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The Chronicle

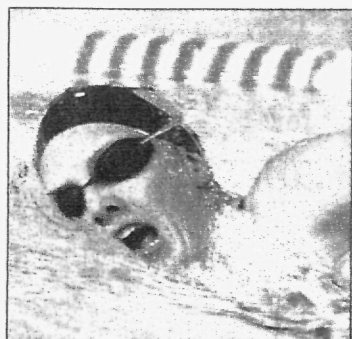
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Vol. 145, No. 5

Saturday, February 4, 2006

50 cents

INSIDE



Panthers dunk foes

After their lengthy reign as Somerset County swim kingpins was halted a year ago, Bridgewater-Raritan High's boys regained the championship Saturday night with the help of three record-setting performances. **Page B1.**

Rutgers aids food pantry

The Rutgers University Recreation Department donated \$6,350 in ShopRite gift cards to M.C. Foods, which supplies 60 food pantries throughout Middlesex County.

M.C. Foods is an acronym for Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services.

Funds were collected by faculty, staff and students who organized and took part in the third annual Big Chill 5K run/walk held in December.

"We are so incredibly thankful to all those who organized the Big Chill event and those who participated in it," said Middlesex County Freeholder Blanka Valenti, liaison to M.C. Foods. "Their hard work and generosity will help feed a lot of people in our county."

M.C. Foods, the county's centralized food bank, collected and distributed more than 100 tons of food and personal items in 2005. "The demand for food is on the rise," Valenti said. "It is events like the Rutgers Big Chill, our spring schools food drive, our Monroe Harvest food drive and the generosity of the many organizations, corporations and individuals that help us meet our residents' needs. We could not do it without them." Donations are always accepted. Among the most needed items now are canned and nonperishable items such as fruits, meats, vegetables, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, canned tuna, brown rice and snacks such as crackers and cookies. Also needed are personal products and baby items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers and wipes.

M.C. Foods also accepts grocery store gift cards if anyone is interested in making a monetary contribution. Corporations, groups or individuals interested in holding a food drive or other collection event may call Jennifer Apostol, the M.C. Foods coordinator, at (732) 729-0880 or (609) 409-5033.

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Redcoats are ready Tory Jack Day comes to borough

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — As part of its annual Tory Jack Day program celebrating Black History Month, the South Bound Brook Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, in conjunction with the Friends of the Abraham Staats House, Inc., and in partnership with the First Baptist Church, will present historian Joe Becton.

He will speak on the topic History Through Jazz at 11 a.m. Feb. 11 at the First Baptist Church, Franklin Street.

Becton, a supervisory park ranger with the National Parks Service, has been recognized with the Community Service award setting a standard of excellence in interpretation. Connecting Americans to our national parks through wonderful stories and varied media is one of the most important missions of the service.

Members of the First Rhode Island Regiment will act as Honor Guard providing a musket firing demonstration and will be on hand to answer questions and interact with the public.

From 2 to 4 p.m., the public is invited to tour the historic Abraham Staats House and view an exhibit by Joyce Smith titled "The History of Jazz in Black and White," and complements the presentation of Becton.

The Abraham Staats House, headquarters of General Baron Frederich von Steuben during the Middlebrook Encampment of 1778-79, has recently been listed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

The house is at 17 Von Steuben Lane, only a few blocks south of the First Baptist Church located at the corner of Montgomery and Franklin Streets one block off Main Street.

For additional information or directions, call (732) 469-5836, e-mail bkfaulk@aol.com or visit www.staatshouse.com.



COURTESY FRIENDS OF ABRAHAM STAATS HOUSE, INC.
Joe Becton, a historian, during last year's Tory Jack Day program held in South Bound Brook.

Making links



A series of cranes lend support to the steel skeleton of a pedestrian walkway that will connect the Steeplechase Cancer Center and the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Workers can be seen gaining access to the structure using small boom lifts. The new cancer center is entering its second month. By the end of February most of the exterior of the building and the walkway will be completed, hospital officials said previously.

GEORGE PACCIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Districts hit by test anxiety

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

Students armed with number two pencils will face off against row after row of blank circles — maintaining an almost sentry-like guard over an onslaught of standardized tests coming their way in an almost unrelenting fashion.

While politicians and policy makers decide the fate of a new addition to the roster of tests, students will keep doing what they are told: Filling in the bubbles and completing open-ended questions.

Test time in school these days brings an anxiety all its own for those running the school and to their counterparts in other schools around the state. Thanks to an intensive standardized test schedule — as well as a last-minute decision by the state to require yet another test — there will be almost no let up for the next seven weeks.

At Bedminster School, students in six out of the nine grades in the school will rotate taking state tests during that time frame.

The grueling marathon of tests is the result of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which requires schools test students regularly to ensure they are meeting minimum education standards. Proponents say it prevents students from "falling through the cracks;" opponents say it makes test scores alone the yardstick upon which a student's success is measured.

For administrators at Bedminster School, it also means scram-

Continued on page A2

Sweat, labor, love will make dream real Habitat and churches to build four homes

Editor's Note: This is the first in an occasional series chronicling the construction of four homes by Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, which is building the homes in partnership with area churches.

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI and
JIM WHITE
Staff Writers

BERNARDSVILLE — The pink and white floral wallpaper in the living room has turned yellow and is peeling at the seams. The pale pink carpet is dotted with muddy footprints and the once white ceiling shows leak spots.

This fieldstone and wooden house on Mine Brook Road in Bernardsville will soon be torn down to make room for housing for four families in need. Six area churches have pulled together to purchase the lot and three adjoining parcels, located across the street from the municipal building, and with the help of volunteers and Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity will build two duplex style units.

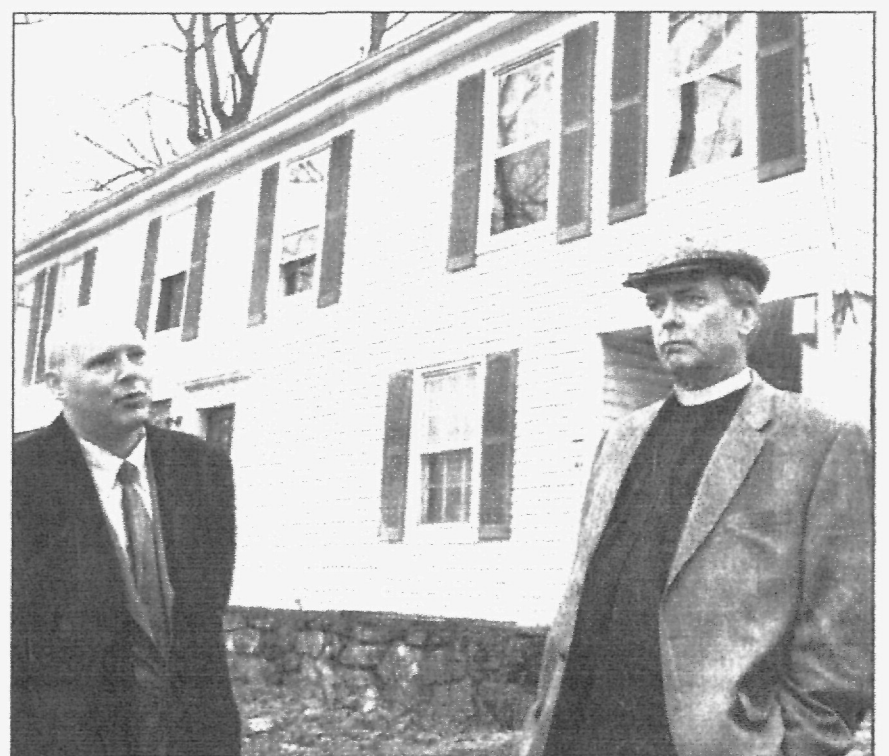
The churches — Bishop James United Methodist Church in Basking Ridge, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge, St. James Roman Catholic Church in Basking Ridge, Millington Baptist Church, Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church and Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church — pooled contributions to purchase the lots with the house at a total cost of \$500,000. Congregants and community members will join together to build the two housing units.

Already Bishop James and St. Mark's partnered to provide about \$100,000 for building supplies and furnishings for one of the units. The two churches will continue their fundraising efforts to contribute to the cost of the other units.

"This is a way for our members to grow in faith," said Donnie Mitchell, associate pastor at Bishop James.

Groundbreaking is scheduled for April or May. The steep site will be leveled, and over the course of the next seven to nine months volunteers and the families will build the

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACCIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Donnie Mitchell, associate pastor at Bishop James United Methodist Church in Basking Ridge, talks about plans to build four homes for deserving families with Stephen Rozzell, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Basking Ridge. The churches are two of six working with Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity to build the two duplex-style houses.

Habitat

Continued from page A1

duplexes.

Diana Pecina, development manager for Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity, said they did not choose the Mine Brook Road site for any particular reason other than its availability.

"Land is hard to come by," she said. "We search for land anywhere we can obtain it in Somerset and Hunterdon counties."

Both Mitchell and Stephen Rozzelle, the rector at St. Mark's, said Bernardsville is a great community and has a wonderful school system. They credited the governing body with aiding in the process of securing the site.

"Many towns sell off their low-income housing obligations," Rozzelle said. "They didn't do that."

Pecina said about 80 interested families attended an orientation meeting in September, of

which 35 actually filled out applications to be eligible for the homes. The organization is reviewing the applications and will soon select the four families.

The local Habitat chapter only works with low-income families, those who earn 30- to 50-percent of median income. Families must also show that they have a need for better housing, they are willing to pitch in when it is time to build their home, they are legal residents, and they have a good credit and work history.

"I've been involved in Habitat for Humanity for a long time," Rozzelle said. "Their (the families') dignity remains intact. This is not a freebie for them. They put in sweat equity and time to build their homes."

The families selected are required to contribute up to 500 hours of "sweat equity" to help build their homes.

"The biggest thing is they haven't had any privacy," Pam Ely, executive director of the local Habitat chapter, said of Habitat homeowners. "They've been overcrowded, living with friends or family."

"Suddenly the children have a room of their own. They're just ecstatic," she said. "Now, suddenly they (adults) have an affordable rent or mortgage, and their expenses have gone down. ... Being a homeowner gives somebody a real sense of worth, just that feeling of pride. ... Lots of tears, excitement and joy."

Pecina said the homeowners are required to repay a no-interest mortgage, usually in the \$90,000 to \$100,000 range, over a 15- to 30-year period.

The four, 1,100-square-foot homes will be within the two



The front elevation of one of the two duplex-style houses being built in the Somerset Hills area as part of the latest Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity project.

duplexes, facing each other. And because there is no parking lot at the site, a garage will be built beneath the duplexes.

"That's very unusual. We don't usually build garages," Pecina said.

The first floors of the two-story homes will contain a living room, kitchen and dining room. The second floors will contain three bedrooms and a bathroom. The homes are not air-conditioned.

Currently the churches are working to put together work teams and looking for volunteers in the community to help build the homes. They will be needed during the summer months.

