

# Bike hall of fame still seeks a home

#### By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE - From the very beginning, the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame never had a home to call its own

This week, the Borough Council slammed the door once again. On Monday night officials deferred

a request from the Hall of Fame for \$25,000 that would fund a study and help market a large-scale capital campaign that would enable it to find a new - permanent - home. When the borough signed the rede-

velopment agreement Edgewood Properties, the developer the Downtown Somerville Shopping Center, it included a \$100,000 donation to the borough, which Mayor Brian Gallagher said was "potentially earmarked" for the hall.

"All along, the understanding has been it would be for the Bicycling Hall of Fame if it could prove the ability to sustain itself," he said.

as the project has not yet even bro-

**IMMIGRATION AT A CROSSROADS** 

with ken ground.

"We only have a \$25,000 deposit from the developer so far," Gallagher said. "I think council will be a little hesitant to give that out before the project's completed.'

That doesn't mean, however, that the hall won't ever get the funds.

Council President Robert Wilson said the hall also needs to make a commitment to stay in the borough before the council gives it the funds. "At this point, we don't know if the hall is going to return to Somerville," he said. "We don't want to give them

\$25,000 if they're going to be moving elsewhere.'

Rich Reitman, a member of the board of trustees for the organization, founded in 1987, said the hall has research and looked at a "few properties" in and around the borough, though he would not comment further on their location.

Though the request was deferred, the council invited the hall to seek funds again once it selected a location and once the redevelopment

Continued on page A2

# Thrilling finishes

Although they didn't fare that well in terms of ultimate success, the Somerset Patriots made things exciting for area fans as they took two games to extra innings and won another in their final at-bat during the opening weekend of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball season at Commerce Bank Ballpark. Page B1.

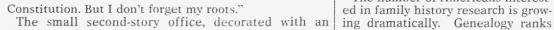
## A taste in **Piscataway**

PISCATAWAY --- Chef Andrew Pantano, host of the "Patriot Panache" cable-television program, will headline the list of area restaurants at this year's Rotary social event "The Taste of Piscataway." He is owner and executive chef of Culinary Creations located in Hillsborough Township and, through his television show broadcast on Patriot Media, teaches his audience how to transform everyday ingredients into delicious dishes. Pantano will demonstrate and serve a savory favorite of his to all in attendance. Other featured restaurants include Applebees, BJ Wholesalers, Café Havana, Cricket Hill Brewers, Culinary Creations, Ellingtons, Famous Dave's Ribs, The Edison Job Corps Culinary Institute, The Grand Buffet, L.A. Food Services, Piscataway Vo Tech Culinary Institute, Red Lobster, Spain Inn, Township Liquors Wine Vendors, and Wegman's Food Markets. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites, Centennial Avenue, 6-9:30 p.m. Monday. Tickets, which are \$30, are

Felix Garcia speaks office Jersey.

COURTESY GARCIA FAMILY

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer



**BOUND BROOK Birthday** 'party' to continue

BOUND BROOK - The borough will continue its celebration with another ceremony commemorating the 325th anniversary of Bound Brook to be held at the Old Presbyterian Graveyard 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary sponsored a physical refurbishing of the historic Old Presbyterian Graveyard located at the corner of East and East High Streets, adjacent to the Bound Brook Memorial Library. Members of the club cleaned up the neglected site and placed two new bronze signs at the entrance to identify the graveyard. The club has committed to keeping the graveyard in good condition with regularly scheduled maintenance days.

Aided by an initial gift from the Rotary, two Bound Brook Memorial Library employees, Mary Nelson and Cynthia Santiago, created an elec-tronic file of the known interred in the Old Presbyterian Graveyard. This information is posted on the Internet, so anyone with an interest in Bound Brook's past or the Bound Brook inhabitants of the 18th and 19th centuries may access a wealth of genealogical information from any Internet computer.

The number of Americans interested in family history research is grow-

about proposed legislation that would toughen immigration law from his new in North Plainfield. Garcia, who emigrated from Ecuador in 2000, was a civil rights attorney. He will specialize in helping immigrants living in Central

#### But the council was hesitant at this point to dole any of those funds out





available by calling Gary at (732) 980-2215 or Dave at (732) 271-8951, and will also be available at the door.

## Take a break

BRIDGEWATER -Bridgewater Marriott and Children's Technology Workshop are working together to provide families an overnight Family Fun Package today and tomorrow that will have kids exploring, inventing and creating with technologies like robotics, animation and video game design, while giving their parents an opportunity to shop, get pampered at a spa or go for a horseback riding lesson. Reservations for the Family Fun Package can be made by visiting www.bridgewatermarriott.com or calling (888) 887-7869

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CommentaryA5	
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Sports	
Weekend PlusA3	

NORTH PLAINFIELD - On a day when hundreds of thousands of immigrants across the nation put their jobs and school aside to protest for citizenship and amnesty, Felix Garcia proudly went to work on Monday.

Protesters took to the streets in cities across the nation to oppose a bill that calls for stricter immigration laws to toughen penalties against the country's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants and those who help them.

For Garcia, though, Monday was a new beginning - the first day at work in his new borough office. Garcia, who moved to the United States from Ecuador in 2000, set up shop as a legal consultant.

Before moving to the states, Garcia was a civil rights attorney. He's currently pursuing his attorney licenses in the United States, however a fire last year at the Green Brook home he shares with his wife, delayed the process. For the past year The Reporter has followed the couple as they have rebuilt their home.

But just because he doesn't officially have his license in the United States, doesn't mean that Garcia can't help the surrounding community that often reminds him of home.

"The largest population of Hispanics and people from Ecuador are in North, central and South Plainfield," said Garcia, who is a notary public. "I love the flag of the United States. I gave my oath to the flag and to the

American Flag and Garcia's degrees and citizenship certificate, has already received several clients.

'The immigrants already are coming to my office for problems with drugs, traffic violations and immigration," he said. "I will give legal advice and I have attorneys who will work for me."

Garcia will guide his clients with legal issues and can refer them to organizations, attorneys and other services if necessary. He expects the majority of his cases to focus on immigration issues. He'll be working with Frederick Bojum, a borough attorney, who could use Garcia's knowledge.

"I, as an attorney, do not handle immigration issues," Bojum said. "I'll send them to him. I'll backstop him with clients he many not be able to handle, for an appearance in court, for example. He, perhaps, could be a translator for me.'

The opening of the office on Monday was a symbolic gesture.

"Here, most Hispanics didn't go to work," Garcia said. "It was a way of protesting for amnesty and a new law. I respect the protest and I hope to have a good law soon."

Garcia said he'd support a law that grants citizenship to people who've been in the United States for more than

Continued on page A2

third as the most popular pastime in the country, behind stamp collecting and coin collecting. Over the past decade, the Internet, email and electronic document delivery have helped to feed this explosive interest in genealogy and libraries are working to meet these specialized needs in creative ways. Cemetery transcriptions provide birth and death information for an ancestor. Family relationships become apparent or can be further explored from information on gravestones and their proximity to one another.

The Old Presbyterian Graveyard dates from the early 1700s.

There are likely many unmarked graves from the late 1600s as well. Interest in this cemetery often stems from the fact that there are seventy or so Revolutionary War soldiers buried there, approximately forty-five of which are identified. There

Continued on page A2

## Pats, fans take on Somerville



GEORGE PACCIELLO'STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Somerset Patriots, the 2005 Atlantic League of Professional Baseball champions, were joined by community groups, including Little League players, in the Parade of Heroes, which took place Tuesday down Main Street in Somerville. The Patriots 2006 season began last Friday at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. For more on the parade and opening-night festivities, Page A6. For more on the team's first games, Page B1.

