



PANTHERS PEAKING AT RIGHT TIME?

After dominating their most recent hockey games, Brainerd Raritan Panthers look ahead to conference and state playoffs.
PAGE B1



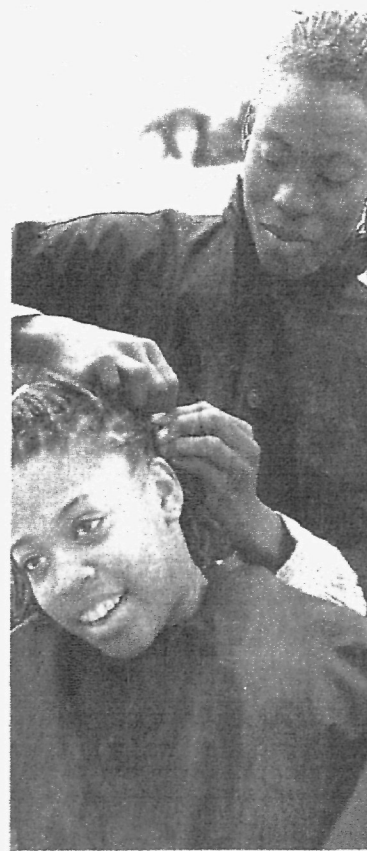
ONE COMMUNITY, ONE HOME

Habitat for Humanity relies on volunteers like Wes Frueh to help new homeowners' dreams become reality. Frueh, who is working on will provide housing for four families in Bernardsville.
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COOL STYLE

Kevin Parker has a clear cut future, and is getting some help from Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School to get there.
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The Chronicle

Since 1862

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INSIDE



Heat up with Cajun music

Nathan and the Zydeco Chas will be joined by the Dukes of Dixieland in a concert being held Saturday night at the Community Theatre in Morristown.
Page B2.

Wrestling sensations

EDISON — When the St. Matthew's Athletic Association comes to the top wrestling promoter in the tri-state area, National Wrestling Superstars, with another fundraiser, well this time maybe they just went too far. As an explosive night of bone-jarring thrills and chills is in store for the area as a main event of tsunami-size proportions is guaranteed as three former WWE superstars will be headlining an evening that begins 7:45 p.m. tonight at St. Matthew's School, 81 Seymour Ave., just off Plainfield Avenue. The Ugandan Giant Kalama joins his new bride, Kimala, as they join forces with Mini Kurt Angle and Short Sleeve Samson as they battle none other than Antonio Thomas of former WWE fame and Heart Throb tag team Danny Demanto and Alexa Thatcher in a six-person, inter-gender two-out-of-three-fall main event.

Also on the bill will be area mat standouts like Rutgers King I-M Smarta, Edison's Corvis Fear and manager Debonair Dave Andrews. Tickets are \$16 ringside, \$14 bleachers and are available at Stony Deli, 1905 Route 27; Army and Navy of Edison, 1826 Route 27; Party Fair in Edison Mall, Route 1 South; Krauszer's, 1315 Stelton Road, Piscataway; and Pete's Barber Shop, 18 New St., Metuchen. Also order tickets online at www.doubleplaybox.com or call (732) 888-1704 to charge tickets by phone.

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Rehabilitating history gets boost

New law would encourage historic preservation by giving tax credits

The state Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee has unanimously approved legislation that would encourage the rehabilitation of historic properties in the state by offering tax credits for a portion of the cost of the rehabilitation.

"There are many historic buildings in New Jersey that have seen far bet-

ter days," said Sen. Barbara Buono, D-18th Dist., a primary sponsor of the bill. "These buildings form the core of our older neighborhoods and through their rehabilitation, we can breathe new life into these communities and combat sprawl."

The Historic Property Reinvestment Act was passed on sec-

ond reading Feb. 8 and referred to the full Senate for a vote.

If signed into law, the act would establish state tax credits for the cost of rehabilitating historic properties in New Jersey. The bill would authorize for individual homeowners a tax credit of 25 percent of the taxpayer's outlay for rehabilitating a

historic property, capped at \$25,000. In addition, businesses would receive a 25 percent tax credit that would not be capped. The tax credit would be against the individual's gross income tax liability or the business' corporate business tax and insur-

Continued on page A2

Students ride with Rosa Parks

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

GREEN BROOK — "A Seat for Rosa" is a minimalist production. Its two cast members use only several folding chairs and a few hats to tell the story of Rosa Parks.

But the short performance exercises a lot of imagination and repertoire of spiritual songs to teach children about the importance of acceptance, tolerance and one of the most historical moments of the civil rights movement.

The pupils at the Irene E. Feldkirchner Elementary School were treated to a performance of "A Seat for Rosa" last week as one of the many ways the school commemorates Black History Month.

Cast members Alicia Washington and Kent Jackman, of Washington Productions, Inc., take on a variety of roles including a young boy and his aunt, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., a bus driver, policeman and an angry bully.

