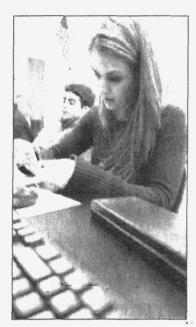




Heading south

Looking forward to vastly improved playing conditions compared to previous years, the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball champion Somerset Patriots will begin their annual Florida spring training week Tuesday at a new location - the Detroit Tigers' Lakeland facility. Page B1.



Real world experience

Jenn Hogan of Warren, a junior at Watchung Hills Regional

County to use funds for park work

the use of \$3.35 million in open space in ensuring that residents of all ages and recreation funds to help eight municipalities improve or construct local parks.

The projects represent the first round of 2006 grants to municipalities for recreation projects from the county's Open Space and Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

"The recreation grants help our municipalities improve their recreational offerings for their residents,"

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders has authorized Said. "These grants will go a long way and abilities have access to quality facilities.'

"These grants and our open space preservation program help keep Middlesex a great place to live and raise a family," said Freeholder Camille Fernicola, liaison to the county Open Space Advisory Committee.

Carteret will receive \$500,000 for reconstruction of two existing baseball fields, one new girls' softball

field, an additional baseball field, a facilities at Memorial Stadium. multipurpose field and other amenities in Civic Center Park.

East Brunswick will receive \$500,000 to light fields at Heavenly Farms

Middlesex Borough will receive \$500,000 to build a pedestrian bridge and install lights in Victor Crowell Park

Milltown will receive \$78,612 to construct a handicapped-accessible playground in Borough Park.

New Brunswick will receive \$448,581 to rebuilt track and field the Municipal Building.

North Brunswick will receive \$500,000 to build recreational facilities in North Brunswick Community Park.

South Brunswick will receive \$500,000 to build a synthetic turf field and install lights for athletic fields in Harvest Woods Park.

South Plainfield will receive \$323,000 to add handicapped-accessible dining and locker room facilities at the borough's Recreation Center, plus two new tennis courts behind



Paul Trainor, Jr., 9, from Allentown, Pa., cooks sausage over a fire at an encampment at Robert Morris School in South Bound Brook on Sunday during the annual Battle of Bound Brook, which took place over the weekend. Justin Blocksom, pictured below, of Norristown, Pa., is a member of the 11th Pennsylvania regiment. During the battle he portrayed a captain in the Colonial army, and explained key moments as the battle unfolded outside Robert Morris School on Sunday.

PHOTOS BY NICOLE DIMELLA/ CORRESPONDENT

And the battle raged on...

Battle of Bound Brook plays out, again

By CAITY FODOR

Correspondent

The sights and sounds of the American Revolution returned last weekend at the annual Battle of Bound Brook as American and British soldiers reenacted a battle with over 1,000 spectators looking on.

The events began on Saturday with a ceremony at the Old Stone Bridge and a pig roast lunch, but battles were cancelled because of rain. The sun was shining, though, on Sunday as soldiers fought on foot and horses on the Hendrick Fisher Property. With horses, muskets and cannon, the event commemorated

the battle that occurred in 1777 when Crown forces attacked a mall battalion of American soldiers in Bound Broo



SOUTH **PLAINFIELD Historic** center ready to open

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The South Plainfield Historical Society will officially open the History Center to the public from 2-9 p.m. April 25 at its new headquarters in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

The center will house a large collection of photographs, oral histories, displays, vintage clothing, scrapbooks, newspaper, videos and artifacts from South Plainfield and collected since the society's incorporation in 1977 The headquarters will also be used for monthly membership meetings and special events.

The ground floor classroom at the former elementary school ends a 29year struggle to centralize the nonprofit organization's expanding local history collections previously stored at South Plainfield High School and the homes of members. An invitation from the Board of Education last fall to house the Historical Society was accepted. Although a smaller history room has been designated for the proposed new public library which will be built on Plainfield Avenue, that completion may be years away. In the meantime the spacious Roosevelt room will finally give the public access to the collections. The use of Roosevelt's facilities, which are handicapped accessible, seems historically appropriate, for the building was the first school built by the borough after it split from Piscataway Township in 1926. South Plainfield inherited three schools from Piscataway - Grant,

High School, is one of the students taking part in Project Lead the Way, a program that introduces students to the world of engineering before they head to college. "Ever since I was 5 years old I've wanted to be an architect," Hogan says. "I used to build Lego houses. I like to do these things." Page A6.

Learn more about autism

EDISON - "Understanding Autism" is the theme of a seminar sponsored by the John P. Stevens High School Key Club and the Edison Kiwanis Club. This free program is at 7 p.m. April 26 in the JPS auditorium at 855 Grove Ave. Keynote speaker Yvette Janvier is director of the Toms River campus of Children's Specialized Hospital. Guest speakers are Paul Potito, executive director of COSAC, the Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community; Lori Shery, founder and president of the Asperger Syndrome Education Network; Kathleen Hofer of DOORS, the Douglass Organization for Occupational and Related Educational Services; Robin Jacobs-Lowery, a psychologist at Children's Specialized Hospital; and Laurie Halper, the mother of an autistic child. Professionals, students and the public are invited. Teachers can earn credit for two professional development hours. For more information, call Denise at (908) 917-4100.

Commentary A4,5 Community Life......A6 SportsB1 Weekend PlusA3

Kathy Faulks, vice president of The Friends of the Abraham Staats House, said the event is held to highlight he history of the Staats House and the Old Stone Bridge.

"If we don't highlight the importance of these historic features, we'll lose them," Faulks said. "We need to make it known to the public that it's an asset and a treasure."

About 200 people from 22 different reenactment units from all over the East Coast participated in the event. The re-enactors varied in age and experience, but all shared a love for history. Frank Cecala of Denville has been reenacting for 25 years and said he started to learn more about history.

"I was always interested in history and when I saw this being done, something just went off," Cecala said.

Faulks said the re-enactors research history to be as authentic as possible and some of them camped overnight in Memorial Park and endured the rain and cold. The public had the opportunity to tour the encampment to see what it was like for the soldiers in the Revolution.

"It was miserable, but that's just what we put up with," Cecala said

Kathy Ormosi of South Bound Brook was another re-enactor who braved the weather and stayed overnight in the camp.

"I slept in a tent with three woolen blankets," Ormosi said. "I can only imagine what it was like if you don't have a tent or a blanket.

Christian Klemp of Valley Forge, Pa., has been reenacting for a month and this was the first real one he's participated in.

"It's fun to feel what it's like to live in the 18th century instead of just reading it out of a book," Klemp said.

Like the re-enactors, most of the spectators came out because they have an interest in history.

"It's very exciting to see history reenacted, especially the history of our country," Beatrice Joseph of Piscataway said.

Continued on page A2

Smokers get help kicking that nasty habit

By JIM WHITE

Staff Writer

Carole Finamore was sick of feeling like a social outcast. She was sick of the skyrocketing prices. Most of all, she was sick of feeling sick.

So, when the 43-year-old Hillsborough woman learned that soon smoking will no longer be permitted in restaurants and bars, it was just one more good reason to kick the habit.

"It was definitely one of the contributing factors (to quitting)," Finamore said of New Jersey's smoking ban, which is set to become the law of the land on Saturday.

Since March 1, Finamore has not put a Parliament Lights cigarette between her lips - this, after a 20year, pack-a-day addiction.

"Twenty years ago I said I was going to quit. Then I kept saying I'll

"It's like being a leper everywhere you go. Most of my friends don't smoke. I feel like an outcast."

> **Carole Finamore** Hillsborough

quit next year. The years went by and 20 years later I was still smoking," she said.

"It's like being a leper everywhere you go," Finamore said of the social stigma attached to smoking. "Most of my friends don't smoke. I feel like an outcast."

She said she also began to feel the effects of her smoking, mainly shortness of breath. "And I'm an athletic person," she said.

But Finamore was happy to report that since quitting she feels better overall.

She also said she thinks the smoking ban will only make things easier for her in social settings.

To help her stay on the clean and narrow, Finamore enrolled herself in Somerset Medical Center's Tobacco Quit Center, which offers specialized individual and group counseling and discounts on nicotine replacement therapy, including the patch, lozenges, and gum.

Group therapy provides the support and understanding ex-smokers need to cope with social and emotional triggers and withdrawal symptoms such as irritability, moodiness and anxiety, according to the medical center. One group offered at the medical center focuses on helping smokers set a quit date and get through the first difficult month of quitting. A second relapse prevention group caters to the needs of those who have recently quit and want additional support in dealing with triggers that could lead to a relapse of tobacco use.

Finamore, who uses the patch, a nicotine inhaler and the drug Zyban to reduce cravings, said she has had to change a number of her daily routines. For instance, she said she always enjoyed smoking while driving in her car.

Now I keep hard candy and a bottle of water in the car," she said. "It's

Continued on page A2

Saturday, April 15, 2006

Today's smokers are getting help kicking that nasty habit

Continued from page A1

not easy. It's definitely not easy. It's five weeks later and I still have thoughts (about smoking). But, so far, so good." Chris Kotsen, PsyD, coordinator of

Quit Center, said he hopes smokers who want to quit find the extra motivation they need with the new smoking ban.

"Smokers thinking about quitting

Somerset Medical Center's Tobacco now have one more reason to quit," he Jersey's adult population are smokers. said. "I think it's a good idea. From what I've heard from clients, it's going to help a lot of people. It's going to help people who are on the fence."

Kotsen said about 19 percent of New

He said there is a 3 to 5 percent success rate for people who quit cold turkey without using nicotine replacement therapy or support groups.

He said there is a 42 percent success

rate after a six-month checkup on people who used aids and attended a few meetings at the medical center. There is a 73 percent success rate after six months for people who completed the program.

Historic

Continued from page A1

for Edison parade

Seeking groups

Willis and Columbus - but the growing population on the south side soon put a strain on the educational facilities. Four temporary barracks-type school buildings rumored to have been built with wood from World War I ammunition cases and heated by potbelly stoves were installed on Camden Avenue to handle the overcrowding.

Former students recall the only source for water was an outside hand pump and bathroom facilities were simply outhouses, a scary place for many young children.

For Annie Mieszkalski, the outhouses posed no problem. When nature called, she would sneak out a window and dash home to use the family's indoor facilities, then return to school through the window. When Roosevelt School was completed in 1928 its halls were filled with 425 truly grateful students who now had indoor plumbing. For information on weekly hours of operation, visit http://geocities.com/sphistoricalsociety or e-mail sphistorical-

soc@cs.com.