# **Pope recognizes** service in diocese

Pope Benedict XVI has bestowed pontifical honors upon 25 priests, religious and laity in the Diocese of Metuchen in recognition of their distinguished service to the church and the diocese. The honorees were nominated by Bishop Paul Gregory Bootkoski, who conferred the pontifical awards in a recentlyheld special prayer service at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

In asking the pope to grant the papal honors, Bootkoski noted that the honorees have made significant contributions to the mission of the church and that recognizing them would be a special way for the diocese to commemorate its 25th anniver-

Five members of the laity will become knights in the Order of St. Gregory the Great. First established by Pope Gregory XVI in 1831 to honor citizens of the Papal States, the order is conferred on persons who are distinguished for rare personal character and reputation, and for extraordinary, notable accomplishments. It is the highest order of knighthood in the Catholic Church that a layman can attain.

The new knights are:

Robert E. Campbell, a generous benefactor of the diocese, particularly in the areas of Catholic education and campus ministry.

Anthony P. LaRocco, chief legal counsel for the

Continued on page A2

Saturday, May 6, 2006

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# Birthday 'party' to continue with ceremony commemorating 325th

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are also a handful of soldiers from the War of 1812, the United States-Mexican War and the Civil War.

## **Speaks**

#### Continued from page A1

two years, have been working during that time and in are good standing. However, he thinks that those people should have to pay a penalty and pay taxes.

going this fall,

with

"My kids were amazed at the look into history that the cemetery provided," said Laura Shreve, a member of the Bound Brook/Middlesex Rotary. "As they cleaned leaves & removed

On Monday, local officials

and Garcia's family, gathered

at the office in celebration of

its grand opening. Business in

the borough that day was fair-

"Some people (in the bor-

said John

ough) closed their store in

Hadzitheodorou, Garcia's

landlord. "People are upset at

the description of being

debris from the grave markers, they were taking in all this information."

felons."

Garcia's

odd.'

tice.

she said.

quiet on Monday.

Prior to the start of this project, anyone interested in accessing the records of those

But in other areas, shops

and plants closed, their main

work force, Hispanic immi-

grants, walked off the job to

protest for their rights. Garcia's wife, Fawnda

Genovese Garcia, who is a

teacher in a Newark school,

said the halls were especially

were out," she said. "It was so

Mayor Janice Allen is

pleased Garcia chose the bor-

ough for the home of his prac-

"There are a number of peo-

ple in our borough that need help," she said. "We're a very

diverse community and I'm

sure he'll be able to give them

Allen has already sought

Garcia's legal advice. The

father of one of her pre-school

students has been held in a

detention center in Elizabeth

since November because of

he's in the country illegally,

"His little girls haven't seen

him," she said. "I hope he will

the right information."

"One-third of our students

interred in the cemetery had to visit the library in person to view handwritten transcriptions dating from the 1920s, when the headstones were more legible. Many of the cemetery's head-

"There have been problems

for years," Allen said. "A

group opened an immigration

services and people were pay-

ing for services they could

have gotten for free. They

were paying for information

Bojum's heard the horror

"I heard a story about a

butcher in Jersey City who

had a little sign in the corner

of his window that said 'immi-

gration," he said. "He'd tell

people what he could do and

they gave him money. He

Those scams are common in

areas heavily populated by

immigrants, Garcia pointed

to an office where they said give me \$1,000, \$2,000 (to get their citizenship)," he said.

"They give them the money

but they never get their

papers. They're afraid to go to

the police. I'm going to fight

"A lot of people have gone

never did a damn thing."

that was readily available."

stories too.

out.

make false promises.

stones have disappeared. With this transcribed data

appearing at www.interment.net, genealogical researchers will be able to read a brief history of the ceme-

tery and an alphabetical list of the approximately six hundred known interred. The town name of Bound Brook will be searchable, as well as individual surnames.

#### Bike hall of fame seeks home Likewise, noted Allen, Garcia will guide immigrants away from businesses that

#### Continued from page A1

project gets underway. In the meantime, the hall will look for funds elsewhere. "We're undertaking a major fundraising campaign and we need seed money," Reitman said. "The hall is going to exist whether it's in Somerville, Allentown, Penn. or Carlson, Calif." Since its inception, almost 20 years ago, the hall, a nonprofit organization, has barely survived on donations. grants and entry fees from cycling events throughout the vear -- most notably the Tour of Somerville, a Memorial Day

race held since 1940. In its 20 years, the organization has moved to five locations in and outside of the borough. Currently, it leases space at the Van Horne House from the Heritage Trail Association in a Main Street location in Bridgewater. Prior to that, it was on Main Street in the borough in the shopping center. It's looking to stop the shuffle and find a

home for itself near or around Somerville.

"Since the hall was founded in Somerville and North Jersey was the birthplace of American bicycle racing, the board has a strong desire to establish a permanent museum in the region," William Brunner, the president of the hall's board of trustees, wrote in a letter to the council.

But with its request put off by the council, the Hall could be tempted to go where the money is.

"If the local community wants us here, it should show that interest," Reitman said. That statement, said Reitman, shouldn't be considered as a threat.

"Our allegiance is obviously made with Somerville," he said. "But if we get an offer we can't refuse, we might move from Somerville."

Over the years, the hall has collected bicycling memorabilia — including the famous yellow shirt worn by Greg LeMond.

### against the corruption." be able to help." Pope recognizing service in local diocese

#### Continued from page A1

diocese since 1998.

Joseph A. Luciano, formerly the highest ranking statewide officer in the Knights of Columbus and a tireless advocate for priests and seminarians. John P. Mulkerin, longtime

board member and generous benefactor of Catholic Diocese Charities, of Metuchen.

the board of trustees of Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick and the diocese's general secretary for administrative and legal

-services In addition, Joseph Tabak became the first non-Catholic in the diocese to receive a papal honor when he became a knight in the Order of Pope St. Sylvester. The order is conferred on

society live exemplary lives. Tabak has served for many years on a number of boards at Saint Peter's University Hospital.

Two priests, a brother and six sisters received the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. These recipients are Right Rev. Thomas J. Confroy, Rev. Neil W. Davin, Sister Theresina Flannery, Sister M. Kateri Hawley, Sister Julia Jamink, Sister Felipa Lara, Sister Veronica Roche, Sister

Mary Aquinas Szott and Brother Robert Ziobro.

In addition, 10 laypeople received the Benemerenti Medal for meritorious service to the church. They are Samuel V. Convery, Margaret Garvey-Mitchell, Rosemarie Gazaleh, · Carol M. MacDermott, Marianne C. Majewski, Lawrence V. Nagle, Judith A. Psota, Joseph L. Powell Jr., Sheryl Slonim and Thomas G.





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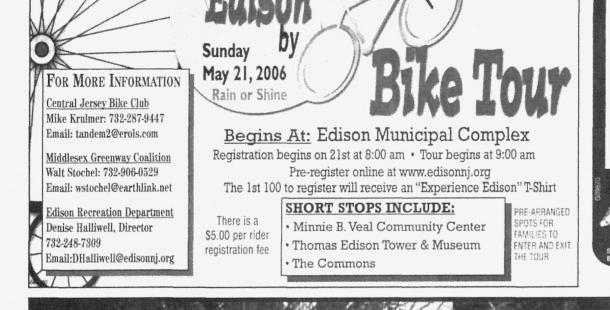
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#### College to honor Holocaust survivors

EDISON - A recognition ceremony is planned for May 11 at Middlesex County College to celebrate the lifetime achievements of Holocaust survivors.

From 2-4 p.m. on Thursday Holocaust survivors who live in Middlesex County will be honored at a reception and ceremony.

In conjunction with the New Jersey Commission for Holocaust Education, the College will celebrate survivors and honor them for their lifetime achievements.

Many of them were children during the Holocaust, and were in Concentration Camps when they would have been in school.

