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# The Chronicle

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Vol. 144, No. 12

Saturday, March 19, 2005

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## INSIDE



### Well-Placed Efforts

Jimmy Conroy and South Plainfield teammate Billy Ashnault both finished second in the state tournament. For results on how all area wrestlers did, including the state title won by Bound Brook's Andrew Flanagan, see Page B1.



### Wowing audiences

The Kovgar Troupe, a new addition to the Big Apple Circus, has been thrilling audiences with their fast-paced acrobatic style. Page B2.



### Spring time beckons

The Somerset County Parks Commission is readying for the spring with the opening of a golf training center at Neshanic Valley Golf Course and the announcement of tennis tournaments to be held during the year. Page A8.

## REMEMBER

### Auction Today

St. Peter the Apostle Schools will be hosting its fifth annual Spring Auction today in the school gymnasium, 165 Somerset St., New Brunswick. A preview runs 6-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at the door and includes dinner.

## INDEX

- Commentary .....A-4
- Sports .....B-1
- Obituaries .....A-5,6

## N.J. congressmen say VA's future is safe

By JIM WHITE  
 Staff Writer

Area Republican legislators have downplayed the likelihood of cuts to veterans' programs proposed in President Bush's tentative 2006 budget.

In response to a recent letter sent by acting Gov. Richard J. Codey urging the state's Congressional delegation to reject the president's proposed cuts, Rep. Mike Ferguson, R-7th Dist., and Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-11th Dist., said the cuts are just that — a proposal.

In the letter, Codey said the president's fiscal year 2006 budget proposal would force the closure of one or more of the state's three veterans' nursing homes if alternative funding is

not found.

Codey also said that the president's plan to increase the prescription co-pay from \$7 to \$15 could cost New Jersey's veterans more than \$5,040,000 per year.

He said this figure is based on a calculation that each of New Jersey's more than 630,000 veterans receive only one prescription through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

"The reality is that, although there are some veterans who do not receive any prescriptions from the VA, most veterans who receive prescriptions from the VA receive multiple prescriptions. Consequently, the \$5 million cost is a conservative estimate," the letter read.

In response, Congressman Ferguson

said: "America's veterans have fought to protect our values of liberty and freedom and they should be rewarded. The president's budget proposal finances veterans' medical programs at \$28.2 billion, more than \$100 million more than last year's funding levels.

"Since I first began in Congress, I have voted to increase overall veterans funding by nearly \$20 billion and increase funding for veterans' healthcare by 41 percent. I have also voted in the past against measures to increase veterans' co-payments and healthcare fees," Ferguson said.

"The president's budget proposal is only that — a proposal," Ferguson said. "Congress enacts the budget. I will remain a strong advocate in

Congress of ensuring that veterans' healthcare programs receive the resources they need to meet their obligations to our nation's veterans."

Veterans who receive VA benefits are categorized in priorities ranging from 1 to 8 based on the severity of their disabilities — Priority Group 1 being of most importance, and Priority Group 8 the lowest.

Codey said the president's proposal to charge priority 7 and 8 veterans an annual registration fee of \$250 could cost New Jersey veterans more than \$1,575,000 based on the VA's estimate that the fee will affect 10 percent of all veterans nationwide.

"However, we believe that the 10

Continued on page A2

## Patriots fans come for tickets, troops



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

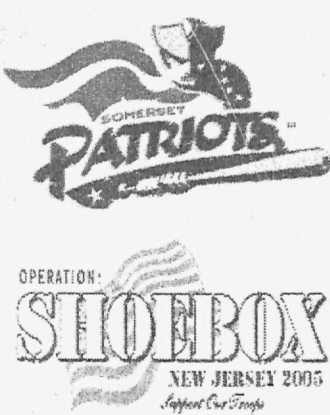
Dan Dimaria and his wife, Marie, stand with Sparkee after purchasing tickets for the 2005 Somerset Patriots season at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater on Saturday. Ticket sales for this season began last weekend.

By JIM WHITE  
 Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — It was dark, very cold, and still five hours before tickets would go on sale, but Somerset Patriots baseball fan Roy Lawrence, of Bound Brook, made the trek up and around the side of Commerce Bank Ballpark to the ticket window.

"The wind chill wasn't exactly friendly," said Lawrence, who, along with his 12-year-old daughter, Kristen, was, without a doubt, the first person to arrive at the stadium last Saturday — 3:57 a.m. — for opening day of ticket sales.