The Chronicle Since 1862

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Subscription rates per year: \$28 in Somerset & Middlesex County; \$33 in NJ; \$36 out of state. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321.

EDISON - The Edison Township Parade Committee holds its Memorial Day parade on Sunday, May 28 in the Stelton section of the township. Any organization or group inter-

ested in marching in the parade should call Evelyn Kraszewski at 732) 548-4648 Rummage sale

for Easter week

BOUND BROOK - The Women's Fellowship Group of the Congregational Church holds a spring rummage sale during Easter week.

Sale hours in the Education Building at 209 Church St. are 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 20; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, April 21; and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 22.

Used clothes, bric-a-brac, dinnerware, toys and household goods are offered. Prices are

scheduled for April 22

Pop Warner Organization holds open registration for its 2006 season from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Lincoln Hose Company firehouse on Mountain Avenue.

All football players and cheerleaders must live in Middlesex Borough. Teams are grouped by age and weight limit. Registration is first come, first served.

In The Towns registration or at the monthly

Middlesex Pop Warner meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 20 at the Recreation Center.

For more information and fees, e-mail

middlesexmpaa@yahoo.com; a Pop Warner member will reply.

Learning as an art presented at YMCA

METUCHEN - The Metuchen-Edison YMCA and "Learning is an Art" invite parents and their children in first and second grade to participate in a free math workshop. The workshop series will help children learn math concepts through the medium of art, involving both sides of the brain in academic. The date is 7-8 p.m. April 25 and registration is at the Metuchen Branch of the YMCA. On April 26 there will be a

workshop for parents and their 3to 5-year-old children from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Edison Branch of the YMCA. The workshops are free. Any questions and to register, contact Marie Patterson at (732) 548-2044, Ext. 211.

County veterans group holds outreach forum

PISCATAWAY - The Middlesex County Veterans Advisory Council sponsors a Veterans Outreach Forum for military veterans and their families. This free program is at 1:30

p.m. Thursday, April 27 in the Senior Center at 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library. Speakers will discuss health care, legislation, benefits and counseling for those who have been in the military.

For more information, call (732) 745-4051

Art, photographs take cues from gardens

EDISON --- The Edison Arts Society presents its fifth annual "Gardens of the Garden State" juried show at Menlo Park Mall.

This exhibition of art and photography opens Friday, April 28 with Mayor Jun Choi cutting the ceremonial ribbon at noon. A total of 80 paintings and photographs are in the show, all inspired by specific pictures of local gardens. Robin Jess and Rena Segal are iurors.

Among the artists represented are Loretta Brower, Tonette Campbell, Harriet Charatan, Allison Doatch, Laura Grozovsky, Tom Martin, Sherri Orenburg-Ruggieri, Mary Pazdan, Christiane Silla and Barbara Sturm, all of Edison, and George Christopoulos of Metuchen. "Gardens of the Garden State"

can be seen on the mall's lower level in the Nordstrom wing from then through Sunday, April 30. Mall visitors can vote for their favorite work: the winners will be honored in a reception at 4 p.m. April 30.

For more information, visit www.edisonarts.org or call (908) 753-ARTS.

Consignment sale benefits Katrina relief

MIDDLESEX - All proceeds from a Kids Consignment Sale benefit Hurricane Katrina relief. The sale is from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 29 at the Middlesex Presbyterian Church, 1190 Mountain Ave. Children's clothes, toys, furniture and maternity goods are for sale, all new or gently used. Donations are welcome; email Alarsen65@aol.com or call (732) 424-7370.

for chamber chorale

PISCATAWAY --- The Cantabile Chamber Chorale presents its "Celestial Spring" concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane.

www.cantabilechamberchorale.org

W/COUPON regularly \$399

Madeleine O. Dahl has joined the Air Force under its "Delayed Entry" program, which gives recruits the opportunity to delay going on active duty for up to one year. She is scheduled to report for basic training in May at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Dahl is the daughter of Chris

and Naomi Dahl of North Sixth Avenue, Highland Park, and a 2005 graduate of Highland Park High School.

Air Force Airman Russell J. Basile has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He is the son of Karin Welsh of Flemington and the nephew of Ilona LaChina of Duclos Lane, Edison.

Air Force Airman David R. Zaleski has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is the son of David and Christine Tuttle of Dunellen. Zaleski is a 2005 graduate of Dunellen High School.

Air Force Airman Vincent C. Calantoni has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

He is the nephew of Mary Nelson of Edison. Calantoni is a 2005 graduate of Edison High

Military Honors

High School. * * *

Jennifer L. Kehres-Dolicker, a major in the Army Reserve, has been activated for U.S. Army duty in the Middle East. She has been in the reserves for 19 years and is a communications officer with the 78th Division based in Edison.

Kehres-Dolicker received a bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary in 1986 and a master's degree from Seton Hall University in 1997. She is a 1982 graduate of John P. Stevens High School in Edison.

Alan H. Chen of Piscataway participated in the Summer Seminar of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. The week-long seminar is designed to give high school students a sample of life as a midshipman.

* * *

Alan, who attends Piscataway High School, is the son of Crystal P. and Brian Y. Chen.

Army Pvt. Nickson S. Mattis has graduated from the **Ouartermaster** and Chemical Equipment Repairer Advanced Individual Training course at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Aberdeen, Md.

The course is designed to train soldiers to perform direct and general support maintenance on chemical equipment, quartermaster machinery, air heaters and special purpose Students are equipment. trained to maintain and repair electrical and mechanical systems on fuel heaters, pumps, filters, generators, water purification and decontamination systems, and laundry washers and dryers. He is the son of Swanston Mattis of Edison. He is a 2004 graduate of J.P. Stevens High School, Edison.

Air Force Cadet James B. Hall has completed Basic Cadet Training and earned the rank of cadet fourth class at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. He is the son of Hugh and Kendal Hall of Piscataway. Hall is a 2005 graduate of Piscataway High School. * * *

Navy Midshipman Ronald M. Fialk, son of Ann and David R. Fialk of Edison, recently took part in summer training at sea.

Fialk, a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps student served with Submarine Squadron 11, San Diego, Calif. During his four-to-six week summer training cruise, he received hands-on training in shiphandling, navigation, seamanship, communications, weapons systems and ship's damage control and firefighting. Fialk is a 2004 graduate of John P. Stevens High School of Edison.

reduced on April 22. For more information, call (732) 356-1293. Pop Warner signup is

MIDDLESEX - The Middlesex

Football and cheerleading squads are open to boys and girls entering kindergarten-Grade 8 in September. Practice begins Aug. 1 with the season beginning around Labor Day. Cheerleaders participate in cheerleading competitions as well as football dames.

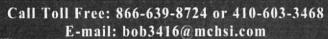
Questions can be answered at

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School. * * *

Air Force Airman Adam M. Jaskula has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Jaskula is the son of Remigiusz and Marleny Jaskula of Edison. He is a 2005 graduate of Edison High School. * * *

Cecilia A. Fosu has graduated from Navy recruit training at Great Lakes, Ill., and received a promotion to the rank of seaman. She is the daughter of Francis Y. Fosu of Piscataway and Antonia L. Cockerhan of Newark.

Recruit Seaman Navy Christian R. Razon, son of Simeon R. Razon of Piscataway, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eightweek program, Razon completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. Razon is a 2003 graduate of Piscataway High School. * * *

Army Pvt. Nickson S. Mattis has graduated from the quartermaster and chemical equipment repairer course, part of advanced individual training at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md. He is the son Swanston Mattis of of Evergreen Road, Edison, and a 2004 alumnus of John P. Stevens

Navy Airman Kevin J. Epps, a 2002 graduate of Piscataway Vocational Technical High School, and his shipmates returned from a three-month summer underway period while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. Epps and more than 5, 300 of his fellow shipmates participated in exercises Talisman Saber 2005, the third annual Orange Crush and Joint Air and Sea Exercise 2005.

Army Reserve Pfc. Victor L. Blue has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, basic first aid, foot marches, and field training exercises. Blue is a 1991 graduate of St. Josephs High School, Metuchen.

Urgent news for people who took

Seroquels, an antipsychotic drug, has been linked to dlabetes pancreatitis, diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and even death. If you or a loved one have experienced any of these health problems, call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

GOLDBERG & OSBORNE 1-800-THE-EAGLE (1-800-843-3245) www.1800thecagle.com

In The Towns

Piscataway P.B.A.

holds Easter egg hunt PISCATAWAY - The annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Piscataway P.B.A. Local 93, for township children up to nine years of age, will be held on Saturday, April 15 at the Little League Fields starting at 11 a.m.

There will be prizes, candy and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Boy Scout Troop 42 selling Easter flowers

SOUTH BOUND BROOK -Boy Scout Troop 42 is holding an Easter Flower Sale to support camperships for scouts in the troop this summer. It will be held on the front lawn of the Reformed Church on Main Street from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 15.

For more information contact Tom Harabin at (908) 938-4121.

Parent workshop is held at nursery school

EDISON - The Oak Tree Nursery School located at 445 Plainfield Road, is offering a Parent Workshop on Recognizing and Identifying Mild Developmental Delays at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18. The guest speaker will be Ellen G. Whitford, R.N. CPHQ, a child care health consultant coordinator for Middlesex County Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen

Seating is limited so call the director to register at (732) 494-2120. Refreshments will be served and babysitting will be available. Fall registrations are now being accepted.

Church leaders plan ground breaking

EDISON - The congregants of Community Presbyterian Church will be conducting a ground breaking ceremony after Palm Sunday services at noon on Sunday, April 19 to celebrate the renovations that will be made to their church building in the upcoming months. Upgrades include a remodeled

fellowship hall and kitchen, new handicap-accessible restrooms, and barrier-free access through-

Campus Notes

Six area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Felician College,. which has campuses in Lodi and Rutherford.

Honored were Melissa Benko, Raymond Rose and Gina Trop, all of Piscataway; Deepa Ladani and Brittany Steiner, both of

out. In addition to the interior improvements, a new portico will be constructed that will draw much needed attention to the main entrance of the church. It is anticipated that the renovations which are being done by the Bannett Group of Cherry Hill will be completed in the fall of this year. For more information about

the Community Presbyterian Church, contact the church office at (732) 287-1666.

Parker School PTO offers tricky tray

MIDDLESEX — The Parker School PTO will be hosting its annual Tricky Tray Event on Friday, April 21 at the Parker Elementary School located at 150 South Lincoln Ave. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the first call will be at 8 p.m. There will be a \$5 admission that includes one sheet of tickets

Food will be available for purchase and no outside food or drink will be permitted. No children will be admitted. For additional information, contact Jane Kyllonen at (732) 424-6603.

