

Vol. 145, No. 11

Saturday, March 18, 2006

At home in America, at last

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

NEWARK - Mieczslaw Bieniek woke up Tuesday morning an immigrant. He went to bed that night an American citizen.

On Tuesday, Bieniek, his wife, attorney and his translator traveled to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration District Office in Newark where Bieniek took his naturalization interview in the morning and recited the oath of allegiance in the afternoon. By reciting that oath, Bieniek, a Polish immigrant with terminal brain cancer, achieved his dying dream.

"I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce

and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen," Bieniek recited along with the other 86 people who became citizens at the swearing in ceremony, "that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the armed forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national

importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God."

Bieniek, 67, aspired to become a citizen ever since he stepped on American soil more than 20 years ago

On three occasions, Bieniek, who resides in Manville and has had his Green Card since 1997, traveled to the district office in Newark to complete testing for the English language requirement needed to become naturalized, which stipulates that "applicants for naturaliza-

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Mieczslaw Bieniek recites the oath of citizenship in Newark Tuesday.

Speaking out

When Viller Nicolodi steps into the ring at Big Apple Circus, he lets others do all the talking for him. The star ventriloquist mixes it up with a fast-paced, entertaining show featuring everything from a parrot puppet to a live lhasa apso - and a talking skull. Page B1.

Workshop at arts center

The River's Edge Theatre Workshop proudly announces its first workshop to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 25 at the Brook Arts Center, Bound Brook. The workshop is a newly formed non-profit theater company dedicated to providing continuing education for community theater artisans and craftspeople. In residence at the Brook Arts Center, the workshop will be offering theatrical productions featuring community theater actors and designers working under the mentorship of professional artists in residence. In conjunction with each production, the artist in residence will also conduct professional training workshops open to any and all community theater artists who are looking to develop their craft. To kick off the professional training program, Margaret Salvante-

students who graduated from the Practical Nursing Program at Middlesex County Vocational and Technical High School. Pictured standing, from left, are Ana M. Cruz, a member of the Vo-Tech's Board of Education, Sandra Pontecorvo and Catherine Maranzano, both practical nursing students, and Freeholder John Pulomena. Seated, from left, are Vo-Tech board of education President John F. Bicsko, Karen McCloud-Hjazeh, Vo-Tech superintendent of schools, and Middlesex County Freeholder Director David B. Crabiel

Middlesex County honored

COURTESY MIDDLESEX COUNTY VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



EAST BRUNSWICK - Middlesex with congratulatory remarks. County Freeholder Director David B. Crabiel and Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District Board of Education President John F. Bicsko, Jr. presented diplomas to 24 students at the Practical Nursing

Practical nursing student Sandra Pontecorvo provided a welcome to the many family members and friends who attended.

Catherine Maranzano, representing the graduates, provided

enroll in a 15 month day-time or the two-year evening program. The rigorous Practical Nursing curriculum includes instruction in Anatomy & Microbiology, Physiology, Pharmacology, Nutrition, Behavioral/Social Sciences, Sociology,

Food drive will help restock shelves

MIDDLESEX COUNTY Students in 140 public and private schools throughout the county are participating in the Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services 11th annual "Spring School Food Drive." Students from pre-school through 12th grade will collect non-perishable foods and personal products through March 27 to help stock the Middlesex County Food Outreach Organization and Distribution Services' warehouse, which provides food for 60 food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the County.

The Spring School Food Drive is Middlesex County Food Outreach Organization and Distribution Services largest single event each year. Last year more than 40 tons of food was collected.

"Each year we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our students and their families and look forward to yet another strong year," said Freeholder Blanquita B. Valenti, liaison to Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services.

Among the most needed items this vear are: vegetables, canned meats.

McCann will conduct a fundraising seminar for non-profit theaters.

As director of education for the Roundabout Theatre Company she supervises a nationally recognized theater education program with a working budget of \$1.29 million. This work is funded by over 30 nationally recognized foundations as well as government sources.

New Jersey community-based theater artists are encouraged to attend the seminar to learn how they can build resources to support theater projects. Fee is \$20. Registration is required; call (908) 917-8390.

The Brook Arts Center is at 22 Hamilton St., off East Main Street near the Bound Brook railroad station.

Rummage sale today

BOUND BROOK --- The United Methodist Women hold their spring rummage sale this month at the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave.

Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. 9 a.m. to noon Saturday. Clothing for men, women and children of all ages will be available. Household goods, videos, CDs, books and toys are offered as well. On March 18 you can fill a paper bag for \$3 or a plastic bag for \$5.

For more information, call (732) 356-1372.

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Graduation ceremony. The ceremony, held in the auditoriclass.

um at the East Brunswick Campus of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical School District, honored 24 students who successfully completed their academic and clinical course requirements.

The students received words of congratulations and encouragement from Karen McCloud-Hjazeh, Vo-Tech superintendent of schools.

Crabiel, Freeholder John Pulomena, Bicsko and Ana M. Cruz, a member of the board, also provided the students

"Expressions" from the graduating

Each student carried a Nightingale Lamp during the graduation processional and seven members of the class, Akua Dwomoh, Kim Kurtz, Catherine Maranzano, Marie Betty Pierre-Gilles, Sandra Pontecorvo, Keith Ribar and Barbara Theodore wore their National Technical Honor Society stoles.

Practical Nursing is offered at the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools' Piscataway Campus. Students may apply to

Psychology, Contemporary Health Issues, Fundamentals of Nursing, Medical Surgical Nursing I, Medical Surgical Nursing II, Mental Health/Psychiatric Nursing, Obstetrical Nursing, and Pediatric Nursing.

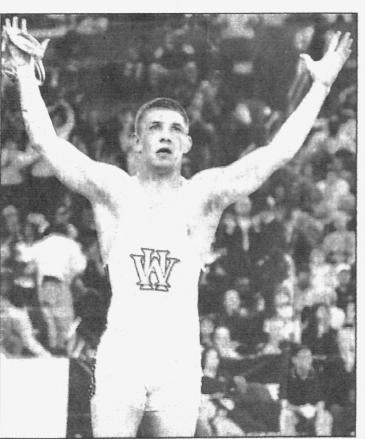
To become a Licensed Practical Nurse, a student must have a High School diploma or G.E.D., successfully complete the Practical Nursing program and pass a licensing exam.

For an application and more information, call the Health Occupations Office at (732) 985-0717, Ext. 2274.

stew, tuna fish, cereal, peanut butter, canned fruits, macaroni and cheese, rice, and personal and paper products such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, diapers, wipes, paper towels, plates, napkins and toilet paper.

"Since the holidays have passed donations have really slowed down and the stock at our warehouse is very low," Valenti said. "We have been having great difficulty keep-

A dream is realized



LANNY MUNPHY/SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER Alex Caruso, a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, celebrates in the center of Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City Sunday after winning the NJSIAA State Wrestling Tournament. In front of a crowd of 11,772. Caruso realized his dream of winning a high school title. A two-time New Jersey Kids state champion, he was defeated in last year's final by two-time champion Andrew Flanagan of Bound Brook. According to Caruso, that experience helped him as he once again faced a defending champ in the final.

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Partnership is a home run

By JIM WHITE Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER - Patrick McVerry, president and general manager of the Somerset Patriots, knows what it feels like to hit the long ball, and he recalled the experi-

ence during a press conference Tuesday at Commerce Bank Park.

"I have one career home run," he announced to those in attendance. "It was amazing - to make contact with the ball, watch it go over the fence and round the bases."

McVerry, who hit that homer back in his Little League days, was joined by Patriots owner Steve Kalafer, team manager Sparky Lyle and mascot Sparkee, as well as members of the Somerset County United Way and its 57 affiliates, to announce the formation of a new "Home Run Club.

The program, designed to help fund community programs in Central New Jersey, enables busi-nesses and individuals to donate to the Somerset County United Way Community Care Fund with every home run hit by a Patriots player during the 2006 season.

"The goal of the fund drive is to recruit 50 or more local business to donate \$10, \$15 or \$25 per homerun to help thousands of residents in need," said John Graf Jr., CEO and president of the Somerset County United Way.

According to Marc Russinoff, spokesman for the team, the Patriots hit 153 homers during the 2005 sea-



son, a new team record.