"We're matching our talents right now," Rozzelle said. "We're asking 'Can you use a hammer?' 'Are you an electrician?'"

But volunteers need no training to work onsite.

"They just need to be at least 14-years-old," said Mitchell, who noted working on the project would make a great volunteer project for scouting groups or students looking to earn community service hours.

But people under 14 don't have to be left out.

"They can make or bring meals to the volunteers or bring bottled water," said Melanie Oseland, who volunteered to spearhead public relations for the project.

For more information about the organization, call (908) 704-0016 or visit www.rvhhabitat.org. To volunteer for the project, call Bishop James United Methodist Church at (908) 766-1108.

Districts tests

Continued from page A1

bling to find enough quiet areas for the students to take the tests and rescheduling planned events, including an assembly program on Shakespeare.

"Some weeks, it's just two grade levels, but we still have to be mindful of that and keeping some areas quiet," said Principal Gail Wiser.

Before the latest change, the state had required testing for third, fourth, and eighth grades, as well as a test for high school students. Now the program has been expanded to include fifth, sixth and seventh graders in compliance with federal regulations.

Announced late in December, the state will give tests written by Riverside Publishing for this year only, and a new test will be written for next year.

For the grades without state-required tests, many districts, including Bedminster, had given private tests such as the McGraw-Hill Terra Nova tests. The Bedminster district had not planned on administering the Terra Nova test during the weeks that the state tests will now be offered, and schedules will have to be changed to accommodate the testing swap.

"That filled in some non-testing weeks," Wiser said.

While area school officials surveyed have all expressed confidence that their students will perform well, they have all said the information available about the new test is limited.

"This is short notice. I would have like to see more notice and more lead time, but No Child Left Behind has been out for awhile, so this is not a shock," said Carolyn Rosenberg, director of curriculum, instruction, and technology for Somerville Public

Schools. "I would have felt better if we had more information about test specifications and sample questions."

According to the state Department of Education, there will be several types of questions involved in the test. In addition to the more traditional multiple-choice questions, pupils will also be faced with open ended questions in both language arts and math during the three 100-minute testing segments.

"We like to say that good instruction is the best test preparation," said Sondra Markman, curriculum supervisor for Warren Public Schools. Since the test is aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, which the school system follows, the children should have no problem with the material, she said.

While she has not yet heard from concerned parents in Somerville, Carolyn Rosenberg said testing usually inspires questions.

"There are concerns, always, about the amount of time we spend testing students. The state has mandated these tests, the federal government has required these tests, so it's really out of our control," she said. "It's something we will be able to do — and that we have to do."

Child and adolescent psychiatrist Dr. Margaret Tompsett, chair of the child psychiatry committee of the Bridgewater-based New Jersey Psychiatry Association, said that she is not sure increased testing is the answer to better education.

"We see quite a lot of children with test anxiety," she said, adding that anxiety disorders are the most common type among children. "The thing that's been bothersome about these tests is that there are already so many standardized tests."

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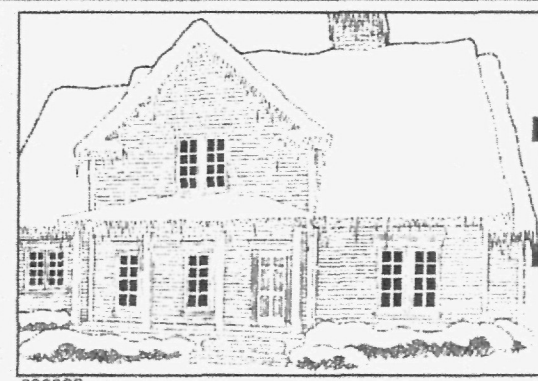
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Middlesex County Briefs

'Learners Service' at area synagogue

METUCHEN — A "Learners Service" takes place at 9:30 a.m. today 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. today 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.

H.S., Legion to hold night of doo-wop

NORTH BRANCH — The Dunellen American Legion Post 119, along with the Dunellen High School Class of 2008, are sponsoring "A Nite of Doo-Wop 2006."

The concert featuring Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge and The Dupress will be held 8 p.m. today at Raritan Valley Community College's Edward Nash Theatre.

For tickets or additional information, call (732) 968-0885, Ext. 104, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily or Bill Uhler at (732) 968-5381 nights and weekends.

Tickets are also available at the college Box Office from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Call (908) 725-3420.

Prices range from \$45-\$60. Funds raised from the concert will be used by the Class of 2008 to help defray the cost of graduation programs and festivities in order for all students to be able to attend.

Post 119 has adopted a Platoon of 35 soldiers currently on duty in Iraq and will be using the money raised from the concert to send "care" packages to soldiers as well as to provide for Veterans at the Menlo Park Veterans Nursing Home.

Concert coming to Middlesex Library

MIDDLESEX — Friends of the Middlesex Public Library will present baritone Frank Valdez in a free concert at 3 p.m. tomorrow in the community room of the library. Valdez, a winner of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions, has presented concerts in Israel, his native Puerto Rico, and numerous locations throughout the United States. His wide repertoire includes art songs, operatic arias, gospel and popular standards.

Light refreshments will be served following the concert. For information call the library at (732) 356-6602.

Library seminar on buying a home

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Public Library holds a financial and home buying seminar at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Elise Counts from First Equity talks about buying a home, refinancing, real estate investments and related subjects. A question-and-answer period follows her program.

Admission is free. A Spanish translation of the seminar will be provided.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

Make bookmark as 'practical' craft

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Learn how to make a bookmark with the "Practical Crafting" program of the South Plainfield Public Library.

Ronda Wisniewski leads this program at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday. Bring a pencil, a pair of scissors and a glue stick. Fee is \$2.

Registration is required; call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave. Space is limited.

Knitting and origami are taught at library

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — An Origami craft program will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday. Instructor Ronda Wisniewski will lead participants in making origami boxes.

Students are requested to bring a ruler, pencil and a glue stick. Paper will be provided. Space for the class is limited, so pre-registration is required. There is a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration.

A "Knit-Along" program is being sponsored by the library for three consecutive Mondays in March the 13, 20 and 27. Each session will start at 10:30

a.m. lead by Wisniewski. Space is limited for the program, so pre-registration is required, and each student will receive a list of materials to bring to class. In case of inclement weather, the sessions will be rescheduled.

South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's Web site at www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us.

Edison Garden Club has monthly meeting

EDISON — A workshop is planned to be part of the monthly meeting of the Edison Garden Club at 7 p.m. Monday. Members will be creating items for the club's annual tea to be held on April 29th. Materials will be provided by the club, but members and guests are requested to bring glue guns.

The Edison Garden Club meets the second Monday of

each month in the Conference Room at the Main Branch of the Edison Public Library located at 340 Plainfield Ave. in Edison. The public is invited and light refreshments will be served. For additional information, contact Mary Kobasz, (732) 549-3579.

'Love Story' essay contest

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Public Library wants Dunellen residents to tell of their own "Love Story."

Submit a brief essay, about your engagement and wedding, to the library no later than Monday. Essays should tell where, when and how you proposed to your spouse. Judging is based on the most unique, most romantic and most original proposal.

All essays will be on display in the library during February. Winners receive a complimentary dinner for two at the Dunellen Hotel.

For more information, call

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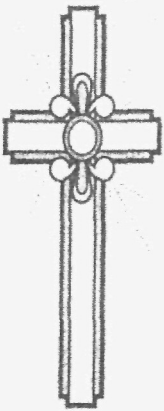
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* First Sundays: Holy Communion Service

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Senior Citizens Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

SATURDAYS

Prayer Service 6:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, February 10

Singles' Ministry 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, February 18

Men's & Women's Fellowship 10:00 a.m.

***** SPECIAL EVENTS *****

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - 6:30 p.m.

R.O.S.I.E. (Rewarding Our Students in Education)
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(732) 968-4585 or visit the library on New Market Road.

Program on identity theft held at library

MIDDLESEX — Laura Callahan of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office will present a program on Identity Theft at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the Community Room of the Middlesex Borough Library.

For more information, call the library at (732) 356-6602.

Fifth Lincoln birthday dinner is planned

BOUND BROOK — The Rotary Club of Bound Brook - Middlesex will present its fifth annual Lincoln Birthday Dinner supporting the scholarship fund for Bound Brook and Middlesex High Schools at 6 p.m. on Thursday at Russo's Continental Catering, 240 Union Ave., Bound Brook.

Guest speaker will be Patricia

Marinelli, author and educator speaking on her topic "Abraham Lincoln the Author". The Bound Brook High School Choral will entertain. Tickets (for \$40) can be obtained from Glenn Carman, at the Bound Brook Dry Cleaners on Union Ave. by calling (732) 356-0647 or Mark Ale at the United Methodist Church (732) 356-1372.

'Black History Trivia' subject of contest

EDISON — The Metuchen-Edison Area Branch of the NAACP holds its annual "Black History Trivia" competition at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Edison Job Corps Academy, 500 Plainfield Ave.

Knowledge of African American movies, history, TV, literature and sports will be included. Prizes will be awarded. Visit www.naacpmeab.org or call (732) 549-7936.

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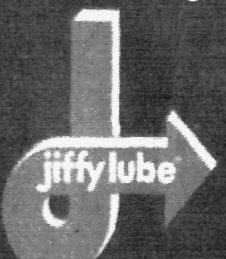
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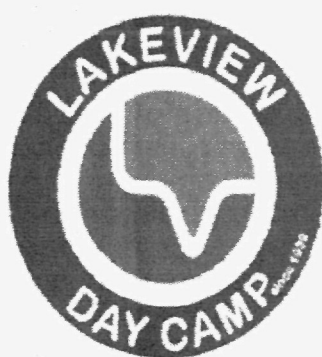
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Saturday, February 4, 2006

Opinion

Testing times come to schools

Politics and education rarely mix well together. And when money gets added in, the mix can become volatile.

Consider this: Right now many students will begin another round of standardized tests — and continue taking them for weeks to come — as part of the initiatives created by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The results of those tests are critical not just as a benchmark for how well students are learning, but become the basis for how schools are judged on educating children, which helps determine how much funding they get from both the state and, ultimately, the federal government.

This year students in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades will have a new test to take. The test will be administered by Riverside Publishing, which is providing the test on a one-year basis until the state can develop its own version, which will be given to students in the 2006-07 school year.

No big deal for the students, after all a test is just a test. But for those administering the test, and those who have to help the kids prepare for it, it means a stop-start approach to teaching, and learning. It also makes it difficult for anyone

to use the test given this year as a benchmark when they compare next year's results because the tests will be different. This, in itself, is one of the primary reasons the standardized tests are given in the first place.

So why didn't the state come up with its own test right from the start? After all, there was a year-long gap between the announcement of the new testing standards by the federal government and its arrival.

