

The Chronicle

Vol. 145, No. 20

INSIDE



In familiar territory

Head coach Kathy DeBonis' Bridgewater-Raritan High girls lacrosse team will be playing in its fifth straight Somerset County Tournament championship game tomorrow when the Panthers visit Ridge. This will be the fourth time the two schools have met in the final. B-R advanced with Monday's 6-4 conquest of previously-unbeaten Hillsborough. Page C1.

Borough has street fair

HIGHLAND PARK — The 17th annual Downtown Highland Park Street Fair & Craft Show will bring a wide variety of entertainment and vendors to the heart of the borough between 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. tomorrow. Admission and parking are free. The rain-or-shine event is sponsored by Unity Bank and the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Main Street Highland Park and the Borough of Highland Park. Raritan Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic from Second Avenue to Fifth Avenue for the day of festivities. The street will be lined with approximately 160 artists, crafters, and vendors. The entire day of family fun will also include food, inflatable rides, pony rides, a petting zoo, games, and continuous live musical entertainment. More than 15,000 fairgoers are expected, according to event organizers, who believe that the growth of the fair in recent years underlines the continuing success of concerted revitalization efforts in downtown Highland Park. DJ John will create an "outdoor dance party" at the event, followed by a live performance by Full Count, the renowned 17-piece stage band that recently performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. The Jailhouse Gorillas from New York City will perform as well as The Tonemasters, a well-known blues quintet who will play several of their album cuts regularly heard on Jazz 88/WBGO. Other professional musicians set to appear include the Peter Olsen Duo and The Kootz. Comedic juggler Will Shaw will delight the crowd with his humor and juggling skills. Shaw has appeared on national TV and has performed around the world. New Jersey 101.5 and WCTC-1450 will give away prizes. The Highland Park Chamber of Commerce encourages community groups and the public to join together by becoming involved at the street fair. As an example, non-perishable food items will be accepted by the Highland Park Food Pantry at its street fair booth. The Chamber of Commerce also wishes to thank this year's title sponsor, Unity Bank, for all its support to the community and the street fair. For more information, contact the Office of Street Fairs at (908) 654-1400.

INDEX

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Commentary..... | A5 |
| Community Life..... | A6 |
| Sports..... | A7 |
| Weekend Plus..... | A8 |

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Localities: Gangs here, too

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — Street gangs continue to exert their influence in Somerset County, according to authorities.

From MS-13, the Bloods to the Latin Kings, all have moved into Central Jersey.

That's one of the reasons State

Police Lt. Edwin Torres takes issue with "The Sopranos." The television series glorifies gang life in general, and gang life in New Jersey in particular, something the president of the New Jersey Chapter of the East Coast Gang Investigators' Association doesn't want to see in pop culture.

Addressing an audience gathered

in the jury assembly room at the courthouse last week, the lieutenant and officer Ahmed Mackey of the gang unit of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office spoke about what parents and teachers can do to recognize signs of gang activity and counter the attractive aspects of gangs.

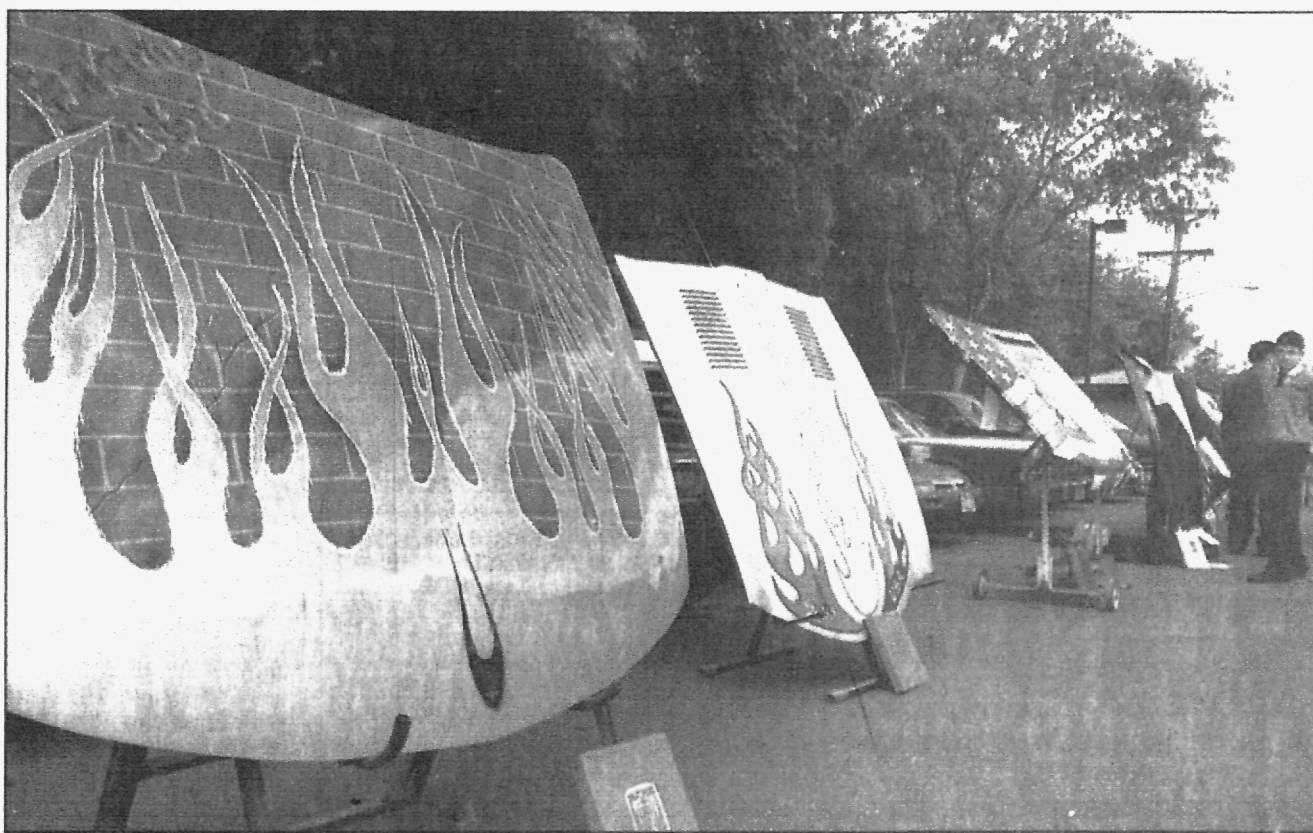
"We say gangs are wrong, but

what's the number one show in the country? It's about a gang," said Torres.

From beads to signs to sports team apparel, Torres and Mackey pointed out the signs and symbols of gang life for the biggest and most active gangs in the state through a

Continued on page A2

NEW JERSEY SKILLS-USA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Custom painted car hoods, above, on display Saturday during the 39th annual New Jersey SkillsUSA Championships at Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools in Bridgewater. The finals of the statewide competition, which also took place in Franklin and North Brunswick, challenged more than 1,000 students to put their vocational skills to the test. Below, Jonathan Curtiss of Hunterdon County Polytech Career Academy, competes in the automotive refinishing portion of the competition.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PAUCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students rely on know-how

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Students from across the state woke up early on Saturday, starting their days with a ride to the Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools for the 39th annual New Jersey SkillsUSA Championships.

One of three locations and the only high school to host the finals, the school teemed with students, who arrived by 7:30 a.m. to begin their events at 8:00 a.m.

Michael Clarke, who teaches computer science at Ocean County Vocational and Technical Schools, said that his students left at 5:30 a.m. to get to the competition, where 10 of his charges competed in the Web Page Design category, one of the 12 events the school hosted.

His students, who were divided into five teams, had four hours to build a Web site with six supporting pages, a task Clarke said they have been working toward all year, learning basic Web design, java, and html.

First, however, they had to answer a 60-question multiple choice test on techniques and technology. Then, they were given the specifications, graphics, and images for the page and told to use their imagination to build a site for a travel agency, Clarke said.

