

The Chronicle

Since 1862

Vol. 144, No. 52

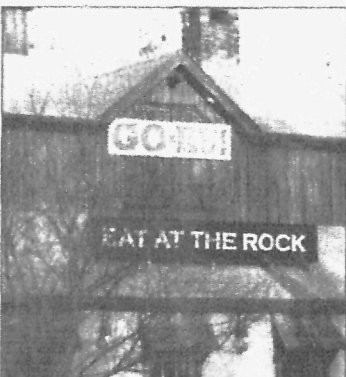
Saturday, December 24, 2005

50 cents



Seven join hall of fame

Seven individuals, including two-time Tour of Somerville champion Ron Skarin, were inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame at its annual dinner induction ceremony. **Page B2.**



Rutgers is bowl bound

Want to catch Rutgers University's first bowl appearance in 27 years? Several local eateries are holding scarlet fever nights on Tuesday, where RU fans can see the Scarlet Knights take on the Arizona State Sun Devils in the Insight Bowl. **Page A3.**

County helps with driving

The Middlesex County Department of Transportation is helping to expand a non-profit organization's program that brings homebound seniors, seniors living in assisted living facilities and disabled residents to houses of worship throughout the county. Occupational therapist Robert Leith and Rabbi Evan Jaffe, who founded the Open Road program in 1999, presented a certificate of appreciation to Freeholder Director David B. Crabel and Freeholder H. James Polos, chairman of the county's Public Works and Transportation Committee. Leith and Jaffe said the agreement their organization has with Middlesex County has served as a model as they approach other counties in their attempts to establish the program statewide. "I want to commend the freeholders of Middlesex County for their support until now and would ask for the same support and more in the future," Jaffe said. "You can be proud of the foresight you have displayed in providing the model for a program that is unlike any other I have seen in the state, perhaps the country." Currently, the Middlesex County Department of Transportation is using two of its vans to transport about 20 seniors and disabled residents from their homes to houses of worship throughout the county. Open Road pays a discounted fee to the county for the use of the vehicles.

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Bridgewater fire victims turn to families, friends

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Like a proud boat captain reluctant to abandon ship, Pompeia Cozza sat motionless between steady trickles of water coming from holes in her living room ceiling.

But she knew she couldn't stay; an insurance adjuster told her it would be at least six months before the place would be habitable. In the meantime, she said, she will live with her son David Cozza in Bound Brook.

Pompeia Cozza's home was one of 12 units that had to be evacuated during Sunday's fire at the Stratford Place condominium complex.

All of the occupants accept one family have since moved in with family or friends,

Bridgewater Fire Official Gary Ewald said Tuesday, adding the township's housing office has put up the remaining family in a local hotel.

Daniel Ruggiani of the Finnerne Fire Department and Matt Huffner of the Bound Brook Fire Department were injured when a ceiling collapsed on top of them, and Jennifer Kokanowski of the Finnerne Fire Department suffered smoke inhalation. All three were treated at Somerset Medical Center and released the same day. "Everybody is fine," Ewald said.

Displaced residents were bused to the Bridgewater Senior Center where the American Red Cross, Bridgewater Office on Emergency Management and

the Bridgewater Welfare Department had set up a temporary shelter.

Because of varying degrees of heat, smoke and water damage, six of the units in the three-story complex will have to be rebuilt, while the other six require less work, Ewald said, adding he expected to have one family move back in that day.

The fire, which started in the attic of the 210 unit, was first reported to police at 2:32 p.m. Finnerne, South Bound Brook, Somerville, Bound Brook and Franklin fire departments responded, as well as rescue squads from Finnerne, Martinsville and Bound Brook, and police units from Bridgewater and Bound

Continued on page A2

Helping those in need



Today, Ike Hishmeh, left, with help from his son, Jacob, will host a Christmas Eve dinner for those less fortunate at their store, B&B Carpets in Bound Brook. This year, Ike Hishmeh has held several benefit events at his carpet place, most recently for Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. For more, **Page A5.**

Donation helps with clothing

EDISON — For children and adults lacking motor skills, little things can mean a lot of trouble.

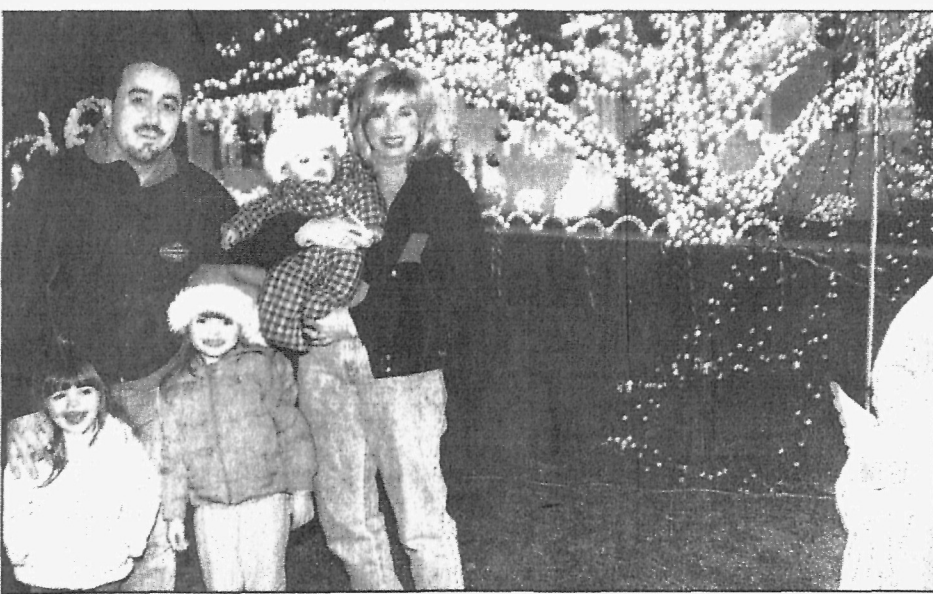
Things like snaps, zippers, buttons and clasps can make getting dressed a frustrating experience. So when National Starch and Chemical's Corporate Technology Innovation Group, based in Bridgewater, looked for a way to brighten the holidays for clients of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County, they decided to donate bright, new sweatshirts.

"Sweatshirts are easy on, easy off, comfortable and easy to clean," says Venus Majeski, director of development and community relations at the association. "We have a lot of activities going on all the time. The sweatshirts make it easy for the children to try new things, explore and get messy without worrying about it."

The scope of the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County is actually much broader than the name implies. "We serve more than 1,000 infants, children and adults with developmental and related disabilities throughout New Jersey," explains Majeski. Indeed, the association operates training programs at day centers, group homes, and supervised apartments throughout the state, as well as The Children's Center for babies and the Lakeview School of Edison.

National employees donated a total of 80 sweatshirts including 40 collected by the group and another 40 matched by an anonymous employee. In addition, employees contributed \$191 which is being matched by the National Starch Chemical Foundation.

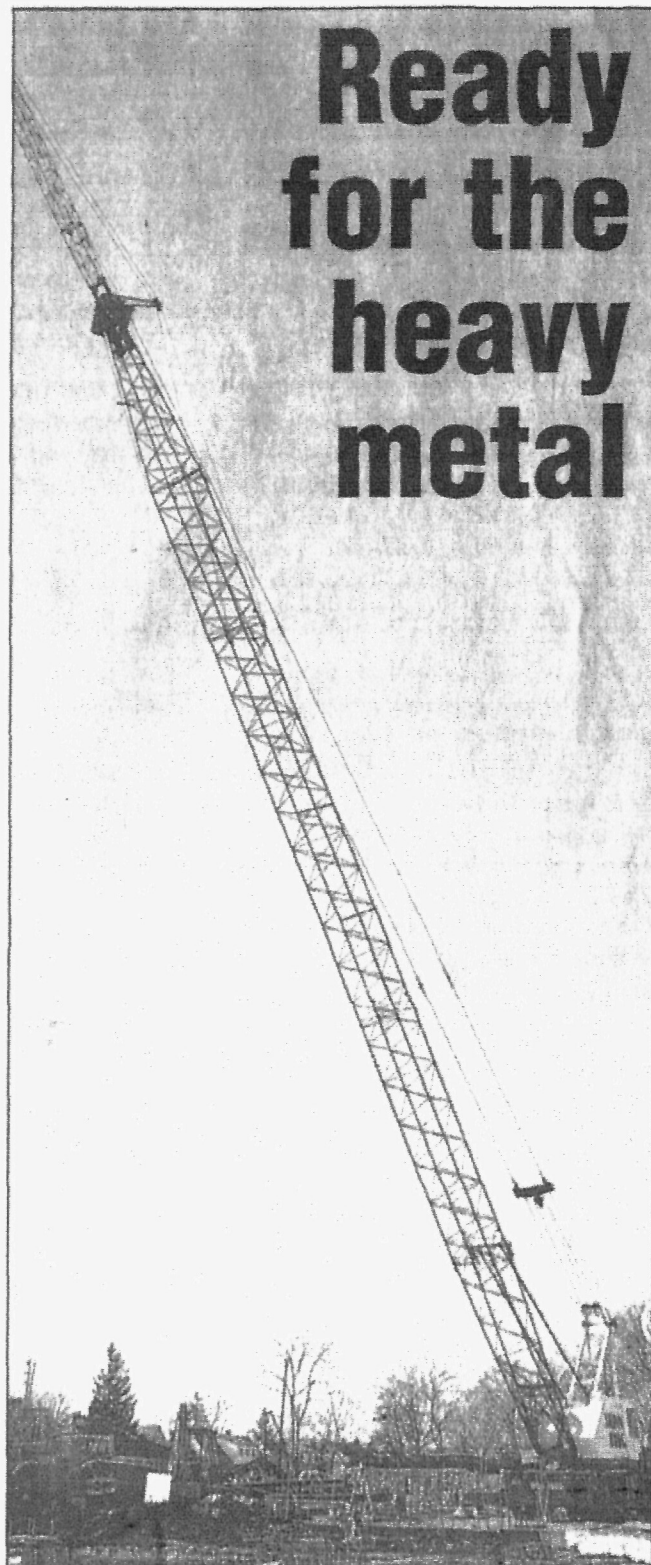
Cold weather, warm greetings



All that's missing from the Papavero's front yard is the snow — although a little help from Mother Nature can help that. The Branchburg family, Anthony and his wife, Wendy, and their three children, Serena, 3, Alexis, 5, and Nickolas, 4-months-old, go all out when decorating their home for Christmas, so much as that the neighborhood they live in asked them to host the annual holiday party. Somerville also had some fun ways to enjoy the season this year, with the District Management Corporation sponsoring horse-drawn carriage rides last week. Pictured below is driver Karen Greulich taking passengers down Main Street.



Ready for the heavy metal



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A giant crane rolled into Somerville this week in preparation for the construction of the steel skeleton of the new Steeplechase Cancer Center at Somerset Medical Center. The 63,000-square-foot facility is named in honor of the Far Hills Race Meeting Association, which each year holds a steeplechase to raise funds for the hospital. The new center, slated to open in November, will be connected to the medical center via a 170-foot walkway above Grant Avenue. For more information about cancer care services at Somerset Medical Center, visit somersetmedicalcenter.com/cancer.

Killer nurse to face kin of 22 victims

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

Somerset County Deputy Public Defender Johnnie Mask does see the irony in killer nurse Charles Cullen's desire to donate a kidney to an ailing man.

Some family members of Cullen's victims see it as blackmail, but are willing to go along with it if it gets them some face time with the serial killer.

Cullen, who is expected to be sentenced to life in prison in early January at the Somerset County Courthouse before Superior Court Judge Paul Charles Armstrong, has tentatively

agreed to face family members of 22 patients he killed in New Jersey if he is permitted to donate one of his kidneys to a New York man who has only been identified as a relative of his former girlfriend, the mother of Cullen's child.

It is unclear why Cullen, who may have murdered as many as 40 people in hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, has now decided to save someone's life.