Liberated from the camps as young adults, many went directly to work. Despite being denied an education, they went on to achieve success in their lives.

For additional information or to attend, e-mail Linda\_Friedman@ middlesexcc.edu or call (732) 906-2602.

#### Seeking groups for Edison parade

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 interested in marching in the parade should call Evelyn Kraszewski at (732) 548-4648.

#### Rutgers alumni symphony concert

The Rutgers University Alumni Wind Symphony holds its spring concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 13 at the Nicholas Music Center, New Brunswick.

The symphony is a non-profit ensemble under the direction of Nicholas Santoro and Nanette O'Neal, both of whom are Rutgers alumni, Musicians include Rutgers alumni and those who have not attended the university

Admission is free. For more information, call William Mele at (732) 951-1993.

Nicholas Music Center is at 85 George St., near Route 18. 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

Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce 5 p.m. May 18.

In The Towns

There will be hors d'oeuvres, entertainment by The Joisey Bounce and a champagne toast. Chef Jimmy Trabelsi is a graduate of the Culinary School of Milano Marittima in Italy, where he worked for some of the finest restaurants in the region. He furthered his studies at the Culinary Institute of America in

New York City. Mixing his old world knowledge with contemporary techniques, Trabelsi worked at some of the finest restaurants in New York City, including The Plaza and the New York Athletic Club on Central Park South until finally realizing his dream of opening his own restaurant.

With the help of his wife, Fern, and an emphasis on natural and organic ingredients, he is presenting his menu of "new American cuisine."

For additional information, visit www.alessio426.com.

#### Lions schedule their flea market

METUCHEN - The Metuchen Lions Club holds its 33rd semiannual flea market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 10 in the New Street parking lot.

Spaces are \$18 each and measure 18 x 20 feet. Vendors are wanted; call (732) 906-8899 or (732) 549-2581. Rain date is Saturday, June 17. Radio club

### **builds Hamfest**

PISCATAWAY --- The Raritan Valley Radio Club holds its annual Hamfest and flea market from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 17 at Piscataway High School. Spaces for sellers are \$6 each unit. Admission for buyers is \$6. For more information, visit www.w2qw.org or call (732) 968-7789 before 8 p.m. The radio club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. School poetry

winners named

EDISON - The Edison Arts Society has announced the winners of its 2006 school poetry competition: Grade 12 --- Matthew Strom, Metuchen High School. Grade 11 --- Luming Li, John P. Stevens High School? Grade 10 --- Victoria James. Metuchen High School. Grade 9 --- Olga Kislvanova, John P. Stevens High School. Grade 8 --- Erik Pasierski,

Edgar Middle School, Metuchen. Grade 7 --- Dweep Mehta, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Grade 6 - Ajit Unnam, Thomas

Jefferson Middle School.

In addition, winners and runners-up will receive a booklet with the winning poems and a list of honorable mention

#### New program focuses on coping with stress

Residents of Bound Brook, Manville, North Plainfield, Somerville and South Bound Brook who are between ages 21-64 have a unique opportunity to learn new ways of coping with stress while receiving gift cards and free dinner on a weekly basis

The Somerset Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency is offering a free weekly program, "Bridge to Success," which meets for eight

sessions of two hours each. Hot dinner and gift cards are provided to participants each week

Transportation and child care are available on request. Two groups are currently in

progress; one meets Tuesday evening and the other meets Thursday evening. Others are scheduled to begin

soon. "Bridge to Success" can also be offered on-site to interested groups of 8-12 people who meet residency and age requirements. For more information, call (908) 722-4900. Funding for "Bridge to Success" is provided by a grant



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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.

#### Meutchen welcomes new restaurant

METUCHEN --- Alessio Restaurant 426 will celebrate its Grand Opening with an official ribbon cutting ceremony performed by Metuchen Mayor Ed O'Brien and representatives of the

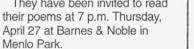
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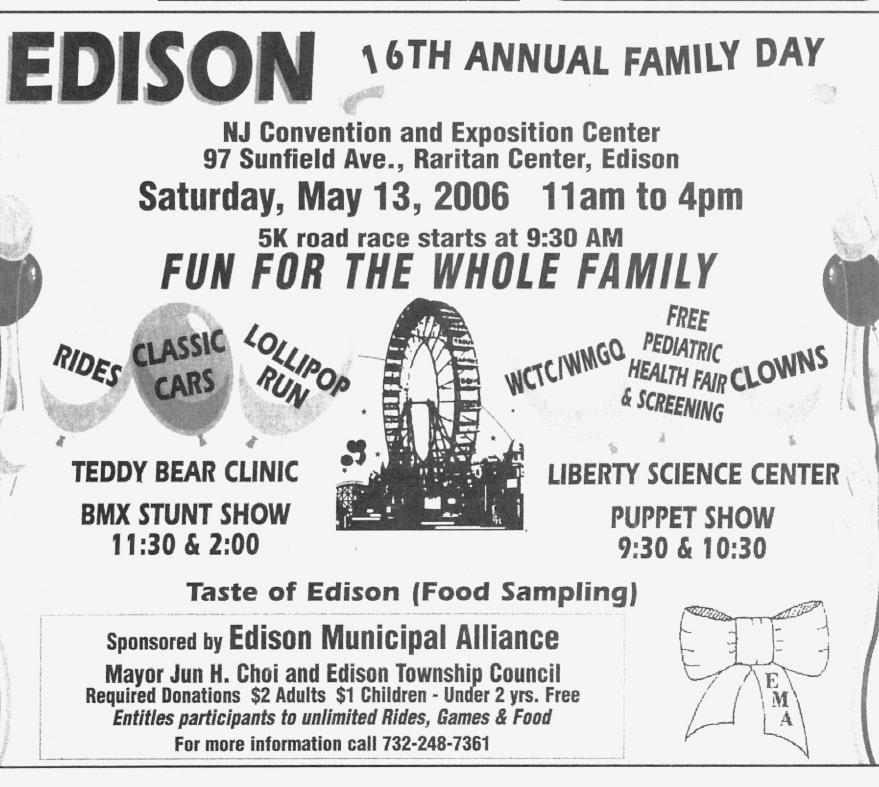


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Saturday, May 6, 2006

## In The Towns

#### Knights held 'Special Citizens' fund raiser

SOUTH PLAINFIELD -Knights of Columbus Council 6203 ran its Special Citizens Drive from April 20-23.

Over \$8,000 was collected in the four-day event. Proceeds will be donated to the Keystone Community Residence in South Plainfield, the McAuley School in North Plainfield and the Midland School in North Branch.

Grand Knight Joseph Scrudato and William Butrico were chairmen of the Special Citizens Drive.

#### Paint a T-shirt at the library

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how to paint a T-shirt. Bring one white T-shirt, all washed and ironed. Fee is \$1. Registration is required; call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

#### Parents invited to local workshop

DUNELLEN - The Board of Education sponsors a parent workshop at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Lincoln Middle School, 400 Dunellen.

Motivational speaker Nelson Baez talks about "Diversity Within Our Community." Babysitting is available; call Nellie Eyerman at (732) 968-3226, Ext. 16.

#### Ad graphics, photos featured at MCC show

EDISON - Middlesex County College holds its annual Media Arts and Design Exhibition featuring advertising graphics and photography.

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Support groups

This exhibition can be seen through Tuesday in the Performing Arts Gallery on the main MCC campus at 2600 Woodbridge Ave. This new gallery occupies a large portion of the Performing Arts Center and Studio Theater.

for the second second

"For the first time all students have been invited to exhibit their work, not only seniors," said curator and faculty member Francine Krimsky. The gallery is open to the

public from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays

#### SBB school board looks to fill vacancy

SOUTH BOUND BROOK ----Applicants are being sought to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education.

