

## le Chronicle SOUTH PLANS SED FUSI K LIGRARY Since 1862

Vol. 145, No. 21

## **Homeland Security funds pay for vehicles**

ed vehicles and equipment that have been acquired with Homeland Security funding to both expand the day-to-day operational capabilities as well as to improve response to hazardous materials incidents, bioterrorism, outbreaks of infectious disease and other public health threats and emergencies.

MAY 3 0 MAN

These new vehicles and state-ofthe-art equipment were obtained with the federal funding to strengthen the public health infrastructure within Middlesex County and to pro-

The Middlesex County Public vide expanded public and environ-Health Department recently dedicat- mental health services to maintain mental health services to maintain the quality of life for the county's 780,000 residents.

Saturday, May 27, 2006

These efforts are also directly linked to statewide and regional programs to maximize the interoperability of these critical resources for mutual assistance and support.

"Along with these new vehicles and emergency response resources, it is imperative that we all work together to achieve our communal goal — the protection of all of our residents in time of emergency or disaster," Freeholder John Pulomena said.

Education Committee.

"It is also important to note that these emergency resources are used extensively in our day-to-day public health operations," he said. "We are extremely proud of the leadership role that Middlesex County demonstrates in our preparedness for everyday emergencies as well as for larger and complex events of all types.

"The expanding mission of public health, as an emergency response force, is to preserve and protect the

Pulomena is chairman of the free-health of our residents through holders' Public Health and active planning, preparedness, eduactive planning, preparedness, education and effective response to emergency events of all kinds, sizes and complexity," said David A. Papi, director of the Middlesex County Public Health Department.

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'Through the timely acquisition of these vehicles and equipment, we are better prepared to manage public health threats throughout Middlesex County," Papi said.

"Over the last few years we have come a long way in enhancing our

Continued on page A2



## **Memorial Day** parade planned

Page A7.

METUCHEN -- On Monday, the borough will continue its tradition with one of the area's longest-established Memorial Day parades. The parade begins at 10 a.m., rain or shine, from the Pearl Street parking lot. The route is west on Center Street to Middlesex Avenue, north on Middlesex to Main Street, south on Main to High Street, west on High to Lake Avenue and north on Lake to Memorial Park. The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce also encourages all participants and attendees to support Operation Shoebox in its efforts to collect personal items for care packages to be sent to men and women currently serving in Iraq. A donation box will be available alongside the reviewing stand for donations. For more information about Operation Shoebox call Lewis Levy at (732) 259-0500. For more information, visit www.metuchenchamber.com. Those who have a convertible and are willing to provide transportation for a veteran, call the Chamber of Commerce at (732) 548-2964.

## **MEMORIAL DAY 2006**



Frank Freehauf points to relatives in this photo taken in Warren in 1914. Nearly every generation of his family dating back to the early 1700s served in a war and has lived in the township

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFE PHOTOGRAPHER

## **Bike hall** steering for home

By JIM WHITE Staff Writer

On the eve of the nation's oldest bicycle race, the U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame has picked up the pace in its search for a permanent home.

The hall, which is expected to vacate its temporary home at the historical Van Horne House in Bridgewater at the end of June, recently hired former District Management Corporation chair Bill Lawton, an independent contractor and fund-raiser and a lifelong resident of Somerville, to develop a fundraising campaign.

"It's a historical archive second to none in the country," said Lawton, who, along with the hall of fame board, has set a goal of \$5 million to be raised to secure and maintain a home that will house bicycling artifacts that date back to the beginning of the sport. "We're testing the waters," he said. "We think the support is there, we just have to find the best way to tap it. Lawton said there is no date yet for when the fundraising campaign will begin, and he is currently looking into the private, government and philanthropy sectors and will make a public announcement to kick it off when enough initial funding is secured. The hiring of Lawton follows Somerville Borough Council's recent denial of the hall's request for \$25,000 to fund a study and campaign for a new home. Mayor Brian Gallagher said the hall may still see the funding if the hall shows it can support itself. In the meantime, the hall, which also has part of its collection at the ADT Velodrome in Carson, Calif., will have to put its Bridgewater display in storage. Monique Rubens Krohn, executive director of the Heritage Trail Association, which leases the Van Horse House space to the hall, said a new display of houses in the Somerset Hills area will replace the bicycling artifacts. Krohn said the hall of fame has a one-year lease with Heritage Trail that was extended several times. "I hope that they find something soon. I know people want to support it," said Dan Puntillo, executive director of Middle Earth, a non-profit Bridgewater-based, agency that provides services to atrisk adolescents, and is the Tour of Somerville's organizer. "We certainly want to see the hall succeed," he said. The Tour of Somerville Cycling Series, which began in 1940, is a competitive cycling event for professionals and amateurs that takes place over Memorial Day weekend, culminating on Monday with the 50-mile Kugler-Anderson Memorial Tour of Somerville, known as the "Kentucky Derby of Cycling." The weekend is also surrounded by fun-filled events for families. The U.S. Bicycling Hall of Fame, formed in 1987, was an offshoot of the Tour of Somerville, yet it has vir-

## **Bound Brook** remembers

BOUND BROOK - The borough's Memorial Day parade and ceremony will be held Monday. It begins 10:30 a.m. at Mountain Avenue and Main Street and will end at the war memorial at Union and Vosseller avenues where the memorial ceremony will be held. The services and parade are being held rain or shine.

Commentary......A4 Community Life......A5 Weekend Plus ..... A3

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Consideration of the

## Answering the calls to arms

## Family's tradition of serving dates back to 18th century

#### By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

WARREN - Frank Freehauf didn't volunteer to serve his country in the armed forces. He was drafted by the Army during World War II, but Freehauf insists his "involuntary" service was the best thing that every happened to him.

"It got me out into the world," said Freehauf, a former Warren resident who now lives in Summit. "It made me realize my greater potential and I learned things that I never dreamed I could do.

During the war, Freehauf, serving in the Army Air Corps, was stationed in New Guinea, Australia, Manila, and then was transferred to occupied Japan where he was a civil service employee for another eight years after the war.

Freehauf followed a long history of family service. Nearly every generation of his family — dating back to the early 1700s — served in a war and has lived in Warren. He will be representing that family history at Monday's Memorial Day ceremony, which is expected to be one of the biggest events celebrating Warren's bicentennial year.

"I wouldn't call it a tradition," Freehauf said. "It was just the luck of the draw. It seems that wars come along every 20, 25 years. The only generation that was skipped was my grandfather. He was too old to serve in World War I, but my father served in World War I."

Freehauf is a descendant of the Rolph family - whose name has also been spelled as Ralph, Roff and Ruff. Richard Rolph, who was born in 1736, was in the Minute Man Militia and later served in the Continental Army where he wintered with Gen. George Washington at Valley Forge during 1777-78. King George Road residents Israel Ralph and Moses Roff served in the War of 1812 along with Stoney Hill

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GEORGE PACCIELLO'STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left, Art Adair, Chris Rose, Phil Decker and Bill Lawton talk about the upkeep of the New Somerville Cemetery, part of the borough's Memorial Day services.

## **Somerville cemetery** regaining dignity

### By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE - Just a few years ago, Bill Lawton would trudge through overgrown grass and brush just to get to his parents' grave sites at the New Somerville Cemetery.

"The grass would be up to my knees," he said. "You almost couldn't see the tombstones.

But today, he winds through the alleyways at the cemetery with ease, as the grass, bushes and trees have been cut back.

