The Chronicle Since 1862

Saturday, June 17, 2006





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Classic showdown

In a battle that went down to the very final serve, Bridgewater-Raritan High's volleyball team fell to St. Joseph-Metuchen 25-16, 17-25, 29-27 during Friday's state tournament championship meeting in South Brunswick. The Panthers, the 2005 champs, had won nine straight outings to reach the final. Page A7.



Ice cream Italian style

Laura Prezybylski prepares gelato at Luge's Gelato Café in the Raritan Mall. The arrival of a place to get this Italian ice cream, denser and creamier than the American version of the frozen dessert, is welcome news to those looking for a break from the summer heat.

SOUTH PLANNELD PUBLIC LIBRARY county fund-raising surpasses goal

The Middlesex County Public Employees Charitable Campaign, which conducts an annual fundraising campaign at the county and in several municipalities, is honoring the 2005-06 campaign workers who raised \$87,000 for the most recent campaign.

Supported by Freeholder Director B. Crabiel, the campaign is overseen by Chairman Gary Dalina and Campaign Coordinator Holly Alai.

This year county employees contributed \$41,483, surpassing last year's results. In addition to one-time

sale, Christmas basket sale and Easter basket sale were held. Campaigns run for municipal employees and Board of Education employees made up the remainder of the campaign total.

More than 70 campaign workers were guests at a special recognition event on June 6 at Hess Corp. in Woodbridge. Judith Leblein, host of "The World According to Judith" from 2-5 p.m. Monday-Friday on WCTC-1450, was the keynote presenter. In addition to recognizing the

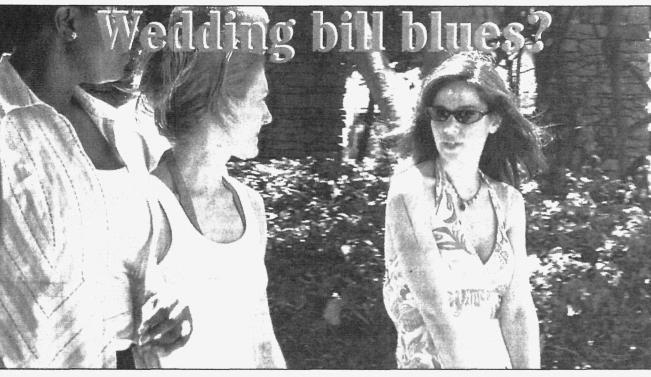
gifts and payroll deductions, a bake coordinators, Leblein shared her perspective on lessons learned through her career in public life, engaging guests in the activity

Besides the successful county campaign, additional outstanding campaigns were conduced by the Edison school system, New Brunswick school system, Middlesex County Board of Social Services, Woodbridge Township and Woodbridge Public Library.

"We continue to be overwhelmed with the generosity of our co-workers at the county and all municipal levels," Dalina said. "The good work of our campaign coordinators is certainly worthy of commendation."

Leblein is quite familiar with the valuable contributions made to improve life within the community campaign coordinators and by donors, officials said. Before an audience of 200 at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center, she recognized Dalina and Alai at the United Way of Central Jersey's 15th annual Hometown Heroes volunteer

Continued on page A2



Wedding planner Samantha Goldberg, of Bridgewater, on the set of the show "Whose Wedding is it Anyway?" which airs on the Style Network. Goldberg helps couples --- particularly those on a budget --- plan unique and memorable weddings

Bridgewater-based wedding planner makes extraordinary days that don't break the bank

"It's not how much budget you have, it's how to use it. More is not the best way to go."

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI Staff Writer

My friends joke that the only way I'll get married is if it's 3 a.m. in Vegas and Elvis is officiating. That's not quite true — the only way I'll get married is t it changes my buline to something like "Smith." Or "Robinson." I don't generally like weddings, no matter how much I like the couple, and I couldn't justify spending thousands upon thousands of dollars for what boils down to, a one-night party. And I've seen welleducated, intelligent women with highlevel jobs reduced to tears over napkin colors. Samantha Goldberg feels my pain. A self-proclaimed "girly girl" who is one of the featured wedding plan-ners on "Whose Wedding is it Anyway?" on the Style Network, Coldborg specializes in budget Goldberg specializes in budget brides, pulling off affairs for as little as \$7,000.

and marketing management for skin care companies, working on trade shows and events. When members of her staff asked her to plan their weddings, she did. When their guests asked who the wedding planner was, husiness was

Scams targeting Hispanics subject of forum

EDISON - Identity theft, sweepstakes scams and predatory lenders were the subject of a Hispanic consumer issues forum sponsored by AARP New Jersey and the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs. The bilingual forum, held as part of the New Jersey Latino Issues Convention at the New Jersey Convention Center, amplified a statewide campaign against fraud.

The program featured information booths and speeches from special guests, including Attorney General Zulima Farber; Assemblyman Wilfredo Caraballo; AARP New Jersey President Sy Larson; consumer affairs Director Kimberly Ricketts; and AARP New Jersey Executive Council member Ida Castro. The latter is the first Latino on the state AARP executive council.

Over 500 attendants were able to access information on how to protect themselves and their families from fraudulent activities. For examples, guests learned about New Jersey's strongest identity theft prevention laws in the nation and how to avoid the most prevalent form of identity theft, new account fraud. Forum participants were led in a question-andanswer session by Ricketts and learned how they can use the provisions of the law to protect themselves.

"I learned so much from this event," said Melania Candelario, an AARP member from Fords. "Now I

COURTESY SAMANTHA GOLDBERG (above); GEORGE PACCIELLO:STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER (below left)

Park plays season set

EDISON - Get ready for musical magic this summer as the Playsin-the-Park season draws near. An estimated 50,000 people are expected to turn out for "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "Seussical the Musical" and "Cats." "I can't wait for the season to start," said Deputy Freeholder Director Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, chairman of the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Committee. "We have a decades-long tradition of providing quality entertainment for our residents and this year will most definitely continue that tradition."

"The Scarlet Pimpernel," an action-adventure musical filled with romance, swordfights and hilarious comedy, will be staged June 27-July 8. No performances will be held Sunday, July 2, or Tuesday, July 4.

"Seussical the Musical," a contemporary re-imagining of the Dr. Seuss books, will be performed July 19-29. No performance will be held Sunday, July 23. "Cats" will be staged Aug. 9-19. No performance will be held Sunday, Aug. 13.

All shows begin at 8:30 p.m. at the Stephen J. Capestro Theater in Roosevelt Park. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors age 60 and older, free for children age 12 and under. Bring low-backed lawn chairs for seating. For more information, visit www.playsinthepark.com or call (732) 548-2884.

| Senior Calend | ar A-3 |
|---------------|--------|
| Opinion | A-4 |
| Sports | A-7 |
| Obituaries | A-8 |

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Samantha Goldberg



"It's not how much budget you have, it's how to use it," she said. "More is not the best way to go."

Goldberg got involved in event planning while she worked in sales

When she and her husband moved to Bridgewater from Chicago for his job, she decided to start her own firm, Gold Events.

"I'm not a stay at home person. I'm fully into my work," she said. Though she's a full-time mother to two-yearold daughter Sydney, her office is in her home, and she limits the number of weddings she does every year.

When she started dropping her business cards around the state, she was met with a less-than-warm welcome

"I talked to some of the vendors, and what they basically said was 'We don't like planners,'" she said. Her first year saw her take on 40 weddings, and there are 58 in the works this year -- too many, she said, and in

Continued on page A2

know how to freeze my credit reports and how to avoid sweepstakes scams. This is a great way to learn about important issues and to share that information with family and neighbors.

Events like these have been successful in raising awareness about common scams that had previously been unfamiliar to the Hispanic community.

"All New Jerseyans deserve to be protected, informed and empowered against scam artists," Larson said. We need to reach out to all our communities no matter what their language. We want everyone at this event to join us and stop the swelling tide of fraud in the Garden State."