They must be U.S. citizens who are able to read and write. Applicants must have lived in South Bound Brook at least one year and be registered to vote in the borough.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent by May 10 to South Bound Brook Board of Education, Attn: Patricia

At Edison

Township's

24th

ANNUAL

Leonhardt, 122 Elizabeth St. South Bound Brook, NJ 08880. If you have any questions, call Leonhardt at (732) 356-0018, Ext. 313.

#### Project Law essay winners to be honored

The Middlesex County Bar Foundation is holding a dinner to honor winners of the seventh annual Project Law essay contest for high school students. This dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick, home of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Project Law winners for 2006 are:

Persuasive essay - Nicole Aiello, South Plainfield High School, grand prize; Julia Tsang, John P. Stevens High School, first place. Personal narrative --- Amee Vora, John P. Stevens High School, grand prize; Christine Salvarani, John P. Stevens High School, first place.

Research essay - Meha Patel, John P. Stevens High School, grand prize; Melanie

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- 328 Plainfield Ave. (732) 248-7313 • Daily 8 am - 4:30 pm

Harker, John P. Stevens High School, first place.

Their essays will be read at the dinner by Barry Albin, a justice on the New Jersey

Supreme Court; Susan Reisner, a judge in the Appellate Division of New Jersey Superior Court; and Glenn Berman, presiding judge in the Family Part of New Jersey Superior Court.

In addition, the Noor ul-Iman School in South Brunswick will be honored as winners of the 2005-06 Middlesex County Mock Trial championships. For dinner reservations, call (732) 828-3433, Ext. 101.

#### **PSE&G** sponsors MCC scholarships

EDISON - Ten new scholarships at Middlesex County College are being funded by Public Service Electric & Gas Co.

The \$1,000 grants are available to qualified MCC students enrolled in an engineering technologies program. Preference is given to students in the Energy Utility Technology program. Students in these programs

at

Frank J. Papaianni, Jr

**Memorial Park** 

(Central Ave. Park)

study for an associate's degree from MCC and, after graduation, may receive an opportunity to take a career position with PSE&G.

For an application, visit www.mcc-foundation.org or the Middlesex County College Foundation office on the main MCC campus at 2600 Woodbridge Ave. Applications must be received by Friday.

#### Mother's Day flower sale

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The Ladies Auxiliary to South Bound Brook Fire Company No. 1 holds a Mother's Day flower sale next weekend.

Sale hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 13 at the firehouse on Edgewood Terrace. Bedding plants, geraniums, hanging baskets, house plants, African violets and novelties are featured.

#### Dance for widows and widowers set

MIDDLESEX - The Somerset-Hunterdon WOWs hold a dance for widows and widowers at 7 p.m. Friday, May 19 at the American Legion hall on Legion Place, off Mountain Avenue. Dances are usually the third Friday of every month. For full information, call (732) 469-0626.

#### Temple planning a breakfast with Rabbi

METUCHEN - The Sisterhood and the Men's Club of Temple Neve Shalom sponsor "Breakfast with the Rabbi" at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 11.

This meal is in the synagogue at 250 Grove Ave. Admission is by a donation of nonperishable kosher food for a kosher food pantry. For more information. call (732) 548-2238

#### Meal honors temple service participants

METUCHEN - Temple Neve Shalom holds a luncheon in June to honor those who participated in services over the past year. The luncheon follows the 9:30 a.m. service on Saturday, June 24 in the synagogue at 250 Grove Ave. For more, email can2r11@aol.com or call Sheldon Levin at (732) 548-2238. Ext. 14.



The Chronicle

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#### The Chronicle

Somerset Patriots host event at Commerce Bank Ballpark; free tickets to all participants

The Chronicle and the Somerset Patriots, sponsors of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, have put out a call for volunteers to help package and prepare boxes for shipping to U.S. troops stationed overseas.

The May 27 event will be held at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater and will be the fifth high-profile event organized by OPSHBX since its inception last year.

Volunteers will select toiletry and snack items from marked bins and place them in plastic bags which are then sealed and placed into boxes for shipping. Registration will take place beginning at 11 a.m. and the packing will begin at noon after a short orientation session.

Refreshments will be available at the ballpark's concession stand.

Over the past 15 months, OPSHBX has raised over \$75,000 and shipped 6,000 care packages to U.S. armed services personnel in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

The goal is to package at least 1,000 boxes. The United States Postal Service will park a portable postal unit at the ballpark to help expedite the shipping process.

Volunteers will be joined by some of the Patriots ballplayers and members of the armed forces who have returned home from serving in the Mideast.

Previous OPSHBX events in Bridgewater, Somerville, Franklin and Manville succeeded because of the efforts of hard-working, earnest volunteers, many of them youngsters from Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, school clubs, church and synagogue organizations and civic groups. We encourage youth groups, Little League teams and school organizations to participate, but we ask that these groups have adult supervision as well.

We plan on finishing up between 4 and 5 p.m. to allow enough time for the Patriots'



staff to get ready for the 7:05 game against the p.m. Pennsylvania Road Warriors.

To acknowledge the hard work of each volunteer, the Patriots will provide a free ticket to a future game.

Those interested in participating must pre-register by call-ing (908) 575-6684 or via email at rhirsch@njnpublishing.com. Further information is available at the Patriots website,

www.somersetpatriots.com and nj.com/shoeboxnj or by calling (908) 575-6684.

#### Photos from Iraq

The photo accompanying today's column is one of several that were sent to us by Staff Sgt. Sais Singh, a 1993 graduate of Somerville High School who arrived in Iraq last November.

Singh has written often, and sent images of himself and his fellow soldiers mingling with Iraqi civilians; this time, however, his photos show the dark, ominous realities of what they face each day. The captions accompanying each photo are equally chilling - "bomb making stuff;" "car bomb remains;" "mortars and small mines."

Singh writes: "An Iraqi police officer that I have become acquainted with very excitedly came over to me and said 'Sergeant Sais, we found some explosives.

I responded, 'Where are they?

He points to a spot on the ground about two feet away and says 'right here.'

The photo shows a variety of mortar shells and artillery rounds.

#### Alice in the Attic

"Alice in The Attic," an original play now in rehearsals and featuring dozens of young Branchburg students, has been dedicated to U.S. troops deployed overseas.

Presented by the township's Recreation Department May 19-20 at the Whiton Road School, this marks the third time the student performers have dedicated their evening performances to U.S. military personnel.

The cast will be visited by several soldiers and Marines who have returned from the Mideast, and who were recipients of care packages shipped overseas by Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 volunteers.

Last April, the students performed "Darn Yanks" and later that year, "I Love Lulu." Both times, the cast, numbering dozens of grade school and middle school students, asked audience members to donate supplies, and drop them off at the performances in lieu of paid admission.

The donated goods, and cash contributions, have been delivered to Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 headquarters at The Chronicle office each time where they were sorted and shipped overseas. Many of the students will attend the May 27 shipping date at the ballpark.

All shows have been sell outs, with more than 600 people attending each performance.

The Recreation Department next week will send home information sheets with each student, including the list of items requested by the troops.

The list includes suntan lotion, non-aerosol bug repellent, lip balm, batteries, eye drops, powder, gum and hard candy, dry drink mixes, beef jerky, pull-top canned fruit and canned tuna, snack and cereal bars, pretzels, chips and crackers (snack size packages).

## **Financial contributions needed**

Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005 and The Hunterdon County Bulldogs Marine detachment are seeking cash donations in support of their ongoing effort to supply American forces overseas with a steady supply of person-

organization under the Internal Revenue Service code. All contributions are tax-deductible.

All contributions are dedicated to the purchase of supplies and costs of shipping. Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005 is an all-volun-

Checks should be made out Hunterdon to County Bulldogs, with the instructions "Operation Shoebox N.J 2005" written on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Operation Shoebox New



Mortar shells and artillery rounds uncovered in a Baghdad neighborhood are pictured in this photograph taken by Army SSgt. Sais Singh, a 1993 graduate of Somerville High School.

