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FLYING HIGH

Pilots can land new skills at ground school.
PAGE A4



ON THE MOVE

A page from history is brought to life in Somerset County.
PAGE A10



The Chronicle

Since 1862

Vol. 145, No. 38

Saturday, September 23, 2006

50 cents

Inside



Rock around the clock

Chuck Berry, pictured above, will be joined by Frankie Lymon's Teenagers, The Duprees and Jerry Lee Lewis in a concert at Commerce Bank Ballpark tomorrow. The concert, sponsored by the Somerset County Park Commission, begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Somerset Patriots Box Office, online at www.TicketWeb.com or by calling TicketWeb toll-free at (866) 468-7619 or through the ballpark box office at (908) 252-0700.

County holds yearly auction

A 2000 Mercedes-Benz CLK 320 with 48,000 miles and a 2002 Dodge Ram 4x4 with 2,000 miles will be among the 85 vehicles to be auctioned off by Middlesex County. Jewelry, watches, office equipment, cell phones and scrap metal also will be on the block. The Benz and the 4x4, both confiscated by the county prosecutor's office, will be joined by other confiscated vehicles and those no longer used by various county departments. The vehicle auction begins at 10 a.m. Monday at the Central Vehicle Building, Route 130 and Apple Orchard Lane, North Brunswick. Motorcycles, dirt bikes, a Yamaha Raptor Quad and a foam tanker truck also will be part of the auction. The jewelry and office equipment will be auctioned at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Building 216 at the Raritan Arsenal, Edison. Enter the site via the Mill Road entrance to Middlesex County College. Four railroad tanker cars, used for training at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, will be auctioned for scrap metal. Photos of the railroad cars will be shown at the Central Vehicle Building, where the railroad cars will be auctioned with other vehicles on Monday. Bidders must arrive at least 30 minutes before the start of the auction to register. A valid driver's license with photo is required. Payment must be by cash or certified check. No other forms of payment will be accepted. There are no bidding fees. Complete descriptions can be found at www.auctionlistservices.com or by calling (732) 745-4416.

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Village marks completion of the Commons

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — Last Friday, Missy Schwartz peeled off the barcodes from more than a dozen wine glasses at Crate & Barrel.

"I'm going to put them into a display," she said before arranging the glasses. "It just makes them look better when the labels are off. You want to show the product in its own light."

Schwartz was one of more than 25 visiting designers from other branches of the home furnishings store on hand last week to gear up for the grand opening of the flag ship store of The Village at Bridgewater Commons.

"This is exciting," said Carol Sapoznik, Crate & Barrel's East Coast vice president. "We have designers here from all over the country. When we have a new store, it's the best of the best."

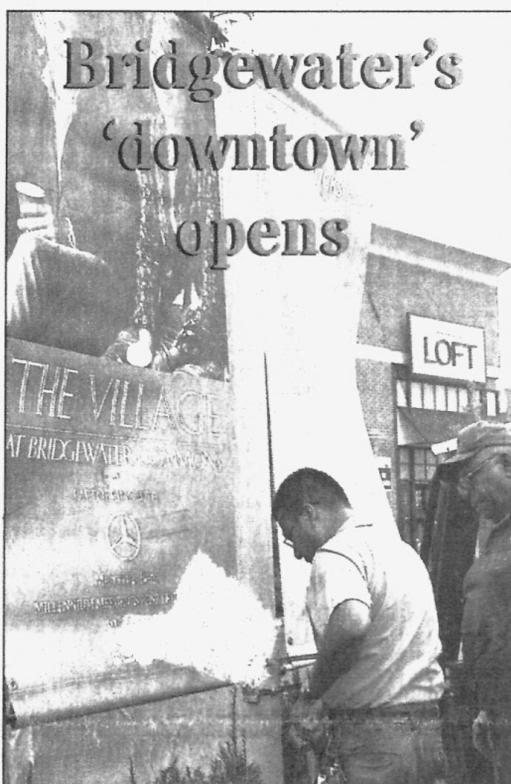
Thursday morning marked the grand opening of the new Village at Bridgewater Commons — a lifestyle center offering high end retail goods. Constructed in an open air market layout, the new center encourages visitors to stroll and shop.

Thursday morning shoppers were expected to be treated to grand opening specials, giveaways and prizes and were among the first to browse the new offerings and wares.

But on Friday, less than a week before the Village opened, existing and new employees scrambled to get things ready on the 94,000 square feet, upscale retail complex.

"We marked all the light poles with banners," said Barbara Finn, marketing director for Bridgewater Commons Mall. "But we had them the wrong way and the banners were bumping into the trees. We had to switch them."

Despite that glitch, preparation operations ran fairly



Walter Melendez, left, and Horace Lee put the finishing touches on banners at the Village at Bridgewater Commons. The upscale shopping center is being called by Bridgewater its new town center, and marks the end of a project that dates to the 1980s.

smooth.

"We're just doing the finishing touches for the grand opening ceremony," Finn said. "We have extra staffing from our sister malls. All the marketing managers and their assistants are coming on different days to help out."

The Village, featuring 14 retail spaces among five buildings, will employ nearly 300 people. Bridgewater Commons, which opened in 1988, already has more than 1,500 employees.

At Ann Taylor Loft last week, mannequins remained nude in the store window, while employees unloaded boxes of clothes from a tractor trailer. At Coldwater

GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Grant aids security at schools in the county

Middlesex County received a \$466,675 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to bolster emergency response and recovery efforts in public and private schools throughout the county. Middlesex is the only county in the state to receive this grant and it is the only grant of this type received in New Jersey.

The grant will fund an 18-month project, "Before Disaster Strikes: One County's Collaborative Plan to Build Crisis Awareness and Emergency Response Capacity with Its Schools and Its Residents." It will create a countywide school preparedness network that will include teams in all school districts.

The county actively pursued the grant along with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Middlesex County

Vocational and Technical Schools. The vo-tech district is acting as the local education agency for the grant.

"As county officials, we recognize that we must use as many resources as possible to ensure the safety and security of all our residents," said Freeholder John Pulomena, chairman of the county Public Health and Education Committee.

"We are fortunate in Middlesex County to have an incredible resource in our local school partners who work day in and day out to safeguard our students," he said. "This grant will help us all keep our children safe."

A county-level task force will provide oversight for the project and train each local school district's crisis management team. Those

Continued on page A2

JOHN BASILONE MEMORIAL PARADE

A hero will march for another in Raritan

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

RARITAN — Before World War II hero John Basilone met the love of his life, he dated girls from the coffee shop at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. On weekend nights he'd go out drinking with his buddy, Clinton Watters. "We would go into a bar or restaurant and the drinks would flow. People bought him drinks all the time. We would have to leave them on the table," said Watters, who was the best man in Basilone's wedding and will be in Raritan tomorrow as a special guest for the 25th annual John Basilone Memorial Parade.

"I think it's wonderful. He deserves it. He was a special guy," said Watters, 84, of Oregon, who was in Basilone's Marine unit and wounded the same day he was killed in the Battle of Iwo Jima — Feb. 19, 1945.

"He was a fun-loving, gentle guy, but in action he became a wild man. He would have fought them all himself."

Basilone, a borough resident, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the

Continued on page A2

Institute helps prepare the next generation

By ALLISON ELYSE GUALTIERI
Staff Writer

NORTH BRANCH — When Jason Krystofiak graduated from high school, he was not entirely sure what he wanted to do. He started temping for Roche Molecular Systems, and lost his mom to cancer soon afterward.

Both of those experiences pointed him in the direction of Raritan Valley Community College, from which the Colonia resident will graduate in December with a degree from the biotechnology program.

"I picked to go here first over a university, because I felt there were so many options here," he said after the official opening of the college's Institute for Biotechnology Education held Tuesday.

Since then, he has done undergraduate research at Rutgers University through the program, and is looking forward to continuing his studies.

"In three years, the number of biotech companies in the state of New Jersey doubled. We need to produce not just this generation, but the next and the next, if we're going to keep up with the Bostons."

