

JAN 28 2006

The Chronicle

Since 1862

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Saturday, January 28, 2006

50 cents

INSIDE



Masquerade ball coming

BOUND BROOK — The Bound Brook Chamber of Commerce and Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary clubs are teaming up again to hold the 2006 Masquerade Casino Ball. Proceeds from the evening, to be held 7-11 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Bound Brook Elks Club, Second Street and Maiden Lane, will help fund programs offered by both organizations. This year borough Mayor Frank J. Ryan will be honored. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. Tickets are available at Wachovia Bank, 432 W. Union Ave., Bound Brook. For additional information or to order tickets over the phone, call Mike Schuyler at (732) 469-6453.



They speak for the land

Helping to preserve and protect one of the last remaining large tracts of untouched open space is the goal of the Environmental Steward Volunteer Training Program at Duke Farms in Hillsborough. Gene Huntington is one of 20 people watching over the untouched landscape. **Page B1.**

Spot gets adopted

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Lisa Roseo, a borough resident, has signed an Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association for the coming year. Her family has agreed to adopt the stream crossing on Cedarbrook Avenue and the open field around the corner on Morris Avenue up to the Senior Citizen Residence. This Adopt-A-Spot was previously maintained by the Pilgrim Covenant Church. At this location, Cedarbrook Avenue runs between Spring Lake Park and Middlesex Water Company's well field. The land is mostly wooded, and seems to invite litter and illegal dumping. Morris Avenue runs past open fields that border on the woods. The borough owns these fields. The Roseo family will be clearing litter from the field as well as along the road side. The Roseos have been active in the Borough's Clean Communities Program from its inception, participating in Volunteer Litter Cleanup Week and Trail Maintenance Days at the Borough's Nature Reserve. When the Pilgrim Covenant Church had to give up their adoption last fall, Lisa Roseo was concerned that if nobody picked up litter regularly, this area near Riley School would become unsightly and dangerous. For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

INDEX

Community Life.....	B1
Sports	A5
Obituaries.....	A6

Improvement authority wins awards

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority has received two national marketing and communications awards for a brochure it produced about the services available at the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice at the Roosevelt Care Center, Edison.

The MCIA owns and operates Roosevelt Care Center and the hospice, which provides end-of-life care and support to patients and their families.

"A lot of careful attention and thought went into the production of

the brochure because it is so very important to inform the Middlesex County community about the services our hospice provides," said MCIA Director of Administration Jane S. Leal, who produced the brochure.

The MCIA was named a 2005 Gold Winner for the MarCom Creative Awards, an international competition for marketing and communication professionals.

The MarCom Creative Awards are part of The Communicator Awards, one of the largest, oldest and most

respected competitions in the communication field. The competition has grown to perhaps the largest of its kind in the world, according to the MarCom website.

The full-color, eight-page pamphlet also received a bronze award for the 2005 Spotlight Awards of the League of American Communications Professionals.

The brochure was among 850 nominees for Spotlight Awards, which are judged by a field of communications professionals affiliated with the league.

The Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice on the campus of the Roosevelt Care Center is a six-bed building that offers a homelike environment to patients and their families. Hospice services also are available at the homes of patients or their families.

The hospice program also offers a bereavement support group for families throughout the county.

The Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice is always looking for volunteers to help families going through the grieving process.

'IT'S MORE LIKE FAMILY'



Sarah Iorio and Daniya Anwar are not Catholic, but both are accepted as students at Mount Saint Mary Academy, a Catholic high school in Watchung.

Catholic school looks past beliefs

By **JIM WHITE**
Staff Writer

WATCHUNG — What would Jesus do? The consensus among faculty members at Mount Saint Mary Academy is that he would probably appreciate the diverse mix of faiths that make up the student body of this Catholic institution.

"Certainly we are respectful of the beliefs of all our students and staff," Sarellen Hogan, the head of public relations for the all-girl academy, said Tuesday as the school prepared for the upcoming Catholic Schools Week — an annual national celebration of Catholic elementary and secondary school education.

"Catholic schools are more open than the perception is," added Marissa Klapwald, associate director of alumni relations.

It's true, Catholic schools are not just for Catholics anymore. Daniya Anwar, 14, of Piscataway, is a sophomore at the high school. The Muslim girl practices Islam — founded by the Muslim prophet Mohammed — and prays five times a day to Allah, the Muslim name for God.

"There are differences (in the religions), but I've been going to Catholic school since the third grade," she said. "My mom thought it would be a good experience. It's just a good environment and a good education."

Anwar, who has no plans to convert to Catholicism, said she doesn't feel uncomfortable as a Muslim who attends a school steeped in the Catholic tradition.

"The teachers actually care about you here," she said. "It's more like a family."

Sarah Iorio, 17, of Cranford, is Episcopalian — very similar to

Continued on page A2

Renny Dilks, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville, salutes the American flag during a Vietnam War remembrance service held Saturday at the post. **Walt Tanaiski**, master of ceremonies, said the war has become an indelible part of the American experience. "We remember everything like it was a ball game, but it was not. It was a war," Tanaiski said. "It was the greatest challenge to American democratic idealism since the Civil War."



GEORGE PACIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

'Thank you' overdue

By **CAITY FODOR**
Correspondent

MANVILLE — The chill in the air Saturday morning was reminiscent of the greetings Vietnam veterans received from some fellow Americans upon their return home from the war — cold and unwelcome.

However, the welcome they received at the Vietnam remembrance service, held at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville, was different, as veterans, families, friends and soldiers circled the American flag and honored those who fought years ago, as well as those fighting

now.

Walt Tanaiski, master of ceremonies, spoke about how the Vietnam War became a part of every American's life and will never be forgotten.

"We remember everything like it was a ball game, but it was not. It was a war," Tanaiski said.

Tanaiski spoke about the history of the war and the struggles back home.

"It was the greatest challenge to American democratic idealism since the

Continued on page A2

Verizon is honored for helping working parents

By **ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI**
Staff Writer

BEDMINSTER — The corporate world has changed a great deal since Kim Kuznetsov had her first child. Determined to provide breast milk for her children, she resorted to pumping in bathroom stalls while at work.

Now a three-year employee of Verizon Wireless, her experience with her second and third child — with a fourth on the way — has been different.

Verizon, which was honored last week by the New Jersey Breastfeeding Task Force, provides a variety of services to ease the minds of working parents, not the least of which are special lactation rooms to allow breastfeeding mothers the space and privacy to pump in peace, as well as reimbursement for the pumps themselves.

"I didn't know a company would ever have this much," said the Manville resident. "I never thought half of this was possible."