Performances are Friday, May actor Joe Lisi, who's appeared 19, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Further information is available by calling the Recreation Department at (908) 526-1300, extension 187.

#### Champagne Open

Golfers are needed to tee off in support of U.S. troops overseas Slots are available for four-

somes in the 6th annual June 7 Champagne Open held at Beaver Brook Country Club in Annandale.

The Champagne Open was one of last year's biggest fund raising events for OPSHBX, with golfers and corporations contributing more than \$10,000 to help the cause.

This year's event will also feature several celebrities, including former "Saturday Night Live" comic Joe Piscopo, a strong OPSHBX supporter since its founding last year and

in The Sopranos, Law and Order, Third Watch and other TV series and movies. Lisi, who served in The Marines, is also hoping to bring other New York actors, all Army and Marine veterans.

The day includes a round of golf, cocktail hour and awards dinner.

The fee is \$200 per golfer; hole sponsorships are also available.

It's a great day for a noble cause.

Call "Champagne" Tony D'Angelo at (201) 896-6251 for further information.

#### Student activities

Scott Pierson, a senior at Parsippany Hills High School in Morris County is coordinating a collection drive for OPSHBX at his school, with 75 classrooms participating.

In addition to collecting items

for shipment to the troops, several of the classrooms are writing letters to be included in the packages.

"I believe we should do everything we can to help our troops," Pierson said. "They sacrifice so much; it's the least we can do to help out."

Pierson will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and hopes to become an aviator.

We also received a call from Shannon Zimmitti Branchburg on behalf of the state 4-H Clubs this week who tells us that the organization will be conducting a collection drive to benefit OPSHBX this month and next. Macy Compton will be coordinating the effort from her office in New Brunswick.

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

Saturday, May 6, 2006

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al items, toiletries and snacks. The Hunterdon County Bulldogs, whose members are Marine veterans, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit seas.

teer operation. Depending on weight, it costs between \$8 and \$15 to ship each box over-

Jersey 2005 c/o The Chronicle 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East Somerville, NJ 08876

Tulsi Maharjan, Ph.D. **Director Governmental** Relations, Raritan **Community College** 

# Patriot How 'bout you?

Tulsi Maharjan is a community activist and as a member of the Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition played an instrumental role in the 2005 Bound Brook Community Festival, a celebration of ethnic entertainment, food and crafts. He helped raise over \$500 for Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 through the sale of festival t shirts. The coali tion, along with RVCC will host the 25th annual International Festival on the college campus in North Branch to raise cultural awareness and cele brate diversity May 7.

Join The Reporter, Tulsi Maharjan and other citizens and businesses who support Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. Salute the sacrifice of our brave servicemen and women serving overseas. Be a Patriot Support OPSHBX. Call The **Reporter's Executive Editor Rod** Hirsch at (908) 575.6684 or click www.nj.com/shoeboxnj for information on how you can help



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# SALUTE 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	C Coffee			
Bug spray	C Small drink mixes			
🖸 Lip balm	C Socks			
C Feminine products	Clothesline/pins			
Ear swabs	Snack food			
Laundry detergent	Cereal/protein bars			
Bug wipes/bug strips	C Fleece blankets			
G Wipes (travel size)	C Microwaveable foods			
C Razors	Hard candy/gum			
C Toilet paper	C Writing materials			
C Eye drops	C Batteries (any size)			
□ Spices/Tea bags	Calling cards			
*Donated items must be in their original packaging.				

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



A.R.M.S AMERICAN RECREATIONAL



MILITARY SERVICES

Photo: Jon Naso/The StarLedger, Used by permission

UNITED STATES

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

UNITED STATES

A-6



# GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER **Triumphant return**

Record crowd welcomes league champion Somerset Patriots; team salutes veterans in downtown parade

It's been a busy week for the Somerset Patriots.

The defending Atlantic League champions returned from Florida last Wednesday after spending 10 days at their Spring Training com-plex in Lakeland, Fla., and barely had enough time to unpack before they met team sponsors and support-ers at a brunch Thursday at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Green Brook. That night, fans were invited to Commerce Bank Ballpark to watch the Patriots final pre-season workout, and last Friday was opening day, with a record opening day crowd of



7,125 on hand for the game and postgame fireworks display. The Patriots dropped two of three

games to the Atlantic City Surf. On Tuesday, Somerset County provided the team's official welcome home, with a parade down Main Street in Somerville.

"The Parade of Champions," sponsored by The Patriots, the District Management Corp. and The Chronicle, doubled as a salute to U.S. military personnel.

The Patriots resumed play yesterday with an afternoon game in Newark, and play again tonight against the Bears, the first of two road games before returning to Commerce Bank Ballpark tomorrow night for a 7:05 p.m. game against the Lancaster Barnstormers.



Fans line up outside Commerce Bank Ballpark, above, prior to the Patriots 2006 season-opening game Friday night against the Atlantic City Surf. All-Star outfielder Ryan Radmanovich, left, slaps high fives with his teammates during pre-game introductions.



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRA

# **Sports**

Saturday, May 6, 2006

# Hsu, doubles sweep key B-R title effort

#### By DAVE ALLENA Staff Writer

BERNARDS - After surviving Saturday's tense action, Bridgewater-Raritan High came back the following day to show why it still rates as the county's top team.

Winning three flights and taking runnerup honors in another, the Panthers claimed their fifth straight Somerset County Tournament crown at the Pingry School by a rather comfortable — and maybe a bit surprising to some - 22-17 margin over Montgomery.

In arguably the strongest tennis county in the state, Bridgewater-Raritan once again stood head and shoulders above the other contenders by winning all five quarterfinal matches and four of five in the semifinals.

Freshman Eric Hsu earned the title at third singles, and the junior duo of Josh Lee-Aneesh Devi claimed their second doubles crown, adding No. 1 doubles laurels to last year's No. 2 championship.

Juniors Rob Cooperman and Anup Bhujle coasted at second doubles, earning the clinching point, while senior Scott Van Dorn finished second at second singles.

For second-year Head Coach Curt Weaver, his second county crown proved to be better than the first.

"I think this is more mean-

ingful because at the beginning of the season no one expected us to be this good," he said. "The kids have matured. There's been a lot of growth.

"This shows the product of the work they've put in, and as it turns out we won easier this year than we did last year. We won more matches this year, and I think the county is better this year. Montgomery had a chance to win at the start of the final round, and they played well.

"The kids loved winning this. They really wanted it. There are a lot of expectations on this team, a lot of pressure on them to do well and when you see them come through like they did it's nice."

Unlike a year ago when the rain-delayed tourney wasn't won until Devi-Lee won at second doubles, the Panthers wrapped up the title when Cooperman-Bhujle made quick work of Pingry's Chris Black-Sam Adriance for a 6-3, 6-0 victory.

The other two flight titles came in three-set battles with Hsu topping Rutgers Prep's Bobby Reiss 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 and Devi-Lee posting a 6-2, 3-6, 7-5 verdict over Montgomery.

All three B-R champions upheld their top seeds with the once-beaten Hsu going to three sets for only the second time. "Going into the third set I

was feeling pretty good," said bles. That means you're the Dennie-Chiang (M) d. Sanders Bernstein-

Hsu. "I wasn't tired, and I knew what wanted to do. I

wanted to get my serves in and get more backhands in. I was able to do those things. (Reiss) was a big hitter. I'm more consistent, and I think that was the difference."

Lee-Devi improved to 16-1 on the season and 40-4 as varsity teammates with a near carboncopy victory over their Montgomery rivals. During a dual match the Panthers fell behind 0-3 in the third set before rallying to win, and they had to do that again Sunday.