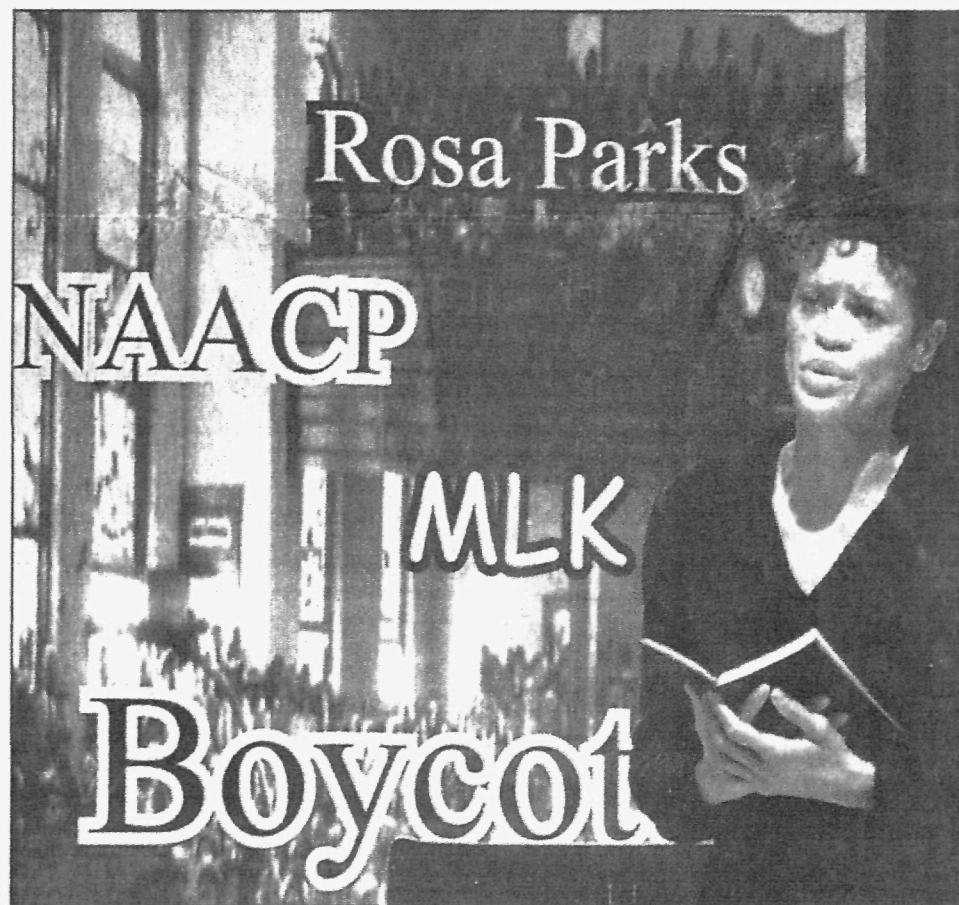
The story is framed within a story. A young boy in present day times is harassed by a bully on a bus. He turns to his aunt for advice who tells him all about Rosa Parks.

After work on Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Ala. She was a black woman and took her seat in the first row of the "colored section," — the segregated area for African Americans, Washington told the children.

When a white man boarded the bus, the driver told Parks and the other African Americans to give up their seats.

Parks refused and was arrested. The incident sparked the year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott, which eventually led to rulings that declared segregation on buses unconstitutional.

Principal Armand Lamberti, who actually met Parks at his previous school district, called the play entertaining and educational.



GEORGE PACCELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Alicia Washington, of Washington Productions, portrays Rosa Parks during the play "A Seat for Rosa" at Irene E. Feldkirchner Elementary School in Green Brook last week.

A step back in time



COURTESY SOUTH PLAINFIELD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6203
The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, in conjunction with the Red Hat Society, held a "Roaring 20's" brunch last month at its council hall. The Knights served the Red Hat ladies a full course breakfast. Upon finishing their breakfast, the Red Hat ladies watched the classic movie "Some Like It Hot," starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemon and Marilyn Monroe. Over 100 Red Hat ladies from South Plainfield, Dunellen and many other local towns attended in their 1920s clothing. All proceeds from this event will go towards the Knights of Columbus charity and building fund. The event was chaired by Past Grand Knight Joe Scudato, Deputy Grand Knight Billy Butrico and Queen Bee Bernadette Barraso with the help of many Knights of Columbus members.

Mercury to be trucked out of Hillsborough by year's end

By AMY S. BOBROWSKI
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — By the end of this year, all the commodities stored at the Somerville National Defense Stockpile Depot in Hillsborough are scheduled to be removed and the facility will become an unstaffed depot.

Following an environmental remediation of the property, the site will be turned back over to the General Services Administration.

This information was released at a meeting on Monday, sponsored by Rep. Mike Ferguson (R-7), to discuss the removal of more than 2,885 metric tons of mercury that are currently stored at the site.

During the meeting, Cornel Holder, administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center, presented the procedure for consolidating the nation's stockpiles of mercury at the Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada.

The 50 residents and officials present focused on the safety of the transfer and requested departing trucks carrying the hazardous material are given a police escort out of the facility through the Somerville Circle and up to Route 287.

Starting over the summer, the mercury, which is stored in 12,647 steel drums, will

be trucked out of the depot. Over 39 days, 181 trucks will make the trip from Hillsborough to Nevada.

Officials and residents stressed safety as the most important factor of the transfer. The drivers will be trained and certified in the handling of hazardous materials. The closed tractor trailers will be outfitted with global positioning satellites, cell phones and CB radios.

"Even under the most strenuous situation of a truck overturning, the level of protection we have makes it a very low probability of anything leaving the drum, let alone the truck," said Essie Schloss, deputy administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center.