Participants were called upon to

Continued on page A2

Senior women learn life skills

By JENNIFER ROSENBAUM Correspondent

SOMERVILLE - Placed on the table in front of Hazel Waldron was the book "Old Age is not for Sissies." It was clear that those who attended a recent meeting of the Senior Single Women of Somerset County take their personal safety very seriously.

About 20 women, 60 years of age or older, received a pre-sentation on living a healthy lifestyle within the home and neighborhood from Sgt. Tim Pino of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office at the County Office on Aging last Thursday. The initiative was started back in 1989 by Waldron who "had a concern for other women who were struggling with being a single woman in today's society."

Sgt. Pino led off the presentation talking about the jury duty scam, when someone calls a household pretending to be a court official. The criminal informs the victim that there is a warrant for their arrest because they failed to show for jury duty. The criminal then attempts to assist the victim with the matter by asking for a Social Security number and date of birth to verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. But Pino reassured everyone: "No one from the court system will ever call your house asking for personal information. You will receive something in the mail."

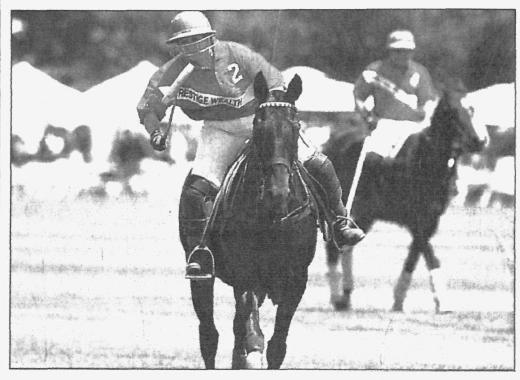
In addition, Pino discussed the numerous telemarketing calls households are receiving soliciting people to donate money, often to police departments.

Pino also made many recommendations on how to deter these criminals.

"You should ask the person over the phone to mail you the

Continued on page A2

The sport of kings



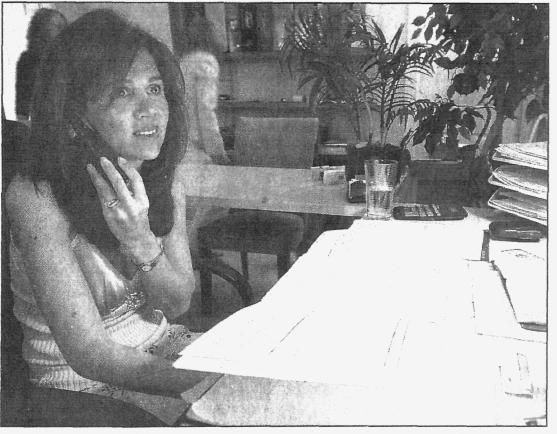
GEORGE PACCIELLO'STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Non-transformer () and the second second

Juan Otharan plays for the Prestige Wealth Management Team in a match against the Chugai Pharma USA team during the Bonnie Brae Polo Classic, held Saturday at Fieldview Farm in Pittsown, home of the Far Hills Polo Club. Bonnie Brae is a residential treatment center for teen boys located in Liberty Corner. The polo classic is a major fundraiser for the center. There is another polo classic taking place this weekend in Hillsborough to benefit The Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter. For more, Page B3.

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Saturday, June 17, 2006



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Samantha Goldberg, a wedding planner, at her office. She says she has planned ceremonies as diverse as the state's residents: A Nigerian wedding, an Albanian wedding and an Indian wedding.

County fund-raising surpasses goal

Continued from page A1

recognition event on April 25.

numerous federations and

charities that may be designat-

ed as recipients of funds

The United Way of Central

Jersey welcomes contributions

raised.

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from the general public to expand its role as agent of change within Middlesex County and Franklin Township The United Way of Central Jersey partners with Middlesex County to run this in four impact areas: helping children succeed, fostering self-sufficiency, caring for annual campaign. Much of the recordkeeping and allocation seniors and persons with disof funds is carried out by the abilities, and accessing health care. To make your contribu-United Way. The United Way, tion, contact Controller celebrating 75 years of service Cynthia Heulitt at (732) 247to Middlesex County and Franklin Township, is one of 3727.

The United Way of Central Jersey also encouraged individual, family student and adult groups to volunteer for days of service in the above impact areas.

A cure for wedding bill blues

Continued from page A1

future years she'll limit it to

Currently, she's working on a no-expense-spared wedding in Deal, where she will transform the tents into a "Woodland Wonderland," featuring trees, vines, and mosses.

"There's not one wedding that I put together that's like any other. It's reflective of the couples and their personalities," she said, although there comes a point when personality stops and taste must take over. Currently, she's working with a bride that wanted a leather couch to sit on during the reception, which doesn't fit with the theme the bride chose.

"If you hire a planner, that means you're giving up some control. You have to trust your planner, or don't have one," she said.

There are trends associated with weddings, as with anything else. Tented weddings are becoming increasingly popular, Goldberg said. That way, couples can have the outdoor wedding with chic piped and draped surroundings.

Another trend is that of the cocktail reception with stations, rather than a formal, sitdown dinner. Mashed potato martinis, tapas, carving stations, even Chinese food can be set up instead of a dinner. That kind of reception goes well with an afternoon wedding, as afternoons tend to be cheaper options when looking at venues in the first place.

"It's not as stuffy, it's not as traditional," she said. One wedding she's planned had a "New York, New York" theme with stations representing different neighborhoods in the city, such as Little Italy and Chinatown. She's also planned ceremonies as diverse as the state's residents: A Nigerian wedding, an Albanian wedding, and an Indian wedding, along with the interfaith ceremonies that are becoming increasingly common

Goldberg also said she enjoys going beyond the basic florals for events. Lighted centerpieces, especially those with feathers, are catching on, as

are other non-traditional centerpieces. At a wedding with an "Under the Sea" theme, the centerpieces had fish swimming in them, while a "feng shui" wedding featured alternating centerpieces of palm fronds and fishbowls with lampshades.

While it's important that personality be incorporated into the wedding, sometimes it gets in the way, and not in the usual sense. Goldberg has quit couples, some for personality clashes or controlling brides, but also if she sees that it's not going to work out.

"I can't sit through it and watch. I have put my foot down, because I can't sleep at night otherwise," she said, noting that she's not going to help couples she doesn't see working out down the aisle, and has recommended couples she has worked with to postpone their weddings. "If you have a passion for this business, you can't."

Like many in the business, she's seen weddings fail to be, though never anyone left at the altar.

Senior women learn life skills

Continued from page A1

information or say, you donate to your local PBA," Pino said. Also, he encouraged the women to outwit the criminal caller by asking what chapter of the PBA they are from.

Other topics included burglaries, which more often than not occur during the daytime. Pino suggested to "keep the

front of the house well kept," because intruders are less likely to enter a house that is well maintained. "If you go away for a period of

time, have neighbors pick up

your newspapers and mail," he said. Additionally, he said, residents should keep the house well lit because burglars are more likely to go to a dark house.

Also discussed were some quick inexpensive remedies, such as buying a deadbolt from a hardware store, because typical locks are easy to jimmy. change And answering machine recordings to state "We are currently unavailable" as opposed to "We are not home.

"Try not to make it so obvious you are by yourself," he said.

Pino mentioned the importance of having "a plan for yourself; if you hear something in the middle of the night, (or) if there is a fire in the house, because God forbid it happens, you know what you could do." Other recommendations included having good rapport with neighbors to ensure each house within the neighborhood is looked after.

Pino told residents to ask their guests to announce themselves by a brief phone call so they know they are expecting someone to knock on their door.



Scams targeting Hispanics subject of forum

Continued from page A1

become "fraud fighters" and asked to keep would-be hieves out of New Jersey by blanketing the state with information.