"It almost seems like we gain confidence when we get down," Devi said. "I don't know what it is, but it seems we gain confidence when we get down. We both want it bad. That's our mentality. We both want it more than the other team. We have a second gear we can both shift to at any time."

Trailing like that has been commonplace for the junior tandem, which also played together as freshmen at No. 1 doubles for the junior varsity.

"We've encountered this situation a lot this year," Lee said. "We were down 3-0 to Montgomery earlier in the season but we just got into it and came back to win. It feels great. It's definitely more meaningful winning first dou-

best team in the SCT TENNIS entire county."

Bhujle-Cooperman, also with just one loss this spring, had their toughest match in the semifinals. After opening with a love victory in the quarters, they survived a test from Watchung Hills' Jared Fand-Ian

CHAMPIONSHIPS

First Singles: George Laffey (R) d. Jeremy Eckardt (M) 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 Second Singles: Matt Pierson (M) d.

Third Singles: Eric Hsu (BR) d. Bobby Reiss (RP) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2

First Doubles: Aneesh Devi-Josh Lee (BR) d. Ryan Dennie-Vincent Chiang (M)

6-2, 3-6, 7-5 Second Doubles: Rob Cooperman

Anup Bhuile (BR) d. Chris Black-Sam Adriance (P) 6-3, 6-0 SEMIFINALS

First Singles: Laffey (R) d. Jacob Wolski (WH) 6-2, 6-2; Eckardt (M) Chris Wu (BR) 6-3, 0-6, 6-2

Second Singles: Pierson (M) d. Nikhil Anbarasan (RP) 6-1, 6-2; Van Dorn (BR) d.

Third Singles: Hsu (BR) d. Dan Alhanti (WH) 6-1, 6-0; Reiss (RP) d. Jonathan Reef (P) 6-3, 6-2

First Doubles: Devi- Lee (BR) d. Alex Alvarez-Dan Hartenstein (WH) 6-0, 6-2:

Chris Plaskon (H) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1

Scott Van Dorn (BR) 6-3, 7-5

doubles Schneiderman in a 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 clash before easily dispatching their Pingry opponents in the final.

"They won a lot more easily today," Weaver said of today," Weaver said of Cooperman-Bhujle. "They didn't play as well Saturday. They got through a tight one with Watchung Hills, and today they played very well."

Van Dorn, who earned a county title last year at first doubles, settled for runnerup honors at second singles this time as he fell to Montgomery's top-seeded Matt Pierson 6-3, 7-5. Ridge's George Laffey, the No. 1 seed at first singles, topped Montgomery's Jeremy Eckardt 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 in the final.

#### **TENNIS RESULTS**

Jeff Tanenbaum (P) 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 Second Doubles: Cooperman-Bhujle (BR) d. Jared Fand-Ian Schneiderman (WH) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; Black-Adriance (P) d. CHAMPIONSHIPS Team Scores: 1. Bridgewater-Raritan (BR) 22; 2. Montgomery (M) 17; 3. (tie) Watchung Hills (WH) and Pingry (P) 15; 5.Ridge (R) 13; 6. Hillsborough (H) 11; 7. Rutgers Prep (RP) 9; 8. (tie) Bernards and Somerville (S) 8; 10. Franklin (F) 5; 11. North Plainfield (NP) 2; 12. (tie) Bound Brook (BB) and Gill-St. Bernards (GSB) 1 FINALS losh Chu-Matt Kaplan (R) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2

QUARTERFINALS First Singles: Laffey (R) d. John Wu (H) (P) 6-1, 6-2; V(1) (BR) d. David Lee (RP) 6-6-2; Eckardt (M) d. John Roser (B) 6-2,

Second Singles: Pierson (M) d. Anthony Shoritman (S) 6-0, 6-2; Anbarasan (RP) d. Thomas Wolski 6-2, 7-5; Plaskon (H) d. Austin Conti (P) 6-4, 7-5; Van Dorn (BR) d. Justin Suriano (B) 6-1, 6-

Third Singles: Hsu (BR) d. Kristian Douma (S) 6-0, 6-0; Alhanti (WH) d. Dan D'Agostino (M) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; Reef (P) d.

D'Agostino (M) 2-6, 6-3, 6-1; Reet (P) d. Sundeep Iyer (R) 0-6, 6-3, 6-2; Reiss (RP) d. Mark Apostolos (H) 6-3, 6-2 **First Doubles:** Devi-Lee (BR) d. Mike Sacks-Jason Winkler (F) 6-0, 6-0; Alvarez-Hartenstein (WH) d. Ross Friedman-Tim Gross (H) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5; Bernstein-Tanenbaum (P) d. Merritt Branch-E.J. Fernandez (R) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; Dennie Chang (M) d. Danny: Milles Kwin Celodeer Chang (M) d. Danny Miller-Kevin Colodner (S) 6-1. 6-2

Second Doubles: Cooperman-Bhujle (BR) d. Sean Kronstadt-Joseph Hammond (F) 6-0, 6-0; Fand-Schneiderman (WH) d. Jesse Goldstein-Tim Le (H) 7-6 (7-4), 6-4; Chu-Kaplan (R) d. Winston Wang-Dan

Nazzaci (M) 6-1, 7-5; Black-Adriance (P) d. Hanson Gong-Nick Smith (B) 6-1, 6-2 SECOND ROUND (Area Players)

(Area Prayers) First Singles: Roser (B) d. Domenic Cassone (S) 10-9 (7-5) Second Singles: Suriano (B) d. Marc Schroeder (R) 10-4; Shoritman (S) d. Grant Mager (GSB) 10-2

Grant Mager (GSB) 10-2 Third Singles: Douma (S) d. Juan Carlos Munoz (BB) 10-2; Apostolos (H) d. Stephen Hills (B) 10-9 (8-6) First Doubles: Miller-Colodner (S) d. Shawn Cotton-Alex Oster (B) 10-8

Second Doubles: Kronstadt-Hammond (F) d. Anthony Rossi-Kedar Reddy (S) 10-5; Gong-Smith (B) d. Kevin Guttierez-John Wong (NP) 10-0 OPENING ROUND

First Singles: Cassone (S) won by default; Roser (B) d. Khalid El-Farre (BB)

Second Singles: Shoritman (S) d. Grant Clark (GSB) 10-0; Suriano (B) d. Steve Lawrence (BB) 10-0

Third Singles: Douma (S) won by default; Hill (B) d. Doug Helfrich (GSB) 10-

First Doubles: Miller-Colodner (S) d. Pablo Alpizar-Brian Ramos (BB) 10-2; Cotton-Oster (B) d. Matt Vespe-Alex Raymond (GSB) 10-5

Second Doubles: Rossi-Reddy (S) won by default; Gong-Smith (B) d. Greg Murrey-Jon Weiss (GSB) 10-5

Early games didn't lack late dramatics

BRIDGEWATER could've been better in terms of wins and losses. But it couldn't have been much more exciting.

Thanks to pulling out a lastinning victory Saturday night, the Somerset Patriots avoided an 0-for-3 start to the Atlantic Professional League of Baseball season. The other two games went into extra innings.

Following two straight days off - an unprecedented Monday-Tuesday scheduling trend that will hold forth during the season's first four weeks - the defending champion Patriots were slated to visit the Newark Bears for Wednesday and games Thursday before returning home to Commerce Bank Park last night to begin a threegame weekend series with the Lancaster Barnstormers. The teams also tangle 7:05 tonight and 1:35 p.m. tomorrow. A huge positive Somerset Manager Sparky Lyle could take out of the season-opening three-game home set with Atlantic City is there certainly appears to be little wrong with the Pats' pitching, which was by far the league's best a year ago. Starter Jason Shiell went five solid innings Sunday afternoon, allowing one run, but the Patriots ultimately dropped a back-and-forth 5-3 decision in 15 innings as 5134 fans looked on. Somerset got a strong effort from Billy Sylvester the night before in a game the Pats won 2-1 on Larry Barnes' ninthinning two-run double and Andy Van Hekken and the relief corps were outstanding on opening night, when defensive lapses proved highly costly. The Surf took a 1-0 lead into the ninth inning Sunday before the Pats tied it up when Fernando Lunar reached on an error and pinch-runner Pat Boran scored on George Sandel's double down the right-field line.