"Some families will call it blackmail," Mask said last week, though he would not comment on Cullen's motive. "There's a guy that needs it (the

Continued on page A2

ADULT EVENING SCHOOLS

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION

Register at the school where the course is offered

January 3, 4, 5, 2006 5 PM to 8 PM

Dr. Karen McCloud-Hjازه-Superintendent
Loretta M. Keimel-Director of Adult EducationWINTER
2006

AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY

Floral Arrangement & Design (9 wks-\$80) PI Holiday Wreath (One night workshop-\$25*) PI

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Auto Body & Collision Repair (9 wks-\$80) PI Auto Engine Perf. & Diagnostics I (9 wks-\$80) EB
Auto Mechanics Basic (9 wks-\$80) ALL Automotive Brakes (9 wks-\$80) EB
Automotive Steering & Suspension (9 wks-\$80) PI

BASIC SKILLS

Adult Basic Skills/Mathematics (9 wks-\$80) EB Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing (9 wks-\$80) EB
Chinese (9 wks-\$80) EB English as a Second Language (9 wks-\$80) EB

BEAUTY TECHNOLOGY

Adult Cosmetology Tutoring (\$35/hr*) EB Manicuring (300 hrs-\$600**) EB

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Accounting Basic and Advanced (9 wks-\$80) PI Accounting II Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB
Internet Basics & Beyond (3 wks-\$30*) EB Microsoft Access (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI
Microsoft Access Advanced (9 wks-\$80) PI Microsoft Excel (9 wks-\$80) EB/PA
Microsoft Excel Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB Microsoft Office (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI
Microsoft PowerPoint (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI Microsoft Word for Windows (9 wks-\$80) ALL
MOS Word 2003 Core Prep (9 wks-\$80) PA/PI MOS Excel 2003 Core Prep (9 wks-\$80) PI
Intro to Personal Tax Preparation (4 wks-\$50*) EB P.C. Fundamentals (9 wks-\$80) EB/PA
Peachtree (9 wks-\$80) EB QuickBooks (9 wks-\$80) PA
QuickBooks Intermediate (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI Quicken (One night workshop-\$10*) PI
Typing/Keyboarding Basic & Adv. (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI

COMMERCIAL ART/GRAPHIC DESIGN

Adobe Acrobat & Go Live Spring Adobe InDesign CS Basic (9 wks-\$80) EB
Adobe Photoshop Basic (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI Adobe Photoshop Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB
Adobe Photo. for Digital Cameras Basic (9 wks-\$80) EB Design Project 201 Spring
Final Cut Pro Fundamentals Spring Final Cut Pro Advanced Spring
QuarkXPress Basic (9 wks-\$80) EB QuarkXPress Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB
Photography Basic (9 wks-\$80) EB Website Design (9 wks-\$80) PA
Website Design Basics (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI Website Design Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB

COMPUTER ASSISTED DRAFTING

Auto CAD - Level III (35 hrs-\$150*) EB Computer Assisted Drafting I (9 wks-\$80) All
Computer Assisted Drafting II (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI Intro to Architectural Drafting/CAD (9 wks-\$80) EB

COMPUTER REPAIR

Computer Repair Technology Spring Introduction to Computers (42 hrs-\$175*) PI
Intro to Computer Systems Hardware (42 hrs-\$175*) PI Intro to Computer Systems OS (42 hrs-\$175*) PI

CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Building Trades Blueprint Reading (9 wks - \$80) EB Construction Trades - Algebra 1 (9 wks - \$80) EB
Construction Trades - Algebra II (9 wks - \$80) PI Home Woodworking (9 wks - \$80) ALL

CULINARY ARTS-BAKING/COOKING

Baking Fundamentals (9 wks-\$80) EB Baking - Just Desserts (9 wks-\$80) PI
Biscotti Bake (One night workshop-\$10*) EB Cake Decorating (9 wks-\$80) EB/PI
Cookie Bake Extravaganza (1 night workshop-\$10*) EB/PI Cooking-Caribbean Culinary (9 wks-\$80) EB
Cooking-Mexican Culinary (9 wks-\$80) EB Cooking-Healthy and Delicious (9 wks-\$80) EB
Cooking - Italian Culinary I (9 wks-\$80) EB/PA

ELECTRICAL TRADES & ELECTRONICS

Electrical Trades Blue Print Reading (12 wks-\$110) PI Industrial Electronic Controls PLC (9 wks-\$80) EB
Small Appliance Repair (12 wks-\$110) EB

HEALTH AND SAFETY EDUCATION

Adult CPR/AED (4 1/2 hrs-\$40*) EB Boating Skills and Seamanship (8 wks-\$20*) PA
Dietetic Assistant (18 wks-\$275*) EB Fitness/Wellness Program (9 wks-\$80) EB
Medical Billing and Coding (12 wks-\$220) PI Nutrition - Everyday Nutrition Spring
OSHA 30 Hour General Industry (10 wks-\$90) EB/PI Standard First Aid (5 1/2 hrs-\$50*) EB
Yoga (9 wks-\$45*) EB

HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR CONDITIONING

HVAC - Cooling and Controls Spring Refrigerant Handling Certification (5 wks-\$150*) EB

INTERIOR DESIGN & APPAREL SERVICES

Cross Stitch Embroidery (9 wks-\$80) EB Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks-\$80) EB
Dressmaking (9 wks-\$80) EB Introduction to Interior Design (9 wks-\$80) EB
Pattern Making (9 wks-\$80) EB Quilting & Patchwork (9 wks-\$80) EB

MACHINE TRADES

Hydraulics/Pneumatics II (10 wks-\$90*) EB

MASONRY TRADES

Block Masonry Basics (9 wks-\$80) EB

MOTORCYCLE & SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair (9 wks-\$80) PI Motorcycle Rider Safety Call 1-800-8WE-RIDE PI
Small Engine Repair (9 wks-\$80) PI

PLUMBING

Licensed Master Plumber Cont. Ed (6 hrs-\$150*) PI Plumbing Code (9 wks-\$80) PI

SECURITY SERVICES

Intro to a Career in Security Services (9 wks-\$80) EB

SMALL BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES

Small Business Lectures Series (5 wks-\$50*) EB

STATIONARY ENGINEERING

Stationary Engineering I Low Pressure (12 wks-\$110) EB/PI

TUTORING

Tutoring (\$35 hr.*) Call Evening School Principal, 732-254-8700 (7pm-9pm)

VOCATIONAL ARTS/DANCE

Creative Origami (9 wks-\$80) EB Drawing & Sketching II (9 wks-\$80) EB
Guitar Instruction (9 wks-\$90) EB Oil Painting Advanced (9 wks-\$80) EB
Basic Watercolor - Drawing & Sketching Spring

WELDING

Introduction to Basic & Adv. Welding (9 wks-\$80) PI

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Bldg Property Maintenance Mech(5 months-\$1400) PI Dry Cleaning (10 wks-\$450) PI
Electrical Technology (5 months-\$1400) PI Health Technology Prep (90 hrs-\$200) PI
Health Unit Coordinator (5 months-\$600) PI Pharmacy Technician (15 wks-\$200) PI
Plumbing Technology (5 months-\$1400) PI Manicuring (300hrs-\$600) EBView the Schedule and Course Descriptions at www.mcvtc.net

FEES

9 wk Course - \$80
10 wk Course - \$90
12 wk Course - \$110
FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE
OTHER FEES
*Special Fees/As Noted
**Additional Fees
Materials Fees - See Catalog
Out-of-County - Course Fee Plus \$30

SCHOOL LOCATIONS

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

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

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Cullen

Continued from page A1

kidney). It's a match. ... As ironic as it might seem, it's a matter of life or death. He's opting for life. ... He's willing to stand there and listen to the families if it (the deal) goes smoothly."

Mask said Cullen, who has the right not to appear, would be transported to an undisclosed New York hospital for the procedure in the near future, but if the operation is blocked it will only delay sentencing. He said the operation is conditional on all jurisdictions involved in Cullen's case signing off on it.

Mask said a tentative sentencing date of Jan. 5 may be postponed because authorities in Morris and Essex counties have not concluded their investigations.

Whatever the date, John Shanagher of Bridgewater is looking forward to it. His father Jack Shanagher died March 11, 2003 at Somerset Medical Center at the age of 83 and is believed to be the fourth victim at the hospital.

"What am I going to do? I am going to tell him how much he's harmed my family. I'm going to tell him how much he didn't have the right," said John Shanagher, a history teacher at Bloomfield Middle

School in Bloomfield.

"I'm going to tell him who my father was. My father was a real person. He was a good man. He fought in World War II. He liberated concentration camps. I'm going to tell him how disruptive it is to our lives. He's damaged us — my kids, my sisters and their kids."

Jack Shanagher, who lived with his son's family, was being treated for a blood clot in his leg and was to be released from Somerset Medical Center in a day or two.

It is believed that Cullen gave Jack Shanagher epinephrin, which speeds up the heart rate. Jack Shanagher had a pacemaker.

"We thought it was the natural order of life. God had decided it was time," his son said. "We didn't know some psychopath decided it was time."

John Shanagher said he does see Cullen's offer as blackmail.

"There is no other word for it," he said. "Everything with him is about control. ... But you know what? I don't care. Someone gets a kidney, and my family and I get what we need to move on."

Mask said he doesn't think allowing the victims' families to face Cullen is a good idea and would like to avoid a "circus-like atmosphere" in the courtroom similar to the recent Wichita, Kan., trial of confessed BTK Strangler

Dennis Rader.

"He's got a legal right to waive his presence at the trial. It's not as if he has anything to add. There's nothing he can say to make the victims' families feel better," Mask said. "It's something that can be done in a more dignified way."

"The judge would instruct (the families) to speak to me, not to Mr. Cullen. But I have no doubt he will allow them to do exactly that — let them yell and scream at Mr. Cullen," he said. "Mr. Cullen is willing to let them do that to get a kidney to a very sick person."

"I don't begrudge that man (who needs a kidney)," John Shanagher said. "Supposedly he did this because he felt bad for these people. But if he was Mr. altruism, he would let us know what happened to my father. But he won't."

John Shanagher said he has heard that Cullen initially didn't want to see his victims' families because the nurse expected a "hostile" encounter.

"What, am I supposed to invite him over for Christmas?" John Shanagher said. "Well, I could. I have an extra chair now."

"I just want to say what I have to say, walk out of that courtroom and never think of him again. Then it will be between him and God."

Following his sentencing in New Jersey, Cullen will be sentenced in Pennsylvania as well.

Condo Fire

Continued from page A1

Brook.

The fire remains under investigation but has been ruled non-suspicious. Ewald said a five-inch wall of sheetrock between units known as a fire separation assembly prevented it from spreading to other sections of the building.

"That held, yes," he said. Outside the building, charred insulation lay on the grass next to melted siding and a warped screen door. The cold air still had a strong, smokey odor.

Inside Pompeia Cozza's first-floor unit, the squishing sound of footsteps on her waterlogged carpet came and went over and over Tuesday

afternoon as family members salvaged what they could.

Her home sustained no fire damage, but because firefighters had to cut holes in her ceiling to drain water used on the blaze above, it now looks like it was in the path of a hurricane. Most of her furniture and household items were destroyed.

"I sit here and think about years of a cumulating stupid things, like bottles of spices," she said.

Her sons, however, were able to recover some of her more important possessions — her wedding albums, their wedding albums and old photographs of her parents.

"We went crazy looking for my mother's wedding ring, but it was found," she said. "My mother's musical Santa Claus, they saved it."

Pompeia Cozza is a widow

and has lived at Stratford Place for about two years.

"I just downsized after living in a home in Bound Brook for 42 years," she said. "I just finished decorating for Christmas."

Pompeia Cozza acknowledged this time of year does add to the sadness of her situation.

"You have no idea," she said. "But people have been so tremendous. The phone has not stopped ringing from friends and relatives out of state. ... I'll be with my whole family (at Christmas)."

She said that's what the holiday is all about.