"This information could save hundred of thousands of citizens from becoming victims," said Larson in a rousing speech at the end of the event. 'We have the power to protect ourselves and our families

from these dreadful predators but we need to join together. Thieves and scam artists need to get the message that we are smarter than they are and that they are not welcome in New Jersev.'

Piscataway receives athletic grant

PISCATAWAY

Piscataway High School has Testing."

Assessment and Cognitive Lovell said.

The Impact test measures received funding to test their Rutgers University already neurocognitive function, such as brain processing memory and visual motor skills. The test establishes baseline data for athletes when it is given before a sports season. If an athlete suffers a concussion in his particular sport, he is retested to help determine his progress for recovery. These grants from the Brain Injury Association are part of its statewide campaign covering "Concussion in Sports." Visit www.sportsconcussion. com for full information on the campaign.

A-2



athletes for concussions and brain injuries.

PHS plans to begin using the Impact test before practice for fall sports begins later this summer. The high school applied to the Edisonbased Brain Injury Association of New Jersey for grants to implement this test.

Impact is an acronym for "Immediate Post-Concussion



Everything Jersey

uses that test seven other colleges in the state.

PHS officials received training in the Impact test 22-23 May at the Robbinsville office of the Jersey State Inter-New scholastic Athletic Association. Mark Lovell, director of the sports medicine concussion program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, helped con-

duct the workshop. "Research has shown that a concussed athlete who returns to contact sports too soon before the brain has healed is at greater risk for further, more serious injury,"

The association also has a toll-free hotline, (800) 669-4323, for people who have sustained brain injuries.



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The Chronicle

In The Towns

Meal honors temple service participants

METUCHEN — Temple Neve Shalom holds a luncheon in June to honor those who participated in services over the past year.

The luncheon follows the 9:30 a.m. service on Saturday, June 24 in the synagogue at 250 Grove Ave. Torah readers and adult education instructors are among those who will be honored.

For more information, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call Sheldon Levin at (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14.

Career Institute

delegates 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 juniors 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.

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 fámilies going through the grieving process.

"Volunteers are an integral part of the interdisciplinary team that administers end-of-life care to patients and their families," said Jill Zhou, LCSW, volunteer coordinator for the Hospice. "Volunteers can run errands, offer support, provide music therapy and compliment the work of the clinical care providers. The presence of a volunteer communicates to the families that the volunteer is here 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 he!p 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 the garden during a summer tour

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Department at (732) 906-2526. Township Garden Club

seeking new members

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Garden Club is seeking new members.

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

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

Edison Kiwanis Club meeting bi-monthly

EDISON — The newly formed Edison Kiwanis Club meets every first and third Tuesday at noon at the Edison Job Corps, 500 Plainfield Ave, Edison. New members are welcome. For more information contact Gwen at (732) 781-6862.

Volunteers sought for local Elderday Care

EDISON — The Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County is looking for volunteers to work in its "Elderday Care" program.

This program for older adults meets between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays at Temple Emanu-El on James Street, across from JFK Medical Center.

Arts and crafts, music, cultural activities, lectures, demonstrations, book reviews, dance, poetry are some of the interests covered. A piano is available for those who wish to provide music. Volunteers also are needed to help cook and serve lunch on

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. If you are interested, e-mail ej.berman@jfvs.org or call (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Edison library going Wi-Fi

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

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

its installation is in part by a grant from InfoLink.

North Stelton church announces schedule

PISCATAWAY — The North Stelton A.M.E. Church at 123 Craig Ave. has issued its summer schedule which runs from July 2-Sept. 3.

Services are at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday with Holy Communion the first Sunday of the month. Family and Friends Day is part of the July 30 service.

The Bread of Heaven Bible study group meets at noon each Wednesday. A prayer and praise service is at 6:30 a.m. every Saturday.

Vacation Bible School is from 6-8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 17-21. Classes and family fun activities for all ages are planned. A light supper is served each night.

For more information, call (732) 287-5184.

DHS preschool taking applicants

DUNELLEN — Applications are being accepted for the preschool program at Dunellen High School. The program is open to toilet-

trained children in Dunellen who will be 3 years old by Oct. 1. Classes are held Wednesday and Friday mornings from mid-October to late May.

DHS students enrolled in the "Education for Parenthood" course serve as instructors. You can pick up an application

in the main DHS office at 411 First St. Enrollment is limited. Questions can be referred to Mrs. Del Rosario at (732) 968-

0885, Ext. 10.

Senior Citizen Calendar

Bound Brook

The Bound Brook Seniors meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Asbury Hall of the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. and the corner of

Livingston. All seniors are welcome to join including non-residents. Meetings include informative programs, refreshments, information about upcoming trips and bingo.

Upcoming Trips and Events:

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

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

For detailed information about the club, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Nonmembers are welcome on trips if space allows.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's Bound Brook club sponsors Atlantic City trips to the Taj Mahal casino the fourth Tuesday of each month. The bus departs from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. the second Monday of every month in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy, 201 Vosseller Ave., Bound Brook. For further information, call President Sal Barbati at (908) 725-5444. June 27 — Atlantic City Trip

to Taj Mahal Casino July 10 — Membership

Meeting and Luncheon

The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. each Friday at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. New members are welcome. Coffee and tea are provided; bring your own sandwiches. For information, call (732) 968-1285; President of Dunellen Senior Citizen Club. Ida

Dunellen

Edison

Chianowyz.

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

Jewish Family and Vocational Services — The volunteer program at Elderday, "Chef for the Day" needs volunteers to prepare lunch for the elderly members of the social adult day program in Edison from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call E.J. Berman at (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Elderday Care (a Social Day Care Program) for folks with memory loss and various degrees of dementia has a few immediate openings available. Transportation is provided with sliding scale fees. Interesting program includes meals, snacks; and activities that all can easily participate. Consider this a great safe way to provide social activities for your loved one. Call (732) 777-1940 for information.



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Saturday, June 17, 2006



The Chronicle

Opinion

Saturday, June 17, 2006

Treat addiction at its source

By GARY SMITH

A-4

The argument of whether a person is genetically or biochemically prone to drug addiction or alcoholism is a controversy that has been debated for years within the scientific, medical and chemical dependency communities.

One school of thought advocates the "disease concept," which embraces the notion that addiction is an inherited disease. If mom, dad, grandma or grandpa was an alcoholic or drug addict their descendants will be predisposed to addiction through the genes.

Another philosophy argues that addiction is a dual problem consisting of a physical and mental dependency on chemicals, compounded by a pre-existing mental disorder (i.e. clinical depression, bipolar disorder or some other mental illness), and that the mental disorder needs to be treated first as the primary cause of the addiction.

A third philosophy subscribes to the idea that chemical dependency leads to chemical imbalances in the neurological system.

The fact remains that there is research to support all these theories and evidence to disprove them. None are absolute. The bottom line is that we have a 16-20 percent recovery rate from addiction in this country, which is unacceptable. There is a sort of apathy that lingers within the treatment community that is dictating to too many professionals in this field that the best we can hope for in rehabilitating an addict is to find some substitute drug to put them on and some how view that as effective treatment.

There is a fourth school of thought which has proven to be more accurate and offers a more practical explanation of why and how a person becomes an addict. There are real-life mechanics that come into play in life that set the stage for some people to become addicts. This data is universally applicable to addiction, no matter which hypothesis is used to explain the phenomenon of chemical dependency. Before an addict becomes one there is a series of mental, emotional and biophysical events that he encounters that sets the stage for addiction.

This series of events is referred to as the "Life Cycle of Addiction."

The cycle begins with a problem, discomfort or some form of emotional or physical pain a person is experiencing. The person finds this very difficult to deal with.

Here is an individual who, like most people in our society, is basically good. He has encountered a problem or discomfort that he does not have the ability to resolve. This could include problems such as difficulty fitting in as a child or teenager, anxiety due to peer pressure, identity problems or divorce as an adult. It could also include physical discomfort, such as a broken arm or a bad back.