This was the second year in a row that Lawrence was the first person to purchase individual tickets for Patriots' home



Continued on page A2



A cold wind could not deter Darlene Sautner and her daughters, Amanda, 8, Amy, 6, and Amber, 4, from coming to the ballpark on Saturday to purchase tickets for the upcoming Somerset Patriots season.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Middlesex 'taste' is coming

EDISON — Imagine a delightful night out sampling exquisite food and wine from some of the area's top restaurants and helping support education at the same time.

Attend the Edison Chamber of Commerce's Eighth Annual "Taste of Middlesex 2005" and that's exactly what will happen.

Hundreds of people are expected to attend the event that will be held 5:30-8:30 p.m. April 4 at the Pines Manor, Route 27. Event sponsors include Metuchen Savings Bank, a gold sponsor, and Certified Kitchens and Devine's Pharmacy, which are silver sponsors.

"We encourage everyone to come and sample delicious dishes from some of Middlesex County's finest restaurants, and, at the same time, support Excellence in Education," said Gloria Dittman, president of the Edison Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber wants your work force to be the best skilled, most professional and forward-thinking work force in the world."

Proceeds will provide a full year scholarship and books for an Edison resident at Middlesex County College; math and reading tutors at the local middle schools, and art supplies for the Art Department at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Attendees are being asked to bring a bag filled with non-perishable foods which will be donated to the St. James and Community Presbyterian Churches in Edison.

Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the door. For tickets or more information, call the Edison Chamber of Commerce at (732) 738-9482 or visit [www.edisonchamber.com](http://www.edisonchamber.com).

## Author to speak at Dunellen High School

DUNELLEN — Best-selling author Jim Trelease will address teachers, parents and the general public 7 p.m. April 7 in the Dunellen High School James Heard Auditorium.

Trelease is the author of the two best selling anthologies of favorite stories for reading aloud.

"Hey! Listen to This" focuses on kindergarten through fourth grade; "Read All About It!" is aimed at pre-teens and teens.

He will be speaking on "Reading Aloud: Motivating children to make books into friends, not enemies."

Many parents feel that reading aloud should stop when children learn to read on their own, but, Trelease said: "American literacy scores are due in large part to the fact that two-thirds of our children don't like to read. No play-

er in the NBA was born wanting to play basketball. The desire to play ball or to read must be planted. The last 25 years of research shows that reading aloud to a child is the oldest, cheapest, and most successful method of instilling that desire.

"Shooting baskets with a child creates a basketball player; reading to a child creates a reader."

Trelease comes with a rich literacy background. For 20 years he was an award-winning artist and writer for a daily newspaper in New England. During that time he volunteered to speak to hundreds of children about the joys of reading. Those visits combined with his nightly reading to his two children, became the foundation for his national bestseller that appeared for 17 weeks on the New York Times list.

PBS designed its "Storytime" show using Trelease's "The Read-Aloud Handbook." It has also been the basis of statewide programs since 1985 in Delaware, Virginia and Hawaii.

In his presentation, Trelease uses an anecdotal style that is steeped with humor and enthusiasm. While the program is about children's reading, its content is aimed at adult audiences. By citing dozens of titles and demonstrating the simple effective techniques in reading aloud, Trelease traces this activity from the cradle to adolescence. He also addresses common parent concerns like reading in bed, comic books, commercial phonics programs and television, with encouraging examples of families who have excelled when their TV viewing was controlled.

Trelease has been a featured presen-

ter for major reading and library associations of America, addressing parents, teachers and librarians on the subjects of children, literature and television in all 50 states and is a frequent keynote for national education conferences.

It is thanks to a generous grant from the Dunellen Education Foundation and funds allocated from the No Child Left Behind Act grant that this nationally recognized speaker is coming to Dunellen, April 7, 2005. Trelease's books will be available for purchase after the presentation. Baby-sitting is available.

Those wishing to attend Trelease's presentation can call Nellie Eyerman, director of Curriculum & Instruction, at (732) 968-3226, Ext. 17.

Although there is no cost to attend, space is limited.