"Come on mom, it's time to go," said Steven Cozza, who escorted his mother from her home.

Contributing: Takesha Pettus, staff writer

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Since 1862

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RU basketball players spread holiday cheer

EDISON — The Rutgers Men's and Women's basketball teams served dinner and distributed holiday gifts to clients of Imani Park Transitional Housing Program on Monday.

As part of their yearly volunteer efforts, the men's and women's teams joined forces for this holiday event. Rutgers University — along with the Cager's and Court Clubs — provided the food.

Last year, the men's team hosted a party for families and kids where they played games, provided dinner, brought gifts,

and signed autographs.

Each member of the Rutgers Men's and Women's Basketball Teams annually completes 50 hours of community service.

Imani Park Transitional Housing Program is a 16-unit facility that provides housing and support services specifically geared toward the needs of homeless individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. Services provided include housing and relocation, job training, substance abuse and mental counseling, medical screenings and case management.

Imani Park consists of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments, classrooms, a community room, laundry facilities, and staff offices.

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'GO-RU!'

Belly up to the bar to see the big game

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

Reports of scarlet fever outbreaks in Somerset County are growing as Rutgers University prepares to make its first bowl game appearance in nearly three decades.

Tuesday's Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., will pit the Scarlet Knights, 7-4 for the year, against the 6-5 Arizona State Sun Devils.

To celebrate the game, a number of area restaurants and taverns will host Insight Bowl parties, including the Chimney Rock Inn in Bound Brook.

"Rutgers is the talk of the town," Alan Frank, president of the Chimney Rock Inn said earlier this week. "The awakening of the Rutgers sleeping giant has arrived!"

Frank said his establishment has been a supporter of Rutgers football since coach Greg Schiano took the reins in December of 2000.

"The Rock joined coach Schiano's vision to paint the entire state of New Jersey red," he said. "We began years ago by talking up the program, advertising in game day programs and giving away Rutgers tickets. This program, realizing its potential, has amounted to more Rutgers fans in the restaurant after home games and during televised games."

Frank even went so far as to hang a huge "GO-RU!" banner on the outside of the 800 N.

Thompson Ave. restaurant when Rutgers became bowl eligible.

During Tuesday's game, there will be free gift giveaways at "The Rock." \$1.95 domestic drafts and \$2 off imports, as well as appetizers and pizza.

Frank's prediction for the game?

Rutgers 27, Arizona State 24. Scarlet fever has also infected downtown Somerville.

"This is the first time in 27 years they've gone to a bowl. It's a big deal," said Pat Mannion, owner of the Mannion's Pub and Restaurant, located at 150 West Main St.

"I didn't go to Rutgers, but we have a lot of alumni that come here," he said, adding he is aware that there are about 178,000 Rutgers alumni in the tri-state area.

"A lot of them won't be able to go to the game," he said.

So Mannion has been planning a special Rutgers bowl night, where alumni and fans can gather to cheer on their Knights to victory.

Patrons will be able to catch the game — beginning at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 27, on ESPN — on the three televisions inside the restaurant, or on an additional eight TVs, including a big screen, upstairs in Mannion's Clubhouse Sports Bar.

The night will include free halftime buffets and free raffles for T-shirts and pint glasses.

Mannion said he also will

offer \$2 Scarlet Knight shots. It's a concoction he is still working on, but, he said: "It's going to be red."

Mannion's prediction for the game?

Revenge.

Ironically, it was Arizona State who Rutgers faced in the 1978 Garden State Bowl at Giants Stadium, where the Sun Devils beat the Scarlet Knights 34-18.

"I think they're going to surprise everyone and come out with a win," Mannion said.

John Wooding, associate athletic director for communications at Rutgers, said the game is a very important one for the university, which is the birthplace of intercollegiate football (Rutgers defeated Princeton in 1869 in the first such game ever played).

As of last Monday, Wooding said a total of 6,342 tickets for this more recent milestone had been purchased by Rutgers students.

"Obviously it's a great accomplishment to play in the post season," he said. "The coaching staff and the team have done a tremendous job to get to this point."

The Colorado Café, at 154 Bonnie Burn Road, invites Rutgers students, alumni, faculty, staff and fans to stop by for the game, some Rutgers trivia, free mechanical bull rides, door prizes, and food and drink specials including \$1 drafts. Colorado Café features 20 TVs including a monster 12-foot screen.

Middlesex Briefs

Lessons and carols sung by candlelight

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Presbyterian Church holds "A Service of Lessons and Carols" at 7 p.m. today.

This Christmas Eve service is held by candlelight. For more information, call (732) 469-4498. The church is at 1190 Mountain Ave., adjacent to the Middlesex Municipal Building.

'Joseph' tickets are still available

NEW BRUNSWICK — Looking for a last-minute stocking stuffer or holiday family treat? A limited number of tickets are available to the Middlesex County Plays in the Park production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the State Theatre.

Showtimes are 7 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday 3 and 7 p.m. Friday. Thursday's show is interpreted in sign language.

Tickets are \$6. For reservations, visit statetheatre.nj.org or call (732) 246-7469.

Ready to recycle Christmas trees?

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Holiday hours for the recycling center and yard waste site on Kenneth Avenue have been announced.

The recycling center will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today, Tuesday and Wednesday and Dec. 31, and noon-7 p.m. Jan. 4. The facility will be closed Jan. 3, a day the center would normally be open.

The yard waste site is open through Dec. 31 for residents to drop off Christmas trees. Hours

are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. today plus 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Dec. 31. Be sure the ornaments and bases are removed.

For updates, call (908) 226-7620.

In addition, 2006 permits for the yard waste site are available in the Borough Clerk's office at Borough Hall. Bring the registration for the vehicle you will use.

College is holding evaluations Jan. 9

EDISON — Middlesex County College will host an Instant Evaluation Evening designed to highlight opportunities at the College and provide enrollment information for this spring.

It is scheduled for 4-7 p.m. Jan. 9 in the College Center, rooms 100-102.

Instant Evaluation Evening allows students who would like to enroll this spring to come to the college and receive an evaluation of any credits they have earned and to enroll. Please bring copies of all transcripts. While there is normally a late fee for people registering on that day, it will be waived.

The college is offering three new programs: Information Systems Security, which trains technicians to protect the nation's computer networks from hackers, criminals and terrorists; Help

Desk Administration, which teaches students how to help people with computer problems over the phone; and Energy Utility Technology, a program in cooperation with PSE&G in which students learn to be technicians for the electric and gas industry.

The spring semester begins Jan. 23. "Instant Evaluation Evening allows students to conveniently come to campus to find out about our programs and to enroll," said Peter Rice, director of Admissions. "We're going to highlight some very exciting new additions to our academic areas that we think will be very popular. While everyone is welcome, I think this will be especially valuable for adult students considering returning to college."

For additional information or to schedule an appointment, call (732) 906-4243.

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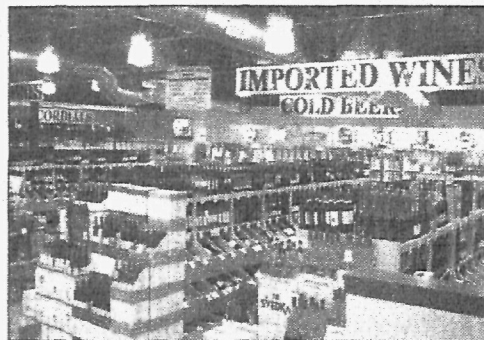
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Saturday, December 24, 2005

Opinion

Confusing choices in Medicare?

By GRACE-MARIE TURNER

Everywhere seniors turn, they find newspapers and airwaves filled with warnings that the new Medicare drug benefit is overwhelmingly confusing — certainly discouraging words for seniors who both want and need this new benefit.

But seniors should not give up. One reason they are confused is because they have more and better choices than anyone anticipated when the drug benefit was being crafted by Congress.

For example, one prescription drug plan costs as little as \$1.87 a month in premiums. Others eliminate the \$250 deductible before coverage kicks in so seniors get first-dollar coverage. And still others are providing drug coverage in the dreaded "doughnut hole" — the gap in the standard plan where insurance coverage is interrupted between low and high drug expenses.

Congress expected that seniors would have to pay about \$35 a month in premiums for their Medicare drug coverage, but the average premium is lower — about \$32 a month. And almost every state has a plan with premiums of no more than \$20 a month.

The trade off for seniors in having choices of drug benefits is, having to make choices. It could have been simple: The government could have told seniors what they would pay and which drugs they would get — maybe their drugs would be on the drug list, and maybe not. But as it is, the choices available require them to pick the plan that is best for them.

The reason for these surprisingly better choices is competition: 65 different sponsors are competing to provide the most attractive benefits at the lowest prices. Every drug plan must cover at least two drugs in every therapeutic class, but seniors need to make sure the specific drugs

they need are covered by the plan they choose.

And, miracle of miracles, seniors actually know what their options are in each of the different plans. That's not what people are accustomed to in our paternalistic health insurance market. Welcome to the future.

Seniors will have to narrow down their decisions to pick the plan that provides them the lowest premium and the best selection where they live. And with an average of 42 plans per region, it takes some work.

The (800) MEDICARE phone lines are swamped with seniors anxious to learn more and sign up. The Medicare Web site, www.medicare.gov, also has been inundated.

The Medicare agency is working feverishly to fix problems and expand capacity. But seniors have until May to sign up. So there's time.

It's worth it. The plans offering coverage are competing intensely for beneficiaries to sign up, and they are making the drug benefit even more attractive than the one outlined by Congress. It's hard to deny that private sector competition has come up with better options than the standard benefit plan Congress designed.

How have the plans been able to do this?

Tough negotiations over drug prices, for starters. Some major drug companies are very upset because they have been shut out by drug plans because they wouldn't, or couldn't, offer low enough prices. All of the drug plans in the mix are approved by the Medicare agency to provide coverage at least as good as that specified by Congress. And if seniors don't like the plan they selected, they can switch again next November.

Grace-Marie Turner is president of the Galen Institute, a non-profit research organization that focuses on free-market ideas for health reform.

The following is contact information for state representatives serving Somerset County, as well as members of Congress serving Central Jersey.

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— U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine (D)
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(202) 224-4744 (Washington, D.C.)

— U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D)
One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 639-8700

Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224
— Rep. Michael Ferguson (R-7th)
45 Mountain Blvd., Building D, Suite 1, Warren, NJ 07059, (908) 757-7835

214 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-5361
— Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th)
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— Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi (R-16th)
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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:

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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.

Question of the week: Have you contributed to charities this holiday season?



ROBERT ROWDEN

Somerset

"I've made too many, about \$1,800 worth. It was to the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and the Market Street Mission."



MARCEL PALINKAS

Princeton

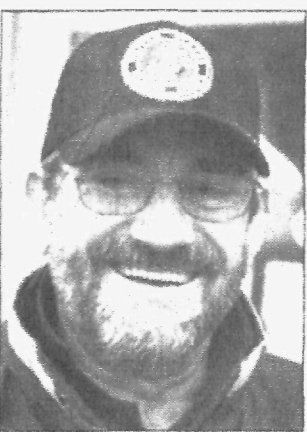
"We gave some money to the Salvation Army. You know it's going to people that really need it."



ANDREW REES

Franklin

"Yes, I've donated this year, to the Midland School and the Salvation Army."



FRANK LEIBOLD

Raritan

"I've done a couple, mostly to the United Way. It depends, but I usually drop some money in the Salvation Army (red kettle)."

Quotable



"If cancer is identified we literally hold their hands every step of the way. It makes a huge difference."

Jacquelyn Kopet Feller

Letters to the Editor

Park Commission begins 50th year

To The Editor:

It is natural at this time of year for people to reflect and look forward. The close of 2005 has special meaning to the commissioners and staff of the Somerset County Park Commission. We are closing the door on a year of incredible progress and opening the door on the 50th anniversary year for the Park Commission.

The success of the past year is due to the wonderful people of Somerset County. More than 2 million people enjoyed the offerings of the Park Commission at the free summer concert series, the Environmental Education Center, Lord Stirling Stable, our world class gardens, our five golf courses, our special events and our general use parks.