With a change in staff and leadership and the appointment of a municipal task force all over the two

years, the cemetery on the northern side of South Bridge Street went from a disgrace to a viable establishment.

On Monday, the cemetery will serve as the site of the borough's Memorial Day services, with an open house scheduled to follow at 11 a.m.

When Art Adiar came on board as the cemetery's superintendent in August, he immediately mowed the grass, cut back brush and leveled sunken graves.

"It takes about a year for a grave

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## **Call to arms**

#### Continued from page A1

area resident Richard Roff (Jr.). The Civil War brought out William Ralph and Patrick Sharkey, the father of William Ralph's wife Mary Jane.

Freehauf's father, Philip, served in France and Germany in World War I. One of Freehauf's sons, Ralph, served in the Vietnam War.

Although Freehauf's other son Kurt did not serve in the military, he designed the township's granite star-shaped War Memorial that lists the name of veterans who lived in Warren before, during and after his or her military service.

Freehauf's ancestors have lived in Warren since before it was founded in 1806 and Freehauf himself was born and raised in the township.

"I was born in an old house that's now an office building," said Freehauf, now a broker associate with Prudential Rose Realtors in Watchung. "It (Warren) was very rural. There were no paved roads. My earliest memory was when I was 6 or 7. They paved Mount Bethel Road and then King George Road."

history at the Memorial Day Ceremony. His speech will honor the men and women of the township who served in the armed forces. Siegel is also likely to discuss information from his book "Warren: A to Z," which is expected to be released this summer. "More than 12 percent of Warren's adult population served in World War II," Siegel wrote. "Nearly 200 men (and 10 women) work the nation's uniform on battle fronts in Africa,

Alan Siegel, township histo-

rian, will offer more township

Europe and the Pacific." The ceremony will take place on the municipal complex following the township's Memorial Day parade.

Current servicemen and women are invited to march in the parade and will be seated behind the lectern during the ceremony. During the ceremony, the Warren Lions Club will present \$500 to the Warren Police Benevolent Association, which is providing support to two servicemen Warren who are from

deployed in Iraq. The parade will form at 11 a.m. at the Warren Post Office, Washington Valley Road, and will step off toward the municipal complex promptly at 11:30 a.m.

## Grad has a leg up on life

#### By JIM WHITE Staff Writer

Corinne Tighe is striking. Not only with her beauty, but in the way she carries herself.

She has an air about her something that suggests she didn't just graduate from junior college, though, last night, she did just that with approximately 340 other students at Raritan Valley Community College's 37th spring commencement.

And while many of her fellow students will soon move on to four-year schools, Tighe is in no hurry, because right now she knows what she wants in life, something the 21-year-old woman has known more or less since she was a little girl.

"I plan on obtaining my bachelor's degree in about 10 years," she said jokingly on

Cemetery

Continued from page A1

to settle," he said. "About 90

days after the burial, we level it with more dirt to keep it

The 19th-century cemetery

is laid out like a Victorian

Garden. It doesn't have the

neat grid-like structure of

other cemeteries. Its 17,000

graves are laid out in a way

that created winding walking

paths. With its evenly cut

grass and trimmed shrubs,

the 17-acre cemetery, which is

more than 120 years old, is a far cry from how it looked just

"This place looked like it

was right out of a horror

Offices in Phoenia and Turson

a few years ago.

from looking sunken in."

Tuesday at her North Plainfield home. "No, hopefully I'll go back to school in the next four or five years."

Tighe, who earned her associate of applied science Business degree in Management at RVCC, happens to be a member of the Radio City Rockettes. She also teaches dance at studios in North Plainfield and Clark.

This summer she will travel to Maine to perform as a member of the chorus in the Ogunquit Playhouse's presentation of "Cinderella," and spend two weeks in Dallas teaching at a performing arts camp.

Then it's back to New York City for her fourth year with the Rockettes - the beloved precision dance company that kicked its way into the hearts of Americans and people

movie," Lawton said. "They

never trimmed around the

headstones, there were a

number of dead trees and

branches that had fallen

The brush and tall grass

"We discovered grave sites

that nobody knew the loca-

tion of because they were cov-

ered by bushes and trees,"

Decker and Lawton are two

of the 10 people who sit on

the cemetery task force, a

group that was created by the

the papers after Memorial

Day in 2004 because of the

condition of our cemetery,"

Mayor Brian Gallagher said.

"The task force and the board

put sweat, equity and time

"We were embarrassed in

Borough Council in 2004.

said Phil Decker.

even hid some tombstones.

down.'

worldwide close to a century

While a senior at Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison, where she was captain of the cheerleading team, Tighe attended a casting call in New York and was one of only five girls chosen out of 2,000 to join the Rockettes.

"I love it. I like carrying on the tradition," she said. "A lot of traditions have been lost in the world. This is one of the last performing traditions in America.'

As one of the 72 Radio City Rockettes, Tighe performs about 17 shows a week -mainly the Radio City Christmas Spectacular - as well as promotional tours and special events like the Tony Awards.

"It's very rigorous," she said. "You have to be proficient in

into rehal ilitating the gatehouse and crafting plans for the future.

Recommendations of the task force include converting the for-profit business into a non-profit organization, replacing dead trees, creating an updated inventory catalog, marketing the cemetery and creating an area for the ashes of those cremated.

The board of trustees for the cemetery accepted those recommendations and has already used volunteers to clean and make repairs to the gatehouse and created an updated inventory of grave sites.

Those few tasks made the cemetery's 2005 Memorial Day open house a success and the board is on its way to fulfilling the task force's other business management with hopes to one day open her own dance studio.

But Tighe conceded "danc-

ing can only take you so far,"

and that is why she majored in

tap, jazz, ballet and voice."

"It was very enjoyable," she said of her Raritan Valley experience. "I learned a lot. I loved the close commute, and I could pick whatever courses I wanted and at whatever time."

"She's done very well for herself at a young age. I see her opening her own dance studio and being on Broadway," her mother, Karen Tighe, said.

"We're very, very proud of her," added her father, Mark Tighe.

"Corinne started (dancing) with her sister (Jessica). She's been dancing since she was 7,3 her mother said. "And she just kept dancing."

recommendations. Visitors will have the opportunity to see the efforts of the force during an open house Monday.

Right now, the cemetery's primary source of income is the sale of plots and the burial of remains. Those funds allow for the maintenance and day-to-day operations at the cemetery, but leave no money for capital improvements. Converting to a nonprofit would allow the cemetery board to tap into additional resources and obtain grants for rehabilitation.

'In order to convert, all the stockholders need to agree to the conversion," said Chris Rose, the president of the board of trustees. "We have one stockholder that we haven't convinced just yet."

**Homeland Security** 

## Continued from page A1

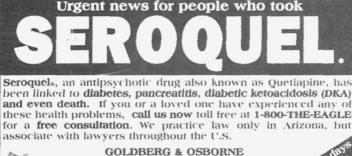
public health services and programs," Pulomena said. "The resources that have been acquired are only a part of a work still in progress. It is the growing and proactive partnership among various departments and agencies that is critical to meeting our community needs during any form of emergency."



## A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

Newswire: People are selling their old broken and outdated items like scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high (over \$650.00 per ounce), it makes sense. GoldKit.com, a gold recycler, offers free insured recycle kits so people may cash in their scrap with 24 hour service and guarantee satisfaction. They accept

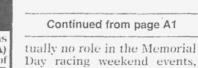
chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash" says Richard Zakroff, VP of marketing. "Even old dental gold has value." GoldKit.com processes over 10,000 recycle Kits per month. People can get a free GoldKit at 1-800-283-4700 or GoldKit.com.