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.

Congregation plans

lecture on May 7 METUCHEN - Congregation Neve Shalom has announced that the Israel Segal Memorial

Lecture will take place at 10 a.m. on May 7 at the temple, located at 250 Grove Avenue. This year's speaker will be Eric Goldman, founder of ERGO Media. Goldman will speak about "Cinema and the American Jewish Experience". He received his Ph.D. in Cinema Studies from N.Y.U., teaches film at the Stern College for Women and Queens College and moderated films for YIVO and Yeshiva University, and also is a film reviewer. He is the author of "Visions, Images and Dreams: Yiddish Film Past and Present."

This annual event is sponsored by the Israel Segal Memorial Fund and the Segal family

The program is free and open to the public. For further information, call (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14, or e-mail can2r11@aol.com.

Volunteers sought

for hospice facility EDISON - The Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice located on the campus of Roosevelt Care Center in Edison, is looking for volunteers to help families going through the grieving process.

"Volunteers are an integral part of the interdisciplinary team that administers end-of-life care to patients and their families." said Jill Zhou, LCSW, volunteer coordinator for the Hospice. "Volunteers can run errands, offer support, provide music therapy and compliment the work of the clinical care providers.

The presence of a volunteer communicates to the families that the volunteer is here



Iner

lies, visit patients, console the bereaved or help in the office. Hospice staff administer their programs at the six bed, home-

because they want to be here,

teers are needed to help fami-

Zhou said the Hospice volun-

and that is very thoughtful."

like building on the Roosevelt campus or at homes of a patient or their loved ones. To ensure that all volunteers are equipped for the challenge of working with the dying and their families, the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice hosts a 12 hour educational

course. Workshops, videos and lectures are completed in four or

five weekly sessions. For more information, call Zhou at (732) 321-9335.

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

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 communications, 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,

MIDDLESEX

ARMY * NAVY

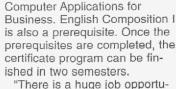
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732-968-2848



"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.

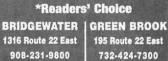
Township Garden Club seeking new

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.







Edison; and Deborah Zotte, of Middlesex. * * *

Garrett Lacaillade and Jay Teitelbaum, both of Middlesex, were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at American University in Washington, D.C. Both students are sophomores in the Kogod School of Business.

Maria Olender of Metuchen was named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., where she is a sophomore. The daughter of Bella and Arnold Olender is a 2004 alumna of Metuchen High School.

Jill McDonald of Piscataway has been selected for the National Society of High School Scholars. She attends the Timothy Christian School in Piscataway. * * *

James R. Urbaniak has been named to the dean's list at New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University for the 2005 fall semester. He is a senior majoring in English and History in Education and the son of John and Francesca Urbaniak of Piscataway.

Melissa Seguinot has been named to the dean's list of Johnson and Wales University for the 2006 winter term.

She is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Food Service Management from the Hospitality College at the Providence Campus.

Richard Warren has been named to the dean's list of Johnson and Wales University for the 2006 winter term.

He is pursuing an associate degree in Entrepreneurship for the College of Business at the Providence Campus.

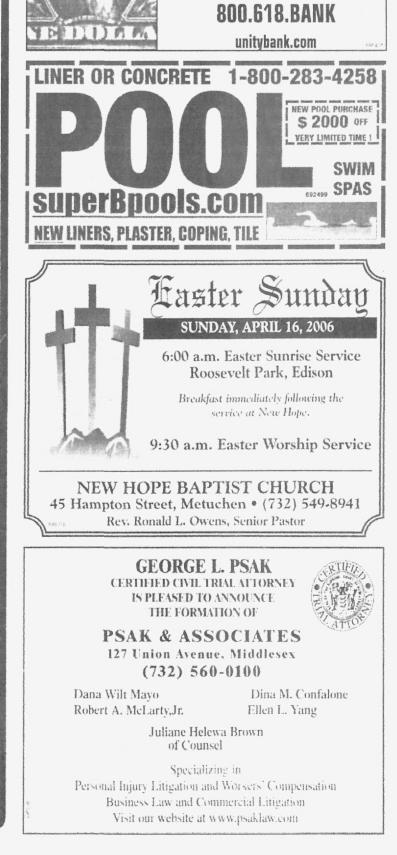
Three area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester on the Teaneck campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

They are Zoi Antoniou of Bound Brook, Connie Lau of Edison and Turek Wallace of Piscataway.

A cumming when third wight a beer		
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The Chronicle

Saturday, April 15, 2006

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Opinion

Controlling taxes remains top issue

By REP. MIKE FERGUSON

In New Jersey, we enjoy one of the highest incomes in the nation. In fact, in the 7th District, which includes portions of Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties, the median family income is \$90,103.

But that also means we face one of the nation's highest tax burdens, too. And it's not just federal taxes, which have been lowered in recent years. New Jersey's state income tax and highest-in-the nation property taxes also combine to squeeze families.

As the dreaded IRS tax-filing day approaches (it's April 17 this year because April 15 falls on a weekend), it's clear that when taxes are reduced New Jersey families disproportionately benefit, and when taxes are raised New Jersey families disproportionately suffer.

I recognize the importance that tax relief plays not only in creating economic growth and new jobs but also in allowing you to keep more of what you earn to save, spend or invest.

That's why I've been a strong advocate in Congress for reducing your taxes. In fact, because of the tax relief Congress has enacted, the average New Jersey family is saving more than \$2,000 a year in lower federal taxes.

The Treasury Department recently reported that 811,000 New Jersey families benefit from the doubling of the child tax credit to \$1,000, and more than one million New Jersey families are paying lower taxes because of the elimination of the marriage penalty. More than four million state residents benefit from the reduction in income tax brackets, and 858,000 taxpayers benefit from the lower taxes on capital gains and dividends.

That's real money and real savings for New Jersey families.

Congress also has address the alternative minimum tax, or AMT, which is striking more and more middle-income families, especially in high-income states like New Jersey. Last year, Congress approved legislation shielding 17 million taxpayers from being hit with the AMT this year on federal taxes due next April.

The AMT eats away at valuable federal tax deductions and credits, including for state income taxes and property taxes, and particularly strikes New

Jersey taxpayers. In fact, half the people paying the AMT in recent years live in just four states - New Jersey, New York, California and Massachusetts.

The AMT was created in 1969 to ensure a small number of very wealthy Americans could not use credits and deductions to avoid paying taxes altogether. The AMT is a second tax structure, forcing individuals and families to calculate their taxes twice once under the regular system and again under the alternative system - then pay the higher amount.

Because it was never originally indexed for inflation, the AMT has increasingly hit middle-income families with incomes of as little as \$75,000.

That's wrong, and I'm working in Congress to permanently protect families from the AMT and also to keep your tax burden low.

We've seen the benefits that tax relief has for economic growth and job creation. Just a few weeks ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 211,000 new jobs were created in February, and more than two million new jobs have been created in just the last year.

The unemployment rate in March was 4.7 percent - that's lower than the average of the 1970s, 1980s and the 1990s. And New Jersey's unemployment rate is even lower.

Homeownership is at a record high. New orders for manufactured durable goods are up. Construction spending is increasing, and consumer

confidence is near an all-time high. I believe the economic expansion and continued job growth is rooted in the tax relief Congress has

enacted in recent years, and I will remain a strong advocate for keeping your taxes low. The writer, Rep. Michael Ferguson, is a

Republican serving the 7th District, which includes Somerset County.

Letters to the Editor

Schools need community support

To The Editor:

As president of the Somerville Board of Education, I am pleased to report on several initiatives from this school year.

In November, the Board of Education held a morning workshop for parents on internet safety. Assistant Somerset County Prosecutor Brian Stack gave a compelling presentation and led a discussion on the dangers of MySpace and other social networking sites that have been reported on widely in recent news.

Students from the middle school and high school held their own workshop on bullying. At the end of the morning, students and parents came together to share their experiences. Ville TV was also on hand to tape the session and replay it for the broader community.

Elementary School, has promoted partnerith community members with Walk to School Wednesdays and Read Across America. Every Wednesday, children are met at two sites in town by school staff, policemen, and community members and all walk together to the elementary school. This is the second year for this popular program, developed to ensure children would have safe walking routes to school in the wake of the loss of the district's shuttle bus program, and during Read Across America morning many community leaders came to school to share their favorite stories with the children. This program was such a success that the children requested that the leaders return for an encore presentation. Van Derveer School has also been expanding their use of cost-effective technology. They belong to a consortium which enables them to use video conferencing at a reduced cost and infuse it into the K-5 curriculum. They have interactive field trips with other schools, museums and educational places of interest across the globe. Just last week, this was demonstrated to the board with an engaging, interactive lesson on fossils conducted by two scientists at a museum in Liverpool, England. Our Middle School welcomed back our

Principal Michael Ryan after an extended illness. While he was recovering, our Superintendent, Carolyn F Leary, led the administrative team on top of her usual duties. The entire staff of Somerville Middle School jumped in to make sure that the school never missed a beat I'm proud to report that they even achieved a 17.55-percent gain in GEPA test scores in the areas of language arts literacy, mathematics and science.

Somerville High School students not only excel, but also show pride in their school. The Student Council proposed and initiated a project to raise funds, design and oversee the building of an attractive wrought iron fence at the school, which enabled the use of an outdoor corridor that had been closed for securi-Susan Haynes, principal of Van Deveer ty reasons. They saw a need, took action and were supported by the administration, teachand the board of education. Robotics Team has worked very hard this year. They recently won the General Motors Award for Industrial Design at the Long Island Regional Competition. If you visit the middle school you will find bathroom and elevator renovations are now complete, and soon work will begin on the new preschool wing as part of the 2004 referendum. Van Derveer School will see window and door replacements beginning this summer. And the High School will also see renovations to the gym floor, field house, cafeteria roof replacement, acoustical improvements for the music rooms, as well as air conditioning for the heavily used cafeteria, all slated to start the summer. As you can see, our schools are busy helping students prepare for the future, and our students are working hard to demonstrate their own commitment to the future. Please help our schools maintain that excellence by voting on April 18.

Question of the week: Should illegal immigrants be treated as felons?



RAY ECKENRODE Pittstown

"I don't believe so --only if they break the laws of our country. A lot of our ancestors came here illegally."



MARTY FENTON Somerville "Not unless they are felons.