Four hours to design a Web site with half a dozen pages isn't too difficult, "if you know what you're doing," Clarke said.

"Some teachers teach to the test, but I don't believe in that," he said, noting he would rather teach the skills necessary and have the students put them to use. "It's supposed to be work-oriented education."

Though it was the first time at the competition for his students, he said he didn't think they were nervous.

"Most of the high school students now have their computers at home and do a lot of gaming and Web surfing at home, so this is just an extension of that," he said.

Continued on page A2



Are hybrid cars the answer?

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

Except for a few subtle differences, riding shotgun in a Chevy Silverado hybrid is like, well, riding shotgun in any other pickup truck.

"It's got all the bells and whistles. You don't sacrifice any comforts," Stephen Matis, supervisor of vehicle and equipment maintenance for Somerset County, said Monday as he steered the truck through the streets of Bridgewater.

The pickup is one of 15 hybrid vehicles the county owns, including a fleet of Toyota Prius cars and Ford Escape SUVs. They are used by various departments within the county including engineering, youth services and social services.

"They save on gas, and the environment in general. We try to do our part," said Matis, adding that the Silverado gets about 18 miles to the gallon, the Escape gets 25 and the Prius, 40 to 45.

Matis said there is a slight learning curve for drivers unfamiliar with hybrids. For example, the Silverado engine will shut off automatically when sitting at a complete stop so as to save energy and emit less exhaust. It restarts when the driver's foot is removed from the brake.

Matis said the pickup has the power of most work vehicles, though it has not been tested with a snow plow.

"The jury is still out on plowing strength," he said.

He said the county is also looking into hybrid buses for senior transportation. "But the technology is not there yet," he said.

Somerset County began to turn a deeper shade of green in 2004 when the Board of Freeholders voted to purchase four hybrid Toyota Prius cars from Sansone Motors in Red Bank.

"Hybrids can play a significant role in addressing several of the major problems faced by the United States and world today: climate change, air pollution and oil dependence," Freeholder Robert Zaborowski, who was instrumental in convincing the board to go the hybrid route, said in a 2004 statement.

"These vehicles offer exceptional gas mileage and are environmentally friendly, emitting fewer global-warming and smog-forming emissions than most conventional vehicles."

However, hybrid vehicles, because of higher sticker prices and questionable performance, still have a way to go to win over the general public.

"Hybrid technology is not really going mainstream any time soon,"

Continued on page A2

Competitors get big kick out of footbag competition

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — Bridgewater resident Jonathan Schneider whirled, hopped, and kicked, displaying fancy footwork during an impromptu demonstration of his sport and his passion, his agility keeping the ball aloft.

The Bridgewater native, who plays professionally in tournaments, is an eager and avid participant in the sport of footbag.

Just don't call it Hacky Sack. "Hacky Sack is a brand name, and not even a very good one," Schneider said. In contrast, freestyle footbag is more of an elaboration on the game: juggling with feet rather than a game of keep-it-up.

Schneider is a member of the Ministry of Silly Walks, a 10-member footbag enthusiast organization that will be hosting its second tournament over Memorial Day weekend, an event expected to draw 70 footbaggers to Somerville. The tournament also serves as a kick-off for the 63rd annual Tour of Somerville bicycle race, which

takes place on Memorial Day. That race, which caps three days of bicycle racing around the county, draws thousands to the borough each year. The Tour of Somerville will also include the 6th annual Big Air Show, featuring sports activities and demonstrations, including skateboarders and BMX riders.

For the uninitiated, freestyle footbag is an underground sport played with a golf-ball-sized beanbag, where players execute complicated and fast moves while keeping the bag in the air with their feet. The tournament will also include the "net" event, which is set up like a two-on-two beach volleyball game. Players must keep the bag up over a 5-foot net — again, using only their feet.

According to Schneider, who considers himself primarily a freestyle footbagger, the game is a sport, akin to skateboarding, but much safer.

"There's no helmet, no pads," he said. "We're not a game with coaches or set practice times."

Continued on page A2



Jonathan Schneider of Bridgewater demonstrates freestyle footbagging earlier this week. A tournament will be held on the lawn of the Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville over the Memorial Day weekend to coincide with the annual Tour of Somerville bicycle race.

ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
THE REPORTER

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The Chronicle (U.S.P.S. 061-800) ISSN 1047-3351 is published Saturday by NJN Publishing, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, N.J. 08876, 908-575-6660. Periodicals postage paid at Somerville and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NJN Publishing, Fulfillment Office, P.O. Box 699 Somerville, NJ 08876.

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

Hybrid

Continued from page A1

said Joe Kratovil, sales manager at Royal Chevrolet on Route 22 East in Bridgewater. "People have kind of figured out that they cost so much more than what a regular vehicle costs, that they're going to have a hard time saving enough fuel to earn back that investment. ... Here at Chevy, we don't hear much talk of people looking for hybrids."

Kratovil said a more immediate remedy to excessive gas consumption can be found on his lot. He said the 2006 Impala sedan and Tahoe, Suburban and Trailblazer SUVs offer a "displacement on demand" function. When these V-8 vehicles reach a cruising speed of over 45 mph,

fuel is cut off to four cylinders, so less gas is being used.

Also, Kratovil said some 2006 and 2007 models of the Tahoe, Suburban, Silverado and Impala are equipped to run on ethanol fuel — a type of alcohol obtained mainly from corn and sugarcane that can be used alone or mixed with gasoline, depending on the engine.

Kratovil said ethanol can rival the cost of gas and lower emissions, however at this time pure ethanol fuel can be found in the Mid-West and is not readily available on the East Coast.

Under a federal environmental regulation all gas stations are now required to replace MTBE (methyl tertiary-butyl ether) — a fuel additive that raises the oxygen content of gasoline to help it burn more completely — with something else, because of concerns that MTBE leaks can lead to soil and groundwater contamination. MTBE replaced lead as a fuel additive in 1979.

Ethanol, for the time being, is "the drug of choice," said Pam Maiolo, a spokesperson for AAA Mid-Atlantic.

"But we're not to the point that the U.S. will be running on 100 percent ethanol," she said, adding that there are dif-

fering opinions on the actual efficiency of ethanol versus gasoline.

"It depends on who is putting a spin on it," she said. "Oil companies will say it's exactly the same (as gasoline). Consumers who measure everything will say they see a 3 to 5 percent difference. ... The difference in mileage, if any, is so negligible, there's too many variables to even consider."

Maiolo said there also are rumors that ethanol is harmful to vehicles. "The clogging of fuel filters," she said. "But if your fuel filter was clean before you used ethanol, you're probably safe."

Until a real solution to the gasoline problem is found, Maiolo recommends motorists look at gas the same way they do as any other purchase, and shop around.

"We're not saying drive 25 miles out of your way to find the best price, but I'm not sure if many people are getting the message and have kicked into conservation mode."

Along with keeping an eye out for lower prices, Maiolo also recommends keeping a steady speed while driving, maintaining good air pressure

in tires, packing luggage inside the car as opposed to the roof to cut down on wind resistance, and keeping up with regular tune ups.

"These are small things consumers can do to save on gas," she said.

And then, of course, there is the bright side. Despite rising costs, New Jersey still has some of the lowest gas prices in the union — an average of \$2.867 per gallon compared to \$3.10 in New York, \$2.92 in Pennsylvania and \$2.90 in Delaware, she said. The average is \$2.861 among gas stations in Somerset, Middlesex and Hunterdon counties.

Maiolo said there is about a 10 gallon difference enjoyed by hybrid owners over regular drivers. While she said buying a hybrid is an environmentally friendly investment, it doesn't make sense economically.

"From a cost savings standpoint it's probably not your best bet," she said. "You're best bet probably is a bicycle."

But Tom Willey, sales manager at Crystal Toyota on Route 22 West in Green Brook, said the hybrid vehicles available on his lot don't have time to collect any dust.