William O'Donnell
Director of Communications,
Biotechnology Council of New Jersey

"I want to use everything I'm doing to go to medical school," he said.

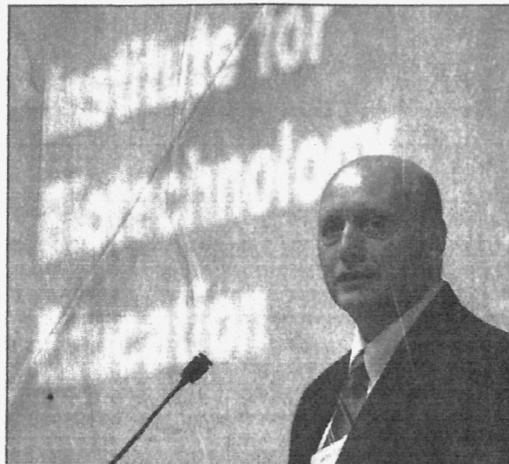
The college has just finished construction on the institute, a \$2-million project that includes two wet labs, a cell culture room, a classroom and new instruments. Student participation in the biotechnology program has grown from eight students to 30 in just a year.

The institute is an effort by the college to meet the needs of the growing life sciences industry in the area, including the pharmaceutical compa-

nies, who hire and employ a highly-trained workforce.

"In three years, the number of biotech companies in the state of New Jersey doubled," said William O'Donnell, director of communications for the Biotechnology Council of New Jersey, adding that the biggest industry complaint is the shortage of skilled workers. "We need to produce not just this generation, but the next and the next, if we're going to keep up with the Bostons." It's a situation that Richard

Continued on page A2



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Al Schweikert, director of Regulatory Affairs at ImClone Systems, was one of the featured speakers at Tuesday's opening of the Institute for Biotechnology Education at Raritan Valley Community College. The \$2-million project includes two wet labs, a cell culture room, a classroom and new instruments.

Thousands party on the roof at chamber of commerce event

NEW BRUNSWICK — Approximately 1,500 people converged on the roof of the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick last week for the Largest Networking Party, the premier networking event of the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

As business cards were swapped, and business relationships were forged, partygoers enjoyed cooking demonstrations by David Drake from The David Drake Restaurant, and a dance routine by the Rutgers Chee leaders. Raffle prizes and games

were also available. The Trenton Thunder set up a fast-pitch game while the New Jersey Devils had a slap-shot game. Rutgers Sports coaches Fred Hill (basketball), Bob Reasso (soccer) and Jim Steginita (lacrosse) also appeared.

With over 120 companies and restaurants exhibiting, there was much ground for participants to cover. Columbia Bank, Rupee Room, and Sam's Club were just a sample of this year's exhibitors.

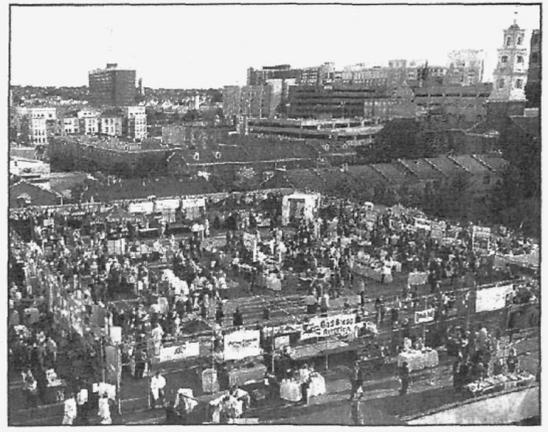
The chamber thanked sponsors Johnson & Johnson,

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Wachovia Bank, N.A., JCP&L, Allied Office Products, Berkeley College, Magic 98.3/WCTC, 1450AM, and United Way of Central Jersey for helping make this event possible.

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce is the premier organization in Central Jersey for helping companies build strong foundations through networking, education, access to experts, and political action. It fosters growth in businesses and the community by providing vital tools and services

to business professionals. The chamber's mission is to provide opportunities for business growth and prosperity, offer quality service to its members and serve as the resource leader for business and the community.

For additional information about the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce, contact Linda Mastellone, director of events, at (732) 821-1700, Ext. 208, e-mail linda@mcrcc.org or Sharon Kasper, communications coordinator, at sharon@mcrcc.org or call (732) 821-1700, Ext. 207.



COURTESY MIDDLESEX COUNTY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Over 1,000 people went on the roof of the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick last week for the Largest Networking Party, the premier networking event of the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Basilone

Continued from page A1

Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 and the Navy Cross posthumously for more heroism in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was killed when a Japanese mortar shell exploded in front of him.

Similarly, a shell exploded near Watters that day, sending shrapnel into his right thigh and sandblasting his eyes. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Navy Marine Corps Medal.

But before all the blood and medals, he was honored by Basilone, and stood beside 27-year-old "Manila John" as he wed Lena Riggi at St. Mary's in Oceanside, Calif., on July 10, 1944.

"She kind of calmed him down," Watters said of Lena, a sergeant in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve who was from Portland, Ore. She passed away in 1999.

"It was a great wedding. They had a great reception. About 100 people. It was real nice," Watters recalled.

Six weeks later he and Basilone were shipped off to Hawaii, then to Iwo Jima. Basilone would never return.

"That's where we lost him," he said.

Watters, who is married and

has two children, did make it back and attended Boston University before going to work for North American Aviation. He retired at 55 and moved from the Los Angeles area to Medford, Ore.

"I'm a country boy who loves hunting and fishing," said Watters, originally from Maine.

He said he was unaware of all the fanfare Basilone receives each year in the borough until about three years ago when his son, who was living in Orange County, Calif., told him about a series of local newspaper articles he had read about Basilone.

"I figure if I'm ever going to go, I better go now. I've never been to Raritan," he said.

The 25th annual John Basilone Memorial Parade will begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow on Somerset Street.

It will include more than 150 military units, bands from Immaculata, Bridgewater-Raritan and Somerville high schools, floats, cyclists, go-carts, twirlers, scouts, ROTC units, military vehicles, Marine detachments, fire companies, rescue squads, and other civic and patriotic groups.

Raritan native James Sorace, a World War II Navy veteran and owner of The J & J Barber Shop is this year's grand marshal. Brig. Gen. John F. Kelly, Marine Corps, will be the featured speaker.

BR Village

Continued from page A1

"We're ready to open," Manager Mark Machette said. "We'll have some new products that we'll reveal at the grand opening."

But at the center's flagship store, the 35,000 square foot Crate & Barrel, preparations were far from complete at the end of last week. Plastic wrap still covered sofas and chairs, protective cardboard remained on the wood floors, displays were empty and pieces of white wall shelving were piled high on the floor.

"The trucks came in a 5 a.m. this morning," said Ric White, the store's furniture manager. "We're moving in. By the end of the day, things will look totally different."

In a sharp contrast to the hustle and bustle at Crate & Barrel, White House/Black Market appeared lifeless on Friday.

"It's dark and there's no one inside," Finn said as she put her face to the glass windows at the shop that features clothing and accessories in white and black. "But everything looks set up."

Other stores at the new center include Johnston & Murphy, Ann Taylor Loft, blue-mercury and SGH. Shoppers

can stop for a cup of coffee or a meal at Chipotle Mexican Grill, Starbucks or Maggiano's Little Italy. The Italian restaurant, with an occupancy of 537, opened late last month at the center.

Banana Republic and Brooks Brothers delayed their openings to make adjustments to their plans.

"Brooks Brothers is moving out of the mall," Finn said. "They want to expand their women's line, so they'll open in a week to 10 days. Banana Republic changed their architecture a little. They'll take a little longer to open. I'm not sure how long yet."

The center, which took almost a year and a half to

construct, has been called the township's downtown.

"This adds a whole new dimension to the mall and Bridgewater," Rick Fontana, a Somerset County Freeholder and township resident, said in an earlier interview. "Bridgewater doesn't have a Main Street. This will be like its downtown."

