

# The Chronicle

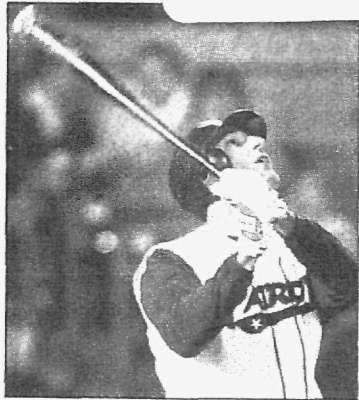
Since 1862

Vol. 144, No. 27

Saturday, July 8, 2006

50 cents

## Inside



### Coming up a bit short

While their pitching has been superb, the Somerset Patriots have had immense difficulty generating a steady offense in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball, ranking last in team batting. They entered the week on the verge of elimination from the first-half season South Division pennant chase. **Page A5.**



### One cool little coupe

Marc Pullen's 1931 Ford Model A Coupe is a regular at Cruise Night, held every Friday night during the summer in Somerville.

### 4-H planning week of fun

**EAST BRUNSWICK** — Middlesex County 4-H is holding its 2006 Exploration Week summer program from Monday through Friday, July 10-14. E-Week is open to boys and girls in Grades 3-7. The program focuses on acceptance and belonging among attendees as well as promoting self-confidence. E-Week also offers many opportunities to encourage teens' leadership skills. E-Week is an example of one of the many programs available to youth in Middlesex County through its 4-H department. The program is held at the Middlesex County 4-H Center, 645 Cranbury Road. The theme of E-Week 2006 will be "Welcome to the Jungle." Participants will have a chance to choose from daily activities such as wilderness survival, cheerleading, dance, rocketry, drama, drawing and biking. Helping kids feel they are in a safe environment and achieve a sense of accomplishment in their area of interest are important goals of 4-H and will be stressed at E-Week. Each year over 110 youth take part along with 22 volunteer teen and adult counselors helping to plan, implement and evaluate the weeklong day program. These volunteers have donated over 80 hours of the time each during E-Week. For additional information, contact the 4-H office at (732) 398-5261.

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PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
The Somerset County Police Pipes and Drums, above, play a medley of patriotic music during last Thursday's dedication of the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Somerville. Below, fireworks light up the night sky Tuesday during the Fourth of July celebration at North Branch Park in Bridgewater.

## Veterans get place of honor in Somerville

By JENNIFER ROSENBAUM  
Correspondent

With the state's population surpassing 8.7 million, there are about 592,000 veterans in New Jersey, a little less than seven percent, which is about two percent less than the national average. But last Thursday, all veterans were honored during the dedication ceremony for the Somerset County Veterans Memorial Plaza.

"This plaza is a tribute to all our veterans, including those who served on the home front as well as those who were deployed overseas," said Freeholder and project liaison Rick Fontana. Veterans, their families, elected officials, county employees and members of the public joined at the 200 foot-long plaza located on the northern side of the county administration building in Somerville to dedicate this long-awaited tribute to veterans.

"This new plaza will serve as a permanent memorial to the courage, determination

and sacrifice of our veterans," said Fontana.

The plaza's circular design features flags from each of the five branches of armed services — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard — plus a flag for the World War II Merchant Marine veterans.

Opposite to where the flags are located, the plaza drops off where Fontana hopes will be a site for public ceremonies. The plaza also includes a monument to recipients of the Purple Heart. Members of the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart were instrumental in urging the freeholders to construct the plaza for veterans.

"When the Purple Heart group approached us, we realized this was a perfect opportunity to combine the park concept with a memorial to all Somerset County veterans from all wars and conflicts, including of course those who had received the Purple Heart," said Fontana.

Continued on page A2



## Officials: New boat will serve waterfront residents

Middlesex County and New Brunswick officials have dedicated a state-of-the-art police patrol boat that will help protect waterfront areas in 12 municipalities.

The 24-foot boat, purchased with \$175,000 in federal homeland security grant funds, is the first law enforcement vessel dedicated to protect and patrol waterways and waterfront areas throughout the county, including new development, critical infrastructure and individual boating traffic.

"The Middlesex County Board of Freeholders is steadfast in its commitment to the protection of our citizens," said Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chairman of the county's Law and Public Safety Committee, during a ceremony at Buchanan Riverfront Park in Sayreville. "The marine security infrastructure of which this boat will form an integral part will close of the final remaining gaps in our efforts to keep our residents safe."

"I commend the municipalities who have joined with us to make this possible and I also commend my fellow freeholders for their support."

Middlesex County entered into an inter-local agreement with the City of New Brunswick, whose Police Department will operate and maintain the vessel and respond to water emergencies throughout the county.

"New Brunswick is proud to take on this new responsibility in the fight against terrorism," Mayor James M. Cahill said. "This craft will ensure the safety of people traveling on, over and along the Raritan River."

Freeholder Director David B. Crabel said: "(This) dedication is the latest example of our diligence in ensuring the safety of all who live and work in Middlesex County. This boat and our partnership with the City of New Brunswick strengthen our

Continued on page A2



COURTESY CELEBRATE NJ!  
Karen Melito, Celebrate NJ coordinator, left, and John Fee, award recipient from the Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

## Borough students learn to celebrate the Garden State

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — For fourth graders across New Jersey, it was a chance to learn about what is good about the place they call home.

Five students from South Plainfield in Middlesex County who participated in the Celebrate NJ! school program have been awarded for their efforts with a certificate and a place for their articles in upcoming issues of area papers. The children were honored during a ceremony Tuesday night with other students from Central Jersey at the Barnes and Noble in Bridgewater.

"This is a celebration of student authors whose articles about New Jersey were selected for publication," said Karen Melito, coordinator for Celebrate NJ! "Each student had the opportunity to select which section of the paper they would write for. Topics ranged from Thomas Edison to shopping malls."

Award recipient John Fee from the Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield wrote an article about games.

"There are so many minor league baseball teams in New

Jersey," John said. "It was really fun to learn all about them. I'm also a huge fan of the two NFL football teams who play here. They should probably change their name to the New Jersey Jets and Giants."

Linda Goetz, a fourth grade teacher from the Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield said it was amazing to watch the students transition as they were working on the Celebrate NJ! project.

"At first, the students were less than thrilled about the research, but once they got involved, it was so exciting to watch their interest in the content take over," Goetz said. "Suddenly, they were looking forward to finding out more about their particular subject and it wasn't work anymore, but pure enjoyment."

June is Celebrate NJ! month and local minor and independent league baseball teams will be hosting Celebrate NJ! game nights throughout the month for all students who participated in the school program.

For more information on the celebration and events, visit [www.CelebrateNJ.org](http://www.CelebrateNJ.org).