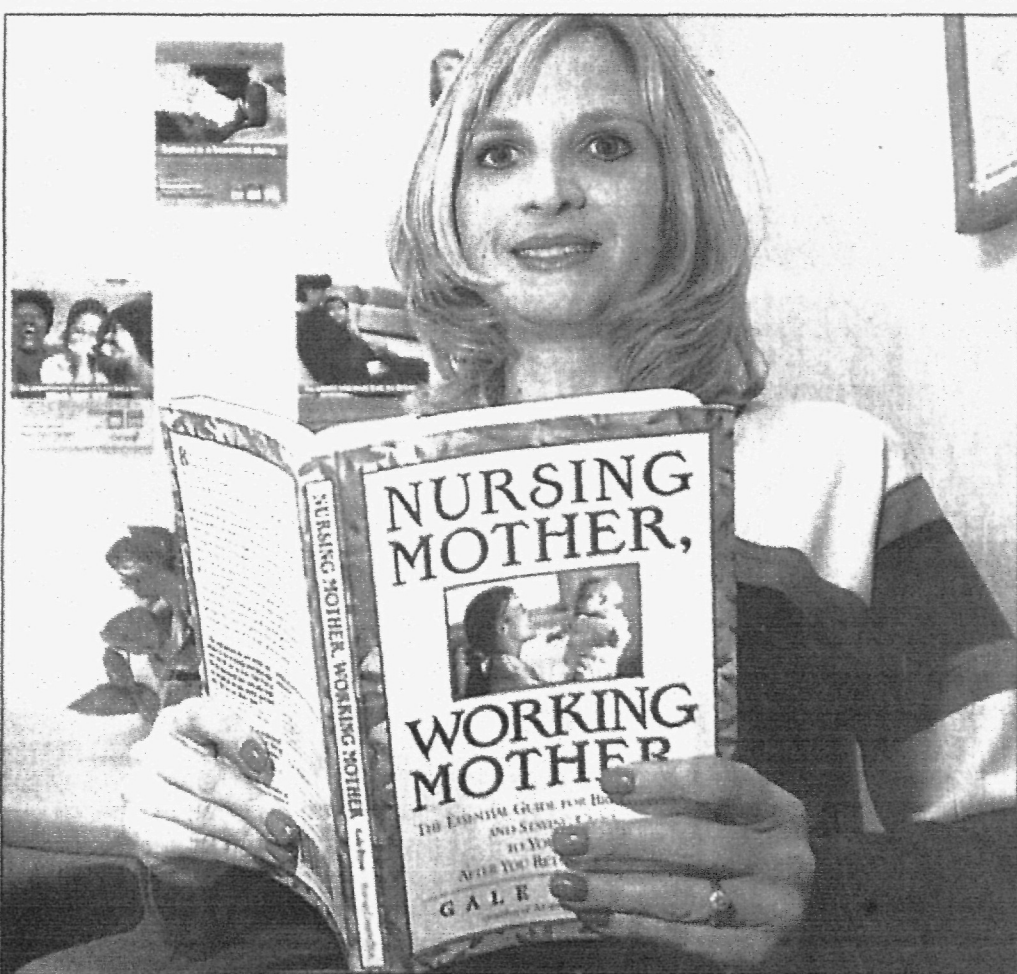
Verizon also offers a 24-hour on-call nurse service, as well as a backup childcare resource, and it's not alone in having family-friendly work policies.

At Johnson and Johnson's facilities in Somerset County, which includes Ethicon and Ortho-McNeil, working parents aren't the only ones that are helped by its policies; those taking care of elderly relatives are as well. From discounts on breast pump and lactation consultations to college counseling to eldercare resources, policies that respect the spectrum of life are the norm.

"At Johnson and Johnson, it's part of our culture to help foster a culture of caring among our employees," said Wendy Breiterman, director of work life for the company, which has been ranked highly by *Working Mother* magazine as one of its "best places to work." "We think it's the right thing to do."

It also helps the companies, too. At Verizon, 90 percent of its

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Christina Zamek of Franklin has worked at Verizon since 1993. For Zamek, the new lactation room at the company's Bedminster facility is an important addition to the workplace. "Being a working mom of two, I need a company that offers additional benefits," she said.



Everything Jersey

The Chronicle

Since 1862

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Vietnam War veterans honored by V.F.W.

Continued from page A1

Civil War," he said.

Roses and wreaths were laid upon the monument, the American flag waved in the air, and silence was broken by the sharp crack of shots fired into the cloudy sky by a color guard.

Jim Wisor, District 15 commander in Bridgewater, recalled an encounter with a fellow Vietnam veteran in an elevator some 30 years after the end of the war.

He said this was the first time someone had welcomed him home from the war.

"Nearly 30 years had passed since I had formally come home from Vietnam, but it was the first time anyone had acknowledged my service in a positive manner," Wisor said.

Wisor spoke about the insults veterans received, as they were called "baby killers" and "mother killers,"

and how they were blamed for losing the war, even though Wisor said the United States never lost a single engagement in the entire 13 years the war raged on.

"Individuals for the most part clammed up and sucked it up and kept quiet about the hurt," Wisor said.

Wisor was not the only veteran who kept quiet.

Some even had to lie about their involvement in the war.

Kevin Clarke of Manville, a veteran who attended the service, told a story of how protesters spit in a friend's face at the airport in Los Angeles after the war.

Clarke said he had to lie to the protestors so he wouldn't be spit upon as well.

"Thirteen months of combat and I had to lie," he said.

The veterans did not speak about their negative experiences following Vietnam in a bitter tone, however. Instead they encouraged citizens to

support U.S. troops overseas.

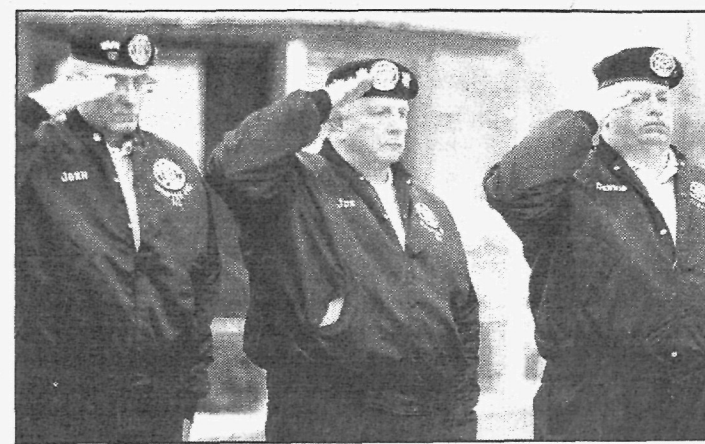
"I come to you this morning with a simple request," Wisor said. "Please don't let what happened to our Vietnam veterans happen to the veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan."

But the service wasn't held to remind veterans of their experiences following the war.

It was held so that people who weren't there don't forget what America's veterans went through, said Al Schubach, past district commander for VFW Post 6588 in Martinsville. "We don't forget," he said. "People outside forget. That's why we do it."

Patrick DeChirico, president of Vietnam Veterans Association Post 452 in Flemington, agreed.

He said the service was important to enlighten people as to what veterans have done, why they did it and to remember those who did not



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vietnam War veterans, left to right, John Dorell, Joe Yuzuik and Dennis O'Connor salute during a Vietnam remembrance service held Saturday at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville.

return home from the war.

"Ceremonies like this bring the point home," DeChirico said. Assemblyman Peter Biondi, who served in the Army Reserves from 1961 to 1967, said it is important to respect veterans and hold services like this because of

the freedom they have given American citizens, and the freedom troops serving now continue to provide.

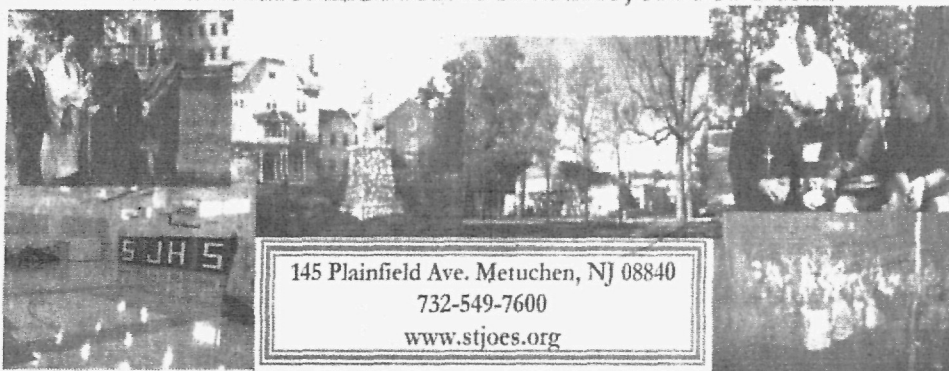
"Freedom is not free, there's a high price," Biondi said. "It's time this country opens its arms and welcomes them home."

SAINT JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL

Brothers of the Sacred Heart

An independent Catholic college preparatory school located in Metuchen, NJ. In response to the gospel message of hope, the teachings of the Catholic Church and the traditions of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, who have been active in American Education since 1847, the school desires to meet the needs and promote the development of each individual. It strives to enable that person to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for competence in contemporary society, as well as the values and convictions characteristic of enlightened Catholics in that society.