Well, ask former acting Gov. Richard Cody, who apparently dragged his heels on pushing Lucille E. Davy, acting commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education, to get the new standardized tests in place. It was his final year, and facing a new administration coming in, he spent the final months of his term giving money to special interests — to the tune of \$200 million, according to published reports — rather than to helping plan for the state's future.

Now, it's Jon Corzine's turn, and he has promised a more proactive approach to running the government. And, we hope, to running the education system, which is in major need of an overhaul.

Just ask the kids in class.

Quotable

"People thought I was a nurse, and I said no. They'd say, 'Oh, you should get your degree.' I was tired of doing the work and not getting the paycheck."

Carol Santiago



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

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS

— U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D)
One Gateway Center, 11th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 645-3030

(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)

30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor, Morristown,

NJ 07960, (973) 984-0711

2442 Rayburn House Office Building,

Washington, DC 20515-3011, (202) 225-5034

State

STATE OFFICE HOLDERS

— Sen. Walter J. Kavanaugh (R-16th)

76 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876,

(908)-526-4222

— Assemblyman Christopher Bateman (R-

16th)

36 East Main St., Somerville, NJ 08876,

(908)-526-3600

— Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi (R-16th)

1 East High St., Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-

252-0800

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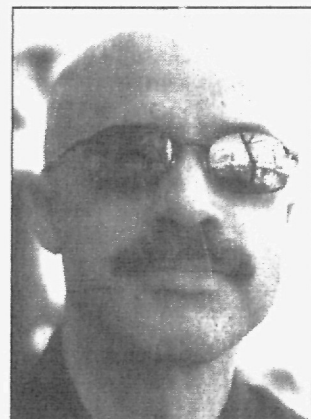
tpettus@njnpublishing.com

Press releases can also be sent to somer-

set@njnpublishing.com

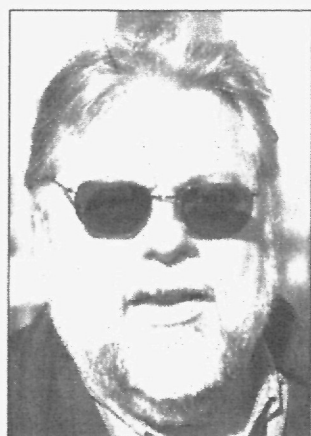
Question of the week:

What would your dream Super Bowl party be?



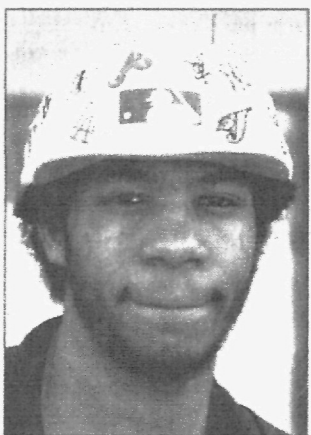
"Somewhere where it's warm, by a pool with an outdoor bar. That would be it."

ORLANDO RUIZ
Somerville



"I'm really not interested in Super Bowl parties. I'm just interested in watching the game and seeing the Rolling Stones."

GLENN BROWN
New Hope, Pa.



"A get together, music, watching the game and a lot of food. Just a lot of entertainment."

MARIO CLARK
Branchburg



"Palm trees and a big screen TV on a beach somewhere."

FRANK VERANO WITH DAUGHTER JULIA

Raritan

Letters to the Editor

Go red to show heart health

To The Editor:

Love your heart. By loving your heart, you can save it. That's the message the American Heart Association is delivering to women across the country during February, American Heart Month, and especially tomorrow, National Wear Red Day for Women.

Heart disease, the No. 1 killer of women in this country, can be prevented. When women learn to love their hearts, they can appreciate their health, their life and their loved ones. One out of three women die from heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which is nearly 500,000 women each year, says the American Heart Association.

Pfizer, along with Macy's, is proud to be a national sponsor of the American Heart Association Go Red for Women movement, a national movement to make women aware that heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death of women and the leading health threat facing women today. Go Red for Women captures the energy, passion, and intelligence of women to work collectively to wipe out heart disease. In only two years, Go Red for Women has grown from a grassroots cam-

paign to a vibrant national movement providing women with information, resources and hope to live longer, stronger lives.

Love your heart by making a fashion statement tomorrow. Wear something red. Join millions of women, people from all walks of life, and companies, towns, schools, public places, landmarks, legislators, and people in the media "go red" and "wear red" to focus attention on the number one killer of women — heart disease.

Then take action. Make a promise to be heart healthy. Join the Go Red for Women movement by calling (888) MY HEART and sign up for free lifestyle programs on exercise, nutrition, cholesterol, stroke, and others. Love your heart and get involved in the Go Red for Women movement. Learn more about Go Red for Women or request a Wear Red Day "dress down kit" by calling (888) MY HEART.

LORRAINE MAITA
Medical Director, Health and Wellness Services
Pfizer Consumer Healthcare
Morris Plains

The writer is the "Go Red for Women" spokeswoman for the American Heart Association.

A second chance to serve

To The Editor:

As you know, there is an opportunity for Raritan Borough voters in an upcoming Special Election for the vacated Raritan Borough Council seat that will be held on Feb. 16.

I have been a borough resident for the past 10 years and I want to restore trust and build on the strength and character of our community. I will campaign on the issue of property taxes and if elected work diligently to seek more state and county grant money for Raritan to help ease the huge burden on our taxpayers. Finally, I will seek to create a stronger Neighborhood Community Watch program, which is sorely missing, in our town.

My wife and I want to raise our family in a town proud of its history and excited about its future. Many of the people I have spoken to feel the same way. Together we can make this town a great place for everyone.

I urge all residents who supported me in November and all the voters seeking change and improvements in Raritan Borough to show their support for me on Feb. 16. There is much progress that can be made and I hope that on Feb. 16 we can begin moving Raritan Borough forward together.

Understanding that this is a special election, for your convenience, your vote can be submitted via absentee ballot. If you need an application or additional information please feel free to contact the Somerset County Clerk's office at (908) 231-7006 or the Raritan Republican Committee at (908) 526-2641. On Feb. 16, all regular district polling stations will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Again, thank for your support and hope to see you on Feb. 16.

MARK SZEMAN
Raritan
The writer is a Republican running in the special election.

A family's thanks to all

To the Editor:

This is a letter of tribute to the Bradley Gardens Fire Co., the Bradley Gardens Rescue Squad and, of course, the Bridgewater Police Department.

My brother, Al Baker, recently passed away. Because he was a member of both the fire company and the rescue squad, they bestowed on him the privilege of wearing his dress uniform and a full fireman's funeral.

Everything was so perfectly executed, from the wail of the siren as the procession paused in front of the firehouse draped with the flag of

mourning, with a uniformed fireman standing alongside his fireman's helmet and jacket hung on a chair in one of the open bays, to the tolling of the bell at his resting place.

They all stood at attention and saluted in truly grave fashion as the chief put the marker in place along with the flag of honor.

Thank you is just not enough for these kind, caring, thoughtful and loyal people who gave of their time to help at this very difficult and delicate time. I would like to personally commend them.

PEGGIE BAKER
Somerville

The Chronicle

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The Chronicle is here for you

The following information will help you get your ideas and community news into The Chronicle:

Call editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Information can be e-mailed to middlesex@njnpublishing.com.

The sports editor is Dave Allena. He can be reached at (908) 575-6690.

Our address: The Chronicle, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

Somerset County Briefs

Learn how to reduce that property tax bill

WARREN — The Watchung Hills Adult School is offering a "Property Tax Reduction Workshop" 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 14 in room 111B in the North Building at the Watchung Hills Regional High School, 108 Stirling Road.

The snow date is March 16. The workshop fee is \$39 for adults and \$29 for seniors 62 and up. Property owners will learn how to challenge their assessments. By challenging a property assessment, a resident can reduce their property taxes. Property assessments are open to discussion, negotiation

and, if necessary, appeal.

Topics covered in the workshop include: How to check tax assessors' records to see if their property is accurately described, how to verify if they are entitled to exemptions and how to check for accuracy in the market values that determine an assessment.

Challenging an assessment can result in thousands of dollars in tax savings over the years.

The workshop is taught by a state certified real estate appraiser and former city tax assessor. Class includes lecture, question and answer period, appeal forms and handouts.

Pre-registration is required.

For further information or to register, call the Adult School office at (908) 647-4800, Ext. 4820, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or e-mail adultschool@whrhs.org.

Commuters' thoughts on Route 78 sought

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority is conducting an online survey about travel issues and their potential solutions in the western part of the Route 78 corridor in northern New Jersey.

The survey can be found at www.i-78.org.

The Web-based survey is part of a current study that is explor-

ing ways to improve bus and rail service and convenience along Route 78 as a way to reduce current and future traffic congestion.

The Route 78 Corridor Transit Study is looking at the need for and feasibility of various transit improvements in the corridor between Lehigh County, Pa., to the west and Somerset County, New Jersey to the east. The area under study also includes Hunterdon and Warren counties.

The survey seeks to capture concerns about travel in the corridor. It asks questions about frequency, time and purpose of travel, transit use, and other relevant issues.

It also asks those surveyed to contribute suggestions on how to make transit use attractive in the corridor. These comments and suggestions allow planners to understand the concerns drivers and riders face and to confirm conclusions drawn from technical work.

"We're turning to people who drive I-78 frequently or even occasionally for their ideas about how to address the growing congestion in this area," said Somerset County Freeholder Peter S. Palmer, a member and former chairman of the authority.

The corridor has experienced significant growth in population and employment, and that

growth is expected to continue. Recognizing the mobility and accessibility needs of this growing population, the study seeks to enhance transit options for current and future residents. The study stems from the needs and strategies outlined in the authority's long-range transportation plan, Access & Mobility 2030.

The study will evaluate current transit services and facilities.

It also will consider such strategies as bus service enhancements, new and restructured bus routes, bus preferential treatments and new and expanded park and ride facilities.

Iraq vets join with volunteers to pack supplies

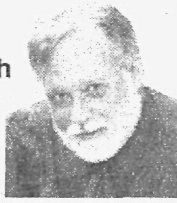
Saturday's packing event at the Manville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 marking the first anniversary of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 is shaping up to be a day that will be remembered with pride.

More than 400 volunteers have signed on to help out during the community-wide event which begins at noon and is scheduled to last to 6 p.m. During that time, we expect to pack at least 1,000 boxes for shipment to U.S. troops overseas.

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.

So roll up your sleeves. 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.

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



The Veterans of Foreign War Post 2290 is at 600 Washington Ave.

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

Letter from Iraq

Dear Mr. Rod Hirsch,

I am the recipient of one of your community's wonderful Christmas boxes. Our unit waited to hand them out after Christmas so we could have a few more surprises. I cannot tell you how much it brightened my day.

To the American Legion Post No. 327- your patriotism and commitment to the troops deployed is truly amazing and appreciated by this Soldier. I do not know Victoria or Jacqueline's last name or address, but the note and card are still on my

wall. Know that we think of all of you and thank you for your concern, prayers and gifts of time that went into these packages.