Had the Home Run Club been formed last season, a \$10 donation for each home run would have totaled \$1,530; a \$15 donation for each would

have brought in \$2,295, and \$25 a pop would have meant \$3,825.

First of all, I want to say I never hit a home run, and I never won an Oscar," joked Kalafer, who also happens to be a noted Oscar nominated documentary film producer.

"If a Patriots home run can make a difference to those who need help in our community, then we are more than happy to swing for the fences for the Somerset County United Way," he continued.

Graf said he approached the Patriots about starting such a club after learning the Atlantic City Surf team runs a similar program with the Atlantic County United Way.

Membership in the Home Run Club will be reflected in company endorsements at Commerce Bank Park and other media exposure including radio broadcasts, Web site announcements and luxury box privileges.

"I'm loving it," said Lyle. "My guys will be pointing up to that box when they're rounding third."

Businesses and individuals inter-ested in Home Run Club membership should call the Somerset County United Way at (908) 725-6640 or the Somerset Patriots at (908) 252-0700.

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America

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tion must be able to read, write, speak, and understand words in ordinary usage in the English language,"

The first time, about two and a half years ago, Bieniek had just been released from the hospital after surgery to remove cancer in his stomach. During a different operation, doctors removed a lump of cancer, about the size of a ripe orange, from his lungs.

In October, Bieniek went to the field office in Newark to again try to satisfy the English language portion of the naturalization requirements. But while there, the dizzy spells came again. They were compounded by the news the doctors had given him a few days before.

Doctors discovered that he

had a brain tumor and, at the time, they gave him three months to live. Following laser treatments at a hospital in Poland, Bieniek was able to prolong his life and keep his discrete than an he district off "I was so said Bana probably thim. I was

dream alive. The treatments were successful in diminishing the tumor and doctors gave Bieniek another six months to live. Diagnosis explained why Bieniek was not able to fulfill the English language requirement of the citizenship process.

The cancer impaired Bieniek's ability to learn and demonstrate the English language, wrote his doctor, Alexander Kudryk, who filled out an application to help get that requirement waived for his patient.

On Tuesday, Bieniek and his wife Wladyslawa left their 'Cor Manville home just after 7 Geo a.m. Antoinette Banaskiewicz, a friend of the couple and Bieniek's interpreter, drove them for more happ

than an hour and half to the district office.

"I was so nervous for him," said Banaskiewicz. "I was probably more nervous than him. I was hoping everything would go right and they'd accept the waiver."

During the 10 a.m. interview, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office did, in fact, accept the waiver and Bieniek was exempt from the requirement of learning and demonstrating knowledge of the English language and American history. The remainder of the interview, where Bieniek promised to uphold the Constitution and defend the United States, lasted a brief 15 minutes.

"His face just lit up when the officer said 'Congratulations,'" said George Mullen, a Somerville attorney who is handling Bieniek's case pro bono. Bieniek couldn't contain his happiness.

In The Towns

The Chronicle

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732-424-7300

908-231-9800

St. Patrick's dinner planned

DUNELLEN — St. Francis Episcopal Church at 400 New Market Road holds a St. Patrick's dinner from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

The traditional meal includes corned beef, cabbage, carrots and dessert. For reservations, call (732) 271-0136 or (732) 968-6781.

Unlimited Arc softball league

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Recreation Department has opened registration for its men's softball league. An "Unlimited Arc" open slow-pitch league plays on Monday night beginning April 24. Registration continues through March 31 or until eight teams are formed. For a form and full details, call (908) 226-7713.

Veterans outreach forum is planned

PISCATAWAY — Are you a veteran or part of a veteran's family? You may want to know about the benefits and services available to you.

The Middlesex County Veterans Advisory Council has scheduled a Veterans Outreach Forum with speakers from local, state and federal agencies.

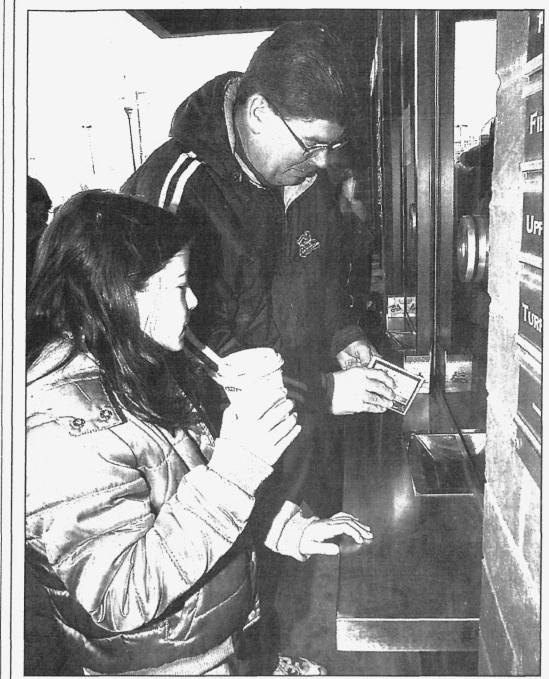
This free forum is at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27 at the Piscataway Senior Center, off Hoes Lane behind John F. Kennedy Library. For more information, call (732) 745-4051.





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A sign of spring



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Colleen Burke, 10, and her dad, Jim, were among the first people in line Saturday to buy tickets for the upcoming Somerset Patriots season. The 2005 Atlantic League Champions will begin their season at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater on April 28 with a home game against the Atlantic City Surf. The team will play 72 home games. For more information, call (908) 252-0700 or visit www.somersetpatriots.com.



Food drive

Continued from page A1

ing up with the increasing demand for emergency food in the county."

Valenti said residents are reminded that donations are accepted year round at the public libraries in Edison, Milltown, North Brunswick, Plainsboro, South Brunswick, Spotswood and Woodbridge. Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services also conducts year-round food collection programs and works with local corporations to sponsor drives at their facilities. The goal is to have at least one two week long corporate food drive each month in order to sustain the local food pantries Company officials should call (732) 729-0880 for more information.

The Chronicle

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Church 'oasis' for older folk

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Presbyterian Church has an Oasis, the "Older Adult Society in Our Savior."

Older adults are invited to this church program at 11:30 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Lunch, a hymn sing and a Scripture reading are included.

If you plan to attend, call (732) 469-4498. The church is adjacent to Middlesex Borough Hall at 1190 Mountain Ave.

Six area students received awards in the 27th annual New Jersey High School Student Art Show.

This exhibition ran through March 3 at the du Cret School of Art, Plainfield, with judging by four du Cret instructors. Award winners are listed with their school, prize and category:

ry: Yeon Jean Gahng, Wardlaw-Hartridge School (Edison), second prize, mixed media. Du Young Yoon, Wardlaw-Hartridge School (Edison), second prize, acrylic.

Franz Ramirez, Piscataway High School, third prize, colored pencil.

Britain Hookham, Middlesex High School, honorable mention, pastel.

Thomas Marcusi, Piscataway High School, honorable mention, colored pencil. Simone Sukhdeo, Piscataway High School, hon-

orable mention, printmaking.

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Middlesex County Briefs

Knights are offering Lenten fish dinners

SOUTH PLAINFIELD ---Knights of Columbus Council 6203 and Sacred Heart Church sponsor fish dinners every Friday night in Lent. Servings are from 5-7 p.m. March 24, 31 and April 7 at Sacred Heart School, 149 South Plainfield Ave. The menu includes fried fish, broiled fish, fish Parmigian, garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries, cole slaw, coffee, tea, soda and dessert. Pizza is available as well along with macaroni and cheese. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$7 for

seniors and \$4 for children. Takeout is available.

In addition, Sacred Heart Church holds Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m. each Friday in Lent.

Tour of historic sites will take place April 8

PISCATAWAY — On Saturday, April 8, The Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to historic promotion, protection and preservation within the region of the Raritan and Millstone River systems, will sponsor a mid-day motor coach tour of the historic southern district of Perth Amboy and the Conference House on Staten Island.

The tour, which begins at 10 a.m. at East Jersey Olde Towne at Johnson Park in Piscataway, includes a driving tour of historic Perth Amboy, with detailed narrative about the city's brilliant colonial history, and visit to The Proprietary House, residence of the last Royal Governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin.