"They're all selling out. I

don't have any in stock," he said. When it is stocked, Crystal Toyota offers the Prius, Camry and Highlander in hybrid models, ranging in price from \$23,000 to \$42,000.

"It's all about the gas pump," Willey said.

According to Willey, the Prius, at about \$23,000, gets about 55 miles to the gallon compared to 24.8 miles for a regular car of similar make and model. This works out to a savings of 334 gallons of gas per 15,000 miles — 123 percent better than a regular gas engine.

He said the Highlander, between \$34,000 and \$42,000, gets about 31 miles compared to the average 19.4 — a savings of 289 gallons per 15,000 miles, and 60 percent better than a gas engine.

And the Camry, at about \$30,000, gets 40 miles compared to 24.8 — a savings of 230 gallons and 61 percent better.

"I drive a Highlander," Willey said. "I go an extra 90 miles on a full tank of gas."

He said by 2010 every new Toyota vehicle will be available in hybrid form.

"Along with the environmental aspect, it's definitely the way to go," he said.

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broken and outdated items like chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash" says Richard Zakoff, VP of marketing. "Even old dental gold has value." GoldKit.com processes over 10,000 recycle Kits per month. People can get a free GoldKit at 1-800-283-4700 or GoldKit.com.

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Know-how

Continued from page A1

While Clarke's students shared the gym with those students competing in the Criminal Justice category, Gloucester County Institute of Technology seniors Katie Wulke, of Washington Township and Gina Casamassima, of Clementon, relaxed in the hallway following a critique of their short video entered in the Video Production category.

The two had shown their video and answered questions about what programs they had used to edit the film and what problems they had run into for their critique session.

Footbag

Continued from page A1

That's part of its appeal though: It's very unstructured."

Schneider, now 31 years old, has been playing since he was in college, though the club includes teenagers and middle-aged members. When he moved back home to Bridgewater, he found other players and joined the Ministry of Silly Walks, which practices at Strung Out Beads in Somerville. Finding one other player often leads to finding more.

"People are connected; people are networked," he said, a result of the sport's under-

ground status.

The 2006 New Jersey Spike and Shred, as the tournament is known, will be held May 27-29 on the lawn of the Somerset County Courthouse.

For more information on the event and other events occurring this weekend in Mendham and Highland Park, check the events listing at www.footbag.org.

Coming next week: Get a preview of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend bicycle races, which include the Manville Madness on Friday, May 26; the Frank "Nap" Torpey Memorial Hills of Somerset County road race on Saturday, May 27; the Bound Brook Critterium on Sunday, May 28, and America's oldest bike race, the 63rd annual Tour of Somerville on Monday, May 29.

Gangs

Continued from page A1

PowerPoint presentation that included visual examples of gang affiliation and geographic activity.

According to Torres, the Bloods are the biggest, but MS-13, the Crips, the Latin Kings, and hate groups are also active in areas around the state. There are over 17,000 gang members in the state, two-thirds of which are under the age of 17.

"When you talk about the gangs in the state of New Jersey, things have changed," Torres said. "This is a problem that crosses all social and economic barriers."

The program, sponsored by the Somerville Citizens Advisory Committee and the Superior Court of New Jersey, Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage's Minority Concerns Committee, drew what State Superior Court Judge Graham T. Ross called the biggest audience yet for the annual workshops.

"We may not have the same problems on a daily basis, but we have the same problems," he noted in his opening remarks.

According to Torres, New Jersey is experiencing high growth rates for these groups, who have infiltrated all strata of society. The way to combat these influences, he said, is not with law enforcement alone.

"You have to do prevention, and you have to do suppression," he said. "And this is not going to be solved by law enforcement alone."

For more information about gang prevention and awareness and to learn about state anti-gang programs, see the state police Web site www.njgangfree.org.

In The Towns

Middlesex library hosting concert

MIDDLESEX — Cassandra Lambros, violinist and soprano soloist, and Alexander Tchobanov, pianist, will present a free concert at the Community Room of the Middlesex Public Library at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

Lambros, a performance major at the Mason Gross School of the Arts will perform works from her senior recital.

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

Spring book sale is taking place in Edison

EDISON — The Friends of the Edison Public Library will hold its annual Spring Book Sale at the North Edison Branch Library, 777 Grove Ave., between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. today and from noon to 4 p.m. tomorrow. Browse through thousands of gently used books, paperback and hardcover. All your favorite fiction, authors: Mystery, romance, sci-fi, suspense, and general fiction. Lot's of non-fiction as well. There will be plenty of books for children and young adults and most cost between 50 cents to \$1.50.

Volunteers are needed, both for the event itself and for other activities before and after the sale. Donations of children's books are also needed. If you would like to volunteer or have children's books to donate, call Graham Gudin at (732) 738-4586 or e-mail graham.gudin@verizon.net.

Non-profit leaders invited to conference

EDISON — "Funding Strategies", the second in a series of discussions for non-profit leaders, will be presented by the Center for Community Renewal at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Edison Senior Center, 2965 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison.

Join other local volunteer leaders for this insightful and interactive panel discussion on fundraising for non-profit organizations. Panel members will discuss strategies for grant writing, fund-raising events and scrounging for non-monetary donations, among other topics.

Light refreshments and net-

working will follow the group discussion. The program is free, but seating is limited. Register by calling (732) 602-0002.

Women's Center plans homemaker workshop

EDISON — The Women's Center helps displaced homemakers who have lost financial support through death, separation, divorce or a disabled spouse.

"Mapping Your Career Destination" is the theme of a Women's Center workshop at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Stephanie Elson is the speaker for this program at the Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County, 515 Plainfield Ave. Admission is free.

For registration, e-mail n.noel@jfvsv.org or call (732) 777-1940.

State history is lecture topic

PISCATAWAY — To Marc Mappen, there's more to New Jersey than "The Sopranos."

That is the topic of a talk on New Jersey history he will give at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Piscataway Senior Center.

Mappen is executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission and a former associate dean at Rutgers University, where he earned a doctorate in American History. He is co-editor of "The Encyclopedia of New Jersey" and editor of "Witches and Historians: Interpretations of Salem."

He has written two other books, "Jerseyana: The Underside of New Jersey" and "Murder and Spies, Lovers and Lies: Setting the Great Controversies of American History."

The Senior Center is at 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library.

Piscataway planning Memorial Day fun

PISCATAWAY — Memorial Day festivities in the township take place on the holiday Monday, May 29.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7504 holds its service at 9 a.m. in Veterans Park, off Possumtown Road.

American Legion Post 261 holds its service at 10 a.m. in the Legion hall at 840 Washington Ave.

The Memorial Day parade steps off at 11 a.m., rain or shine, from the intersection of Rock Avenue and West Seventh Street. The parade route is west on Seventh to Washington Avenue, then south on Washington to the Legion hall. Grand marshal is Army Maj. Frederic Walz Jr., who was in Iraq from April 2004 until December 2005.

After the parade ends the Legion and VFW sponsor an open house at the Legion hall. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Sam Laudino at (732) 463-1081.

Edison goes on 'Stroke Alert'

EDISON — The Health Department announces a "Stroke Alert": free screenings for stroke as part of Stroke Awareness Month.

Screenings are on Wednesday, May 31 at the Dr. William Toth Memorial Health Center, 80 Idlewild Road. You can choose 9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.

This program is open to all Edison residents. To schedule an appointment, call (732) 248-7285.

'Walk for Hope' to fight cancer

EDISON — The fifth annual Michelle Offsie Memorial Walk for Hope is on Sunday, June 4. Registration is at 9 a.m. at the Community Campus of Edison, 1775 Oak Tree Road. The Walk for Hope begins at 10 a.m.

For pre-entry and full information, visit www.cityofhope.org/WalkforHope. Proceeds benefit the City of Hope Cancer Center.