It is because of people like you that the Soldiers will continue their tasks and missions. We all hope to come home soon, and God willing this place will be better for our efforts here.

Your community should be proud of your Soldiers. Progress is being made. The work is hard and the promise of peace in this area is worth every minute on the road and working on missions.

Thanks for the box. I love America!

Lt. Col. Timothy C. Wall
101st Airborne

How 'bout you?

The Chronicle newspaper today begins a series of advertisements to salute the volunteers of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 as the organization marks its first anniversary.

"I'm a Patriot . . . how 'bout you?" is designed to acknowledge each week the good deeds of dozens of dedicated volunteers, generous businesses and philanthropic organizations that have stepped up and offered, time, money and expertise to help advance the cause of OPSHBX.

They are the ones who are always the first to lend a hand, to make certain that the work at hand - whether it be collecting food outside a supermarket, soliciting donations, packing boxes, loading trucks, addressing envelopes - is handled in a timely manner and done with a smile.

We all have our reasons for dedicating ourselves to this worthy endeavor.

To those who have not yet done so, we invite you to join us.

For those of you who donated a few hours here and there to help out, your efforts are appreciated.

To those of you who have been there since we first began - it continues to be a privilege and an honor to work alongside of you.

Dinner at the diner

Louka's Last American Diner
on Route 22 in Branchburg,



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the student council at the Ann Street School in Newark, at left, hosted a program at their school last week about Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 and its efforts to maintain a supply line of personal items to soldiers in the Mideast. At right is teacher Fawnda Genovese-Garcia, whose son just returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, and Rod Hirsch, executive editor of The Chronicle. Over 300 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades are collecting items for shipment.



COURTESY LT. COL. TIMOTHY C. WALL

Santa paid a visit to Iraq recently, stopping by on his pink bicycle to say hello to Lt. Col. Timothy C. Wall of the 101st Army Airborne. Note Santa's foot wear. A letter from Wall thanking Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 volunteers appears above.

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 organiza-

tion 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

Pat Mannion
Restaurant Owner
Somerville

Patriot
How 'bout you?

Join The Reporter, Pat Mannion and other citizens and businesses who support Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. Salute the sacrifice of our brave servicemen and women serving overseas. Be a Patriot. Support OPSHBX. Call The Reporter's Executive Editor Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684 or click www.nj.com/shoebboxnj for information on how you can help.

OPERATION SHOEBOX
NEW JERSEY 2005
Support Our Troops

Salute the sacrifice of our troops deployed around the world by donating care packages 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:

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

*Donated items must be in their original packaging.

Visit us on the web: www.NJ.com/shoebboxnj

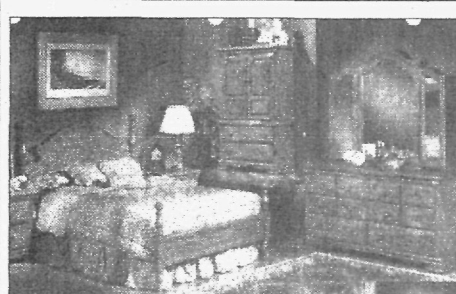
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Photo: Jon Nisko/The Star Ledger. Used by permission.

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PRESIDENT'S DAY SAVINGS

OVER 100 LIVING ROOM SETS ON SALE • SOFAS FROM \$559 TO \$1749



6 pc. Traditional Oak Bedroom

Triple Dresser, tri View Mirror, Door Chest, Queen panel headboard and 2 night stands.

Reg. \$3669
Sale \$2949

WOW \$2479



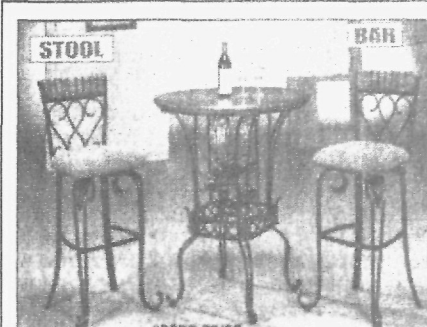
Louis Phillip, 7 pc. Traditional Bedroom in Cherry 64" 8 Drawer Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, 5 Drawer Chest, Queen Size Sleigh Bed & 2 Night Stands, Armoire optional at additional savings.

Reg. \$2599
Sale \$1999

WOW \$1899

TRUCK LOAD MATTRESS & FOUNDATION SALE

	TWIN	FULL	QUEEN
Firm 2 PC Set	\$199	\$249	\$299
Extra Firm 2 PC Set	\$249	\$299	\$359
Med. Firm 2 PC Set	\$299	\$359	\$419
Pillow Top 2 PC Set	\$399	\$469	\$559



3 Piece Wine Rack Pub Table Includes 2 Iron & Wood Stools

\$379

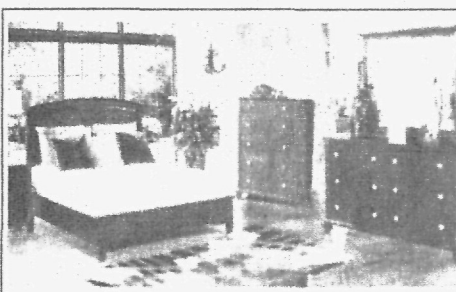


8 Way hand tied coil spring seating with a hardwood kiln dried frame, 2pc. sectional in a choice of fabrics

Reg. \$3689
Sale \$2799

WOW \$2499

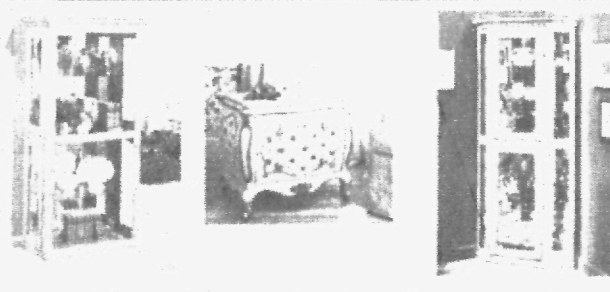
OVER 80 CURIOS ON SALE • OVER 40 DINETTES SETS ON SALE



6 pc Contemporary Merlot Bedroom Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, Chest, Queen Bed and 2 Night Stands

Reg. 2849
SALE \$2139

WOW \$1899



Largest Selection of Curios and Hand Painted Furniture in the Area

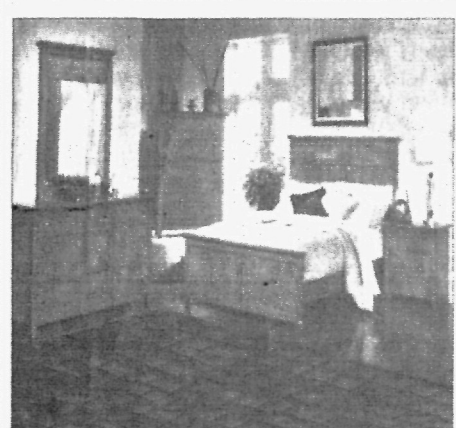


7 Pc Solid Pine Country Bedroom Triple dresser, mirror, large poster headboard & footboard, armoire/ent. center & 2 night stands.

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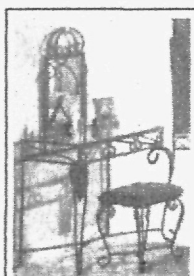
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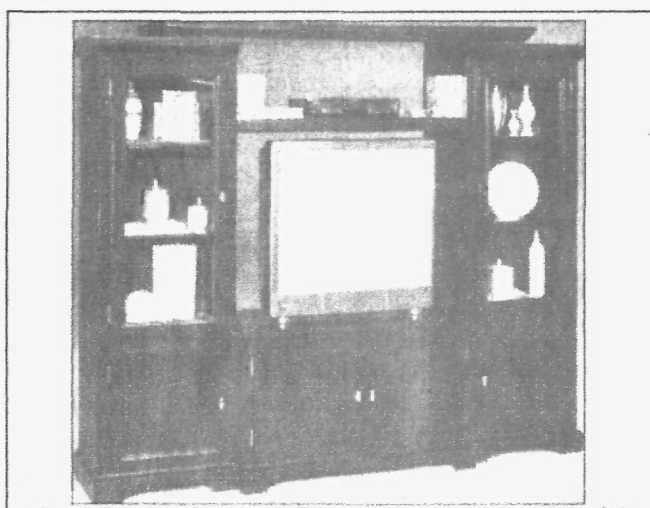
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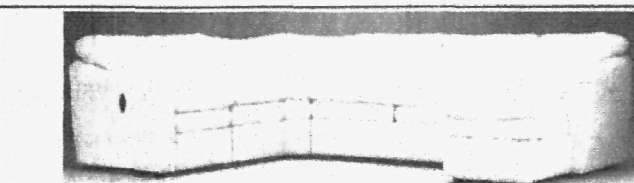
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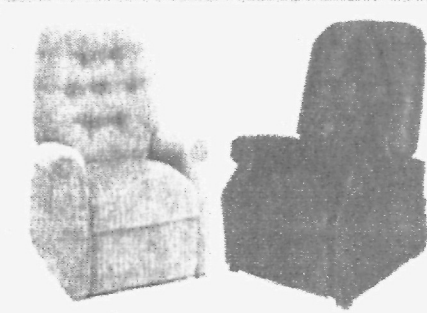
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Saturday, February 4, 2006

Sports

B-R boys, deMarrais star at SC meets

Panthers reclaim title behind 5 first places

BRIDGEWATER — While there might have been some debate about who the pre-meet favorite actually was, Bridgewater-Raritan High's boys left no doubt as to who reigned supreme.

Winning five events, including three in record-setting performances, B-R reclaimed its status as king of the Somerset County Swimming Championships by dethroning defending champion Hillsborough 299-246.5 Saturday night at the Somerset Valley-Bridgewater YMCA.

Having seen their nine-year reign ended by Hillsborough last winter, the Panthers went in determined to regain the title and with John Benigno, Kevin Gallagher and Andrew Frank each winning once individually and also contributing to a pair of record-setting relay efforts, they easily handled Hillsborough's bid to repeat.

In the girls meet the previous night Mount St. Mary Academy of Watchung rolled to its third straight crown by a 362-183 margin over runnerup Montgomery. Bridgewater-Raritan (157) won a tight three-way battle for third with Bernards tying Hillsborough for fourth with 153 points.

Bridgewater-Raritan's boys, getting points from a number of places other than their top four swimmers, won impressively.

"It feels very good to win," said B-R second-year Head Coach Sean Foley. "It's just an amazing feeling. The boys did a great job. They took it upon themselves to get that title back. I couldn't be prouder of my swimmers."

"The final margin is actually surprising. I thought it would be closer. We kind of solidified it in the breaststroke, which is ironic because that's where Hillsborough cemented it last year. My assistant coach was doing the math and said we'd win even if we didn't swim the 400 relay, and that was nice to hear."

Believing the pressure was off after having had their title streak halted last winter meant it easier to chase down Hillsborough this time around.