# N.J. congressmen say VA's future is safe

Continued from page A1  
 percent figure is even higher for New Jersey since our World War II population, as a percentage of our total veterans' population, is the largest in the country. A significant number of these veterans are priority category 7 or 8,"

Codey's letter read. He continued: "The plan to suspend federal per-diem payments to state-operated nursing homes for veterans in priority 5 thru 8 will result in a loss to New Jersey of more than \$11,070,300 annually." Codey said veterans' nursing homes would not be able

to maintain the required 75 percent VA eligible census under the president's plan. "The secondary impact of these changes could force the state to repay the VA for new home construction costs (a prorated percentage at Menlo Park and more than \$35 million at the soon to be

completed Vineland Veterans Nursing Home)," the letter read. "In summary, the negative impact on the state of New Jersey and its veterans' population is at least \$17,658,000 annually. If repayment to the VA for nursing home construction is required, then the

state could be liable for an additional \$50 million," Codey wrote. "The president can propose whatever he wants, but Congress disposes," Congressman Frelinghuysen said in a recent visit to this newspaper. "There has never been a

great argument between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to veterans," he said. "Since I've been around we've boosted those medical accounts. ... Make no mistake about it, there have been huge investments in the VA, and there will continue to be."

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## Patriots fans come for tickets, troops

Continued from page A1  
 games, which didn't go on sale until 9 a.m. "I wanted to make sure I was the first person in line, said Lawrence, a season ticket holder, who was there to purchase an additional 16 tickets for friends. "No one has ever done it two years in a row. So my daughter said 'Well, let's get up early and go.'" Marc Russinoff, director of public relations for the Patriots, said it's become a kind of competition between

fans since the ballpark opened in 1999. This year the father-daughter team came prepared, complete with multiple layers of clothing, heated gloves and blankets. They also brought two shopping bags full of candy and snacks, though not for themselves. "She fell asleep. I watched the stars and thought about different things," said Lawrence, who, while shielding his daughter from the wind, thought about his 19-year-old son, Lance Cpl. Jason

Gregor, who has been in Iraq, just west of Fallujah, for about 50 days now, with the Marines' 310th Infantry. The bags of goodies he brought were for other U.S. military personnel, off at war, just like his son. As part of the day, fans who brought personal items for the troops were given a voucher for a free ticket to one of the Patriots' 70 home games, along with 25 percent off a gift shop purchase.

He said his son recently informed him by phone that there was a lack of entertainment at the base. "The base had three DVDs, and everyone had seen them about four times," said Lawrence, who made it a point to send his son a bunch of new movies. "He said 'Mom and Dad, you guys are the heroes of the base,'" Lawrence said. "Operation Shoebox is a wonderful thing you're doing," he said.

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**6 pc. Cherry Transitional Bedroom**  
 64" Triple Dresser, Landscape Mirror, Queen Size Headboard, 5 Drawer Chest and 2 Night Stands  
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 Sale \$1899  
**WOW \$1899**

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# Borough celebrating 100 years

HIGHLAND PARK — The borough will continue its 100th birthday celebration today through Monday.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the borough to celebrate its past while also looking to the future," said Mayor Meryl Frank. "I hope all of our residents take some time to enjoy the many events the centennial commission has put together. This will truly be a week, and a year, that will be remembered for some time."

— Saturday, March 19 — Artists Celebrate Highland Park, 7 p.m., The Canacle Retreat House, 411 River Road.

The historical home will play host to an evening of great music, art and food, courtesy of Artists Now and the Highland Park Academy of Art

*"This is a wonderful opportunity for the borough to celebrate its past while also looking to the future,"*

**Meryl Frank**  
Mayor

— Sunday, March 20 — Kick-off of the Highland Park Centennial Film Festival, 7 p.m., Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Ave.

Highland Park is one of the few towns that can produce a

full-fledged film festival, featuring professional films by borough residents.

— Monday, March 21 — Highland Park — Through the Eyes of Children, 7:30 p.m., Highland Park High School Auditorium, 102 North Fifth Ave.

The Highland Park Board of Education will host a series of presentations on the borough through the eyes of public school children, grades K-12.

The borough will also be sponsoring a number of centennial events each month throughout the centennial year including a street fair on May 22 and a turn-of-the-century ParkTown outing at Donaldson Park on June 5.

For additional information, visit [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com).

## Officers named in Middlesex

MIDDLESEX — Volunteer Fire Department Officers for the 100th Anniversary Year — 2005 are Fire Chief Ed Winters Sr, assisted by First Assistant Chief Lori Pinter and Second Assistant Chief Dave Burd.