The opening of the center marks the completion of a multi-pronged mixed-used development plan — a vision of the township since the 1980s. Previous phases resulted in the creation of office and retail space and a hotel — the 346-room Bridgewater Marriott — at the intersections of the county's major highways.

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A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

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.

Institute

Continued from page A1

Pennock, northeast region director of Kelly Scientific Resources, is very familiar with. His company, which recruits scientists for the industry, has been helping RVCC create and implement its biotechnology curriculum. "This is definitely a hotbed, and there's always a shortage of scientists," he said, adding that he will "absolutely"

recruit from among the program's graduates. Those graduates will be helped. RVCC president Casey Crabill announced, by a \$382,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, which will provide scholarships for its students.

The program is important when it comes to recruiting and retaining companies to the region, according to Somerset County Business Partnership Vice President John Maddocks, as is the new Academy for Health and Medical Sciences at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools.

Greek dance held at veterans home

EDISON — The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Folklife Program for New Jersey present a "Celebration of Greek Dance" with the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey.

This free program is at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30 at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park.

"Celebration of Greek Dance" is a rare opportunity to experience a number of traditional Greek folk dances, some rooted in antiquity, as many of them are not danced outside the region or community in which they originated. The performances will include "Serenitsa" and "Moskof," militaristic dances from the region of Pontos; "Gaida" and "Nizamikos" from Makedonia, which focus on pre-

cision and composure; and jovial dances like "Kalyrnikos" and "Ageranos" from the islands, just to name a few. The dances, combined with the authentic regional folk attire worn by the dancers and the traditional music, will truly transport the audience to the different corners of Greece, offering a window to the customs practiced in each area.

The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, founded in 1972, is a group of young adults who are first-, second- or third-generation Greek Americans and are dedicated to perpetuating their heritage through enthusiastic performances of the regional folk dances of Greece. Over 300 dances have been preserved and passed on to two generations of Greek Americans under the direction of Rev. Jim and Eleni Chakalos, co-founders of the troupe. The Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey continue their mission by sharing the richness of this inheritance with younger dancers and the American public, and by assuring a sense of pride and cultural awareness within the Greek community. The troupe's desire to share their cultural identity and the pride that they feel for its Greek heritage is evident in the precision and enthusiasm that they bring to each performance.

Registration is required; call (732) 745-4489. In case of rain this program will be held indoors.

The Veterans Memorial Home is at 132 Evergreen Road, between Parsonage Road and Route 27.

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The Chronicle

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

In the Towns

Senior driving course offered in Plainfield

PLAINFIELD — An AARP safe driving course will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Any licensed driver may take the course. Cost is \$10. All who take both parts of the course are eligible for a discount on their car insurance.

Payment in advance is required; call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Crafters wanted for fall show

BOUND BROOK — Holy Family Academy is seeking crafters for the Fall Carnival and Craft Show, scheduled for 2-9 p.m. today and tomorrow.

Cost is \$35 per 10-foot space. Vendors provide their own table. For more information, call (732) 369-3711.

Band parents seeking alumni

PISCATAWAY — The Superchief Band Parents Association supports the Superchief Band at Piscataway High School.

The band parents are looking for alumni who played in the Superchief Band or were in the Band Parents Association. Those who are among their alumni can visit www.superchiefs.org or call Pat Blath at (732) 752-5968.

Agency schedules volunteer training

EDISON — Training is scheduled for those who want to become volunteers with the Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County.

Training is at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at the agency's office at 515 Plainfield Ave. Current volunteers are also welcome.

Registration is required; e-mail ej.berman@jfv.org or call (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Sabbath-even services for tots

METUCHEN — Congregation Neve Shalom is holding a "Kabbalat Tot Shabbat" for children ages 2-and-a-half to 6.

This service is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 and coincides with Sukkot, a Jewish feast beginning at sundown that day. Prayers, songs and stories are led by Cantor Sheldon Levin and nursery school Director Martha Mack.

Special desserts are included. For more information, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14. The synagogue is at 250 Grove Ave.

'Jewish Jazz' comes to area

METUCHEN — As part of its Sukkot observance Congregation Neve Shalom presents "Jewish Jazz" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8.

This concert is inside the "hut" on the synagogue grounds at 250 Grove Ave. In case of rain the concert will be held in the sanctuary.

Musicians are Dave Shlossberg, piano; Ed Newman, bass; and Kevin Werbel, percussion. Admission of \$10 includes fruit and cheese platters; bring your own wine.

For reservations, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14.

Have pizza in the hut at synagogue

METUCHEN — Eat up! Congregation Neve Shalom is serving pizza in the hut at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10.

This Sukkot-related event takes place outside the synagogue at

250 Grove Ave. Cost is \$2 per slice and \$1 per soda. Students, parents and friends are welcome.

For reservations, e-mail can2r11@aol.com or call (732) 548-2238, Ext. 14.

Synagogue event for Simchat Torah

METUCHEN — Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., marks Simchat Torah at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14.

This event includes a Torah reading, an aliyah for kids, marching with flags and Torahs, candy apples and treats for all. Bring your funny hats.

For more information, call (732) 548-2238.

Vendors wanted for flea market

DUNELLEN — Vendors are needed for a flea market scheduled for 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Dunellen United Methodist Church.

Spaces are \$20 downstairs or \$15 upstairs. Fees are non-refundable. Furniture and clothing will not be accepted.

For reservations, call Henry Cattle at (732) 752-8391 by Saturday, Sept. 30.

Police Log

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

A set of truck tires came off a tractor-trailer and found their way into the path of a car.

The big rig was heading up Interstate 287 North near Exit 4 at 3:25 p.m. Sept. 13. The tires separated from the trailer, rolled across the highway, continued over the grassy median, went across I-287 South and headed down the embankment onto Durham Avenue.

It was on Durham Avenue that the tires smashed into a 2003 Subaru Legacy driven by Joseph Damato, whose town was not given. The impact sent the Subaru into a 180-degree spin, according to a release from South Plainfield police.

The tractor-trailer was later found at the Plainfield Metal Recycling Co., a good distance from I-287. An investigation found that the wayward tires came off the trailer when the left rear wheel bearing failed.

According to a release from South Plainfield police, the trailer is registered to Timco Transport of Trenton and is used to carry crushed cars to a scrap yard. Luis Telloortega of

Elizabeth, an owner-operator who drove the big rig, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident involving an injury. He also was cited for driving without insurance, driving an unsafe vehicle, driving an unregistered vehicle, driving with unclear license plates and failure to report the accident.

A citation was issued to Timco Transport as well for operating an unsafe vehicle.

Damato received treatment from his physician for pain suffered in the accident.

Also on Sept. 13, a cyclist was seriously injured in a rush-hour accident along Maple Avenue.

Police said a 2003 Ford Mustang driven by Karen Strahan of Piscataway collided at 6:52 a.m. with a bicycle ridden by Domingo Vicente Osorio, 31, of Plainfield. The bike, police said, was crossing between a westbound bus and a car in order to get to the eastbound lane near Hamilton Boulevard.

Osorio was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick with a head injury.

Campus Notes

A total of 27 area students were named to the dean's list for the spring 2006 semester at Rowan University in Glassboro. The students and their majors:

Brielle K. Anderson of South Plainfield, school psychology.

Shannon L. Bishop of South Plainfield, collaborative teaching.

Brian P. Boisier of Piscataway, journalism.

Robert W. Bullard of Piscataway, history. Stephanie Carniglia of Metuchen, health and exercise science with emphasis in teacher certification.

Mallory L. Christ of South Plainfield, undeclared.

Kerri L. Colletto of Edison, collaborative education.

Jaelyn Cox of South Plainfield, biological science.

Christina M. Fitzgerald of Dunellen, radio-television-film.

Argiris A. Hristofis of Edison, health and exercise science with emphasis in teacher certification.

Christopher Imbrosciano of South Plainfield, theater with emphasis in children's dramatics.