After lunch at the Barge restaurant, the tour will drive to the Conference House in Tottenville, Staten Island. Built in the 17th century, this mansion owned by Christopher Billopp, was the site of the historic Peace Conference between British Admiral Lord Richard Howe and the American Peace Commissioners, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Edward-Rutledge on September 11, 1776. These talks that occurred after the Declaration of Independence was signed, were unsuccessful. The Peace Commissioners returned to Perth Amboy and the American Revolutionary War continued for seven long years. The tour will conclude at East Jersey Olde Towne by 3:30 p.m.

Tour tickets, which include the luncheon, are \$50 each, and may be obtained by calling Elyce Jennings at (732) 463-0767.

Juried craft market held at folk festival

Applications are now accepted for a juried craft market to be held as part of the 32nd annual New Jersey Folk Festival.

This year's festival is on Saturday, April 29 at Douglass College, on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. "Korean-American Heritage" is the theme.

Craftspeople may submit color slides or digital images of their work to be considered for the craft show. While the primary focus of the craft show is on traditional folk crafts, all craftspeople are encouraged to apply. A knowledgeable, impartial panel of jurors will review all submissions.

For an application, rules and fees, visit njfolkfest.rutgers.edu or call (732) 932-5775. All entries must be received by Wednesday, March 15.

Junior Baseball Club sponsors scholarships

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is accepting applications for its college scholarships.

Applicants must live in South Plainfield, be graduating from high school in June and have participated with the Junior Baseball Club at least five years.

For an application, call (908) 754-2090 or visit the guidance department at South Plainfield High School. All applications must be returned by April 1.

Show off your garden during a summer tour

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society holds its first "Art in the Gardens" tour on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Five unique gardens will be featured, showing the variety of plantings created as an extension of the owners' homes.

"We are in search of beautiful gardens in the Metuchen-Edison area," said Linda LaStella, a trustee of the Arts Society and chairman of its Visual Arts Committee.

"We are considering gardens of any size, personally planted or installed by professionals," she said. "We want to show the range of gardens that flourish in our local neighborhoods." If you want to showcase your garden in the tour, e-mail Claysongs@aol.com or call (732) 906-4137.

County college adds help desk classes

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

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

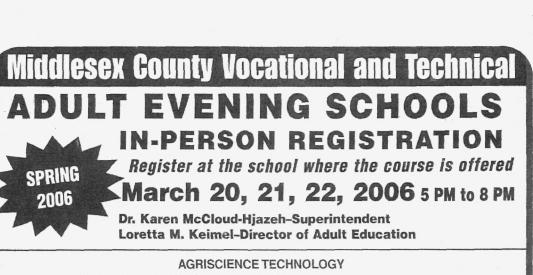
munications, customer service, help desk technology, and specific technical areas. For this spring, those areas are the Internet, the PC, Microsoft Windows and Office. To pursue Help Desk Administration, students must have taken at least one of three computer courses: CSC 105, Computer Applications and Systems; CSC 106, Intermediate PC Applications with Programming; or BUS 107, Computer Applications for Business. English Composition I is also a prerequisite. Once the prerequisites are completed, the certificate program can be finished in two semesters.

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

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

Township Garden Club seeking new members

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Garden Club is seeking new members. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the Senior Citizens Center, 700 Buena Vista Ave. The center is off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library. For more information, call (732) 885-5050.



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Cooking-Caribbean Culinary (9 wks-\$80*)		ooking-Healthy and Delicious (9 wks-\$80*)	EB					
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Senior center offering

Healthy Bones class

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — The Office on Aging will sponsor Project Healthy Bones classes on Monday mornings from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the South Bound Brook Senior Center, located at 113 Clinton St.

An informational session will be held Monday. Project Healthy Bones is an educational program that helps to improve strength and flexibility using balance and strength training. Advance registration is requested.

The cost of the 24-week program is \$25. New participants will receive weights and a free manual. Classes will start on March 27.

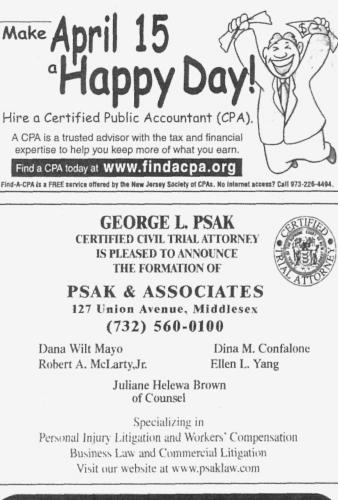
For more information, or to register for the program, contact Erin Toomey, Somerset County Office on Aging, at (908) 704-6339.

MIDDLESEX

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in	troduction to Pasic & Adv. Welding (9 wks-\$80*) EB/PI Intro to Ornamental Welding (9 wks-\$80*) P
	SMALL BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES
	The Small Business Lecture Series is offered at the East Brunswick Campus on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Registration fee for the entire lecture series is \$50.00.
W	leek 1: How to Start a Business from A to Z (April 18) Week 2: How to Write a Business Plan (April 25) leek 3: How to Finance Your Business (May 2) Week 4: Ebay Simplified (May 9) leek 5: Building a Business Website (May 16) Week 4: Ebay Simplified (May 9)
	ADULT HIGH SCHOOL
Pi E	offered at the East Brunswick and Perth Amboy campuses. Call the Adult High School rincipal to schedule an interview. ast Brunswick Campus , 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick, 732-254-8700 ext. 1834 after 5:00 p.m. erth Amboy Campus , 457 High Street, Perth Amboy, 732-376-6300 after 5:00 p.m.
	CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
w In cc	ertificate Programs are designed for individuals interested in changing careers as well as those ho are looking to change classifications or acquire new skills within the career area. An iformation Session will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at the campus where the purse is offered. Space in certificate programs is limited. You may register at the Information assion for Certificate Programs that start in September.
E	ast Brunswick Campus: Commercial Art/Graphic Design, Computer Applications for Business,
C	ulinary Arts, Home Inspection, Manicuring.
Pi	iscataway Campus: Building/Property Maintenance Mechanic, Dry Cleaning, Electrical Technology,
H	ealth Technology Prep, Health Unit Coordinator, HVAC, Industrial Packaging/Maintenance Technology.
Pł	narmacy Technician, Plumbing Technology, Skin Care Specialist.
r	View the Schedule and Course Descriptions at www.mcvts.net
	OTHER FEES
	*Materials Fee–See Website • Out-of-County – Course Fee Plus \$30
	School Locations

Saturday, March 18, 2006

Their service should not be forgotten

Editor's note: March 19, 2006 will mark the third anniversary of the war in Iraq. With America's service men and women about to enter their fourth year of combat overseas, Retired U.S. Army General H. Norman Schwarzkopf writes about the need to remem-ber our service men and women and support the families they leave behind.

By H. Norman Schwarzkopf

The fighting in Iraq has been underway since March of 2003, making it such a constant part of our daily lives that it is easy to go about our business without ever thinking about the incredible sacrifices being made each and every day by the men and women in uniform. All Americans should make a conscious effort to become more aware, and to show appreciation for our troops to thank them for their service.

One of the hardest things a member of the military will ever have to do is leave the family, because there is never any guarantee that he or she will return to them. Often young, and the parent of very small children, the service member knows the risks he faces in leaving are very real, but he is honorbound to serve his country.

The comfort of knowing that the family is waiting back home may be one of the few things that keeps a deployed soldier's spirits up. By the same token, worrying about the family left behind could also heavily wear on his conscience:

How will they get from point A to point B in a strange city?

What if they need money or food or clothes or medical care?

Where will they turn if I'm not there to help?

When I commanded the allied troops in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I held my subordinate commanders personally responsible for their efforts to support not only the service members under their command, but also to support those service members' families.

I found that knowledge of their families' health at home contributed significantly to the military readiness and preparedness of the men and women serving our country abroad.

It was the soldiers who were most preoccupied with concerns of their families, wellbeing who were least able to focus on the job at hand.

I am not the only person who recognizes that healthy military families contribute substantially to the overall health of the military. There are a number of military and nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping military personnel and their families, such as the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA). The ASYMCA has recognized this critical fact since the organization's founding during the Civil War. The organization is committed to helping husbands, wives and children of U.S. service members - especially junior enlisted personnel - cope with the realities of everyday military life. These include long hours, frequent moves, increased financial burdens, additional childcare responsibili-ties, changes in schools, separation from friends and family, and the tremendous stress and uncertainty related to wartime deployment.