The person experiencing the discomfort has a real problem. He feels this problem is a major situation that persists and he can see no immediate resolution or relief from it. We have all experienced this in our lives to a greater or lesser degree.

The difference between which one of us becomes an addict and which one does not depends on whether or not, at the time of this traumatic experience, we are subjected to prodrug or alcohol influences via some sort of significant peer pressure when the problem is manifesting itself. The painkilling effects of drugs or alcohol become a solution to the discomfort because the person experiences relief from the negative feeling associated with the problem. As soon as the addict experiences relief from the discomfort, he inadvertently attaches value to the drug or drink because it helped him feel better. Even though the relief is only temporary, it is adopted as a solution to the problem and this assigned value is the only reason the person ever uses drugs or drinks a second, third or more times.

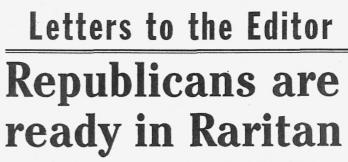
At this point it is just a matter of time before the person becomes fully addicted and loses the ability to control his drug use.

For help with any addiction of any kind, visit www.stopaddiction.com or call (800) 468-6399. The writer is executive director of the Narconon Arrowhead Drug Rehabilitation Center in Canadian, Okla

Question of the week: What is on your summer reading list?



JOHN CONNORS Somerville "'Lost World' by Michael Crichton. A film was made from this book, 'Jurassic Park,' but I am more interested in learning more details about the dinosaurs on the island."



To The Editor:

First and foremost, I must extend my sincere "thank to the Raritan you" Republican voters for their support of and confidence in me by selecting me to represent them as their candidate for mayor in this November's general election. It was truly a team effort. It was "we" and not "me" that made this campaign successful. It was not easy running against a qualified candidate who ran with the official party endorse-ment. It is for that reason that my campaign staff must remain nameless.

Second, I must warn the Raritan Democrats to watch out. We may be a new Raritan Republican Party. We may be reorganized Raritan

Republican Party. But we are a united Raritan Republican Party. I will assume the responsibility for maintaining that party unity.

Finally, within the next several days I will be extending an invitation to Mayor Anthony Hudak and his running mates to debate me and my running mates. We will allow them to select the number of any such debates. They may also select the dates, times, places, topics, formats, agendas, procedures and any and all other conditions which they may wish to impose. We will comply.

THOMAS R. BRODBECK Raritan

The writer is the Republican Party candidate for mayor of Raritan

Warren leaders appreciate votes

To The Editor:

Thank you all very much for the confidence that you demonstrated in our leadership on the Township Committee. We were very pleased with the primary results and the votes we received in the June 7 primary election. We certainly will continue to work very hard for the betterment of Warren and in the interests of all the residents

During our first two terms, we were able to accomplish a great number of our goals. The entire committee as well as all of our volunteers, other elected officials and township employees deserve credit for controlling spending, reducing development by increasing our inventory of open space, keeping our residents protected, building recreational facilities and increasing pride in our school system, police, public works and the entire township infrastructure.

As always, we will remain accessible and will work diligently to ensure that your best interests are at the forefront of any decisions that we make now and in the future.

VICTOR SORDILLO **GARY DINARDO** Warren

The writers are both members of the Warren Township Committee. Victor Sordillo is deputy mayor and Gary DiNardo is a committeeman. Both are Republicans.

Library appreciates Women's Club help

The following is contact information for state representatives serving Somerset County, as well as members of Congress serving Central Jersey. CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS - U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D)

One Gateway Center, 11th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 645-3030

(202) 224-4744 (Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D) One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor, Newark, NJ

07102, (973) 639-8700 Hart Senate Office Building, Suite 324, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-3224

Rep. Michael Ferguson (R-7th) 45 Mountain Blvd., Building D, Suite 1, Warren, NJ 07059, (908) 757-7835

214 Cannon House Office Building,

- Assemblyman Christopher Bateman (R-16th)

36 East Main St., Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-526-3600 - Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi (R-16th)

1 East High St., Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-252-0800

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

Craig Turpin, editor, (908) 575-6698; cturpin@njnpublishing.com

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

Dave Allena, sports editor, (908) 575-6690; dallena@njnpublishing.com

Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-5361 Rep. Rodney Frelinghusyen (R-11th) 30 Schuyler Place, Second Floor, Morristown, NJ 07960, (973) 984-0711 2442 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3011, (202) 225-5034

STATE OFFICE HOLDERS - Sen. Walter J. Kavanaugh (R-16th) 76 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876, (908)-526-4222

George Pacciello, photography editor, (908) 575-6708; gpacciello@njnpublishing.com Jim White, staff writer, (908) 575-6686;

jwhite@njnpublishing.com

Chronicle:

m.

be e-mailed to

(908) 575-6690.

(908) 575-6683.

Allison Elyse Gualtieri, staff writer, (908) 575-6748; agualtieri@njnpublishing.com

Amy S. Bobrowski, staff writer, (908) 575-6694; abobrowski@ninpublishing.com Press releases can also be sent to somerset@ninpublishing.com

The Chronicle

is here for you

The following information will help you get your ideas

and community news into The

Call editor Craig Turpin at

(908) 575-6698 with story

suggestions, questions or

comments. Information can

middlesex@njnpublishing.co

The sports editor is Dave

Allena. He can be reached at

Our address: The Chronicle.

Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct

errors of fact, context or pre-

news content that confuses

or misleads readers. Please

report errors to editor Craig

Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

sentation and clarify any

PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ

08876. Our fax number is



STACI ROY

Somerville

"'The DaVinci Code' by

Dan Brown. I haven't

read it yet - or seen the

movie - but I must read

the book before I see the

movie.

MATT QUINLAN Somerville "Accounting text books for school. If I had leisure time, I'd read 'We Never Make Mistakes' by Alexsandr Solzhenitsyn because he was a fantastic writer."

To The Editor I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Peapack-Gladstone Woman's Club for its generosity and support. The Woman's Club recently donated a multime-

dia projector to the Peapack-Gladstone Library to be used primarily for our weekly storytime program for preschoolers. This purchase enables us to replace our outdated filmstrip projector that is currently used for the last segment of our weekly storytime sessions.

In addition to storytime, the projector will be used for a adult book discussions with movie tie-ins, young adult movie nights, computer classes, Internet demonstrations and database training. The project will also be able to be used by community groups and borough employees.

variety of library programs.

Once again I express my thanks and my appreciation of the cooperative relationship between our organizations.

> JENNA GALLEY Peapack-Gladstone The writer is Youth Services Librarian at Peapack-Gladstone Library.

Boating schools should remain in private hands



I am writing with a concern I feel the New Jersey taxpayers need to know about, especially with all the state budget talk. During the past few months, I have written to our acting and now new governor and legislators about an important issue affecting every taxpayer in New Jersey. Their response was none or very disappointing to say the least.

The issue is the New Jersey State Police Marine Bureau has troopers conducting safe boating classes while there are more than 30 private schools approved by the State Police to do this job. This doesn't sound like a big deal except for the fact that:

The taxpayers are paying for this cost (troopers salaries, transportation and printing costs). - These officers doing classes are not on the water helping boaters and enforcing laws

- the job we pay them to do. - State troopers are part of homeland security. This means that homeland security personnel have nothing better to do than safe boating class-

I am hoping that all of you will help me get this information out to the public. The governor and legislators refuse to act. This might change with public awareness.

I welcome any opportunity to discuss this issue and make the state accountable to the taxpayers.

RUSS BINNS

Captain, Coast Boating School Toms River



KEITH McDONALD Franklin Township ""War and Peace' by Leo Tolstoy. I like to read epics and I understand this is the best literary work ever. I've given myself three months, and at the beach it is a great way to meet like kindred folk."

Somerset County Briefs

of college-bound high school students is scheduled for 7 p.m.

This seminar will focus on lit-For registration, call (877) 656-2727. Seating is limited.