Morgan C. Keaton of Highland Park, law and justice.

Corey Lederman of Metuchen, political science.

Mary E. Lenti of Edison, political science.

Taryn E. McCormick of Edison, elementary education.

Tara L. Nagel of Piscataway, advertising.

Jason Natale of Bound Brook, business administration with emphasis in management.

Lauren J. O'Shea of Edison, education with emphasis in elementary education.

Amy M. Ovsiew of Piscataway, public relations.

Brian J. Pinto of Piscataway, mathematics.

Daniel T. Piwowar of South Plainfield, electrical and computer engineering.

Robert Rose of Piscataway, law and justice.

Danielle M. Schweers of South Plainfield, teacher of the handicapped.

Meghan M. Seamster of Edison, education with emphasis in elementary education.

Jenna L. Stein of Metuchen, education with emphasis in elementary education.

Jason M. Stewart of Metuchen, art with emphasis in education.

Courtney K. Wolfe of Middlesex, health and exercise science with emphasis in athletic training.

Seven area students have graduated from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. Receiving degrees at commencement exercises May 21:

Thomas M. Cassidy of Edison, bachelor's degree in political science.

The son of Michael and Kathleen Cassidy is a 2002 alumnus of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

Jenevieve C. De Los Santos of South Plainfield, bachelor's degree in art history and classics, summa cum laude.

She received the President's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement plus departmental honors in art history.

The daughter of Oscar and Julia De Los Santos is a 2002 alumna of South Plainfield High School.

Megan A. Garrett of Metuchen, bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology.

The daughter of Robert and Tina Garrett is a 2002 alumna of Metuchen High School.

Brian C. McDevitt of Edison, bachelor's degree in business administration degree with emphasis in management.

The son of John and Mi Chue McDevitt is a 2002 alumnus of Edison High School.

Jeffrey N. McKnight of South Plainfield, bachelor's degree in cell biology and biochemistry, summa cum laude.

He received the University Prize for Men, given to the male student with the highest grade point average, along with the President's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement.

The son of Gary and Gerilyn McKnight is a 2002 alumnus of South Plainfield High School.

Michael J. Piesen of Edison, bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

The son of John and Elizabeth Piesen is a 2002 alumnus of Edison High School.

Lauren J. Reed of South Plainfield, bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, cum laude.

The daughter of Andrew and Lynn Reed is a 2002 alumna of Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung.

Six students from Edison and Metuchen have been awarded scholarships by the Robert J. and Deborah A. Chalfin Family Foundation. The recipients and

the schools they plan to attend: Elana Celano, \$1,000 to attend the Tyler School of Art in Elkins Park, Pa.

She graduated from Metuchen High School.

Anna Cushing, \$250 to attend St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

She graduated from Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung.

Vincent Kucinski, \$1,000 to attend Rowan University in Glassboro.

He graduated from Bishop George Ahr High School in Edison.

Mehreen Merchant, \$500 to attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.

He graduated from Edison High School.

Brian O'Gorman, \$500 to attend Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

He graduated from Edison High School.

Joshua Safran, \$1,000 to attend American University in Washington, D.C.

He graduated from John P. Stevens High School in Edison.

Democrats add Dietrich to ballot

BOUND BROOK — Hal Dietrich, a decorated Vietnam veteran and former Navy SEAL, has been selected by the Bound Brook Democratic Municipal Committee, replacing Democratic primary winner Timothy Braden, as their candidate for Borough Council.

Braden has withdrawn because of a change in his professional obligations. His running mate is current Councilman Javier Vasquez.

According to Democratic Municipal Chairman Ben Auletta, the committee interviewed candidates who attended a special meeting and decided on Dietrich because of his active participation as a community-minded citizen of Bound Brook.

Dietrich is a member of the Bound Brook Planning Board, coordinator of the Bound Brook Office of Emergency Management and vice chair-

man of the Bound Brook Redevelopment Advisory Committee. He was recently elected to a second term as a member of the Bound Brook Board of Education, with which he is chairman of the Facilities Committee and a member of the Policy Committee.

He is also a member of the Hazardous Materials Advisory Committee and Citizens Advisory Panel monitoring chemical plants in Bound Brook and adjoining towns.

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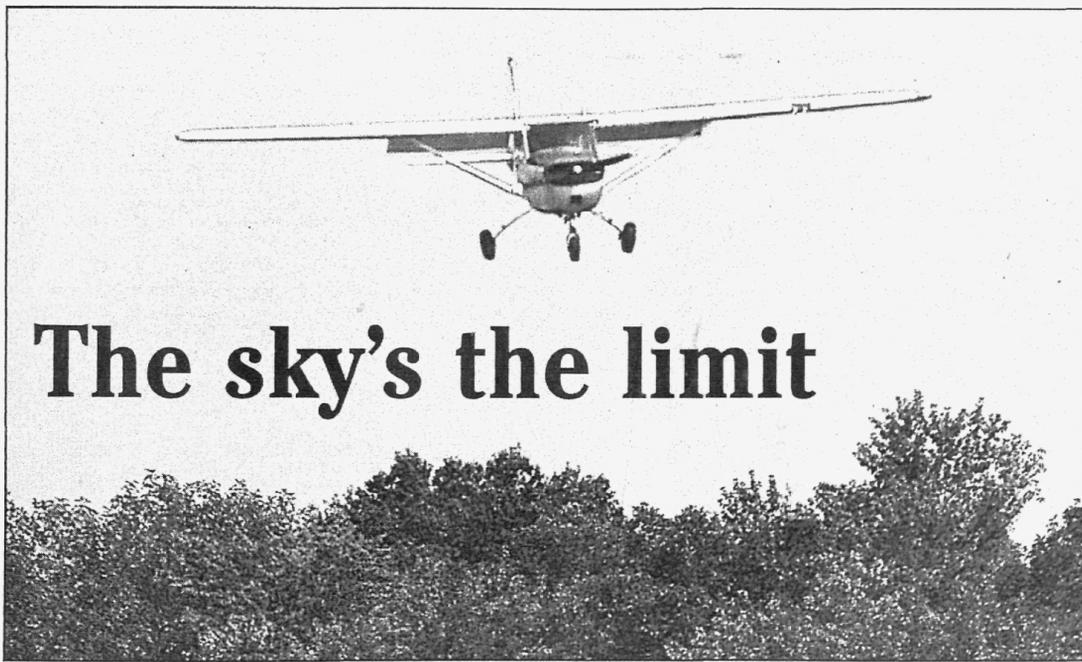
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The sky's the limit



Ground School gives students their wings

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

When Marty Balk was 16 and he and his father were in the car, they passed a small airport in Warwick, N.Y.

"My dad asked if I wanted to take a flying lesson," Balk recalled. "I said 'yes.'"

Since that day, Balk hasn't stopped flying. More than 35 years later, he's a Federal Aviation Administration certified flight and ground school instructor and gives lessons seven days a week at Central Jersey Airport in Hillsborough.

"Did you ever fly a small plane? It turns you on," said Balk, a Warren resident who owns a Cessna 150 that he purchased right out of college in the early 1970s.

Balk serves as the instructor for the Private Pilot Ground School courses at the Watchung Hills Adult School and at the Central Jersey Airport.

The courses will prepare students to take the FAA required

private pilot written exam. The courses, which will cover navigation, meteorology, controls, regulations and aerodynamics is open to anyone 16 and over. In the eight week courses, Balk will focus on helping students understand computation and conceptual components of the test.

"I'm not going to go through memorization," Balk said. "There's too much to teach to just help students memorize regulations. I go through the more difficult aspects."

The lessons Balk will offer will help students manage small as well as large aircrafts. "If you can fly a Cessna 150, the principles are the same for a 747," he noted.

In the classes, Balk will introduce student to density altitude — the concept that air gets thinner at higher altitudes.

"The engine produces less power at higher altitudes, but there's less drag," Balk explained.

Navigation will also be a focal point of the course.