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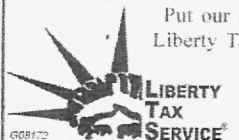
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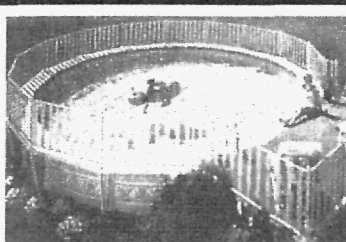
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## New boat

Continued from page A1

ability to respond to emergencies of all kinds."

The boat has twin 200-horsepower motors with a top speed of about 50 mph. It can operate on its 150-gallon fuel capacity for about 10 hours without refueling.

This boat is equipped with a chart system, including GPS, and its two-way radio equipment will enable it to communicate on all county, local and marine frequencies. It can be operated by a two-person crew and is capable of operating in as little as 18 inches of water.

In addition to patrolling critical infrastructure sites, the vessel will benefit commuter ferry service, expanded waterfront development in New Brunswick and the Perth Amboy marina and other proposed marina facilities within Middlesex County. It would also benefit employees and passengers of dinner and excursion vessels, which have large passenger capacities and capabilities.

The police boat joins a 40-foot fire rescue boat purchased with \$500,000 in homeland security funds that the Perth Amboy Fire Department, through an inter-local agreement with the county, operates and maintains. Also, the county purchased a fully equipped dive boat being operated and maintained by a specially trained dive team from East

Brunswick Township. A second police patrol boat, being purchased with homeland security funds, is expected to arrive in July.

"With these vessels within the county, they will enable local police and fire agencies to respond immediately whenever and wherever a dangerous situation occurs," Rafano said.

He said that would eliminate the 90-minute minimum response time set by New Jersey State Police, New York Police Department and New York Fire Department.

"The operation of these four vessels will not only benefit the 12 municipalities with waterfronts but will also benefit all the commercial and recreation users of waterways throughout the county," he said.

## The Chronicle

Since 1862

A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. newspaper  
NJN Publishing © 2003

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

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

## Veterans

Continued from page A1

The location of the plaza seemed perfect because the site on Grove Street has had a long standing connection with the armed services. The former Somerville Armory was located there from 1910 until

it was taken down in 1999, several years after the administration building was built. The extraordinary efforts of all those involved did not go unnoticed. "Still, as long as evil and tyranny exists in this world, good men and women will be required to act and bear arms," said Gary Englert, director of Veterans Services for the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

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## Edison society selects two as summer artists

EDISON — The Edison Arts Society is honoring Laura Grozovsky and Mary Pazdan as its Artists of the Season for the summer.

In recognition of their talent and dedication to the Arts Society, both artists will appear in the summer edition of "Arts in Edison" seen on Cablevision Channel 22. A work of their art and their biographies will be on exhibit at the Municipal Complex over the summer and will be posted indefinitely on the Arts Society website, www.edisonarts.org.

The two artists also will be honored at the Arts Society's gala fundraising ball in May.

Grozovsky was born in Ukraine, where she received a

bachelor of fine arts degree from the Odessa Theatre and Art College. She holds master of fine arts degrees from the Lev Tolstoy Tula State Pedagogical University in Russia and the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She incorporates fashion design experience, theatrical elements and spirituality into her art, preferring acrylics and jewelry design. Grozovsky is an art teacher at Old Bridge High School and plans to teach jewelry classes for the Arts Society in the fall.

Pazdan has been living in Edison since 1988. After receiving a degree in printmaking from Drake University she traveled and taught in England and America. She completed advanced studies at the University of Illinois and was an employed as an art-educational therapist. Pazdan's works have been shown in galleries, art centers and exhibits in Iowa, Chicago, New York and New Jersey.

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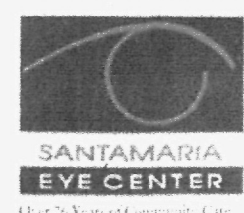
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## In The Towns

## Library Players seek talented troupers

PISCATAWAY — Registration deadline is Monday for those who want to join the Library Players.

This summer theater troupe is open to boys and girls ages 10-18. It's staging an adaptation of "The Vile Veterinarian" in late August. Rehearsals at Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane are from 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, July 11-Aug. 15.

In addition to actors and actresses, teens are needed to work on scenery, makeup and costumes. Register in person at Kennedy Library or by phone to (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

## MCC co-sponsors 'Omens of Hope'

EDISON — Middlesex County College is the scene for "Omens of Hope: Lessons from Our Many Faiths to Answer the Fear-Mongering of Hollywood."

This interfaith roundtable discussion is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in L'Honnemedieu Hall on the main MCC campus on Woodbridge Avenue. Admission is free.

Scheduled to participate are Inamul Haq Kausar, spiritual leader of the Baitul Hadi mosque in Old Bridge; Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth-El in Edison; Patricia Jannuzzi, an official with Immaculata High School in Somerville; Samani Muditpragayji, from the Jain

Vishwa Bharati of North America in Iselin; Nandukumar Balija, from the Krishna Temple in Morganville; and Dharm Kaur, from the Gurudwara Singh Sabha in Carteret.

For more information, call (732) 452-9247 or (732) 283-1188. Sponsors are the Baitul Hadi mosque, the First Presbyterian Church of Iselin and Middlesex County College.

## Creative teens invited to writing workshop

PISCATAWAY — Teens are invited to The Write Stuff, a Creative Writing Workshop, led by an honors English teacher, on three consecutive Tuesdays — July 11, 18 and 25 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the J. F. Kennedy Library located at 500 Hoes Lane. Class size is limited, so please reserve your place by signing up at the reference desk at Kennedy Library or by calling (732) 463-1633, Ext. 6.

## Jewish paper cutting is topic

PISCATAWAY — Deborah Ugoretz presents "Jewish Papercutting" at East Jersey Olde Towne Village at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

She describes the meaning behind commonly found symbols and what makes a certain design particularly Jewish. Ugoretz will bring several examples of her work and demonstrate her tech-

niques. Admission is free.

Registration is required; call (732) 745-4489. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is at 1050 River Road, at the stop light at Hoes Lane West.

## County college is planning open house

EDISON — An open house for prospective Middlesex County College students and their families will be held on the Edison Campus from five to seven p.m. on Thursday in the College Center.

High school students, who are considering continuing their education at Middlesex, as well as anyone who is thinking about taking a course at the college, are invited to attend. Reservations are not required and refreshments will be served. Professors, advisors and administrators will conduct workshops and information sessions addressing everything a student needs to know about attending and being successful at Middlesex.

There will be representatives from all academic areas available, and student ambassadors will conduct campus tours and discuss student concerns.

For additional information contact the MCC Office of Admissions at (732) 906-4243 or

visit [www.middlesexcc.edu](http://www.middlesexcc.edu).

## Hospital will hold two blood drives in July

NEW BRUNSWICK — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital will hold a blood drive 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 18 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 25 at the RWJUH Arline and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard, Somerset Street.

Appointments for blood drives are not necessary. Anyone who is not available during the above-listed dates and times should call the New Brunswick Affiliated Hospitals Blood Center at (732) 235-8100 ext 244 to schedule an appointment.