Letters to the Editor **Current team** has done well

To The Editor:

I just received a flier in the mail from a team of three Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education candidates challenging the three incumbents, Alan Harwick, Howard Teichman and Cynthia Cullen, who are up for re-election. I find the challengers' flier sprinkled with many false implications that are easily proven invalid with just a click of your computer mouse. The first misleading and inac-

curate notion from the challengers' flier is their claim that there is a need to "restore faith in the community that the board is working for the good of all children in the (Bridgewater-Raritan School D)istrict."

A click of the mouse will prove that the current board is already working for the good of all children. The current board approved a school-wide enrichment program, presented to them by the administration last September (part of a Project Referendum), that will supplement existing programs in the district and provide a wide range of services and opportunities for all students.

To see the truth, click on the district's Web site www.brrsed.k12.nj.us/ - and click on the yellow highlighted section called "2006-2007 Budget Information." Then click on the link saying "2006-2007 Budget Additions (3/29/06)" and you will see the revised and corrected memo from Superintendent Walter Mahler.

This corrected memo lists 17 bullet points reflecting ways in which this year's budget will be spent. Look closely at the ninth bullet point which states, "Enrichment teachers to increase the opportunities for all students to excel." If this board-approved school budget passes on April 18, the district will be hiring and training six teachers to help enrich the curriculum of all students.

It was pointed out to Mahler that his use of the word "talented" (instead of "all") in the original version of this memo, which was sent home with students, was erroneous and misleading to the public. This updated memo contradicts the board has shown fiscal responmisperceptions being broadcast by the challengers. So, with a click of the mouse, we now see accurate information demonstrating how Harwick. Teichman and Cullen absolutely support programs for all students, and the public will not be misled.

this current board who voted in 2001 to fire Superintendent Stephen Sokolow halfway through his contract, which cost the taxpayers more than \$300,000, and neither of them is running this year.

Laws prevent school districts from hiring a full-time, permanent superintended while an existing contract is still open, like Sokolow's was. It is a fact that this financial debacle, beginning in the spring of 2001, had nothing to do with the current board members who are up for reelection.

A third false implication in this flyer leads the reader to believe that it is easy to fund school superintendents that will stay "long term."

With a click of the mouse one of the challengers can read this quote by Mike Yaple, spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, "Regular superintendents now serve, on average, less than three years in New Jersey (www.dailyrecord.com, 1/14/06)." You can click again to learn that even Mahler left his previous district, Springfield Public Schools, halfway through his five-year contract (Courier News, 7/25/03).

There have been rumors that the current board gave Mahler an inadequate salary increase. Another click of the mouse will lead the challengers to the Web site of the October 2005 District Administration Magazine. There is a bar graph that shows that the mean of average salaries for school superintendents in the U.S. increased by an average of 2.5 percent from school year 2003-04 to 2004-05 (www.districtadministration.co m).

The current board members were being fiscally responsible by voting for superintendent's negotiated 3-percent minimum raise. With a click of the mouse, you can read the public records on the Bridgewater-Raritan Board of Education meeting minutes of Nov. 22, 2005 to see that his 2005-06 salary, not including benefits and perks, is \$181,938

Another way the current sibility was by securing low bids.

HELENE VENIZELOS Somerville The writer is president of the Somerville Board Of Education.

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.co m.

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.

JAIMEE HARRIS-GOLD Phillipsburg "I don't think so. Only if they commit a crime."



WALTER IANNACOME Highland Park "Only if they break the law.



WILDA ROBINSON North Brunswick "They shouldn't be accused of being a felon if they are coming here to make a better life for themselves and to support their families."

Another false insinuation from this flier is that the current board is responsible for the "revolving door in the superintendent's office." This can be put to rest by using your computer to search newspaper articles starting from April 2001. With a click of the mouse, you will see that only two board members are still remaining on

on several construction projects that were completed on-time and under budget

The last way to find the truth is by clicking on www.e3campaign.org and reading about the issues built of substance that drive Harwick, Teichman and Cullen. They each bring impressive board experience, proven commitment to the job and demonstrated leadership while representing all of the residents of Bridgewater-Raritan. I know them, I trust them. The facts that tell the truth are easy to find. Please vote on April 18.

JILL GLADSTONE Bridgewater

Non-smokers have a reason to rejoice

To The Editor:

A dark cloud will lift from New Jersey and we will all breathe easier when the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act goes into effect on April 15. We look forward to a healthier Garden State and to fewer of our friends, family members and neighbors dying or becoming ill due to the effects of secondhand smoke.

We applaud the New Jersey legislature, our state leadership, New Jersey Breathes, the public health community and all those involved in bringing about this historical day on April 15. The collective breath New Jersey takes that day will be the beginning of healthier air for all of us. Being in a smoke-filled room is worse than smoking a cigarette, says the American Heart Association. The smoke from the tip of a cigarette breathed in by others is 20 times more dangerous than what a smoker inhales.

We look forward to visiting diners and restaurants we didn't previously frequent because they allowed smoking. We look forward to bringing our children or grandchildren to bowling alleys that once allowed smok ing. We look forward to seeing performances in nightclubs that

once allowed smoking but are now smoke-free. We look for ward to our friends, neighbors and family members being able to earn a living in these and other establishments while no longer having to risk their health or lives simply to earn that living.

We encourage you to visit New Jersey restaurants, bowling alleys, nightclubs, diners and other establishments that once "smoke allowed." Being friends or family members and let the owner know that you are spending money there because the business is now smoke-free and healthier. Here's to a smoke-free and healthier Garden State:

Learn more about the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act, smoking cessation programs or a free Smoke Free Air Act Larty kit by calling the American Heart Association at (732) 821-2610.

LOUIS LASALLE PERRY WEINSTOCK

American Heart Association North Brunswick The writers are, respectively, chairman of the North Jersey board of directors and president of the South Jersey bourd of directors for the Heart Association.

The Chronicle

Commentary

Stockpile of supplies growing

Several deliveries of supplies that will boxed and sent to U.S. troops overseas next month have been arriving at The Chronicle office.

Debbie Newcomb of the Mom's Club of Annandale dropped off a car load of supplies last week, as did Chet Trechock, who is just getting started with a supply drive at the Canal Walk development where he lives in Franklin.

Bags of items collected at Bridgewater-Raritan High School by Jillian Dorrell and Cara Yuknis of the Spanish Honor Society were also dropped off this week, along with items donated by members of St. Mary's Church in Bound Brook. Yuknis coordinate the church initiative.

You'll also want to read the story elsewhere on this page which details the efforts of young elementary students at a school in Warren County. Our first of 10 Soldiers' Shopping Sprees to be held at area supermarkets this month and next went well last Saturday, with Cub Scouts from Pack 195 in Franklin, sponsored by St. Matthias R.C. Church soliciting donations from shoppers outside the Pathmark Supermarket in Somerville.

Led By Cubmaster Ralph Pugnet, the young men collected eight large trash bags full of groceries, as well as \$208.89 in cash contributions.

This weekend, we'll be at two locations. The full schedule appears below.

We are also in need of cash contributions to help pay for postage - at about \$8 per box - which means we need to raise several thousand dollars between now and May 27. If you see our Operation Rod Hirsch Executive Editor

Shoebox New Jersey 2005 volunteers at any of the supermarkets, please be generous.

Shoppers will be handed a condensed shopping list of items requested by soldiers, Marines and sailors as they enter the store.

As shoppers exit the stores, they drop off the items they've purchased for the soldiers with the volunteers, who then transport those donated goods back to The Chronicle office where they will be sorted in preparation for the next OPSHBX pack-ing event May 27 at Commerce Bank Park in Bridgewater.

Some of the items needed include snack foods like cereal bars, small boxes of cereal, beef jerky, pull-top cans of tuna and soup, chewing gum and candy; needed toiletries items include soap, shampoo, moist wipes, lip balm and disposable razors. We have already stockpiled adequate supplies of toothpaste, toothbrushes and deodorant. Here's the schedule of

Soldiers' Shopping Sprees:

Saturday, April 15: Stop'n'-Shop, Route 206, Raritan; Saturday, April 15: Shop-Rite, Route 202, Flemington; Saturday, April 22: Stop'n'-Shop, Route 206, Raritan; Saturday, May 6: ShopRite,

Route 22, Branchburg;

Route 22, Branchburg; Saturday, May 13: Shop-Rite, Route 28, Bound Brook;

Saturday, May 13: Shop-Rite, Route 202, Flemington; Saturday, May 20: King's, Route 206, Bedminster; Sunday, May 21: King's, Route 206, Bedminster.

Special thanks to OPSHBX volunteer Julia Simmons for working with the various supermarkets to arrange these dates, as well as the management of each store who are willing to support the efforts of OPSHBX, and U.S. troops overseas.

Letter from Iraq

I recently received a box of Valentines cards and letters from your city and I must say I am amazed and honored to see how much work went into these cards and letters from these kids.

I read about 20 letters from a girl named Jasmine who wrote a different poem in every one. There was another girl named Dynasty S. who hand made at least 100 cards and decorated them with stickers and drawings. There were so many letters from the schools that we spent about 2 hours reading them and passing around the best ones.

It humbles me to know that your town took the time to remember us this way. Your Operation Shoebox letter told us of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the carolers in Branchburg, attorney Rob Wilson, and Eagle Scout Keith Price who put forth so much time and effort to aid this project. This was an amazing task that was so appreciated.

The scene here of all of us

Sunday, May 7: ShopRite, going through the boxes of toiletries, teas, coffees, Crystal Lite and snack foods would have reminded you of little children on Halloween night going through their goody bags. I cannot tell you how much one travel size bottle of shampoo means to someone who has been washing their hair with a bar of soap. The women especially appreciate it. Of course, after a few hours we're covered in sand or mud again, but for just a moment we look and smell really great.

I want to send a huge thank you to The Reporter, the school teachers in Edison, VFW Post 2290, Manville, Carol Cover and Oak Woods Inc., Boy Scout Pack 43, Den 5, Tia White at the Lakeland Hills YMCA, Terry and Bob Yuzuik and all the local merchants who helped this operation

We love you.

Michael Keeton Navy Customs Quebec Kuwait/Iraq Bravo Co. - CBT

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 fea-ture the distinctive red, white and blue Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, and a full-color reproduction of the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 poster.