"People don't understand navigation," Balk said. "They're used to driving a car. When you're in a car, you know not to go off the street. In a plane, it's 100 percent different. You're in control."

But for Javier Alexandres, it's the control and challenge that motivates him.

Alexandres, a Bridgewater resident, is a student of Balk's. He's been taking lessons for a little over six weeks.

"The feeling of freedom — to be up there away from everything — it's amazing," Alexandres said. "The challenge that you're controlling everything is what motivates you."

By taking lessons, Alexandres is fulfilling a childhood desire.

"When I was a child, it was my secret dream to be a pilot," said Alexandres, an engineer with AT&T. "But I never got to it in my childhood. Now my children are college graduates and I have the time."

Alexandres said Balk is the supreme teacher.

"He's a real instructor, not a babysitter," he said. "When you typically go to a school for something, the instructors want to make you feel good about yourself and happy. Marty challenges you and instructs you. He tells you what to do and why. He tells you stories in history and what will happen when you do something wrong. He's a real instructor."



PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Marty Balk, a flight instructor, prepares to take off in his Cessna 150 that he purchased right out of college in the early 1970s. Top left, the Cessna in flight, and top right, a view of Hillsborough from the air.

"The feeling of freedom — to be up there away from everything — it's amazing. The challenge that you're controlling everything is what motivates you. When I was a child, it was my secret dream to be a pilot. But I never got to it in my childhood. Now my children are college graduates and I have the time."

Javier Alexandres

Balk, who's flown single engine planes to Australia, Alaska, South America and in the Middle East, sure has the practice. For 25 years, he owned Linden Avionics, a business that sold aircraft and navigation equipment. "I would have to teach our customers how to use the equipment," said Balk, who currently has his own medical imaging center in Jackson. He liked the teaching element so much that two years ago Balk became certified

instructor with the FAA. "You meet so many interesting people," said Balk, who noted that Americans have more opportunities to learn flying than citizens of most other countries. "A flight instructor doesn't charge as much as someone teaching piano lessons...The freedom to fly in the U.S. is an unbelievable freedom that's not granted anywhere else." Once Alexandres obtains his license, he'll use his flying freedom to travel with his wife.

"I want to go all over," he said. "We will take off and land at every airport we can." The Private Pilot Ground School course at the Watchung Hills Adult School will run on Wednesdays from Sept. 27 to Nov. 15 and costs \$225. For more information, call (908) 647-4800 ext. 4820 or visit www.wrhhs.org/adultschool. For more information about the course at Central Jersey Airport, call (908)526-2822 or visit www.centraljerseyairport.com.

The Reporter Somerset Messenger-Gazette • The Chronicle

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Obituaries

Julia Wagner

MIDDLESEX — Julia S. Wagner, 87, died Sept. 13, 2006 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington. Born June 15, 1919 in Manville, she was a daughter of the late Catherine and Francis Zabawa. Mrs. Wagner lived in Middlesex before moving to Readington in 1961. She was a quality control technician for over 25 years with Ethicon Inc. in Bridgewater. A 1939 graduate of Bound Brook High School, Mrs. Wagner was a lifetime member of the Eagles Ladies Auxiliary and played in the longest-lasting bridge club in Middlesex. She was a member of the Readington Senior Citizens Club and the Dawn Patrol Motorcycle Club. She was a former member of Century Chapter 100, Order of the Eastern Star, in Somerville.

Mrs. Wagner traveled 27 times to visit a son, Howard of Pearl City, Hawaii; his wife, Young Ja; and a grandson, Wayne. She traveled as well to Europe and China. Her husband, Hans, died in 1995. Also preceding her in death were her twin sister, Dolores; another sister, Helen; and four brothers, Joe, John, Albert and Matthew. In addition to her son and family, surviving is a daughter, Norma Jean Anmuth of New York state. Services were held Saturday at the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery. Memorial donations may be sent to Hunterdon Hospice, c/o Hunterdon Medical Center, 2100 Wescott Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Cora O'Brien

MIDDLESEX — Cora Angelina O'Brien, 70, died Sept. 12, 2006 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. Born in Newark, she lived in Nutley and Toms River before moving to Middlesex in 1965. Mrs. O'Brien was a cantor and religious education teacher at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church. She also was co-director of the Social Ministries Outreach for the parish's senior citizens club. A retired professional soloist, Mrs. O'Brien performed at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan at age 19. She graduated from Seton Hall University. Her husband of 35 years, Vincent A., died in 1993. Also preceding her in death were a brother, Michael Tauriello; and a sister, Joanne Milko. Surviving are a son, Kevin

V. and wife Humbelina of South River; three daughters, Susan Gibson and husband David of Flemington, Theresa Sweeney and husband Fran of Middlesex and Caroline Foreman and husband Daniel of Middlesex; and two brothers, Patrick Tauriello of Lake Parsippany and Peter Tauriello of Frankford Township. A funeral Mass was held Sept. 15 at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church. Burial was in St. Bernard Cemetery, Bridgewater. Donations may be sent to the Social Ministries Outreach or Altar Rosary Society at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Church, 650 Harris Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846. Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home. To send a condolence, visit www.middlesexfuneralhome.com.

Kamalesh Ghosh

EDISON — Kamalesh Ghosh, 74, died Aug. 22, 2006. He is survived by his wife, Manjir; a son, Kingshuk; a sis-

ter in India; and a grandchild. Services were held at the India Funeral Service in Raritan.

In the Towns

Antiques appraiser returns to library

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Alan G. Snyder has given antiques appraisal programs for several years at the South Plainfield Public Library. He returns to the library at 2 p.m. Sunday. You are invited to bring in your own antiques for appraisal; there is a limit of two per patron. Admission is free. For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave.

Divorce course will now be in session

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Institute for Continuing Legal Education is offering Divorce Mediation training for lawyers and judges at the New Jersey Law Center. The 40-hour course takes up five full days — Sept. 26; Oct. 4; Oct. 5; Oct. 9, and Oct. 10. Instructors include Douglas Schoenberg, a Millburn attorney who has been an instructor with the program since he helped create it in 2001. Schoenberg specializes in divorce law and since 1994 has largely limited his practice to divorce mediation. For more information, call (732) 214-8500. The Institute for Continuing Legal Education is sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association and the state's law schools.

Vo-tech offers course in nursing

PISCATAWAY — Practical Nursing is a course offered on the Piscataway campus of the Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools. Students can apply for a 15-month day program or two-year evening program. The course prepares students to take the exam to become a licensed practical nurse. Between April and September of last year, all 16 students in the vo-tech school's Practical Nursing course passed the exam. For an application, call (732) 985-0717, Ext. 2274.

Grant helps students to take to the seas

NEW BRUNSWICK —

Students at Greater Brunswick Charter School will trade a school desk for a sailing deck this spring, thanks to a grant from Toshiba America Foundation.

The \$9,900 grant will allow seventh- and eighth-graders at the school to learn sailing and celestial navigation as part of their physics curriculum.

Students will receive their sailing instruction this May on Raritan Bay under the guidance of New Brunswick Sea Scouts Ship 132, a group of Sea Scouts sponsored by the charter school.

"We believe that by combining the classroom study of physics, astronomy, and earth science with the incredible experience of sailing on the open water we will be setting our students on a path that makes science learning a part of their lives," said Rick Pressler, executive director of Greater Brunswick Charter School. "The lessons and projects we develop with these funds will become a permanent part of our curriculum for years to come."

This is the second grant Toshiba America Foundation has given to the school.

Located at 492 Joyce Kilmer Ave., Greater Brunswick Charter School is a free, independent public school developed by area parents and educators in 1998, with 207 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Participating families come from New Brunswick, Highland Park and Edison, as well as from nine other school districts in Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties.

For more information, call Pressler at (732) 448-1052.

Church 'oasis' for older folk

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Presbyterian Church has an Oasis, the "Older Adult Society in Our Savior."