## Middlesex youth can attend 'Mini-Academy'

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Police Department sponsors a "Police Mini-Academy" from Monday through Friday, Aug. 7-11.

This program is open to all pupils in Grades 6-8 who attend Middlesex Borough schools. A certificate of participation is awarded to each pupil who completes the course.

Cost of \$40 includes a T-shirt, cap and all learning materials. For registration, call Capt. Kevin Reilly at (732) 356-1900, Ext. 229.

## Dinoman comes to Piscataway

PISCATAWAY — "Dinoman!" is coming to Piscataway as part of his summer tour.

He appears at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13 at Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane. Dinoman and his trusty raccoon, Reflex, provide fun for boys and girls ages 4-up. No registration is necessary.

For more information, call (732) 463-1633, Ext. 7.

## Dance for widows and widowers

CARTERET — Middlesex East WOWs hold an open dance for widows and widowers at 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 14 at the American Legion hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave.

Cost is \$8 for members and \$9 for non-members. Live music and refreshments are included.

In addition, the organization holds a business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 10 at the Carteret Community Center on Pershing Avenue.

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"Rum Pum Pum," 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 18. Cooper also leads this drama class, open here to ages 6-8. Registration is required.

"Moogie's Animal Balloon Twisting," 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 25. Boys and girls ages 7-12 will love twisting the balloons with him. Registration is required.

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Saturday, July 8, 2006

# Opinion

## Wants of the people should be heard

By RICHARD D. PARKER

Soon the flag amendment — the proposed constitutional amendment that would restore to Congress its longstanding authority to protect the American flag from physical desecration — will arrive at a moment of truth. Once again, huge bipartisan majorities in the House and in the Senate want to send it to the states for debate and ratification, as provided for in the Constitution. This time, just one senator stands in the way.

What these senators say is that the flag can be protected without an amendment but simply by passing yet another statute. But their statute has been revealed to be empty. On one hand, most senators see that the terms of the statute, in fact, provide no real protection to the flag. On the other hand, they, along with all credible experts, understand that the statute, if enacted, would be struck down like other such statutes, by at least five of the members of the Supreme Court.

Two basic convictions underlie the defiant reliance by these senators on so transparent a fantasy. The first has to do with the role and status of the Senate itself — imagined by some senators, perhaps, as a sort of British House of Lords. Its special responsibilities, its smaller size and its longer terms of office suggest to some that it is supposed to be the more

mature, "deliberative" legislative body. And the vast inequality of population from state to state — each of them with two senators — suggests to some that, as a whole, "the Senate is 'above' the democratic norm of 'one person, one vote.'"

What may follow next for certain senators is a conviction that they have a duty, on principle, to resist popular opinion. While recognizing the right of the people to amend the Constitution, they may imagine themselves as a bulwark against the exercise by the people of that right. However well meant, this idea is, in truth, a subversion of the Constitution. It subverts the very foundation of the Constitution, which is popular sovereignty. Indeed, it subverts the Constitution's conception of the Senate itself — meant to be "elected by the people."

To imagine, in the 21st century, that the U.S. Senate should behave like the unelected, hereditary British House of Lords of the 19th century is especially odd. In Britain, after all, the House of Lords is now being systematically dismantled — precisely because of its occasional resistance to popular will. Can our own "upper" house presume, for long, to resist this democratic law of gravity?

The second conviction that underlies the defiance of popular will by these pivotal senators — hiding behind an illusory

statutory "alternative" to the flag amendment — accepts the reality of the electoral responsibility of the Senate to the people. But it calculates that, in this case, senators need not heed the discipline of electoral responsibility. One senator indicated to me that, although most Americans support the flag amendment, his own political, and financial, "base" is against it. And, he said, for the majority of his constituents it is not a "voting issue." The accuracy of this perception, however, is now in doubt. In several recent senatorial elections — in Virginia, in South Carolina and in South Dakota — the flag amendment was put in issue. And, in those elections, the candidate supporting the amendment won.

Thus there is but one way, in the end, to restore the traditional meaning of the Constitution. It is to vindicate the principle of popular sovereignty by acting on that principle at the ballot box — making the flag amendment a "voting issue" in state after state.

After 17 years, the American people have sustained their support for the flag amendment. No other constitutional amendment proposed in the last quarter-century has enjoyed such active and enduring commitment. Just as rivers run to the sea, the force of such sustained public opinion will, eventually, prevail.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Veterans Joe Pranzatelli, left, William Duquesnel, center, and Fred Tremontozzi, right, members of the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, Post 16, Bridgewater, present an American Flag during pre-game ceremonies Friday night at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater. Soon Congress will consider a proposed constitutional amendment that would leave it the sole authority to protect the flag from desecration.

Richard D. Parker is a law professor at Harvard University. The above column was submitted by the Citizens Flag

Alliance, based at the national headquarters of the American Legion in Indianapolis, Ind.

The following is contact information for state representatives serving Somerset County, as well as members of Congress serving Central Jersey.

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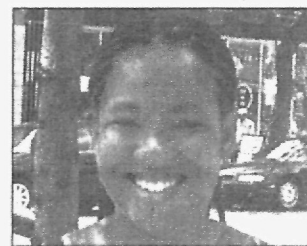
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## Question of the week: What can be done to fix New Jersey's fiscal crisis?



"Throw out the ones who are spending our cash. Stop raising our taxes. Be more wise about welfare spending — they should work for their money. Stop sending money to other countries."

FRANCES M. JONES  
Somerville



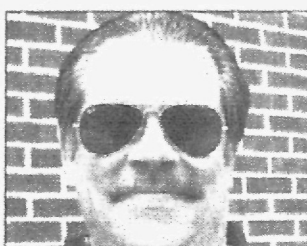
"People really need the services, so let's approve the tax increase and get on with our lives so we can improve all the towns' services."

APRIL GORDON  
Somerville



"I feel sorry for the taxpayers because normal things in coming years will be too expensive to enjoy. We're lucky we're not like New York."

LECHEZ GREEN  
Hillsborough



"Much as I don't like to raise the sales tax, I think we should in order to resolve our problems once and for all, instead of resorting to gimmicks."

MARK SINCLAIR  
Raritan

## Letters to the Editor

### Raritan plans 'Neighbor' day

#### To The Editor:

While running for the council seat for the borough of Raritan, one of my campaign promises was to eventually schedule a Meet Your Neighbor event.

My hope was that the residents and businesses of our town would have a chance to become better acquainted with one another. On behalf of the mayor and the council, we have decided to spearhead Raritan's first-ever Meet Your Neighbor Day.

Our goal will not only be for a day of family fun, but we will also give each Raritan business an opportunity to advertise their services within the community. In addition to this, we have also asked each department that is involved in the daily operations of Raritan to voluntarily join us for the day. This will afford the residents of Raritan a chance to learn exactly what and how each department functions on a day-to-day basis. Assuming our first Meet Your Neighbor Day is a success, we would like to make this an annual event in the future.