The shirts are also available at The Chronicle office, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East. other sponsors, and include



COURTESY RALPH PUGNET

Brandon Pugnet, left and Ryan Lenczewski, members of Cub Scout Pack 195 sponsored by St. Matthias R.C. Church in the Somerset section of Franklin, hold onto Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 shopping lists outside the Pathmark Supermarket in Somerville last Saturday. The Cubs collected eight large trash bags of donated goods from shoppers and \$208.89.

shirts directly benefit OPSHBX. Sizes available are medium, large and extralarge.

We can also reproduce the shirts in quantity for veterans' groups, corporations, or

All proceeds from sale of the 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

Young students contribute encouragement and deeds

By DIANNE LORDEN Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - They might just qualify as the littlest ever student council members, but their enormous efforts stand tall. The kids of the K-second grade Taylor Street School in Warren .County collected a whopping 20 boxes of goods for American troops during their March participation in. Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

And we're not talking shoe boxes.

"We started out with two enormous boxes," says Taylor Principal Michelle Gadaleta of the month-long service project. "They were putting the peration Sl neh boxes in the hall, and it just started overflowing."



Every month for the entire school year, Gadaleta leads her students in a different service project. After seeing an ad for Operation Shoebox an incentive to send supplies to servicemen and women who are deployed overseas - in The Warren Reporter, she selected it as the project for March. Operation Shoebox is community newspapers along

fit right in with the students' letter-writing campaign, says Gadaleta, through the "A Letter from Home" public service of the newspaper.

"The families have been so generous," says Gadaleta. "It's so nice to see the community come together." Every item mentioned on the Shoebox wish-list was collected, from microwavable foods to fleece blankets and socks. The most popular item to donate was snack packages.

The school's 16 student council members meet to learn about what the project will be for the month, then they pass on the information to the rest sponsored by this family of of the students, and the whole school participates. The infor-According to

Gadaleta, being on the council has really helped the kids grow. Since their cautious September days, they have gotten used to the responsibility of reporting back to the rest of the school, and speak up with questions like, "Now, what do I need to tell my friends?'

The success of the Operation

SALITE

Shoebox collection made a impression, real says Gadaleta. "For them to see how everyone pitched in together ... they saw the importance of it. Every time we do something new, it gets bigger and better."

She and the students were also delighted to learn that two of the soldiers with whom

they were corresponding are acquainted with a parent or grandparent of a child at the school.

The collected items were delivered to the offices of The Warren Reporter, which is a drop-off point for Operation Shoebox, and from there picked up for distribution overseas.

with other community and cor- mation is also sent home to porate sponsors. The project parents.

Rick Grossman The Learning Express

Hillsborough

How bout you?

SHOEBOX

porter, Rick G emen mid wonien serving over of Support OPSHBX, Cull The ative Editor Rod Hirsch at (908) 575-6684 or thek www.nj.com/shoeboxnj ition on how you can help

The Reporter @

NI.com

THEIR SACRIFICE



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	0
Bug spray	
C Lip balm	Q
G Feminine products	0
Ear swabs	
D Laundry detergent	
C) Bug wipes/bug strips	
Wipes (travel size)	
Razors	Q
C Toilet paper	0
Eye drops	
Spices/Tea bags	D

Coffee Small drink mixes Socks Clothesline/pins Snack food Cereal/protein bars Fleece blankets Microwaveable foods Hard candy/gum Writing materials Batteries (any size) Calling cards

*Donated Items must be in their original packaging

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



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

UNITED STATES

Photo: Ion Naso/The StarLedger, Used by permission

Bound Brook

The Bound Brook Seniors meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Asbury Hall of the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. and the corner of Livingston. All seniors are welcome to join including non-residents. Meetings include informative programs, refreshments, information about upcoming trips and bingo.

Upcoming Trips and Events: Atlantic City trips are held the third Tuesday of each month. Call Ed Kimmel at (732) 469-1263 for details.

April 25 — Atlantic City trip to Taj Mahal Casino.

April 27 — Cherry Blossoms near Newark Cathedral with lunch at restaurant in Iron Bound District. \$62.

April 29 to May 6 — Branson, Mo. Eight days, seven nights. \$925 (includes meals, rooms, tours and shows. Non-members welcome.

For more information about the planned trips, call Frank at (732) 356-6310.

For detailed information about the club, call President Frank

Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Nonmembers are welcome on trips if space allows.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's Bound Brook club sponsors Atlantic City trips to the Taj Mahal casino the fourth Tuesday of each month. The bus departs from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. the second Monday c' every month in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy, 201 Vosseller Ave., Bound Brook. For further information, call President Sal

Edison

Barbati at (908) 725-5444,

Edison Chapter of AARP #3346 meets the third Monday of the month at 1 p.m. (except July and August) at the Edison Job Corps center, located at 500 Plainfield Ave. New applications are being accepted.

Jewish Family and

Vocational Services — The volunteer program at Elderday, "Chef for the Day" needs volunteers to prepare lunch for the

fits the Milltown-based Interfaith

The fundraising event is at 6

Assisi Cathedral on Main Street.

Admission of \$40 includes door

EDISON - A multifamily out-

door yard sale is planned for 9

John Adams Middle School,

Vendors are wanted; call

Agnes Brooks at (908) 769-

9350. Spaces cost \$15 and are

1081 New Dover Road.

a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at

For tickets, call (732) 247-

Vendors wanted

for outdoor sale

p.m. Saturday, April 22 in the

auditorium at St. Francis of

Network of Care.

prizes.

1655.

Senior Citizens Calendar

elderly members of the social

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more

information, call E.J. Berman at

Elderday Care (a Social Day

degrees of dementia has a few

immediate openings available.

Transportation is provided with

sliding scale fees. Interesting

snacks; and activities that all

can easily participate. Consider

this a great safe way to provide

Openings are now available

for CAMEO (Challenging Adult

Ourselves), a social day care

adults who are physically dis-

abled, but cognitively alert.

program tailored to the needs of

Some of the activities designed

exercise, day trips, painting, dis-

cussions of current events and

special interest group activities.

Transportation is provided with

sliding scale fees. Call (732)

for CAMEO are book reviews,

Minds and Energizing

social activities for your loved

one. Call (732) 777-1940 for

information.

777-1940.

program includes meals,

Care Program) for folks with

adult day program in Edison

(732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

memory loss and various

Piscataway

The Piscataway Senior Center has announced its schedule of upcoming events at the center, 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind the Kennedy Library. Group meetings for Tai Chi will be from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday. This is a drop-in class. Sign up at the reception desk. The Visiting Nurse Association will visit the center at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at no cost. Sign up at the Reception Desk at the center.

South Bound Brook

The South Bound Brook Senior Citizens Community Club meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall, 122 High St. Bingo is played from 2 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday, and refreshments are served. Blood pressure screening is scheduled for the second Wednesday every other month. A box of pasta per member will be collected at the meeting for the food bank. The club is open to all seniors, 55 years and older residing in South Bound Brook. For information, call Catherine (732) 356-4080.

April 26 — Spring Luncheon members only, noon to 4 p.m. -50-50, Bingo \$10.

May 18 to May 25 ---Nashville, Memphis, Tunica trip - \$620 double occupancy.

June 6 — Woodlock Pines, Hawkley, Pa. members \$60. non-members, \$65. from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

South Bound Brook — The Office on Aging will sponsor Project Healthy Bones classes on Monday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the South Bound Brook Senior Center, 113 Clinton St. The first informational session has already been held. Project Healthy Bones (PHB) is an educational program that helps to improve strength and flexibility using balance and strength training. The cost of the 24 week program is \$25.

New participants will receive weights and a free manual.

Participants are asked to complete a physician consent form prior to their first class. Consent forms can be obtained at the information session, or by contacting the Office on Aging at (908) 704-6339. Certified PHB leaders will conduct the sessions.

South Bound Brook Senior Citizen Center, 113 Clinton Ave., offers the following programs: Call (732) 271-1646 for further information.

Exercise — Every Monday and Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.: Bingo & Cards — Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 a.m.: Librarian — Second Wednesday of month, 11:30: Post Office — Fourth Wednesday of month, 10:30 a.m.: Liquid Embroidery — Every Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m.-noon : Outreach Specialist at Center — Third Thursday of month, 10-11 a.m.: Cards, games or dominoes — every Friday.

Upcoming Events: April 20, Blood Pressure Screening 10 to 11 a.m.: April 25, Volunteer Recognition Ceremony; April 28, Easter and Spring Party and Sing-a-Long.

Go on treasure hunt for Easter

EDISON — Community Presbyterian Church is planning a "Holy Treasure Hunt" for kids who are toddlers up to Grade 5. This free program is at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 15 on the church grounds at 75 Glenville Road. Kids can hear the Easter story, make a craft and take part in an Easter egg hunt. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call

(732) 287-1666. Wine and cheese

social in April

1

METUCHEN — A wine and cheese social after Easter bene-

In The Towns

about the size of a car. 'Anglo-Indians'

are lecture topic EDISON ---- "Anglo-Indians" are people of mixed British-India descent.

They married and formed families in India when it was a British colony. Many of their descendants moved abroad after India became an independent nation in 1947.

Blair Williams is one of those descendants and has spoken about "Anglo-Indians on the Verge of Extinction." He gives his program at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at the Main Branch of the Edison Free Public Library. Admission is free. For registration, call (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1 or visit the library circulation desk at 340 Plainfield Ave.

Concert benefits scholarship fund

METUCHEN — The Suzy Schwartz Memorial Scholarship Fund presents its 16th annual benefit concert with an encore performance by Kol B'Seder.

The concert is at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 23 at Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave. Cost for adults is \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. Cost for children under age 18 is \$8. Patron and benefactor seating is available.

For more information, call

(732) 548-2238, Ext. 18. Babysitting is available for parents who reserve by Sunday, April 16.

Men's Club is offering Pasta Night on April 30

METUCHEN — Tickets are on sale for the annual Pasta Night sponsored by the Men's Club of Congregation Neve Shalom.

The dinner is from 5:30-7 p.m. Sunday, April 30 in the synagogue at 250 Grove Ave. Cost for adults is \$6 in advance and \$8 at the door. Cost for children is \$5 for ages 5-10 and free for ages 4-under.

For reservations, call Jeff at (732) 494-1518 or Abe at (732) 494-6427.





A-6

The Chronicle

Obituaries

James V. Rapuano

Louis Vinciguerra Sr.

MIDDLESEX Louis Vinciguerra Sr., 85, died April 6, 2006 at Riverview Medical Center in Red Bank.

Born in Sicily, he lived in New York City before moving to Middlesex in 1955.

Mr. Vinciguerra retired in 1984 after seven years as a clerk with Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. He earlier spent 20 years with the New York City Sanitation Department.