Edison girl taking part in state 4-H program

Rutgers University will be host to the 2006 State 4-H Public Presentations Program to be held on Saturday, June 10 at Hickman Hall on the Cook/Douglass Campus in New Brunswick.

This event offers qualified 4-H members an advanced public speaking experience. Participants are encouraged to return from the contest and

assist younger 4-H members in their county to develop their public speaking skills.

Nearly 130-150 4-H members in New Jersey are scheduled to attend, among them Sarah Rusk of Edison, a Somerset County 4-H member.

Judging will be done by educators and 4-H volunteers. Ribbons and Outstanding Presentation Awards will be given at the close of the program.

To qualify for this state 4-H event, members must be in Grade 8-up and have received an excellent rating in the county 4-H Public Presentation Contest.

Don't cook — eat with Knights

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Knights of Columbus hold their annual "Don't Cook on Friday" dinner June 16.

Servings are from 4-7:30 p.m. in the Knights' hall at 334 Hamilton Blvd. The menu includes pasta, sausage, meatballs, salad, bread, coffee, tea and dessert. Cost is \$8 for

adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under age 12.

For more information, call Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128. Proceeds benefit the Knights' local charities fund.

Police Youth Week planned in July

PISCATAWAY — Police Youth Week has been scheduled for July 10-14.

This program is open to any student who will enter Grade 7 or 8 in September. Participants must live in Piscataway or go to school in the township.

The purpose of the weeklong program is to foster better communications between youth and police through education.

Applications are available in the police station on Sidney Road or any middle school in Piscataway. All applications must be completed and returned by Friday, June 9.

For more information, call Detective Calvin Laughlin at (732) 562-2349 or Detective Frank Hackler at (732) 562-2368.

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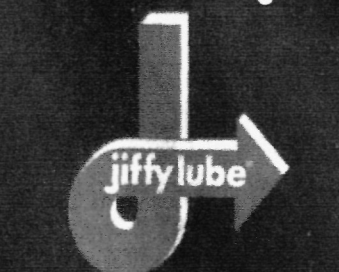
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In The Towns

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.

Farmers Market will mark 10th anniversary

HIGHLAND PARK — Help Main Street Highland Park celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Farmer's Market by having your recipe printed in a special compilation of Highland Park's favorite dishes.

The cookbook will feature foods from our own neighborhoods and from around the world.

Those who submit the tastiest recipes will be invited to serve their dishes at the Highland Park Farmers Market for a public tasting.

Submissions will only be taken if the main food ingredients are sold at the Farmer's Market. Include where the published recipes originated as well as your name, e-mail, address and phone number.

Names only will be published in the book.

Deadline for submissions is

May 26.

E-mail the recipes to cook-book@mainstreethp.org or by regular mail to Main Street Highland Park, 421 Raritan Ave. Highland Park NJ 08525. Or just stop in.

Jersey Fresh is an advertising and promotional program originally developed in 1983 to help farmers inform consumers about the availability and variety of fruits and vegetables grown in New Jersey.

For more information call Main Street at (732) 828-8444 or visit the Jersey Fresh website at <http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh>.

Middlesex Library welcomes performers

MIDDLESEX — Cassandra Lambros, violinist and soprano soloist, and Alexander Tchobanov, pianist, will present a free concert at the Community Room of the Middlesex Public Library at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 21.

Lambros, a performance major at the Mason Gross School of the Arts will perform works from her senior recital.

Light refreshments will be served following after the concert ends.

For further information about the event, call the library at (732) 356-6602.

Highland Park has summer fun planned

HIGHLAND PARK — The following are upcoming events being held in the borough.

The events are part of a series of activities organized or hosted by the Main Street Highland Park organization.

— 17th Annual Street Fair — 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, along Raritan Avenue.

— Random Acts of Fun — every other Thursday evening, 5-8 p.m., June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, Aug. 3. Features a different block each week, along Raritan Avenue from Cedar to 5th Avenue.

— Second annual Highland Park Arts Festival — 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, along Raritan Avenue.

— Fifth annual Autumn in the Park — 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct.

19, along Raritan Avenue.

Edison library has upcoming book sale

EDISON — The Friends of the Edison Public Library will hold its annual Spring Book Sale at the North Edison Branch Library, 777 Grove Ave. between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 20 and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 21.

Browse through thousands of gently used books, paperback and hardcover. There will be plenty of books for children and young adults and most cost between 50 cents to \$1.50.

Volunteers are needed, both for the event itself and for other activities before and after the sale.

Donations of children's books are also needed.

If you would like to volunteer or

have children's books to donate, call Graham Gudgin at (732) 738-4586 or e-mail graham.gudgin@verizon.net.

Community renewal group meeting May 24

EDISON — "Funding Strategies," the second in a series of discussions for non-profit leaders, will be presented by the Center for Community Renewal at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at the Edison Senior Center, 2965 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison.

Join other local volunteer leaders for this insightful and interactive panel discussion on fundraising for non-profit organizations. Light refreshments and networking will follow the group discussion.

The program is free, but seating is limited. Register by calling (732) 602-0002.

Lions schedule their flea market

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Lions Club holds its 33rd semi-annual 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.w2gw.org or call (732) 968-7789 before 8 p.m.

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Needed for Flemington Raritan Recreation program. 6/28/7/29/2006. Resumes to PO Box 2255, Flemington, NJ 08822 or email: flemingtonparks@earthlink.net. No phone calls please.

General Help 240

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Insanely busy construction & tree service. Watchdog, Min. 5 yrs office exp req'd. Must be a well spoken, detailed, multi-tasker for all related office duties. Must have DL & own car. The lazy need not apply. Fax resume to: 908-668-7575

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General Help 240

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We are looking for a talented professional with newspaper advertising sales experience who is eager to develop new relationships, demonstrate the ability to be creative in developing new ideas for customers, loves a challenge, and is goal oriented.

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E-mail resume and salary requirements to: Jobs@NJNPublishing.com

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General Help 240

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General Help 240

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MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST

Mon. Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm (may lead to full time). Hillsborough. Hours medical office exp., computer literacy, & knowledge of new update referrals. Fax resume to HD at 732-330-5816, or email hre@univrad.com

Part-Time Help 255

Send your resume to: Sherry Ferello, NUN Publishing Company, P.O. Box 32, Flemington, NJ 08822

DESIGNERS

Home & Garden Party plans needs designers in your area. Free and easy training. 40% commission. No Quotas. No deliveries. No inventories. Call Pam 908-534-9070. Preview website: www.homeandgardenparty.net

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Professional Help 260

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Fax Email resume & salary requirements to: fx:908-766-4505 bob@lgtcpa.com

Sales Help 265

Troops overseas need help on the homefront

Volunteers will gather May 27 at Patriots' ballpark to ship care packages to Mideast

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 opening ceremonies and a short orientation session.

Lunch will be provided. Over the past 15 months, OPSHBX has raised over \$80,000 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 Somerville, Bridgewater, 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

Rod Hirsch
Executive
Editor



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 p.m. game against the Pennsylvania Road Warriors.

To acknowledge the hard work of each volunteer, the Patriots will provide a free ticket to a future game, and the US Postal Service will present a commemorative gift to each participant.

Those interested in participating must pre-register by calling (908) 575-6684 or via email at rhirsch@njnpublishing.com.

Further information is available by calling (908) 575-6684.

Alice in the Attic

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

Presented by the township's Recreation Department tomorrow and Saturday night at the Whiton Road School, this marks the third time the student performers have dedicated their evening performances to U.S. military personnel.

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 perfor-

mances 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 soldiers' 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).

Performances are tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, 7 p.m.