Games, door prizes and free giveaways will be included in

the fun. Every Raritan resident and business owner will be entitled to a free hot dog and soda. This event will be restricted to the residents and business owners of the borough only. If your business would like to reserve a spot for a table please do so with the contact information below. Anyone who is interested in volunteering, please contact me at (908) 526-3090 or Borough Hall at (908) 231-1300. We have scheduled this event for Sept. 17 from noon-4 p.m. Rain date is Oct. 1.

Any business or resident who is interested in donating money for this event can send their checks to 22 First St., Raritan, NJ 08869. Please make checks payable to Raritan Borough (Meet Your Neighbor). Anyone who donates will have their name displayed on the Meet Your Neighbor banner located at the entrance to this event.

We are hoping to bring some old time atmosphere back into the town of Raritan. We look forward to seeing you there.

VICTOR J. LAGGINI JR.  
Raritan

The writer is a member of the Raritan Borough Council

## State law requires protective eyewear

#### To The Editor:

Did you know it is a law in New Jersey that all children who wear prescription eyewear must use special protective in basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, field hockey, tennis, lacrosse, racquetball, squash, badminton or paddleball?

This applies to sports sponsored by a school, community or government agency.

It is also in your child's best interest to wear protective eyewear when engaged in ice hockey, paintball, karate and archery.

Approximately 40,000 sports-related injuries occur in the United States each year.

More than one-third of the victims are children. When a child participates in a sports activity, the impact of a ball or other equipment as well as an opponent's fingers, hands and elbows become a threat to a child's visual safety. If a person plays a sport that requires a helmet or faceguard, don't make the mistake of thinking his eyes are protected from injuries. Likewise, if a child already wears glasses, even with shatterproof lenses, this eyewear is not held to the same protective standards as "Protective Eyewear for

Sports Use." The lenses in fashion frames can easily pop out and puncture or cut an eye, and damage can occur from a broken frame as well.

Some parents have asked the question, "What if my child wears contact lenses — does he still need protective eyewear?"

Contact lenses may give your child good vision but they can't protect against eye injury.

Impact to an eye can dislodge a lens and increase the risk of eye injuries.

The good news is that this new law will help prevent your child from being handicapped by a serious eye injury. You can make the decision to help protect his eyes by adding protective sports goggles to his equipment bag.

If your child objects to wearing protective eyewear, he needs to understand it is the law, and point out that many professional athletes wear protective eyewear and excel in their sport.

Also, don't forget the best way to encourage your children to wear protective eyewear is to wear it yourself.

LISA RICHARDS  
Warren

The writer is manager of The Eye Center, located in Warren

## The Chronicle

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A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. Newspaper

Publisher ..... David Tomasini ..... 908-575-6731  
Executive Editor ..... Craig Turpin ..... 908-575-6698  
Advertising Director ..... Robin Von Ohlsen ..... 908-782-4747 x631  
Circulation Manager ..... Ted Wnoroski ..... 908-575-6670  
Production Manager ..... Linda Zetterberg ..... 908-782-4747 x716



NJN PUBLISHING

44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, NJ 08876

The Chronicle (U.S.P.S. 061-800) ISSN 1047-3351 is published Saturday by NJN Publishing, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, NJ 08876. 908-575-6660 Periodicals postage paid at Somerville and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NJN Publishing, Fulfillment Office, PO Box 699 Somerville, NJ 08876. Subscription rates \$26 per year in advance. \$35 out of Middlesex County and Somerset County, \$36 per year out of New Jersey. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321.

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### Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6698.

## Somerset County Briefs

### Business association receives state grant

Commissioner Susan Bass Levin of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs has announced a community services block grant awarded to the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners' Women's Business Center to fund a competitive grant program targeted to low-income, new

women business owners.

Participants must be in the planning stage or have only been operating their business for less than six months, must attend a series of classes and seminars that will be presented throughout the state, write a business plan and submit the plan, a resume and a grant budget to the center. A panel of judges will determine up to 10 winners based on the viability of the plan and the bud-

get for the grant. Awards will include cash, incubator space, professional services and/or membership in the organization.

The Women's Business Center is partially funded by the Small Business Association's Office of Women's Business Ownership, the State of New Jersey and the DCA. For more, visit www.njwbbo.org or call (609) 581-2220.



Saturday, July 8, 2006

## Sports

## Punchless Pats paying price

*Anemic attack takes Somerset out of first-half pennant race*

By ALLAN CONOVER  
Sports Editor

BRIDGEWATER — Baseball is a game of numbers, and the numbers certainly speak volumes about the Somerset Patriots' plight.

With the first-half season dwindling down towards the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball's All-Star break, the Patriots entered the week on the precipice of elimination from the South Division race.

They're not catching the Lancaster Barnstormers because they simply haven't been scoring often enough, a problem which was dismissed as a mere early hiccup way back in late April when the Patriots managed just seven runs in their season-opening three-game series with Atlantic City but developed into a full-blown migraine headache for Manager Sparky Lyle as the schedule progressed.

Prior to Monday's meeting with the Road Warriors, Somerset ranked at the bottom among the eight ALPB squads in team batting with a .243 average and next-to-last, behind Camden, in runs with 225.

A glance up and down at the Patriots' offensive statistics offers immediate insight as to the specific difficulties. The bottom line? Third baseman Jeff Nettles, rightfielder Ryan Radmanovich and Larry Barnes have been doing pretty well, and all the other regulars have been absolutely futile.

And the Patriots not only don't hit — they don't hit with men in scoring position, they don't deliver hits in succession, and they often don't hit until they fall behind, and then it's usually too little, too late.

"We're just not getting that one big hit," said slick-fielding second baseman George Sandel, a .200 hitter. "We get two guys on and then it's a double play. It's just never changed the whole season, and you'd think it would. Maybe we're saving it for the second half."

Nettles and Radmanovich, both among the league's top hitters the past two years, recovered from lethargic starts and presently own decent-enough numbers to likely land berths in Wednesday's All-Star Game in Bridgeport, Conn.

Nettles, whose defense has also been outstanding, has lifted his average to a team-best .287 and was tied for the league lead in home runs — with Radmanovich and two others — at 10 and also has 36 runs bat-

ted in, which ranks sixth in the ALPB.

He felt it was just a matter of getting in enough steady at-bats before his performance turned around. One detriment was having every Monday and Tuesday off during the season's first four weeks, a scheduling format the league adopted because attendance is usually poor on those days early in the season.

"It has to do with playing every day, mostly just a matter of playing 20-some games in a row," said Nettles. "You remember what you had the day before and take that to the field the next day. When you have two straight days off, you lose what you were building on, which is getting good swings and good pitches to hit."

The 34-year-old Radmanovich has hiked his average up to .278 and belted 10 homers but, with just 27 runs batted in, definitely isn't on pace to match last year's 89 RBI.

"It's tough to drive in runs when there's no one on base for you," pointed out one eavesdropping Patriot in the Somerset locker room late Monday afternoon while Radmanovich was answering questions prior to the Road Warriors' game.