ASYMCA programs include things like childcare, hospital assistance, spouse support services, food services, computer training classes, health and wellness services and holiday meals.

The basic daily needs, or the technical skills required to obtain a job, or the concentration needed to sit through the school day, may be things that you and I and our families take for granted, but that are criti-cal to ensuring the health and wellbeing of your average military family.

Knowing that their families have a support network back home lifts a great burden from our soldiers' shoulders, allowing them to concentrate on their duties, so that we remain safe.

That's the kind of support our military personnel and their families deserve.

Ret. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf led the allied coalition that swept into Kuwait and Iraq in 1991. The four-star Army general was Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, and Commander of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

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

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

- 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 * * *

The Chronicle welcomes comments and news tips. The following is a list of our staff and how to reach us:

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Allan Conover, sports editor, (908) 575-6689: aconover@njnpublishing.com Dave Allena, sports editor, (908) 575-6690;

dallena@njnpublishing.com

Question of the week: Will you vote in your local school elections?

Opinion



"I plan on voting, but the information is too little, too late.' TOM LEPIONKA Somerville



"I plan on voting. I'm not sure what's up, but before the election, I'll be sure to bone up. I always vote in school elections." CAROL TESSIERI Somerville



Letters to the Editor

Red Cross help is always there

To The Editor:

Each year, the president of the United States declares March "Red Cross Month."

This annual event provides a unique opportunity to think about the important role the Red Cross has played every day right here in our communities.

When we look back on 2005, we think about the huge dis-asters we read about in the paper and watch on television. The coverage regarding the tsunami halfway around the world and the devastating hurricane this season galvanized communities into action. But right here the disasters your Red Cross responded to were no less devastating for those affected by them.

In 2005, the Greater Somerset County Chapter responded to single and multifamily fires, affecting 47 people in Somerset County, some left with little but the clothes on their backs. Since July, the chapter has assisted 33 families who have experienced such disasters as flooding, fires or carbon monoxide poisoning. As well, we aided 24 families who relocated to our area as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

The chapter also served the local communities in a variety of other ways. During 2005, the chapter taught 967 lifesaving health and safety training courses to more than 8,000 enrollees, including first aid, CPR and more; we've reached 24 military families with emergency communication;

we've provided over 2,000 rides to people requiring transportation to medical appointments, and we've distributed over 5,000 brochures as part of our community education program. And that's just in one year.

Sometimes I wonder what my life would be like without the Red Cross. It's true that I would have more time to spend with my loved ones, which I'm sure they'd appreciate. But how can I weigh that time against the many people who depend on the Red Cross for help?

As the chair, my role overseeing the chapter is a pretty big job. But by being so inti-mately involved with the day to day operations, I've our staff and many volunteers for the sacrifices they make to help their neighbors. During this March, please take the some time to think about our Red Cross and what life would be like here without them.

I thank each and every one of you who have in some way helped the Red Cross keep our doors open to those in need. Whether you are a dedicated volunteer, you've taken a class, used our transportation service, or contributed to us financially, your support is greatly appreciated by the Chapter and by our communi-

WILLIAM S. SUNDHEIM The writer is chairman of the board of the Greater Somerset County Chapter, American Red Cross, located at 14 W. Cliff St., Somerville, NJ 08876.

New Jersey needs to lobby for gun laws

To The Editor:

New Jersey is taking positive steps to keep criminals, youth weak gun laws encourage the and other prohibited persons movement of guns from legal

Illegal Guns."

As long as Pennsylvania1s

Rep. Rodney Frelinghusyen (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

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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.co m.

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Correction policy

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

"Yes and yes. Every year." BRIAN CIGE Montgomero



No, not for local elections. JAY DEMARTINO Nazareth, Pa.

from gaining easy access to guns. Garden State elected offi- Keystone State to illegal street cials should be commended for their efforts, but there is still more to do to keep illegal guns from wreaking havoc on our communities. New Jersey is far, ahead in its efforts to keep kids and families safe.

New Jersey earned an A- in the Brady Campaign's annual state report card. Overall, 32 states received a grade of D or F in 2005, and only 10 states received a grade of A or B.

New Jersey received an Abecause it has passed sensible gun laws to protect our children and families, such as licensing and registration of all handgun purchases, the nation1s strongest assault weapons ban, and the landmark Childproof Handgun Law.

New Jersey's strong gun laws are the exception rather than the rule across the country weaker gun laws are still a national problem. "We have cracked down on

library books, cell phone calls, fertilizer purchases and wearing shoes in the airport, but we have to do more at the state level, across the country, to make it harder for either a terrorist, garden variety armed robber, or young person to get their hands on a handgun," said Sarah Brady.

Bryan Miller, executive director of Ceasefire NJ, said: "New Jersey has more work to do to protect kids and families, and particularly to disrupt the flow of Illegal guns coming into our state from other states, especially Pennsylvania, that has weak gun laws that encourage the growth of the efficient and deadly business of trafficking

sale at gun shops in the sale, communities in our state will suffer from artificially high levels of gun violence. The Million Mom March and Ceasefire NJ are working together to bring attention to the illegal trade in guns, so solutions may be sought.

Both organizations encourage all New Jerseyans concerned about gun violence to participate in a Rally and March 2 p.m. Saturday, March 18, in Trenton titled "New Jersey and titled Pennsylvania Against War in Iraq and at Home," including a March across the "Trenton Makes, The World Takes" Bridge into Morrisville, Pa., and concluding by 5 p.m. Contact either the NJ Million Mom March or Ceasefire NJ with questions.

To contact NJ Million Mom March Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, write to P.O. Box 77333, Ewing, NJ 08628, e-mail mercermmm@comcast.net or call (609) 882-3711.

To contact Ceasefire NJ, write to 503 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08618, e-mail cfnj@aol.com or call (586) 371-3038.

The Brady Campaign began grading state gun laws nine years ago. The scores nationally state by state are available in complete category-by-category detail at

www.bradycampaign.org. CAROLE STILLER Ewing

The writer is presiden: of the Mercer County Million Mom March Chapter and president of NJ Million Mom March Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Somerset County Briefs

Poster contest helps highlight government

SOMERVILLE - A poster contest to promote National County Government Week ---sponsored by the Constitutional Officers Association of New Jersey.

posters is April 4. "The contest is open to all fourth graders in public and private schools throughout the state's 21 counties," said County Clerk Brett Radi. Here in Somerset County we're looking forward to an enthusiastic response."

The deadline to submit

Radi, Surrogate Frank Bruno

and Sheriff Frank Provenzano are hosting the contest. Radi is serving as coordinator for the project.

"Detailed information and guidelines on the contest have been sent to schools throughout Somerset County," said Radi. "Students are being asked to create a poster that depicts all that's special and

Somerset unique about County and how this relates to county government."

be Submissions may dropped off at the County Clerk's Office, located in the Administration county Building at 20 Grove St., Monday through Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free parking is available in the Bernie

Field Parking Deck on East High Street.

Winning entries will be selected by a group of judges, including constitutional officers Radi, Bruno and Provenzano. The winner will receive a \$100 U.S. savings bond. Posters submitted by the students will be exhibited in the administration building during County Government Week.

Radi will make the award presentation sometime in April. At that time, winners also will meet with the other constitutional officers.

For further information on the poster contest, call the County Clerk's Office at (908) 231-7013.

The Chronicle

The 2005 Atlantic League champion Somerset Patriots will host Star Spangled Banner auditions at Menlo Park Mall in Edison on Saturday from noon-4 p.m.

In conjunction with the auditions, volunteers from Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 will be on hand in the Nordstrom wing on the lower level to hand out information about the program, as well as collect donated goods that will be sent to U.S. troops overseas.

The Patriots will host two packing events during the season on May 27 and Sept. 10 at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

Items needed include: Sun screen, foot powder, telephone calling cards, eye drops, beef jerky, mouth wash, bug spray, lip balm, feminine products, ear swabs, wipes (travel size), razors, toilet paper, tea bags, coffee, small drink mixes, socks, clothesline/pins, snack foods, cereal/protein bars, fleece blankets, microwaveable foods (can or box), hard candy/gum, writing materials and batteries (any size).

The Patriots have signed up 100 performers, several of whom will be selected to sing the National Anthem prior to games during the 2006 season at Commerce Bank Ballpark. Members of the Patriots staff and The Chronicle will judge the performances.