Bike

which include four races culminating in Monday's event. "If there is any gap with what's happening between the

tour and the hall, if would be



"For some reason we have not been able to reach out to the right people, the CEOs that are bicycle oriented," said Vince Menci, the hall's curator.

"Somerville is the heart of cycling," Brunner said.



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The Chronicle

#### Saturday, May 27, 2006

## **Military Honors**

Air Force Airman Darryl J. Stevenson has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Stevenson is the son of William and Angie Davis of South Plainfield. In 2005, the airman graduated from South Plainfield High School.

Air Force Airman Juan D. Munoz has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

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

He is the son of Ileana Munoz of Dunellen. Munoz is a 2002 graduate of Dunellen High School. \* \* \*

Two noncommissioned officers in the Army Reserve have been decorated with the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award. Sgt. 1st Class Kristen E.

Ortiz and Sgt. Fred J. Ghanim received the award, given to reservists who were on active duty with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. The two NCOs are instructor-writers assigned to the 5th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 98th Division, based in Edison.

Ortiz has been in the reserves and active military for 10 years; she graduated in 1994 from John P. Stevens High School in Edison and received a bachelor's degree from Kean University in 1999. She is the daughter of Lucy Ortiz of Roxy Avenue, Edison, and Louis Ortiz of Rahway.

Ghanim has been in the reserves and active military for four years. He is the son of Fred Ghanim of Front Street, Dunellen, and Anna May Ghanim of Clinton.

Air Force Airman Jeremiah A. Carnes has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

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

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate through degree the Community College of the Air Force. He is the brother of Joshua Carnes of Edison. Carnes is a 2004 graduate of Bloomfield High School.

Fireman Apprentice Brian E. Farrell has completed Navy recruit training at Great Lakes, Ill. The 2001 graduate of John P. Stevens High School is the son of Jane A. and Brian E. Farrell of Edison.

Navy Seaman Recruit Simon Heras, son of Maria and Gabino Heras of North Brunswick, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Heras completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs. first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

Heras is a 2004 graduate of Vocational Piscataway Technical High School.

Navy Ensign Neil R. D'Arco, son of Carmen L. and Nunzio R. D'Arco of Edison, recently graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and was commissioned to his current rank in the United States Navy.

D'Arco is a 2001 graduate of John P. Stevens High School of Edison. \* \* \*

Air Force 2nd Lt. Mary T. Stringer, a 2001 graduate of Bishop Ahr-St. Thomas High School, Edison, recently graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and was commissioned to her current rank in the United States Air Force.

Marine Corps Pfc. Daryl S. Lawrence, son of Vera L. and recently completed the Administrative Clerk Course at Personnel Administration School, Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, Camp Lejeune, N. C.

Lawrence is a 2004 graduate of Edison High School and joined the Marine Corps in November 2004.

Army Pvt. Duane McCown has graduated from the Logistical Automated Advanced Specialist Individual Training course at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va.

The course is designed to train soldiers to establish and maintain stock records and other documents such as inventory, materiel control, accounting and support reports, automated and manual accounting records; perform stock record/warehouse functions pertaining to receipt, storage, distribution and issue and maintain equipment records and parts; review and verify bills of lading, contracts, and purchase orders; repair and construct shipping crates for equipment James E. Lawrence of Edison, and supplies, and perform

prescribed loads and shop stock lists in manual and automated supply applications

McCown is a 1992 graduate of Piscataway Vocational Technical High School.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Bradley C. Selitto, son of Gloria Carle of Edison and Ralph W. Selitto, Jr of Edison, made a port visit to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, during scheduled deployment, while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, homeported in Bremerton, Wash

During the visit, members of Selitto's unit took time to read, play and assist in teaching children at the Rashid Pediatric Therapy Center in Dubai. The 130 children at the school have a variety of disabilities and range in age from 3 to 15.

The Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group is deployed to the Persian Gulf conducting operations in support of multinational forces in Iraq and maritime security operations in the Gulf to promote security and stability in the region.

## 'Click It or Ticket' being held in boro

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The Police Department will be participating in a national "Click It or Ticket" campaign through June 4.

This "zero tolerance" campaign will use fixed and roving checkpoints throughout the borough. Motorists who are stopped at these checkpoints and are not wearing seatbelts will be issued citations.

The goal of the program is to increase seatbelt usage throughout the state. In addition, posters and announcements will be provided to South Plainfield High School.

For more information, call Lt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

## Memorial Day parade in Edison on Sunday

EDISON — The Edison Township Parade Committee holds its Memorial Day parade tomorrow 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 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.

E-mail the recipes to cookbook@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/jer-

In The Towns

## Metuchen businesses hosting spring events

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

sevfresh

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

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

www.metuchenchamber.com or call (732) 548-2964

## 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.

- 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. 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)

radio club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League. New program focuses

## on coping with stress

968-7789 before 8 p.m. The

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.

People experience stress in different ways. Difficulty coping can lead to a variety of negative effects, such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse and even physical health problems. Do not be fooled by the agency's name; this program is not just for people with a history of substance use, but for anyone who can benefit from learning how to develop and apply effective coping strategies to deal with the stresses of everyday life.

For more information, call (908) 722-4900. Funding for "Bridge to Success" is provided by a grant from the New Jersey Department of Human Services.



A-3





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Saturday, May 27, 2006

## Volunteers lining up; **Patriots host OPSHBX** packing to aid troops

We've had a steady stream of phone calls and e-mails from volunteers eager to preregister for Saturday's work day at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, an encouraging sign that we'll hit our goal of packing 1,000 care packages to be sent to U.S. troops overseas.

A-4

The Chronicle and the Somerset Patriots, sponsors of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, have been planning the event for several months; Somerset Patriots' manager Sparky Lyle and several Patriots' players will join the volunteers, along with several veterans who have returned from serving in the Mideast.

Registration will take place beginning at 11 a.m. and the packing will begin at noon after opening ceremonies and a short orientation session. OPSHBX staff, Patriots management and US Postal officials will all offer welcoming remarks. A flight of vintage aircraft, led by Joe Borin's WWII-vintage trainer, will fly over the stadium in formation as we salute the service of our troops overseas. The Postal Service will unveil its newest stamp, a first class tribute to those who've been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle.

The Postal Service has also designed a special postmark incorporating the Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 logo, which will be used to stamp each package after it has been taped shut and labeled.

Volunteers will work on the concourse of the ballpark, where they 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. The Postal Service will park a portable postal unit at the ballpark to help expedite the shipping process. This is the fifth high-



profile event organized by OPSHBX since its inception last year.

During 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.

Previous OPSHBX events in Somerville, Bridgewater, Franklin and Manville suc-Bridgewater, ceeded 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.

Lunch will be provided. All the food and beverages for this event have been donated. Special thanks goes to Soriano's, Old York Road in Bradley Gardens; Francesco's, Somerset Street, Raritan; Tromontano Produce, South Plainfield; Frank's Pizzeria, Manville and Hoagie Hut, Route 28, Bridgewater. Mayor Angelo Corradino of Manville has also donated several trays of food for the event.

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, and the US Postal Service will present a commemorative gift to each participant.

And please remember to leave your politics at the door. This is not about who's for or against the war. It's about the troops. Period.