WHERE EXCELLENCE IS A HABIT, NOT A GOAL



145 Plainfield Ave. Metuchen, NJ 08840
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www.stjoes.org

Verizon

Continued from page A1

female staff is in their childbearing years, so services such as child-care discounts and lactation options help with employee retention, while services such as onsite child care, an onsite gym, card store, dry cleaners and other services at Chubb Insurance in Warren help with recruiting working caregivers.

"When you're worried about what you have to do after work, it's hard to focus on the task at hand," said Kathleen Marvel, chief diversity officer for Chubb. "We've tried to make it easier to get things done, so you don't have to run out after work."

The struggle to balance work and family life is a big one for employees, so all three companies offer flexible work schedules and telecommuting options.

"Not only does it enhance things for employees, but it improves productivity," Marvel said.

Amenities such as these also make things less expensive for the companies in the long run. Healthier employees and healthier children decrease costs, and high retention rates do as well.

"It's very costly to have employees that you've trained and invested in leave," she said. "We've got an inordinate number of people who stay with the company a long time."

The employees agree. Christina Zamek, of Franklin, said that when she started

working at Verizon in 1993, family wasn't even on the radar.

Thirteen years and two daughters later, Zamek said she wouldn't work at a company that didn't offer similar family-friendly policies.

"It's very, very high on my scale," she said. "Being a working mom of two, I need a company that offers additional benefits."

With her daughters Nicole and Amanda — who are 3-years-old and 7-months-old respectively — the lactation rooms and healthy babies programs have been very helpful.

"I really appreciated a nurse calling me," said the full-time working mom. "They truly cared."

Catholic

Continued from page A1

being Catholic, except that the Protestant Episcopal Church is governed by bishops instead of a pope and Episcopalian bishops and

priests can be women. They also can marry.

"For me, I don't see any conflict (attending the academy). Episcopalian is so close to Catholicism, it didn't make much difference," said Iorio, a senior at the school.

Iorio said she attended public school in the past, but believes she is receiving a better education in Catholic school.

"I have a friend (in public school) who said it's a lot easier in public school," she said. "I always feel I'm learning more, I'm ahead. ... Their AP classes seem comparable to our honors classes."

Added Hogan: "Our students rank very high in the SATs." And Iorio, who is considering becoming an elementary school teacher, may stick with what has been working.

"Five of the six colleges I applied to are Catholic schools," she said. Anwar plans on becoming a pediatrician. "I'm good with kids, and the medical field appeals to me," she said.

Hogan touted the academy's strong arts and technology programs as well as its on-campus school for developmentally challenged children where students volunteer their time.

"We are the scholars. We are the athletes. The student council, all female. The science and math winners, all female. By the time they

leave here, no one has to tell them how to do anything because they've already done it," she said.

Both Iorio and Anwar agreed that not having any boys around is less distracting than a public school and makes it easier to concentrate on school work.

So, out of sight, out of mind? "Well, not entirely out of mind," Iorio said.

For more information about Mount Saint Mary Academy, call the school at (908) 757-0108.

Immaculata High School in Somerville will also celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3.

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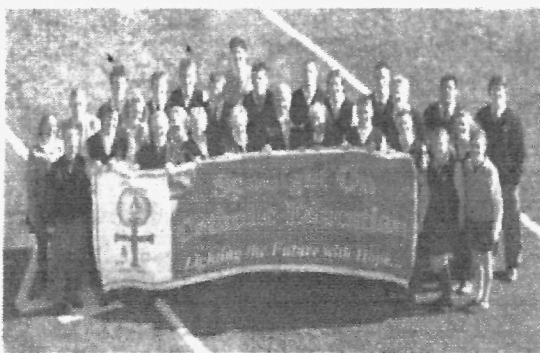
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Applications will be taken for PreK - 8th grade on Sunday, February 5, 2006 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at ICN Somerville.

Middlesex Briefs

Geology museum has an open house

The Rutgers Geology Museum holds its 38th annual Open House from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today.

This free event is on the Old Queens Campus in New Brunswick; enter via the iron gate at the corner of George and Somerset streets. Among the presentations in Scott Hall.

"Extinction in Geological Time" with George McGhee, a professor of geological sciences at Rutgers.

"Diving on the Titanic" with David Bright, president of the Flemington-based Nautical Research Group.

The "African Rift Valley Great Lakes" with Andrew Cohen, a professor of geosciences at the University of Arizona.

"Born Among Giants," the story of the solar system's origins with Jeff Hester, professor of geological sciences at Arizona State University.

Bring your rocks and minerals to Geological Hall for identification.

Minerals will be on sale at a separate desk in Scott Hall.

For more information, call William Selden at (732) 932-7243.

Special ceremony of religious school

METUCHEN — A consecration ceremony is scheduled at 9:40 a.m. tomorrow for the Aleph class in the religious school at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave.

The program includes a special presentation to the pupils followed by their performance of the musical "The Promised Land." Parents, other relatives and the public are invited.

A workshop for parents at 9 a.m. precedes the program.

For more information, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call Cantor Sheldon Levin at (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14.

Residents offered police academy

PISCATAWAY — The township sponsors a Citizen Police Academy for those who want to be familiar with their local Police Department.

Applicants must be Piscataway residents over 21 and pass a criminal background check. The academy is conducted for 12 weeks in the police station at 555 Sidney Road, off Hoes Lane behind the Municipal Complex. Sessions begin Feb. 16.

For an application, call Detective Frank Hackler at (732) 562-2368 or Detective Calvin Laughlin at (732) 562-2349. All applications must be returned by Friday, Feb. 3.

'Learners Service' of area synagogue

METUCHEN — A "Learners Service" takes place at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 4 at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave.

Rabbi Gerald Zelizer leads this special service geared to all who want to learn or review basics of a Sabbath service, such as donning a tallit; when to stand, bow or sit; how to follow a service; and the procedure for having an aliyah.

The main service will be conducted by Cantor Sheldon Levin at the same time.

For more information, call (732) 548-2238. The public is invited.

'Freedom Stairway' is coming to Edison

EDISON — Briz takes you onto the "Freedom Stairway" at 2 p.m. Feb. 4 in the Main Branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave.

He combines his songs with the story of the Underground Railroad and how slaves tried to make their way to freedom. For registration, visit the circulation desk or call (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1.

"Freedom Stairway" is a Black History Month program sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Alumni scholarships offered at Middlesex

EDISON — The Alumni Association of Middlesex County College is accepting applications for the Alumni Scholarship, which will be awarded in the spring semester.

The scholarship, for dependents of alumni, has a deadline of Feb. 15. Application forms are available on the website, www.middlesexcc.edu, or by calling the Alumni Office at 732-906-2566.

The scholarship will be one \$500 award.

The criteria for the scholarship are:

— The candidate must be a full-time or at least half-time student at Middlesex County College.

— He or she must be the dependent of a Middlesex County College alumnus. Dependents of the Alumni Board are ineligible for consideration.

— The scholarship will be awarded for the second or later year of study at Middlesex County College.

— The Alumni Board will review applications and make the decision.

— The factors the board would use in selecting the recipient include community service, financial need, grade point average and a brief essay.

Get tickets now for two matinees

PISCATAWAY — The Recreation Department has tickets for "Sweeney Todd," Feb. 26 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre in Manhattan. Cost is \$110 for an orchestra seat to the Sunday matinee. The bus leaves at 11 a.m. from the Municipal Complex on Hoes Lane.

To purchase your tickets, call (732) 562-2382 or visit the Recreation Department at the Municipal Complex.

Discount tickets for five ski areas

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Recreation Department has discount tickets available for five ski resorts close by:

Shawnee — Weekend, \$38; midweek, \$32; night, \$25; "Skiers Choice" package, \$61. Jack Frost/Big Boulder — Weekend/holiday, \$41; midweek, \$32; night, \$20; "Discovery Package," \$52.

Camelback — Weekend/holiday, \$48; midweek, \$34; night, \$25.

Blue Mountain — Weekend, \$42; weekday, \$35.

Mountain Creek — Weekend/holiday, \$46; weekday, \$36; twilight, \$35.