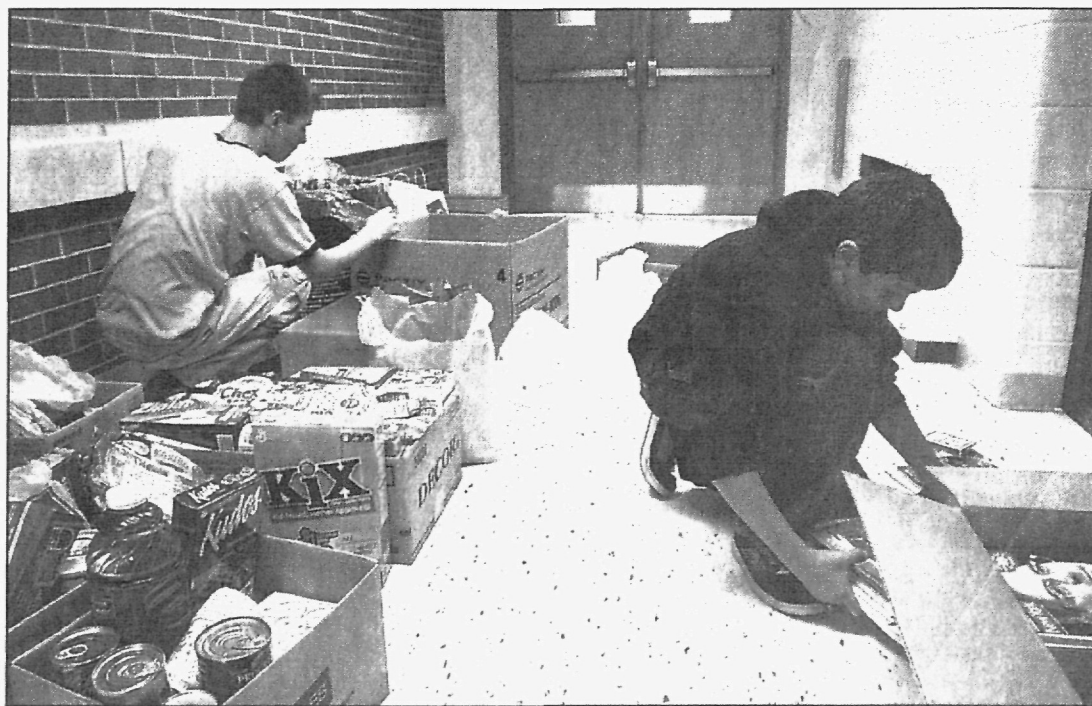
Further information is available by calling the Recreation Department at (908) 526-1300, extension 187.

Letter from Iraq

The following letter was received from a soldier in Iraq who received one of the packages that was shipped from our Feb. 4 event at Manville VFW Post 2290:

To the great members of VFW Post 2290:

I'm Sgt. Terance D'Alesandro, U.S. Marine Corps, writing you from Baghdad, Iraq. I have been a member of VFW Post 641 in Colombia, S.C. since 1991. I am a veteran of the Gulf War, Somalia, and two tours in Iraq, and I never have stopped being thrilled when I receive a care package like the one that I received today that you folks had a hand in putting togeth-



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sorting the goods donated by audience members who attended performances of "I Love Lulu" earlier this year at the Whiton Road School in Branchburg are Geoffrey Berkowitz, 12, at left, and Anthony Caprio, 11. Students enrolled in the Branchburg Recreation Department's theater program will perform "Alice in the Attic" this weekend, and once again are asking those who attend to donate items needed by U.S. troops overseas.

er for me.

I appreciate so much you people taking the time to do that and I assure you that everything that you sent me will go to good use. I wanted to thank you on behalf of all of the grunts of Alpha Company Anti-Terrorism Battalion II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Thank you for thinking of us and thank you for supporting us over here. God bless you folks.

Sincerely,
Sgt. Terance D'Alesandro, T.A.
USMC

A Co. ATBN

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 actor Joe Lisi, who's appeared 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.

Soldier Shopping Sprees

OPSHBX volunteers worked outside the Bound Brook ShopRite on Route 28 and the Flemington ShopRite on Route 202 last weekend handing out our list of supplies requested by U.S. troops overseas, and as usual, the response from shoppers was overwhelming.

The combined total for both days was 12 large trash bags stuffed with smaller bags of groceries, and \$525 in donations, money that will be used to pay for shipping the packages.

Volunteers will be out again this Saturday and Sunday at the King's Supermarket on Route 206 in Bedminster between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day.

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

Financial contributions needed

Operation Shoebox: New Jersey 2005, in partnership with 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 personal items, toiletries and snacks.

The Hunterdon County Bulldogs, whose members are Marine veterans, is a regis-

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

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

seas.

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

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

Julia Simmons
Martinsville

I'm a Patriot
How 'bout you?

Julia Simmons coordinates the highly successful Soldiers' Shopping Sprees hosted by several different supermarkets throughout Central New Jersey. Her efforts have helped Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 fill thousands of boxes with donated groceries which are shipped overseas to U.S. troops. A member of the United Methodist Church in Bridgewater, she is a Methodist Youth Services advisor and has introduced friends and members of her church to OPSHBX, all of whom have helped sort and package the troops' packages. This month she'll travel to Mississippi to work on a Habitat for Humanity building project.

Join The Reporter, Julia Simmons 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/shoebbox for information on how you can help.

SHOEBOX
NEW JERSEY 2005

The Reporter

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

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

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine products | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline/pins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ear swabs | <input type="checkbox"/> Snack food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Cereal/protein bars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bug wipes/bug strips | <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece blankets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wipes (travel size) | <input type="checkbox"/> Microwaveable foods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Razors | <input type="checkbox"/> Hard candy/gum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye drops | <input type="checkbox"/> Batteries (any size) |
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"You know that phrase, 'give them an inch and they'll take a mile?'
I feel like I've already gone the mile and just have an inch to go. I'm so excited.
I don't know what to do first."

Fawnda Genovese-Garcia

Home at last, couple begins to put pieces back together

Editor's Note: This article is Part XII in a continuing series that looks closely at how a family picks up the pieces, rebuilds and goes on with their life in the aftermath of a fire that destroyed their home. The first seven parts of the series were published in The Chronicle on Thursdays between May 5 and June 9, and resumed in September. Part XI was published April 1.

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

GREEN BROOK — The last thing Fawnda Genovese-Garcia remembers hearing before she drifted off to sleep April 6 was a train whistle.

To her, it was a comforting signal that she was finally back home.

"The last thing I heard last night was the sound of the train going through Dunellen at midnight," Fawnda said. "That was the best sound. It meant I was home."

Earlier that day, she and her husband Felix Garcia had moved back into their cozy Green Brook home after spending more than a year in a two-bedroom Watchung apartment, forced to live there following a devastating fire in March, 2005 that had destroyed the Colonial-style Williamsburg saltbox home.

"Oh my God, I'm so excited," Fawnda said while jumping up and down. "You don't know how long I've waited. I don't think this is over yet, but it's getting



close. You know that phrase, 'give them an inch and they'll take a mile?' I feel like I've already gone the mile and just have an inch to go. I'm so excited. I don't know what to do first."

That evening, Fawnda's mom and sister arrived from Ohio to help the couple unpack. The next morning, the family ate breakfast on the floor.

"We took boxes and made a table and sat Indian style around them," Fawnda said. "Felix made us Ecuadorian bread and coffee."

Felix started moving their belongings in as soon as the house passed its final inspection April 6.

"It's a new beginning," he said.

Building Subcode official George DeLuca and Construction Code official Tom Carisone had a few recommendations, but nothing that would prevent the family from living there.

"He's going to check everything over," said Jason Wertheimer of Wertheimer & Sons, the company that rebuilt the charred house. "There were a few things he wanted and we did that. One thing that was new to me was (the requirement of) a second cover over the attic door for an energy code."

"It keeps in a lot of the warm air," DeLuca said. "With energy nowadays, every little bit counts."

In the basement, the inspectors felt and examined the duct work and piping, traced the wiring and looked in every nook and cranny.

"I'd like to see a cover on that sump pump," DeLuca said. "Just so you don't step in it."

The inspectors tested the fire and the carbon monoxide alarm to ensure it was functioning properly.

Left unfinished by the builders was the installation of doorbells.