Older adults are invited to this church program at 11:30 a.m. the first and third Monday of each month. Lunch, a hymn sing and a Scripture reading are included.

If you plan to attend, call (732) 469-4498. The church is adjacent to Middlesex Borough

Hall at 1190 Mountain Ave.

Group for girls covers real life

METUCHEN — Females ages 11-14 are eager to find out about "Girls in Real-Life Situations."

This free club meets from 3-4:30 p.m. the last Sunday of the month at the Teen Center, 483 Middlesex Ave. Topics cover martial arts, self-defense, self-esteem, physical fitness, social issues and development. Registration is required at the Metuchen Branch YMCA, 65 High St.

For more information, e-mail mike.tonzola@metuchen-edisonymca.org or call (732) 548-2044, Ext. 210.

Woman's club has membership drive

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The Suburban Woman's Club is recruiting new members.

Women interested in serving their community are welcome to join. The Woman's Club participates in civic and community activities in the area. In addition to contributing to national and local charities, the club sponsors a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior from South Plainfield High School.

For membership, program and activity information, call Grace Farinella at (908) 753-5753.

Edison-based group has special services

EDISON — Challenging Adult Minds and Energizing Ourselves is a social day care program tailored to the needs of adults who are physically disabled, but cognitive and alert.

Some of the activities designed for CAMEO are book reviews, exercise, day trips, painting discussions of current events, special interest groups, etc.

This service is provided by the Jewish Family and Vocational Services of Middlesex County located at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201.

Another service provided is Elderday Care (a social day-care program) for folks with memory loss and various degrees of dementia. Program

includes meals, snacks, and activities all can easily participate in. A limited amount of openings are now available in both programs.

Transportation is provided by sliding scale fees. Call (732) 777-1940 for more details.

Rutgers is site for adoption conference

PISCATAWAY — "Let's Talk Adoption" this fall at the 25th annual conference of that name.

The conference is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4 in the Busch Campus Center at Rutgers University. Adoptive parents, birth parents, teachers and social workers are welcome, along with anyone who has been adopted.

Continuing education hours are available for teachers and licensed social workers. For registration and fees, visit www.cpfanrj.org or call (908) 273-5694.

Sponsors are Concerned Parents for Adoption, the New Jersey Interagency Adoption Council and the Rutgers School of Social Work.

Church selling coupon books

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen United Methodist Church is selling Entertainment 2007 coupon books with savings on dining and entertainment.

Six editions are available at \$25 each.

To purchase a copy, call Shirley at (732) 752-7437, Brenda at (908) 647-6797 or the church at (732) 968-4347.

Jewish center has 10th anniversary

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life marks its 10th anniversary this year.

The center is located on the College Avenue campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Among the programs scheduled:

"Translating the Bible," 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16 in the Douglass College Center on the Douglass College campus. Moderator is Gary A. Rendsburg, chairman of Jewish studies at Rutgers.

Registration is recommended by Friday, Oct. 6.

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Sports

Saturday, September 23, 2006

Another big second half saves Spartans

SOMERVILLE — Nobody would readily admit the Immaculata High football team waits until the second half before starting to play for real... but it sure seems like it.

For the second straight week the Spartans put together a dominant second-half performance that made up for a so-so first half and produced a victory, this time a 17-3 conquest of Ridge at Brooks Field Sept. 15 in a Skyland Conference Delaware West Division battle.

After trailing 14-7 at halftime in its opener against Somerville, Immaculata rallied to win 21-7. Then, against Ridge, the Spartans broke free from a 3-3 first-half stalemate with another strong showing keyed by a stifling defensive effort.

"Knowing we're so much stronger in the second half kind of puts an extra chip on our shoulder to go out each week and show it," said senior middle linebacker/guard Jack Rice. "We're normally a second-half team, and with coaches constantly reminding us that the second half belongs to

us we go out and play better in the second half."

In both cases an early defensive stand in the third quarter lead to a touchdown with a forced fumble against Ridge at the Red Devil 22 leading to the go-ahead score with just 1:13 elapsed in the third period.

"I was very concerned at halftime because we shot ourselves in the foot so many times in the first half," Head Coach Frauenheim said. "We'd start a drive, move the ball and then get a penalty. In some cases we couldn't make up for the lost yards."

"I felt a lot better after we got the turnover and the touchdown in the third quarter. That gave us some momentum. After that we really controlled the game."

To that point Immaculata had been its worst enemy piling up a number of penalties that negated some nice plays on both offense and defense. A pass interference call helped set up Ridge's points, a 32-yard field goal by Mark Magion with 51 seconds left in the half.

IMMACULATA FOOTBALL

"We had a lot of stupid penalties — holding, passing interference, off-sides," Rice said. "Without those things Ridge doesn't get the yardage they got. Even the field goal was after a penalty allowed them to get close. We need to do a better job with that staff."

While hurt by the penalties, a pair of Frank DeNick interceptions proved costly. One came of the game's opening possession after the Spartans had moved from their 37 to the Ridge 17 in eight plays with A.J. Albert carrying six times for 41 yards.

Later in the first period Immaculata took over on downs on its 41 and reached the Ridge 18 before settling for a 37-yard field goal by Mike Brownett with 2:19 to play in the quarter. Theo Riddick's 26-yard run keyed the nine-play drive possession.

Rice recovered the Red Devil fumble following the second-half kickoff, and three plays later Albert went in from the 1. Riddick ran for 6 on the first play, and Albert set up the TD with a 15-yard gain. Brownett's PAT kick made it 10-3 with 73 seconds gone in the third period.

The Spartans added an insurance touchdown with 9:23 left to play when Albert again went in from the 1. Immaculata used seven plays to march 37 yards after a 12-yard punt by the backup kicker gave the Spartans great field position.

Albert finished with 119 yards on 24 carries, while Riddick collected 112 yards on 21 attempts as the pair combined for all 24 yards of the club's 245 yards in offense. Riddick was coming off a concussion suffered against Somerville.

"Theo wasn't cleared to play until Wednesday, so he really only had one day of practice," Frauenheim said. "He had a great game. Once again A.J. came through for us. We just have to improve our passing game."

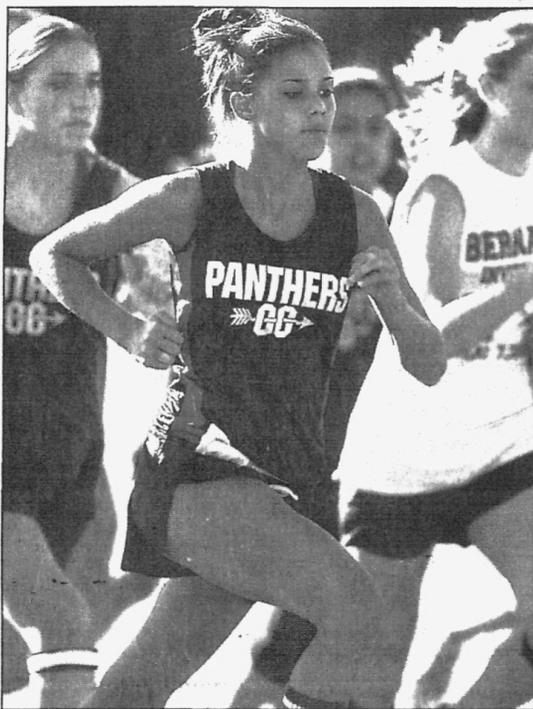
"I think the big thing was we had much better field position in the second half, and we took advantage of it. In the first half, Ridge had much better field position than we did."

Ridge, meanwhile, picked up 86 yards on the ground and 81 through the air. Quarterback Rob Monastero ran for 60 yards on 11 attempts, but was good only 6 of 19 passes for 77 yards.

"We have a lot of respect for their team and their quarterback," Frauenheim said. "(Monastero) did a good job. We knew he was a good runner. One of our objectives was to keep him inside and our ends did a good job containing him, but he got some yards inside."

"Without a doubt we have to improve our pass defense. Ridge had a lot of receivers get open. They missed a number of plays that could have hurt us."