For Company No. 1 — Lincoln, the company officers are Captain Bob Soper, Lieutenant Mark Rutledge, Engineer truck 21 R Scott Sheperd, Engineer Barry Procter and Assistant Engineer Paul Levesen.

For Company No. 2 — Beechwood, the company officers are Captain Vince Vacca, Lieutenant Andy Klein, Engineer Darren Lubetkin, and Assistant Engineer Ken Pukas, Jr.

For Company No. 3 — Pierce, company officers are Captain Colleen Dooley, Lt. Phil Embrescia, Engineer Dave Wineland, and Assistant Engineer Lenny Smego.

For Company No. 4 — Parker, company officers are Captain Kevin Mott, Lt. Ed Winters, Jr., Engineer Bob Poltorak, and Assistant Engineer Ryan Zittel.

Other officers include Safety Officer Jeff DeMassari; Fire Prevention, Dan Coppola and Jim Rinker; Webmasters Gary Mattox and Joe Lemire; Public Relations Officer Vic Capalunghi, and Fire Commissioner Councilman Bob Schueler.

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**Loretta M. Keimel - Director of Adult Education**

**TRADE AND INDUSTRY COURSES**

<b>Automotive Technology</b>		
Auto Body & Fender Repair (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20)	PI	Quark Advanced (9wks \$75) EB
Auto Eng Performance & Diagnostics (9 wks \$75) (Mat. Fee \$20)	EB	Photography Basic (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) EB
Auto Mechanics Basic (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20)	ALL	Website Design Advanced (9wks \$75) EB-PI
Automotive Brakes (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20)	EB	<b>Construction Trades</b>
<b>Motorcycle &amp; Small Engine Repair</b>		Building Trades Blueprint Reading (9wks \$75) EB
Motorcycle Maintenance & Repair (9 wks \$75)	PI	Home Woodworking (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15) ALL
Small Engine Repair (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI	Master Plumber Cont. Ed. - Call 732-257-3300 ext. 1924
<b>Basic Skills</b>		Plumbing Code (9 wks \$75) PI
Adult Basic Skills/Mathematics (9 wks \$75)	EB	Plumbing: Intro (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$10) PI
Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing Beg/Inter (9 wks \$75)	EB	Welding (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20) EB-PI
Adult Basic Skills/Reading & Writing Inter/Adv (9 wks \$75)	EB	<b>Culinary Arts</b>
<b>Commercial Art/Graphic Design</b>		Cake Decorating (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$10) PI
Adobe Acrobat & Go Live (9 wks \$75)	EB	American Regional Cuisine (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee\$25) PA
Adobe InDesign Basic & Advanced (\$75)	EB	Asian Cuisine (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$25) EB
Adobe Photoshop Advanced (9wks \$75)	EB	Italian Culinary I (9wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$25) EB
Final Cut Pro Basic	EB	<b>Electrical Trades &amp; Electronics</b>
Final Cut Pro Advanced	EB	Electrical Design Workshop (9wks \$75) EB
Quark Basic (9wks \$75)	EB	Industrial Electronic Controls PLC (9wks \$75) EB

**BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTER APPLICATIONS COURSES**

Access (9 wks \$75)	PI	P.C. Fundamentals (9 wks \$75)	EB-PA
Access Advanced (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI	PowerPoint (9 wks \$75)	ALL
Accounting Advanced (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI	QuickBooks (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI
Excel (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI	Typing/Keyboarding Basic/Adv. (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI
Excel Advanced (9 wks \$75)	EB	Word for Windows (9 wks \$75)	EB-PA
Internet Basics and Beyond (9 hrs \$30)	EB	Word for Windows Adv (9 wks \$75)	PI
Office (9 wks \$75)	EB-PI		

**CONSUMER TECHNOLOGY COURSES**

Baking - Just Desserts (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$15)	PI	Floral Design I (9 wks \$75) (Materials Fee \$20)	PI
Decorative Sewing for the Home (9 wks \$75)	EB	Flower Arrangement (9 wks \$75)	EB
Dressmaking (9 wks \$75)	EB	Introduction to Interior Decorating (9 wks \$75)	EB

**HEALTH and SAFETY EDUCATION SERIES**

Boating Skills and Seamanship (8wks \$35)	EB PA	Nutrition - Everyday Nutrition (9 wks \$75)	EB
Fitness/Wellness Program (9 wks \$75)	EB	OSHA 30 Hour Outreach Program for Gen. Ind. (30 hrs. \$75)	PI
Motorcycle Rider Safety Call 1-800-8WE-RIDE	PI		