Fresh Air Fund seeks local host families

Summer vacation is not far

Thanks to many families in 13 Northeast states and Canada, close to 5,000 New York City children from low-income neighborhoods enjoy a twoweek vacation to the homes of volunteer host families each summer through the Fresh Air Fund.

The fund is currently seeking more families to give inner city children a two-week vacation this summer.

To learn more about hosting a Fresh Air child this summer, visit www.freshair.org or call (800) 367-0003.

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| Publisher | David Tomasini |
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| Editor | Craig Turpin |
| Advertising Director | |
| Circulation Manager | |
| Production Manager | Linda Zetterberg |
| | |



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nity health leaders. VNA head earns award from home care group

SOMERVILLE -- Alyce

Brophy has received the Martha

Esposito Award of the New

Jersey Home Care Association.

ciation's highest honor and rec-

ognizes one of New Jersey's

exemplary nursing and commu-

The annual award is the asso-

Brophy has been president and chief executive officer of the Community Visiting Nurse Association the past six years. She recently was appointed vice president of the Home Care Association and is a former chairman of the Somerset County Workforce Initiative. With the association she has

on the Legislative been Committee, Fiscal Advisory Committee, Education Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and Workforce Development Committee.

Raritan Valley holding college prep seminar

BRANCHBURG - A free educational seminar for parents

4

Thursday, June 15 at Raritan Valley Community College.

away

tle-known ways of getting money for college, no matter how much money you make or how good a student you have.

The Chronicle

He screams for gelato

Italian ice cream shop offers creamier, smoother dessert

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI Staff Writer

RARITAN - Jack Drake's first time was amazing. It was otherworldly.

He couldn't get it off his mind and knew he'd have to have more - more gelato that is.

Drake was in San Juan two years ago with his wife when the couple came upon a little gelato eatery.

"I said, 'Come on. Let's go in there," the Hillsborough resident said back in May. From the first spoonful of the chocolate hazelnut flavored gelato, Drake's life was forever changed.

When he returned home, Drake looked all over for this frozen goodness, but to no avail.

Because he couldn't find it, he decided he'd make it. In November, less than two years after the cruise, he opened Luge's Gelato Café in the Raritan Mall on Orlando Drive.

Gelato is Italian ice cream, but is denser and creamier than the American version of the frozen dessert. It's less solidly frozen than ice cream and is kept and stored at a warmer temperature to create its creamy smooth texture.

At Luge's, all the equipment is straight from Italy and everything is made on the premises because it has to be.

"Gelato's only got a five-day shelf life," said Drake's sister, Laura Prezybylski, who makes the gelato and the sandwiches, salads, soups and other desserts served at the café. At the end of its sellable life span, they donate the extra gelato to a safe house for abused women in children in Somerville.

"Otherwise, we'd have to throw it all out," Prezybylski said. "I'd hate to waste it."

To learn the tricks of the trade, she went to a GTI Designs school -Long Island based company that offers gelato equipment and training, which was where she first tried the

"I was there for four days," she said. "We were there for eight hours a day.

Making gelato requires special machines: a PastoMaster and a Carpigiani freezing machine. Additionally, Drake bought a special freezer display case because gelato is stored and served at a warmer temperature than ice cream.

To make the indulgent dessert, Prezybylski starts by combining and heating the basic ingredients sugar, milk, eggs and a base mix -- in the PastoMaster, a machine designed for pasteurizing the ingredients.

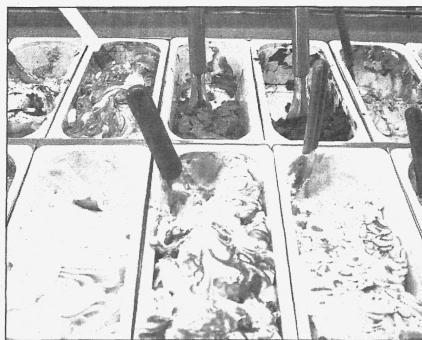
"You can do a lot of other things in here besides milk," she said.

Over the course of a few hours, the machine heats the mixture up to 180 degrees. After taking three liters of the now pasteurized mixture out of the machine, Prezybylski adds the ingredients that make different flavors of gelato. The flavor ingredients - which are concentrated and have a pasty texture - come in metal canisters that look like paint cans. The base and the flavoring are blended together with a special mixer and then poured into the Carpiginani freezing machine. Less than 10 minutes later, Prezybylski pulls the handle and fresh gelato comes out.

Luge's offers more than a dozen flavors (some even sugar and fat free) each day including toasted almond, pistachio, coffee crunch, blueberry, hazelnut, cookie caramel, tiramisu, creame tarrone and various sorbet flavors.

"Sorbet is made without milk," Drake said, noting that it's a good choice for people who are lactose intolerant. "But I've seen (lactose intolerant) people who'll eat gelato any way and just take a pill before they eat it."

To add to its appeal, gelato is less fattening than ice cream, Prezybylski noted



"I love the intense flavor. With ice cream, you get a crunchier flavor. This, you can just taste more."

> Jack Drake, owner of Luge's Gelato Café, Raritan

"Ice cream is made with heavy cream," she said. "This is made with milk.'

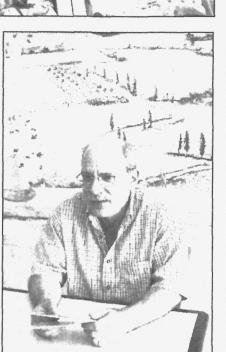
But the best thing about the dessert is its taste.

"I love the intense flavor," Drake said. "With ice cream, you get a crunchier flavor. This, you can just taste more.

As the pair gets more settled in the new business venture, they'd like to branch out with delivery services and a wide variety of flavors.

"I haven't gotten a big chance to experiment because we just opened in November," said Prezybylski, who typically makes 12 different flavors a day. "But I've got some ideas. I'd like to try to make a vegetable gelato for all those vegetarians out there. I'd like to try some really different things but we've only got so much room out there.

Like ice cream, gelato can be used to make cakes.



361340

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Tiramisu, amaretto and crema torrone, at left, are some of the flavors available at Luge's Gelato Café in the Raritan Mall on Orlando Drive in Raritan.



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jack Drake, above, is the owner of Luge's Gelato Café in Raritan. He opened the shop in November. At right is his sister, Laura Prezybylski, who makes the gelato and the sandwiches, salads, soups and other desserts served at the café.

"The gelato cakes -- those are awesome and people love them," Drake said. "You can pick any flavors you want. You just want to order it a day or so in advance. Laura's done one with a cannoli filling in the middle." Fresh salads, grilled pannini sandwiches, soups, coffee, espresso and order, call (908) 707-0030.

other fine desserts are available at Luge's for dine in or take out. Luge's, at 154 Orlando Drive, is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 to 8 p.m. on Sunday. For more information or to place an



Michael D. Dougherty of

Dunellen has received a bache-

lor's degree in electrical engi-

neering from Pennsylvania

State University. He attended

the University Park campus in

Separately, Anthony C. Gorka

of Bound Brook was named to

the Penn State dean's list for

the spring 2006 semester. He

attends the Berks campus in

Elizabeth A. Ferrer of

dean's list for the spring 2006

semester at Bowling Green

* * *

Matthew Leotti of Bound

of

School

Christian

in

from

Brook has received the

Athletes award from the

Morristown. He is a senior at

Delbarton and was honored at

its senior awards convocation

* * *

Erin M. Bunger of Piscataway

graduated

Susquehanna University in

Selinsgrove, Pa. She received a

bachelor's degree in psychology,

summa cum laude, with minors

in women's studies and diversi-

ty studies at the 148th com-

mencement exercises May 14.

Bunger received the Charles

E. Lyle-Psi Chi award for her

contributions to the psychology

department and promise for a

career in psychology. A dean's

list student every semester in

college, she also received the

Jean Neff Leadership Award for

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs.

Bernhard Bunger is an alumna

Three area students received

Bloomfield College at com-

mencement exercises May 25.