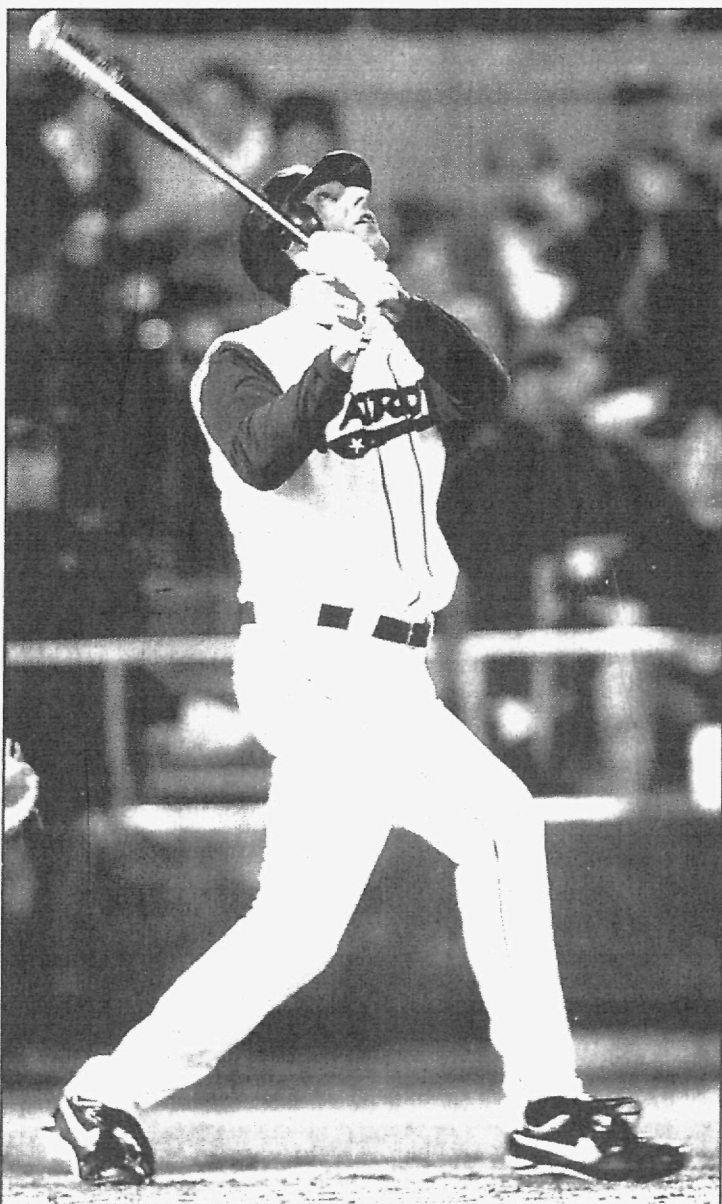
Radmanovich played for Team Canada in the inaugural World Baseball Classic in March but the lefty-swinger struggled to nail down his stroke once the ALPB campaign got under way. He felt some of the problem was mental.

"It's almost a bit of a letdown after being at a major league level (in the WBC) and coming back here," said Radmanovich, who played in 25 games with the Seattle Mariners in 1998. "It took everything I had to motivate myself once again. It was kind of like when I first went down to Triple-A for the first time after playing in the majors. It was frustrating and it took a while to get motivated again."

"Plus, it was tough playing just four times a week early in the season and taking batting practice a couple times a week because of the weather and the days off. That was a big factor, too."

Barnes, recently hindered by a hyper-extended elbow, was hot at the beginning of the season, tailed off and then picked things up again. He's hitting .277 with nine homers and is fifth in the league in RBI with 37.

Ironically, according to the



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

After a slow start to the ALPB campaign, Ryan Radmanovich has picked up his hitting but it's likely too late for the Somerset Patriots. They entered the week on the brink of elimination from the first-half season South Division race.

official league stats, Mike Lockwood is the ALPB batting leader with a .336 average. However, that's done the Patriots little good because he left them three weeks ago to play ball in Taiwan.

As for the remainder of the squad, no one else is hitting even .240. Shortstop Kevin Nicholson, a .281 hitter last year, is now 50 points lower, first baseman Jim Burt is batting .238 and most of the others are in the .180 to .205 range.

"Like they say, hitting is contagious," said Nettles, "and when one guy gets hot, hopefully others do, too. But we never really even had a solid week of offensive outburst. It's just one of those things. We also have a lot of guys down (injured) right now and we're playing with what we've got. We're doing the best we can."

Just not good enough to overtake that team out in Pennsylvania Dutch Country. "We're not playing bad base-

ball," said Radmanovich. "If we were in the other division, we'd be fighting for a playoff spot. So our hats are off to Lancaster as well because they started well and have played well the whole first half."

While the offense has been stuck in low gear, the Patriots' pitching corps has generally been top-notch, ranking third in the league in team earned run average at 3.37, trailing Atlantic City and Camden, who are both at 3.28.

"The only reason we have a halfway decent record is because of our pitching," said Sandel.

Three Pats are among the top 10 starters in ERA with Billy Sylvester, who had left for three weeks to play affiliated ball, second at 2.20. Ben Crockett (2.32) and Keith Ramsey (2.82) have also been superb and Jason Shiell was at 2.92 before exiting to sign with the Atlanta Braves two weeks ago.

## PATRIOTS ROUNDUP

## Sharp Ramsey helps Patriots end losing skid

BRIDGEWATER — Leaning on another sterling pitching effort from lefthander Keith Ramsey, the Somerset Patriots trimmed the Road Warriors 5-3 Tuesday night to halt a four-game losing streak and keep their fading first-half season pennant hopes alive for at least another day.

Ramsey, who came into the game with a 2.82 earned run average and raised his record to 3-2, yielded eight hits, no walks and one run while striking out five in eight innings before Mike Johnson came in for the final stanza, allowing two runs on three hits.

Somerset (29-28) picked up a game on first-place Lancaster in the South Division race of the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball but entered Wednesday's scheduled action still 5.5 games behind with six games remaining in the first half. One Patriot loss or one Lancaster victory would eliminate Somerset from contention.

Larry Barnes had two of the Pats' seven hits, including a triple, and Pat Boran doubled in front of 4016 fans at Commerce Bank Park.

The Pats scored the game's first two runs in the second frame. Barnes singled, advanced to second on a groundout and scored on a throwing error which allowed Jim Burt to reach second base. Burt then stole third and scored on the play on catcher Sandy Aracena's throwing error.

In the sixth Boran doubled and scored on Kevin Nicholson's hit for a 3-1 margin and the home team tallied its final two runs in the eighth when Henri Stanley walked and raced home on a triple by Barnes, who then scored on a wild pitch.

The Patriots are in Atlantic City for three games this weekend to wrap up the first-half season but, if they're still alive for a possible first-place shot in the division, they'd travel out to Lancaster Monday for a make-up game.