The opening of the entire facility at Neshanic Valley Golf Course, including the Ridge nine and the Learning Center, brought rave reviews from golfers across the region. The Learning Center allowed the Park Commission to expand the very successful Junior Golf program that we now expect to grow every year, teaching this lifelong sport to children of all ages.

The opening of the Torpey Athletic Complex in Bridgewater and the East County Athletic Complex in Warren have provided much-needed recreation opportunities to residents in two key population centers of the

county.

We addressed the future of parks and recreation with the completion of the capital facilities study. This report provided the Park Commission with an assessment of needs and facilities inventory to satisfy the future needs of our growing county. The commissioners will use this study as a basis for planning tomorrow's active and passive recreation opportunities.

The voters of Somerset County showed vision and foresight with overwhelming approval of the public question on the November ballot that will allow the Board of Chosen Freeholders to designate a portion of open space funds to the development and/or improvement of park and recreation facilities.

And now we will begin to celebrate 50 years of success. Next year will not only continue the remarkable progress that we have made, but will celebrate the commitment of freeholders, commissioners, staff and citizens, past and present, who contributed to making the Somerset County Park Commission among the most respected in the nation.

I personally want to thank everyone who has touched our lives over the past 50 years. It is because of you that we are successful.

RAY BROWN

Director, Somerset County Park Commission
Bridgewater

Christmas is not just about the consumers

To The Editor:

In these days many people have so many do-dads and gadgets that they can't appreciate some of the simple things that are disappearing year by year.

When I was a youngster, back in the 30s, Christmas light displays around town were a great sight to see. Many large towns and cities strung lights along and across the streets. Of course this was to attract shoppers to town for their Christmas shopping. But just to go into town to see the lights for many people that lived out in the boondocks it was a great treat.

I remember my father taking me from Woodbridge to Newark to see the big display on the Public Service build-

ing. The main feature was an evergreen wreath entwined with colored lights about six stories tall. There were many other smaller wreaths and lights in the area, but that one took the cake.

Plainfield, even up into the early 1960s, lit up Front Street from about Madison Avenue to Norwood Avenue (and) Park Avenue from Front Street to Third or Fourth Street. In many areas people are decorating their own properties, but it does not seem to spread the same feeling of joy of the Christmas season.

But in all this mad dash to spend, let us remember what the holiday is all about. Let us keep Christ in Christmas.

WILLIAM TUTHILL
South Plainfield

Somerset County News

Recycling center to close for Christmas

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset County Recycling Center, located at 40 Polhemus lane, will be closed in observance of Christmas on Monday.

For those living in Bernards Township, the next curbside recycling collection will be held Tuesday.

For more information, call the Recycling Center at (732) 469-3363.

Volunteers needed for handicapped riding

The Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Center is seeking new volunteers to provide support with equine-

assisted activities for individuals with disabilities.

Orientation for the winter session is from 6-9 p.m. Jan. 4 or 1-4 p.m. Jan. 7, weather permitting. Both sessions are held at the Riding Center on County Road 517, Tewksbury, and cover everything you need. New volunteers must attend either session.

Group lessons are held Monday through Saturday. Riders learn basic riding, horsemanship and trail riding.

"Hippotherapy" uses the horse to provide therapy for the handicapped rider. Sessions are under the direction of a licensed therapist with help from a certified instructor and volunteers. Registration is required.

For additional information, call Carol at (908) 439-9636.

County parks provide recreation support

The Somerset County Park Commission Therapeutic Recreation Department is dedicated to providing year round recreation and leisure opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

The department provides participants with the opportunity to enjoy an active leisure lifestyle that improves social, physical, cognitive and emotional functioning and enhances participants' abilities.

The Therapeutic Recreation Department uses education and recreation services to help

people with developmental disabilities to develop and use their leisure in ways that enhance their health, functional abilities, independence and quality of life.

Through the use of a variety of social, cultural, artistic, culinary, sports, fitness, community outings, horticulture and special events, participants can improve social skills, enhance self-esteem, improve overall health and well-being and physical ability, enhance communication skills, constructively use leisure time, and eliminate boredom leading to reduction of stress and anxiety.

The program is a cooperative effort between the Somerset County Park Commission and

municipalities including: Bedminster, Bernards, Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Bridgewater, Green Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, Montgomery, North Plainfield, Raritan, Somerville, Watchung and Warren.

Any child or adult residing in these communities and needing specially designed programs may register seasonally.

Highly qualified staff plan and implement all programs, with the majority of the activities taking place at the TR Activity Center at North Branch Park on Milltown Road in North Branch.

The more popular programs include Teen Club for ages 13 to 17.

There are also overnight trips for developmentally disabled adults ages 18 and older that have taken participants to Boston, Florida, Nashville, and the Caribbean.

The T.R.A.I.L.S. program, run in conjunction with the Park Commission's Lord Stirling Stable provides adapted horseback riding instruction and Camp Okee Sunokee provides a six-week summer day camp for ages 6 to 13 that encourages the development of recreation and social skills through the participation in a variety of crafts, games, sports, music, and cooking activities. For more information, call (908) 526-5650 or visit www.somersetcountyparks.org.

Morris County Y and churches hold supply drive

Never say never. Sure, there was a food drive under way, and yes, people were in and out dropping off coats to help the less fortunate keep warm, and of course, there was the Toys for Tots collection going on.

Despite the stacks of canned goods, mounds of coats and piles of toys, the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA in Mountain Lakes found the time and the room to help collect snacks, toiletries and other personal items to be sent to U.S. soldiers overseas under the auspices of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

Chris Torre, an employee of the Y, brought the idea to Tia White, community service director. Tom Cunningham, an OPSHBX volunteer and employee of Norman Gale Pontiac in Cedar Knolls, had spoken to Chris, who had seen Tom's OPSHBX display at the dealership while she was having her car serviced last month.

"It was a good idea; I wanted to try and do something for the soldiers," White explained.

Within a matter of weeks, letters were sent out to over 200 businesses; Pompton Lakes radio station WGHT broadcast spots on the Dec. 18 event, and posters were displayed at the Y.

Members of the Y's Leaders Club, students in grades 7-12, were on hand to collect and sort the bags and boxes of donated goods.

Pat and Jim Debbie drove from Mountainside, the back of their pick-up loaded with supplies donated from their church, Our Lady of Lourdes. Several members of the parish have family serving in Iraq, and members of the Rosary Altar Society organized the drive after hearing about it on the radio.

Jackie Hsu, a member at the Y, also visited the drop-off on Sunday. Her church, Christian Evangelical Mission and their Youth Group grades 6th-12th collected for the troops over several weeks. They took those collections and packaged them in shoeboxes wrapped brightly in Christmas paper. 22 boxes in all, filled with toiletries and snacks, with letters of support carefully tucked in inside each one.

Stephanie Lim, a member of the youth group, wrote:

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor

Dear U.S. Soldier,

"There are no words that can express how much gratitude Americans hold in our hearts for soldiers like you. It must take so much courage and bravery to leave home to fight for our country. Although not everyone is too happy about this war, everyone still must be thankful for soldiers like you to fight against terrorism. I write this in church, hoping that this letter and shoebox will bring a smile to the face of a courageous soldier. May God bless you and keep you safe this holiday season and forever."

White was almost apologetic as we thanked her for helping support OPSHBX.

"The holidays took away from how well we could have done," she explained. "Usually when I do a collection it's for a week or two, not one day, but I just didn't have enough room with all the food and coats and toys here."

"It just didn't seem to be enough. In the spring, we'll do a two-week collection, and that way we'll get a lot more. I know we can do better."

Soldiers' Shopping Spree

Mother and daughter Dawn and Alexa Concepcion will spend part of their holiday season greeting shoppers at the Hillsborough Pathmark Supermarket on Route 206 to hand out our shopping list of items needed by U.S. troops overseas.

They'll be inside the lobby of the store from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 28 and Dec. 29 to hand out the lists, and collect bags of donated groceries from shoppers as they exit the store.

Somerville Tribute

Somerville Mayor Brian Gallagher is asking borough residents for help in tracking down active servicemen and women, especially those on duty in Iraq,

Afghanistan the Mideast.

The borough plans to recognize and honor all active soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen at its Jan. 1 reorganization meeting, according to Gallagher.

The mayor is urging parents, friends, husbands and wives to get in touch with Chick Sternadori, borough administrator, at (908) 704-6983.

We'd ask that you also contact The Reporter, so that we can add those names to our shipping list to ensure they receive packages from their neighbors in Central New Jersey.

"I Love Lulu"

The Branchburg Recreation Department will stage an original production entitled "I Love Lulu" on Jan. 13-14, with both performances benefiting Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

In April, 42 students from Branchburg schools presented "Darn Yanks," and rather than sell tickets and charge admission, asked those who came to see the show to bring a bag of groceries and make a donation to help OPSHBX maintain its supply line.

"Darn Yanks" was a huge success on the stage - both shows were sold out - and the sell-out crowds brought hundreds of bags of donated items to the show. Students also wrote letters to the soldiers, and received several replies from the troops.

We'll have more details in a few weeks.

T-shirts for sale

Looking for one more holiday gift? Maybe a stocking stuffer?

Quality t-shirts with the handsome Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster and logo are available for a donation of \$10.

Several stores on Main Street in Somerville and Main Street in Metuchen are selling the shirts, which feature the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a full-color reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster. The shirts cost \$10 and are also available at The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSHBX.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

For the second time in two months, Bound Brook Carpet owner Ike Hishmeh ran a special weekend sale from which he donated the profits to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. This is the sign that hung outside his Main Street store in Bound Brook last week.

GOOD SAMARITAN

Merchant donates \$1,000 to OPSHBX, hosts dinner

By ROD HIRSCH
Staff Writer

Bound Brook merchant Ike Hishmeh has held several weekend sales at his Main Street carpet store this year, after which he donated the profits to victims of Hurricane Katrina, and more recently, to soldiers and Marines in Iraq.

This week, he and his son, Jacob, donated \$1,000 to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, the second time in two months they've done so.

On Saturday, they'll roll up the rugs at their store to make room for tables and chairs as they host a Christmas Eve dinner for disadvantaged area residents.

Last weekend's "100,000 Feet of Carpet Sale" did not quite meet up to Ike's expect-



tations; he surmises that holiday shoppers were too busy at the malls to take advantage of his 50 percent off sale.

He had promised to donate at least \$1,000, but came up \$400 short.

His 18-year-old son didn't hesitate to help make up the difference, telling his dad to take his earnings at the store that week - \$250 - and add it to the profits. His dad added the balance of \$150 to round out the \$1,000 donation.

Eager to do more to help out where needed, Ike and his son

decided to host Saturday's Christmas Eve dinner at the store for disadvantaged and homeless people. They've reached out to area churches and other agencies and have asked community leaders to get word out to those people.

Ike's friend Nik Renieris, co-owner of Loukas Last American Diner on Route 22 east in Branchburg, agreed to cook the turkeys, and add the vegetables and trimmings. His partners, brothers Nick and Manny Halkias, will do the cooking in the diner's kitchen early Saturday.

Ike expects Santa will pay a visit to hand out presents, too.

B&B Carpets is at the intersection of Main Street and Mountain Boulevard in Bound Brook.

Call (732) 469-4800 for further information.

The Reporter
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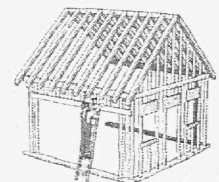
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Military Honors

Air Force Airman 1st Class Raman Srinivasan has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises, and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who com-

plete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Srinivasan is the son of T. and Jyotsna Srinivasan of Metuchen.

Air Force Chief Master Sgt. E. J. Rouvet has arrived for duty at Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Rouvet is a fire and emergency services superintendent assigned to the 16th Special Operations Wing. He has 28

years of military service.

He is the son of Marijane D. Rouvet of Venice, Fla., and nephew of Eileen Dvorak of Piscataway.