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

#### Good deeds

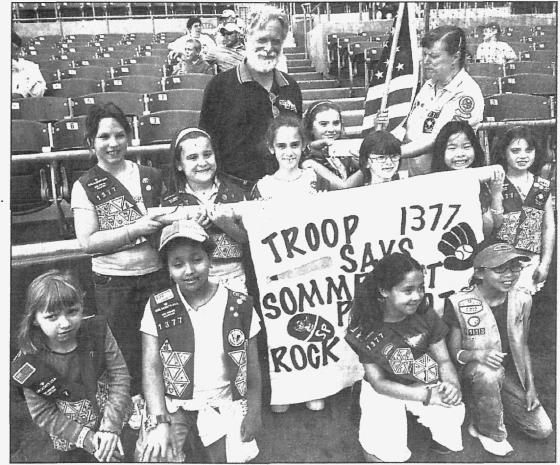
Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005 serves as the conduit for the donated supplies, letters, good will and good wishes that defines the organization and its supporters.

Since our last packing event Feb. 4, we have collected tons of donated supplies from a variety of sources: senior citizen groups, schools, Girl Scouts and Brownies, Boy Scouts, health clubs, doctor's offices, families and individuals, and from several parents whose son or daughter are in the military. Some examples: - Ginny Rosenberg, who

works as a technician with Drs. David and Saul Frechtman in Edison, dropped off a truck full of supplies collected from patients at the dentists' office at 98 James St. The doctors had sent out a letter to their patients asking them support Operation to Shoebox New Jersey 2005.

- The 6- and 7-year-old members of Troop 1033 in Whitehouse Station put together hundreds of toiletry gift bags for the troops, and wrote several letters to enclose in the packages. Each tiny bag is tied off with a colorful curled ribbon.

- The Veterans' Club at Canal Walk in Franklin sponsored a drive and raised funds over the past six weeks. They made four deliveries to our office, and donated more than \$200; Chet Trechock, who initiated the effort, will



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Girl Scout Troop 1377 of Edison and their leader, Patricia Constantino, presented a check for \$350 to Rod Hirsch, executive editor of The Chronicle at Commerce Bank Ballpark on Sunday to benefit Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. The 7-, 8- and 9-year-olds made crafts and sold them for \$1 apiece at St. Matthew's R.C. Church in Edison over the past few weeks to raise the funds which they donated.

Walk to the May 27 shipping event.

- The Vietnam Veterans of America, Hunterdon County Chapter, sponsored a 50-50 raffle and donated \$465 to OPSHBX;

Mannion's Pub and Restaurant in downtown Somerville sold paper shamrock wall hangings to patrons and raised \$480 for OPSHBX; - The Somerset Fish and

Game Association donated \$100 to OPSHBX after a presentation by Peter Niemic of County Somerset the Veterans' Affairs office;

- Ten members of Girl Scout Troop 1377 in Edison spent weeks making crafts, and sold them at St. Matthew's R.C. Church, raising \$350. The girls donated that amount to OPSHBX prior to Sunday's Somerset Patriots' game in Bridgewater.

"Alice in The Attic," an original play featuring dozens of young Branchburg students with two perfor-

dedicated to U.S. troops deployed overseas.

The cast asked audience members to donate supplies, and drop them off at the performances in lieu of paid admission. Mary Beth Ferris Branchburg of the Recreation Dept. dropped of thousands of items Monday, as well as a cash contribution of \$200.

#### Champagne Open

Golfers are needed to tee off in support of U.S. troops overseas.

Slots are available for foursomes 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

bring 13 residents of Canal mances May 19 and 20, was 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.

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

The Chronicle



Pat DeChirico USMC

## 1′m a Pa How bout you?

The Reporter

"Gunner" epitomizes the expression "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." Now the director of Security at Gill St. Bernard's School in Cladstone, Security at Ghi St. Bernard as School in Gladstone, DeChirico has given 43 years of service to the Corps, 23 active and 20 in the Reserves. A found-ing member of Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005, he is a member of American Legion Post 159; president, Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 452; vice commandant, Marine Corps League Detachment 927; service officer, Veterans of Pornier Wess, Beat S200 and a readiant of the of Foreign Wars Post 8390 and president of the Veterans Alliance of Hunterdon County. DeChirico also worked on the restoration of BB62

SHOEBOX

USS New Jersey and was commanding officer of the Marine detachment aboard the floating muse um from 1998 2003. Married to Susan for 43 years, DeChirico has four children and nine grandchildren

Join The Reporter, Pat DeChirico and other citi zens and businesses who support Operation Shoebox New Jersey 2005. Salute the sacrifice of subjector New Service and Women serving over seas. Be a Patriot · Support OPSHBX. Call The Reporter's Executive Editor Rod Hirsch at (908) 575 6684 or cluck www.nj.com/shoe boxni for information on how you can help

www.NJ.com/shoeboxnj

## 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:

NOR THE

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

\*Donated items must be in their original packaging

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



UNITED STATES

A.R.M.S AMERICAN RECREATIONAL ARMY NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY SERVICES

Photo: Jon Naso/The StarLedger. Used by permission

UNITED STATES

MARINE CORPS RESERVE

### The Chronicle

## Local riders, national spotlight

### By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — With residents, businesses and cycling enthusiasts eagerly awaiting the 63rd annual Tour of Somerville on Monday, there are a few people anticipating the nation's oldest bicycle race more than most.

"To me, it's special, because it's the closest national race," said professional cyclist Kyle Wamsley, who lives in Allentown, Pa., noting that many of his friends and family come to watch him at the Somerville event.

A member of the Colavita-Sutter Home Winery Cycling Team, based in Linden, Wamsley said that the Somerville race is a bit different than most bicycle races on the national racing tour.

"It's a wide course, so you can move easily through the field," he explained. "It's one of the flatter courses we do, so it's speed more than terrain."

Teamwork, not something spectators usually associate with the sport of cycling, comes into play more in the 50-mile Tour of Somerville than most races, he explained, because of the way the course is laid out.

"Not too many people know, but it's really a team effort," he said. Wamsley would know: he was the winner of the Tour of Somerville last year, and has ridden it as a junior cyclist three times and ridden in the professional race three times as well.

Wamsley grew up watching the Tour DuPont in Wilmington, Del., and has been racing since he was 12 years old. For the last two years, as a member of the Colavita-Sutter Home team, he's done nothing else. With 50 to 70 races per year, he's got a packed schedule. Prior to the Tour, he raced in Raleigh, N.C. on Friday and Baltimore, Md., today before hitting the Somerville course on Monday.

"It's a full-time job," he said. "You have to commit yourself physically and financially."

It's an achievement just to make it onto a professional team. According to Wamsley, there are about 15 riders per team, and only 16 teams in the country.

For 17-year-old Carter Jones, that's a dream he might make true after college. Currently finishing his junior year at Columbia High School in Maplewood, Jones will be testing the junior race in Somerville this weekend, despite what he describes as a "crash" at a stage race in Sussex last weekend.

"All the pro teams are going to be there," he said. "That's going to be great, watching the pros race."

"I always used to bike to get around, and friends of mine got into mountain biking," he said, though he made a detour into competitive cycling in part thanks to one of his teachers, the Colavita elite team captain Michael Novemsky.

Jones began cycling competitively a year and a half ago, joining what was then the six-member Colavita New Jersey U19 Racing TeamNow, that team is up to 40 members, and Jones is one of its captains.