"I've got no doorbells," Fawnda said with a chuckle. "That's the only thing I can see as not done."

By 1 p.m. on their first full day back at the house, the apartment where the couple spent the last year was almost empty.

"We already took over three car loads of stuff from the apartment," Fawnda said. "We got everything but the computer, bikes and food in the fridge. I unpacked a box of dishes for the kitchen and cleaned them. Diane and I dusted and I already cleaned everything. I've done three dishwasher loads in one day."

Unpacking the boxes was a chore no one looked forward to.

"I wish I was a witch today so I could just blink and everything would be cleaned and moved in," Fawnda said. "There are boxes everywhere. I don't know where

anything is."

"We have to get some rhyme and reason," Fawnda's mother, Rebecca Huffman piped in. "I guess I'm the organizer in the family."

During the preceding few weeks, Fawnda and Felix painted two of the upstairs bedrooms. The guest room was in colonial blue and accented with black furniture and a cast iron bed frame. The closet in the guest room also has a few new additions.

"Look," Fawnda said. "I went to a shoe sale and got seven new pairs of boots."

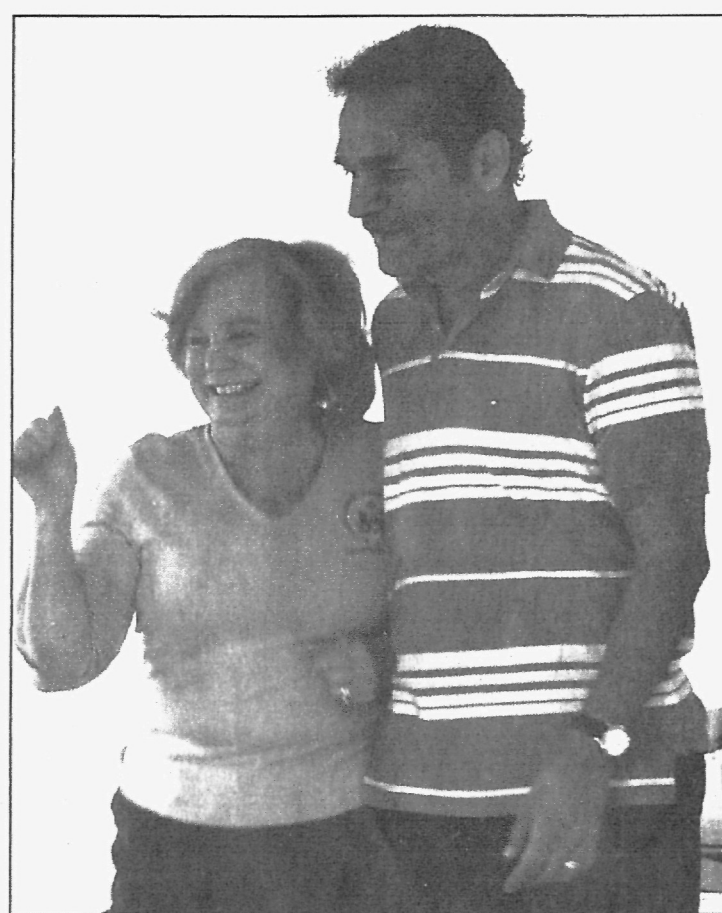
She's a shoe fanatic and had almost 100 pairs of shoes; most of them were destroyed in the fire.

The couple already furnished their granddaughter's bright purple room with a crib and a changing table.

But it would be weeks before Fawnda was able to get the rest of her house in order.

Her furniture order was delayed because the manufacturer discontinued the set she wanted for the family room after she placed her order. She also had to wait for a bed frame that wasn't shipped on time.

"All the furniture delays are not our fault," Value City Furniture Manager John Pinto said. "We don't make the furniture here. If the manufacturer doesn't put in on the truck on time, it doesn't get to you on time. At first though, there was a fabric delay. They ran out of fabric for the chairs and



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fawnda Genovese-Garcia and her husband Felix celebrate as they return to their refurbished Green Brook home, destroyed by fire in March, 2005.

had to wait for that to come in."

Fawnda also had to wait on her dining room set to be delivered from Chem Clean, a Scotch Plains-based company that restores and cleans furniture damaged by fire, smoke and water.

"I tried so hard to get everything done on time," she said. "All of a sudden, nothing's going to be here when I need it. I just want to come home. I just had a really bad day and I'm so tired. It's all the things you have to do. Everyday I have to go shopping

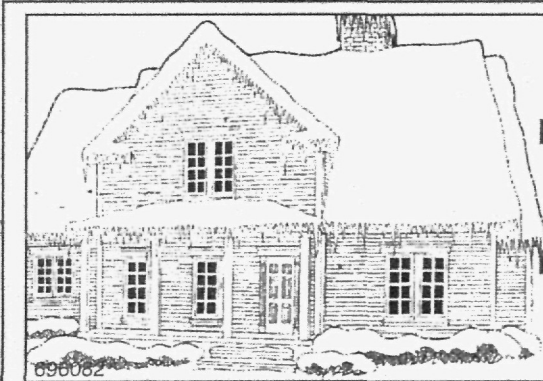
for something and I don't want to do it."

Box by box, Fawnda believes their lives will slowly return to normal.

She pulled out a little white flower decorative box and put in on the cedar chest in the bedroom.

"There," she said. "That's much better. I'm going to be decorating for months."

Look in future editions of The Chronicle to find out how the couple is adjusting to life in their new home.



The Reporter

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Panthers eager for another shot at crown

To be perfectly candid about it, Kathy DeBonis has to like her team's chances a lot more now than she did way back in early April.

Bridgewater-Raritan High's lineup had a few too many kinks in it when the Panthers first tangled with Ridge in the season's third game, which the Red Devils won 10-6, and B-R appears to be playing its best lacrosse of the year right now.

Just in time, too, because the teams will meet again 5 p.m. tomorrow for the Somerset County Tournament championship at Ridge High. For both schools, this is also familiar territory. Fourth-seeded Bridgewater-Raritan has now advanced to the county final in all five years of the tourney, while Ridge is making its fourth title-game appearance.

"We're definitely a lot stronger now than we were the first time we played Ridge," said DeBonis Monday night, shortly after her Panthers stunned previously-unbeaten Hillsborough 6-4 in the SCT semifinal round. "We had some injuries at the beginning of the season and we had some kids away, too. So we've gotten stronger and pulled everything together."

Junior Ali Gabinelli, sidelined for the first eight games because of an injury, has been a huge boost to the Panthers' attack and senior Megan Fenton, who piled up a school-record 104 goals a year ago, has gradually been regaining that dominating approach on the attack after suffering a torn anterior cruciate ligament during soccer season.

Meanwhile, sophomore Alyssa Dragon has emerged as one of B-R's most dangerous offensive performers with her steady goal-scoring ability. She had three during Monday's triumph over top-seeded Hillsborough.

SCT GIRLS LACROSSE

"Everybody's just playing well now," said DeBonis. "We're playing very good team defense and team offense."

That trend will have to continue against No. 2 seed Ridge, which scored in the waning seconds to knock off Pingry 8-7 in the other semifinal.

"We just have to play our own game and eliminate the unforced errors," said DeBonis, whose Panthers won the first two SCT crowns in 2002-03.

Because of a scheduling quirk which sometimes occurs this time of the season, B-R was to take on Ridge Tuesday in a regular-season encounter. But DeBonis indicated she was going to thoroughly downplay that game.

"I'm honestly not putting any pressure on that game tomorrow because it means nothing," she said Monday. "I just told the girls to enjoy it, have fun and learn something from it."

Kelly Golej, Kate Miller and Julianna Pope also hope to bolster B-R's attack Sunday while Kendall Deck, Noelle Zielinski, Kelly Thomas, Jessica DeBellis and Kelsey Reynolds form the defensive core.

Soph Kristen DeTroia played goalie against Hillsborough but junior Kelly Butler has seen most of the action in the nets this spring. DeBonis said the decision as to who'll start in the final won't be made until later this week.