These tickets are available from the Recreation Department office in the Police Athletic League building at 1250 Maple Ave. For more information, call (908) 226-7713.

Metuchen YMCA offers child care

METUCHEN — Register now for child care offered at the Metuchen Branch YMCA.

Preschoolers can be enrolled in "Y Tots." Kindergarten pupils can be cared for before and after class. School-age children up to Grade 7 are eligible for child care before and after class.

For full information and fees, visit www.metuchen-edisonymca.org or call (732) 548-2044. The Metuchen Branch is a unit of the Metuchen-Edison YMCA.

Group for girls covers real life

METUCHEN — Females ages 11-14 are eager to find out about

"Girls in Real-Life Situations."

This free club meets from 3-4:30 p.m. the last Sunday of the month at the Teen Center, 483 Middlesex Ave. Topics cover martial arts, self-defense, self-esteem, physical fitness, social issues and development. Registration is required at the Metuchen Branch YMCA, 65 High St.

For more information, e-mail mike.tonzola@metuchen-edisonymca.org or call (732) 548-2044, Ext. 210.

Woman's club has membership drive

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Suburban Woman's Club is recruiting new members.

Women interested in serving their community are welcome to join. The Woman's Club participates in civic and community activities in the area. In addition to contributing to national and local charities, the club sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from South Plainfield High School.

For membership, program and activity information, call Grace Farinella at (908) 753-5753.

Edison-based group offers special services

EDISON — Challenging Adult Minds and Energizing Ourselves is a social day care program tailored to the needs of adults who are physically disabled, but cognitive and alert.

Some of the activities designed for CAMEO are book reviews, exercise, day trips, painting discussions of current events, special interest groups, etc.

This service is provided by the

Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County located at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201.

Another service provided is Elderday Care (a social day-care program) for folks with memory loss and various degrees of dementia. Program includes meals, snacks, and activities all can easily participate in. A limited amount of openings are now available in both programs.

Transportation is provided by sliding scale fees. Call (732) 777-1940 for more details.

Elks lodge sells 2006 entertainment books

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Veterans Committee at Elks Lodge 2298 is selling Entertainment 2006 coupon books.

Cost for each book is \$25. To purchase a copy, call Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

Heat up your night with salsa lessons

MIDDLESEX — Jorge Riba holds salsa dance lessons and socials every Thursday in January at Café Havana, 578 Union Ave.

Each program begins at 7 p.m. No experience is necessary and no partner is required. Cost is \$10; singles and couples are welcome.

For more information, call Riba at (732) 574-0482.

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OPSHBX wants you! Volunteers needed to help pack boxes

One week from this Saturday more than 300 volunteers will help commemorate the first anniversary of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 with a community-wide event in Manville that will include packing at least 1,000 boxes for shipment to U.S. troops overseas.

The Veterans of Foreign War Post 2290 will co-host the Feb. 4 event beginning at noon through 6 p.m. at their 600 Washington Ave. headquarters.

Our list of volunteers grows daily, as calls have been coming in from Girl Scout and Brownie troop leaders, Boy Scouts, veterans, student councils, church groups, families, and groups of office workers.

Those of us who have been with OPSHBX from its inception are looking forward to this event, as several soldiers and Marines who have received our packages and are now back home have promised to join us, as well as speak to the crowd about what it means to receive the gift boxes while stationed overseas.

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



James A. Wisor, Jr., president and Renny Dilks, commander of 2290, have been working behind the scenes to coordinate the event; Mayor Angelo Corradino is working with several restaurants, delis and pizzerias in town to make sure there's enough food on hand to feed the volunteers.

You're welcome to join those who have already signed on. We need volunteers willing to spend anywhere between one and six hours to help pack each of the boxes with a variety of toiletries, snacks, and personal items that have been collected since our last shipping date Nov. 5.

If you're interested in helping out, please call (908) 575-6684.

Merchants donate profits

Ike Hishmeh, the owner of B&B Carpets on Main Street in Bound Brook will once again donate all his profits from sales tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

This will mark the third time in three months that he has done so, and his gesture has caught the attention of other area merchants.

Thanks to the efforts of his son Jacob, four other stores have agreed to support OPSHBX.

Green Brook Cycle on Route 22, Green Brook, will donate a portion of their profits from sales this Saturday, and Louka's Last American Diner on Route 22 in Branchburg will also donate a portion of their Monday profits.

The Scrapbooking store on Main Street in Bound Brook has agreed to donate \$100, and Dominick's Pizza, also on Main Street, will donate \$50.

Hishmeh ran his first week-end promotion for OPSHBX in November, and he and his son presented a check for \$1,000 to help send supplies and phone cards to U.S. soldiers and Marines overseas; they also donated \$1,000 in December, with Jacob donating his week's salary to OPSHBX.

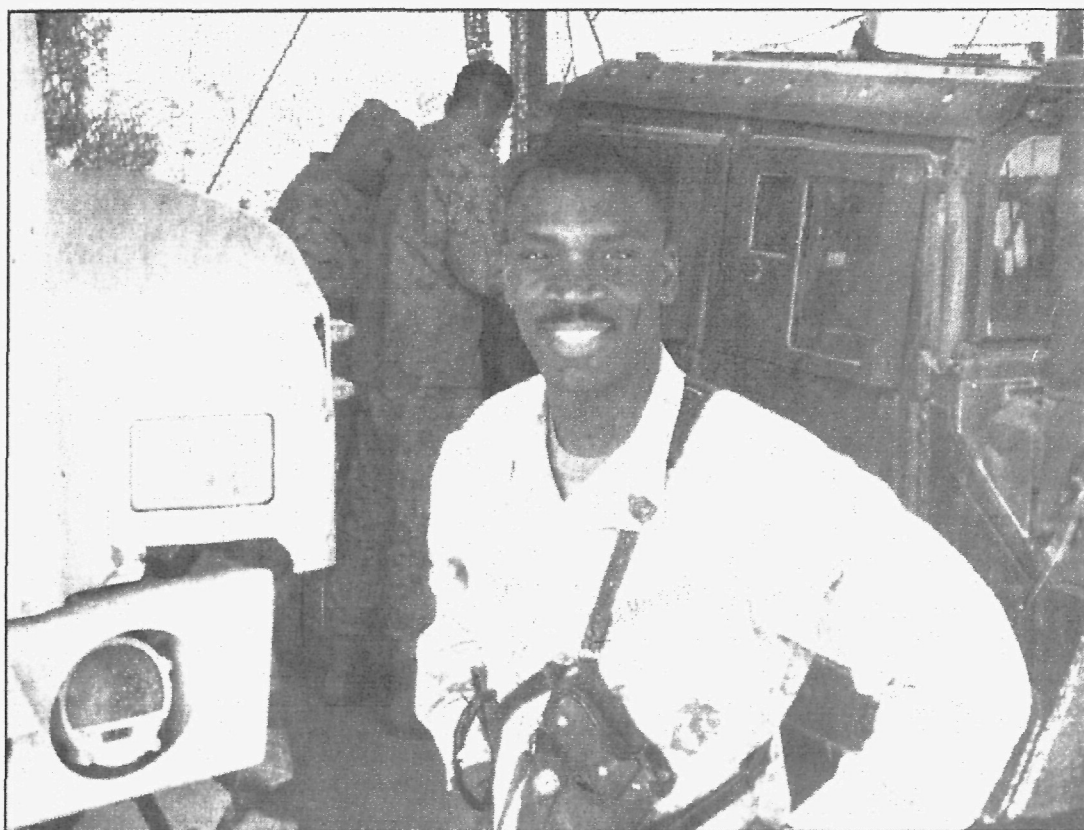
B&B Carpets is open tomorrow, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The storefront is at the intersection of Main Street and Mountain Boulevard.

Call (732) 469-4800 for further information.

Shopping Sprees

Our stockpile of supplies for Feb. 4 continued to grow this past week, thanks to the generosity of shoppers at the Stop & Shop in Raritan, and the ShopRite in Bound Brook.