**TECHNICAL COURSES**

Computer Assisted Drafting I (9wks \$75)	EB-PI	HVAC - Cooling and Controls (9 wks \$75)	PI
Computer Assisted Drafting II (9wks \$75)	EB	Refrigeration Handling Certification (5 wks \$150)	PI
Computer Systems Technology-Operating Sys. (42 hrs \$175)	PI	Stationary Engineering I Low Pressure (9wks \$75)	EB-PI

**VOCATIONAL ARTS/DANCE COURSES**

Creative Origami (9wks \$75)	EB	Yoga (9wks \$75)	EB
Guitar Instruction (9 wks \$90)	EB		

**SMALL BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES**  
The Small Business Lecture Series is offered at the East Brunswick Campus on Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Registration fee: \$50.

How to Start a Business from A to Z (April 5)	EB	Ebay Simplified ( April 26)	EB
How to Write a Business Plan ( April 12)	EB	Building a Business Website ( May 3)	EB
How to Finance Your Business ( April 19)	EB		

**SPECIAL INTEREST WORKSHOPS**

Riscotti Bake (\$10)	EB	Chinese (9wks \$75)	EB
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**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS**

Sensory Integration, Fine Motor Skills, Handwriting 101 and Occupational Therapy Issues in the Classroom	PI	Time Management and Emotional Intelligence	EB
Tuesdays - (4 wks) starts April 5th 7PM - 10PM \$40		Saturday April 9th, 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Professional Development Workshop	EB	Conflict Resolution and Diversity Awareness	EB
Learn how to design a successful career development plan.		Saturday, April 16th - 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM	
Tuesdays - (9 wks) starts April 5th 7PM - 10PM \$75		Registration Fee: \$40	

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**  
Certificate Programs start in September 2005. An Information Session will be held at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 18, 2005 at the Piscataway campus, 21 Sutton Lane, Piscataway, NJ. Space in certificate programs is limited. For an Application call the Adult Education Office at 732-257-3300, ext. 1925.

Allied Health Technology	Health Unit Coordinator
Commercial Art/Graphic Design	Heat, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
Computer Applications for Business	Home Inspection
Computer Systems Technology	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic
Culinary Arts	Maintenance Mechanic
Dry Cleaning	Manicuring
Electrical Trades	Medical Billing and Coding
Esthetician	Plumbing and Pipefitting

**View the Schedule and Course Descriptions at: [www.mcvts.net](http://www.mcvts.net)**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL 732-257-3300 EXT. 1925**

**School Locations**  
EB - East Brunswick Campus, 112 Rues Lane, East Brunswick  
PA - Perth Amboy Campus, 457 High Street, Perth Amboy  
PI - Piscataway Campus, 21 Suttons Lane, Piscataway  
ALL - All three locations

**OTHER FEES**  
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\*\*Additional Fees  
Out-of-County - Course Fee Plus \$30.00 Materials Fees

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<b>ROSEMOUNT</b> Cabernet/Merlot, Shiraz/Cabernet \$10.99	<b>BOLLA</b> Pinot Grigio \$10.99	<b>SUTTER HOME</b> White Zinfandel \$6.99
<b>RENE JUNOT</b> Rouge, Blanc \$5.99	<b>LUNA DI LUNA</b> All Blends \$7.99	<b>SUTTER HOME</b> Cabernet/Merlot \$8.99
<b>BLACK OPAL</b> Cabernet, Shiraz \$6.99	<b>BLACK TOWER</b> Liebfraumlich, Riesling \$5.99	<b>C.K. MONDAVI</b> Chardonnay \$10.99
<b>FREIXENET</b> Cordon Negro \$8.99	<b>COCKBURN</b> Ruby or Tawny Port \$9.99	<b>PEPPERWOOD GROVE</b> All Types \$7.99
		<b>CLOS DU BOIS</b> Chardonnay \$9.99
		<b>COLUMBIA CREST</b> TWO WINES Chardonnay, Merlot \$5.99
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		<b>GALLO TWIN VALLEY</b> All Types \$6.99
		<b>KENDALL JACKSON</b> VINTNER'S RESERVE Cabernet \$12.99
		<b>EXCEPTIONAL VALUES</b>
	<b>BENTLEY'S</b> London Dry Gin \$11.99	<b>CLUB 400</b> Blended Whiskey \$12.99
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Saturday, March 19, 2005

# Opinion



## Making the case to let the sunshine in

Opening a dialogue about the public's right of access to government information is the focus of Sunshine Week. Your Right to Know, which is being held this week.