Mercury has been known to cause damage to the central nervous system and if ingested by pregnant women can cause impaired neurological development.

The Hawthorne facility will also receive mercury stockpiles from New Haven, Ind. and from Warren, Ohio. A test run will be completed prior to any transfer to make sure the shipment process is safe and secure, Holder said. In total, the Nevada depot will receive more than 4,800 metric tons of mercury.

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History

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ance premiums tax liabilities.

If the taxpayer's liability is insufficient to take full advantage of the credit, the bill provides that the taxpayer may sell the credit by means of a tax credit transfer certificate program.

Buono said this measure also helps to combat sprawl and preserve open space.

"Other states like Maryland have shown these tax credits can be a powerful stimulus to the economy," she said. "They create revitalization opportunities in blighted areas that increase property values, reduce sprawl and help preserve open space."

"Additionally, we can foster heritage tourism in areas of the state that would otherwise be quickly dismissed by visitors," she said.

To qualify for the tax credit provided for in the bill, the property to be rehabilitated must be individually listed or located in a district listed on

the National or New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and if located in a district, certified as contributing to the district's historic significance and identified for protection as a significant resource in accordance with criteria established by the appropriate municipality and approved by the state historic preservation officer.

"Our historical sites are not just a source of pride for New Jersey but also a valuable and largely untapped economic resource," Buono said. "We need to move to make sure that they are not just part of our past but an integral part of our future."

In addition, the homeowner seeking the tax credit must agree to spend no more than 60 percent of the cost of rehabilitation on the interior and own and occupy the property as his principal residence for 12 consecutive months after rehabilitation is completed.

The act would limit the cumulative amount of the tax credits to \$15 million in 2008, \$25 million in 2009, \$40 million in 2010, \$50 million in 2011 and afterward.

Hispanic entrepreneurs sought

PERTH AMBOY — A program to benefit Hispanic entrepreneurs — and those who would like to become entrepreneurs — will be offered at Middlesex County College's Perth Amboy Center, which is located at 60 Washington St.

It is in the same building as the Vocational-Technical High School. The program, and all the literature, will be in Spanish.

A free workshop that will provide information about resources available to entrepreneurs and will give details of this program will be held 6-8 p.m. Monday, March 5. The classes will run from 6-9 p.m. on six Mondays from March 19-May 7.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for those who have dreamed of opening their own business," said Vivian Pepe,

program officer with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, which is running the program. "And it is also a valuable resource for someone who has been in business for a short period."

This is the first time the authority has offered the course in Middlesex County.

The program, called the Entrepreneurial Training Institute, is offered in two parts. In the first, ETI I, students will determine if they are prepared to become entrepreneurs and if their business idea is realistic.

They should download a self-assessment tool from the authority's website, www.njeda.com/eti, and complete it before they attend the first class. Students attend two three-hour sessions, on March 19 and 26, and work on

their business idea to determine its feasibility and marketability. They will prepare a "Business Readiness Roadmap" to determine if they should move on to the next phase, ETI II.

In that program, held April 16-May 7, the students develop a business plan, and prepare to present it to a panel, which comprises volunteer attorneys, accountants, and lenders — both banks and micro-lenders.

If the plan scores well with this group, the lenders on the panel may actually provide the funding for these businesses. If not, the authority will contact lenders in hopes of funding the projects.

"Funding is not guaranteed, but it is a possibility," Pepe said.

Once the business is underway, the entrepreneur

receives 18 months of consultation with a mentor. Aside from copying, travel and incidental expenses, the only cost to the entrepreneur is the course fees: \$145 for ETI I, and \$295 for ETI II.

"This program gives you the training you need in a very short period of time," Pepe said. "It is also very focused and takes a personal approach to helping each person."

Mary Ann Connors, dean of corporate and community education at Middlesex County College, said the program is an excellent resource for the prospective entrepreneur. "Starting your own business is exciting, but also a little scary," she said. "This program can really help."

For more information, visit www.njeda.com/eti or call (609) 292-9279.

In The Towns

The Chronicle

◆ Since 1862 ◆

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Mercury

Continued from page D1

The 14 warehouses at the Hawthorne Army Depot are being retrofitted to make way for the move. The warehouses received steel floors to trap leakages and extra security. Warehouses at the 143,000-acre will also feature lighting upgrades, new fire and theft detection systems. Other commodities store at the site, which include beryllium, iodine, iridium, tannin extract, zinc, germanium, tungsten and ferrochrome, have contributed to minor soil contamination.

Co-op members attend flower, garden show

EDISON — Experts from Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County are scheduled to give workshops at the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show.

The annual show continues through Sunday, Feb. 18 at the New Jersey Convention Center in Raritan Center. Master gardeners from around the state are also scheduled to answer gardening questions.

Among the workshops:
Saturday, Feb. 17 — "Creative Herb Gardens for All Ages," 11:30 a.m. "Avoiding Common Mistakes in the Landscape," 12:30 p.m. "The Wonderful World of Orchids," 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 18 — "Beware of Invasive Pests," 12:30 p.m.

"Simple Steps to a Healthy Lawn," 2:30 p.m. "Garden Q&A," 3 p.m.

For show information, visit macevents.com or call (800) 332-3976. For details on Rutgers Cooperative Extension programs, visit www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices or call (732) 398-5260.