OPSHBX volunteers were at



Marine Gunnery Sgt. William J. Dixon, attached to the 6th Motor Transport Battalion based in Red Bank, poses for a picture in the motor pool at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq. His letter to the volunteers of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 appears below.

both stores to hand out shopping lists of needed supplies and collected donations as shoppers left the stores. We also collected over \$500 which will be used to pay for postage and shipping costs.

On Saturday we'll be at the Kings Supermarket on Route 206 in Bedminster, and on Sunday, our volunteers will be at the ShopRite store on Route 22 in Branchburg. We'll be collecting between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at both locations.

Please, if you see our volunteers, pick up a list and shop with our soldiers in mind. They're in need of whatever we can send them.

Marine expresses gratitude

The letter below was received from a New Jersey Marine who received a package boxed and shipped by OPSHBX at its last event Nov. 5, held at the American Legion Post 327 in Bradley Gardens:

Dear volunteers of The Chronicle launching Operation Shoebox:

On behalf of the Marines from the 6th Motor Transport

Battalion, Headquarters Red Bank New Jersey, I would like to extend a hearty thank you for all the wonderful acts of patriotism you have shown to our deployed Marines.

Your families and friends opened up their hearts to send care packages, letters and a little touch of home to the Marines. The Marines are very grateful to have such wonderful Americans such as you supporting them from the home front. Some of you have children or loved ones serving in deployed areas and we pray for their safe return.

We would also like to thank the American Legion Post #327 in Bradley Gardens Bridgewater, New Jersey and the Girl Scout Troop 104, and the American Recreational Military Services for all their kindness shown as well. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. All of you are true Angels, thank you.

Gunnery Sgt. William J. Dixon
SNC/OIC Landing Support
Platoon A/DACG
Combat Logistics Battalion 2
Al Asad Airbase, Iraq

T-shirts for sale

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. Sizes available are medium, large and extra-large.

We can also reproduce the shirts in quantity for veterans' groups, corporations, or other sponsors, and include the name of your company or organization on the shirt. Call and ask for details.

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

Financial contributions needed

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

ARMS is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Service code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

All contributions are dedicated to the purchase of supplies and costs of shipping. ARMS/Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005 is an all-volunteer operation. Depending on weight, it costs between \$8 and \$15 to ship each box overseas.

Checks should be made out to ARMS, with the instructions "Operation Shoebox NJ 2005" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005
c/o The Chronicle
44 Veterans Memorial Drive East
Somerville, N.J. 08876

Which do you prefer at a Mexican Restaurant?

A

OR

B

Food from a freezer.	No Freezers.
Food from a can.	No Can Openers.
Food scooped out of a steam table like in the army, a high school Cafeteria, or a bad prison movie.	Food prepared when you order it.
Food that is microwaved to "warm it up."	No Microwaves.
Food "spiced up" with MSG.	No MSG.
Refried beans.	No Lard.
Soggy steamed tortillas.	Tortillas grilled for your order to melt the cheese and keep the choices inside warm.
Salsas poured from a bag.	Salsas hand made from Roma Tomatoes, peppers, onions, cilantro and spices, on-site and within the last six hours.
Chips that you have to pay for And are poured from a bag.	Warm chips hand cut on-site, cooked on-site, warm & included with your meal.
No Salsa Bar.	A Salsa bar where you can customize your meal the way you like it.
A long, slow, single cafeteria line.	A much shorter wait while you get your table, your drinks and as much salsa as you want.

If you like the choices in List "A," we can't help you.

If you like the choices in List "B," then there is only one place for you!

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

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

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

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

- ☐ Suntan lotion
- ☐ Bug spray
- ☐ Lip balm
- ☐ Feminine products
- ☐ Ear swabs
- ☐ Laundry detergent
- ☐ Bug wipes/bug strips
- ☐ Wipes (travel size)
- ☐ Razors
- ☐ Toilet paper
- ☐ Eye drops
- ☐ Spices/Tea bags
- ☐ Coffee
- ☐ Small drink mixes
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Clothesline/pins
- ☐ Snack food
- ☐ Cereal/protein bars
- ☐ Fleece blankets
- ☐ Microwaveable foods
- ☐ Hard candy/gum
- ☐ Writing materials
- ☐ Batteries (any size)
- ☐ Calling cards

*Donated items must be in their original packaging.

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UNITED STATES
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Photo: Jon Nelson/The Star Ledger. Used by permission.

Saturday, January 28, 2006

Sports

Patriots' duo will play for Canada in WBC

Radmanovich, NicholSEN set for inaugural world event

New Year's Day represents different things to different people. For Ryan Radmanovich, it means hauling the bats and balls out of storage.

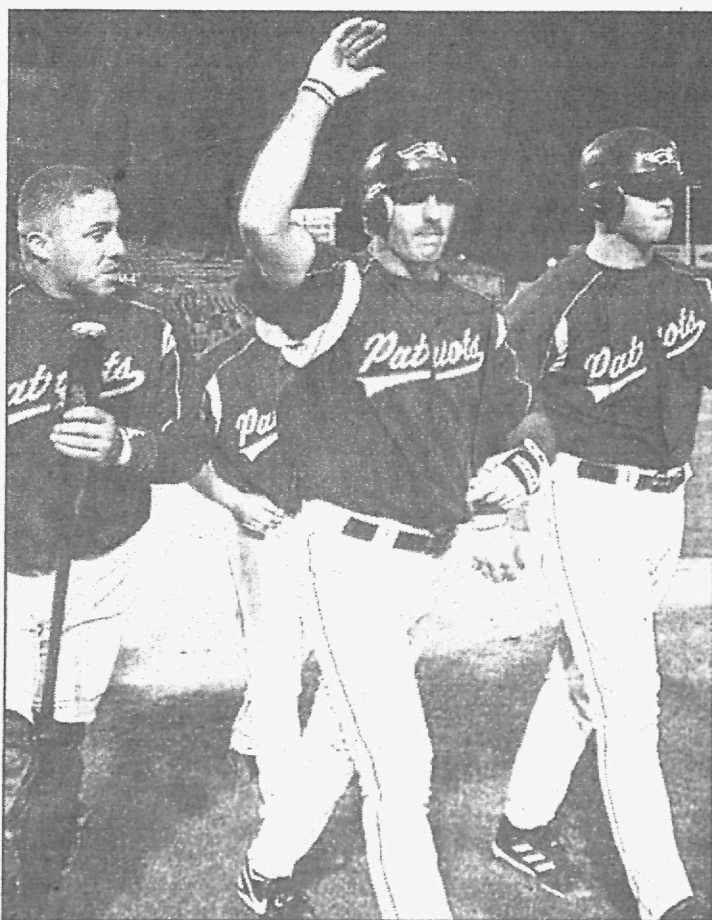
"Every year for the past 14 years, I start hitting and throwing on January 1," said the Somerset Patriots' stand-out rightfielder. "That's just how I do it. So I'm ready to go by mid- to late-February."

This is one year he'll have to be ready by then. Radmanovich and his Patriots' teammate, shortstop Kevin Nicholson, both have been selected to play for Canada's entry in the inaugural World Baseball Classic.

Although the precise numbers won't be known for a while, many major leaguers also will be competing in the WBC, a 16-team international tournament to be held March 3-20.

The 34-year-old Radmanovich, a native of Calgary in the province of Alberta, is looking forward to showcasing his talents, which have been on display the past three summers in the independent Atlantic League of Professional Baseball with the Patriots.

He and Nicholson also played for Team Canada in the 2004 Summer Olympic



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ryan Radmanovich, here being greeted by Somerset Patriot teammates after ripping a home run during the 2005 ALPB playoffs in Bridgewater, will join fellow Patriot Kevin Nicholson on the Canadian team's roster for the World Baseball Classic in March.

Games and in November's CONCEBE Olympic regional qualifier, during which Canada advanced to the qualifying finals in Cuba to be held later this year.

"To have a chance to play against the best is definitely going to be great," said

Radmanovich from his West Hartford, Conn. home last weekend. "The thing about Canada is there aren't a lot of pro baseball players from the country, so we're pretty much like a fraternity where all the players know each other and have played with each other

somewhere along the line. That's where we may have an advantage."