The graduates are Joseph

Cullinan of Middlesex, Lovetti

Dwanah of Piscataway and

Richard Frey of Dunellen.

degrees from

her work on behalf of women's

issues and female students.

of Piscataway High School.

bachelor's

State College, Pa.

Reading, Pa.

Green, Ohio.

Fellowship

Delbarton

May 24.

has

Campus Notes

21.

Four area students graduated from Johnson & Wales University in May. The graduates, their degrees and campus attended:

A-6

Dara Maddox of Piscataway, associate's degree in baking and pastry arts, Charlotte campus, Charlotte, N.C.

Sheveney Releford of Piscataway, associate's degree in hotel management, Charlotte campus.

Alexandra Schibanoff of Piscataway, associate's degree hotel management, in Providence campus, Providence, R.I.

Andrew Tompsen of Piscataway, associate's degree in management, Providence campus.

James R. Urbaniak of Piscataway has graduated from Rutgers College on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. He received a bachelor's degree in English and history, with honors, at commencement exercises May 18.

Urbaniak was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received the Dean's Award for Academic and Co-Curricular Excellence. He was a co-founder of the Tinsley Volunteers, an organization for Rutgers students who live outside New Jersey. He also was a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and of Phi Alpha Theta honor society in history.

The honors graduate received the William H.S. Demarest Scholarship, the Class of 1945 Scholarship and the John Perrine Scholarship through Rutgers College. He was named to the dean's list for the spring 2006 semester.

Urbaniak is a student senator to the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick, where he will study for a master's degree in education. The son of John and Francesca Urbaniak is a 2002 alumnus of Piscataway High School.

Lindsey P. Walker of Highland Park received a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vt., at the 202nd

commencement exercises May Learn the basics of computers

DUNELLEN - The Dunellen Public Library offers computer training classes in June. "Beginner Basics" is offered at

10 a.m. every Wednesday and Friday all month long. Space is limited.

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

Program offers insight into paying for college

SOUTH PLAINFIELD --- Nancy Dunellen was named to the Ziering covers "The Art of Paying for College" at 7 p.m. Monday, June 19 at the South Plainfield State University in Bowling Free Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Ave.

Her free program covers a number of related subjects, including admissions, registration, financial aid and the effect of tax law on tuition. Ziering is founder of the Education Funding Consultants Association in Chatham.

For more information, visit www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us or call (908) 754-7885.

Edison serving 'Junior Tennis'

EDISON - Junior Tennis is a Recreation Department program for all players in kindergarten-Grade 12.

Sessions are at the Oak Tree tennis courts on Oak Tree Boad and the Central Avenue tennis courts in Papaianni Park. The program begins Monday, June 26 and runs through Friday, Aug. 4. Applications are available at

www.edisonnj.org, any community center in Edison and all branches of the Edison Free Public Library. All applications must be received with payment by Friday, June 16.

For full information, call (732) 248-7310.

Library program on Net security

EDISON --- The Edison Free Public Library wants the public to know about "Understanding

In The Towns

Information Security."

This free program is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 27 in the Main Branch at 340 Plainfield Ave. Lee Ratzan talks about how to deal with viruses, worms, phishing and similar tactics on the Internet. He is a lecturer with the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies on the New Brunswick campus of **Rutgers University.** For registration, visit the circulation desk of the Main Branch or

call (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1. Reading support group for children

PISCATAWAY - The

Piscataway Public Library offers a reading support program for young children this summer. The program pairs teen volunteers with children who will enter Grades 1-3 in the fall. Sessions are at Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane, from July 17-Aug. 10. Interested parents can fill out an application at the adult reference desk of Westergard Library, 20 Murray Ave., or the adult reference desk of Kennedy Library. For more information, call (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

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.

Jersev 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 Jersev.

For more information call Main Street at (732) 828-8444 or visit the Jersey Fresh website at

http://www.state.nj.us/jerseyfresh. Metuchen businesses

hosting spring events

METUCHEN - The Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors these spring events: Antique and Classic Car Cruise Nights on Wednesdays, 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 evenings, 5-8 p.m., 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.

Radio club builds Hamfest

PISCATAWAY - The Raritan Valley Radio Club holds its annual Hamfest and flea market from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 17 at Piscataway High School.

Spaces for sellers are \$6 each unit. Admission for buyers is \$6. For more information, visit www.w2qw.org or call (732) 968-7789 before 8 p.m. The radio club is affiliated with the American Radio Relay League.

New program focuses on coping with stress

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

The Somerset Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency is offering a free weekly program, "Bridge to Success," which meets for eight sessions of two hours each. Hot dinner and gift cards are provided to participants each week. Transportation and child care are available on request.

Two groups are currently in progress; one meets Tuesday evening and the other meets Thursday evening. Others are scheduled to begin soon. "Bridge to Success" can also be offered on-site to interested groups of 8-12 people who meet residency and age requirements

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.



General Help 240 Art Teacher vanted Day Camp Ceramic Program. Must be or ganized, creative and able to operate a kiln. June 26 Aug 18!

free (Call la

Competitive salary camp for kids! 732-297-2000

CARPENTER Good pay, wide variety mustry work henefits quality work, benen avail, 908-806-9366 CHILD CARE Work in your own home. Apply at Monday Moming Inc 908/526-4884

Call: 908-806-1184 COUNSELORS For Flemington Raritar Recreation program 6/28-7/29 2006.

Resumes to PO Box 2255, Flemington, NJ 08822 or email: fiemingtonparks@ earthlink.net. No phone calls please

Call: 609-921-7655 GROOM PT: Will conside HS/College student; Private farm in Arnwell Valley between Fleming ton & Hopewell. Call: 609-466-2649/

609-921-7655

crosoft Great Plains Software. All certifica-tions a plus. Please email Company. resumes to: paced .com 3784 x 115. or email or fax 908-272-7101 bbutensky butenskyservices.com LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT Painter needed in Clinton Area. Call between 8-3pm High end, residential sume to 908-534-9398 908-204-2585 X800

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resume to Lisa at: Fax: 732-356-9257 theeyecenter@msn.com Part-Time Help 17 + Conditions Apply

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Flemington, NJ 08822

Or email to:

jobs@ninpublishing.com

Sports

Saturday, June 17, 2006

Panthers just miss in title defense bid

By DAVE ALLENA Staff Writer

MONMOUTH JCT. - Even in defeat Bridgewater-Raritan added another page to its storied history as the state's best high school boys volleyball pro-

Considered more of a pretender than a contender at the start of the NISIAA state tournament after barely qualifying, the Panthers came within a few inches of a stunning defense of its championship June 9 at South Brunswick High. Reaching the title match for

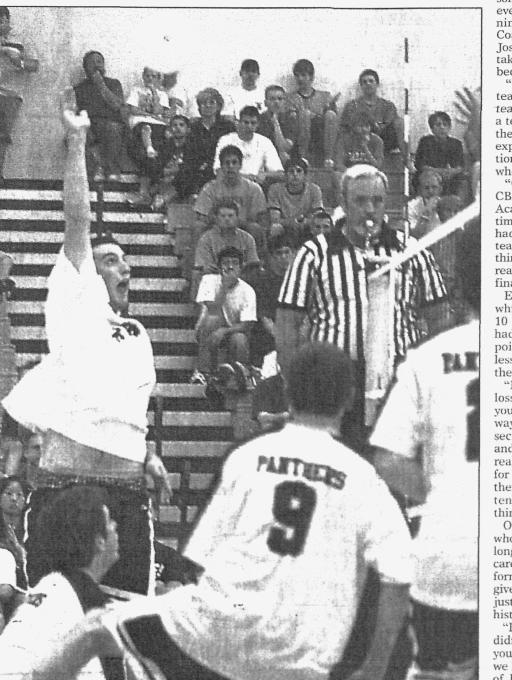
the ninth time, Bridgewater-Raritan pushed St. Joseph-Metuchen to the limit. But in the end the Panthers fell just

short in the decisive third 29-27

after recovering from a 25-16 opening-set loss to even things with a 25-17 verdict in the middle game.

game

With injuries, illness and an absence keeping the Panthers from getting on a roll early in



the they BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN their best for VOLLEYBALL the stretch run

as they won nine in a row on the way to claiming the North Jersey sectional crown. They finished with an overall 17-10 record.

season,

saved

"It was exciting to see the way things came together, and in some ways what we did was even more impressive than winning last year," said Head Coach Corey Romanak, a St. Joseph graduate. "That's not to take anything from last year because that was exciting, too.