By Martin O'Shea

Government must be watched.

That's so if you're talking about the White House, the State House or Town Hall.

It's also true if you are talking about the government of the City of Passaic in the State of New Jersey or the Parliament that is located in the City of Dublin in the Republic of Ireland.

If you don't think so, then why do so many elected and appointed officials work so hard to exclude the public from their meetings?

I once was watching the governing body of my municipality of approximately 26,000 in northern New Jersey when our township council was discussing possible cuts of the school budget. Just when it started to get interesting, the mayor proposed moving the meeting into a back room where the politicians could speak unobserved by the pesky public.

Before the council could vote, Big Mouth here attempted to ask to speak. The mayor told me to shut up and sit down. When I insisted that the rules allowed me to speak, the mayor called the cops.

While waiting for the law to arrive I chatted with members of the council and was able to state my case, which was that any discussion of the school budget by the council at that point should be held with the public present.

With me being booked down the hall at the police desk, the council voted on whether or not to hold its discussion in the back room. The public won that night, by a vote of 3-2. That is, the council voted against going into closed session and the public watched as their elected officials discussed cutting the school budget.

That's the way it should have been.

That's also the way it should be elsewhere in New Jersey, but too often isn't.

In New Jersey, arbitrary and illegal executive sessions are just one of the many ways that the state's Open Public Meetings Act — also known as the Sunshine Law — is regularly abused.

So that we're on the same page, let's define what the Sunshine Law says. Simply put, it gives the public the right to adequate advance notice of all public meetings at which the public's business is to

be discussed or acted upon, and the right to attend those meetings.

Of course, the law recognizes legitimate reasons for a public body to meet in private. For instance, it permits public bodies to go into private session to handle certain personnel matters or discuss lawsuits or negotiations.

Unfortunately, the law makes it too easy for officials to use such exemptions as excuses for executive sessions that end up going into matters that by law ought to be discussed in public.

The fact is, New Jersey's 30-year-old Open Public Meetings Act is way overdue for an overhaul. It needs to be dragged into the 21st Century, kicking and screaming if necessary, and regardless of what elected officials such as the now-former mayor of my township may say.

The law, for one thing, lacks teeth and is almost never enforced. If my council had gone into a closed meeting that night there was darn little I could have done about it. Yes, I could have taken my complaint to the county prosecutor, but he would have told me he had better things to do and that if I wanted the law enforced I would have to do it myself.

Well, I did that with another violation of the open meetings act in my town and even won a decision in Superior Court. But the decision was as empty as my wallet is a few days before the next check from Social Security arrives. In finding in my favor, the judge did not assess a fine. If he had, it could not have been more than \$500, which is totally inadequate in an age when a pair of sneakers can cost \$150.

To be meaningful, the Sunshine Law needs to be tightened up and have teeth added. It also needs an agency to enforce it, such as the Government Records Council, which now enforces the state's revised Open Public Records Act and has the power to fine violators as much as \$5,000.

So, while there is no argument about the need for government to be watched, the citizens of New Jersey also need an upgraded open meetings law if the sun is to shine on public meetings more brightly often than it does today.

Martin O'Shea is a retired newspaperman and former publisher of a community web site in West Milford. He is a member of the board of the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government ([www.njfog.org](http://www.njfog.org)), a non-profit, non-partisan group which advocates expanded public access to government records and meetings.

## Quotable

"When you perform a sport for your life, sometimes you don't know when to stop. My friends said to go into the circus. I did so I could keep doing my sport, teaching my sport."

Andrey Kovgar

"I wanted to make sure I was the first person in line. 'No one has ever done it two years in a row. So my daughter said 'Well, let's get up early and go.'"

Roy Lawrence

## Question of the week: How will you celebrate St. Patrick's Day?



ALYSHA DULAC  
Hillsborough  
"I plan to go to New Brunswick to a great Irish bar."



MEG PHILLIPS  
Branchburg  
"We have the traditional supper at my parents of corned beef and cabbage and Irish soda bread."



KAY MURPHY  
Hamilton  
"I am going to celebrate at my 4-year-old granddaughter's school. She's very Irish and has the smile to go with it!"