Employer committee to meet at breakfast

EDISON — The Employer Legislative Committee holds its monthly breakfast at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20 at the Sheraton Edison Hotel in Raritan Center.

Assemblyman Bill Baroni (R-14th Dist.) is the guest speaker. Cost is \$20. For registration, call (732) 821-1700. The committee is sponsored by the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Dunellen library offers programs

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Public Library on New Market Road has these programs for children:

"Crafty Kids," 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. This craft activity is suitable for preschool and elementary pupils. Adults with younger children may need to help the little ones. Registration is required.

"Prime Time Story Time," 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 2. Longer picture books and activities are offered for kids in kindergarten-Grade 3. No registration is necessary.

For registration, call (732) 968-4585.

Celebrate spring in Olde Town March 18

PISCATAWAY — East Jersey Olde Towne holds its "Spring Celebration" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18. Heather Mulvey presents "A Celtic Music Journey" with songs from her ancestors' home in Ireland. A New Jersey native and acoustic guitarist, she has performed Celtic songs for nearly 15 years.

Mulvey will highlight ancient

song traditions of Ireland and provide a brief history of each song.

Admission is free. Registration is required; call (732) 745-3030. East Jersey Olde Towne is located in the north end of Johnson Park at 1050 River Road. DUNELLEN — Staff from Exodus, the Dunellen High School yearbook, are holding a sale of gently used books.

Sale hours are 4-8 p.m. Friday, March 16 and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 17. Enter via the DHS auditorium at 411 First St.

Beatlemania arrives in Dunellen on March 10

DUNELLEN — American Legion Post 119 and the Dunellen High School Class of 2008 sponsor a concert featuring "The Cast of Beatlemania."

This multimedia show is at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 10 in the Edward Nash Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg. Tickets are \$35, \$30 and \$25. For reservations, call (732) 968-5381 or (908) 725-3420. Proceeds benefit the Legion post and the Class of 2008.

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Fun, Louisiana style

Catch the spirit of Mardi Gras when The Community Theatre, Morristown, offers up a double serving of Louisiana gumbo featuring the Dukes of Dixieland and Nathan, seen at left, and the Zydeco Cha Chas 8 p.m. tonight. Tickets are \$37-47. The Community Theatre is located at 100 South St. For additional information or tickets, visit www.communitytheatre.org or call (973) 539-8008.

COURTESY THE COMMUNITY THEATRE

GED exams are offered in area

EDISON — The Community Learning Center at Roosevelt begins offering GED exams in January.

Testing is conducted over two days in each of five weeks. Those dates are March 13 and 15, April 24 and 26, May 22 and 24, June 19 and 21. Fee is \$25 and must be paid by money order.

Registration is required; call (732) 321-2201 between 1-3 and 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 27, March 6, 27, April 10, 17, May 1, 29 or June 5.

The Community Learning Center is located within the Roosevelt Care Center at 1 Roosevelt Drive, off Parsonage Road near Menlo Park Mall.

Five wine events coming to the area

The Frog and the Peach has scheduled five wine events for the first half of 2007.

All are held in the restaurant at 29 Dennis St., New Brunswick. They are:

Walk-around wine tasting, 7 p.m. Friday, April 6 and June 8. Cost each night is \$69.

Exclusive Wine dinner, "Bordeaux's Right Bank: Pomerol and St. Emilion," 7 p.m. Friday, March 2. Cost is \$225.

For reservations, visit www.frogandpeach.com or call (732) 846-3216.

Fruit franchise has program for schools

FruitFlowers offers floral bouquets made out of freshly cut fruit.

The local FruitFlowers franchise in Matawan is helping New Jersey schools with what it calls the "Education Kick-Back" program.

"We are giving every school that participates a flier with a coupon attached stating that for every basket purchased, mention your child's school and FruitFlowers will donate \$3 to that school," said franchise owner Josephine Pianoforte.

Schools in Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean counties are invited to participate. Contact Pianoforte at (732) 441-4470.

New services in well-being, bodywork

BOUND BROOK — Enhanced Well-Being and Bodywork offers wellness education and bodywork services for relieving stress and enhancing daily well-being.

The approach offers long-term and immediate aid with stress, according to Jan Collins, the proprietor. These services are given in the Bound Brook

Chiropractic Center at 222 Hamilton St.

For full information, visit www.ewbb-wellness.com or call (732) 564-1120.

Foreign film shown in Highland Park

HIGHLAND PARK — "The House on Chelouche Street (Ha-Bayit Berechov Chelouche)" was nominated for an Academy Award for foreign-language feature in 1973.

The film can be seen at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 10 at the Senior/Youth Center, 220 S. Sixth Ave. "The House on Chelouche Street" is in Hebrew and will be shown with English subtitles.

Post-film comments are by Yaacov Yadgar, a visiting professor at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University.

Admission is \$5. For more information, call Udi Shorr at (732) 819-9850.

Middlesex County recalls Dr. King

The United Way of Central Jersey celebrated the Martin Luther King holiday by organizing a "Community Day of Caring."

Sixty people spent Jan. 15 volunteering at eight nonprofit agencies within Middlesex County. Those agencies were the Cerebral Palsy Association of Middlesex County, Elijah's Promise, the John E. Toolan Kiddie Keep Well Camp, the Raritan Valley YMCA, Ronald McDonald House, the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, Women Aware and the YM-YWHA of Raritan Valley.