His wife, Karlyn, is the daughter of Frank G. and Carolynn Maher of Tampa, Fla.

The chief master sergeant is a 1977 graduate of North Plainfield High School and received an associate degree in 1991 from the Community College of the Air Force, McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, Wash.

Airman 1st Class Thomas A. Hickey and Airman Edward M. Cuza have graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Hickey is the son of Arthur and Dawn Hickey of Grove Avenue, Middlesex, and a 2005 alumnus of Middlesex High School. Cuza is the son of Patti Cuza of Boltin Street, Edison, and a 2005 alumnus of Edison High School.

Army National Guard Pvt. Marcial B. Martinez has graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He is the brother of Fernando Martinez of Canal Street, South Bound Brook, and Elizabeth Ramirez of East Main Street, Bound Brook.

The new private is a 2003 alumnus of Bound Brook High School.

Navy Airman Recruit Kevin J. Epps, a 2002 graduate of Piscataway Vocational

Technical High School, returned to sea after their two-month long inport period while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan.

Sailors worked long hours with civilian contractors to complete 85 contractor jobs, 246 ship repair jobs and more than 700 ship's force jobs to ensure the ship was ready to get under way.

Epps joined the Navy in August 2003.

Mayor George A. Spadaro

and the Edison Council invite you to attend the



Festival of Lights and Lighting of the Edison Menorah

The lighting will take place Tuesday, December 27, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison. The "Kurt Mann Trio" will provide the indoor and outdoor music. Refreshments, giveaways and children's entertainment will follow the Ceremony at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County.

All are welcome to attend this celebration.

For further information, call 732-248-7312

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Obituaries

Frances Schupper

BOUND BROOK — Frances "Angie" Illuzzi Schupper, 78, died Dec. 17, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Waverly, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Frank and Rose Illuzzi DiPietrantonio.

Mrs. Schupper lived in Dalton, Pa., before moving to Bound Brook. She worked in the textile industry and later retired from the typing department of American Cyanamid Corp. Her late husband, Joseph, also was employed by American Cyanamid.

A star basketball player at Dalton High School, Mrs.

Schupper was a life member of the Bound Brook High School PTA and member of the Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook. She was a Eucharistic minister for Masses at St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church and a member of her parish's Altar Rosary Society.

Also preceding her in death were two sisters, Arcangela Illuzzi Mastrapasqua and Gloria DiPietrantonio Doggett; and two brothers, Michael D. Illuzzi and Guy Illuzzi.

Surviving are two sons, James and wife Debra of Bridgewater and Thomas and wife Leslie of

Easton, Pa.; four sisters, Virginia Illuzzi Belson of Dalton, Raffaela "Rae" Illuzzi Squier of Bound Brook, Rose Marie DiPietrantonio Laster of Factoryville, Pa., and Antoinette DiPietrantonio Mennig of Clarks Summit, Pa.; a brother, Frank Illuzzi of Tunkhannock, Pa.; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. Joseph Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Resurrection Burial Park mausoleum, Piscataway.

Anna Cambletto

MIDDLESEX — Anna A. D'Angelo Cambletto, 79, died Dec. 20, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Born in Plainfield, she lived in Middlesex before moving to Martinsville in 1959. Mrs. Cambletto was a homemaker and a member of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church in Martinsville. Surviving are her husband of 60 years, Samuel; a daughter, Angela of Martinsville; and a brother, Nick D'Angelo of Waretown. Services were held Thursday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Watchung.

Belle Jacobson

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Belle Jacobson, 90, died Dec. 16, 2005 at Harborside Healthcare-Woods Edge in Bridgewater.

Born in New Brunswick, she lived in Edison and South Plainfield before moving to Bridgewater over 10 years ago.

Mrs. Jacobson retired in 1985 from Montgomery Ward, with which she was manager of the fabric department in Plainfield and Menlo Park. She also was a department manager with Bamberger's in Menlo Park. For over 40 years Mrs.

Jacobson was a volunteer for the Deborah Heart and Lung Center.

Surviving are a daughter, Lynn Vitale and husband Jim of Bridgewater; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Sunday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Watchung. Burial was in United Hebrew Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Deborah Hospital, 7 Centre Drive, Suite 10, Jamesburg, NJ 08831-3101. To send a condolence, visit www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

William E. Powers Sr.

MIDDLESEX — William E. Powers Sr., 76, died Dec. 8, 2005 at ManorCare Health Services in Mountaintop.

He was born in Pittston, Pa., and lived in Middlesex for most of his life.

Mr. Powers retired in 1985 after 36 years as a wire drawer with Volco in Kenilworth. He also owned Air-Tite Securities in South Plainfield and was a long-time member of the Middlesex Police Auxiliary.

More recently he drove a shuttle bus for nurses at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Mr. Powers was as well a custodian at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5479 in Dunellen.

Preceding him in death was a brother, Joseph.

Surviving are his wife of 31 years, Roxanne T. Steigerwalt Powers; a daughter, Debra Jean R. Rose of Maryland; four sons, William E. Jr. and Scott Adam, both of Middlesex, Stephen Anthony of South Carolina and Trevor Alan of Holmdel; two sisters, Ruth Hopkins of New Holland, Pa., and Mary Klemencic of Macungie, Pa.; and six grandchildren.

Services were held at the Middlesex Funeral Home. Burial was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park, Piscataway.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, Grand Central Station, P.O. Box 4777, New York, NY 10163.

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Wok Station
Sweet 7 Pungent Shrimp tossed with Pineapple, Carrots, Onions & Peppers
Chicken Stir Fry sautéed with Julienne Style Vegetables & Cashews, Served with White Rice
Italian Station
Multi-Grain Penne Pasta sautéed with Fresh Plum Tomatoes, Prosciutto & Peas in a Sun-dried Tomato & Basil Sauce,
Sautéed Italian Sausage with Cherry Peppers, Vidalia Onions & Broccoli Rabe in Roasted Garlic & Olive Oil. Served with Parmesan, Garlic Breadsticks.
Dinner
Appetizer
Tortelloni of Duck Confit with a Saffron Infused Buerre Blanc Accompanied with Sugar Snap Peas & Wild Mushrooms
New Years Salad
Mixed Field Greens tossed with Candied Pecans, Tear Drop Tomatoes, Roquefort Cheese, Hickory Smoked Applewood Bacon in a Hazelnut Vinaigrette
Intermezzo
Entrée
Surf & Turf
Jumbo Lobster Tail & Certified Black Angus Filet Mignon Served with Drawn Butter & Roasted Tomato Demi-Glace Accompanied with Garlic Mashed Potato & Vegetable
Dessert
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Saturday, December 24, 2005

Middlesex Life

Weekend Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 24

BRANCHBURG - Lessons and Carols, Christmas service for Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills. Raritan Valley Community College, 5 p.m. (908) 927-0601 or www.uucsh.org.

Sunday, Dec. 25

BRIDGEWATER - Christmas Service of North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Route 28, 9:30 a.m. (908) 725-2313.

BRIDGEWATER - Family Christmas service of Gateway Baptist Church, 324 Milltown Road, 11 a.m. (908) 722-9790.

Tuesday, Dec. 27

SOMERVILLE - Blood Drive of American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 1-6 p.m. Registration required: (908) 725-2217.

BERNARDS - Holiday Fun: "Winter Marshmullers" for ages 3-4. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10 a.m. Dec. 27, 29. \$24. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDS - Holiday Fun: "Winter Marshmullers" for ages 5-6.

Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 1:30 p.m. Dec. 27, 29. \$24. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

BERNARDSVILLE - Blood Drive at Bernardsville Public Library, 1 Anderson Hill Road, 2-7:30 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

SOMERVILLE - Babysitter Training course for ages 11-15. American Red Cross, 14 W. Cliff St., 10 a.m. Dec. 28-29. Registration/fees: (908) 725-2217.

SOMERVILLE - Dr. Know and his "Evil Laboratory of Liquid," program for ages 6-up. Somerville Public Library, 35 West End Ave., 11 a.m. Registration required: (908) 725-1336, Ext. 14.

BERNARDS - "Snow Birds" for ages 3-5. Environmental Education Center, 190 Lord Stirling Road, 10:30 a.m. Dec. 28, 1 p.m. Jan. 18. \$8 parent and child; \$4 each additional child. Prepayment required: (908) 766-2489.

Thursday, Dec. 29

BRIDGEWATER - Starlight Social for people in their 20's. Houlihan's, 1288 Route 22 East, 6 p.m. Reservations required: (732) 764-9073.

Friday, Dec. 30

MANVILLE - Blood Drive at VFW hall, 600 Washington Ave., 2-7:30 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

Saturday, Dec. 31

HILLSBOROUGH - Nature Walk: "End of the Year, End of the Trail." Sourland Mountain Preserve, East Mountain Road, 10 a.m. Free.

Registration required: (908) 766-2489.

In the Future

BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "The Swimmer" (U.S., 1968). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Jan. 3. (908) 234-2325, Ext. 111.

BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "Major Dundee" (U.S., 1965). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Jan. 10. (908) 234-2325, Ext. 111.

BEDMINSTER - Forgotten Flick: "The Awful Truth" (U.S., 1937). Clarence Dillon Public Library, 2336 Lamington Road, 7 p.m. Jan. 17. (908) 234-2325, Ext. 111.

BRANCHBURG - Open House for Allied Health department of Raritan Valley Community College, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jan. 4. (908) 218-8872 or www.raritanval.edu/ccce.

BRANCHBURG - Open House for students interested in Health and Medical Sciences Academy. Raritan Valley Community College, 7 p.m. Jan. 11. (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7243.

BRIDGEWATER - Monthly Meeting of Bridgewater Woman's Club. Somerset County Library, 1 Vogt Drive, 10 a.m. Jan. 10. (908) 685-1348.

BRIDGEWATER - Book Group discussing "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman. Somerset County Library, 1 Vogt Drive, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 10. (908) 526-4016, Ext. 105.

BRIDGEWATER - Blood Drive at St. Bernard Church, 500 Route 22 East, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 15. Donor requirements: (800) 933-BLOOD.

BRIDGEWATER - Model Train Exhibition, winter show of 4-H Trainmasters Club. Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Road, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 21, 22. Adults \$3; under age 12 \$1. (908) 526-6644.

RARITAN - Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs from the borough. Relief Hose Company No. 2, North Thompson St., 10 a.m.-noon Jan. 14. Free. (908) 725-2300, Ext. 1981.

SOMERVILLE - Get a Job: "The Ten Commandments of a Job Search" with Sally Wright. Jewish Family Service, 150 W. High St., 7 p.m. Jan. 5. Free. Registration: (908) 725-7799.

Advocates protect children's needs

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — From across two counties, the volunteers came to be sworn in as court-appointed special advocates in Somerset County Superior Court's Family Division last week. Once they are called, they will spend hours with the children and parents in the family court system, sifting out what situation would be best for the child, and how to make that happen.

For many, it was a sense of duty that brought them to volunteer for the organization, which has been active in other counties in the state, but is new to the Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Vicinages. The group sworn in last week is the first class of what will hopefully be many more volunteers.

Constance Fenner of Warren thought that she could bring her years of teaching experience to working with the children CASA-SHaW, or Court Appointed Special Advocates of Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren counties, seeks to protect.

"Children need a voice, and unfortunately, DYFS workers are overloaded."

"Children need a voice, and unfortunately, DYFS workers are overloaded."

Constance Fenner
Volunteer,
CASA-SHaW

Unfortunately, DYFS workers are overloaded," she said, referring to the state Department of Youth and Family Services. Now that she's retired, she has the time to devote to the organization, and has already completed the 30 hours of required training. "The training was very interesting, very worthwhile. There was a lot to learn," she said.

For Pamela Sloan, of Hillsborough, it was her experience as a mother of two teenagers.

"I know how challenging it is in the best of circumstances, so I feel it's important to support children who don't have those resources," she said. Though she is a working parent, she is committed to the organization.