Ridge	0	3	0	—	3
Immaculata	3	0	7	—	17
I — Brownett 37 field goal					
R — Magion 32 field goal					
I — Albert 1 run (Brownett kick)					
I — Albert 1 run (Brownett kick)					



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Rachel Mangan, who paced the Bridgewater-Raritan High girls cross country squad a year ago as its No. 1, has received plenty of competition from her teammates this fall with the improvement of Kristin Cupido and Margaret Bruno Metzger.

Panthers look for best campaign

By DAVE ALLENA
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — In his 29th season as a girls cross country head coach, Rich Marton doesn't hesitate to call this year's Bridgewater-Raritan High squad the best he's had.

Now all the Panthers have to do is stay healthy and live up to that advanced billing.

With the top seven runners returning from a year ago, Bridgewater-Raritan appears to have the talent and experience to challenge for honors at the county, conference and group levels this fall. Last year the Panthers finished second in Somerset County and fourth in the Skyland.

The key to bettering those finishes as well as repeating in North Jersey 2 Group IV will be keeping the top five runners healthy.

"The whole thing comes down to injuries," Marton said. "Right now we're fine. I'm trying to be cautious. It's a long season, and a hard season, and you really want to be healthy at the end of it. If someone gets hurt in the top five it's going to be tough to make up for it."

"This is the best team I've had. I'm crossing my fingers because in the past something always seemed to happen when I had my really good teams. All five girls can go under 20 (minutes for 5,000 meters), and that's pretty good. That far and away the best I've had."

The Panthers, who opened their season Sept. 12 with a Skyland Conference Delaware East Division sweep of Watchung

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN CROSS COUNTRY

Hills (16-49) and Hillsborough (16-42), have their sights set on their first Somerset County and conference titles since the early 1990s.

Although it won't be easy given the presence of talented Ridge and Montgomery in both the county and conference where Voorhees will also be a major factor in the Skyland, Marton likes his team's chances.

"If we can beat Ridge with their good runners, we should win the county, although Montgomery should be tough," he said. "As far as the division goes, we have Montgomery in a couple of weeks, and since we've already beaten Hillsborough that should be the race for the division."

"In the conference we'll have those two teams to beat along with Voorhees. I don't see much competition in the section (North Jersey 2 Group IV) other than Westfield. The state looks good, although Colts Neck and Montgomery are now both up to Group IV. Roxbury lost a couple of runners, but they should be good again."

"I've never been to the Meet of Champions as a team, so that's a goal this year. It would be great to qualify as one of the top three in the group meet, but if we have to sneak in as a wild card that would be nice, too."

In the early going two seniors have vied for team leadership as the top finishers, supplanting last year's No. 1. After per-

forming anywhere in the 2-5 slots last season, Kristin Cupido appears to have a slight edge over Margaret Bruno-Metzger.

Last fall's top performer, junior Rachel Mangan, meanwhile, has been running in the 3-5 positions along with classmates Danica Krivanos and Katherine Dransfield, while junior letter-winners Jackie Shulack and Dana Christensen along with junior newcomer Allie Gabinelli have been filling the 6-8 spots.

"It's not that Rachel has fallen off. It's that Kristin and Margaret have gotten a lot better," Marton said. "Margaret ran for the first time last year and had a great season. She had a good season in track, and she's back even back even stronger. It's not a surprise she's gotten better."

"The surprise is how much better Kristin has gotten. She's gotten a lot better. Last year she was running about a 5:48 for the mile, and she's taken 30 seconds off of that. Danica is running better, too, and that's also because this is her second year."

Bridgewater expected to get its first big test of the season September 15th at the Randolph Invitational, where it was supposed to go against Ridge, but rain postponed that event. After what should have been an easy meet yesterday against Franklin the Panthers will compete in the Catholic Class Championships today.

"I was looking forward to the Randolph Invitational, and the girls were, too. They wanted to see how they could run against Ridge," Marton said. "We'll see where we're at next week when we go to Warinanco (Park) for the class meet."

Patriots need miracle finish after Sunday's rout of Bears

Nearing the end of a season that has seen Somerset struggle at the plate at times, the Patriots delivered their best offensive showing of the campaign Sunday.

While keeping its playoff life going for a least one more day, the Patriots pounded out 16 hits, including four home runs, and bombed the Newark Bears 19-4 before an announced crowd of 5024 fans at Commerce Bank Park to complete a sweep of the three-game weekend series.

Somerset improved to 28-30 in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball's second half and 61-60 overall, but the Patriots remained in last place in the South Division. The Bears saw their second-half record slip to 19-17.

While coming within two runs of the club's single-game mark for runs and matching the second-best total in club history, Somerset stayed in contention for one more day thanks to a second straight loss by Atlantic City.

The Surf, which had the same 33-30 first-half record as Somerset, went into Wednesday night's action with a 32-24 mark for the second half. It has to lose its last seven games and the Patriots win their last five for Somerset to finish ahead of it.

Jumping out to a 5-0 lead after one inning, Somerset scored at least once in each of the first five innings to open a 14-3 cushion and closed it out with a five-run seventh. Tommy Rojas highlighted the big first inning with a three-run homer after Ryan Radmanovich and Larry Barnes singled home a run apiece.

The teams traded solo homers in the second with Victor Valencia hitting his 16th for the Bears and Patrick Boran getting his third for the Patriots. Newark then cut the margin to 6-4 in the third with



three runs, but Somerset got two back in the home half of the third on Lou Luca's third home run.

Elliott Ayala tripled and scored on a wild pitch in the fourth for the Pats, and Radmanovich's league-best 26th home run — a three-run blast — fueled the winners' five-run fifth. George Sandel doubled home two runs, while Jim Burt and Kevin Nicholson added RBI singles in the seventh.

Sol Solverson (5-4), pitching in relief of starter Andy Pratt, worked 2 2/3 scoreless innings to pick up the victory. Bear starter Carlos Mirabel (4-6) took the loss, allowing six earned runs in two innings.

Every Patriot starter collected at least one hit and scored at least once with Radmanovich turning in the top performance, going 3 for 6 with four RBI and three runs scored. Boran, Barnes, Luca, Nicholson and Sandel chipped in with two hits each.

Patriots 6, Newark 1 — Coming within an out of his team-leading third complete game, Ben Crockett scattered five hits over 8 2/3 innings before 7901 fans at CBP Saturday night as Somerset handled the Bears for the second straight game.

Striking out four while walking just one, Crockett allowed one earned run as he improved to 8-10 on the season. Bear starter Michael Cosgrove pitched well for five innings, allowing two runs on six hits, but suffered his sixth loss in a winless year.

Somerset gave Crockett a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning when Nicholson

doubled and rode home on Radmanovich's home run. Jonathan Thomas's sacrifice fly knocked in Anthony Sanders, who had doubled, in the sixth as the Bears sliced the deficit in half.

The Patriots, however, broke the game open in the seventh with four runs against reliever Travis Wade. Luca homered to start the uprising, and after a double by Travis Anderson and a single by Sandel, Boran belted a three-run homer to finish the scoring.

Luca lifted his average to .455 since his return to the team with a pair of hits, while Radmanovich, Boran and Sandel each notched a pair, too.

Patriots 4, Newark 2 — In a game halted in the bottom of the seventh due to rain and poor playing conditions at CBP Friday night, Somerset snapped a three-game losing streak by parlaying a four-run first inning into a victory over the Bears in before 4367 fans.

Dave Elder (2-4) made the start and worked five innings, allowing one run on five hits while fanning five and walking two. Jason Olson worked two innings to pick up his first save.

All the damage against Bear starter Joe Gannon came in the first inning when the Patriots took advantage of three walks to score four times. Gannon (6-11) ended up going the distance (6 innings), allowing five hits while walking six and striking out four.

Boran started the bottom of the first with a single, Henri Stanley walked, and Nicholson singled to load the bases. Radmanovich and Rojas sandwiched Barnes' RBI single with a bases-loaded walk, while a double-play plated the fourth run.