After falling to Hillsborough 10-9 in the season-opener and 8-6 later in April, the visiting Panthers got their revenge at the ideal time Monday with a superb all-around showing at both ends of the

field.

"We knew we had to give 110 percent and cut down our unforced errors," said Fenton. "And we knew we had to play strong defense and control the ball on offense — just settle it up and run our plays well. Plus, we didn't want to be the first Bridgewater team not to make it to the county final."

"Again, in this game, it came down to which team made the least amount of unforced errors," said DeBonis. "Our defense really stepped up and played well today. They had so many interceptions and DeTroia (12 saves) played an excellent game."

B-R (13-4) didn't get off to a promising start as the Raiders, who lost for the first time in 14 outings, tallied the game's first two goals.

But Dragon, cutting off a pick and taking a pass from Fenton in front of the net, put the Panthers on the board five minutes into the action and Gabinelli followed with another shot at the 17:44 mark.

Dragon's goal at 14:19 staked B-R to a 3-2 advantage. Fenton scored off a Dragon feed with 6:05 left and less than a minute later Dragon connected again on the same type of play with Fenton that produced the initial goal. The Raiders then scored with 0:47 left, cutting their halftime deficit to 5-3.

The defenses dominated as the second half got under way before Gabinelli scored with 10:09 remaining. Hillsborough didn't get on the board again until just 15 seconds were left in the game.

GIRLS SCT Title Game Results

2002 — Bridgewater-Raritan 8, Ridge 4
2003 — Bridgewater-Raritan 10, Ridge 5
2004 — Ridge 8, Bridgewater-Raritan 7 (OT)
2005 — Hillsborough 11, Bridgewater-Raritan 9

Patriot bats not yet backing up pitching

Sometimes merely one bad pitch can turn an outstanding performance into a difficult-to-digest loss.

That's what happened to Somerset Patriots lefthander Keith Ramsey Sunday afternoon against Bridgeport. Ramsey came through with his third successive strong starting effort of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball season but Angel Echevarria's two-run homer in the fifth inning made the difference as the Bluefish claimed a 3-2 triumph in front of 1081 fans at The Ballpark at Harbor Yard.

During the past week Somerset continued to get superb pitching, yielding just 13 runs in five games, but the offense has yet to get untracked with the Pats carrying a sickly .212 team batting average through 13 games. Among the notables struggling at the plate are Jeff Nettles (.212) and Ryan Radmanovich (.178), each of whom has been among the ALPB's top sluggers the past three seasons, along with Jim Burt (.178) and George Sandel (.167).

The Pats, whose record slipped to 7-6 Sunday, took a 2-1 lead into the fifth but Angel Espada singled with one out and Echevarria



then jumped on a fat change-up from Ramsey and walloped it far over the left-field fence.

Ramsey (0-1), who hadn't permitted an earned run in his previous two starts, gave up 10 hits and no walks while striking out six batters in six innings on the mound. The Blues (8-5) tallied their other run in the fourth when leftfielder Pat Boran couldn't hold on to the ball while trying to make a two-out running catch, allowing a runner to score from second.

Lefty Donovan Osborne, who's seen action in nine major-league seasons, was a dominant pitcher for the Blues, allowing four hits and two walks and fanning six in a complete-game effort.

Somerset scored in the fourth when Larry Barnes walked — extending his season-opening on-base streak to 13 straight games — and Ryan Radmanovich followed with a one-out home run

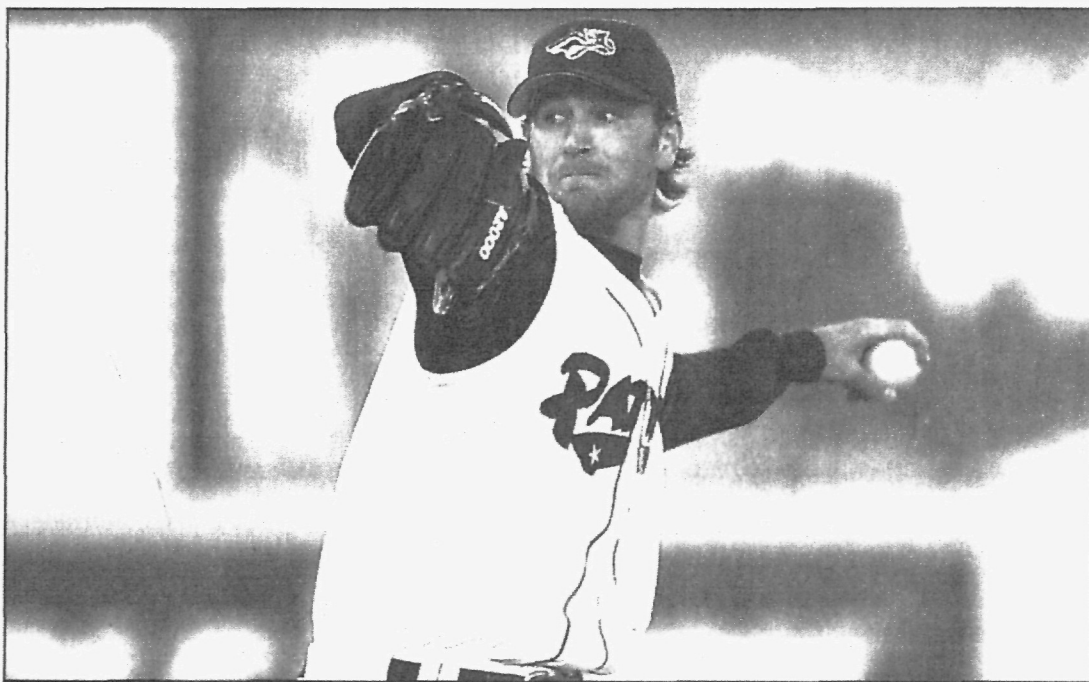
to right field, his second homer of the year. Later in the inning Boran singled but was thrown out trying to score on Fernando Lunar's two-out double to right-center.

The Patriots were scheduled to play Wednesday and Thursday at Lancaster before returning home to Bridgewater's Commerce Bank Park last night to begin a three-game weekend series with Atlantic City. Tonight's game starts 7:05 and the first pitch tomorrow is set for 1:35.

Pats Earn Split — After suffering an especially tough loss in the opener of Saturday's double-header with the Blues, the Patriots came back to take the second contest 4-1 as 1342 fans looked on in Bridgeport.

The Blues took the first game 4-3, scoring three runs with two out in the final inning against closer Hector Almonte (1-1). Almonte retired the first two batters he faced before the next five Blues reached base and Angel Echevarria concluded the uprising with a hit off the left-field wall.

Larry Barnes and Ryan Radmanovich had two hits apiece for the visitors and Kevin Nicholson doubled in a run.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Andy Van Hekken has been among the Somerset Patriots' top pitchers, posting a 2.65 earned run average in his first three starts. In 17 innings he's struck out 16 batters and walked just six.

Starter Jason Shiell pitched well, allowing five hits, four walks and one run in five innings before being replaced by Mike Johnson, who pitched an inning before Almonte took over.

In the second game Pat Boran, who doubled, and Mike Lockwood, who swiped his third base, had two hits each and Somerset got a strong outing from Ben Crockett (1-1). Crockett pitched the first six innings, yielding seven hits, one walk and one run before Nick Bierbrodt and Jason Olson (first save) finished up.

Radmanovich's double to left

and Boran's single sent in Somerset's first two runs in the opening stanza and Jeff Nettles drilled a two-run double into the left-field corner in the third.