"With working, it's hard to find

time for this, but the present environment for a lot of children can't make me ignore the situation," she said.

As CASA volunteers, each will be appointed to a child or sibling group in the family court system, where they will spend between three and 20 hours each month meeting with the child or children, the biological and foster parents, teachers, and healthcare providers to discern what is best for the child and make a recommendation to the court.

For DeWaine Stewart, a Somerville township employee and South Bound Brook resident, the opportunity hit close to his heart: As a former foster child, he knows how important the job is.

"That was the big tip off for me, right there. I had a very good home and I'm very thankful for that, because I wouldn't be here without that," he said. A longtime community volunteer who mentors children and young adults and runs a drill team, Stewart is committed to helping the youth of the area.

"I teach them how to respect themselves, how to work together with others, and also how to respect their teachers," he said. "I teach them to listen, think and learn."

As a result, he said, working as a CASA volunteer was a natural thing to do.

For Amy Parvez, a Montgomery resident, it was her work as a host parent for Healing the Children and her background in nursing and behavior health that lead her to volunteer.

"If you can't work with the parents, you can't help the children," she said. "I felt, after I left my job, that I needed to stay doing something in the system, and this was a way to help kids in childhood so they don't end up in the mental health system later."

'We can't forget them'

Nurse volunteers time to help hurricane survivors

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

"Shortly after we arrived, we had our first tour of the medical tent. It's pretty basic, with a varied assortment of medications and medical supplies. Some are in large containers, so after we order the medication, we go to find it, count out the pills, and label it. One of the most common problems here is 'Katrina cough.' Haven't figured out what it's related to, but it seems to be rampant here."

Two days before Raritan Valley Community College professor Helen Jones was supposed to go down to help aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita struck the area.

She went down to the Gulf Coast anyway, to Alexandria, La., to use her skills as a mental health nurse to do what she could for the crisis. Since her original stint as a volunteer worker, she's been down a second time, over the Thanksgiving break, and expects to go over the winter recess as well.

It was an e-mail from the American Nursing Association about its Katrina Assistance Project that piqued her interest.

"I thought, well, I'll volunteer, never thinking they would call me, and they called me and said, 'Can you leave in 24 hours?' I thought, this is a scam," she said. But everything fell into place immediately: A retired professor covered some of her classes, and she arranged to continue teaching her on-line course from the area.

"There are a lot of people here, and I'm not exactly sure what they all do. It's like a big camp-out, with a welcoming attitude and willingness to be helpful. In the center of everything is the food tent, which is a large geodome structure where we eat all our meals, which are nutritious, varied, and tasty... Anyone in the community is welcome to come for free food. It looks like there are some homeless folks among us."

As part of a roving mental health crisis team, she saw some of the most devastated areas along the coast.

"I think the people on the beach left because they knew what was

coming. But the people who were three or four miles in didn't leave," she said, adding that the storm surge flooded areas up to 8 miles inland. "By the time they realized how bad it was, the water was up to their waists."

She helped the National Guard assess the behavior of those caught making a disturbance or doing something illegal.

"Does this person need to be in jail, or do they need to go to the special needs clinic?" she asked. "The acting-out behavior was related to someone who needed mental health treatment."

"We have been seeing 50 to 60 people at the clinic each day. Most of the patients are residents of Waveland and surrounding areas. Volunteer staff come for treatment, also. Many of the visits are for chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and hypertension. Some people need refills on their prescriptions... Howard Jones, Helen's husband and a doctor, has removed splinters and taught a medical student how to suture her first patient."

She also aided the volunteers. Burnout was a problem among the first responders, and everyone was working long hours, she said.

Jones also got her husband, Dr. Howard Jones, involved in the effort after meeting a group of volunteers from Indiana that were looking for doctors.

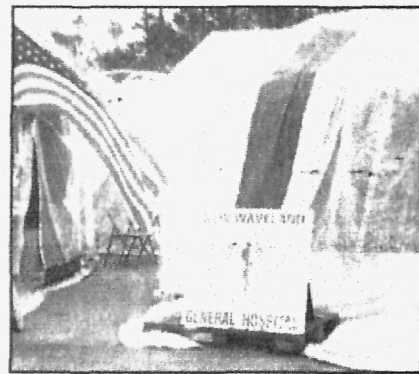
As a result of their first foray into the region, they two went down a second time to work as a two-person medical clinic in Waveland, Miss., which had been hit by a 30-foot wall of water and subjected to 150-mile-per-hour winds. As part of a larger relief center, the two lived in a tent and treated everyone from evacuees to construction professionals.

According to Jones, much of her patients' complaints were of the 'Katrina cough,' which is suspected to result from the mold that grew once the waters receded. The rest were routine injuries, as well as giving out medication for chronic illnesses. Many times, although there were plenty of donated supplies, conditions for medical treatment were less than ideal.



PHOTOS COURTESY HELEN JONES

Helen Jones, pictured above with Keith Hebert of Florida, a member of the Army National Guard, outside a building in Mississippi. Jones, a professor at Raritan Valley Community College and a mental health nurse, served as a volunteer in the Gulf Coast region last month, working at a shelter called the New Waveland Clinic in Waveland, Miss., pictured at right.



"I gave my first hepatitis A immunization. A large man, who worked in construction, he said that he was afraid of shots but more afraid of getting sick. I had him sit down and proceeded with the injection, while his foot was tapping vigorously. He didn't faint and the site didn't bleed, so he didn't even need a bandaid... Here we feel like part of this ragtag group of relief workers and hurricane survivors."

"You improvise and you use what you have. It's not a perfect situation by a long shot, so you get creative," she said. And, of course, once the physical health issues were dealt with, there was the loss and grief that typically comes when people deal with disaster.

"Underneath that, there's always an emotional issue of what they lost, their homes, their jobs, and there was the frustration with FEMA, waiting for them to bring the trailers," she said. "People were living in their cars."

"We are seasoned volunteer workers now. Everyone you meet is either a disaster survivor or a relief worker, so an instant camaraderie occurs. It's amazing how much everyone gets along ...

Alcohol is discouraged, and I don't think I've ever heard anyone curse. They are open, receptive, and love to have fun."

The first time she went down, she said, people were just happy to be alive. The second time, they were just happy to find medical care. What's in store for the third time, however, is anyone's guess, although Jones said that she's been hearing from people still in the region that there have been many suicide calls.

"Everyone feels like they want to help and to be able to do something is really gratifying," she said. Even though she's already been there twice, she feels it's still important to do as much as possible.

"Things are far from normal," she said.

Helen Jones kept detailed notes of her time working in Waveland, Miss., where she worked at a shelter called the New Waveland Clinic, run by a group called the Rainbow Family, from Nov. 21-25. The portions of the article in italics are excerpts from a journal she kept. One of the final entries read: "Now to re-enter the real world. It will seem like a mini culture shock. We hope to return to Waveland in the future. We can't forget them."

Center: No need to face cancer alone

By TAKESHA PETTUS
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — When Drucilla Cross was first diagnosed with her second case of breast cancer, she was a bit dismayed. Like many other disadvantaged people who are diagnosed with cancer, she was forced to delay procedures to remove the cancer after being refused funds to help pay for her care.

But an angel in the guise of a friend referred her to Somerville based program that has enabled Cross to have the cancer removed and she is now in recovery.

The Cancer Education and Early Detection program at the Women's Health and Counseling Center is a program started in 2001 by the center to aid uninsured women and men with screening for various forms of cancer.

The program was established in 1998. In its first year, approximately 350 women received services.

According to Program Manager Jacquelyn Kopet Feller, the program has since grown to service some 1,200 women annually.

Feller, who has been a nurse practitioner for 30 years, joined the program as director in 2001. She said the main focus of the pro-

gram is to ensure that each woman who is seen is properly cared for. "If cancer is identified we literally hold their hands every step of the way," said Feller. "It makes a huge difference."

In addition, the program's entire staff is bilingual, making the program able to handle Spanish speaking patients.

The Women's Health and Counseling Center is a non-profit organization established to provide primary care, reproductive care and health screenings to uninsured women who cannot obtain services due to financial constraints, language barriers and cultural barriers.

For more information on how to obtain a free screening contact the center at (908) 526-2335, Ext. 19.

The program offers services for both men and women. For men, the program offers prostate and colorectal examinations. For women, the program offers breast, cervical and colorectal exams. Women can receive annual breast, pelvic, pap smear, colorectal, and mammogram examinations.

Those who are living on a limited or fixed income and those who are uninsured qualify for the program.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jacquelyn Kopet Feller, program manager for the Cancer Education and Early Detection program at the Women's Health and Counseling Center in Somerville. The center provides support to those who are concerned they may have cancer and to those seeking treatment.

Skarin among Hall inductees

BRIDGEWATER — Seven individuals, including two-time Tour of Somerville champion Ron Skarin, were inducted into the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame at its annual dinner induction ceremony Oct. 14 at the Marriott Hotel.

Skarin, a native Californian, took first place in the Tour of Somerville's featured 50-mile Kugler-Anderson Memorial in 1973 and '74 and also claimed 10 national titles as a senior racer in an 11-year stretch. He entered the Hall in the "Modern Post-1975 Competitors" category.

Other inductees were William Spencer (Veteran pre-1945 category), Oliver "Butch" Martin (Modern 1945-75), Greg Hill (BMX category), Juliana Furtado (Mountain Bikes) and Michael Aisner and Pierre Lallement in the "Contributors" category.

Selections are made based on review of nominations accepted from the national cycling community and the general public. The selection

committee is comprised of cycling experts in various areas of competitive and recreational cycling and all living Hall of Famers.

This year's Hall of Fame Class:

William Spencer — Born in 1895 in England, Spencer began racing as a 15-year-old amateur in Canada before turning professional in 1916 when he entered a New York Six-Day event. He won his first six-day race in San Francisco the following year and finished fourth in the American Sprint Championship in 1917-18.

Drafted by the U.S. Army in 1918, he served for five months and after World War I, he went to Europe to race before returning to the U.S. and winning 18 of 23 match races in Philadelphia during the 1919 season. In 1920 he went to Australia and won a six-day race in Sydney, setting a world record for a quarter-mile (25 seconds) in the process. A year later he led the American sprint race series but finished second to Frank Kramer. Spencer went to Paris for the winter campaign and won 15 of 22 races, then came back to the U.S. and won the American Sprint title in 1922, '23 and '26. He died Oct. 2, 1963.

Oliver "Butch" Martin — Martin, who competed from 1963-73, was a member of the 1964 and '68 U.S. Olympic teams and won more than 50 races during his career. He was the first U.S. National road race for the U.S. Cycling Federation from '75-77 and competed in Europe in '65 and

'66, winning four races, 11 runnerup medals and placing in the top five 26 times.

Ron Skarin — A native of North Hollywood, Calif., Skarin began his career in 1966 as a 16-year-old, finishing sixth in the Junior Omnium at the national championships. He went on to win 10 national senior titles in 11 years — Team Pursuit, 1971-72 and '74-77; Individual Pursuit, '75; Ten Miles, '76; Points Race, '78; and Madison, '81.

In '75 he was the gold medalist in the Team Pursuit event at the Pan-Am Games in Mexico City and he also was a member of the '73 world championship squad and the '72 and '76 Olympic teams.

Greg Hill — With a 20-year career in professional BMX racing, Hill's accomplishments include ABA BMX Hall of Fame (first-ballot selection), five-time world champ, four-time national top pro in the 20-inch bracket, four-time national pro cruiser champ in the 24-inch class and four-time NORA Cup winner as the Number One Racer Award recipient.

Hill also was instrumental in the growth of the sport through research and development of frame geometry and component designs as well as establishing Greg Hill Speed Seminars, an exclusive training program for pro racers. He was the first to utilize Internet-based training programs designed to teach BMX racing to riders across the nation.

Juliana Furtado — Furtado, at age 23, won the 1990 mountain bikes cross country world championship and

the '92 world downhill event. The New York City native is a six-time member of the U.S. National team, was the silver medalist in cross country during the '95 Pan-Am Games and the national cross country titlist from '91-95.