Girl Scout cookies

Thin mints have always been a favorite. Short bread and peanut butter also make the list.

Girl Scout cookies rank right up there with other All-American icons like hot dogs, baseball and rock'n'roll.

They're a popular items with our soldiers and Marines based overseas, who have written letters of thanks for receiving the cookies in the packages OPSHBX ships overseas.

We've run out, and our stock needs to be replenished.

Thankfully, Jill Larson and the Girl Scouts of Warren are about to begin a month-long sales drive, and are counting on you to help them support U.S. troops overseas.

Jill is supervising the efforts of 28 Girl Scout troops, with hundreds of girls taking turns selling door-to-door, as well as manning tables that will be set up outside food stores in town starting this weekend through April 28. We've supplied the Girl Scouts with Operation Shoebox posters which will be displayed at their tables.

ough it's hard to be

Rod Hirsch Executive Editor

of saying 'no,' they'll say 'yes' to buying a box of cookies for our soldiers," she explained.

Sounds like a great idea, and for those of you who do sup-port the Girl Scouts, make sure you buy an extra box or two for the soldiers. The Girl Scouts will take care of delivering them to OPSHBX, and we'll make sure they get tucked into the packages headed overseas.

Call (908) 753-7668 for further information.

Buy a shamrock

The celebration has already begun, and with just one day left until St. Patrick's Day, the green shamrocks decorating the walls of Mannion's Pub and Restaurant on West Main Street in Somerville continue to multiply.

You'll see that the little green shamrocks are personalized with the names of those who come in, and if you're wondering why, ask your server or see the bartender.

They'll be happy to tell you that for \$1, \$5 or \$10, you can personalize your own shamrock to hang on the wall, with every penny spent on every shamrock donated to help support U.S. troops overseas.

Mannion, a generous supporter of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, is confident his clientele will embrace the cause and spend a few dollars to add to the St. Patrick's Day decorations.

The shamrocks are available in the pub and restaurant downstairs, and at the sports bar in the clubhouse on the second floor. Mannion is sponsoring a contest among his staff - whoever sells the most shamrocks gets a free dinner for two.

Please stop in, have a drink and pay tribute to the soldiers and Marines of the USA.

On the Loose

Check out Cablevision Channel 22 for the most recent segment of "On The Loose," filmed by Steve Kaiser, featuring the Feb. 4 packing event that marked the first anniversary of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

The half-hour segment can be seen on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. Kaiser, who has a film production company based in "We're hoping that instead Somerville, has helped chron-

- 6

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Joe Yuzuik, Jane Mamer and John Dorell, all volunteers with Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, helped collect items dropped off for OPSHBX Saturday at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater during the opening day of ticket sales for the Somerset Patriots' 2006 season. The Patriots teamed up with Operation Shoebox to help collect items for soldiers serving in Iraq. Everyone who brought a bag of supplies to be sent to U.S. troops received a special Buy One Get One Free ticket. Dozens of bags of items were donated and more than \$100 was collected, which will be used to cover shipping costs.

icle the growth of OPSHBX friends to have dinner at the since its inception, and has filmed other events, including packing days in Somerville.

The most recent segment, filmed at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville, features interviews with Iraqi war veterans, local recruiters from Army Somerville, Mayor Angelo Corradino of Manville and dozens of OPSHBX volunteers who were on hand that day to help prepare and package 1,465 boxes for shipment to U.S. troops overseas.

His efforts have helped publicize the OPSHBX program, for which we are most grateful

Diner extends promotion

Louka's Last American Diner on Route 22 in Branchburg has extended their Monday Night Special promotion which helps support the efforts of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. with a portion of the profits from Monday nights donated to the program. Make plans with family or

> Jane Mamer Tomato Media Somerville

diner March 20 and 27, beginning at 5 p.m., or stop in through midnight. Every dinner, cup of coffee, dessert or a late night snack that is served will help support

OPSHBX. The promotion began the first week of February. The diner is also a drop-off site for those wishing to donate a bag of groceries with items to be sent to U.S. troops overseas. Donations of loose change and dollar bills can also be deposited in a large jug at the cash register.

Louka's Last American Diner is on the eastbound side of Route 22, directly across from Colonial Motors.

T-shirts for sale

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

Several stores on Main Street in Somerville and Main Street in Metuchen are selling the shirts, which feature the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a fullcolor reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster.

The shirts are also available at The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East. All proceeds from sale of the shirts directly benefit OPSH-BX. Sizes available are medium, large and extra-large.

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

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

SALUTE

A-5

Saturday, March 18, 2006

Jill says there are people who say "no" when asked to buy the cookies for themselves.

SACRIFICE

THEIR



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

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

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

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

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

*Donated items must be in their original packaging.

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

The Reporter

UNITED STATES

A.R.M.S AMERICAN RECREATIONAL MARINE CORPS RESERVE MILITARY SERVICES

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Jane Mamer, one of the founders of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 works behind the scenes to coordinate OPSHBX events and packing dates, as well as greet visitors to The Reporter office. She helps sign on new volunteers, handles all correspondence and supervises donations and finances. She also participates in OPSHBX fund raising events held in conjunction with the Somerset Patriots, Classic Cruizers and veterans' organizations throughout Central New Jersey.

Join The Reporter, Jane Mamer 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 OPSHEX. Call The Reporter's Executive Editor Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684 or click www.nj.com/shoeboxnj for information on how you can belp

SUDERON

Photo: Jon Naso/The StarLedger. Used by pennission

UNITED STATES

In The Towns

Canal historian gives book talk

DUNELLEN — Linda Barth is a director of the Canal Society of New Jersey and, with her husband, has led tours of canals in the Northeast.

She has written a children's book about a "Bridgetender's Boy" who lived along the Delaware & Raritan Canal. Barth visits the Dunellen Public Library for a book talk and book signing at 6:30 p.m. Monday. Copies will be available for purchase.

Accompanying Barth on the program is Doreen Lorenzetti, who drew the illustrations for "Bridgetender' Boy."

For registration, call (732) 968-4585 or visit the library on New Market Road.

Scouts planning Spring Camporee

EAST BRUNSWICK — The Central New Jersey Council, Boy Scouts of America, will hold a Spring Camporee from April 28-30 at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds.

The theme is "Be Prepared — Scouting Salutes Our Emergency Services."

Scouts will learn disaster relief from the people who provide those services in New Jersey. More than 4,000 scouts are expected to attend.

There will be displays from the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management, including emergency vehicles and mobile command buses. The State Police will be there with one of their helicopters, as well as Haz-Mat teams and a mobile emergency hospital. Civil emergency response

teams will conduct demonstra-



Everything Jersey

tions. There will be displays from the Red Cross, which will conduct a blood drive. The Sharing Network will talk about organ donations.

Scouts can earn a number of merit badges, including Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Safety, Traffic Safety, Fire Safety, Crime Prevention, Fingerprinting, Public Health and Weather. The Central New Jersey

Council covers most of Middlesex County.

AAUW branch offers scholarship

The Mid-Jersey Branch, American Association of University Women, is offering a one-time scholarship of \$1,000 to a woman over 25 who is pursuing her first bachelor's degree at a four-year college or university.

For an application, e-mail singerlac@aol.com or contact Mid-Jersey AAUW Scholarship Committee, c/o 21 O'Hara St., Edison, NJ 08837 before March 27.

Completed applications must be received by April 1.

County library system adds Spanish interface

The Somerset County Library System has launched a Spanish interface of its on-line catalog. Spanish-speaking patrons are now able to search the Spanish version of the catalog from the library home page (www.somerset.lib.nj.us) by clicking on one icon. There is also an option available to patrons to have their library checkout receipts and overdue notices printed in Spanish.

The growing Hispanic population created the right opportunity to begin offering this valuable service at the Somerset County Library System. This feature is not costing the SCLS any additional money and will address a growing need.

Although the SCLS does not foresee the need to offer the catalog in any other additional languages at this time, it is always monitoring the needs of the community in an effort to provide the best possible service to all library cardholders.

The SCLS has local branches in Bound Brook and South Bound Brook.

Learn to handle stress at eight-week series

Throughout the course of a person's everyday life, they are confronted with stress-inducing situations. In the areas of family, work, relationships and finance, we often have to juggle multiple responsibilities which can lead to mental and emotional overload. People experience stress in different ways. Difficulty coping with stress can lead to depression, anxiety, substance abuse and health problems.