Radmanovich, one of the Pats' top players last year during their run to the ALPB championship, also hopes to put up some heavy offensive numbers during the World Baseball tourney to increase his stock as he and his agent seek a deal to play overseas, possibly Japan, this coming season.

"I'm looking to go overseas, although it's tough to get over there," he said. "But with the numbers I put up last year, maybe there's still an opportunity for me — if not in the beginning of the season, maybe a month or two into it. I can always start with the Patriots and see what happens."

The lefty-hitting Radmanovich, who was in 25 games with the Seattle Mariners in 1998, had a hugely productive 2005 season with the Pats. He was among the league batting average leaders with a .319 mark and he and Jeff Nettles belted 28 home runs apiece, setting a team record. He finished the regular season with 154 hits, including 27 doubles, scored 80 runs and drove in 89 in 129 games.

Radmanovich peaked at the right time, too, as he went 8

for 20 (.400) in the playoffs with three homers, two doubles and nine RBI in six outings, leading Somerset to its third league championship.

While he's enjoyed being with Somerset, where he was an ALPB All-Star last year, there's still reason to look elsewhere for 2006.

"Financially at this point, it would be nice to go overseas," he said. "We've all said before it would be great if Somerset could be a Triple-A affiliate or if the league could pay higher salaries. If you can look past the salaries and see it as an opportunity, you can't beat it for an independent league."

"It's nice the Patriots are there for me. They're a great organization and it's fairly close to home, so it's a nice option to have."

Radmanovich and Nicholson have been good friends since they signed as free agents with San Diego six years ago and were teammates on the Padres' Las Vegas Triple-A club. Nicholson, who's looking to sign with a major league

affiliate but is keeping the Pats in mind as a fall-back, still lives in British Columbia and the two stay in touch frequently via the phone.

"But we don't talk about baseball — we just talk hockey," said Radmanovich with a laugh.

Nicholson, 29, hit .281 for the Pats last year with 29 doubles, 11 homers and 74 RBI in 110 games. He was selected for the South Division squad in the league's July All-Star Game.

Both players will likely report to the Canadian team in Florida in late February. The Canadians take on a Toronto Blue Jays' split-squad team in a March 3 exhibition contest before they begin action in Pool B of the WBC four days later in Arizona against South Africa. Also in the same pool for the first round are the U.S. and Mexico.

The Patriots, whose training camp begins in mid-April in Florida, open the ALPB campaign April 28 against Atlantic City at Commerce Bank Park, Bridgewater.

YOUTH SPORTS

ROLLER HOCKEY

GREEN BROOK LEAGUE

Fall 2005 Playoffs

U17 Division

Championship Game

Andrews Quality Tree Care Ducks 4, D&M Trophies Wild 2 — Duck goals: Jonathan Gates (3), Kyle Van Decker. Assists: Kurt Vivian (2), Andrew Serge, Patrick Sammon. Wild goals: Walter Quense, Joe Lally. Assists: David Neri, Quense. Goalies: Ducks: Valsal Shah; Wild: Brian Smith

Third-Place Game

Carrabba's Rangers 5, Green Brook Chiropractic Devils 1 — Ranger goals: Eric Raymer (3), Mike LeFanto (2), John Fiorilla. Assists: Raymer Anthony Buonicino, Fiorilla. Devil goal: Dan Scerra. Goalies: Rangers: Steven Isaacs; Devils: Sean Woods

U13 Division

Championship Game

Watchung Electric Trojans 6, Oksenhorn Jewelers Spartans 2 — Trojan goals: Nick Perrette (5), Robert Lally. Assists: Lally, Todd Wiener, Damien Quense. Spartan goals: Colin Bradley, Jenna Abbatemarco. Assists: Justin Turill, Bradley. Goalies: Trojans: Patrick Foti; Spartans: Laura Sammon

U10 Division

Championship Game

Qualcare Sharks 3, Green Brook FOP Lodge No. 23 Lightning 2 — Shark goals: Alexandra Nata (2), Nick Martin. Assists: Sean Mulqueen, Nata. Lightning goals: Chris Robinson (2). Goalies: Sharks: Alexander Neliwocki; Lightning: Patrick Foti

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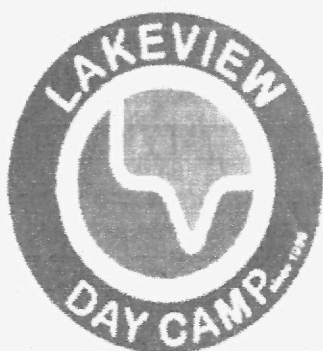
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Marjorie Sharp Traylor; teacher, museum delegate

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12 at the First Congregational Church in Wilmette. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Presbyterian Homes, 3200 Grant St., Evanston, IL 60201 or Midwest Palliative & Hospice CareCenter, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview, IL 60025. Arrangements are by the Wm. H. Scott Funeral Home in Wilmette.

SOMERSET SAVINGS BANK
Notice of
Annual Meeting
Notice is hereby given of the annual Meeting of the Members of Somerset Savings Bank, S.L.A. 220 West Union Avenue, Bond Brook, NJ 08805 on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 4:00 pm o'clock for the sole purpose of election of Directors and to receive a report of the Bank.
 The polls for the election of Directors will be open 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Members of record at the close of business on December 17, 2005 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Michael J. Walsh
 Secretary

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Weekend Calendar

Borough celebrating its 325th birthday

BOUND BROOK — The borough is celebrating its 325th anniversary this year.

As the oldest community in Somerset County, it will be a banner year.

Individuals, organizations or groups interested in participating in organizing events or in adding their borough-based activities happening in 2006 to a borough calendar can call Bob or Lynn Fazen at (732) 560-0138 or e-mail lynnrae@fazen.org.

There will be a birthday celebration May 4-7, including a 325th anniversary parade for May 6.

For additional information on the celebration weekend, contact Bill Siebel, 325th parade committee chairman, at bills2531@yahoo.com or call (732) 356-8762.

Updated information will also be posted at boundbrook.com.

Holy Family Academy holding open house

BOUND BROOK — Holy Family Academy will be having an Open House from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 1.

Registration packages for the 2005-06 school year will be available. All parents and children are welcome to attend classes in session, meet the principal and parents of currently enrolled students as well as tour the school.

Holy Family Academy educates children in grades pre-kindergarten through the 8th grade from over 15 Central Jersey communities. It offers both half-day and full-day pre-school, full day kindergarten, after school care and early drop-off.

Registration for all grade levels is open until March 31 and then will be subject to availability by class.

The school, located at 120 East Second St., can be contacted at (732) 356-1151 for further information, or visit www.hfawildcats.com

Chamber to honor Kenneth Vercammen

EDISON — The Edison Chamber of Commerce and Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce are planning a networking party to help celebrate the "Twenty years of providing excellent service to clients" of Kenneth Vercammen - from 1985 to 2005. The Event will be held on Friday, Feb. 3 from 5-8 p.m. as an Open House and Business Leaders Appreciation Social at 2053 Woodbridge Ave., near the Nixon Post Office. Pre-registration is required.

Area professionals and business owners are invited and food, refreshments, T-Shirts and special gifts are planned. For additional information, visit www.njlaws.com or call (732) 738-9485.

Columbietees plan Soup Night Feb. 4

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Columbietees sponsor a Soup Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 in the cafeteria at Sacred Heart School, 149 South Plainfield Ave.

The menu features chicken noodle soup, vegetable soup, chili, crackers, bread, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and teens, \$3 for children ages 6-12 and free for children under age 6. Maximum for a family of five is \$15.

Takeout orders are available.

Opera baritone in library concert

MIDDLESEX — Frank Valdez, baritone, gives a free concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5 in the Middlesex Public Library, 1300 Mountain Ave.

He has given concerts in the United States and Israel as well as his native Puerto Rico. A former winner of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, Valdez features art songs and arias in his repertoire.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served. For more information, call (732) 356-6602.

The concert is sponsored by the Friends of the Middlesex Public Library.