Among the volunteers were people who work at Bank of America, Magyar Bank and New Millennium Bank, along with trustees and employees of the United Way. Also participating was Cristina Rak-Samson, the current Mrs. New Jersey of America.

If you are interested in being a United Way volunteer, e-mail jross@uwvcj.org or call (732) 247-3727, Ext. 11.

Local Stop & Shop donates to Elijah

FRANKLIN — Stop & Shop in Rutgers Plaza, Somerset section of the township, is donating \$3,857 to Elijah's Promise.

The New Brunswick soup kitchen is a recipient of funds from the supermarket's annual "Food for Friends" campaign benefiting hunger relief.

"Food for Friends" funds were raised through sales of paper turkeys at the checkout counter and other fundraising events.

The campaign raised \$1 million at Stop & Shop markets in New Jersey, New York and New England.

Application accepted for home heat relief

EDISON — Applications are available for two programs that help seniors cover their energy bills in winter.

LIHEAP, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, pays heating bills directly. The Universal Service Fund applies credit directly to utility bills.

Seniors on the Lifeline program may be eligible for these programs. Some people may be eligible for benefits from all three programs.

For an application, contact the office of state Sen. Barbara Buono at (732) 819-8141. Applications must be received by March 31.

Beatlemania comes to Dunellen High School

DUNELLEN — American Legion Post 119 and the Dunellen High School Class of 2008 are selling tickets to "The Cast of Beatlemania."

This show is at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 10 in the Edward Nash Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg. "The Cast of Beatlemania" features actors who have been in the musical on Broadway and in touring productions.

Tickets are \$35, \$30 and \$25. For reservations, call Betty or Bill Uhler at (732) 968-5381.

Proceeds benefit the Legion post and the Class of 2008.

'Job Match' for no fee

The Professional Services Group has restarted its no-fee Job Match service.

This list is included with the monthly PSG e-mail newsletter. Over 1,200 area employers get a list of highly qualified management and professional talent.

For more information, e-mail f.j.white@hotmail.com or call (732) 331-6165. The PSG is affiliated with the New Jersey Department of Labor and

Workforce Development.

Community school courses are scheduled

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Community School has scheduled courses for the winter semester.

Unless otherwise indicated, courses meet at Middlesex High School on Bound Brook Road. The schedule:

Drop pendant necklace workshop, 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

SAT prep, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday for eight weeks beginning Feb. 27.

Spring floral design workshop, 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 5 at America's Florist in Bound Brook. Basket weaving, 6 p.m. Monday for four weeks beginning March 12.

A complete schedule and fees are available under "Community School" on the Board of Education website at www.middlesex.k12.nj.us. You can also call (732) 317-6000, Ext. 20206 for a brochure and forms.

Literacy fliers in six languages

All Middlesex County Literacy Program Directory brochures are now available in six languages — English, Chinese, Gujarati, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Brochures provide information on classes in English as a Second Language, adult high school diploma, adult reading and math, computer literacy, GED preparation and testing sites, citizenship and civics. Another brochure covers the Community Learning Center at Roosevelt.

These brochures are available for distribution by community and religious organizations. Call (732) 745-3970.

Board of Health sets meeting dates

MIDDLESEX — The Middlesex Board of Health has scheduled its 2007 meetings for Tuesdays, March 6, May 1, June 5, Sept. 4 and Oct. 2.

All meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Community Room at the Middlesex Public Library, 1300 Mountain Ave.

Campus Notes

Eight students from Middlesex County were named to the dean's list for the fall 2006 semester at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. They are:

Lee Elliot Aroyo of East Brunswick, a freshman.

Christy Marie Fic of South River, a freshman.

Christine Marie Jones of South River, a senior.

Jill Elizabeth Masterton of East Brunswick, a senior.

Alexandra Marie Minieri of East Brunswick, a senior.

Sarah Jean Redden of Monroe Township, a sophomore.

Caroline Joanne Richardson of Monmouth Junction, a freshman.

Margaret Sarah Tammaro of Dunellen, a junior.

Kimberly Ha of Piscataway participated in the cooperative education program of Saint Peter's College in Jersey City. She was an intern at Space Station Studios in Brooklyn while maintaining her studies in the fall 2006 semester.

Eighteen Middlesex County students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2006 semester at the University of Scranton in Scranton, Pa. They are listed by community:

Avenel — Carla A. Sasso.

Colonial — Steven R. Friedman and Jessica M. Policastro.

East Brunswick — Timothy M. Hughes, Melissa J. Marczak and Stacy L. Potkulski.

Edison — Christine Giordano and Kerry M. Lane.

Metuchen — Anna C. Werkman.

Middlesex — Kelly A. Flanagan, Theresa L. Hantz and Alex V. Liobis.

Old Bridge — Peter J. Mikos.

Perth Amboy — Tiffany A. DeJesus and Nicole M. Zullo.

Piscataway — Laura J. Scoda.

Sayreville — Amanda N. Yura.

South Plainfield — Talia N. Cardet.

Dan Levine of Metuchen, a 2005 graduate of Middlesex County College, was appointed as a member of the alumni board of trustees. He will serve a two-year term and is eligible for reappointment.