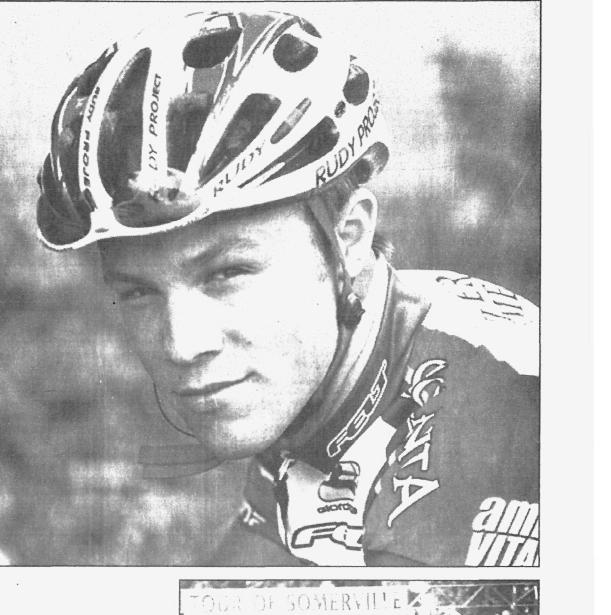
"Junior racing is getting so big, and people want to join us because we're the biggest team," he said.

The 15-mile junior race, called the Harry Naismith Juniors, is just one of the 40 races that Jones participates in every year. The cyclist said he typically trains between 10 and 15 hours per week, and especially likes hilly courses, though apparently even the Watchung Mountains aren't high enough to train well for some of the steepest races, such as the national competition held in Pennsylvania.

"Even around here, trying to train for Nationals is difficult, because they're so hilly," he said, noting that he travels to High Point to train for the 60-mile race, which has a 6,000-foot climb.

In his spare time, Jones pursues a different side of cycling: sales, as an employee of High Gear Cyclery of Millburn, which helps sponsor his team.

When Somerville turns out to support the races, Jones and Wamsley will be among — and possibly leading — the pack.



**Riders are seen at right beginning the** Tour of Somerville during last year's feature race. The tour, the oldest bicycle road race in the nation, draws hundreds of professional and amateur riders from the United States, as well as from around the world. One of those competing is Kyle Wamsley, above, for whom this is his "home" race. He won the Tour of Somerville last year. The weekend of bicycle racing also includes the Bound Brook Criterium, which takes place tomorrow.

THE REPORTER/2005 (right); COURTESY COLAVITA-SUTTER HOME WINERY CYCLING TEAM (above



Saturday, May 27, 2006

## **Campus Notes**

Three area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester on the Teaneck campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University. They are Zoi Antoniou of Bound Brook, Connie Lau of Edison and Turek Wallace of Piscataway. \* \* \*

A total of 27 area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Rowan University in Glassboro. The students and their majors, where declared: Stephen K. Allara of South Plainfield, health and exercise science with emphasis in

teacher certification. Brielle K. Anderson of South Plainfield, school psychology. Shannon L. Bishop of South Plainfield, collaborative teaching. Brian P. Boisier of Piscataway, communication with emphasis in journalism. Kristen M. Brady of Piscataway, law and justice.

Larissa A. Cariello of Edison, business administration with emphasis in marketing. Stephanie Carniglia of Metuchen, health and exercise science with emphasis in teacher certification. Christopher M. Chariw of Piscataway, studio art.

Fine Art & Crafts

at Nomahegan

Kerri L. Colletto of Edison, collaborative education. Kaitlyn A. Disch of South Plainfield. Christina M. Fitzgerald of Dunellen, communication with emphasis in radio-television-film.

Melanie B. Foscolo of South Plainfield.

Jonathan Fredericks of South Plainfield, law and justice.

Carrie Lander of Metuchen, art with emphasis in education.

Mary E. Lenti of Edison, political science.

Jeanette C. Lodato of Piscataway, art with emphasis in education. Brian P. Lynch of Dunellen, theater with emphasis in theater arts.

Taryn E. McCormick of Edison, elementary education.

Chinasa A. Nworu of Piscataway.

Lauren J. O'Shea of Edison, education with emphasis in elementary education. Amy M. Ovsiew of Piscataway, communication

with emphasis in public relations. David Penyak of South Plainfield, communication with emphasis in communica-

Memorial Day fun

take place on Monday.

in Veterans Park, off

Possumtown Road.

Ave.

Street.

PISCATAWAY - Memorial

Day festivities in the township

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post

7504 holds its service at 9 a.m.

American Legion Post 261

Legion hall at 840 Washington

The Memorial Day parade

shine, from the intersection of

Rock Avenue and West Seventh

The parade route is west on

Seventh to Washington Avenue,

then south on Washington to the

Legion hall. Grand marshal is

who was in Iraq from April 2004

Army Maj. Frederic Walz Jr.,

steps off at 11 a.m., rain or

holds its service at 10 a.m. in the

## In The Towns

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.

Laudino at (732) 463-1081.

tion studies.

cation.

semester

Robert Rose of Piscataway,

law and justice. Danielle M.

Schweers of South Plainfield,

Meghan M. Seamster of

Edison, education with

emphasis in elementary edu-

cation. Jenna Stein of

Metuchen, art with emphasis

in education. Jason L. Stewart

of Metuchen, education with

emphasis in elementary edu-

William N. Michel of

Piscataway was named to the

dean's list for the fall 2005

at

teacher of the handicapped.

EDISON - The Health Department announces a 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.

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

The Walk for Hope begins at

International College Springfield, Mass. He is a junior majoring in criminal justice.

Amanda Lockshiss of Piscataway was named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

Jenna Greczek of Middlesex was named to the dean's list for the fall 2005 semester at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

She is a freshman majoring in music therapy and music performance.

The Chronicle

the Son of God? able Dunellen Ave. SPRINGFIELD AVE, CRANFORD JEWELRY • CLOTHING • GLASS • WOOD • FIBER • TOYS • FOLK ART • FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY • FURNITURE • GREAT FOOD • CARNABY ST. BAND - ENTERIAIMENT Co-sponsored by Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders & Dept. of Parks & Recreation and Rose Squared. Inc. RAIN or SHINE-FREE GSP to exit 138, west 2 miles or Rt.22 to Rt.577 South 1.3 miles; follow signs 908-874-5247 OR WWW.ROSESQUARED.COM

'The Da Vinci Code'

series begins Sunday DUNELLEN — The Da Vinci Code Sermon Series, which begins 10 a.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen, will feature a four-part sermon series on the book and

film "The Da Vinci Code.' Questions to be addressed will include: What can history really tell us? Can we trust the four Gospels? What's the role of women in Christianity? Is Jesus Discussion groups throughout the four weeks will also be avail-

The church is located at 218 For additional information, call (732) 968-3844 or visit www.dunellenpres.org.

Piscataway planning



Located on Conners-Vanderbilt Bay, this GRAND ESTATES magnificent home, completed in 2006, will be sold call for a FREE color brochure at Absolute Auction on June 8th to one very lucky 800.552.8120 individual, 60 FT OF DEEP WATER FRONTAGE!

## tion, visit www.cityofhope.org/WalkforHop e. Proceeds benefit the City of

American

For more information, call Sam

Edison goes

### on 'Stroke Alert'

"Stroke Alert": free screenings for

## 'Walk for Hope' to fight cancer

10 a.m.

For pre-entry and full informa-

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.



A-6



## Panthers hit peak at just the right time

## Golej's five goals power title-game triumph

#### By DAVE ALLENA Staff Writer

BERNARDS - Considered outsiders at the start of the week, the Bridgewater-Raritan High girls simply went out and proved everyone wrong.