"We went from a depleted team, a frustrated team, to a team with a glimmer of hope to a team that went all the way to the state final. It was exciting to experience the range of emotions we went through to finish where we did.

"On May 11 when we beat CBA (Christian Brothers Academy) I saw for the first time the potential this team had. Not only myself, but the team felt like they had something to prove, and I think that really fueled their run to the final.

Even the excruciating loss, which saw the Panthers lead 14-10 during the third game and had the potential title-winning point just go long, couldn't lessen the joy of just getting to the final.

"It wasn't a disappointing loss," Romanak said. "When you look at our season and the way we were struggling to secure a spot in the tournament and what we did after that, it really was a memorable season for us. It was exciting to be there. All in all I'm pretty content with how we handled things this year.'

Outside hitter Chris Allen, whose spike at 24-23 just went long, finished his outstanding career with another huge performance, delivering 23 kills to give him 1007 for his career, just the ninth player in state history to surpass 1000.

"It was pretty upsetting we didn't win," he said. "Any time you don't win you're upset, but we have to put it in perspective of how far we came and how well we played. I think we did a fine job. We didn't get as many balls in the third set as they did, but I thought we did a good job. They just did a little better.

"(Missing that shot) is part of not. the game. I know I'll replay it a

we played one of the best games we've played all year." That the Panthers made it a

battle all the way shouldn't have surprised anyone, even the experts. Bridgewater-Raritan has made the most title-game appearances and its six state crowns are the most in state history. The program just continues to excel.

'My kids have heart," Romanak said. "It's the relentless pursuit of greatness that they have. It's an attitude. The kids trying out from the JV and freshman teams each year understand the tradition of Bridgewater volleyball. They're not just playing to enjoy the sport. They want to be part of something bigger than themselves.

That desire nearly carried the Panthers to a seventh state crown, and on another day might have been enough. South Jersey sectional winner St. Joseph, which finished off a 30-4 campaign with its second state title, proved to be a formidable opponent.

The Falcons, who captured the South championship as the top seed, got off to a fast start by grabbing a 4-1 lead in the first set. After Bridgewater-Raritan got to within 12-11, the Falcons outscored the Panthers and closed it out with a 13-5 run.

Bridgewater-Raritan regrouped quickly and made it a real battle as Allen and Chris Metzger got untracked in the second game. After Metzger had six kills to highlight a 21-13 start to the set, Allen finished it with four kills and a block to account for five of the last six points.

"In the first game, we didn't look like the team I'd watched the past couple of weeks. The second game they finally did," Romanak said. "Basically we got handled in that first set. I thought it was just jitters.

"After the first game I got the kids together and told them we had scored 16 points playing our C game. We had to play more aggressive. In the first game it looked like we were trying to be perfect. In the second we relaxed and we started to play well."

While many in the crowd expected St. Joe's to make fast work of the Panthers, Falcon Head Coach Miguel Cabrita did

"I knew Corey's team would

the attitude of having nothing to lose and took it to us.

'It was definitely the kind of game you want to see in the state final. We didn't play as well as we had played Wednesday (June 7, in the South final against East Brunswick). I talked to them about bringing their A game, and while they didn't do that as a team, some of them played their A game in spurts. I was proud of the way our guys kept swinging at the end."

The third game was knotted up four times in the early going before Bridgewater-Raritan went up 14-10 on consecutive kills by Allen and Brosius. The Panthers led 17-14 before St. Joe's tied it 17-17, and Bridgewater held leads of 19-17, 21-19 and 23-21, but each time the Falcons responded.

With the match tied 23-all, the Panthers went up by a point when St. Joe's failed to return the ball and Ryan Weiss served for the match and state title. Allen, however, saw his kill shot fall just outside the back line and St. Joe's had life.

After Allen's kill squared things at 27-27, junior Andrew Colon delivered the decisive points for the Falcons with back-to-back kills.

"I'm not going to dwell on one point and turn the game into a disappointment," Romanak said. "We played the best we could, and so did St. Joe's. That's how the state final should be. Two great teams battled each other.

"The difference was St. Joe's was a little more aggressive at the end, and we might've been a little too defensive. Another thing was Chris Allen moved to the back row in the rotation. If he'd moved to the front row maybe things would've been different.

B-R TOPPLES CLIFTON

The seventh-seeded Panthers defeated Clifton 25-22, 25-17 in the North Jersey sectional final June 7 in South Brunswick behind Allen's 22 kills and five digs, Metzger's nine kills and six digs and Andrew Conkin's 25 assists. B-R also topped Clifton in last year's state title match.

No. 5 seed Clifton (25-6), which had knocked off B-R 2-0 in an April 21 meeting in Clifton, kept things close throughout the opening game and pulled within 22-21 on Elvis Cabrera's kill. Then Allen

The Chronicle

A-7

GEORGE PACCIELLO STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bridgewater-Raritan High's Chris Metzger goes up to fire a kill during the Panthers' state championship battle with St. Joseph-Metuchen last week. Bridgewater-Raritan's brilliant late-season run ended with a 16-25, 25-17, 27-29 setback as its quest for a second straight crown barely came up short.

lot in my mind and it's disappointing it didn't go in, but it's all part of the game. I thought we represented Bridgewater volleyball well. In our last game

make a run at us," he said. "In the first game we spent so much energy trying to win it that we didn't start the second very well and Bridgewater came out with the game for the Panthers.

came back with a kill, B-R went up 24-21 on a Mustangs' hitting error and, following a Clifton sideout, Weiss's kill clinched

Spartans were winners against toughest rivals

IMMACULATA

SOFTBALL

By DAVE ALLENA Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE - When considering the game-by-game softball competition Immaculata High faces, it's understandable why the seemingly conservative goals of playing break-even ball and giving those opponents a battle every time out can be seen as realistic.

In their second season in the Skyland Conference, the

Spartans produced another solid campaign with their 13-10 record that included a state

tournament berth and a 5-5 Delaware East Division mark against schools with much larger enrollments.

Frank Head Coach Mazzariello, whose teams annually dominated the Mountain Valley Conference before moving to the larger-school Skyland, understands what he's up against.

"Staying within our conference I thought 13-10 was pretty good for what we had to play against," he said. "It was actually a little better than I expected. Going into the season I thought .500 would be good because a lot of the teams we beat last year didn't call us back to play this year.

"We finished 5-5 in the division. We split two games with the county champ, Montgomery. We gave Hillsborough two pretty good games. We were com-

petitive. We gave everyone game, so I was pretty satisfied with what we did this year.

"When you look at our schedule I thought we played some very good teams. I believe 13 of the 17 teams we went against qualified for the state tournament. In our last game we lost to North Hunterdon 8-5, and they won a state championship.

"I think the reasons for our success were we fielded the ball very well, and we hit the ball better than I

thought we would. What hurt us was our bunting game,

satisfied.

ple-year starters led by three-year performers Stephanie

Clemente and Jenny Beer, a

first baseman. Clemente fin-

ished her senior year with an 8-8 pitching record and 1.96

The Spartans will also lose

their entire outfield, including

rightfielder Maria Sullivan,

who batted .280 with five dou-

bles and 10 runs batted in while

collecting 11 assists without an

error on defense. Sullivan and

Gannon were two-year starters,

while Christy DelGado was the

But even with those losses the

earned run average.

centerfielder

where we were effective only 25 percent of the time. We didn't strike out as much and we walked more, but the bunting was a little behind." It was a season that had its share of highlights without a lot

of letdowns. "The game that stands out the most is probably the comeback Watchung Hills," against Mazzariello said. "Another was the way we hit the ball against Roselle Park (in a 14-1 victory), a team that usually is pretty good. Another highlight was against Bridgewater-Raritan when our leftfielder Corrine Gannon made a diving catch and turned it into a double play. That was a turning point in that game.