EMILY MANNING  
Somerville  
"I'll be going out the night before to celebrate!"



CECELIA JACKSON  
North Brunswick  
"Just hanging out with the kids and making shamrocks."

## Letters to the Editor Settlement will clear Garden State's air

To The Editor:

New Jersey just won a fight to make our state's air cleaner, healthier and more breathable.

Along with the federal government and several other states, New Jersey reached a settlement with ConocoPhillips Company that will require major new pollution controls at Linden's Refinery and 10 other refineries throughout the United States. The Bayway Refinery upgrades will cost about \$60 million and will substantially reduce public exposure to pollutants that cause asthma, heart and respiratory diseases.

The Bayway Refinery violated state regulations because it did not have an approved plan to control emissions of volatile organic compounds, like benzene. Under the settlement, new pollution controls will reduce VOC emissions by 95 percent!

Plus, new pollution controls will reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and fine nitrate and sulfate particles. These emissions cause harm in many ways — including respiratory distress, cardiovascular disease and premature death.

This is a great step forward for New Jerseyans. It means better air and better health. And it's a good sign that New Jersey is willing to go after out-of-state companies whose eastward blowing emissions directly impact the state. Studies show that most of the pollution in New Jersey's air

comes from older power plants in the Midwest.

Across the nation, millions of Americans are forced to breathe unhealthy air. The federal Clean Air Act has done much in recent decades to help, but this landmark law finds itself facing a major rollback under the guise of the misnamed Clear Skies initiative President Bush briefly mentioned in his State of the Union address.

Clear Skies postpones deadlines and weakens regulations that have been working under the Clean Air Act. Clear Skies ignores carbon dioxide pollution. Anyone who's been stuck in traffic in New Jersey knows that's crazy.

But if we really want clear skies, we can urge the federal Environmental Protection Agency to implement the Clean Air Interstate Rule. Environmental Defense estimates that this rule could prevent as many as 16,000 premature deaths and about 1 million asthma attacks in children every year.

Despite the current administration's efforts to role back clean air protections, this victory shows what states like New Jersey can do, right now, to make a difference. By standing firm and holding polluters accountable, New Jersey, along with Illinois, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, is making sure we can all breathe cleaner and healthier air.

MICHELE BYERS  
Executive Director of New Jersey Conservation Foundation

## Group working to raise the education standards

To The Editor:

Report card season has arrived for New Jersey's education standards. Depending upon whom you ask, the state's grades from above average to well below average. New Jersey United for Higher School Standards believes that while the opinions of experts at national research groups are valuable, more important is that the students, parents, teachers, administrators and community members at the heart of the education process here in our state understand the standards and how they are being implemented in our schools.

Our organization is committed to providing information and fostering open communication on key issues such as the quality of our state's standards. We accomplish this goal through our community meeting program, which provides school districts the opportunity to co-host a forum for discussion with us at no cost. We created this program because

we have learned, through research and outreach, that involved communities with a solid understanding of key education issues create better outcomes for all students. The best way to encourage involvement and understanding is by fostering an open exchange of ideas, questions and learning opportunities for the residents of our state — in other words, getting input from all sides of the education debate.

Working together, we can make sure that the final grade given to New Jersey education is something of which we can all be proud. Certainly our state's students deserve our best efforts.

To find out more about us and our community meeting program, visit [www.newjerseyunited.org](http://www.newjerseyunited.org) or call (888) 694-9900.

MARY O'MALLEY  
Executive Director,  
New Jersey United for Higher School Standards  
Livingston

## Clearing misconceptions in New Jersey takes time

To The Editor:

I recently traveled out of state for business and ate breakfast in a hotel where I overheard salespeople discussing their itineraries. No comments were made about Los Angeles, Chicago or Boise, Idaho, but plenty was said about New Jersey Turnpike exits and political scandals.

It could take years to change the misconceptions held about New Jersey, but there have been developments in Trenton — that the employer community fully supports — that will help our image and business attraction efforts.

Let's start with the proposal to create a lieutenant governor. It's been said that New Jersey's office of the governor is the most powerful in the country. Illogically, the acting governor in our state is awarded even more power by also serving as Senate president. We should create a clear line of succession that allows voters to choose a replacement if the governor can't serve. Our lieutenant governor could be a business ambassador, responsible for bringing out-

of-state companies to New Jersey and making sure those here have the tools to succeed.