10th but the home team again battled back to keep things going, with Travis Anderson's bases-filled fielder's choice grounder sending in the run that re-tied the game 2-2.

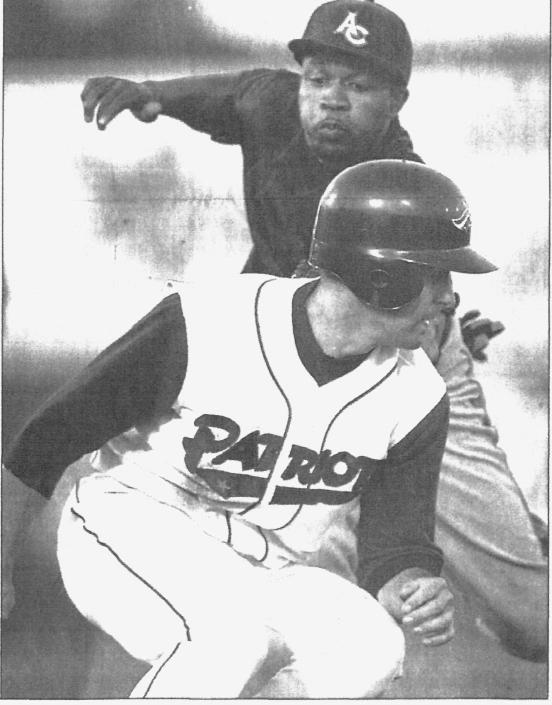
Again, Atlantic City took the lead in the 13th when David Housel singled in a run. But, again, Somerset evened things up in its next at-bat when Jim Burt singled, moved up on pitcher Mike Johnson's sacrifice bunt and scored on Mike Surf scored two The unearned runs in the 15th to finally win it. Joe Jiannetti reached when pitcher Ben Crockett booted a roller in front of the mound, Demetrius Heath singled to put runners at the corners and Gary Johnson lofted a sacrifice fly ball. Heath then stole home for a 5-3 cushion. Shiell allowed six hits and a first-inning run during his five innings on the mound before he was replaced by Keith Ramsey, who yielded two hits during the next 3 2/3 innings. Almonte then came in to finish out the ninth but Leathers connected off him for the goahead homer in the 10th. Burt went 3 for 7 including a double and Immaculata High graduate Tony Gsell, playing shortstop for the second straight game, had two hits as the No. 2 man in the batting order. Patriots 2, AC 1 - Barnes' two-strike, two-out ninth-inning double off Domingo Acosta - the Surf's fifth pitcher of the evening - gave the Patriots a thrilling victory Saturday in front of 5745 fans. Lockwood started the winning rally with a one-out single and, after Gsell struck out, Jeff Nettles dumped a single into center field. The leftyswinging Barnes then

smacked a double into the left-center gap, sending both Patriots across home plate.

Barnes had two of the Pats' five hits in the game as the pitching of Sylvester, Nick Bierbrodt, Adam Larson and Almonte kept them close long enough.

Sylvester gave up two hits, one run and two walks while fanning seven batters in 5 2/3 innings. Bierbrodt and Larson allowed one hit between them before Almonte came in for the ninth, permitting one hit and striking out two.

AC 3, Patriots 2 — Leathers belted a two-out homer to leftcenter off Jason Olson in the 10th inning April 28, giving the Surf the victory in front of 7125 fans, an opening-game record for Commerce Bank



The Chronicle

Section D

AC designated hitter Todd Leathers ripped a home run off Hector Almonte in the Park.

Somerset had forced extra innings only moments earlier when consecutive two-out hits by Barnes and Rvan Radmanovich produced a ninth-inning run and a 2-2 deadlock. Barnes' double, his first hit as a Patriot, went into the right-field corner and the lefty-swinging Radmanovich lined an outside 2-2 pitch for a single to left to send him in. The Surf had scored the game's first two runs, both unearned because of shortstop Boran's throwing error, in the third with hits by Al Benjamin and Clyde Williams accounting for the RBI off starting pitcher Van Hekken.

Van Hekken, who yielded four hits, two walks and fanned five, exited after four innings and Crockett and Mike Johnson came in to throw four innings of no-hit relief.

Somerset got on the board in the fourth when third baseman Nettles, who, like Boran, committed two throwing errors, hit a ground-rule double to center, advanced to third on a passed ball and scored ahead of a double-play as Radmanovich got caught in a run-down long enough to enable Nettles to first cross home plate.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Somerset Patriots' Mike Lockwood is tagged out by Atlantic City's Clyde Williams trying to get back to first base during the April 28 ALPB season debut, won by the Surf 3-2 in front of 7125 fans at Commerce Bank Park.

Prior to the season-opener, the field presentation. Nine Sparky Lyle, coaches Brett Patriots received their 2005 returning players from last championship rings as well as year's team received their mer standouts Emiliano Pats Get Their Rings - the ALPB trophy in an on-the- rings along with Manager Escandon and Billy Hall.

Jodie and Liam Healy and for-

# Somerville extends softball winning streak

Scoring both of its runs in the sixth inning Tuesday, Somerville High notched its fifth successive softball triumph by a 2-1 margin over visiting North Warren.

"I think we're definitely meshing better as a team right now, and it shows on the field," said SHS Head Coach Amy Lawless after watching her Pioneers (8-6) avenge an earlier loss in Blairstown. "We're playing tough."

North Warren (7-8) scored in the sixth off Lindsay Lehman, who pitched a four-hitter while

walking no one and striking out nine batters.

But the Pioneers came right back in their half of the inning. Lauren Markakis drilled a single and when the ball was misplayed by the leftfielder, she was able to circle the bases. Then Laura Breznak and Jessica Magliaro singled and Katie Flood belted a run-scoring double to center.

Flood (who tripled), Magliaro and Markakis had two hits apiece.

SHS 14, Plainfield 1 - The

host Pioneers totaled 17 hits SOMERVILLE HIGH and took advan-SOFTBALL tage of some shaky defense

by Plainfield (6contest in six innings.

Laura Nevar, who went 2 for 2, drilled a bases-filled triple in the opening stanza and Briana Gallicchio singled and also ended the game by swatting a three-run double to cap a fiverun sixth. Flood and Markakis also had two hits each. Lehman

gave up four hits and two walks and struck out 11. SHS 7, Bound

Brook 0 8) to win Monday's non-league Lehman pitched a two-hitter and Janelle Jegou belted a three-run homer over the fence Saturday, helping the ninthseeded Pioneers oust No. 8 Bound Brook (7-5) from the Somerset County Tournament. SHS was scheduled to visit toprated Montgomery last night in a quarterfinal matchup.

Lehman, who also tripled, walked no one and struck out 10 for the visitors, who scored twice in the second inning and four times in the fifth to take command. Nevar drove in two runs with a single and double, Magliaro singled in a run and Breznak's triple chased home another run.

SHS 15, South Hunterdon 0 - Lehman pitched a fiveinning perfect game, striking out 11 along the way, and Nevar went 2 for 4 including a two-run triple April 27 in

Lambertville. The Pioneers wrapped up the game with a nine-run fifth.

SHS 5, Franklin 4 - Laura Chambers had four hits, including a triple, and an RBI to help the Pioneers get past last-seeded Franklin (0-9) in a county tourney preliminaryround game April 26. Breznak and Lehman had RBI singles, Tara Sullivan tripled and Lehman pitched the final two innings (allowing a run and fanning five) to earn the pitching decision.