Given a chance to show what they can do when they're reasonably healthy, the Panthers capped a great week for the program by capturing the Somerset County Tournament crown Sunday when they rallied to edge second-seeded Ridge 14-12 at Ridge High.

Playing Ridge twice and Hillsborough once - teams that were ranked higher in the state and seeded ahead of them in the SCT while also owning a combined 3-0 mark against them — the Panthers completed an impressive three-game sweep of those opponents during a seven-day span.

Bridgewater-Raritan, the only team to appear in all five county finals, earned its third championship and became the lowest seed to win the title after being ranked fourth behind Hillsborough, Ridge and Pingry.

"To be honest I never thought of us a fourth seed," said Head Coach Kathie DeBonis. "I really couldn't accept us as the fourth seed. We keep telling the girls it's not where you start but where you end. It's rewarding and fulfilling because this team has gone through some adversity

Perhaps none of the Panthers have overcome as much adversity as junior Kelly Golej, who had a breakout performance with five goals and one assist to lead the attack. It was the first SCT final for the three-year starter.

'It's just an amazing feeling to win this," she said. "I tore my ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) in each of my first two years, so this is the first time I've played in the county tournament. It's unbelievable.

"We knew they would face-

## SCT GIRLS LACROSSE

guard Megan (Fenton) and Alyssa (Dragon), too, so we talked about how we needed to have someone step up and take over. I just figured I could do it."

DeBonis was also thrilled to see Golej deliver in the big setting.

"I'm really happy for Kelly," she said. "The county win is nice, but this was a big game for Kelly. To see her come back so strong and step up in a game like this is a testament to her hard work and dedication."

Golej's performance played a big role in the Panthers earning their 13th victory in their last 14 games to improve to 16-4 on the season. The tri-umph followed a 10-9 verdict over Ridge May 16 in regularseason play, one day after knocking off top-seeded and previously-undefeated Hillsborough 6-4 in the SCT semifinals.

"I think beating Ridge earlier in the week was a nice confidence boost," DeBonis said. "The girls asked me after this game if I thought we'd be county champions, and I told them I thought they could win it at the start of the season. Those couple of wins gave them the confidence-boost they needed."

B-R shook off a slow start to beat Ridge (14-4) for the third time in the four SCT finals in which the teams have been paired. The Red Devils scored three times in the first 5:29 of play, led 4-1 eight minutes into the match and extended a 4-3 lead to 7-3 with 5:45 remaining in the half.

From that point on, however, the Panthers owned the play. Golej connected with 3:30 left on an unassisted tally and Dragon converted a steal by Golej into a sprint-and-score play with 50 seconds left. Goalie Kristen DeTroia then stopped two point-blank shots in the final 30 seconds to keep it a 7-5 game at halftime.

"I was concerned with our start, but not overly concerned," DeBonis said. "It took us some time to get into a niche. We knew the first half might be even because the wind was against us, and the sun was in our eyes. We were down, but we kept our heads up and kept chipping away. When we put Kate Miller on the draw that really helped.

"One of Kristen's (DeTroia) strengths is her ability to stuff those shots, and those were big saves. We told the girls they had to come out pumped for the second half because we were two goals down, but we knew we had factors with us that we had against us in the first half."

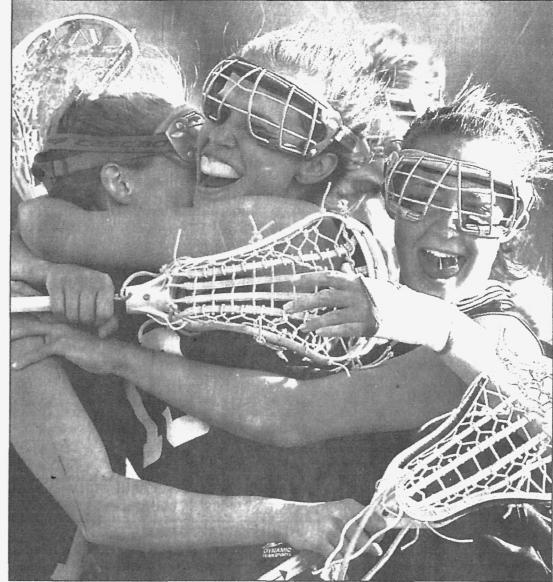
B-R evened the game at 8-all 2:23 into the second half on a Miller goal off an feed from Ali Gabinelli, but Ridge responded to grab a 10-8 advantage with 18:17 remaining.

Once again the Panthers came right back. Golej converted off a restart, Dragon hit an 8-meter penalty shot after getting knocked down, Fenton drilled home a pass from Dragon, who made a long run following a takeaway in front of the B-R goal, and Gabinelli made it 12-10 with 8:44 left on a shot from 10 yards.

After that, the Panthers maintained control of the ball, and while Ridge twice got to within a goal, Bridgewater answered almost immediately following both Devil scores. B-R actually had opportunities to extend its lead to three a couple of times but couldn't capitalize.

"I knew it would come down to the end of the game and who had the ball," said DeBonis. "I thought possession would be the key. I thought we played well. We played well enough to win."

Dragon, the Panthers' top scorer this spring, contributed three goals and two assists.



After coming up short the past two years, Bridgewater-Raritan High captured its third Somerset County Tournament championship Sunday and the Panthers couldn't wait to celebrate following their 14-12 conquest of Ridge.

"We knew we could beat them all along, even though they were seeded ahead of us," the sophomore said. "We knew we had the skills and talent to win the county championship. Since Ridge was seeded above us we went out knowing we had nothing to lose.

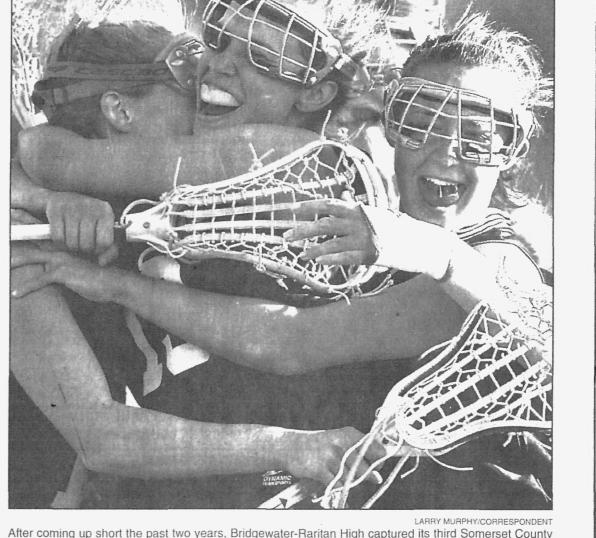
"Other teams say it's just Dragon and Fenton, but we know we have other players

that can score. I was faceguarded in the second half so I didn't get the ball as much and I tried to use that against them by setting up a doubleteam. I was pretty confident when we got up. Once we get a lead we can usually hold it."