The league All-Star Game is Wednesday in Bridgeport, Conn. and the second-half season gets under way Friday when Bridgeport comes to town for a three-game weekend set.

**Road Warriors 8, Patriots 3** — The fans who packed Commerce Bank Park to see some fireworks Monday night had to wait until the game was over because, as has been the case most of the season, the Patriots' offense offered none against the Road Warriors.

Lured mostly by the promise of post-game holiday fireworks, an ALPB-record 8062 spectators showed up, breaking the former standard of 8048, also set by the Patriots July 3, 2004.

The Warriors roughed up starter Andy Van Hekken (2-6) for 13 hits — including back-to-back homers by Bernie Gonzalez and Aracena in the sixth — and eight earned runs in six innings.

Barnes, who tripled and scored on Ryan Radmanovich's fly ball in the fourth, had two of Somerset's six hits.

The visitors scored three times in the third, two coming in on Nick Ortiz's double to left-center, and padded their lead to 8-1 with four runs on five hits in the sixth.

Barnes' hit-and-run RBI single to right and a wild pitch produced two Patriot runs in the home half of the sixth and Somerset had runners at first and second with none out before Burt, George Sandel and Fernando Lunar — the bottom three hitters in the lineup — were retired.

**Long Island 5, Patriots 4** — Long Island (33-23) completed a three-game sweep — all the games decided by one run — in front of 4168 fans Sunday afternoon.

Henry Rodriguez's two-run homer off reliever Justin Wechsler in the eighth inning staked the Ducks to a 5-2 lead but the Patriots came back with two runs of their own in the home half of the inning as Lunar and Boran singled and eventually scored on Nicholson's ground-out and a wild pitch.

Somerset, which left the bases loaded in the ninth, totaled

seven hits, including Jeff Nettles' double in the fourth which sent in the game's first two runs.

Todd Moser (2-4) pitched the first six innings for Somerset, allowing six hits, two walks and three runs, all earned. Wechsler pitched the next 1 1/3 innings and Tony Mounce finished up.

Long Island's Juan Gonzalez, a former two-time American League "Most Valuable Player" while with the Texas Rangers, was sidelined the entire series because of a sore leg. He's played in just 10 games for the Ducks and not at all in six meetings with Somerset.

**Long Island 5, Patriots 4** — Greg Modica (4-3), a starting pitcher for the Pats last year, permitted six hits, three walks and one run (earned) in 5 2/3 innings to claim the victory Saturday night as 4259 fans looked on.

The Ducks built a 5-0 lead through four innings against Ben Crockett (4-4), although two of the runs were unearned because of a Nettles error at third base. Robert Averette finished up for the Pats with three shutout innings.

Nettles, whose solo homer (No. 10) in the fifth put the Pats on the board for the first time, went 2 for 4 and Boran, Burt and Lunar also had two hits each.

Somerset pulled within 5-3 with two runs in the seventh as Nicholson singled, Nettles walked and both soon came in on fielder's choice grounders. In the eighth Boran singled, moved up on a sacrifice bunt and scored on Radmanovich's hit.

**Long Island 4, Patriots 3** — Former Patriots' catcher Brad King tied the game 3-3 with a ninth-inning solo homer and the visitors won it in the next stanza on a sacrifice fly as 6993 fans looked on through intermittent rain at CBP June 30.

Billy Sylvester pitched the first eight innings for the Pats, allowing seven hits, four walks and two runs (both earned) while striking out eight batters. Jeff Urban, who hadn't pitched in the previous two games, came in to try for the save in the ninth but King reached him for his fourth homer.

In the 10th Erick Almonte bunted for a hit, stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch by Andy Pratt, who'd replaced Urban. Kevin Haverbusch's fly ball then sent in Almonte with the deciding run.

Burt, whose two-run double in the third put Somerset up 3-1, Nicholson and Nettles had two hits apiece.

Long Island scored the game's first run in the second before the Pats evened it up in their next at-bat when Travis Anderson reached on an error and eventually came home on Sandel's single.

Burt's double, following singles by Nicholson and Radmanovich, put the Pats in front 3-1 in the third before Long Island got a run back in the seventh and then tied the game in the ninth.

**Patriots 6, Bridgeport 2** — Collecting four of their 10 total hits during the first two innings, the Pats built a 5-1 lead June 29 and went on to halt a three-game losing streak by trimming the Bluefish (30-24) in front of 3886 fans.

Nettles, who hit his ninth homer, and leadoff man Boran had three hits apiece, Stanley singled and doubled and Nicholson had two RBI.

Ramsey, who earned the victory, pitched eight innings, allowing four hits, one walk and one earned run before Pratt came in for a scoreless ninth. Bridgeport lefty Mike Porzio (1-5) yielded four hits, three walks and five earned runs in 1 1/3 innings.

Boran started the Pats' two-run first with a single, Stanley doubled, Nicholson smacked an RBI ground-out and Nettles' hit sent in another run.

After the Blues got a run back in the second don Barry Wesson's homer, Somerset added three more runs in its next at-bat. Walks to Burt and Lunar and a hit batter loaded the bases for Boran, who walked. Then Stanley singled in a run and Nicholson made it 5-1 with a sac fly.

## Bridgewater team gains split

By DAVE ALLENA  
Staff Writer

Not much has changed from one season to the next for the Bridgewater American Legion baseball players.

After a spring of sporadic play that saw the Bridgewater-Raritan High squad play great some days and not so great on others, Post 507 has battled to stay around the .500 level as the schedule passed the midway point Monday night.

Two days after routing Ridge, which entered the day as the Pyramid Baseball League's top club, Bridgewater split Monday's doubleheader with a young Immaculata squad, dropping the opener 7-6 after leading 6-1 early and then winning 12-11 after blowing an early 9-4 advantage. In both games the winning team scored twice in the bottom of the seventh.

"It's a carryover from the high school season," said Bridgewater Head Coach Mike Trapani, whose team has a 5-6 record. "We haven't won two games in a row yet. We've beaten the best two teams in the league, but we haven't been consistent. We've shown signs of being a playoff team, and at other times we don't look as good."

"The biggest problem has been keeping our mental focus for seven innings. In typical Bridgewater fashion we'll have one bad inning, and then our comebacks come up short. We talk about keeping focused all the time."

After wasting the big lead

while losing the opener and then seeing a 9-4 advantage erased in the second game, host Bridgewater dug down to score twice in the home of the seventh to deny Immaculata (4-6-1) from reaching .500.

"It was definitely nice to win that game," Trapani said. "After five hours of baseball and being up 9-4 at one point, it takes a lot of pride to come back in the bottom of the seventh to win and salvage a split."

Bridgewater got a break when Eric Guida reached on a one-out error and then took advantage of it as Mike Zangrillo (2 for 3) tripled home the tying run and scored the winner when Mike Sheddlosky followed with a single. Bridgewater built its early 9-4 lead on a first-inning RBI single by Nick Loughlin and an eight-run second that featured Guida's two-run single and RBI singles by Ryan Zulpa and Zangrillo.