Saturday, May 6, 2006

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The Chronicle



CHURCH	SATURDAY, May 20
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5:00 p.m. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S. NSAMEE' Players Extraordinary Play: "Old Ship of Zion" Tickets: \$15 ; \$12 for Seniors and Children Sponsored by the NSAME Church Scholarship Committee ~

# **Robert Reisser**

degree in education from Bloomsburg University in

Methodist Church he was chairman of the Finance Committee, treasurer of the United Methodist Men and head cook for United Methodist Men dinners. Mr.

the Korean War.

Preceding him in death were his father, Edward G.; and a daughter, Mary Catherine.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Grace A.; his mother, Elna of Raritan; a son, Robert E. and wife Kristine of Bound Brook; two daughters, Janice G. Dunleavy and husband Patrick of Ringoes and Debra J. Fernandez and husband

Christian of Bridgewater; a sister, Carol J. Knight of Binghamton, N.Y.; and eight grandchildren.

Services were held April 24 at the Bound Brook United Methodist Church. Burial was in Forest Hill Cemetery, Dunmore, Pa.

Arrangements were by the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home in Bound Brook.

Preceding him in death were Antoinette O'Rourke, Chris Tutela and Lucy; and a brother, James. Surviving are his wife, Ida DeLorenzo Milito; a daughter,

Provenzano of Piscataway; a son, Neil and wife Sharon of Colorado; three sisters, Connie LaRue. Philomena DeSantis and Jacqueline DeMarco; a brother, John; four grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held April 26 at the New Durham Chapel. Burial was in Lake Nelson

Arrangements were by the McCriskin Home for Funerals,

# **June Hoffman**

June M. Van Fleet Hoffman, 82, died April 11, 2006 at her home in North Plainfield. in Born Jan. 1, 1924 Whitehouse, she was a daugh-

ter of the late James M. and Margaret A. Dietz Van Fleet. Mrs. Hoffman lived in

Plainfield before moving to North Plainfield in 1944. She retired in 1987 after seven years as a teacher's assistant in North Plainfield. She earlier drove school buses for the Mannion Bus Co. in Piscataway and the North Plainfield Board of Education.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Dunellen and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Watchung Hills Elks lodge.

Her husband, Robert D., died in 2003 after nearly 59 years of marriage. Also preceding her in death were a brother, Robert J. Van Fleet; and a sister, Beatrice A. Ferrarie.

Surviving are a daughter, Virginia M. Eustis of Middlesex; a son, Robert J. of Neeses, S.C.; a sister, Margaret Viohl of Harmony; and two grandchildren.

Services were held April 15 at the Mundy Funeral Home in Dunellen. Entombment was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park mausoleum, Piscataway.

Donations may be sent to the American Heart Association or the Plainfield Area Humane Society.

# John DeNicola Sr.

MIDDLESEX John DeNicola Sr., 74, died April 30, 2006 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Hoboken, he lived in Jersey City, Dunellen and Toms River before moving to Middlesex two years ago.

Mr. DeNicola was a butcher for most of his life. He was with the 24th Infantry Division in the Army during

Preceding him in death was his twin brother, Peter.

Surviving are his wife, daughters, Agnes; two Patricia Margelis and husband Teddy of Middlesex and Kelly Loffredo and husband Vinny of Martinsville; a son, John Jr. and wife Debbie of Westfield; two sisters, Jeanette Colman and Lillian Marino; and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Dunellen, following services at the McCriskin Home for Funerals in South Plainfield. Entombment was in the Resurrection Burial Park mausoleum, Piscataway. In lieu of flowers, donations

may be sent to American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902.

## **Adolf Soriano**

MIDDLESEX - Adolf L. Soriano, 84, died April 7, 2006 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Raritan and lived in San Diego, Calif., before moving to Middlesex.

Mr. Soriano retired in 1990 as an accountant at the General Services Administration depot in Belle Mead. He earlier was an accountant with the Bound Brook Water Co.

A member of the American Postal Workers Union, Mr. Soriano was with the Army in the Philippines during World War II.

Surviving are two brothers, Martin of San Diego, Calif., and Fred of West Long Branch; and many nieces and nephews.

Private arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.

the Korean War.

of

#### Patterson, N.Y.; four granddaughters, Donna Lamar of Punta Gorda, Fla., Debbie

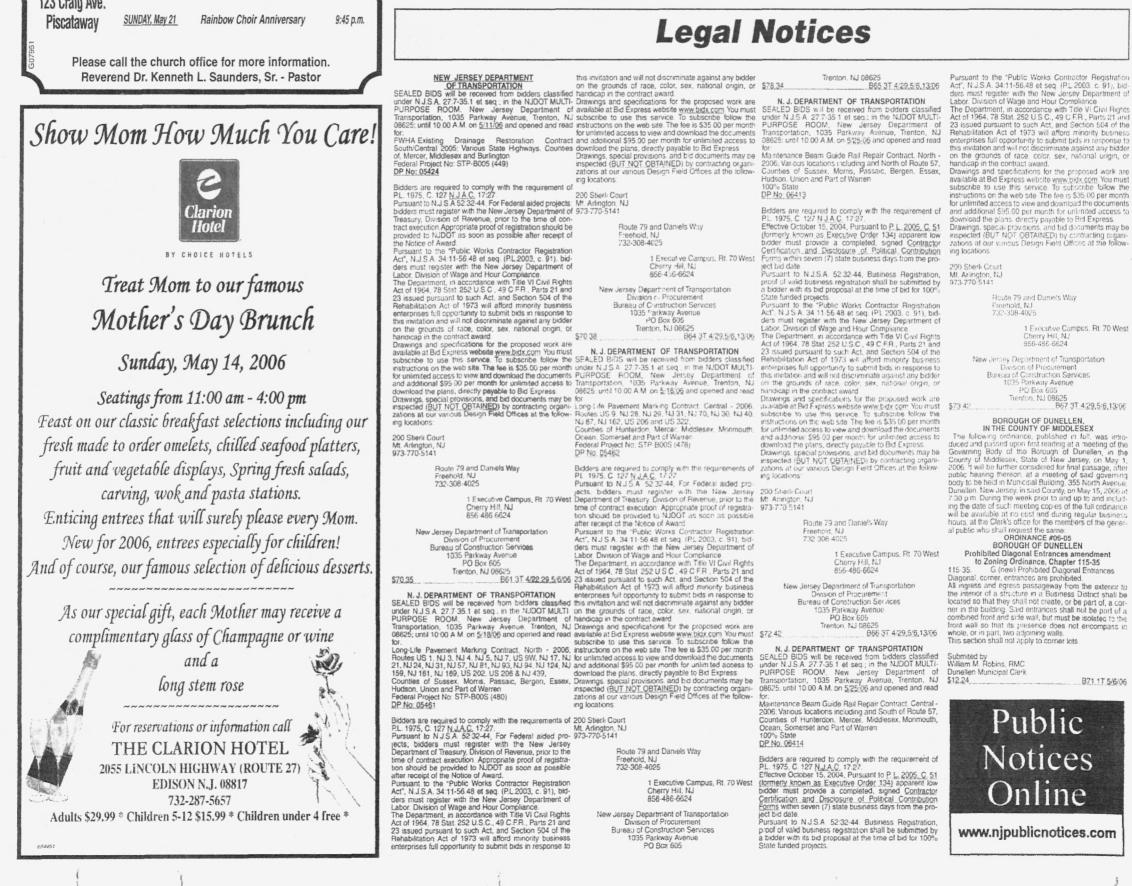
Schefkind Morganville and Rhonda Ricci of Odessa, Fla.; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park,

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.

Donations may be sent to a

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at Our Lady of



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