Levine, a liberal arts/business administration major who is now a student of political science at Rutgers, was president of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society, while at Middlesex. Joann La Peralta Morales, president of Middlesex County College, said she was pleased that Levine is continuing his association with the college.

Alumni Association President William J. Egbert III expressed appreciation to Mr. Levine. "Dan chairs one of our committees and

Recruitment — and is doing an excellent job," Egbert said. "I am thrilled that he will join us as a voting member of the board during this time of expansion for the alumni association."

Dunellen High School has issued its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2006-07 school year. Named to the distinguished honor roll:

Grade 12 — Anielle Doherty, Jennifer Garnecki, Amelia Hannis, Joseph Hunt, Christopher Pakenham and Matthew Turpin.

Grade 11 — Megan Kreyling, Lawrence Miller, Sandra Quintero, Amanda Rentenberg and Timothy Wenzel.

Grade 10 — Gabrielle Bowman, Samantha Castagna, Kim Graf and Christina Hunt.

Grade 9 — Kaitlyn Meyer, Kelsey Wenzel and Lauren Wittel.

Named to the honor roll:

Grade 12 — Temira Bolton, Russell Cannizzaro, Molly Cummins, Jason Danciak, Aliyah Finney, Taylor Glina, Nicole Hyle, Nicole Irizarry, Emily Jacques-Lech, Chelsea Johnson, Michael Knight, Joshua Kruger, Mary Kuzner, Keith Lechuck, Michelle Lohray, Kathleen Lynch, Katelynn Mohary, Christopher Osborn, Julia Reyes, Vincente Rivera, Ross Sanderson, Christine Scerra, Michelle Sheppard, Lauren Staats, Maria Tobar, Bryan Vanegas and Allison Verdic.

Grade 11 — William Allen, Eric Biggs, Katelyn Breckenridge, Russell Brindley, Kelly Calamia, Celeste Cardona, Matthew Cianfrone, Jason Cilento, Fausto Floras, Lauren Fortugno, Stephen Fortugno, Nicholas Hewitt, Shirley Huerta, Michel Humphries, Coleen LePore, Brian McFarland, Marissa McGrath, Ismael Montalvo, Stephanie Murillo, Sara Murray, Mark Poltorak, Eric Ruiz, Najat Saad, Kristie Smith, Keith Stebor, Emily Walsh and Kevin Weaver.

Grade 10 — Brittany Bowers, Kylie Fritzinger, Samantha Galvez, Jan Hong, Matt Lohrey, Gabriela Maiza, Eleni Michael, Elizabeth Miller, Christina Nicastro, Robert Richardson, Samantha Saulnier, Arthur Silva, Patrick Sweeney, Eric Switzer, Skye Thompson and Jessica Wahler.

Grade 9 — Patricia Bodziak, Robert Cascio, Melissa Cody, Christian Credle, Nicholas Kovalevich, James Landy, James Lester, Stephanie Maresco, Christopher Michael, Christian Munoz, Natalie Ruban, Alexandra Ruskuski, Jenna Sanders, Benjamin Saulnier, John Valarezo and Wen Zhang.

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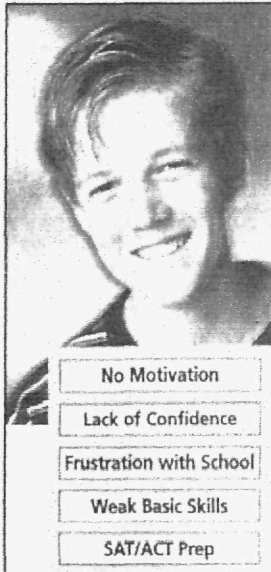
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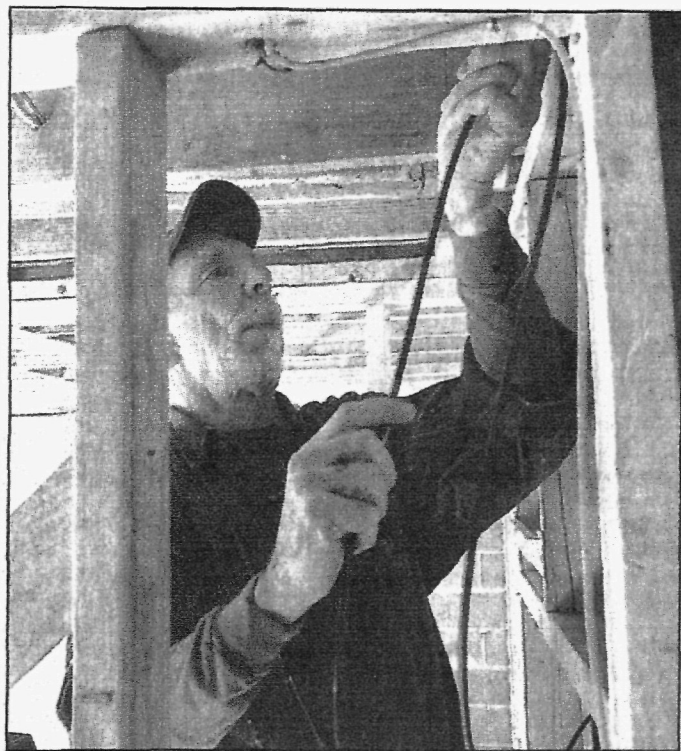
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PHOTOS BY GEORGE PACCIOLLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Wes Frueh, a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, works on a new home going up in Bernardsville. At right are the two colonial duplexes at the Mine Brook Road site.