Immaculata, which got an RBI single from Frank DeNick during a three-run second, tied the game with five in the fourth when Mike Brownnet doubled in two runs and Stan Mleczo singled in one. DeNick and John Schoberl then singled home a run apiece in the sixth when Immaculata went up 11-10.

Brownnet's bat carried Immaculata to the victory in the opener as he went 4 for 4 and drove in three runs, the first on a first-inning solo homer and the third on a single that chased

### AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

home the winning run in the seventh. James Piersanti doubled in two runs, while Robert Collucci and Jim Knaby added RBI singles during a five-run sixth that tied the game.

**Hillsborough 7, Bernards 5** — Bernards (28-1) saw its losing streak extended to six games Monday with a loss to Hillsborough (29-1), which came from 5-1 down on the strength of a six-run fourth inning.

Bernards scored four times in the third when Steve Sant'Angelo doubled in two runs and Robbie Steinkopf singled in one, while Kyle Schneider (2 for 4) had an RBI single in the fourth. Matt Decota also had a pair of hits. Joe Jedzaniak allowed one earned run on five hits while striking six and walking four, and Phil Controneo pitched two scoreless innings.

**Bridgewater 11, Ridge 1** — Nick Loughlin tossed a complete-game four-hitter with five strikeouts and one walk Saturday against Ridge, which lost for only the second time, and three players collected three hits each in the five-inning game.

Mike Zangrillo, Corey Frankosky and Eric Guida all finished with three hits with Guida belting a two-run homer in the fourth for a 5-1 lead. Andrew Preece added two hits, including a two-run single to cap a six-run fifth.

**Watchung Hills 11, Oratory Prep 4** — Pat Doyle belted a pair of two-run homers, Mike D'Alessandro ripped a two-run triple and Cody Ross drove in a pair of runs with two hits June 30 as Watchung Hills (7-3) won its fourth straight in the Union County American Legion League. Mike Halicki, who went four innings, and Kevin Tentmaker (two) combined on a four-hitter.

**Alpha 14, Immaculata 9** — Immaculata scored five runs in its first at-bat June 30 but Alpha Post 446 came roaring back to win at Alpha Field, Warren County.

The Braves (9-3) scored 11 times in the first two innings, then padded their lead to 14-6 after four stanzas. Immaculata's Robert Collucci went 3 for 3, including a home run and three RBI. Frank DeNick doubled and homered for two RBI and Tom Burke and James Piersanti had two hits apiece.

**Ridge 13, Bernards 8** — Mike Gilbert went 3 for 3 with two doubles and three runs scored. Matt Decota drove in three runs with a double and a single and Steve Sant'Angelo and Kyle Schneider had two hits and one RBI apiece June 30 but it wasn't enough as Bernards was out-slugged by Ridge.

**Watchung Hills 20, Linden 7** — Cody Ross paced a 17-hit attack with three hits, one a three-run homer, and five RBI as Watchung Hills completed a doubleheader sweep June 29. Travis Zilg worked four innings for the victory.



## Obituaries

## Fred Vossel Sr.

SOMERVILLE — Fred Vossel Sr., 85, died June 25, 2006 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center in Cookeville, Tenn.

Born June 30, 1920 in Bound Brook, he was a son of the late Louis Augustus and Helen Koechli Vossel.

Mr. Vossel was a retired technical sales representative with Sandoz and a volunteer fireman in Somerville. He was a member of the Algood Lions Club in Algood, Tenn.

As an AARP committeeman he lobbied the Tennessee General Assembly on pending legislation. Mr. Vossel spoke to AARP chapters in Tennessee on matters affecting older people; he helped elderly people prepare forms, including income tax returns and insurance applications. He also was a volunteer nursing home ombudsman. The AARP honored him with the Andrus Community Service Award in 2002.

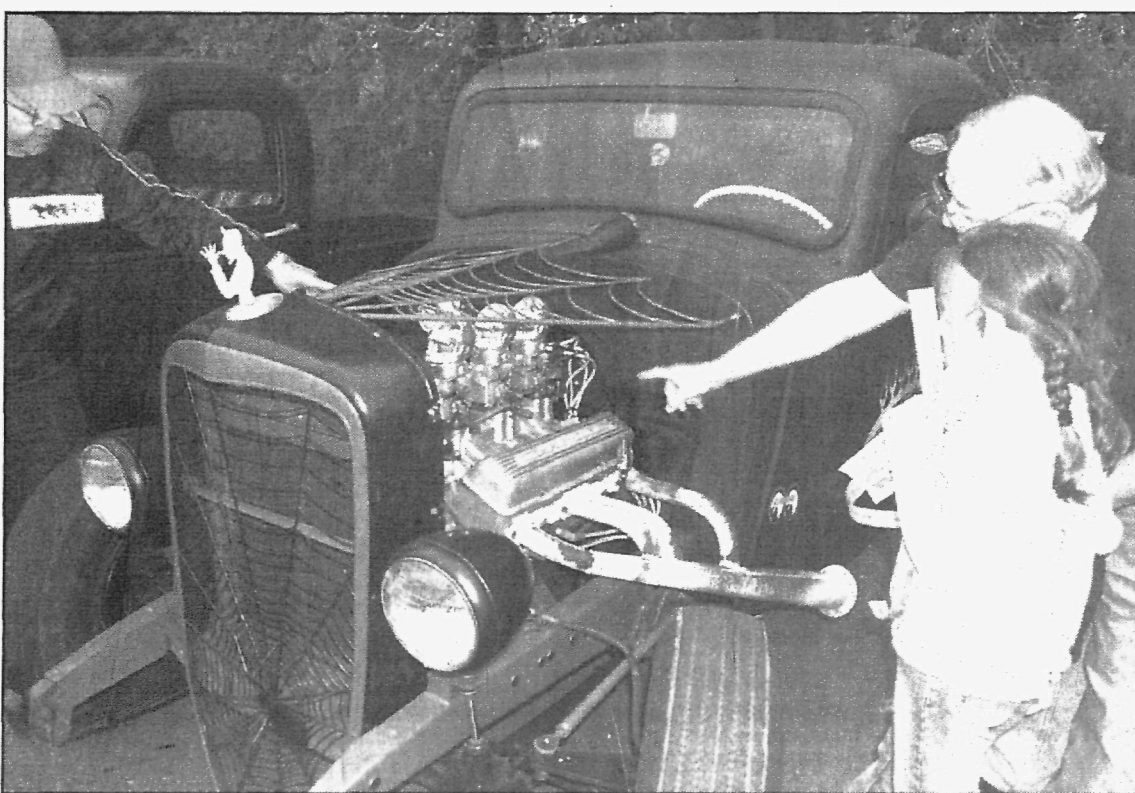
During World War II, Mr. Vossel spent four years in the Navy hospital corps with the 4th Beach Battalion and LST 601 in the United States, northern Africa, Italy, Sicily and southern France. He was on stateside Navy duty for two years during the Korean War.