"I don't think there was as much pressure as last year," said Gallagher, who won the 50-meter freestyle and was second in the 100 free. "Most of the pressure was on Hillsborough because they were the reigning champions and everyone wanted to see if they could do it again. I think that helped us because all eyes were on Hillsborough."

Foley agreed with his senior sprint standouts.

"I think I was the only one who thought we were the underdog," he said. "I didn't feel any pressure, and I kind of portrayed that to the boys. Hillsborough was the defending champion, and I thought all the pressure was on them."

Still, the Panthers were considered the favorite by most to take back the championship after an easy dual-meet victory over Hillsborough earlier this season.

And with three of their top four swimmers being seniors, reclaiming the title was important.

"I don't think we had to win but this kind of validates the seniors' careers," Foley said. "To win the team title as a whole, everyone had to step up and the younger kids had a big part in that, too."

"It's great getting this back in our senior year," Gallagher said. "All year we've emphasized the county and the conference meets just to gain some momentum going into the state tournament. It helped that John, Andrew and I won those races, but for guys like Will Zelenty and Kevin McAllen to pick up those other places was huge for us."

Gallagher's performance didn't hurt. He topped teammate Josh Gonzalez in the 50, winning the title in 24.26 seconds, while Gonzalez finished at 25.36. Gallagher added runner-up honors in the 100 free (54.78), a race won by Montgomery's Drew Talarick in 54.31.

"I was really satisfied with all my events," Gallagher said. "It was tough to lose the 100 to Drew, but I did get my first county title and my time in the 50 was the third fastest in the state this year. And the relay teams were really unbelievable."

Benigno matched Gallagher by winning the 200 free for his second career individual gold medal and taking second in the 100 backstroke. While Gallagher anchored the 200 free relay, Benigno swam the final leg on the 400 free relay and finished the day contributing to three records, including his new mark in the 200 free of 1:56.08.

Frank earned his title — his fourth individual gold in his three years — in the 500 free as the junior won for the third straight time (5:17.25) and bettered last year's showing by more than seven seconds.

Benigno and Frank took part in their fourth and fifth winning relay performances together and their third straight in the 400 free. Frank, Gonzalez, Gallagher and Benigno finished in 3:36.7 to shatter the meet standard of 3:44.71 the same quartet in the same order produced a year ago.

Opting for the 200 free relay instead of the 200 medley, Frank, Gonzalez, Benigno and Gallagher delivered another record-breaking effort of 1:39.04.

BOYS RESULTS

Team Scores: 1. Bridgewater-Raritan (BR) 299; 2. Hillsborough (H) 265.5; 3. Pingry (P) 224; 4. Montgomery (M) 187.5; 5. Watchung Hills (WH) 92; 6. Ridge (R) 91; 7. Bernards (B) 52; 8. Somerville (S) 32; 9. Immaculata (I) 30; 10. Rutgers Prep 24; 11. Franklin 14.

200-Meter Medley Relay — 1. Hillsborough (James VanBierliet, Peter Cole, Pat Kuehne, Sean Downey) 1:50.91 (meet record; previous record: 1:53.02 by Pingry in 2005); 2. Pingry 1:51.63; 3. Montgomery 1:55.44; 4. Bridgewater-Raritan 1:57.05; 6. Watchung Hills 2:06.15; 7. Bernards 2:06.71; 8. Immaculata 2:08.33; 9. Somerville 2:09.54.

200 Freestyle — 1. John Benigno (BR) 1:56.08 (meet record; previous record: 1:56.61 by Brian Funk of Ridge in 1991); 2. Drew Talarick (M) 1:57.14; 3. Ashley Mak (WH) 1:59.71; 4. Tim Rauch (H) 2:00.75; 5. Zach Cordero (P) 2:04.69; 6. Eric Horowitz (H) 2:04.94; 7. Pat Luciano (WH) 2:05.28; 8. Ernesto Desat (BR) 2:05.56; 10. Will Zelenty (BR) 2:12.55.

200 Individual Medley — 1. Brian Wilson (P) 2:08.06 (meet record; previous record: 2:12.25 by Scott Sherman of Somerville in 1994); 2. Pat Kuehne (H) 2:13.19; 3. Andrew Frank (BR) 2:13.35; 4. Doug Pung (M) 2:20.46; 5. Sean Hager (P) 2:24.05; 6. Robert Webb (H) 2:25.32; 7. David Yao (BR) 2:26.34; 8. Joe Knolmajer (BR) 2:27.43; 10. Russell Kostelak (B) 2:28.64.

50 Freestyle — 1. Kevin Gallagher (BR) 24.26; 2. Josh Gonzalez (BR) 25.36; 3. Brendan Lawson (B) 25.39; 4. (tie) Brian Stirling (M) and Sean Downey (H) 25.46; 6. John Guiffre (P) 25.50; 8. Mike Randall (BR) 26.11.

100 Butterfly — 1. James VanBierliet (H) 1:01.02; 2. Eddie Layng (P) 1:02.16; 3. Kyle Jennings (M) 1:02.49; 4. Joe Knolmajer (BR) 1:03.98; 5. Justin Louie (P) 1:04.52; 6. Jeff Sterling (M) 1:05.96; 7. Will Zelenty (BR) 1:06.19; 12. Jeff Reyes (BR) 1:09.82.

100 Freestyle — 1. Drew Talarick (M) 54.31; 2. Kevin Gallagher (BR) 54.78; 3. Josh Gonzalez (BR) 55.68; 4. John Guiffre (P) 55.84; 5. Ashley Mak (WH) 55.86; 6. Brian Stirling (M) 56.13; 10. Pat Luciano (WH) 57.85; 11. Russell Kostelak (B) 58.79; 12. A.J. Albert (I) 1:00.35.

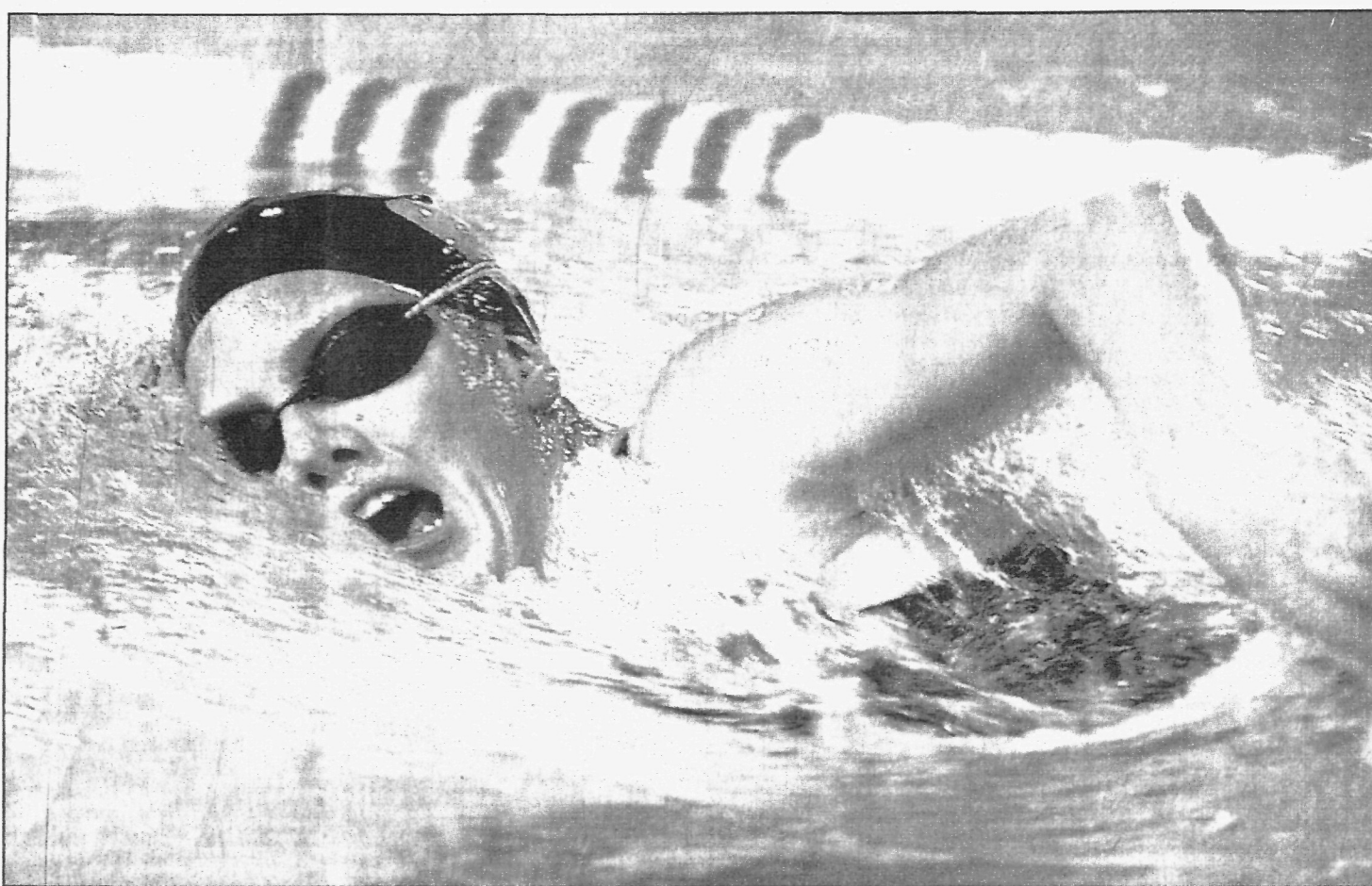
500 Freestyle — 1. Andrew Frank (BR) 5:17.25; 2. Tim Rauch (H) 5:30.39; 3. Erik Heijne (R) 5:32.09; 4. Ernesto Desat (BR) 5:37.91; 5. Zach Cordero (P) 5:42.27; 6. Kyle Smith (H) 5:45.29; 8. Kevin McAllen (BR) 5:51.87; 11. Kelly Mak (WH) 6:13.96.

200 Freestyle Relay — 1. Bridgewater-Raritan (Andrew Frank, Josh Gonzalez, John Benigno, Kevin Gallagher) 1:39.04 (meet record; previous record: 1:41.58 by Bridgewater-Raritan in 1996); 2. Hillsborough 1:41.94; 3. Montgomery 1:43.74; 4. Ping 1:46.45; 5. Watchung Hills 1:48.35; 6. Immaculata 1:52.10; 8. Bernards 1:54.27; 10. Somerville 2:02.96.

100 Backstroke — 1. Brian Wilson (P) 58.42 (meet record; previous record: 1:00.58 by Chris Hider of Bridgewater-Raritan in 2000); 2. John Benigno (BR) 1:00.95; 3. James VanBierliet (H) 1:02.62; 4. David Yao (BR) 1:05.30; 5. Eddie Layng (P) 1:05.35; 6. Jake Swigert (R) 1:06.37; 7. Kevin McAllen (BR) 1:08.87; 11. Ryan Gavin (WH) 1:12.65; 12. Kyle Plante (I) 1:14.47.