Preschool plans an open house

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Presbyterian Preschool holds an open house Monday through Friday, Feb. 6-10.

The preschool is located within the Middlesex Presbyterian Church at 1190 Mountain Ave., adjacent to Borough Hall. Families interested in using the preschool for the 2006-07 school year are invited. Nursery school classes meet twice a week and prekindergarten classes meet three days a week.

In addition, a limited number of spaces are available for the rest of the current school year.

For more information, call Barbara Franzetti or Jody Lacaille at (732) 805-3940.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gene Huntington, director of research and natural resources at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, shows how tree roots have been exposed by erosion. The Duke Farms Foundation is partnering with Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension to form a new Environmental Steward Volunteer Training Program at the estate.

'New Jersey has ... conservation issues'

Stewards stand watch over nature's place

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — John Kee has been volunteering at Duke Farms for about five years.

He began participating in a study of the property's birds and wildlife migration. Now he'll be taking on a more official involvement.

Kee will be one of about 20 participants in a new Environmental Steward Volunteer Training Program at the estate.

"The main reason I signed up was because I wanted to get involved," said Kee, a Bound Brook resident. "There's a real need for this program. New Jersey has tremendous conservation issues."

Duke Farms, a picturesque 2,700-acre estate in the heart of Central Jersey, is home to more than 225 species of birds and contains habitats for more than 20 species on the threatened or endangered species lists.

For these reasons and more, Duke Farms is the perfect location for a new Environmental Steward Volunteer Training Program. The program is a collaboration of the Duke Farms Foundation and Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension, where participants will receive about 60 hours of training on environmental issues and later complete 60 hours in an internship dealing with environmental problems.

"Duke is a good partner because our focus is on environmental education," said Gene Huntington, director of research and natural resources at Duke Farms. "Duke Farms has so many varieties of habitats in one location. It's a great demonstration site. They can come take the classes and go out and view what they're learning about."

The program officially kicks off with the first class Tuesday. Classes will run once a week on Tuesday's through May. The classes will provide a broad brush view of today's environmental issues from invasive plants and water quality to climate change, soil and the environment and environmental enforcement.

"One of the interesting things is that there's a class on communicating effectively," Huntington said. "It'll educate people on how to speak in public. Say they were sharing they're project in a municipal meeting. This class will help them with that."

Classes will be administered by a range of experts and specialists, including state climatologist Dave Robinson, geologist Don Monteverde and representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and the state Division of Fish and Wildlife. Intern

opportunities at Duke Farms exist in a variety of areas including invasive plant removal, riparian buffer restoration — restoring the area near a river to prevent flooding, maintaining habitats and assessing pollution.

"These are projects that benefit everybody," said Bruce Barbour, the extension's environmental program leader, who noted that participants can also submit their own volunteer project ideas.

The actual program is two years old, but this is the first time Duke Farms will be used as a location. The program is also offered at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland and at the Rutgers EcoComplex in Columbus.

"Duke is helping to run the program; it's not just a location," said Barbour, who noted that the foundation will identify volunteer opportunities for participants and help match participants to projects that interest them.

Kee is looking to complete his volunteer requirement at the estate.

"My real interest is in ecosystem restoration," he said. "I'll be suggesting a project to restore box turtles to the property."

The program's target audience is people like Kee who are interested in environmental issues but may not have a great deal of scientific training, Barbour said. The goal of the program is to build a resource of trained volunteers, not just for Duke Farms but for New Jersey's non-profit organizations and government departments.

"There are so many organizations around the state who could use volunteers but don't have the time to train them," Barbour said. "This will provide a core of trained volunteers."

The program was modeled after the extension's Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners are trained by the extension and assist in delivering horticulture programs and information around the state. Barbour noted that many Master Gardeners have continued their service even after they've completed their volunteer requirements. He's hoping the same thing will happen with environmental stewards.

"A percentage of people will stick with us," he said. "They'll go beyond the 60 hours to 100 hours, 1,000 hours even."

Huntington said about 10 people had signed up for the class. The maximum class size is 25. The fee for the program at Duke Farms is \$325. For more information, call Nora Wagner at (908) 243-3643.

Vo-tech program puts beauty students' hands

By TAKESHA PETTUS
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School freshman Alysa Rochefort, 15, said she would like to own her own salon one day after attending college where she plans to earn a degree in business.

Senior Karissa Kruchinsky, 17, has attended Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School for two years. A transfer student from East Brunswick Vocational and Technical High School, Karissa will soon be able to take the state examination for her cosmetology license. She plans on attending college in the fall where she will study business administration or criminal justice.

Like many other students involved in the cosmetology department at the school, earning a state license for hairstyling is not the last step in their aspirations. Many plan on one day owning their own salons or going on to other career fields.

Marcia Bird, cosmetology instructor at the school, is trying to help those students find a bright future in the field once thought of as just hairstyling.

While pupils at the school are learning the craft of hair and nails, the students are also learning customer service and other skills to help them one day become successful in life.

The four-year program teaches them every phase of cosmetology, including chemical services such as colors, relaxers, permanent waves, and haircutting, skin care, facials, makeup and waxing, and nail care. By the end of the four years, the students will have earned three cosmetology licenses.

A cosmetology license is earned with 1,000 hours of training, a manicure license is earned with 300 hours of training and an esthetician license is earned with 600 hours of training. Once the licenses are earned, the pupil can apply to take the state examination for a state permit. The examination is one day and covers both practical and written study.

In their freshman year, students who study cosmetology will learn the foundations of hairstyling, shape and form, basic hairstyling and thermal styling. In addition, they will also learn about nail care and how to do a manicure and pedicure.

In their sophomore year, students learn about haircutting, chemical processing and hair color. In their junior year, they learn about color and are able to use the skills they learned on

"We run a student salon which is open to the public. It really does function like a salon."

Marcia Bird
Cosmetology Instructor,
Somerset County Vocational
and Technical High School

actual clients.

"We run a student salon which is open to the public," said Bird. "It really does function like a salon."

Juniors and seniors at the school in the cosmetology department work at the salon. Bird said the experience gives them a real feeling of what it is like in a working environment.

"The people really do enjoy coming to the salon," Bird said.

Each client is charged a minimal charge for services rendered and appointments are taken. In addition to learning how to do hair, Bird said, pupils learn customer service, receptionist skills and time management. But no matter how busy the salon may get, Bird said, she emphasizes that quality is more important than quantity.

Pupils are also taught to do hair of all ages and races, giving them an advantage in the outside workforce.

"We do students in the school and people of all ages," said Bird. "In the third year, we encourage bringing in as many models as they can. They have to start somewhere."