Habitat homes ahead of schedule

Editor's Note: In an ongoing series, *The Chronicle* is chronicling the construction of two duplexes in Bernardsville. The homes are being built for four families by the Raritan Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity through a partnership with six area churches.

By **JENNIFER ROSENBAUM**
Correspondent
BERNARDSVILLE — The thuds from volunteers walking on the plywood above could be heard from the bottom floor of the Mine Brook Road site. And, two flights of stairs up, men could be heard considering their next plan of action to install the sheetrock for the ceiling. Plenty of hands were on deck recently as about 20 volunteers helped the Raritan Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity further its latest project in Bernardsville. "We are ahead of schedule," said Dick Kline, the construc-

tion coordinator, clad in thick gloves, a winter coat, and work boots.

The two colonial duplexes began taking shape last summer and are scheduled for completion in May or June. But before the four chosen families can move in, a lot more must be completed.

"Once the porch is on we will finish siding the rest of (the house)," said Sue Duffy, manager of construction resources. In addition, the sheetrock, flooring and trim must be installed and the walls painted.

"There is a lot of work to be done on the inside still," Duffy noted.

As part of a Habitat for Humanity project, adult family members must complete 250 hours of what is known as "sweat equity."

It's an opportunity for those who will live in the homes to be involved from the inception.

The families who will move into these homes are from Asbury Park, Newark, Irvington and Morris County.

According to the Raritan Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity's Web site, a potential homeowner is someone who is currently — and for the prior year — living or working in Hunterdon, Somerset, or one of the adjacent counties, living in inadequate housing or paying rent which is too high, unable to obtain a regular bank mortgage or qualify for other housing programs, and must be able to afford utilities, taxes, insurance, maintenance expenses and the repayment of an interest-free mortgage.

Volunteers for the latest Habitat project understand the needs others have and use the opportunity as a way to improve their own skills in home construction.

"I like to do things for other people and I enjoy it," said Ed

Gentile of Bedminster. "I've learned a lot here since I've been doing this."

The second-year volunteer was in the telecommunications industry and, since becoming involved with Habitat for Humanity, has learned roofing, wiring and how to install sheetrock.

The president of the local chapter, Dick Carr of Warren, was also on hand last week.

Noting that most of the adult volunteers are retired professionals, Carr said that, "People are here because they want to be here; no one is trying to get ahead of everyone."

Carr said he is inspired by the good the Habitat program does for others.

"I have been given so many gifts in life, and being able to share those gifts is one of my motivations," he said.

If interested in volunteering for the Raritan Valley chapter of Habitat for Humanity, call (908) 704-0016.

In The Towns

Shrove Tuesday is marked at church

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen United Methodist Church holds a ham and pancake dinner for Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Servings are from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20 in the Education Building at 316 Jackson Ave. Fried potatoes and dessert are also provided. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children.

For tickets, call (732) 752-7250.

Dunellen library offering programs

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Public Library has these programs for the public:

"Baby Buddies," 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays. This play group is for children under age 3, accompanied by an adult. No registration is necessary.

"Imagination Station," 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. This storytime program is for children ages 3-5. Registration is required.

For registration where it is required, call (732) 968-4585 or

visit the library on New Market Road.

Metuchen YMCA begins new session

METUCHEN — The winter-spring session of the Metuchen Branch YMCA has begun.

Among the programs in the winter-spring session: Adult Scrabble Club, 2 p.m. every Saturday.

"Knitting at the Y," 7:30 p.m. Monday beginning March 5.

St. Patrick's Day show at Doolan's, Friday, March 16.

For registration and fees, visit www.metuchen-edisonymca.org or call (732) 548-2044.

February programs announced at library

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Public Library has announced its February displays for Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane.

Art from Gary Tsiperfal will be hung on the wall. "A Collection of Mugs" from Ella Kuldane and student art from St. Frances Cabrini will be in the display cases.

For more information, call

(732) 463-1633, option 6.

The Piscataway Public Library's Bookmobile has a winter reading club.

"Reading is Mammoth Fun" is the theme of the reading club all month long in February. Pupils from preschool-Grade 6 can pick up a reading record at any Bookmobile stop. Write down the titles of each book read to earn prizes.

Preschoolers and non-readers can participate if an adult reads to them.

A Bookmobile schedule is online; click on the Bookmobile from the homepage at www.piscatawaylibrary.org. You can also get a schedule at Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane, and Westergard Library, 20 Murray Ave.

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

Registration has begun for "Kindergarten Kids," a 45-minute program of stories and games for kindergarten pupils.

The program is at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 at Kennedy Library, 500 Hoes Lane. For registration, visit the library or

call (732) 463-1633, option 7. A Piscataway Public Library card must be presented.

Tubing trip is offered by Edison Recreation

EDISON — The Recreation Department sponsors a snow tubing trip to Camelback Mountain on Saturday, Feb. 24 for teens in the township.

The trip leaves at 7:30 a.m. from the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Ave., and 8 a.m. from the Dorothy K. Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave.

Cost is \$22 cash only on the day of the trip. Reservation forms are available at either community center, the township clerk's office and all branches of the Edison Free Public Library.