An Army veteran of World

War II, Mr. Vinciguerra was a member of American Legion Post 306 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6988. He children and three greatwas a former member of the senior citizens group at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Jeanette Guastella Vinciguerra; two sons, Louis and wife Nancy of Middlesex and Anthony and wife Antoinette of Apopka, Fla.; a daughter, Frances Mackintosh

and husband Jeffrey of Piscataway; a sister, Carmella Ferro of Brooklyn; five grandgrandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, following services at the Middlesex Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Resurrection Burial Park mausoleum, Piscataway. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Middlesex First Aid Squad.

DUNELLEN - Anna T. Puskus, 106, died March 26, 2006 at the Lake Village Nursing and Convalescent Center in Lewisville, Texas. Born in Czechoslovakia, she settled in Dunellen

when she came to the United States in 1920. Mrs. Puskus was a charter member and life member of the Dunellen Senior Citizens Club. As a homemaker she enjoyed cooking, sewing and gardening.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Thomas N.: a daughter, Ann Ostrowski in 2006; three brothers, Andy, Frank and Steve; and a sister, Agnes Golden.

Anna T. Puskus

Surviving are a son, Frank Thomas and wife Elizabeth of California; a son-in-law, Ostrowski Henry of Dunellen; four grandsons, Ronald Ostrowski and wife Deborah of Flower Mound, Texas, Thomas Ostrowski

and wife Lynda of Hillsborough, David Thomas and wife Cheryl of California and John Thomas and wife Cyndy of California; and eight greatgrandchildren.

A-7

A funeral Mass was held April 1 at Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Piscataway. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery, South Plainfield.

Arrangements were by the Sheenan Funeral Home.

Alice Marie Darst

MIDDLESEX - Alice Marie Darst, 82, died April 7, 2006 at her home.

She was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Middlesex since 1961.

Mrs. Darst was a retired machine operator with American Can Co. in Hillside. She was a member of the Middlesex Senior Citizens Club.

Her husband of 44 years, Lewis K., died in 1988.

Surviving are a son, Dana A. and wife Patty of Avenel; a daughter, Sharyn L. Kozimbo of Middlesex; a sister, Ann Staskevich of Brick; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild. A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at Our Lady of

Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park, Piscataway. Arrangements were by the

Middlesex Funeral Home.

John L. Sponar MIDDLESEX -- John L.

Sponar, 74, died April 5, 2006 at his home.

Born in Luzerne, Pa., he lived in Harrison before moving to Middlesex in 1999.

Mr. Sponar retired in 1994 as a union electrician associated with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Hackensack. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of American Legion Post 282 in Harrison. Preceding him in death was a

sister, Catherine Frantz.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Irene DeLeo Sponar; a daughter, Sandra Erskine and husband Scott of Middlesex; a niece, Barbara Haines of Dallas, Pa.; and his Siberian Husky dog, Berube.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown. Arrangements are by the Middlesex Funeral Home

MIDDLESEX - James V. Rapuano, 82, died April 1, 2006 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Chicago, Ill., he lived in Garwood before moving to Middlesex in 2002.

Mr. Rapuano was a former superintendent at the Finderne Heights apartments in Bridgewater. He was an Army veteran of World War II and from 1955-85 owned Tim's Amoco service station in South Orange. Surviving are his wife of 35 years, Gloria; two sons, Raymond and Gregory S.; a daughter, April M. Hobby; two brothers, Joseph and Carmen; a sister, Mary Santonastasio; and five grandchildren.

Services were held April 5 at the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Donations may be sent to American Legion Honor and Color Guard, 232 Union Ave., Somerville, NI 08876.



Everything Jersey



Everything Jersey



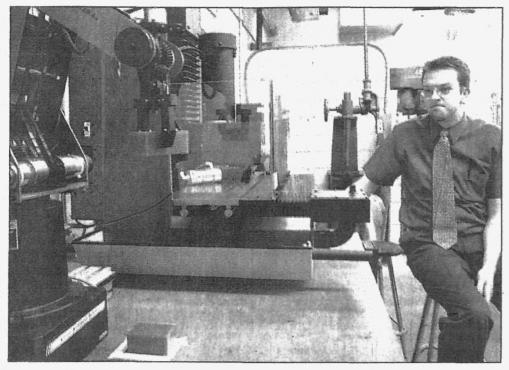
Everything Jersey



Community Life

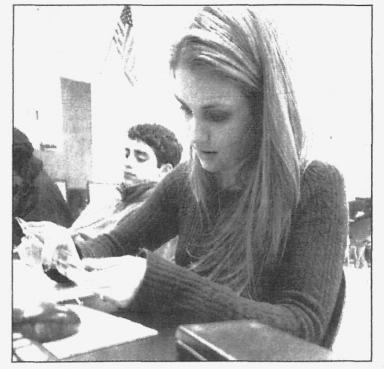
Saturday, April 15, 2006

Taking back the art of engineering



Michael Kutch, left, a Watchung Regional High School science department teacher, is part of Project Lead the Way. He serves as the instructor for Computer Integrated

Manufacturing, showing students how computers and robots co-mingle in today's factories. "At the college level, you're immersed in advanced mathematics and sciences," he said. "It's easy to lose perspective of what you're really doing this for and what the end product is. This shows there is a light at the end of the tunnel." Jenn Hogan of Warren, pictured below, a junior at the school, is taking part in Project Lead the Way. "Ever since I was 5 years old I've wanted to be an architect. I used to build Lego houses. I like to do these things."



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Watchung Hills Regional H.S. gives students jump start on future careers

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

The Chronicle

A8

WARREN - Over the summer, Bill Kukis will start restoring his 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle.

He hopes to put in a security system and is designing a box he'll install in the car that will act as an anti-theft device.

To complete this project, the Watchung Hills Regional High School senior is using skills he has learned in a series of engineering classes called Project Lead the Way.

Project Lead the Way is a sequence of four courses that introduces students to the principals and rewards of engineering before they head to college. Courses including Principals of Engineering, Introduction to Engineering Design, Digital Electronics and Computer Integrated Manufacturing allow students to get a taste of engineering concepts and possibilities while still in high school.

"At the college level, you're immersed in advanced mathematics and sciences," said

Michael Kutch, a teacher in the science department who serves as the instructor for Integrated Computer Manufacturing. "It's easy to lose perspective of what you're really doing this for and what the end product is. This shows

there is a light at the end of the tunnel." The program enables students to get beyond the core math and science classes and into courses where they can design, build and use their own products. The goal of the program is to introduce students to futures in engineering careers. About 50 percent of students entering engineering degrees in college don't make it through, said Jeffrey. Charney, supervisor of the sci-

ence department. "Most of the (engineering jobs) are being filled by Asians," he said. "We don't have the population pool to fill our own needs. It's our economy. We invest in the economy. Look at what we spend on education. We should reap those benefits."

At Watchung Hills, the program, which was first developed in the 1980s for New York state public schools, is only about two years old.

"We started two years ago as a pilot program with 12 students," Charney said. "Now we have 70 students."

Kutch believes the program is so popular because students' work becomes tangible projects.

"It's not a pure science course and it's not a shop course," he said. "It keeps them interested and wondering why things work and they get to figure it out. It's handson work.'

Besides being in dynamic classes, the courses also offer students the ability to get a start on their college educations. By taking a test at the end of each course, students can earn college credits accepted at more than 65 schools nationwide. Because this program is so new at the school, Charney said only students in one class, Digital Electronics, have chosen to

take the test.

"Over 80 percent of the class passed," said Charney, who noted that he expects more students to take the tests at the end of the semester.

The school currently offers four courses in the program and hopes to offer more, including civil engineering and architecture in the coming years. But because the courses are so specialized, they require extra training for teachers. Instructors attend two week-long training seminars before they are qualified to teach one of the program's classes.

Computer Integrated Mathematics is the culminating course in the program. Students, using skills and principals acquired in other classes, develop a robot and use that robot to create their own products.

"They use their IED (Introduction to Engineering Design) skills to build it on the computer," Kutch said. "And then the robotic arm to make it. It's mock mass production.

One of the projects last year was a little jewelry box with an engraved name plate. The top has to fit in the bottom. They learn tolerance and dimension and they engrave on an aluminum or metal plate that fits on the top. When they get really good, they can have the robot put the pieces in the machine."

Introduction In to Engineering Design, one of the beginner classes, students work on a reverse engineering project.

"They take an item with three or more parts and take it apart," said Daryn Mount, the course instructor. "They measure those parts with a caliber, create a drawing, then design that item on the computer. It teaches them the relationship between parts and measurements.

Kukis, one of the students in the class last semester, measured an adjustable wrench and designed its parts on the computer program.

"It makes a 3-D drawing on the computer," said Kukis, who

In The Towns

Piscataway Senior Center, off

Hoes Lane behind John F.

hopes to major in mechanical engineering.

Junior Jenn Hogan, one of the only girls in the whole program, created a hair clip. She knows she'll use these skills in other classes and in the future.

"Ever since I was 5 years old I've wanted to be an architect," said the Warren resident. "I used to build Lego houses. I like to do these things.

Sophomore James Ricci designed a cork screw. He's already learned some of these skills in digital electronics. Next year, he hopes to take Computer Integrated Manufacturing and then possibly an engineering independent study. Though he's not certain, he thinks he might head for a career in engineering.

"I didn't even know what engineering was before I came here," said the Long Hill resident. "I have two electives and both I'm using for these (Project Lead the Way) classes. I like how you do the work and get the final product."

Legal Notices

NDTICE OF PENDING BOND ORDINANCE AND SUMMARY The Data of admance, the summary terms of which ary and biodiverse, in the County of Modileses, State of New Include threm, has been finance and be control of Modileses, State of New Include threm, has been finance and be commended as pro-which is suit, alco not proceeding upstrong of biodiverse, in the County of Modileses, State of New Include threm, has been finance and be commended as pro-which is suit, alco not proceeding upstrong of biodiverse, in the County of Modileses, State of New Include threm, has been finance and be commended as pro-which is suit, alco coll and charge of finance area in the County of Modileses, State of New Include threm, was introduced and passed upstrong the full of state of the same and the summary terms of which are include threm, was introduced and passed upstrong the same and the sa

Six Flags trip for teens

EDISON — The Recreation

Kennedy Library. For more information, call (732)

Church as well as the First Presbyterian Church. A covered dish luncheon precedes the program.

