0.00	5.49	60	20	100-2.5M	CREDIT W/ AD.	5/1 ARM	5.62	0.00	5.71	30	10	359-1M		
5-YR FIX PAY	2.20	0.00	5.59	60	20	100-2.5M		30-YR JUMBO	6.12	0 00	6.21	45	20	359-1M		
PANTHER VALLEY MORTGAGE 908-684-4134						84-4134	Why not get	Da	14.74	Г-	4.00	. 4	-	N/I o	ation	-
www.panthervalleymtq.com email:info@panthervalleymtq.com							your mortgage	DC) I I	LO	gu	31 I	lO	Mei	ntion	
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GARWOOD - 1BR apt. in sn \$1055/mo. 908-789-9198

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RINGOES - 1 bdrm efficient

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Commerce St

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FLEMINGTON Furnished Large share bath, a) eat, phone, col

2/3 BR. 1.

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6 PC CRIB SET- Simmons, 3

& 4 drawer dressers w/detachable chg. table

BEDROOM SET 7 pc. Cherry wood steigh bed, dresser/ mirror, 2 nite stands. List \$5,000. can deliver

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Houses For Rent 430 Furniture 560

Clinton Area - 2 family house, 2 BR, 1 BA, Hard Bedroom Set, solid A/C, Pet ok, \$1325

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KINGWOOD Clean 2.5 BR, 1 BA, EIK, DW, LR. New Capet, No Pets, 1.5 mo. sec., \$1395 +

600-2200 s.f. PITTSTOWN AREA- 3BR, gar & storage shed. No pets. \$1350 mo. 973-379-9163 btwn 6PM & 8PM.

Lrg. historic farm house, partially furnished, on 30 acres, "Currier & Ives set-ting" 4/5bdr, Lrg, LR w/FP, Den w/FP, DR w/ wood burning stove, Lrg, Library w/FP, 2.5 ba.3 car ga-rage,\$2800 p/mo 1.5 mo

Industrial Property For

Houses For Rent 430 16,500 sq. ft.
T.B. loading - clear span large drive in door KNAUER REALTYCORF 908-526-7600 Ext 227

Rooms 460 BRANCHBURG Rt 22- fully furnished w/cable Ti Daily, Weekly & monthl rates, Call 908-303-9817

TV. N/S, culde-sac, priorie, to pkg, Avail immed.. cre ck., ref's. & sec. \$600. 908-788-6834 Townhouses/Gondos For Rent 475 Beaver Brook - Condo Large and sunny, 2 BR 2 bath

\$1650 call 908 236-7241 FLEMINGTON- 1 BR, 1 BA, Furnished, basement, washer/dryer, pool/tennis. \$1150 plus utilities. 908-361-0205 FLEMINGTON SOUTH- 1 BR

people securing custody of children under 18. Fees. Call 908-782-5500. FLEMINGTON Townhouse 2/3 BR. BA, EIK, finished ba ient, deck. garage, po \$1600/mo. 908-380-2616

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Building Material & Equipment 520 CASE 580B EXTENDA HOE 908-537-4194

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General Merchandise

form/waterbed. dresser mirror, nightstand, paid \$6000, also reclining sofa & loveseat, will take best of-fer. Call 908-735-6440

DESK - Contemporary oal style, excellent condition ample drawer space. \$150, 908-713-1832

DINING ROOM - beautiful chemy double pedestal table, 8 chairs, tighted hutch & buffet, New in box. Value \$3000. Sell \$1575. can deliver **732-259**-

6690 Dining Room New \$794

DR Set- Universal honey oak trad/contemp trestle ta-ble. 4 side, 2 arm chairs. Lighted china glass doors \$875.obo 908-304-0160 FURNITURE FOR SALE

Dining set with 6 chairs, Crate & Barrel sofa, chair & ottoman, bookcases, shelves, beds, chairs, desk, mirrors and more. Most items purchased within the last year, some antiques. Please call Susan 973-347-8767 located in Netcong.

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HAND-PAINTED - 3 piec \$750. **908-797-3338**

Mattress & Box New \$135. King \$249. New rugs \$59 Also model house furn. Can deliver 908-281-7117 MATTRESS SET- New pillor top. Name brand w/ ranty Queen \$125, \$195, **732-259-6690**

MOVING computer desk light pie with hutch top. Cost \$600, asking \$175. Children's bedroom set, Bassett, 2 hutch units & bunk bed. Will sell bunk beds separately. \$250 fo set. 908-806-0812

Sofa, Loveseat New \$299 Coffee/ends \$59, rugs \$59 Also model house furn. Can deliver 908-281-7117 white wicker 4 pc, set with

cushions. Like new. Paid \$3600 Ask \$1200. 08-647-3167. Thomasville solid oak Din-Ing Set - Oval table, chairs, china cabinet, si server, \$ 2500, pristi 908-832-269; after 5pm

Items Under \$100 575 ENTERTAINMENT CENTER 1year old, \$80 0B0 732463-9146

FREEZER KENMORE SOLID OAK TABLE FOR SALE Fair condition! \$5 732-463-9146

General Merchandise 580

CABINETS - Maple, custom made shaker style, honey-color, 16 linear ft. \$2499 obo. 908-233-1964 DESK - Early American style.

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BEDROOM SET Walnut, Mirror. Dresser, Armoire, HD BD. RIMS- 16" tires on rims 3 100 bolt pattern from Auc RIMS- 16

SNOWS- 2 sets of 4 Blizzak snows on alloy rims. 15' tires on rims 5-112 bolt pattern from Audi A4 20k miles \$125. 732-689-5605 908-470-0438

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Lawn & Garden 581

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Musical Instruments

(Conn) \$125 FLUTE - (Artley) \$85 Call 908-756-9522

Flea Markets 599 BIG INDOOR FLEA MARKET Roselle Catholic H.S. 1 Raritan Rd., Roselle Sat. December 3rd 9 - 4 pm

Merchandise NETCONG MEGA HOUSE SALE

Dec 3" 10am -Til Everything is Gone! 15 Kings Road (across from Hilltop fire dept.

Moving Sale, bric-a-brac furniture, clothes, baby items, tools, holiday items and decoration lots of new in box gift items, beds, antiques dining set, sofas, coffe EVERYTHING MUST GO!

Rain, Snow or Shine!

Wanted To Buy 625

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