#### SCORING

First Half: R -- Emma Molloy 20:09; R Chelsea Long (Chelsea Peck) 19:41;
R — Maggie McVeigh 19:31; BR — Megan Fenton (Ali Gabinelli) 18:30; R -Molloy (Peck) 16:52; BR - Kelly Golej (Gabinelli) 10:98; BR — Golej 10:06; R — Peck (Caitlin Kelly); R — Molloy (Michelle Millot) 6:10; R — Long 5:45; B-R — Golej 3:30; B-R — Dragon (Golej)

Second Half: B-R — Golej (Dragon) 24:42; R — Long (Millot) 24:30; B-R — Dragon 23:53; B-R Kate Miller (Gabinelli) 22:27; R — Molloy (McVeigh) 20:06; R — Long (McVeigh) 19:17; B-R — Golej 15:19; B-R — Dragon 13:57; B-R — Fenton (Dragon) 13:06; B-R — Gabinelli 8:44; R — McVeigh 8:34; B-R — Miller 7:15; R — Jenny Lubarsky (Long) 5:25; B-R — Noelle Zielinski (Miller) 4:49 Saves: B-R: Kristen DeTroia 6; R: Shea Cuddihy 6



## **McKeown's arm** to county crown

**Spartans ride** 

### By DAVE ALLENA Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER - In a typical Immaculata High baseball season the Spartans will hand the ball to a senior and tab him as the pitching staff's ace.

Well, in typical fashion senior righthander Kyle Morrison filled that spot admirably, winning his first six decisions and pitching into the seventh inning of the Somerset County Tournament semifinals .. and then he got hurt field-

ing a come-backer.

Unconcerned, the Spartans simply handed the ball to junior southpaw Sean McKeon - who is expected to be next

spring's top hurler - and he simply shut down the oppo- ·

sition with 11 scoreless innings, including a complete-game two-hit shutout as Immaculata ripped Pingry 8-0 at Commerce Bank Park for the SCT crown May 17.

Striking out five without issuing a walk and pitching to only two batters over the minimum, McKeown, who matched Morrison at 6-0 for the campaign, earned the Most Valuable Player award for his third two-hit shutout of the season.

"It feels pretty good," McKeown said. "All my stuff was working. My fastball, curve and changeup, I was able throw them all for strikes. I just wanted to throw strikes and get ahead of the batters. I didn't even think about pitching a two-hit shutout, but it's definitely a plus.

"This and the Gloucester Catholic game where I also pitched a two-hitter are probably my best two games this year. I felt a lot more comfortable with the surroundings,

having pitched in the semifinals. I felt I was ready to step up into that spot as a Number One."

Head Coach Tom Gambino certainly thought so going into Immaculata's 16th trip to a county final, and McKeown's effort, which included throwing first strikes to 14 of the 23 batters he faced, didn't do anything to lessen his opinion of his junior standout.

"Seany has been like that all year," said Gambino. "He's just been solid. His stuff was great. Sean's greatest strength is his control. We kid around a lot with him because with him it's like playing Nintendo - you tell him where to put the pitch and he puts it

right there. "I thought if

we could get a

handful of runs and with Seany Mac pitching, I like our chances. We were pretty confident, but you never know in high school baseball. We didn't want them hanging around."

As it turned out, a secondinning run would be enough for McKeown. Immaculata pushed the lead to 3-0 after three innings, made it 5-0 after five and put it away with three more in sixth, chasing Pingry ace Parke Smith (5-1), a lefty who'd hurdled the seventhseeded Big Blue to upsets in its two previous SCT games.

Immaculata (16-2) bounced back from last year's loss in the final to Hillsborough to win its county-leading 10th championship, all since Gambino took over as coach in 1984.

"When we didn't win it last year it hurt, and for us to come back and win it back feels pretty good," he said. "We take a lot of pride in how many times we've won it, and with so many great teams in Somerset County it's something we want



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tommy Burke and his Immaculata High teammates congratulate each other following the Spartans' 8-0 triumph over Pingry in the Somerset County Tournament final May 17 at Commerce Bank Park. The SCT crown is Immaculata's 10th, by far more than any other school.

to win every year. I think we do Spartans took charge early. a good job of preparing our In the second Ken Gregory

great atmosphere and you're

Immaculata plays the kind of

schedule that gets it ready for

tournament play, and the top-

seeded Spartans had to figure

as a huge favorite going into in

With McKeown working to

the minimum nine batters

Smith led off the second with

a single but his courtesy run-

ner was picked off first by

McKeon - and the offense

getting untracked in the sec-

ond and third innings, the

through three innings -

glad you're there."

the final.

guys for these big games. (2 for 3) started it with a sin-"Somebody asked me right gle to right and Jack Rice folbefore the game if I was happy lowed with a double up the it was Pingry, and I just said I gap in right-center for his was just happy to be here. We team-leading 33rd run batted always want to play two games in of the season as Gregory at the stadium. It's something slid under the tag at the plate. we circle on the calendar. You're sitting there in that

For Rice (2 for 2), who also ripped a two-run triple in Immaculata's 4-3 triumph over Hillsborough in the semis, it was the second of three extra-base hits into the vast right-center field gap at CBP as the junior first baseman continually went the other way.

"I like that gap," he said. "Normally I try to hit the ball where it's pitched. I don't know if they were trying to pitch me outside or if they missed their spot or if I was swinging late, but I hit it pretty well.

"It feels good to be leading the team in RBI (and home runs with six). Everyone in our lineup can hit - singles, doubles, triples, home runs. So normally when I come up there's someone on base. I have to give a lot of the credit to the other guys."

The lefty-swinging Gregory, who entered the game with a team-leading .444 batting average, had a hand in the next two rallies as well. In the third he tripled home Frank Florio (2 for 3) with the second run of the inning after Florio singled home Mike Backus, who'd reached on an error.

In the fifth Matt Marquis walked, moved to second on a sacrifice bunt by Backus and coasted home on Florio's triple to right-center. Gregory then plated Florio with a fly ball to make it 5-0.

"I picked up the ball pretty well," Gregory said. "I've never faced Smith before, so I just went up there looking for a good pitch to hit. I was able to put a couple of good swings together, and that helped get us going."

For Gregory, it was his third time playing for a county title and the second time he has come out on top.

"I think this one is greater for me because it's my senior year and it's my last county tournament," he said. "It was great winning two years ago, but it means more being a senior."

Rice tripled and scored on Tom Burke's single to open the seventh and Chas Crane singled for his first hit of the season. Smith got the first out on a popup but then issued a walk to Marquis and left in favor of Rob Tilson. Backus greeted the reliever with a two-run double to left to boost the lead to 8-0.

SCT BASEBALL

Saturday, May 27, 2006

## Classes being held

at community school MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Community School has scheduled a number of courses.

Except where indicated, courses are held at Middlesex High School on Bound Brook Road. The schedule:

- "Decorative Painting and Design Craft Projects" with Ann Rothwell, 6:30 p.m. June 1. Fee is \$20 payable to the Community School plus \$15 payable to the instructor. Register on-line at www.middlesex.k12.ni.us: look under "Community School" on the home page and click on "General Registration Form." For registration by phone, call (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206.

## VSA arts festival being held in June

EDISON - The VSA arts of

#### New Jersey Annual Statewide Partners in the Arts Festival is being held 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Middlesex County College.

Partners in the Arts provides opportunities for children and adults with and without disabilities to engage in an enriching and accessible celebration of the arts. Individuals and groups are invited to participate in a day of performances, exhibits arts workshops and more. This event is offered free of charge. The festival is one of the many projects of VSA arts of New Jersey, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives and promoting the creative power of individuals with disabilities throughout New Jersey. Cosponsors for this event are the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage

### County College.

For additional information, contact Karen Singer at VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732) 745-3885, (732) 745-5935 or (732) 745-3913 (TTY) or info@usanj.org.

## Firehouse has giant' yard sale

PISCATAWAY --- A giant yard sale is planned for 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 3 at the North Stelton Volunteer Fire Company, 70 Haines Ave. Spaces are \$15 each. For reservations, call Margaret at (732) 985-0282, Ext. 6. Rain date is Saturday, June 10.