The Bears got a run back in the fifth as Sanders doubled and scored on a single by Will



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Patriot first baseman Jim Burt and his teammates entered last night's action against the Road Warriors needing a miracle to get into the playoffs as Somerset had to win its final five games while Atlantic City had to lose all seven of its contests.

Pennyfeather, while they added an unearned run in the top of the seventh against Olson.

Atlantic City 5, Patriots 4 — After seeing a 4-2 lead erased by the Patriots with two runs in the top of the sixth, the Surf answered with a run in the bottom of the sixth and then used three relievers to get the final nine outs and complete a midweek sweep at Bernie Robbie Stadium Thursday night before a crowd of 1034.

Somerset led 2-0 as Luca (2 for 4) followed Rojas's infield single with a two-run homer in the second, but Atlantic City scored a run in the bottom of the second and three times in the third for a 4-2 edge as Ozzie Timmons doubled home the tie-breaking run. Nick

Ortiz singled a pair in the top of the sixth to knot the game for the Patriots.

Ben Krezlowski (4-5) picked up the win after getting the final out in the sixth. After Caleb Balbuena got out of a two-on, two-out jam in the seventh, Tony Pierce picked up his second save with two hitless innings, although he did walk a pair.

Keith Ramsey was touched up for four earned runs on nine hits in five innings, but Andy Pratt (2-1) absorbed the loss when he yielded Gary Johnson's eight homer, a solo blast, in the sixth.

Atlantic City 2, Patriots 1 — Needing a win to remain in front of Lancaster in the battle for second-half honors in the South Division, the host Surf used a combined six-hit-

ter by Lincoln Mikkelsen and Jamie Tricoglou to turn back Somerset Wednesday night.

Mikkelsen lowered his league-leading ERA 1.76 with eight innings of working, spacing five hits while fanning 10 and walking just one. Arguably the ALPB's best pitcher — his victories and strikeout total (118) both rank second, Mikkelsen improved to 14-5 on the year. Tricoglou picked up his second save with a scoreless ninth.

All the scoring was done in the sixth on home runs. Somerset got on the board on Ortiz's first of the season, but Atlantic City responded against Sam McConnell (1-4), who allowed just four hits in seven innings of work, on Raul Marval's two-run shot, his 16th of the season.

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Financial Services 655

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Revolutionary times

PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary Anne Cowen, left, and Ann Howard prepare what would have been a typical Colonial era meal during a re-enactment held Saturday in the Liberty Corner section of Bernards. The encampment featured re-enactors who demonstrated what life would have been like for soldiers and militia commanded by Gen. George Washington and Gen. Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau during their march to Yorktown, where, 225 years ago, French and American troops joined forces to capture the British army, marking the unofficial end of the Revolutionary War. Below, members of the New Jersey Militia, Herd's Brigade, drill.



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Employment

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For Green Brook family, 3 children ages 4, 9, & 11. Part time, mostly weekends. Experience and Excellent References required. 732-868-0085

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No Fitness Experience Required! PT. Flexible. Must have experience working with young children. Training provided. Great pay. Call: 908-864-5139 Or: Somersethunterdon@tunbuses.com www.tunbuses.com

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in B'Water home for 10 & 12 yr. old. M-Th. 4-7pm. Must have car. Nonsmoker. Eng. spk. & RELIABLE. Call: 908-704-0504

Employment Agencies 205
Immediate Job Openings! STAFFING ALTERNATIVES Call 732-246-1687

Drivers 230

DRIVER
Hunterdon Concrete seeks experienced drivers, CDL Class B & good driving record. Excellent wage & benefits. Apply Evenetts Rd, Flemington, NJ or Call Al Brong: 908-782-3619

Drivers 230

DRIVERS CHAUFFEURS NEEDED
For busy Hunterdon Co. based limousine service. FT & PT opportunities. CDL a definite plus. Call for interview appointment. 908-735-8865

DRIVERS
FT, PT, Lebanon based messenger/delivery service looking for a reliable driver. Must have a clean driving record & pass DOT physical. Call for interview: 908-236-7515

SCHOOL BUS/ VAN DRIVER
For Hillsborough/Flemington areas. Routes/activities. CDL BP preferred. 46 hrs./day. \$17 per hour! Call Hager Bus: 908-788-5026

General Help 240

AUTO TECHNICIANS
Used car techs wanted at busy new car Toyota dealer. Must have knowledge of all brands and ability to operate Snap-On scan tools, top SS gear. Mon-Fri. ALSO SEEKING IMPORT TECHS Minimum 2 yrs. experience. An established shop, medical, dental, 401k. Call Chris at 908-788-5700 ext. 415

CHILD CARE
Work in your own home. Apply at Newton-Monmouth Inc. 908-626-4884

General Help 240

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478 Routes 202&31 Flemington, NJ 08822 Phone: 908-782-2221 Fax: 908-788-0455

CLEANERS
PT, Hunterdon & Somerset Counties. Good pay. Must have own transportation. 908-995-0500

Classifieds

General Help 240

Classified Account Executive

The Somerset Division has an immediate opening for a Full Time outside sales professional. Previous sales experience with proven track record a plus but not necessary. Good computer skills and degree preferred. Position is based out of Somerville NJ, and requires use of own car and valid driver's license. Position is salary based plus a commission plan and comes with great benefits including health and 401K. Interested parties should e-mail their resume and salary requirements to: Rob@NJPublishing.com

CLERICAL
Fast paced office in Southtowne Business Building. Data Entry, Computer knowledge a plus. Fax Resume 908-534-1428

CLERICAL POSITION
PART TIME/FULL TIME Some Computer knowl edge preferred. Must work some Saturdays, good phone skills.

Call Ralph for Interview 908-789-0555 MARANO & SONS AUTO SALE, INC. 150 SOUTH AVE. GARWOOD, NJ 07027

FENCE
Installers, Laborers, Subcontractors & Sales. 1-800-262-3245

General Help 240

CONSTRUCTION
Central NJ GC has immediate opening for PROJECT SUPER with minimum 3 years experience in retail projects. Strong communication & computer skills necessary. references required. Position offers competitive salary and benefits. Fax resume to 732-764-8677 or email to hresweetconstruction.com

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RECEPTIONIST
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General Help 240

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L.S. concrete form seeks ambitious individual to lead & manage crew. On job daily, resp. for coordinating employees, equipment, materials, paperwork, etc. Knowledge of design, install walls, patios, grading & drainage, plants & waterfalls. Min 3 yrs experience exp. DL req'd. CDL a+! Pay based on exp. Call 908-668-5858

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General Help 240

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General Help 240

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SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED

For Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop Local Stores, Restaurants & Businesses. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email resume: 1-800-565-9024 ext 6262

Medical Help 250

MEDICAL ASSISTANT
PT Women's health clinic office. Mon & Fri. 9-12, Tues, 1-4pm, and Thurs. 4-8pm. Call: 908-753-7773

Part-Time Help 255

SALES ASSOCIATE
Seeking energetic, hardworking person who enjoys people to join us at Cephia's Hair care in Easton, NJ. Call Carly: 908-234-2426

Professional Help 260

ASSISTANT TEACHERS PT
Infants & Toddlers Child Care exp. necessary. Great Pay. 908-231-8600

Sales Help 265

SALES POSITION
FULL TIME Experience preferred but will train. Excellent benefits Package

Call Ralph for Interview 908-789-0555 MARANO & SONS AUTO SALES, INC. 150 SOUTH AVE. GARWOOD, NJ 07027

Employment Trades 275

ROOFERS
Must have exp. & DL Top pay, benefits. 908-526-2111

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ELECTRICIAN
Requirements: Best Gradual experience, minimum 3 years. High School or equivalent. Must be able to perform the duties of present and/or assigned tasks. Expected to have a steady good work ethics, willing to learn. Competitive pay, benefits. Call: 908-277-6961 or email resume to: deleco@aol.com

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