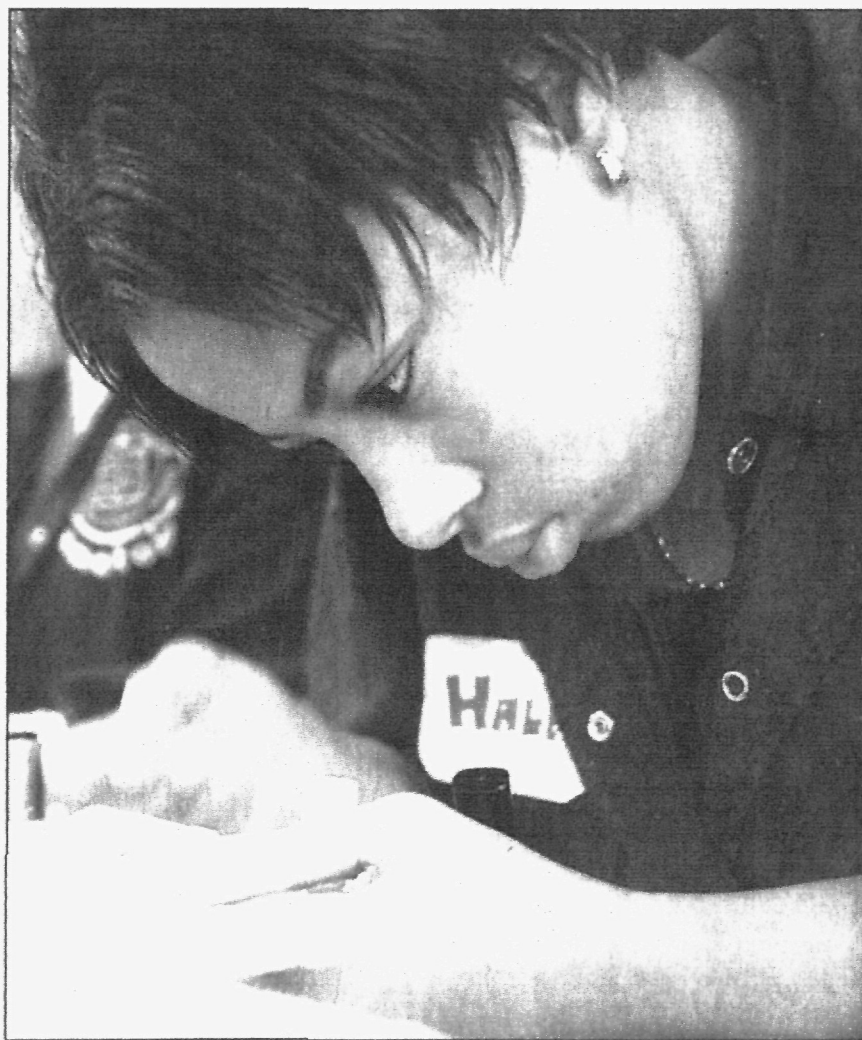
In addition to teaching the basics, Bird said she has to constantly stay abreast to the latest trends in hair, nail and facial treatments.

The students are also taught about other career fields within cosmetology.

"These students can do so many things," Bird said.

There are job postings in the cosmetology department for those who are seeking jobs. Bird said she often makes recommendations to those who are seeking work and has been able to, over the past six years that she has been teaching at the school, maintain a relationship with various salons in the area.

"If we can help that process then that makes a better long term fit," Bird said.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Haley Gahan, a student at Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School in Bridgewater, performs a manicure inside the school's salon. The cosmetology department at the school offers students a four-year program where they can earn cosmetology licenses.

Many local salons mentor students, allowing them to work in their salons and hone their skills. Once a student earns 600 hours of training, they can then apply for a permit.

"It's very important the salons and students work together," Bird said.

Students in their senior year also work in preparation for the state examination.

"That's when the anxiety steps in," Bird said.

Additionally, the students are also taken to hair shows to allow them to gain exposure to the profession.

"We try to do a lot of events where they're actually out caring for people," Bird said.

Bird, who taught cosmetology for eight years, left the teaching profession to work for Wella Corporation. After returning to school six years ago, Bird said she was able to bring her corporate experiences with her only to benefit those pupils who are seeking a career in cosmetology. Through her corporate experiences, Bird said she can now help them find the right career path to take within the cosmetology field.

"There's a lot of opportunity out there," Bird said.

Bird said the skills students gain through the program are invaluable.

"The nice part of what we do here is we do everything," Bird said.

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**Club program
on feng shui**
METUCHEN — The
Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club
holds its monthly meeting at 7:30
p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at St.
Luke's Episcopal Church,
Middlesex and Oak avenues.
The club program is a lecture
on feng shui by Franca Giuliani.

Guests are welcome and
refreshments will be served.
For more information, call
Diana at (732) 548-0925.
**Chocolate Fest
being cooked up**
BOUND BROOK — The
Women's Group of the
Congregational Church is plan-

ning a Chocolate Festival for the
weekend after the Super Bowl.
This event is from 1-5 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 11 in the social
hall at 209 Church St. Chocolate
cookies, chocolate cake, choco-
late fudge, chocolate mousse,
chocolate candy and chocolate
truffles are on the menu. Ice
cream sundaes, chocolate milk-
shakes, chocolate-dipped fruit
and similar desserts are also
being prepared. Hot cocoa will
be available with or without
marshmallows.

As well, you can win a choco-
late prize for guessing the exact
number of chocolate candies in a
jar.

For more information, call (732)
356-1293.

County college adds help desk classes

EDISON — Beginning in
January, a new program offered
at Middlesex County College will
train workers to become Help
Desk Administrators. Graduates
of the program will staff computer
help desks and call centers.

"This is a booming field," said
Frank Burke, chairperson of the
Computer Science Department.
"For example, one company,
Vonage, is anticipating hiring 100
people per month. Computer
support is one of the top 20
growth areas in Middlesex
County, and help desk adminis-
tration is a significant part of that
field."

Students take courses in com-
munications, customer service,
help desk technology, and specifi-
c technical areas. For this
spring, those areas are the
Internet, the PC, Microsoft
Windows and Office.

To pursue Help Desk
Administration, students must
have taken at least one of three
computer courses: CSC 105,
Computer Applications and
Systems; CSC 106, Intermediate

PC Applications with
Programming; or BUS 107,
Computer Applications for
Business. English Composition I
is also a prerequisite. Once the
prerequisites are completed, the
certificate program can be fin-
ished in two semesters.

"There is a huge job opportuni-
ty here," Burke said. "These are
good jobs with good wages. We
anticipate being able to provide
able and competent people to fill
them."

For more information on the
program, please call the Office of
Admissions at 732-906-4243 or
the Computer Science
Department at 732-906-2526.

Recycling center to begin winter hours

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The
South Plainfield Recycling
Complex on Kenneth Avenue
has started fall/winter hours.

The Yard Waste Site, at the
end of Kenneth Avenue, will be
open for brush, leaves and grass
clippings from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
on Saturdays.

Recycling Drop-off Center
hours are noon to 7 p.m. on
Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
on Fridays and Saturdays.

2005 Yard Waste Decals are
available in the Municipal Clerk's
office in Borough Hall. Bring the
registration of the vehicle that will
be used.

For updates, call the Recycling
Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

Township Garden Club seeking new members

PISCATAWAY — The
Piscataway Garden Club is seek-
ing new members.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the
third Thursday of every month at
the Senior Citizens Center, 700
Buena Vista Ave. The center is
off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy
Library.

For more information, call (732)
885-5050.

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Campus Notes

Eleven area students were
named to the dean's list for
the fall 2005 semester at
Monmouth University in
West Long Branch. The stu-
dents and their towns:

Bound Brook — Susana
Oliveira Francisco.

Edison — Taryn Mokar,
Lauren Shiffner, Kelly Tofte
and Shannon Tofte.

Middlesex — Laura
Gorman and Lori
Lacaille.

Piscataway — Mary Maco
and Karen Salazar.

South Plainfield — Nina
Byard and Kristen Kurilew.

Harsha Prakash Damera of
Piscataway received a mas-
ter's degree in computer sci-
ence Dec. 17 from the State
University of New York at
New Paltz. The degree was
awarded as part of the
school's December com-
mencement.

Erin Bunker of Piscataway
has received the Phillip C.
Bossart Memorial
Scholarship of Susquehanna
University in Selinsgrove,
Pa. The grant is awarded to a
psychology student who
shows promise as a scholar.

Bunker is a senior major-
ing in psychology at
Susquehanna, where she
received the grant at the
annual Scholar's Dinner on
Nov. 4. The daughter of Mr.
& Mrs. Bernhard Bunker is a
2002 alumna of Piscataway
High School.

Garrett Lacaille, a
sophomore at American
University, Washington, D.C.
and a resident of Middlesex,
was selected to take part in
the university's Early
Identification Program. He
is majoring in Political
Science within AU's School
of Public Affairs.

Adetomilola Adeyemo, a
sophomore at American
University, Washington, D.C.
and a resident of
Piscataway, was selected to
take part in the university's
Early Identification
Program. She is majoring in
Business Administration
within AU's Kogod School of
Business.

Michael Menta a member
of the senior class at
Dunellen High School has
been recognized by the
College Board's National
Hispanic Recognition
Program, as announced by
Principal Pio Pennisi.

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national recognition for
exceptional academic
achievements of Hispanic
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