## Self defense courses

are offered in Edison EDISON - The Edison Free Public Library offers "Training for Life," self-defense for everyday

people. This program is at 7 p.m.

In The Towns

Monday, June 5 in the library's Main Branch at 340 Plainfield Ave. Instructor Joel Levy runs a karate school in the area. For registration, stop by the cir-

### culation desk or call (732) 287-2298. Ext. 1. Lions sponsor

## June flea market

METUCHEN - The Metuchen Lions Club holds its 33rd semiannual flea market from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 10 in the New Street municipal parking lot. Spaces are \$18 and measure 18-feet by 20-feet. For space reservations, call (732) 767-9136

or (732) 549-5826. Rain date is Saturday, June 17. Proceeds benefit Lions Club

### charities and community activities. Career Institute dele-

## gates from boro

BOUND BROOK ---- The Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook has selected its delegates to the Girls Career Institute. Liderma Harricharan and Amanda Mastrull were chosen delegates with Allyson Schmidt chosen as their alternate. All are iuniors at Bound Brook High School

The Girls Career Institute runs from June 19-22 at Douglass College, on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. Delegates get a taste of college life and meet career women from all over.

## Area drivers needed to deliver kosher meals

EDISON --- Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County is looking for drivers to deliver Kosher Meals on Wheels.

These drivers would fill in for regular drivers who are away. You must have a flexible schedule and be available on at least one hour's notice. If you are interested, call E.J. Berman at (732) 777-1940.

Kosher Meals on Wheels are distributed five days a week in Edison, Highland Park and elsewhere within Northern Middlesex County

## Knights present quarterly awards

SOUTH PLAINFIELD -Enights of Columbus Council 6203 has honored its winter Knight of the Quarter and winter Family of the Quarter. Both awards cover the Knights' work from Jan. 1-March 31. Zig Sutor was the Knight of the

Quarter for his work as hall rental chairman. A fourth-degree knight, he is a former membership director and insurance salesman for the council.

The LoBosco family was the Family of the Quarter, led by youth activities director John LoBosco. He holds the rank of warden and is chairmen of all youth events put on by the council. With him were his wife, Eleanor: and their daughters. Bianca, Angela and Christina,

The awards were presented at a communion breakfast in the council hall.

### Volunteers sought for hospice facility

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

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

unteer is here because they want to be here, and that is very thoughtful."

Zhou said the Hospice volunteers are needed to help families. visit patients, console the

bereaved or help in the office. Hospice staff administer their programs at the six bed, homelike building on the Roosevelt campus or at homes of a patient or their loved ones

To ensure that all volunteers are equipped for the challenge of working with the dying and their families, the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice hosts a 12 hour educational course. Workshops, videos and lectures are completed in four or five

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

## Show off your garden

during a summer tour

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

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

of the owners' homes. "We are in search of beautiful

gardens in the Metuchen-Edison

The Nation's First, Finest and Only "Full-Time" Basketball Shooting School

area," said Linda LaStella, a trustee of the Arts Society and chairman of its Visual Arts Committee.

"We are considering gardens of any size, personally planted or installed by professionals," she said. "We want to show the range of gardens that flourish in our local neighborhoods."

Those who want to showcase their garden in the tour can e-mail Claysongs@aol.com or call (732) 906-4137.

### County college adds help desk classes

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

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

Students take courses in communications, customer service, help desk technology, and specific technical areas. For this spring, those areas are the Internet, the PC, Microsoft Windows and Office.

To pursue Help Desk Administration, students must have taken at least one of three computer courses: CSC 105, Computer Applications and Systems; CSC 106, Intermediate PC Applications with Programming; or BUS 107, Computer Applications for Business. English Composition I is also a prerequisite. Once the prerequisites are completed, the certificate program can be finished in two semesters.

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

## Township Garden Club

### seeking new members PISCATAWAY --- The

Piscataway Garden Club is seeking new members.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the Senior Citizens Center, 700 Buena Vista Ave. The center is off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library.

For more information, call (732) 885-5050.

**Obituaries** 

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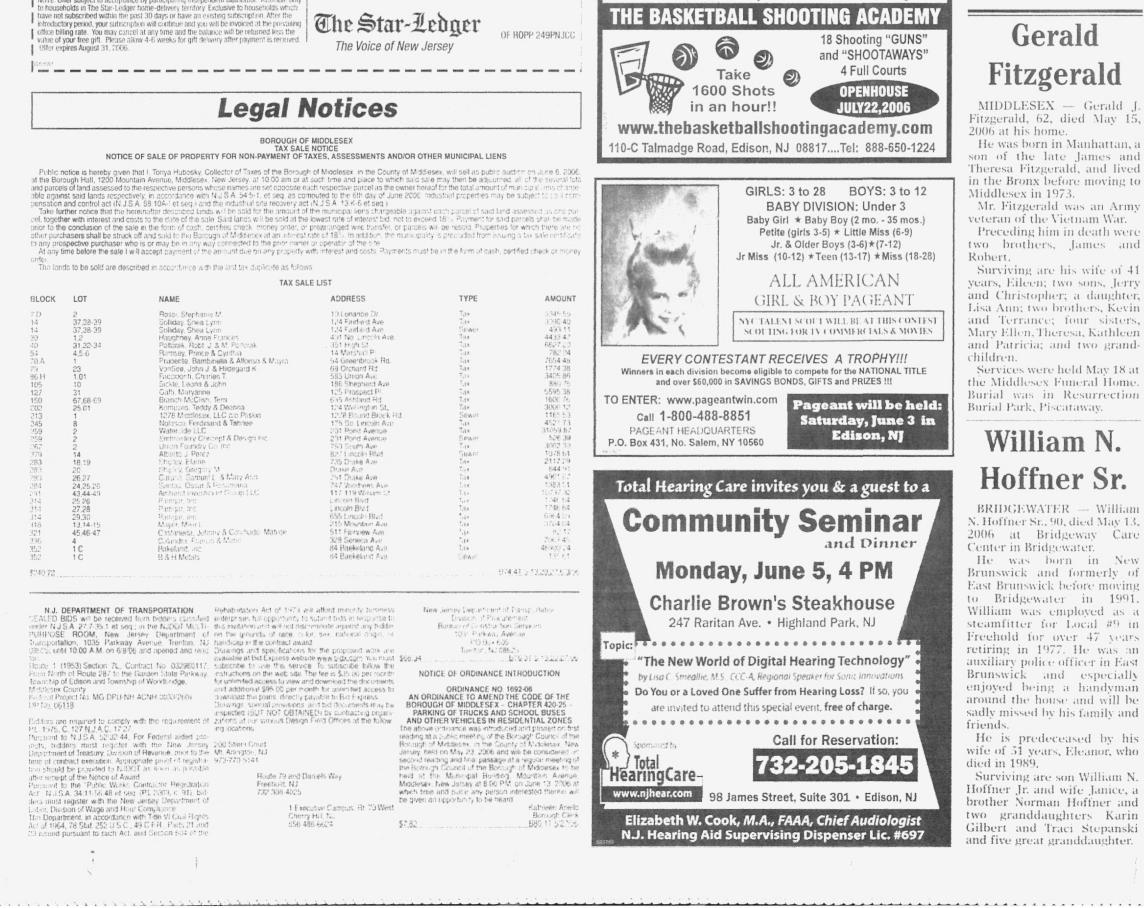
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