100 Breaststroke — 1. Pat Kuehne (H) 1:08.65 (ties meet record of Marc Falkner of Pingry in 2001); 2. Doug Pung (M) 1:09.86; 3. Mike Randall (BR) 1:09.89; 4. Sean Hager (P) 1:10.46; 5. Peter Cole (H) 1:10.58; 6. Evan Mendelsohn (P) 1:12.99; 7. Jeff Reyes (BR) 1:13.23; 8. Justin Chen (BR) 1:13.71; 9. Jeremy Chaudet (S) 1:13.81; 10. Brendan Lawson (B) 1:14.29.

400 Freestyle Relay — 1. Bridgewater-Raritan (Andrew Frank, Josh Gonzalez, Kevin Gallagher, John Benigno) 3:36.70 (meet record; previous record: 3:34.71 by Bridgewater-Raritan in 2005); 2. Pingry 3:39.71; 3. Hillsborough 3:51.10; 4. Montgomery 4:02.65; 5. Ridge 4:08.33; 6. Watchung Hills 4:09.75; 7. Somerville 4:30.13; 9. Bernards 4:51.82.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bridgewater-Raritan High's Morgan Sawin was second in the 500-meter freestyle and fifth in the 200 Friday as the Panther girls finished third in the team standings, behind champion Mount St. Mary Academy and Montgomery, in the Somerset County Meet.

Bernards senior ends career with 12 gold medals

BRIDGEWATER — With one final opportunity to display her talent at the county level, Kelly deMarrais didn't disappoint Friday night.

In her final Somerset County Swimming Championships meet, the Bernards High senior completed her outstanding career in the competition by capturing her seventh and eighth individual gold medals and ran her overall total to 12 in helping the Mountaineers earn a share of fourth place.

One of the state's top swimmers, deMarrais once again left the Somerset Valley-Bridgewater YMCA a double-winner, claiming the 200-meter freestyle for the second straight year and her first 100 backstroke crown, setting school records in both events.

And while most observers expected deMarrais to do just what she did, she entered the meet like she always does — looking to do her best.

"I just wanted to see what I could do," she said. "I never go into a meet expecting to win because you don't know who's going to be doing what. I didn't really feel any pressure. I guess the only pressure I feel is the pressure I put on myself."

"Overall I'm happy with my times. I was hoping to go a little faster in the 200 free but I'm happy with my backstroke time. My coach put me in it (backstroke) in a dual meet and I swam my second fastest time ever, so I wanted to do it in the county meet."

In winning twice deMarrais maxed out in individual gold in county career races because swimmers are allowed to enter two events on their own and two relays.

"I think it's pretty cool that I never lost a county race (individually)," she said. "As a freshman you don't think about that, but to get to my senior year and know I've done that is nice."

After winning the 200 individual medley and 100 freestyle in each of her first two years when she was also part of two winning relays, deMarrais earned the gold in the 200 and 500 freestyle races a year ago.

Friday night she repeated in the 200, winning in 2:08.00 to surpass the school record of 2:09.34 she set while winning

last year, and her 1:05.52 in the backstroke eclipsed the BHS standard of 1:06.80 established by Catherine Skoda four years ago.

DeMarrais also captured her first non-gold medals in the county meet by anchoring the 400 freestyle relay to a runner-up finish and the 200 free relay to a third-place showing.

In all it helped the Mountaineers to gain a share of fourth place with Hillsborough as both totaled 153 points, only four points behind Bridgewater-Raritan for third. Mount St. Mary Academy of Watchung, meanwhile, continued its dominance by routing the field with 362 points, easily beating runnerup Montgomery (183) for its third straight title.

"I was very proud of how we did as a team," deMarrais said. "We tied Hillsborough, which is way up there, and we almost beat Bridgewater, so I was real happy with how we did as a team. This was a good year for us."

Mary deMarrais, Kelly's freshman sister, earned a pair of third-place finishes, taking bronze medals in the 200 free in 2:14.62 and the 100 free in 1:02.91. Jamie Hepburn added a third place in the 500 free in 6:05.32.

Julie Farrell, Hepburn and the deMarrais sisters combined for a runner-up performance in the 400 free relay as their 4:14.08 trailed only record-setting Mount St. Mary (4:06.91), which erased a 1999 Bernards county meet mark. Farrell, Julie Murphy and the deMarrais sisters were also third in the 200 relay in 1:57.70.

Hepburn, Samantha Cembrook, Erin Hepper and Murphy combined to take sixth in the 200 medley relay in 2:19.25.

GIRLS RESULTS

Team Scores: 1. Mount St. Mary (MSM) 362; 2. Montgomery (M) 183; 3. Bridgewater-Raritan (BR) 157; 4. (tie) Bernards (B) and Hillsborough (H) 153; 6. Pingry (P) 94; 7. Ridge (R) 87; 8. Immaculata (I) 42; 9. Watchung Hills (WH) 34; 10. Rutgers Prep (RP) 15; 11. Franklin (F) 12; 12. Somerville (S) 8.

200-Meter Medley Relay — 1. Mount St. Mary (Becky Clapp, Maggie Gousman, Laura Stark, Meaghan Gaynor) 2:06.78; 2. Montgomery 2:08.72; 3. Hillsborough 2:11.69; 4. Bridgewater-Raritan 2:14.58; 5. Ridge 2:19.12; 6. Bernards 2:19.25; 8. Watchung Hills 2:20.45; 9. Immaculata 2:25.44; 10. Somerville 2:29.54.

200 Freestyle — 1. Kelly deMarrais (B) 2:08.00;

2. Lisa Rauch (MSM) 2:13.01; 3. Mary deMarrais (B) 2:14.62; 4. Anni Demberger (MSM) 2:16.29; 5. Morgan Sawin (BR) 2:16.76; 6. Miranda Steel (H) 2:18.08; 9. Lauren Kucsan (BR) 2:18.39; 10. Megan Bolten (I) 2:18.78; 11. Christie Fries (I) 2:21.19.

200 Individual Medley — 1. Laura Stark (MSM) 2:25.96; 2. Allison Christie (MSM) 2:30.26; 3. Hannah Gonzalez (BR) 2:33.18; 4. Nicole Wain (R) 2:33.61; 5. Amanda Kautz (H) 2:33.79; 6. Kate Salvati (MSM) 2:33.96; 7. Jamie Hepburn (B) 2:36.61; 11. Erin Dahl (BR) 2:43.74; 12. Stephanie Chen (WH) 2:46.18.

50 Freestyle — 1. Elizabeth Floyd (MSM) 27.26 (meet record; previous record: 27.91 by Sarah Papay of Bridgewater-Raritan in 2005); 2. Meaghan Gaynor (MSM) 28.17; 3. Kristen Moll (MSM) 28.64; 4. Maja Feenick (P) 29.10; 4. Annie Comollo (M) 29.18; 6. Gwen Comollo (M) 29.30; 9. Jackie Knolmajer (BR) 30.22; 10. (tie) Julie Farrell (B) and Julie Murphy (B) 30.23.

100 Butterfly — 1. Laura Stark (MSM) 1:06.53; 2. Kelsey Hurley (H) 1:09.06; 3. Hannah Gonzalez (BR) 1:09.86; 4. Becky Clapp (MSM) 1:10.14; 5. Janene Senofante (MSM) 1:10.90; 6. Jamie Trach (BR) 1:11.12; 11. Dana Resker (BR) 1:16.59.

100 Freestyle — 1. Elizabeth Floyd (MSM) 59.85; 2. Kristen Moll (MSM) 1:02.21; 3. Mary deMarrais (B) 1:02.91; 4. Courtney Raw (M) 1:03.24; 5. Gwen Comollo (M) 1:03.66; 6. Maja Feenick (P) 1:03.71; 8. Julie Farrell (B) 1:04.79; 11. Megan Bolten (I) 1:05.69; 12. Michelle Johnson (BR) 1:06.31.

500 Freestyle — 1. Allison Christie (MSM) 5:49.59; 2. Morgan Sawin (BR) 6:04.11; 3. Jamie Hepburn (B) 6:05.32; 4. Laura Kucsan (BR) 6:08.13; 5. Kate Salvati (MSM) 6:08.18; 6. Miranda Steel (H) 6:12.83; 8. Christie Fries (I) 6:16.32.

200 Freestyle Relay — 1. Mount St. Mary (Meghan Gaynor, Maggie Gousman, Kristen Moll, Elizabeth Floyd) 1:53.48 (meet record; previous record: 1:53.98 by Mount St. Mary in 2005); 2. Montgomery 1:57.57; 3. Bernards 1:57.70; 4. Hillsborough 1:59.29; 5. Pingry 1:59.72; 6. Ridge 1:59.95; 7. Bridgewater-Raritan 2:01.06; 8. Watchung Hills 2:07.58; 9. Immaculata 2:09.76.

100 Backstroke — 1. Kelly deMarrais (B) 1:05.52; 2. Becky Clapp (B) 1:09.09; 3. Courtney Raw (M) 1:10.08; 4. Anni Demberger (MSM) 1:10.35; 5. Lisa Rauch (MSM) 1:10.58; 6. Kelsey Hurley (H) 1:10.66; 7. Melissa Brower (BR) 1:11.94; 11. Kathryn Butare (BR) 1:17.57.

100 Breaststroke — 1. Amanda Kautz (H) 1:17.68; 2. Maggie Gousman (MSM) 1:19.39; 3. Meaghan Gaynor (MSM) 1:20.21; 4. Ariel Newman (H) 1:21.04; 5. Laura Noisten (M) 1:21.36; 6. Stephanie Sinko (BR) 1:23.55; 10. Sarah Heath (WH) 1:25.24; 11. Stephanie Chen (WH) 1:25.44; 12. Allison Boucher (BR) 1:25.55.

400 Freestyle — 1. Mount St. Mary (Elizabeth Floyd, Kristen Moll, Janene Senofante, Laura Stark) 4:06.91 (meet record; previous record: 4:07.13 by Bernards in 1999); 2. Bernards 4:14.05; 3. Montgomery 4:18.72; 4. Bridgewater-Raritan 4:20.93; 5. Pingry 4:21.73; 6. Hillsborough 4:29.54.

Patriots set tryouts

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset Patriots, who won their third Atlantic League of Professional Baseball title last fall, and fellow league member Newark will hold a joint open tryout session 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 1 at Commerce Bank Park.

There will be an administration fee of \$40 to try out, with proceeds going to the Patriots Charity Fund, which has been established for various charities supported by the Patriots.

Candidates, who should report to the ballpark 8 a.m. for registration that day, must be high school graduates and at least 18 years old. Everyone should provide their career statistics and must supply their own wooden bats and gloves. All participants will be required to sign a release form before trying out.

Coaches from the Patriots and Bears will be on hand to evaluate the candidates, as will managers Sparky Lyle and Chris Jones.