CALENDAR YEAR 2006 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK [N.J.S.A. 40A: 445.14] WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 445.1 d seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in solid budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous years final appro-

suations, subject to certain exceptions, and, WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a nume pality may, when authorized by ordinance, appro-printe the difference between the amount of its actual inal appropriation and the 35% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the two concenter reasons and

exception to its final appropriations in either of the two susceeding years; and, WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Middlasex, in the County of Middlasex. New Jearsy, hinds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5 % over the previous years final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health safety and welfare of the citizens; and, WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby dictimitions that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said your, amounting to 577,876.69 in excess of the increase in fluid appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council herby deter-ments that any amount authorized before above that is not appropriate as part of the final budget shall be relatived as an exception to the final appropriation in extent of the next two succeeding years.

retained as an exception to the linal appropriation in editer of the next two succeeding variants. NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Barbugh Cauncil of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirma-tively concurring, that, in the CY 2006 budget year, the final oppropriations of the Borough of Middlesex shall, in accurations a with this ordinance and N J S.A. 40A. 4-51-64, he increased up 35-55, amounting to \$271,868.41 and that the CY 2006 municipal budget for the Borough of Middlesex beaproved and udopted in accordance with this ordinance, and

with this ordinance; and, BE IF FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount autho-nance thereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be relaxed as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years;

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of interchations and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ed theraon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after

each atteption. Notes is beteby given that the following Ordinance was adopted at a Public Meeting of the Borough Council of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex. New Jersey held on the 11th day of April. 2006 in the Muncipal Building, 12(0 Mountain Avenue, Middlesex, New Jersey Kathleen Apollo

\$24 82

B58 1T 4/15/06

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY Middlesex COUNTY Docket No F. 4105-06 STATE OF NEW JERSEY to Alhigton B. Stevens, Sr. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK Superior Court of New Jersey Superior 0 DATED: April 7, 2006 \$18.70

B60 1T 4/15/06

ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS HABIT.



KIDS NEED SOMETHING BETTER TO DO THAN DRUGS. LIKE SPORTS. DANCE, OR MUSIC. BECAUSE GOOD THINGS CAN BE HABIT- PORMING, TOOL SO GET THEM INTO A GOOD HABIT. TODAY. OR THEY MAY GET INTO A UPPV RAD ONE. A VERY BAD ONE.

Partnership For A Drug-Free New Jersey 1-800-675-1127

Department sponsors a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure for Edison teens on Saturday, April 15.

Departure is at 9 a.m. from the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Ave., and 9:30 a.m. from the Dorothy K. Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave. Cost is \$33 per person; those who hold a Six Flags season pass pay \$5 extra.

Registration is required at either Community Center by Wednesday, April 12, For more information, call (732) 248-7309 day or (732) 248-7313 night.

Watchung Elementary PTO plans golf outing

MIDDLESEX - The Watchung Elementary School PTO golf outing will be held on April 24 at Stanton Ridge Country Club in Whitehouse Station. The event will begin at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. The cost is \$150 per golfer which includes golfing. cart. food (light breakfast, barbecue with soda, water Gatorade) and prizes. A beverage cart will be on the course for additional purchases.

Tee sponsorship is available for \$50. Individual or groups of four are welcome to enter. The deadline to register is for the event is April 15.

In the event of bad weather, a rain date will be held in the fall. All proceeds will be used to help fund our new playground and equipment for the children at Watchung Elementary School in Middlesex. For more information, please contact Carmen Santucci at 732-752-8008 OR Cathy Rudawski at 732-564-0446.

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

Gardens an inspiration

to art society members

EDISON - The Edison Arts Society presents its fifth annual "Gardens of the Garden State" juried show at Menlo Park Mall.

This exhibition of art and photography opens Friday, April 28 with Mayor Jun Choi cutting the ceremonial ribbon at noon. Nearly 80 paintings and photographs are in the show, all inspired by specific pictures of local gardens.

"Gardens of the Garden State" can be seen on the mall's lower level in the Nordstrom wing from then through Sunday, April 30.

Award winners will be honored in a reception at 4 p.m. April 30. In addition, Allison Doatch of Edison will be recognized for her "Sunshine" art that adoms the posters promoting the show. For full information on the

exhibit, visit www.edisonarts.org. call (908) 753-ARTS or stop by the Guest Services desk on the mall's upper level near the food court.

Take 'high tea' with garden club

EDISON - A "Pocket Full of Posies" is the theme of a high tea sponsored by the Edison Garden Club.

This high tea is from 1:30-4 p.m. Saturday, April 29 at the Main Branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave. Pamela Jaynne presents a related program on flower arranging.

Admission is \$15. Reservations are required; call (732) 287-0695. Proceeds benefit the Rutgers Scholarship for Landscape Design.

Friendship Day for church women

METUCHEN --- Church Women United of Metuchen-Edison observe May Friendship Day at 12:30 p.m. Friday, May 5 at the First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave.

"Signs of Growth" is the program presented by women from the Oak Tree Presbyterian

Flower Fair ready to bloom

The Rutgers Gardens hold their 15th annual Spring Flower Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14.

This free event features a sale of landscape plants, tours of the Rutgers Gardens and activities for children. Proceeds from the plant sale go toward upkeep of the Rutgers Gardens. Lunch will be available.

As May 14 is Mother's Day, all mothers who attend the Flower Fair receive a free gift plant while supplies last.

For more information, visit www.rutgersgardens.rutgers.edu or call (732) 932-8451. The Rutgers Gardens are on Ryders Lane just south of Route 1.

Also on Mother's Day weekend, the Princeton Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society presents its annual Truss Show. Hours for this related event are 1-4 p.m. May 13 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 14.

Band anniversary DVD is planned

PISCATAWAY - The Superchief Band at Piscataway High School marks its 35th anniversary this year.

To mark the occasion the Superchief Band Parents Association is producing an anniversary DVD. Videotapes, 8 mm film and still photos are wanted. If you wish to share your personal collection, e-mail pwaychair@yahoo.com or call Pat Hatfield at (732) 248-9426.

Company renews 'spot' cleanup

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - Midco Residential Services has renewed its participation in the local "Adopt a Spot" program.

Company employees clean up the roadway between the transfer station on Harmich Road and the intersection of Belmont Avenue and Metuchen Road. In addition, Midco has hired a street sweeper to sweep the roadway twice a month and a landscaping company to pull out the weeds.

Sports

Saturday, April 15, 2006

Section

Patriots expecting a few good bounces

Defending Atlantic League champs eager to check out new spring training home

By ALLAN CONOVER Sports Editor

It's still Florida, but Jeff Nettles can take a deep sigh of relief. No longer will he have to react to a baseball skittering across the dirt towards him as if it were a six-foot diamondback rattlesnake.

When the Patriots and their Atlantic League of Professional Baseball cohorts held their past four spring training sessions in Homestead, infield practice was mostly a matter of retreatand-survive — that is, if anyone

dared to show up - because camp, the two fields were so poorlybegins Tuesday maintained. This year, however, the train-

ing site has been shifted north to the Detroit Tigers' Lakeland facility, where the playing conditions are infinitely superior. "I'm excited about the new

opener

Bank Park.

laugh

Commerce

"That's pretty much your answer," he finally said. "I think we're all glad to get out

location," said Nettles, the Patriots' third baseman. "Now we can get some quality time in as far as taking grounders and overall infield work." Somerset Manager Sparky Lyle can't wait to take the field

in Lakeland for the Patriots'



and then you When asked if he's pleased go down there hoping somewith the exit from Homestead, thing's been done, but nothing Lyle let out a long, hearty ever was

> they did something to improve the fields," he added. "But our guys didn't want to take grounders, and I really didn't want them taking any, either. I really was afraid someone was going to get hurt. I mean, really, that's how bad it was. They would've gotten in more infield work at our place. So we're just happy to be out of there.'

Last year, in fact, Atlantic City and Camden opted to stay home for their pre-season drills rather than travel to Homestead, which is in far southern Florida, below Miami. The Homestead site was walloped by Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and never adequately refurbished, allowed to deteriorate gradually with the passing years, almost like a ghost town. But instead of tumbleweeds, there were heavy patches of weeds and wild grass throughout the fields, ripped backstops, uneven playing surfaces sand-filled pitcher's and mounds and batter's boxes.

The Patriots and six other ALPB clubs (Atlantic City is staying home) should be startlingly impressed with what greets them in Lakeland, located in Central Florida, just east of Tampa.

"Lakeland is probably the finest facility in Florida," said Joe Klein, ALPB executive director and former Tigers general manager.

"Joe gets a lot of the credit for this," said Patrick McVerry, Somerset's president/general

manager. "He's been working of Homestead. on this a few years. I've heard One of the nothing but great things about things that got to me down the place." there was that

Lakeland, which has been the Tigers' spring training home for 70 years, has six practice fields and 7100-seat Joker Marchant Stadium, which was renovated three years ago. Lakeland also has a major- and minor-league clubhouse, which means all 180 ALPB players expected to attend will have more than adequate room.

Once the Patriots arrive in Lakeland Monday afternoon with the other squads - the ALPB is the only independent league that travels for spring training - they'll be ready to figure out a way to become the first team to successfully defend a league championship. McVerry is pleased they'll be

able to do so in a thoroughly major league atmosphere, a far cry from the past few years.

"I can't wait," he said. "It had really gotten bad in Homestead, and I think it's important that everyone is together and working on things and doing drills, especially the guys who didn't go through league-affiliated) (major spring training. You've got to get into that baseball mentality, you have to get that readi-

Somerset's starting pitching, the league's best in 2005, may be a bit thin at the moment but other pieces were falling into place with plenty of players recently signing.

Veteran rightfielder Ryan Radmanovich, among the league's top performers last year, will be playing his fourth year with the Pats, as will third baseman Jeff Nettles. Each belted 28 home runs last season, setting a team record, and Radmanovich hit a career-best 319 with 89 runs batted in and Nettles was third in the league with 99 RBI.