She was the World Cup senior champ from '93-95 and in '98 was the U.S. road champ. Voted Female Athlete of the Year in '94 by the U.S. Cycling Federation, Furtado was also recognized as the Female Cyclist of the Year in '95 by Velo News. She was elected to the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame in '93.

Michael Aisner — As public relations director for the Red Zinger Bicycle Classic in 1977, Aisner helped show the Colorado stage race through a film short shown in movie theatres before feature films like "Jaws" and "Breaking Away," building the event into the fifth-largest stage race in the world.

Under his ownership and direction the race, now known as the Coors International Bicycle Classic, has been credited with launching the careers of top cyclists like Greg LeMond, David Phinney, Jeanne LaRue, Steve Bauer, Andy Hampsten, Phil Anderson, Raul Alcalá and Connie Carpenter.

Aisner was named one of the "Top 10 Most Influential" figures in international cycling by a reputed French sports publication and held a seat for five years at the UCI, representing the U.S. He's attended and spoken at the annual IEG Sponsorship Conference the past 20 years. The Coors Classic was broadcast live on CBS and NBC Sports. In 1980 Aisner promoted an indoor track race at the Denver Coliseum, which became the first cycling event televised on the then-new cable outlet, ESPN.

Pierre Lallement — Born in France in 1843, Lallement was trained and worked as a carriage maker, applying new technologies and inventions to the "velocipede," creating the two-wheeled steerable, human-powered machine. It's believed Lallement conceived the idea of attaching crank arms and pedals to the front wheel of a bicycle and built his prototype in 1863.

He moved to the U.S. in 1865 and received a patent for his invention the following year. His contribution to cycling includes both the use of cranks on the front wheel for motion and the invention of the pedal. He died in 1891, poor and unrecognized because his invention didn't immediately become popular. Today he's credited with being the father of the modern-day bicycle.

Patriots set to open campaign April 28

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset Patriots' quest for a fourth Atlantic League of Professional Baseball championship will begin home at Commerce Bank Park when the 2006 campaign gets under way.

Somerset, the only team to win more than one ALPB crown, will launch the 126-game season 7:05 p.m. Friday, April 28 by hosting Atlantic City in the first of three games that weekend. The opener will include a 2005 championship celebration with the presentation of championship rings and the raising of the champion banner. There will also be a post-game fireworks display.

The Pats, who'll also be home the following weekend against Lancaster, will host 54 percent of their games on weekends next year. Starting times will generally be 7:05 for Monday through Saturday night games and 1:35 Sunday afternoons. Somerset is looking to schedule the three Sunday contests in August for 5:05 p.m. with special "Beat The Heat" times.

The Patriots will host four weekday 11:05 a.m. games, including School Day Wednesday, May 10 and Camp Days July 5 and 19 and Aug. 2. There will be 12 Fireworks Nights, including a 5:05 date July 4 to celebrate Independence Day.

There will also be a full one-week All-Star break in early July, and the season concludes Sept. 24.

The Nashua Pride, which perennially ranked near the bottom of the ALPB in home attendance, is leaving the league and a traveling team, possibly based in Pennsylvania, will replace



them. Tickets for the 2006 season are now on sale, with various options available, ranging from full- and half-season deals to mini-plans.

Full and half-season ticket holders receive exclusive benefits including a discount off tickets, early entry to batting practice on select dates and give-away nights, invitations to special team events, pre-paid credit to use at Commerce Bank Park, team merchandise, and more.

Another deal is the Somerset Patriots Champions Club, in which a season ticket-holder can sign up for three seasons and receive benefits such as guaranteed pricing through 2008, exclusive memorabilia, a complimentary VIP parking pass and a ceremonial first pitch at a game.

For further information on Patriot season ticket packages stop by the ticket office at the ballpark on East Main Street in Bridgewater, call (908) 252-0700 or visit the team's on-line website at www.somerset-patriots.com.

TEAM CANADA PATS
Outfielder Ryan Radmanovich, shortstop Kevin Nicholson and first baseman Todd Betts, all of whom played major roles in helping the Pats win this year's league title, are competing for Team Canada in this week's CONCEBE Baseball Olympic Regional qualifier in Phoenix, Ariz.

Want a great return on your advertising investment???

Advertise Your Business in the

The Reporter

2006 Income Tax Directory

Publishes weekly: January 5th thru April 15th
First Issue Deadline: December 20th

For More Information Call Claire: 908-894-1082

ALL ABOUT CLOSEOUTS

Warehouse Christmas Sale

Now through Christmas • Wholesale to the Public

Sudoku The Ultimate Numerical Challenge Game \$13.00 Reg. \$29.99	Shake Flashlight Never Need Batteries Again \$5.00 Reg. \$19.99	IGIA Cordless Hair Straightner \$4.00 Reg. \$19.99	Coleman 1,000,000 Candlepower Halogen Spotlight \$5.00 Reg. \$29.99
IGIA Little Princess Manicure Set \$4.00 Reg. \$29.99	STOCKING STUFFERS Over 100 Items Under \$10.00		
141 pc. Tool Kit Variety of Handy Tools Plus a Custom Storage Case \$10.00 Reg. \$59.99	All Cell Phone Accessories Car Chargers • Hands Free \$3.00 Values to \$29.99	High Tech. 29+ Function Calculator w/ 4 color pen + 3 sided seals aluminum finish Gift Boxed \$5.00 Reg. \$19.99	Quartz Desk Clock Lucite Frame Gold Trim Mahogany Base \$7.00 Reg. \$39.99
LED Robotic Book Light \$3.00 Reg. \$19.99	36 CD Wallet \$1.00 Reg. \$9.99	Crank Flashlight No Batteries \$5.00 Reg. \$19.99	8 in 1 Universal Remote Control \$4.00 Reg. \$19.00

276 Lincoln Blvd. • Middlesex • 732-356-0002

Legal Notices

N. J. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 17:27, 17:27.1 et seq., in the NJDOT MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08625, until 10:00 A.M. on 1/31/06 and opened and read for:

Route 1 and 9 Section 1K & 2M, Contract No. 047969126, Widening, Safety Improvements & Structures, Township of Woodbridge, City of Rahway & City of Linden, Middlesex and Union Counties
Federal Project No. NHD-0331(02)
DP No: 05140

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127, N.J.A.C. 17:27. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:26-44, For Federal aided projects, bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, prior to the time of contract execution. Appropriate proof of registration should be provided to NJDOT as soon as possible after receipt of the Notice of Award.

Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act," N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.46 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance. The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the contract award.

Drawings and specifications for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bids.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. The fee is \$35.00 per month for unlimited access to view and download the documents and additional \$95.00 per month for unlimited access to download the plans, directly payable to Bid Express. Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contacting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

Route 79 and Daniels Way
Freehold, NJ
(732) 308-4725
Executive Campus
Rt. 70 West
Cherry Hill, NJ
(856) 486-6624
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Division of Procurement
Bureau of Construction Services
1035 Parkway Avenue
PO Box 625
Trenton, NJ 08625
\$70.39 B279.3T.12/24/05

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1675-05
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO PROVIDE FOR THE PLANNING BOARD TO HAVE ADDITIONAL POWERS TO CONDUCT INFORMAL CONCEPT REVIEWS OF APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE BOROUGH'S DESIGNATED REDEVELOPMENT AREAS AND TO ESTABLISH A FEE SCHEDULE FOR SAID PURPOSE AND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SAID POWERS
Notice is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on the 20th day of December, 2005, in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey.

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
ORDINANCE NO. 1679-05
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX, CHAPTER 387-18 TOWING - FEE SCHEDULE
Notice is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, held on the 20th day of December, 2005, in the Municipal Building, 1200 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey.

BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK PLANNING BOARD
The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application (04-14-05), Joseph DiNunzio, with respect to property located at 43 Rahway Avenue, Lot 29, Block 29, the property is located in the RB-R zone. The relief sought was a waiver of detailed site plan review for use of existing structure as a two family residence. The application was approved as to substance on October 27, 2005 and approved as to form on December 9, 2005.

The Board Brook Planning Board approved an applica-

tion (04-11-05), Winn Country Rt. 28 LLC, with respect to property located at 601 West Union Avenue, Unit 2, Lots 1, 1A, 2, Block 60, the property is located in the RB-R zone. The relief sought was a waiver of detailed site plan review for use of existing retail space as a wine store. The application was approved as to substance on September 22, 2005 and approved as to form on December 6, 2005.

N. J. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 17:27, 17:27.1 et seq., in the NJDOT MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08625, until 10:00 A.M. on 1/31/06 and opened and read for:

Drainage Restoration Contract 2005 Region Central, Various Drainage Systems on Various State Highways, Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Mercer, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties
100% State
DP No: 05431

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127, N.J.A.C. 17:27. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:26-44, For Federal aided projects, bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, prior to the time of contract execution. Appropriate proof of registration should be provided to NJDOT as soon as possible after receipt of the Notice of Award.

Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act," N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.46 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), bidders must register with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance. The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the contract award.

Drawings and specifications for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bids.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe, follow the instructions on the web site. The fee is \$35.00 per month for unlimited access to view and download the documents and additional \$95.00 per month for unlimited access to download the plans, directly payable to Bid Express. Drawings, special provisions, and bid documents may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contacting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

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(856) 486-6624
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Division of Procurement
Bureau of Construction Services
1035 Parkway Avenue
PO Box 625
Trenton, NJ 08625
\$71.40 B279.3T.12/24/05, 17/06

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bound Brook will hold its annual REORGANIZATION MEETING for 2006 on Tuesday, January 3, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom, Bound Brook, New Jersey.

The status for the remaining regularly scheduled Meetings of the Mayor and Council for the year 2006 will be published at that time. Any changes to this date or time will be noted in the legal section.

Discussions will be held and official action will be taken on matters including but not limited to the following agenda items:

1. Reorganization and Appointment of Municipal Officers and Committee members. Formal action will be taken.

2. Presentation to the Board of the Home News, Star Ledger, The Chronicle, The Spectator, The Home News.

Donna Marie Godleski
Borough Clerk
\$10.08 B281.3T.12/24/05

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes in 2006



Professional Help 260

NEW JERSEY EDITOR

We want a proven leader who will oversee our New Jersey staff. Outstanding news judgment, exceptional word skills and a relentless desire to be the best every day are minimum requirements. Our New Jersey editor is responsible for local news content and managing reporters in a competitive market.

Please reply immediately with an email, subject line NEW JERSEY EDITOR, and resume to jeff@express-times.com, or mail a letter, resume and recent copy of your current newspaper to Jim Deegan, Managing Editor.

THE EXPRESS-TIMES
30 N. 4th St.
Easton, PA 18042

Sales Help 265

RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING SALES

The Express-Times & NJN Publishing with 18 community newspapers, seeking motivated sales team, located in Asbury, NJ (10 miles East of Phillipsburg, NJ). Candidates will maximize sales opportunities and revenue by answering inbound calls from customers and make outbound sales calls. Must utilize product knowledge and market facts to determine customer needs, and maximize upselling opportunities. We offer excellent benefits and salary plus a bonus package.

THE EXPRESS-TIMES
Please email resumes to: smachan@express-times.com or mail to: Steven Machan, 171 Route 173 Suite 300, Asbury, NJ 08802, EOE

Trades 275

SATELLITE TV TECHNICIANS

Huge Local Opportunity! Work for DIRECTV's Home Service Provider. Work near your home. Meet qualifications and your skill! Looking for career oriented, dependable individuals. Complete training with Great Earning Potential! Benefits with full growing local company! Limited training seats available. **CALL NOW (877) 752-6431.** Drug Free Workplace EOE

TECHNICIAN/DRIVER

FT. with benefits. Will train. Deliver and set up home medical equipment in patients homes, based out of Hackensack. Candidates must be able to communicate effectively. Call 908-813-3003, Bach's Home Health Care ask for Bob.