In order to teach individuals how to develop and apply effective coping strategies to deal with stresses of everyday life, the Somerset County on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency is offering a free eight-week program called "Bridge to Success." This program is held one night a week and offered at no cost. Dinner and incentives are provided. Transportation and child care can be arranged if necessary. To qualify for the "Bridge to Success" you must live in Bound Brook, South Bound Brook, Manville, North Plainfield or Somerville. Applicants must be between 21 and 64 years old.

For full information and registration, call (908) 722-4900.

Winter and spring classes being held

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Community School has scheduled a number of courses in the winter and spring. Except where indicated, courses are held at Middlesex High School on Bound Brook Road. The schedule:

— "Decorative Painting and Design Craft Projects" with Ann Rothwell, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 4 and June 1. Fee is \$20 payable to the Community School plus \$15 payable to the instructor.

You can register on-line at www.middlesex.k12.nj.us; look under "Community School" on the home page and click on "General Registration Form." For registration by phone, call (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

Church schedules activities for Lent

PISCATAWAY — Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane, has a number of activities related to Lent.

Midweek services in Lent are held at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays, March 22, 29, April 5 and 12. A soup-and-sandwich lunch follows each service. Takeout is available. For more information, call

(732) 463-1517.

Dance lessons at church benefit

PISCATAWAY — Put your best foot forward for a good cause.

Area residents can support the many ministries of Christ United Methodist Church while sharpening their ballroom dancing skills. Bruce and Nancy Drake provide the instruction at 8 p.m. March 24 in the church at 485 Hoes Lane.

Cost is a minimum donation of \$50 per couple. Only couples will be accepted. For registration, call (732) 463-1517.

Welcome spring with Irish music

PISCATAWAY — Heather Mulvey is a guitarist and New Jersey native who features songs from her grandparents' home of Ireland.

She provides "A Celtic Music Journey" at 2 p.m. tomorrow to those who attend the Spring Celebration at East Jersey Olde Towne Village. Mulvey will introduce each song in her program with a brief history of that tune. Admission is free.

Registration is required; call (732) 745-3030. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is at 1050 River Road, at the stop light with Hoes Lane West.

South Plainfield to hold spring cleaning

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Clean Communities Advisory Board sponsors a borough-wide cleanup in late April.

The main cleanup program is on Saturday, April 22. Meet at 9 a.m. at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., to pick up equipment and find out where you should go. Roadsides, parks, streams and empty lots will be targeted. You can come on your own or form a crew.

A pizza party at Borough Hall follows at noon with "environmentally friendly" door prizes. For more information, e-mail atempel@southplainfieldnj.com or call (908) 226-7621.

Two workshops for non-profits

EDISON — The Partnership in Philanthropy sponsors two workshops for officers of nonprofit agencies.

"The Basics of Fundraising" are covered on Saturday, April 8. "The Role of the Board and Board-Staff Relations" will be explored on Saturday, April 22. Both workshops run from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in the PSE&G training center at 234 Pierson Ave. Cost of each workshop is

\$65 and includes lunch. For registration, e-mail bdembo@pipnj.org or call (973) 701-9810.

Edison library going Wi-Fi

EDISON — The Edison Free Public Library is now a Wi-Fi hotspot.

Wireless connections to the Internet are available at the Main Branch on Plainfield Avenue and the North Edison Branch on Grove Avenue. Cablevision, which provides cable TV to the township, is providing the Wi-Fi connections for free.

Funding for the equipment and its installation is in part by a grant from InfoLink.

Doo-Wop night raises \$12,000 for veterans

The Dunellen American Legion Post and Unit 119 along with the Dunellen High School Class of 2008 sponsored "A Nite of Doo-Wop 2006". The concert featured Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge and The Dupress. It was at Raritan Valley Community College's Edward Nash Theatre in Branchburg. Approximately \$12,000 was raised from this endeavor.

"Both groups were fabulous, we all had a great time and we raised a lot of money for our Vets and soldiers, and I want to thank everyone who helped and supported us, especially Lynn and Gary Giacomini," said Bill Uhler, commander of Post 119.

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 multicommunity event held in Bound Brook, South Bound Brook and Franklin.

As in past years, the weekend will feature an exciting mix of American Revolutionary War history, with American and British soldiers in colorful uniforms reenacting battles in street and field, Colonial crafters, an 18th century encampment, children's activities, special programs and tours, food and more.

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 BKFAULKS@aol.com, e-mail Karen Fritz at Kfritzcda@aol.com or Linda

Brnicevic at MacChong@aol.com, both of the Bound Brook CommUnity Development Association.

Borough celebrating its 325th birthday

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

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

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

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

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

Updated information will also be posted at boundbrook.com.

A-6



Community Life

Weekend Calendar

Tomato tips at workshop

Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Middlesex County sponsors a workshop with "Everything You Need to Know About Heirloom Tomatoes.

ABABIT OFTEN OTTEN ATTENTION HLNOS Saturday, March 18, 2006

This gardening workshop is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the Earth Center in Davidson's Mill Pond Park, South Brunswick. You'll learn how to grow heirloom tomatoes, save the seeds and keep your vegetable garden productive. Fee is \$15.

Registration is required; call (732) 398-5262 by Friday, March 17. Seating is limited.

Welcome spring with Irish music

PISCATAWAY — Heather Mulvey is a guitarist and New Jersey native who features songs from her grandparents' home of Ireland.

She provides "A Celtic Music Journey" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 19 to those who attend the Spring Celebration at East Jersey Olde Towne Village. Mulvey will introduce each song in her program with a brief history of that tune. Admission is free.

Registration is required; call (732) 745-3030. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is at 1050 River Road, at the stop light with Hoes Lane West.

Arts Society seeks

new entrees for show EDISON - "With a Song in My

Heart" is the theme of this summer's Edison Arts Society gallery exhibition. The exhibit is open to New Jersey

artists age 18 and up and art students age 16 and older.

This show encourages submissions that have a connection between music and visual arts.

Juror is Jeffrey Wechsler, senior curator of the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Entries must be received by Friday, March 24. For more information, email edisonarts@aol.com or call (908) 753-ARTS. The show is scheduled to open on June 4.

Polish Night in the Elks hall

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - Elks Lodge 2298 sponsors a Polish Night from 4-8 p.m. Saturday, April 1.

Home-cooked pierogis, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, babka, coffee and tea are on the bill of fare. A polka dance is also planned. Cost is \$10 and there will be a cash bar.

This event is in the Elks hall at 1254 New Market Ave. For more information, call (908) 668-9750.

He lets others do the talking

A parrot, a dog and a pop-up skull help ventriloquist entertain

The first minute you go on stage, that's it," explains Viller Nicolodi, a ventriloquist with the

Big Apple Circus, seen above posing with Trudy. "They accept you, or it dies. Most of the people think,

a ventriloquist, ahh, that's boring. That's why I change subjects." Nicolodi, who performs in

five languages and has spent much of his life on the road, includes Buddha, a lhasa apso, in his

performance. To keep audiences entertained, he quickly moves between Trudy, Buddha and Joe,

a pop-up skull.

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI Staff Write

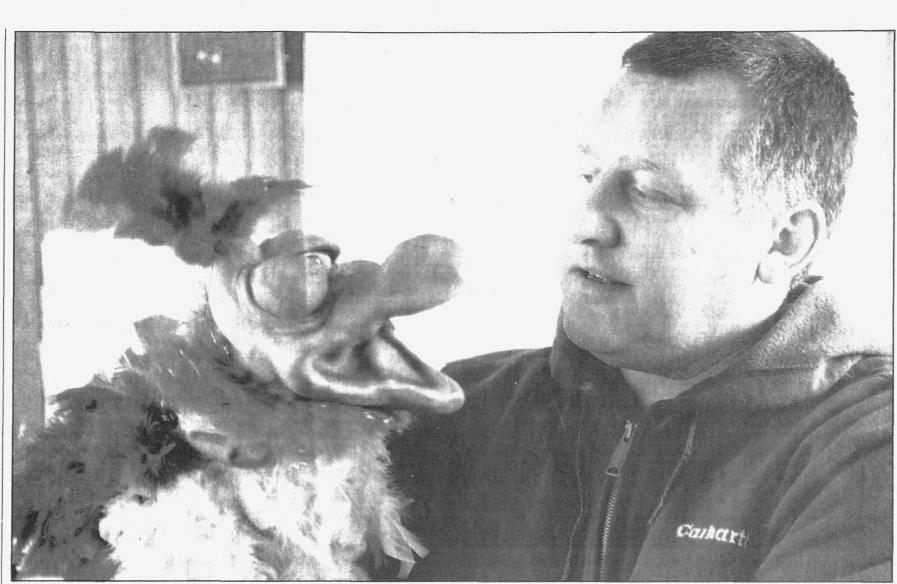
After the stage lights dim and the ring empties, Viller Nicolodi speaks for himself.