For more information, call (732) 248-7312 or (732) 248-7316.

Blood drive honors memory of local man

METUCHEN — Congregation Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., holds a blood drive in memory of Michael Allan Thompson from

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 4. To schedule an appointment, e-mail nevshalomblood-drive@yahoo.com or call Bruce Levin at (732) 906-1922.

Board of Health has scheduled meetings

HIGHLAND PARK — The Highland Park Board of Health meets at 7 p.m. selected Thursdays in the lower level conference room at Borough Hall, 221 S. Fifth Ave.

Meetings are scheduled for March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. For additional information, contact Karen Valente at (732) 777-6013.

Planning Board releases schedule

BOUND BROOK — The Bound Brook Planning Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on designated Thursdays in Borough Council chambers at the Municipal Building, 230 Hamilton St.

Meetings are scheduled for March 8 and 22; April 12 and 26; June 14 and 28; July 12

and 26; Aug. 9 and 23; Sept. 13 and 27; Oct. 11 and 25; Nov. 8; and Dec. 13. The reorganization meeting is scheduled for Jan. 10, 2008.

Dunellen school selling 'used' books

DUNELLEN — Exodus, the Dunellen High School yearbook, is holding a sale of gently used books in mid-March.

Bring your donations any time to the DHS campus at 411 First St. You can also have your donations picked up by calling (732) 968-0885, Ext. 17.

Book sale hours are 4-9 p.m. Friday, March 16 and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 17.

Volunteers needed for adult programs

EDISON — Volunteers are needed to work with older adults in adult day programs sponsored by the Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County. These programs meet three days a week at Temple Emanu-El on James Street. E-mail ej.berman@jfvsv.org or call (732) 777-1940, Ext. 122.

Senior Citizens Calendar

Bound Brook

THE BOUND BROOK SENIORS meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in Asbury Hall of the Bound Brook United Methodist Church, 150 W. Union Ave. and the corner of Livingston. All seniors are welcome to join including non-residents. Meetings include informative programs, refreshments, information about upcoming trips and bingo.

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

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

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

THE SENIOR LEISURE CLUB OF ST. MARY'S

Bound Brook club sponsors Atlantic City trips to the Taj Mahal casino the fourth Tuesday of each month. The bus departs from the church parking lot at 10:15 a.m. The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. the second Monday of every month in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy, 201 Vosseller Ave., Bound Brook. For further information, call President Sal Barbat at (908) 725-5444.

Dunellen

THE DUNELLEN SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held at 10 a.m. each Friday at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. New members are welcome. Coffee and tea are provided; bring your own sandwiches.

For information, call (732) 968-1285; President of Dunellen Senior Citizen Club, Ida Chianowyz.

Edison

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

Jewish Family and Vocational Services

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

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

Openings are now available for Challenging Adult Minds and Energizing Ourselves, a social day care program tailored to the needs of adults who are physically disabled, but cognitively alert. Some of the activities designed for CAMEO are book reviews, exercise, day trips, painting, discussions of current events and special interest group activities. Transportation is provided with sliding scale fees. Call (732) 777-1940.

Middlesex Borough

BUS TRANSPORTATION is available for borough seniors. Sign up by calling (732) 356-0414. Wednesdays are Senior Day at the club.

The Middlesex Borough Office on Aging is collecting old cell phones to distribute to the homebound for 911 use. If you have one to donate, call the office at (732) 356-0414.

For information and to register for any of the above programs or issues of interest to the senior population in Middlesex Borough, contact Sheila at (732) 356-0414.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT VIRGIN SENIORS meet at 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month in the church hall. Members are asked to bring pasta for F.I.S.H.

Piscataway

THE PISCATAWAY SENIOR CENTER has announced its schedule of upcoming events at

the center, 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind the Kennedy Library.

Group meetings for Tai Chi will be from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday. This is a drop-in class. Sign up at the reception desk.

The Visiting Nurse Association will visit the center at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at no cost. Sign up at the Reception Desk at the center.

Upcoming Events:

March 5 — Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Branson 2007." Cost is \$62. Sign-up by Jan. 15.

South Bound Brook

THE SOUTH BOUND BROOK SENIOR CITIZENS COMMUNITY CLUB meets at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month, at Our Lady of Mercy Church Hall, 122 High St. Bingo is played from 2 to 4 p.m. every Wednesday, and refreshments are served. Blood pressure screening is scheduled for the second Wednesday every other month. A box of pasta per member will be collected at the meeting for the food bank. The club is open to all seniors, 55 years and older residing in South Bound Brook. For information, call Catherine (732) 356-4080.

SOUTH BOUND BROOK SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER, 113 Clinton Ave., offers the following programs:

Call (732) 271-1646 for further information.
Exercise — 10:30 a.m. every Monday and Wednesday; bingo and cards — 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; library — 11:30 a.m. second Wednesday of the month; post office visit — 10:30 a.m. fourth Wednesday of the month; liquid embroidery — 10 a.m. to noon every Tuesday and Thursday; outreach specialist at center — 10-11 a.m. third Thursday of the month; and cards, games or dominoes — every Friday.

South Plainfield

SOUTH PLAINFIELD CHAPTER AARP, #4144 Meetings are held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Also, the Needlecrafters meet 1-3 p.m. every Wednesday. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join, call Jean at (732) 752-0358.



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