Situations Wanted 280

HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS. All nationalities/Lic. Bonded. **AURORA AGENCY**, 170 Morris Ave., L. Br. NJ 732-222-3369

Real Estate Sales

Acreage & Lots 305

RARITAN TWP. - 8 residential building lots. Ready to build. Prime area. Great views. \$350,000 not lot. Call 908-996-6856. RDR Farms Inc.

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, marital status, creed, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people seeking custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. To report discrimination, call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777. The HUD TTY telephone number for the hearing impaired is 212-708-1455.

EDISON Chesterfield Townhomes 1 month fee rent on selected units. Newly renovated 2 & 3 bedroom units. Hardwood floors, Washer/Dryer in unit, Central A/C, Fireplace, 1 car garage. Call 732-906-7667

Raritan Twp. - 1 fl. condo, freshly painted, new blinds and upgraded carpeting. Full finished basement w/berber carpeting. \$199,900 or ask for rent. **REMAX Town & Country** 908-730-6900 ext. 112 or call Doris 908-782-0785

Homes For Sale 330

LAMBERTVILLE Must sell, new construction, 3 story colonial, 3BR, 2 1/2 BA, Kt. LR, DR, study on 1 fl., ceramic tile floors in bath & kit., jacuzzi in master bath, gas heat, cont. air, full front porch, off-street parking, ready to move in. Asking \$394,900. Principals only. 609-397-8462

Real Estate Rentals

Apartments 405

ANNANDALE - 1 BR, 2nd fl. apt. Bright mss, full BA, lg. kitchen close to 78 and train. \$795/mo + utls and sec. No pets/smoking. 908-735-7749

CLINTON AREA - Garage House, Lg. Studio, avail 12/15. \$1200/mo plus sec. Churnt checks. No pets. 908-713-9003

CLINTON GARDENS - Spacious 1 BR apt. DW, AC, patio, balcony, laundry, ample parking. Junction of 22, 31 & 78. Walk to town. 908-735-2994/908-337-1749

FLEMINGTON BORO. - 1 bedroom, 1 floor, no pets, heat and hot water included. \$500/month + 1.5 months security. Call 908-996-4456.

FLEMINGTON. - Recently renovated: 2 bdrm, 2 1/2 fl. \$650/mo + utls. Call 215-794-3021

GARWOOD - 1BR apt. in sm. friendly complex. Heat & hot water incl. No pets. Walkout & laundry room onsite. \$1055/mo. 908-789-9198

GLENN GARDNER - Clean 1 BR. on 1 acre. No pets. \$850/mo + utls. free dish TV. 908-349-4004

LAMBERTVILLE - 2 fl. 2BR, heat incl., \$1000. avail. Jan. 1. 1 fl. efficiency, heat incl., \$700. avail. same.

NORTH PLAINFIELD - 1 Bdr. apt., Somerset St., \$625. per mo. + utilities. Avail 1/1/05. Call 908-756-6129

PHILLIPSBURG - 1BR, Spec. Victorian apt. renovated. No pets \$650/mo. - utls + 1.5 sec. 607-438-4767

POHATCONG TWP Spacious 2BR, 2 1/2 fls, LR, BA, Large EIK, office, storage, off street parking. Avail Jan 1. \$980/mo incl. heat & hot water. 908-432-0487

Real Estate Rentals

Apartments 405

STERLING - 1 BR apt, washer/dryer on premises, \$950/mo including ht. and water. 908-647-2444

Commercial Property For Rent 410

CLINTON TWP. - Retail commercial, now const., 1,000 - 16,000 sq. ft., del. Feb. '06. Contact excl. leasing agent. Silbert Realty & Mgt. Co. 908-604-6900

Competitive Pricing Must See!

FLEMINGTON: PLAZA I

Commerce St

Various Sizes

1st Class Space

600-2200 s.f.

908-782-7043

FLEMINGTON MAIN STREET PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SUITES

Available to 1500SF, Pig Excellent Concl also avail 1500SF. 908-832-0276

FLEMINGTON RESTAURANT & RETAIL SPACE

Exceptional Main St. location, beautifully restored historic building. 700-1,800 SF. Info: alchemyproperties.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All residential real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. These laws prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of dwellings.

The Fair Housing Act makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination" based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people seeking custody of children under 18.

In addition to the protections noted above, New Jersey law prohibits discrimination based on creed, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people seeking custody of children under 18.

The newspaper will not knowingly accept or print any advertising for residential real estate which violates the law.

To report housing discrimination, call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-669-9777. The HUD TTY telephone number for the hearing impaired is (212) 708-1455.

In New Jersey, call the Division of Civil Rights in the Department of Law and Public Safety at (609) 984-3100, in Pennsylvania, call the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission at (717) 787-4410 or the Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia at (610) 694-4411.

Houses For Rent 430

BEDMINSTER - Cottage on pvt estate, 2 BR, DR, LR, lg EIK. Close to Rt. 206. \$2100/mo + utls. 1.5 mo sec. 718-447-7200

BRANCHBURG Rt 22 - fully furnished 4BR, partially fin. bsmt, avail imm. Short-term lease. 908-303-8817

Clinton Area - 2 family house, 2 BR, 1 BA, Hardwood floors, Fireplace, W/D, A/C, Pet ok. \$1300. 908-638-5099

E. AMWELL - Small Historic 2BR house, furnished. Exc. cond. Short term lease. Pets considered. Avail imm. \$1800/mo + sec. & Ref's 609-203-0289

GLENN GARDNER - Charming Stone cottage, country setting. 1 BR, LR w/ woodstove, W/D, \$1100 + elec. 908-832-0966

KINGWOOD - Clean 2.5 BR, 1 BA, EIK, DW, LR, New Carpet, No Pets, 1.5 mo. sec. \$1395 + utls. 908-996-3794

Mansfield Twp. - Private 1 bdrm house, walking distance to school, nice area, large yard, new a/c & heating systems, \$850/mo. Avail 1/1. 908-647-4273 ask for Phyllis

STIRLING - close to everything, no pets. \$1400 + utls. Avail 12/1. 908-647-4273 ask for Phyllis

Stockton NJ - Upper Creek Rd. - Large historic farmhouse, partially furnished, on 30 acres. "Cunier & Ives set up 4/5BR, Lg. LR w/FP, Den w/LR w/FP, 2.5BA, 3 car garage. Barn space. Avail \$2800/mo 1.5 sec. Avail imm. 609-203-0289

Tewksbury - Small 2BR, LR, EIK, Off St. Prkg. Avail Jan 1. Ref's, 1.5 security \$1250+utls 908-236-6693

WHITEHOUSE - 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1600/mo, Call 908-534-9923

Housing To Share 435

CLINTON - M/F, N/S, large priv. BR, cable tv, ds, W/D, lg. kitchen, 2 1/2 BA. Avail. Immed. 908-310-7546

Rooms 460

BRANCHBURG Rt 22 - fully furnished w/cable TV. Daily, Weekly & monthly rates. Call 908-303-9817

Merchandise

Antiques 500

Chinese Oriental Rug - 10x19, exquisite & mint condition to settle estate. Addie, call 908-337-5655

Furniture 560

DR Set - Universal honey oak trad./contemp. trestle table, 4 side, 2 arm chairs. Lighted china cabinet doors. \$875.00. 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.

HAND-PAINTED - 3 piece Wall Unit. Foral motif with hummingbirds. 90"Wx70"H \$750. 908-797-3338

Sunroom Furniture - Lane white wicker 4 pc. set with cushions. Lg. area. Paid \$3600. Ask \$1200. 908-647-3167

Thomasville solid oak Dining Set - Oval table, 6 chairs, china cabinet, side server, \$2500. pristine condition 908-832-2692 after 5pm.

General Merchandise 580

CHANDELIER

3 Tier Brass Excl. cond. Ask \$275. 908-237-9537

DESK - Early American style, pine, with chair. \$125 or best offer. 908-756-9522

DISHES: Playfair Yorkware Blue 136 pieces \$630.00 732-424-8108

MILE FRONT WASHER (W4926) & DRYER (11526) with Starks, 2 years old, \$1200 for both. Orig. List \$2800. Call 732-469-7251

General Merchandise 580

FREE DIRECTV Satellite, 4 rooms. FREE TiVo/DVR. Add HDTV, 220 Channels + locals, Pkgs. from \$29.99/mo. First 500 orders get Free DVD Player. 866-644-7031. Promo #16026.

SNOWS & RIMS (4) Blizzak 15" snows on alloy rims 3-112 bolt pattern from Audi A4 20k miles \$125. 732-689-5605 908-470-0438

SNOWS & RIMS - (4) Blizzak 15" snows on alloy rims 16" tires 5-100 bolt pattern from Audi TT 10K miles \$400 732-689-5605 908-470-0438

SPLIT RAIL FENCE - approx. 40 sections, 3 rails, ten ft. long. \$900. 908-874-6242

Lawn & Garden 581

WOOD CHIPPER - Troy Built, mod 147255, great 10' home use, 5 inch, excellent cond. \$600. 080. 609-672-9395

Machinery & Tools 584

Tractor - Custom Crosley Engine, 4 Ft Snow Plow, 3 Gang Mowers, Parts \$1000. 908-722-1623

General Merchandise 580

FREE DIRECTV Satellite, 4 rooms. FREE TiVo/DVR. Add HDTV, 220 Channels + locals, Pkgs. from \$29.99/mo. First 500 orders get Free DVD Player. 866-644-7031. Promo #16026.

SNOWS & RIMS (4) Blizzak 15" snows on alloy rims 3-112 bolt pattern from Audi A4 20k miles \$125. 732-689-5605 908-470-0438

SNOWS & RIMS - (4) Blizzak 15" snows on alloy rims 16" tires 5-100 bolt pattern from Audi TT 10K miles \$400 732-689-5605 908-470-0438

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Lawn & Garden 581

WOOD CHIPPER - Troy Built, mod 147255, great 10' home use, 5 inch, excellent cond. \$600. 080. 609-672-9395

Machinery & Tools 584

Tractor - Custom Crosley Engine, 4 Ft Snow Plow, 3 Gang Mowers, Parts \$1000. 908-722-1623

Musical Instruments 585

ALTO SAXOPHONE (Conn) \$125. **FLUTE (Artley)** \$85. Call 908-756-9522

WURLITZER SPINET PIANO - apt. size, ex. cond, asking \$400. 908-236-6406

Wanted To Buy 625

ALL LIONEL FLYER & OTHER TRAINS - Top cash prices paid. 800-464-6571 or 973-425-1538.

Pets & Animals

Horses 630

BOARDING - Indoor/Outdoor arena and horse wash. Only 6 stalls left. A Must See! \$675/mo. 908-876-5887

FOAL NURSES NEEDED:

Part-time/Seasonal February - June. Mid-Atlantic Equine Medical Center, in Ringoes, NJ is looking for nurses to help care for critically ill newborn foals and high risk mares. Experience as a veterinary technician or human nurses required. Duties include catheter placement, administering medications, monitoring vital signs and assisting doctors with procedures. Available shifts include: Sunday through Saturday 12am - 8am Monday and Friday 5pm-12am. Other flexible shifts. Please contact Kathy Brady at (609) 397-0078

Lightfields Riding School

Special! New customers only. Lesson/Lease packages 10 lessons \$250. 20 lessons \$400. Call for details 908-534-6701 Sue

Pots 640

Doberman Pups - AKC charm from bloodlines, show quality. Ready for Christmas. black & tan \$750-888-2796

LAB PUPPIES AKC

Yellow/Black, Guaranteed. \$600 - 1 adult free! 908-246-8509 or 732-469-5685.

MINI DONKEY JACK - 4 months, old, gray, very friendly. \$400. 609-298-9115

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SEASON INSTANT CASHES - Sending Emails Online. Make \$25.00 Per E-Mail! Guaranteed! Paycheck! More Amazing Programs! Data Entry Work! Available! Incredible Pay! Sign up Today! www.RealCashPrograms.com

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