A performer with the Big Apple Circus, Nicolodi usually takes a back seat to Buddha, a lhasa apso, or Trudy, a green and purple parrot puppet, Joe, the pop-up skull, or a few members of the audience. With his help, they talk, sing and entertain the thousands of people who visit the circus every year.

The Big Apple Circus' "Grandma Goes to Hollywood" runs through March 26 at Commerce Bank Park in Bridgewater. Tickets range in price from \$19 to \$47 for Saturday and Sunday shows; \$15 to \$37 for weekday evenings, and \$12 to \$32 for 11 a.m. weekday matinees. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at (212) 307-

train Buddha, the highlight of his act, and he constantly prepares for the next tour. From the Big Apple Circus, he will perform on a cruise ship, and then travel to France to work with a different circus. Working at a circus, he said, is much different from working at a theater, and different countries react differently to his act.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



The Chronicle

Section

Metuchen businesses hosting spring events

METUCHEN - The Metuchen Area Chamber of Conimerce sponsors these spring events:

Townwide Garage Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 23. This is being held for the eighth year and runs rain or shine. Entry forms are available at the Metuchen Savings Bank; the Metuchen Public Library; What's the Scoop; the Metuchen railroad station; and the chamber office at 323-B Main St.

Antique and Classic Car Cruise Nights on Wednesday, May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6. Music and entertainment are provided.

Memorial Day parade, Monday, May 29. All scouts and youth groups are encouraged to participate.

For more information, visit www.metuchenchamber.com or call (732) 548-2964.

Library adds Wi-Fi

to list of services

BOUND BROOK -- Router by router, byte by byte, the Somerset County Library System is equipping its branches as Wi-Fi hotspots.

Wireless online access was installed in January at the Peapack-Gladstone Library and in February at the Bridgewater Library.

Plans are to have Wi-Fi installed in all SCLS member libraries by the end of this year,

This includes the Bound Brook Memorial Library on East High Street, which joined the SCLS on Jan. 1 and is closed for renovations through April.

"This service is something library patrons have been looking forward to and asking for," according to Kathleen Harris, director of the Bridgewater Library. "For example, parents visiting the library with their children can bring their personal laptops and do their Internet work in the Youth Services Department while children look at books, listen to music or attend programs."

Wi-Fi also provides remote access for PDA devices as well as laptops. Visit www.somerset.lib.nj.us for a full list of SCLS member libraries.

Nicolodi is one of the world's preeminent ventriloquists, a skill he learned after his days as an acrobat were over. As a kid, growing up in a circus family, Nicolodi was fascinated by ventriloquism, and knew that was what he wanted to do.

After practicing and perfecting his act - which he performs in five languages - for two and a half years, Nicolodi premiered his ventriloquism in 1997, and has been working on providing his characters and creations with voices of their own.

"I had to build up something that everybody can understand," he said, noting that his act uses a lot of laughter and singing instead of dialogue. "If you go too much on the dialogue, people don't understand."

One of the hardest parts of his act is the first minute, he said. "The first minute you go on stage,

that's it. They accept you, or it dies," he said. "Most of the people think, a ventriloquist, ahh, that's boring. That's why I change subjects." Between the dog, the puppets, and

the audience members, his act is

4100, ticketmaster.com and at all Ticketmaster outlets. They may also be purchased at the Community Box Office at Somerset Hills YMCA, 140 Mt. Airy Road, Basking Ridge. For more information, call (908) 766-7898, Ext. 160.

meticulously timed out so that it holds the audience's attention without becoming overlong. Between the puppets banter, Buddha, and the audience members, Nicolodi keeps his act moving and his audience engaged, in part because his is so different from the other acts in the circus

"When you're an acrobat, you do a trick and people clap," he said. "Here, you do nothing. You didn't move your lips; good. So in a way this is harder."

There are also different ways the act can go wrong, other than just missing that connection with an audience. Where an acrobat might fall, there are completely different challenges with ventriloquism. He has had the microphones go out while in the ring, for example, and had to leave the stage. According to Nicolodi, there's not much to save a voice-dependent act when there are technical difficulties.

Then, when he chooses audience members out of the audience to act as live "dummies," there's the challenge of being able to judge who will make a good performer, and a good sport.

"I more or less know who to pick by the way they look, the way they act, but sometimes you make a mistake," he said, adding that the biggest mistake is that people decide to be actors instead of following directions.

There's also the challenge of working with a live animal.

"Buddha has come in and pooped in the ring," he said. "What are you going to do? He's a living dog."

Unlike the acrobats and more physical acts, however, he doesn't have to train and rehearse every day. Instead, he does a 30-minute warmup before he goes on, relying instead on the extensive preparation he puts into making his act a success.

It took seven or eight months to

'My experience in the circus (as an acrobat) made me understand how to make it up," he said of the way his act is crafted. His favorite places to perform are Germany and Switzerland, in part because of the audiences, and in part because of the language.

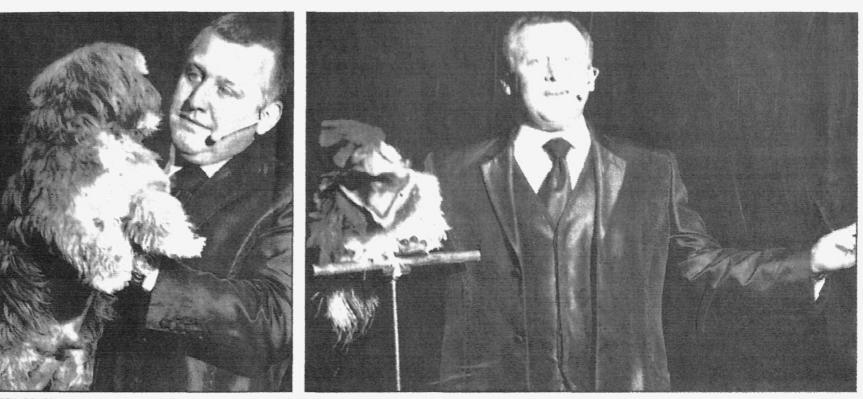
Despite its hard consonants, German is the easiest language to perform in, because it has short, defined words, he said, and English is on the easier side as well. His native tongue, Italian, is the most difficult, because of its longer words and the flow of the language.

Across countries and continents, Nicolodi, a seventh-generation circus performer, has lived his life under the tent, and said he can't settle down.

"I tried a couple of times to stay in one place, but it's like a virus," he "You get bored; you have to said. move."

When the lights come up on Nicolodi, there's really no secret: He loves his work and he's true to his aim of being funny and being himself ...

"I'm a ventriloquist, I'm an enter-tainer," he said. "You have to have the confidence; you have to be sure of it.



Saturday, March 18, 2006

The Chronicle

Obituaries

Hendrina LaFleur

Mrs. LaFleur was an honors PISCATAWAY — Hendrina N. graduate in 1931. During World Beekman LaFleur, 91, died March 13, 2006 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born April 27, 1914 in Rotterdam, Netherlands, she was a daughter of the late Jacob and Neeltje Beekman.

Mrs. LaFleur came to the United States in 1919 and lived in New Market before moving to Green Brook in 1940. She was long active with the Learning for Life program in Plainfield and retired in 1979 after 15 years as a postal worker in Plainfield.

She attended New Market School before transferring to Plainfield High School, where

MIDDLESEX - Samuel G.

Smith Jr., 70, died March 10,

2006 at Morristown Memorial

Born in Highland Park, he

Mr. Smith shared credit on

nearly 25 patents as a research

chemist in plastics and resins

lived in Middlesex before mov-

ing to Hillsborough in 1962.

Hospital.