Preceding him in death were a sister, Caroline Vossel Donner; and a brother, Alfred.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Dorothy Snyder Vossel of Cookeville; two sons, Fred and wife Linda of Cookeville and Richard and wife Laura of Yorktown, Va.; a brother, Philip and wife Alice of Cookeville; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services were held June 28 at the Crest Lawn Funeral Home in Cookeville with Dr. Randy Adkisson officiating. Burial was in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery, Cookeville.

## Great show, good cause



Diners look at a car at a recent Cruise Night at Sherban's Diner in South Plainfield. The 1st Midnight Custom and Classic car and truck cruise, benefiting the Ronald McDonald House, will be held 8 p.m. today at Sherban's Diner, 222 Front St. The cruise continues until 1 a.m. There will be a disc jockey and trophies and prizes will be provided to the participants. All car owners and their families will get a 15 percent food discount that evening. For more information, call Ron Fusco at (908) 482-0008 or e-mail Ben Auletta at djbent1@verizon.net. For directions or more information on Sherban's Diner, visit [www.sherbandsdinerbanquet.com](http://www.sherbandsdinerbanquet.com).

COURTESY BEN AULETTA JR.

## Campus Notes

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 highest 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 highest honors graduate received the William High School 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.

\*\*\*

Two Edison teens have received scholarships from the David B. Crabiel Scholarship Foundation.

William S. Plastine, who attends John P. Stevens High School, received a \$3,500 award. Matthew Sheptuck, who attends St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, received a \$1,500 award.

Both awards were based on academic achievement and extracurricular activities.

\*\*\*

Middlesex County College held its Celebration Day convocation May 16 to recognize special faculty members and long-time employees.

Honored as the Alumnus of the Year was Paul Avery, who graduated from Middlesex County College in 1979 and is now chief operating officer of Outback Steakhouse Inc. He shared some of his college experiences to the audience of more than 250 faculty and staff.

Before the main program, the college held a luncheon at which President Joann LaPerla-Morales presented gifts of appreciation to each employee celebrating an anniversary. Among

these employees, with department and length of service:

Louis Egly of Edison, facilities maintenance, 40 years.

Elliot L. Pasternack of Highland Park, assistant professor of history and social behavior, 40 years.

Francis J. Burke of Edison, chairman of the computer science department, 35 years.

Michael Greenhouse of Metuchen, associate professor of history and social behavior, 35 years.

Niki L. Luther of Edison, assistant in media services, 35 years.

Doris C. Morgan of South Plainfield, associate professor of biology, 35 years.

Brian DeUriarte of Edison, assistant professor of business administration and management, 20 years.

Gary V. Noto of Edison, general mechanic, facilities maintenance, 20 years.

Mark A. Banyascki of Edison, assistant to the director of finance, 10 years.

Raymond Battaglia of Highland Park, programmer analysis, information technology, 10 years.

Jameson E. Eichert of Metuchen, facilities maintenance, warehouse, 10 years.

Shunfu Gao of Edison, assis-

tant professor of chemistry and physics, 10 years.

Joseph J. Misuraca of Piscataway, assistant professor of mechanical and civil/construction engineering technology, 10 years.

\*\*\*

A total of 21 area students achieved academic honors in the fall 2005 semester at the Madison campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Honors list students have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.

They include Amy Gaynor and Sara Castellanos, both of Bound Brook; Chiara Giordano, of Dunellen; Jessica Emens, Dorothy Iacone, Nicole Matos, Dana Patterson and Peter Scocca, all of Edison; Victoria Lau, of Metuchen; and David Gutierrez, of Middlesex.

Dean's list students have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

They include Katie Mateicka and Richard Nalepa, both of Metuchen; Darlene Belford, Stephen Valinski and William Vandever, all of Middlesex; Tisha Hutchinson, Jilyan Lane, Quyen Nguyen, Stephanie Shafer and Quintella Thomas, all of Piscataway; and Jennifer Silhanek, of South Plainfield.

## Olga Elsie Lukacs

MIDDLESEX — Olga Elsie "Ollie" Lukacs, 83, died May 28, 2006.

She was born in Newark and had lived in Middlesex since 1968.

Mrs. Lukacs worked for the Drake Bakery in Newark for 23 years.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Ann Tilton and husband Ernie of Woodbury Heights; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home.

## Nicholas Lovetri

BRIDGEWATER — Nicholas Lovetri, 88, died June 27, 2006 at the Bridgeway Care Center.

Born in Raritan, he was a son of the late Thomas and Frances Marsilio Lovetri.

Mr. Lovetri lived in Long Branch before moving to Bridgewater in 1990. He was a laborer in Long Branch for most of his adult life.

Preceding him in death were two sisters, Rose Viola and Catherine Gianotti; and a brother, Joseph.

Surviving are a sister, Ann Rosania of Whitehouse Station; a brother, Carmine of Bridgewater; and several nieces and nephews.

Private arrangements were by the Branchburg Funeral Home.

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power, gd cond. Asking  
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GMC Yukon XL 2003, 38k  
mi., Green, Tan Leather, 4  
yr transferable warranty  
left, 4 new Michelin tires,  
all new brakes, DVD sys-  
tem, rain guards, 2nd row  
captain's chairs, Bose  
stereo, Onstar, dealer  
serviced, no accidents,  
great vehicle. \$27,000.  
Lynda 908-561-1445

Honda Insight '00-Hybrid,  
2 dr, manual, 67,000 mi.  
New tires, brakes. Well mant.  
\$9200 neg. 908-294-4609

MERCUY COUGAR 1991  
V8 Silver, Runs great,  
\$800 FIRM  
732-382-5521

Volvo XC 2001 AWD,  
Turbo, Leather, All Power,  
Sunroof, Integrated child  
booster seats, Very good  
cond., 98,300 mi.,  
\$13,500. 908-284-1948

**Professional Services****Child Care / Nursery Schools 734**

EXCELLENT CHILD  
CARE provided by 2  
exp. mom's, lots of  
TLC & child-friendly  
environment.  
New-born & up,  
unbeatable rates.  
Please call Cindy,  
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**Transportation****Autos For Sale 1385**

MAZDA 6S '03, V6, sil-  
ver w/black leather,  
sports pkg, Bose  
audio, p/moon roof,  
ps, ABS, AC, heated  
seats & mirrors, 5 spd  
auto w/manual over-  
ride, fog lights, ground  
effects, spoiler, 17"  
performance tires,  
exc. cond. \$16,500.  
908-782-4753

**Antique & Classic Autos 1394**

CHEVY CORVETTE '74-  
Blue, V8, auto, T-top,  
looks great, runs great,  
82k, orig. mi. \$9,500  
/OBO 908-288-6112

**Trucks & Trailers 1405**

FORD F-700 Dump '97-  
7 yd 5 spd, split rear,  
heavy duty, new  
2000x20 tires, 1  
owner, 19,160 mi., 26  
GW, gas, \$15,000  
obo 908-236-8832

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