The return of former big-

Pats pleased to again

have Lunar catching

league catcher Fernando Lunar, who gave a huge boost to the pitching staff when he came aboard last summer, should also be a plus for the Pats

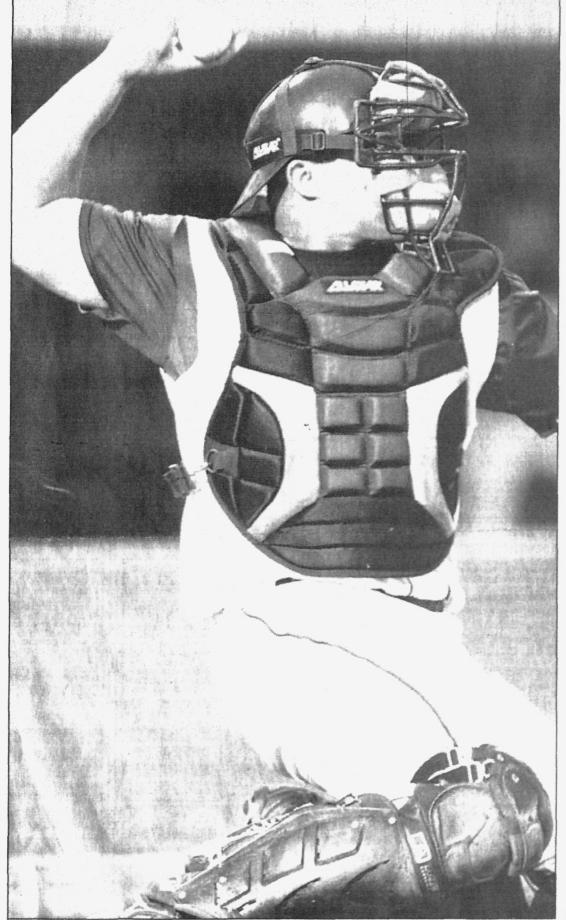
With the retirement of first baseman Todd Betts and sec-Emiliano ond baseman Escandon, the Patriots have some issues on the right side of the infield but the addition of Larry Barnes, who played 46 major league games at first base and has been a successful minor league hitter, should help there.

George Sandel, who hit .229 while playing in 94 Somerset games last year, is expected to get a full shot at the second base job. Earlier this week, there still was a possibility incumbent shortstop Kevin Nicholson would sign again as negotiations were ongoing.

Jeremy Owens, the league's All-Star centerfielder in '05, has begun the season in the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' farm system but the Pats are hoping Mike Lockwood, who's had four seasons of Triple-A experience with the Oakland Athletics and Boston Red Sox, can fill that huge vacancy. Owens hit .290 with 24 homers and also swiped 29 bases last year.

Greg Modica, who went 7-7 with a 4.84 earned run average and made a team-high 21 starts last season, will be with Somerset again but the Pats will arrive in Lakeland with many question marks regarding the rest of the pitching rotation because most of the other hurlers who've signed to this point have been primarily relievers.

Todd Moser (3-5, 5.00), who had 12 starts among his 35 appearances for the Pats in 2005, has also signed again and newcomers who could make an impact are lefthander Chris Zallie and ex-big leaguers Hector Almonte and Andy Van Hekken.



"It might've been OK there if

every

vear

they'd tell us

things will be

getting better,

GEORGE PACCIELLO'STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fernando Lunar, who hit .292 and did a superb job handling the pitching staff after joining the team last summer, will again be doing the catching for the Somerset Patriots. Somerset, which won its third Atlantic League of Professional Baseball championship in 2005, begins its spring training week in Lakeland, Fla. Tuesday.

onship season was brought into discussion one late-winter afternoon, Manager Sparky Lyle wanted very much to make one point clear in a hurry: Don't overlook the impact made by catcher Fernando Lunar, who joined the Pats in early August.

"Look at how many pitchers we lost last year," said Lyle, "and then just about everybody was winning games for us late in the season and one of the biggest factors was Lunar taking over that staff.

"When you have a major league catcher back there calling the games and making the pitchers work, it does something for you. I'd see our pitchers come in and Lunar patting them on the back and talking to them and communicating between innings. The pitchers liked throwing to him.

"It would be great to see him get a job in Triple-A, but we'd love to have him back here if those were the circumstances."

Well, as it turned out, the circumstances were never better for the Patriots, who late last week signed Lunar for the upcoming ALPB campaign. Somerset also acquired another catcher, Travis Anderson, in a trade from the Camden Riversharks for pitcher Nick Stocks.

"We feel Fernando and Travis are going to give us a lot of depth at the catching position," said Sylvester and Keith Ramsey.

When the Somerset Patriots' 2005 champi- Lyle after being informed Lunar had signed again. "We're glad to have Lunar back."

Besides adding considerable stability to the pitching staff during the season's final 41 games. Lunar also contributed his fair share while swinging the bat, hitting .292 with eight doubles, five home runs and 22 runs batted in.

Lunar played 95 games in the majors with the Atlanta Braves and Baltimore Orioles and also has four seasons of Triple-A experience with the Orioles, Kansas City Royals, Chicago Cubs and New York Mets organizations. He began the 2005 season with Norfolk, the Mets' Triple-A affiliate, before signing with the Pats.

To get Anderson, the Patriots traded the rights to Stocks, who appeared in 24 games (17 starts) last year, going 6-6 with a 4.01 earned run average

Anderson spent the past three seasons with Camden, where he had a .309 average with 33 doubles and 65 RBI in 173 games. During the '05 campaign he hit .331 in 54 games. Also with two years in the Braves organization, Anderson's career average is .292 in 250 games.

During the past week Somerset also has signed outfielder Mike Lockwood, ex-major league first baseman Larry Barnes and pitchers Jason Olson, Hector Almonte, Andy Van Hekken, Billy

Big second quarter powers Spartan victory

Immaculata High doesn't seem to be the opponent you'd prefer to face if your defense has been a bit erratic.

That's what Bridgewater-Raritan discovered, especially during a game-altering second period, during Monday afternoon's clash won by the host Spartans 10-8 in Somerville.

The Spartans (3-1), who earned their third successive victory over Bridgewater-Raritan in the past two seasons, watched the Panthers (1-3) dominate the opening quarter before blitzing the visitors with seven unanswered goals in the next stanza for a 7-3 halftime cushion.

"The quality of our shots in the first period wasn't good," said Tom Mott, Immaculata's head coach, "but in the second quarter we played a lot less one-on-one and became much more passing oriented.

"Just about every minute

we'd get a goal, win the face- the off, possess the ball, get into a settled offense, and it produced."

With players like Brian Shemesh, Alex Glowatz and freshman sensation Matt Janssen, the Spartans certainly have guys who can produce, as the Panthers found out.

"We didn't play too well," said B-R Head Coach Chuck Apel, whose troops fell for the third straight time since a season-opening victory over Montgomery. "We need to play better defense. We're just not playing well on defense. We have to be more physical. We tend to let people walk through us. We're allowing too many open cutters."

B-R did well enough in the early going, forging a 3-0 lead, a margin that stood until Glowatz took a feed from Shemesh and fired the ball

second = period. "With

down 3-0, I felt the next goal was going to be huge," said Mott. "If we'd fallen behind 4-0, I don't know if we would've recovered. Once we scored that first one, there was a different sense about playing."

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Glowatz and Shemesh began to control the face-offs and Immaculata, which posted assists on every goal it scored, was spending a majority of its time in B-R territory. Set up by Joe Zagari, Shemesh snapped a 3-all deadlock with 4:31 remaining in the half and by the intermission, the home ream was comfortably ahead.

"Our face-off middies just got behind a bit, Immaculata started winning all the faceoffs and we struggled and into the net five minutes into they were able to string a

together," said Apel. "Then we came back **BOYS LACROSSE** and did better in the second

> half and got back into it." But shots by Glowatz and Janssen, who finished the day with three goals apiece, kept Immaculata in front in the third session.

Immaculata, which held a 12-10 edge in face-offs, also got goals from Rich Dupras, Zagari and Nick Mazzaferro while Janssen had three assists and Glowatz and Shemesh two apiece. Goalie Ryan Adam made 11 saves.

B-R's Nick Federici, who handed out three assists, scored twice, as did Chris Jones and Dan Flecca, while Will Clark and Ryan Nepveux also scored.

Immaculata, which strug gled considerably last spring a huge thing."

bunch of goals with a young squad (8-12), still managed to knock off B-R 8-7 in a double-overtime regular-season battle and then romped 10-3 over the same foe in the Somerset County Tournament. The Spartans seem intent on proving they're no longer just fledglings in the sport.

> They have good athletes,' said Apel. "They're not a bad team. They're really pretty solid in a lot of spots

> Just as Mott anticipated entering the season.

We were so inexperienced last year, we kind of knew it would be a building thing," he said. "But I think we benefited from suffering last year. We're much better this year. We're a lot deeper, probably the deepest team I've ever had. I'm playing more people than I ever have. I can survive injuries better now, and that's

Last Week:

CBA 7, B-R 4 - Flecca had two goals and Jones and Clark added one each during Saturday's loss to Christian Brothers Academy (2-1) in Lincroft.

Jones's shot had pulled the Panthers even at 4-all before CBA scored three unanswered goals in the final seven minutes of the third period. Alan Matusiewicz set up Flecca's first goal and Kevin Andersen had the assist on his second shot with 9:38 left in the third stanza, which cut the Colts' lead to 4-3 at the time.

Ridge 13, B-R 9 - Nick Federici scored a game-high four goals for the Panthers, who faced a 7-5 deficit at halftime of the April 5 clash against visiting Ridge (1-1). Jones had two goals and three assists and Flecca had two goals and an assist.

IMMACULATA BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN



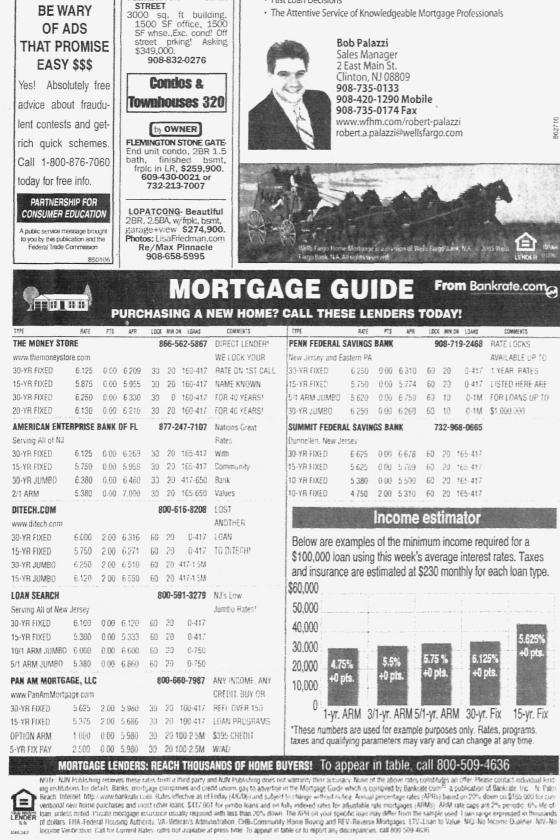
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