War II she and her high school classmates were American Red Cross volunteers. She also was a volunteer in the thrift shop at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield. Mrs. LaFleur was a member of

the Art Colony Players associated with the Green Brook Parent-Teacher Association. A life member of the New Jersey State Congress of Parents and Teachers, she helped form a kindergarten in Green Brook and was a Girl Scout leader in that township. She was a Republican Party committeeDunellen Senior Citizens Club, the Green Brook Senior Citizens Club and the First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen. Her husband, Joseph I., died in

1962 Surviving are three daughters, Joanne H. Widmaier of Woodbine, Md., Nancy-Ellen

Micco of New York City and Robin L. Stiles of Southbury, Conn.; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Services were held Thursday

at the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen. Committal was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society or American Heart Association.

Patricia Rafferty Smith; three

sons, Samuel G. III of Crete, Ill.,

woman in Somerset County. She also was a member of the

Samuel G. Smith Jr.

Bridgewater plant.

He attended Moravian College from 1953-55, then transferred to the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University and received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rutgers College in 1960. Mr. Smith was a member of the Round Valley Fishing Association and a booster of Rutgers University athletics.

Walter P. of Basking Ridge and Patrick R. of Peapack; a sister, Helene Smith Ferguson of Califon; and seven grandchildren. Private arrangements were by

the Cusick Funeral Home in Somerville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Scarlet R Club, 7 College Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1261.

BOUND BROOK - J. Albert from Rutgers University.

He retired after 42 years as an electrical engineer with American Cyanamid Co. in Bridgewater. Mr. Wall attended St. Joseph School and held a degree in electrical engineering

Wall, 93, died March 8, 2006 in Burbank, Calif. Mr. Wall was born in Bound

Brook and lived in the borough before moving in 1975 to Edgewater, Fla., He had resided in Burbank since 2004.

with Union Carbide Corp. He retired in 1990 after 30 years with Union Carbide at its Surviving are his wife, J. Albert Wall

As a Navy radioman in World War II he was stationed aboard the USS Vixen, part of the Sixth Fleet. Mr. Wall was active in amateur radio clubs in New Jersey and Florida.

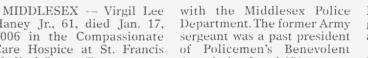
Preceding him in death was his wife, Lillian Flowers Wall. Surviving are two daughters, Nancy J. and husband Dan Perri of Los Angeles, Calif., and Patricia J. and husband Tim Malette of Glendale, Calif.

Services were held vesterday in the Little Church of the Flowers at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale. Interment in Bound Brook Cemetery is planned for the summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Stem Cell Research Foundation at www.stemcellresearchfoundation.org or 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, MD 20871.

Virgil Lee Haney Jr.

Haney Jr., 61, died Jan. 17, Department. The former Army 2006 in the Compassionate Care Hospice at St. Francis Medical Center, Trenton.



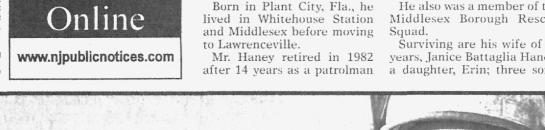
Association Local 181. He also was a member of the Middlesex Borough Rescue

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Janice Battaglia Haney; a daughter, Erin; three sons,

Kevin, Dale and Timothy; five grandchildren, a nephew and a great-niece.

Services were held at the Middlesex Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Middlesex PBA Local 181, P.O. Box 181, Middlesex, NJ 08846.



Legal Notices

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OKSANA MIELE OKSANA MIELE You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Mariton, NJ Attr. 08053, an answer to the amended complaint (and 08053, an answer to the amended complaint (and 08153, an answer to the amended complaint (and 08154, and USE Regulation Program 08153, an answer to the amended complaint (and 08154, and USE Regulation Program 08155, and USE Regulation Program 08154, and USE Regulation Program 08155, and USE Regulation Program 08154, and USE

 address is 406 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Martion, NJ
 Attr: Charlie Welch

 90653, an answer to the amended complaint, if any) filed in a civil action in which WACHOVIA BANK, NA is Plaintiff and charling in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, MIDLESEX and bearing Docket /F-3988-06 within Thirty-five (35) days after the date of this publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, udgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the amended complaint, if any). You shall like the following answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Such date. If alth day of March 2006 in the Borough Council of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Such date. If alth day of March 2006 in the Muncipal Building, and ce with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated June 12, 2003, made by CHRISTOPHER MIELE, AND OKSANA MIELE, Large dance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated June 12, 2003, made by CHRISTOPHER MIELE, AND OKSANA MIELE, Large CHRISTOPHER MIELE AND OKSANA MIELE, Large date with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. BAND AND AND WUFE, as Mortgager(s), to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. record ed en July 17, 2003, in Book 8700 of Mortgages for MID.
 Notice Serve Prove New Jersey BAND AND WUFE, as Mortgagor(s), to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. record ed en July 17, 2003, in Book 8700 of Mortgages for MID.
 Notice All Prove All Prove All Mortgages for MID.
 BAND AND AND WIFE, as Mortgagor(s), to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. record ed en July 17, 2003, in Book 8700 of Mortgages for MID.
 NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION BAND AND AND WIFE, as Mortgagor(s), to MORTGAGE

ad on July 17, 2003, in Book 8700 of Mortgages for MID-DLESEX County, Page 132, and (2) to recover posses-sion of the concerned premises commonly known as: 1704 CYPRESS LANE, EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816

 1704 CYPRESS LANE, EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816.
 CERTIFICATES OF LEASED OCCUPANCY
 the opinion that the Floodplain Management Plan represents a coherent and well thought out proposal that will municate with the New brance store brought.

 If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New brance store of the County of Venue by calling 908-249-7600.
 CERTIFICATES OF LEASED OCCUPANCY
 the opinion that the Floodplain Management Plan represents a coherent and well thought out proposal that will municate with the Legal Services of the County of Venue by calling 908-249-7600.
 WHEREAS, this resolution was approved as to sub-resolution was approved as to sub-resolution was approved as to sub-rost the logal services of the County of Venue by calling 908-249-7600.
 WHEREAS, this resolution was approved as to sub-rost the logal services of the County of Venue by calling 908-249-7600.

 You, OKSANA MIELE, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action be perfected against the property by reason of a lien, encumbrance, or otherwise which may be perfected against the property being foreclosed and for any right, tille, claim or interest, you may have an in tervery being breclosed and for any right, tille, claim or interest, you may have an in the stated mentioned brow the state of the Brough Master Plan is hereby adopted and approved.
 Part 13 18/06

 You
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 B44-11 318/06
 \$13.26
 B47.11 318/06

Dated: March 18, 2006

DONALD F. PHELAN CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT B41.1T 3/18/05 \$17.00

EATLY EAST DEP Freshwater Wetlands/General Permit #1, #7, and 10A, Special Activity Transition Area Waiver for Linear Development, and Stream Encroachment Permit TAKE NOTICE that the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) is applying to the Land Use Regulation Program at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for a General Permit #1, #7, and #10A/Transition Area Waiver under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules (NJACC, 7:7A), and a Major Sfream Enconchment under the Flood Hazard Area Control Act (NJAC, 7:13) for the develop-ment described below.



SOMERSET COUNTY OF NEW JERSEY Middlesex COUNTY Dockel No. F- 3061-06 STATE OF NEW JERSEY, to: Russell P Guarneri and Mrs. Russell P Guarneri YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ORDINANCES ESTABLISHING A REQUIREMENT FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATES OF CONTINUED OCCUPANCY, CERTIFICATES OF LEASED OCCUPANCY AND CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY



\$21.42

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WHEREAS, after public hearing and debate, and upon the recommendation of the Board Engineer, John Cilo, Jr., and the Board Planner, Scarlett Doyle, the Board is of

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK Superior Court of New Jersey DATED: March 10, 2006 PATE March 10, 2006

B46 1T 3/18/06

Public Notices



March 18, 2006

The Chronicle



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The Chronicle

March 18, 2006



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908-735-0174 Fax www.wfhm.com/robert-palazzi	how to spot tele-	444	MONDAY MORNING INC	Free Est · Fully Guaranteed 908-707-4447	DIFRANCESCO CONSTRUCTION www.dfortcesco.comstruction.com	A-1 WAYNE P. SCOTT	Roofing 1100
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The Reporter