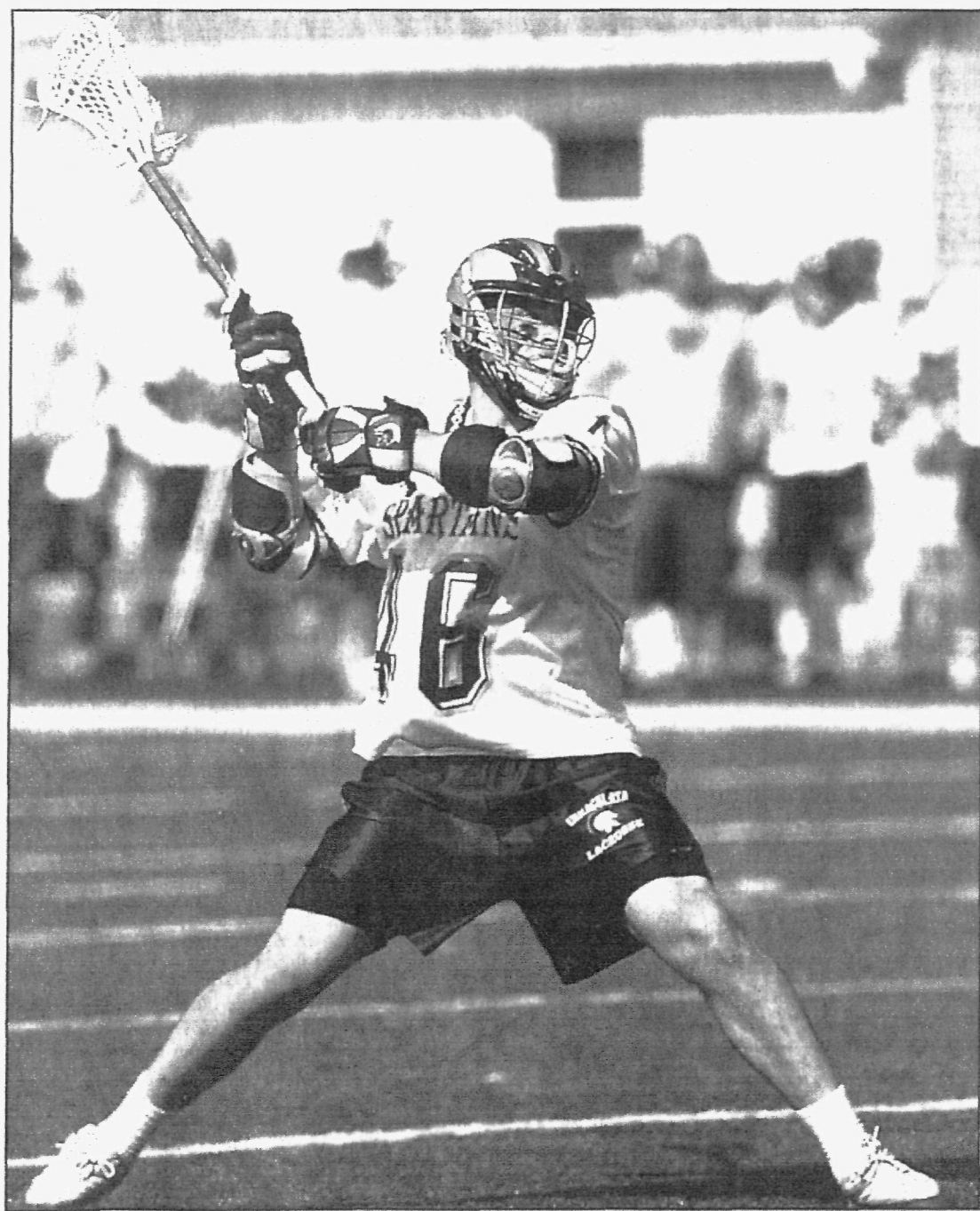
Pennsylvania 3, Patriots 1 — Teuris Olivares' homer off Todd Moser snapped a 1-all tie in the eighth and Mike Huggins connected for another shot off Saul Solveson in the ninth May 11 as the Road Warriors prevailed in front of 3352 fans at Commerce Bank Park.

The visitors had scored the game's first run in the fourth on two hits and a stolen base but the Pats pulled even in the sixth

when George Sandel singled, advanced on a wild pitch and came home on Nicholson's double.

Somerset starter Billy Sylvester went six innings, allowing four hits, one walk and a run while striking out eight batters, before Moser replaced him in the seventh.

The Pats couldn't capitalize on ideal scoring situations late in the game. They left runners at second and third in the seventh and at first and second in the eighth. Barnes' nine-game hitting streak was halted but he did draw a walk.



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Brian Shemesh, here in action last week, scored three Immaculata High goals Monday during the Spartans' 11-7 setback to top-seeded Pingry in the Somerset County Tournament semifinal round.

Spartans miss their shot at county final

FRANKLIN — Showing highly-restrained patience, Immaculata High was willing to wait for an occasional hole to appear in the Pingry School's flexible zone defense.

But it didn't happen frequently enough — and when it did, too often a Spartans' shot would be off the mark.

Ahead by just a goal at half-time Monday afternoon, top-seeded Pingry gradually assumed command during the final 24 minutes and earned an 11-7 triumph in the Somerset County Tournament's semifinal round at the Soccer Center of New Jersey.

"They played a definite slow-down today that we weren't really prepared for," said Pingry Head Coach Mike Webster.

Maybe Pingry wasn't prepared for it but the Big Blue had enough moxie and firepower to overcome the fifth-seeded Spartans' tactics and advance to the SCT title game for the fifth straight year.

Holding and passing the ball for minutes at a time around the Pingry cage, Immaculata kept things close during the opening half. Still, the Big Blue, despite having far fewer offensive surges, managed to build a 4-3 advantage at the intermission and opened up a three-goal cushion late in the third period.

"If we'd shot better in the first half, it would've been a

SCT BOYS LACROSSE

different game," said Immaculata Head Coach Tom Mott, whose troops lost a regular-season clash with Pingry 9-5 two weeks ago. "In the third quarter we didn't hold the ball the way we wanted to, and when we had the ball I think the kids got frustrated with not scoring. They became impatient, and when you're playing some ninth-graders like I am, it becomes tough."

Junior midfielder Brian Shemesh scored three of Immaculata's four second-half goals, Alex Glowatz had two in the opening half and Keith Hoerberger and Rich Dupras rounded out the scoring.

The Big Blue built a 4-2 lead before Glowatz hurled in a shot with a minute remaining in the opening half, cutting Pingry's margin to one at the break. Pingry began the third quarter with the ball and Logan Bartlett scored from close range while falling to the artificial turf 1:30 into the stanza.

Shemesh came right back with another goal with 7:12 to go, pulling the Spartans within 5-4, but Immaculata soon misfired on another ideal opportunity.

Pingry gained control and junior Kim Kimber, whose elusiveness and loquaciousness both proved to be partic-

ularly annoying to the Spartans all day, rifled one in from 12 yards out at the 5:15 mark. Less than a minute later Brian Combias flicked the ball in out of a scramble and the Big Blue's advantage was 7-4.

But the Spartans didn't quit. Fed by freshman Matt Janssen, Shemesh scored again in a man-up situation with 1:38 left in the third quarter, making the difference 7-5.

However, considering the strength of Pingry's defense, the deficit quickly grew too large. With the Big Blue a man up following a personal foul infraction, Henry Burchenal took a pass from Kimber, who was behind the cage, and tossed in a point-blank shot for an 8-5 Pingry margin with just 13 seconds left in the period.

Immaculata was flagged for another violation with 0:03 to go in the third, giving the Big Blue yet another man-up advantage to begin the final session and they again connected five seconds before the penalty expired for a rather commanding 9-5 cushion.

Dupras soon scored for the Spartans but Pingry came back quickly with two goals and an 11-6 lead with 7:04 remaining. Shemesh won the ensuing face-off and scored six seconds later but the Spartans couldn't sustain any true offensive threats the rest of the way.

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Early Deadlines

Publication:
Thursday, June 1

INCOLUMN Classifieds:
Friday, May 26, 5pm

Display Classifieds:
Thursday, May 25, Noon

Announcements

Announcements

110

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