Somerset has signed a player from three past tryouts, including Immaculata High graduate Tony Gsell, who's been with the squad since 2003. The Bears recently signed pitcher Steve Crampton from an open tryout and he went on to become Newark's "Pitcher of the Year."

"Both teams want to provide players with the chance to prove themselves to us and show they can play at a high level," said Somerset President-General Manager Patrick McVerry. "The tryouts have been successful in the past at giving players a chance to be rediscovered and get back into professional ball."

The Patriots have placed season tickets and group tickets on sale for the 2006 season, which begins April 28 against Atlantic City at CBP. For more information call (908) 252-0700 or visit the team's website at www.somersetpatriots.com.

SCT is in 2nd round

The Immaculata High boys basketball team and the Watchung Hills girls earned top seeds for the annual Somerset County Tournament, which got underway last weekend with preliminary-round action.

Immaculata, No. 2 Bridgewater-Raritan, Rutgers Prep (3) and Somerville (4) have byes until the Feb. 11 quarterfinal round of the boys tourney. The top four-rated girls squads — Watchung Hills, Rutgers Prep (2), Franklin (3) and Immaculata (4) — also have byes until the Feb. 11 quarters.

In the boys tourney 11th-seeded Bound Brook will visit sixth-rated Pingry today in a 5 p.m. start. Other second-round matchups have No. 5 Watchung Hills hosting No. 12 Ridge, ninth-ranked Montgomery visiting No. 8 Franklin and seventh-seeded Gill St. Bernard's entertaining No. 10 Hillsborough.

Formerly held at B-R, the semis and finals are now at the new schools recently opened in Montgomery and Franklin. Also for the first time, all games will be played on Saturdays, with the four semifinals scheduled for Feb. 18 at Montgomery and the finals Feb. 25 at Franklin (girls 1 p.m., boys 3).

Boys SCT

(Seeds in parentheses)

Quarterfinals

Feb. 11

Franklin-Montgomery winner at Immaculata (1); Watchung Hills-Ridge winner at Somerville (4); Bound Brook-Pingry winner at Rutgers Prep (3); Hillsborough-GSB winner at Bridgewater-Raritan (2)

Girls SCT

Second Round

Saturday

North Plainfield (16) at Bridgewater-Raritan (8); Manville (13) at Hillsborough (5); Ridge (14) at Somerville (6); Pingry (10) at Montgomery (7)

Quarterfinals

Feb. 11

North Plainfield-BR winner at Watchung Hills (1); Manville-Hillsborough winner at Immaculata (4); Somerville-Ridge winner at Franklin (3); Pingry-Montgomery winner at Rutgers Prep (2)

Middlesex County News

Columbiettes plan
Soup Night today

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Columbiettes sponsor a Soup Night from 5:30-7 p.m. today 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. tomorrow 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.

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.

Learn to prevent
identity theft

MIDDLESEX — The Friends of the Middlesex Public Library have scheduled a seminar on identity theft.

This free program is at 7 p.m. Thursday in the library at 1300 Mountain Ave. Laura Callahan from the Middlesex County prosecutor's office is the presenter.

For more information, call (732) 356-6602.

Meet and greet
for older singles

EDISON — Starlight Socials is holding a meet and greet for single professionals ages 35-50.

Meet at 9 p.m. Friday at Bennigan's on Route 1 South near Menlo Park Mall. The host will wear a red carnation.

Registration is required; visit www.starlightsocials.com or call (732) 764-9073.

Annual meeting
for FISH group

DUNELLEN — FISH Inc., Dunellen Area, holds its annual meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 13 at the First Presbyterian Church, 218 Dunellen Ave.

Committee chairmen will report on last year's activities and outline plans for 2006. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

FISH is an all-volunteer non-profit organization which helps needy people in the community. Major programs include the food bank, clothing, bedding, holiday meals, Christmas toys and camperships.

For more information, call (732) 356-0081. A volunteer will return your call.

Indian dance

recital in library

EDISON — Shreeleatha Billa performs classical Indian dance at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18 at the main branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave.

Her program includes "Pushpanjali," an invocation to the gods; "Padam," a devotional in praise of a deity; and four other dances. Admission is free.

For registration, call (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1 or visit the circulation desk of the main branch.

Card party has
Hawaiian theme

EDISON — "Hawaiian Nights" is the theme of the 27th annual card party sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Guild of Bishop

George Ahr High School.

The event is at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 in the high school at 1 Tingley Lane, off New Dover Road near Oak Tree Road. Reservations are required; call Linda Lordi at (732) 548-6612 by Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Neve Shalom

sets Purim events

METUCHEN — Events to celebrate Purim have been scheduled at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave.

The synagogue's Purim carnival runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, March 12.

Activities on Monday, March 13 include a "Tot Purim" program for ages 2-5 at 5:30 p.m., an abbreviated version of the Megillah reading for children at 6:30 p.m. and a complete reading of the Megillah at 8 p.m. Music precedes the Megillah readings.

For more information, visit www.neveshalom.net or call (732) 548-2238.

A blood drive in memory of Michael Allen Thompson will take place from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 12. E-mail neveshalomdrive@yahoo.com or call (732) 906-1922.

Bound Brook battle
recreated in April

BOUND BROOK — The annual Battle of Bound Brook reenactment coming will be held April 8-9.

A Soldier's Encampment, colorful sights and sounds of 18th century living, exciting street and field battles, historic house tours and more mark this multi-community event held in Bound Brook, South Bound Brook and Franklin. For additional information or for information on volunteering to help during the reenactment and encampment, visit www.staatshouse.com or call Kathy Faulks of the Friends of the Abraham Staats House in South Bound Brook at (732) 469-5836 or e-mail BKFAULK@aol.com, e-mail Karen Fritz at Kfritzcd@aol.com or Linda Brnicevic at MacChong@aol.com, both of the Bound Brook Community Development Association.

Legal Notices

N. J. D.O.T. NOTICE FOR BIDS
SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:27-36.1 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 2/11/06 and opened and read for.

Route 9-Bus Shoulder Lanes & Pedestrian Improvements, Contract No. 122033200; Old Bridge Township, Middlesex County
Federal Project No: CM-0001(233)
DP No: 09158

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of PL 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C. 17:27. 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. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (PL 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.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on this 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 contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Sheri Court
Mt. Arlington, NJ
973-770-5141

Route 79 and Daniels Way
Freehold, NJ
732-308-4025

1 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 605
Trenton, NJ 08625
\$68.30 B11.3T.1/21.28.2/4/06

SOMERSET SAVINGS BANK

Notice of
Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the annual Meeting of the Members of Somerset Savings Bank, S.A., 220 West Union Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ 08805 on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. 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 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Members of record at the close of business on December 17, 2005 will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Michael J. Walsh
Secretary
B14.2T.1/28.2/4/06

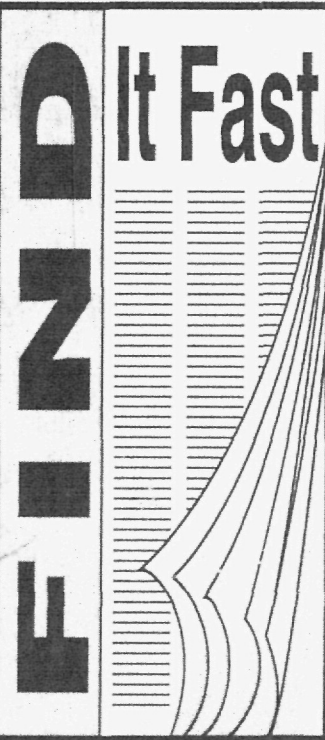
DUNELLEN PARKING AUTHORITY

The Dunellen Parking Authority meeting dates for the year 2006:

Wednesday February 15, 2006
Wednesday April 19 2006
Wednesday June 21 2006
Wednesday August 16 2006
Wednesday October 18 2006
Wednesday December 20 2006
Wednesday January 17 2006 - Reorganization

All meetings are at 7:30 p.m.

345 Front Street
Dunellen New Jersey 08812
\$9.16 B16.1T.2/4/06



In The Classifieds

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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BAK716

Obituaries

Joseph A. Pinter

EDISON — Joseph Anthony "Cookie" Pinter, 90, died Jan. 16, 2006 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Mr. Pinter was born in Perth Amboy and lived in Edison before moving in 1974 to Ormond Beach, Fla. He had resided in Pittstown since 2004.

He was a truck driver for 38 years, retiring in 1974 from the Interboro Trucking Co. of Edison. Mr. Pinter earlier was a truck driver with General Cable Corp. in Perth Amboy.

He also was an antiques deal-

er and a member of Teamsters Local 701 in North Brunswick. Mr. Pinter was a former member of two Roman Catholic churches, Our Lady of Hungary parish in Perth Amboy and Our Lady of Peace parish in Fords.

His wife of 65 years, Rosalee Shefchik Pinter, died in 2003.

Surviving are a daughter, Brenda Beckage and husband Benjamin, with whom Mr. Pinter lived; a sister, Terry Laap of Jackson; a grandson, Michael J. Beckage and wife Lenka Kanisova Beckage of Upper

Black Eddy, Pa.; a granddaughter, Theresa Lee Beckage of Pittstown; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Jan. 21 at St. Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church in Pittstown. Entombment was at Volusia Memorial Park, Ormond Beach.

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

Valentine's Day
Lovelines

Thurs., Feb. 9, 2006

Life gets so busy sometimes that we forget to tell the special people in our life how much they mean to us. So this Valentine's Day instead of giving the same old thing, say "I Love You" in a special way with a classified Loveline.

Profess your love in print

Fill out the form below by printing all of your information legibly and don't forget to choose your Lovelines enhancer.

Please check one of the Custom Enhancers to add to your Loveline:



☐ MEM5
\$5.00



☐ LOVE2
\$5.00



☐ HLYT108
\$5.00



☐ LOVE1
\$5.00

Enhancers are in actual size

**1x2 Box with
Custom Enhancer**
\$25.00
or
99¢ per line
(3 lines minimum)

Cost of Loveline: \$

Cost of Enhancer: \$

Total: \$

Print Your Loveline Here:

Sample Ad-actual size



Breanna,

You are my best friend, my one true love and the woman I want to spend the rest of my life with. I love you more and more every day.

Love Brian

Complete the form below and mail to: Lovelines, NJN Publishing
Classified, 171 Route 173, Suite 300, Asbury, NJ 08802

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Pre-Payment is required on all Valentine's Lovelines.