"The only game I was really disappointed with was Voorhees. It was the third or fourth game of the season, and we didn't play very well. It was



three offensive threats. Juniors Jen Lapicki (catcher) and Caitlin Bay (shortstop) along with Piazzolla (third base) all turned in big performances this spring with Lapicki leading in most offensive categories including home runs (3), doubles (13), hits (35), RBI (23) and runs (23) while hitting .402 out of the leadoff spot.

Bay, meanwhile, paced the Spartans with a .444 batting average built on 32 hits, while she drove in 20 runs and scored 10. In the field she committed only five errors. Piazzolla, who had a 4-2 record and 1.58 ERA in the circle, hit .337 with 15

RBI and scored 17 runs.

"We lose our entire outfield, which did a very good job this year, but it didn't get a lot of chances this year," said Mazzariello. "When you look at the numbers, it's a little easier working with a new outfield. We have our infield back with the exception of first base, so we're in good shape there.

"Either Piazzolla or Cannell could be our Number One next year. Both were good as sophomores, and will be better next year. Caity (Piazzolla) had experience from last year, so we went with her as our Number Two. I don't think we'll lose a lot with our pitching, but Stephanie did pitch against all the good teams. Her 8-8 record was pretty good for who we played."

With a solid group returning

Mazzariello will look for Immaculata to better its final mark, although he admitted the level of competition makes it difficult to predict a division title

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"I think we can improve on what we did this year because we have everyone coming back through the middle," he said. When I have a situation where I have my middle coming back, I look for improvement. I don't see us getting worse.

"But there are so many good teams in the division, it's hard to say if we can win it, Numbers-wise everyone has an advantage on us, but we give them a good run. We've been .500 in the division the past two years. All it takes is a break here and there, and you have seven wins, and that gives you a chance.'

Senior Maria Sullivan, here sliding into third base against Watchung Hills April 18, totaled 11 assists from her right-field post for Immaculata High. The Spartans closed the season with a 13-10 overall record and went 5-5 in the rugged Skyland Conference-Delaware East Division.

Saturday, June 17, 2006

In The Towns

Family agency is concert sponsor

A-8

.1

BOUND BROOK --- Family & Community Services of Somerset County sponsors a concert with the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea.

The concert is at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 25 at the Nicholas Music Center, on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. The orchestra is under the direction of Rev. Alphonse Stevenson. Admission is \$40. For tickets.

call (732) 356-1082.

Library hosting concert July 8

SOUTH PLAINFIELD --- At 7 p.m. on July 8 the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will be hosting its second annual live acoustic concert with pop recording artists Billy and Rose Falcon.

Tickets are limited and are available by advance sales only. All proceeds will go towards the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus charity fund.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for anyone under 18. This price includes the concert and the 'after show" party where the performers will mingle with the audience and refreshments will be

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The Area's

served. For tickets or additional information, call Brian Cargill at (908) 755-9717.

Anniversary parade participants sought

BOUND BROOK - The Parade Committee for the Bound Brook 325th Anniversary celebration, being held Oct. 8, is looking for local groups to sponsor floats depicting various historical eras during the history of Bound Brook, from the signing of the deed with the Indians right up until today's redevelopment efforts.

The committee is looking for local organizations to sponsor a float in the parade.

Some float examples include: The making of the Betsy Ross flag, The Revolutionary War period, the founding of local churches, the opening of the borough's first school, the founding of the local library, the flood which took place in the 1800s, as well as Tropical Storm Floyd in 1999, or the railroad coming to the borough

Any group interested should contact Phyllis Pournaras at (732) 356-0141. The organizers of the parade will make an effort to supply a flatbed truck, if needed, as well as give ideas on how to put together the float. The committee

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will have a list of historical times to give suggestions.

Middlesex poster contest winners

MIDDLESEX - Winners have been announced in the coloring poster contest sponsored by the Middlesex Alliance Committee. Austin Brodnax was the overall grand prize winner.

Grade winners were Caroline Walter, kindergarten, Hazelwood School; Austin Brodnax, Hazelwood School Grade 1; Kate Petervary, Watchung School, Grade 2; and Lisa Hamilton, Watchung School, Grade 3.

Runner-up grade winners were Jeremy Arias, kindergarten, Hazelwood School; Ashley Dotey, Grade 1, Watchung School; Harry Sandho, Grade 2, Watchung School; and Jenna Martemucci, Our Lady of Mount Virgin School, Grade 3.

All winners received awards and gift certificates at the Borough Council meeting on April 25. The winning posters will be on display at Borough Hall through June. Support group for teens

being formed

EDISON --- A support group is being formed for teen victims of rape and sexual assault.

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ed by the Rape Crisis Intervention Center of the Middlesex County Public Health Department. Group sessions begin in June and are open to those ages 13-17. Space is on a first-come, first-served basis

This support group is coordinat-

An intake appointment is recommended. Those interested can call (877) 665-7273, Ext. 321, between 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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.

Obituaries

Noreen Merrill

PISCATAWAY — Noreen Fitzgerald Merrill, 60, died June 11, 2006 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. She was born in New York City, a daughter of the late John and Edith Fitzgerald, and had lived in Belle Mead since 1977.

Mrs. Merrill was an elementary school teacher with the Piscataway Board of Education for 33 years and retired in 2001. She graduated from Mount Saint Mary Academy in 1963 and earned a degree in elementary education in 1967 from St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill,

Daniels, 86, died June 8, 2006

Born in Philadelphia, she

lived in Metuchen for 35 years

before moving to Edison in

Mrs. Daniels retired in 1986

after more than 10 years as a

bookkeeper with the Edison

law firm Marra Gerstein &

Richman. A former Cub Scout

leader in Metuchen, she was a member of the parish council

and the Mr. & Mrs. Club at St.

Francis of Assisi Cathedral in

She also was a member of

the Columbiettes and of the

American Legion Ladies

EDISON

at her home.

1998.

Metuchen.

N.Y.

Surviving are her husband, Douglas; a daughter, Amy of Hillsborough; and two brothers, Barry Fitzgerald and John Fitzgerald, both of Yonkers, N.Y.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church in Skillman. Burial

NJ 08502.

Margaret Daniels

Margaret

Hinkle; a granddaughter, Michelle Romanowski; and a grandson, Michael Buckland.

Surviving are four daughters, Jeannette Romanowski husband Anthony of and Sherburne, N.Y., Margaret of Edison, Linda Alshowarbi and husband Randy of Edison and Patti of Bedminster; a son, William and wife Leona of Florham Park; two sisters, Marie Busillo of West Grove, Pa., and Dorothy McOscar of Maine: 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Flynn & Son/Koyen Funeral Home, Metuchen, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway. To send a condolence, visit www.flynnfuneral.com.



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Newswire: People are selling their old 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. ScrapGold.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

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 Zakroff, VP of marketing. "Even old dental gold has value." ScrapGold.com processes over 10,000 recycle Kits per month. People can get a free GoldKit at 1-800-283-4700 or ScrapGold.com.



Auxiliary in Metuchen. Her husband, William T., died in 1999. Also preceding her in death were two brothers, Jack Hinkle and Richard

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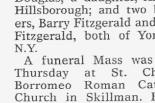
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was in Rocky Hill Cemetery. Arrangements were by the Cusick Funeral Home in Somerville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Montgomery Rescue Squad, 8 Blawenburg Road, Belle Mead,





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