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order
☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Deadline is February 6, 2006 at Noon

For more information or to place your Loveline call one of our specialists at

1.800.578.1435

NJN
publishing

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www.nj.com/placead

Somerset County

Classification 1385

Employment

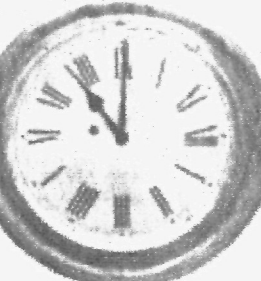
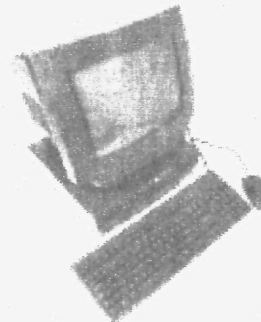
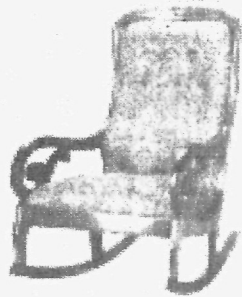
Classification 201

Merchandise

Classification 550

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

What do you want to sell?



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

Announcements

Announcements 110
Disclaimer: The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette & The Chronicle reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject any classified advertising at any time and will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. The Reporter, Messenger-Gazette & The Chronicle liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error and will not be liable for failure to publish an ad.

Employment

Child Care 202

Experienced Caregiver
Needed for 2 B/Water toddlers. Occasional Wed. and Thurs. days. Extended evening hours (8pm-10pm). Must drive. \$14/hr. Please send resume to: The Express-Times, Attn: Box M1274, Asbury, NJ 08802.

General Help 240

TEACHER
Immediate openings: Full time or Part time position available in premier nursery school for 2 1/2 - 3 year olds. Warren, NJ. Excellent opportunity to join a wonderful caring team of care specialists. A+ Salary. Must have a min of a CDA. English speaking a must. Personable demeanor required. Call: 908-412-4144

Employment Agencies

205
Immediate Job Openings! STAFFING ALTERNATIVES
Call 732-246-1687

Drivers 230

CHAUFFEURS NEEDED

For busy Hunterdon Co. based limousine service. FT & PT opportunities. CDL a definite plus. Call for interview appointment. 908-735-8865

DRIVERS

There's a driver shortage. We know it, you know it. So we raised our pay rates. Our average driver earned \$1038 per week in 2005. Interested in learning more? Call Us Today! (866) 1-WANT-LJ www.kennedytruck.com CDL-A required

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

for Hillsborough/ Flemington /Middlesex areas. Routes, trips, sports. CDL BP preferred. 4+ hrs./day. \$16+/hr. Call Hager Bus: 908-930-8050

General Help 240

ADVANTAGE HUMAN RESOURCING
Has immediate openings:
Accounts Receivable Specialist (2 years experience)
Advertising/Marketing Asst (2-4 experience)
Business Development/Sales (Pharmaceutical Exp a plus)
Documentation Specialist (Advanced Knowledge of MS Word required)
Human Resource Asst (Min 3 yrs experience)
Text Editor (Desktop experience)
Email: cmetzger@advhr.com or Call Audrey (908) 730-8090

General Help 240

CAREGIVER

Loving person to care for infants we will train. 908-526-1625

CARPENTER

Additions/renovations. Year round work. Good pay. Start immediately. Hunterdon County area. 908-237-1901

CHILD CARE

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

Chiropractic

Insurance Biller
PT Clinton area needs indiv for inhouse claim follow ups & benefit coverage. 5-10 hrs p/wk. Must have exp. & refs. His flex. Call: 908-399-3499

DELIVERY

Need help with holiday bills? Deliver phone books in your area. Organizations are welcome to apply. Must be at least 18 and have an insured vehicle. For info call 800-247-4708

FENCE

Installers, Laborers, Sub-contractors & sales. 1-800-262-3245

HELPERS WANTED

Kasper Disposal Service 908-782-4962

IDEAL JOB FOR A COUPLE

For hotel/motel housekeeping, maintenance, & book work. Clean atmosphere, good pay, on site apartment, benefits. 908-303-7811

MASSAGE THERAPIST

Up and coming day spa looking for a motivated and self motivated massage therapist. National certification preferred. Please call 908-996-3399

RECEPTIONIST

Westfield salon seeking FT/PT receptionist, training available. Call 908-233-2725

General Help 240

NJ PUBLISHING

Is seeking a Full Time Position to work for Ad Services in the Business office in Flemington. The ideal candidate has a minimum of five years accounting experience, proficient on a calculator, is accurate in data entry, and is an intermediate user of EXCEL and WORD.

RECEPTIONIST

For Medical Office. FT. Galloway Area, Call Linda @ 908-832-2125

Sales

Leading cardiac equip dist. needs exp. inside sales Rep. Self-starter, able to meet a quota. B1 pc & comm skills, technical background, close deals over the phone, customer support. Salary + comm. Fax Cover and Resume to 908-429-4301

Teaberry's Tea Room Restaurant

HEAD COOK KITCHEN MANAGER • COOKS • WAITSTAFF
134 Main St. Flemington 908-788-1010

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Looking for someone full or part time to do our ophthalmic medical testing. We are willing to train. Must be bright, energetic, and good with public. The ideal person would be Monday-Friday, 8:30-5pm. Benefits available. Fax Resume to Lisa: 732-356-9257

Wellness Center

Now Interviewing!!
Canton Area, expanding services. Successful team, beautiful space. Flexible practitioners welcome to apply. Patients, fees, a close group and advertising. 908-399-3499

OPHTHALMIC ASST./TECH

for professional Ophthalmic Offices in Hopewell, Langhorneville. Experience preferred but willing to train. Full time offered. Call: 609-466-0055 or Fax: 609-514-0663

Medical Help 250

Caregivers/Home Health Aides

FT/PT local cases. Flexible Hours. Good pay. Right at Home 908-722-7676

CHHAs & CNAs & CAREGIVERS

Reliable, Own transportation. \$\$\$ Top Dollar! \$\$\$ Open Arms 908-823-0659

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PT/FT, oncology practice in lovely Summit setting. Opportunity to learn oncology care and treatment. No nights/weekends. Excellent salary & benefits. Fax resume to Jean 908-608-1504.

RN

PT/FT, busy oncology practice in lovely Summit office. Chemotherapy/IV infusion experience a plus; no holidays/nights/weekends. Rewarding opportunity to join a team of top quality professionals in providing excellent patient care. Excellent salary & benefits. Fax resume to Jean 908-608-1504

Part Time Help 255

ADMIN. ASSISTANT
Busy Family Wellness Center in Lebanon looking for indiv. interested in insurance billing exp. a plus. 10-15 hrs. p/wk. Tues. & Thurs. evens. req'd 908-399-3499

BANQUET SERVERS

For Catering Agency. Own transportation. Servers & Bartenders. Call 908-252-5678 leave a message.

Check here first for the services you need!

Sales Help 265

Flemington Supply

Entry Level Showroom Sales
For local plumbing supply. No experience needed, will train the right person. Must like working w/people, be well organized, good w/detail & self motivated. Please call for an interview 908-782-2221

Trades 275

Assistant Project Manager
For Elevator Installation Contractor. Family owned and operated since 1967. Great benefits! Fax resumes, 908-725-7919

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Local office of National service system seeks professional service technician with a minimum of 3 years experience to perform residential and light commercial electrical repair services. Excellent salary, benefits and bonus available. Earn while you learn. Interview contact Ernie at 908-788-7122 or fax resume 908-806-8069

Situations Wanted 280

HOUSEKEEPERS, NANNIES, COMPANIONS
All nationalities, L.C. Bonded AURORA AGENCY 170 Main Ave. L. Br. NJ 732-222-3369

POLISH REFERRAL SERVICE INC.

Providing live-in/out housekeeper for elderly, L.C. & Bonded. 908-689-9240

Real Estate Sales

Acreage & Lots 305

EAST AMWELL - 7 acres, ready to build. Well & septic done. Call eyes 609-466-0977

Condos & Townhouses 320

Flemington - Remodeled! Large MB w/ walk-in closets, new carpeting, full basement w/ carpeting, gas heat, C/A. \$196,900 Call Doris 908-782-0785

Flemington South Condo 1

BR, upper unit, updated kitchen & bath, all newer appliances, carpet, paint, blinds, full basement w/ laundry, C/A, pool, tennis. \$184,900. 908-581-3690.

BY OWNER

Hillsborough 2BR, 2.5 BA, end unit, loft, EIK, CAC garage, fplc, bsmt, patio. \$299K 908-268-1902

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Measure Kitchens, draft layouts. Industry experience required. Design/Install experience a plus. Need Computer. Sub Contractor. Hunterdon & Somerset Counties.

Call: 973-777-4848 or Fax: 973-777-9711

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(PART TIME, FULL TIME, CONSULTANT)

We seek an experienced extruder operator, knowledgeable of extrusion set up and operation - preferably with polyurethane experience. Must be hands-on and able to work under minimal supervision. We offer a competitive salary, along with benefits. Send resume to:

Hydromer Inc.
Human Resources
35 Industrial Parkway
Branchburg, NJ 08876
Fax: 908-722-5024
Email: jkonar@hydromer.com

EOE M/F/D/V

Graphic Designer Full Time

NJ Publishing is looking for an energetic, dependable graphic designer to join our production department.

Candidates will be responsible for the creation and layout of award-winning print ads for our clients and assist in the pagination of our publications.

Quark and Adobe Suite experience is a must. Must type 45 wpm. 37.5 hours/week. benefits include 401k, health & dental.

Hours:
Mon: 9:30-5
Tues: 10-8:30
Wed: Noon-4
Thurs: 9-5
Fri: 9:30-5

Email resume/sample to: jobs@njpublishing.com

NJ PUBLISHING
FLEMINGTON OFFICE

shake a paw

Shake A Paw is New Jersey's premier retailer of Healthy Puppies and related accessories. We are currently expanding and hiring for the following positions:

Assistant Store Manager - Retail Management experience required. Responsibilities include Sales and customer service; inventory management and merchandising, store merchandise purchasing and vendor returns; store opening, closing and end of day receipt processing and making nightly bank deposits. Salary commensurate with experience.

Puppy Sales - Work with our clients to match the perfect puppy for each family. Retail sales experience required, outgoing personality and dog lover a must!! \$10.00 per hour; FT/PT available.

Kennel Technicians - Cleaning, Bathing and feeding our Puppies. Great entry level position. \$7.25 per hour; FT/PT available.

Shake A Paw offers monthly bonus programs, 50% co-pay Health Insurance, 401K plan, great discounts on merchandise and more!

Apply Today!! In Person: Shake A Paw, 14 Route 22 West, Greenbrook, NJ 08812, By Fax: (732)968-2575, or On-Line: Sales@Shakeapaw.net.

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Travel Agent, Trainee

AAA Mid-Atlantic is seeking energetic candidates to join our team and participate in a new Travel Intern Program being offered in several locations. Newly trained travel agents will be working out of our local branch offices and the extensive training program is scheduled to begin February 7, so act quickly.

Qualified candidate will possess an ability to sell, are knowledgeable about geography, and are Internet/computer literate with good organization skills. In addition to selecting candidates for our full time positions, this program offers you the chance to gain extensive training and hands on experience and become the Travel Agent you've always wanted to be.

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