Another office deserving support is that of inspector general. We applaud Acting Gov. Codey for proposing a position to help eliminate waste, fraud and government mismanagement. Let's make this a permanent position instead of one subject to the whims of the administration.

In the aftermath of the McCreevey resignation, government reform should be the state's top priority. These initiatives may never stop the Turnpike jokes but can improve the way New Jersey's government and business practices are viewed in the future.

PETER COCOZIELLO  
Chairman, Government Reform Initiative  
New Jersey Chamber of Commerce  
Trenton

The writer is also president and chief executive officer of Advance Realty Group, which has its principal office in Bedminster.

## The Chronicle

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## The Chronicle is here for you

The following information will help you get your ideas and community news into The Chronicle:

Call editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6694 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Information can be e-mailed to [middlesex@njnpublishing.com](mailto:middlesex@njnpublishing.com).

The sports editor is Dave Allena. He can be reached at (908) 575-6690.

Our address: The Chronicle, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

### Correction policy

The Chronicle will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Craig Turpin at (908) 575-6694.

### Harold Deon

**SOUTH BOUND BROOK** — Harold L. Deon, 77, died March 8, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. Born in Norfolk, N.Y., he lived in Fords before moving to South Bound Brook in 1955. Mr. Deon was a past president of United Steelworkers of America Local 679. He worked for Nuodex Inc. in Edison for 39 years and retired in 1993 as a yardman. As an Army sergeant in World War II he was awarded the Army Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service

Medal, a Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. Mr. Deon was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2290 in Manville. Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Gwendolyn Theurich Deon; a son, Gary A. of Raritan; two daughters, Judy L. of Stuart, Fla., and Patti L. Solimani of Lebanon Township; two brothers, Leo and Donald, both of New York state; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Private arrangements were by the Bridgewater Funeral Home.

### Evelina Singleton

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD** — Evelina Dargan Singleton, 82, died March 11, 2005 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center. Born in Sumter, S.C., she was a daughter of the late Willie and Dora Green Dargan. Mrs. Singleton lived in Brooklyn before moving to South Plainfield in 1997. She retired in 1985 after over 50 years as a domestic worker. Deceased are her husband, James; a son, John; and a brother, Abraham L. Brown. Surviving are two sons, James of South Plainfield and Frank of California; three sisters, Jeanette Nesbit of New York state, Emma Jackson of Washington, D.C., and Alice Pinkney of Michigan; and a grandchild. Services were held Tuesday at the Higgins Home for

Funerals, in North Plainfield. Burial was in Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

### Blood drive being held on Tuesday in Dunellen

**DUNELLEN** — The Dunellen Fire Company No. 1 is sponsoring a blood drive from 4-9:30 p.m. Tuesday at the firehouse, 231 South Madison Ave.



Everything Jersey

**DUNELLEN** — Elba Toro, 81, died March 9, 2005 at Whitehall Manor in Whitehall, Pa. Born in the Dominican Republic, Mrs. Toro lived in Dunellen for 34 years before moving in 1990 to Jensen Beach, Fla. She had resided in Whitehall since 1999.

A homemaker, Mrs. Toro was a member of the Duriellen-Green Brook Garden Club and Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church in Piscataway. Her husband, Julian, died in 1995. A brother, Hugo Nazario, died in 1983. Surviving are two daughters,

Nancy Giacomarra of Whitehouse Station and Janet Cipriani of Stroudsburg, Pa.; two sisters, Julia Muxo of Miami, Fla., and Antonia Schkeper of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; a brother, Al Nazario of Mesa, Ariz.; and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, North Plainfield, following services at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Dunellen Volunteer Fire Department or St. Luke's Church.

### Dorothy Zember

**BOUND BROOK** — Dorothy G. Zember, 84, died March 8, 2005 at the Blakely Care Center of Bowling Green, Ohio. Born Aug. 22, 1920 in Bound Brook, she was a daughter of the late Louis and Mayme Alpaugh Gray. Mrs. Zember lived in New Jersey, Spring Hill, Fla., and Perrysburg, Ohio, before moving to Bowling Green. She was

a member of the Perrysburg Senior Center and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Spring Hill. Her husband, John, died in 1984; the Zembers were married Feb. 8, 1942 in South Bound Brook. Surviving are a daughter, Linda E. Judson, and a son, James T., both of Perrysburg; and three grandchildren.

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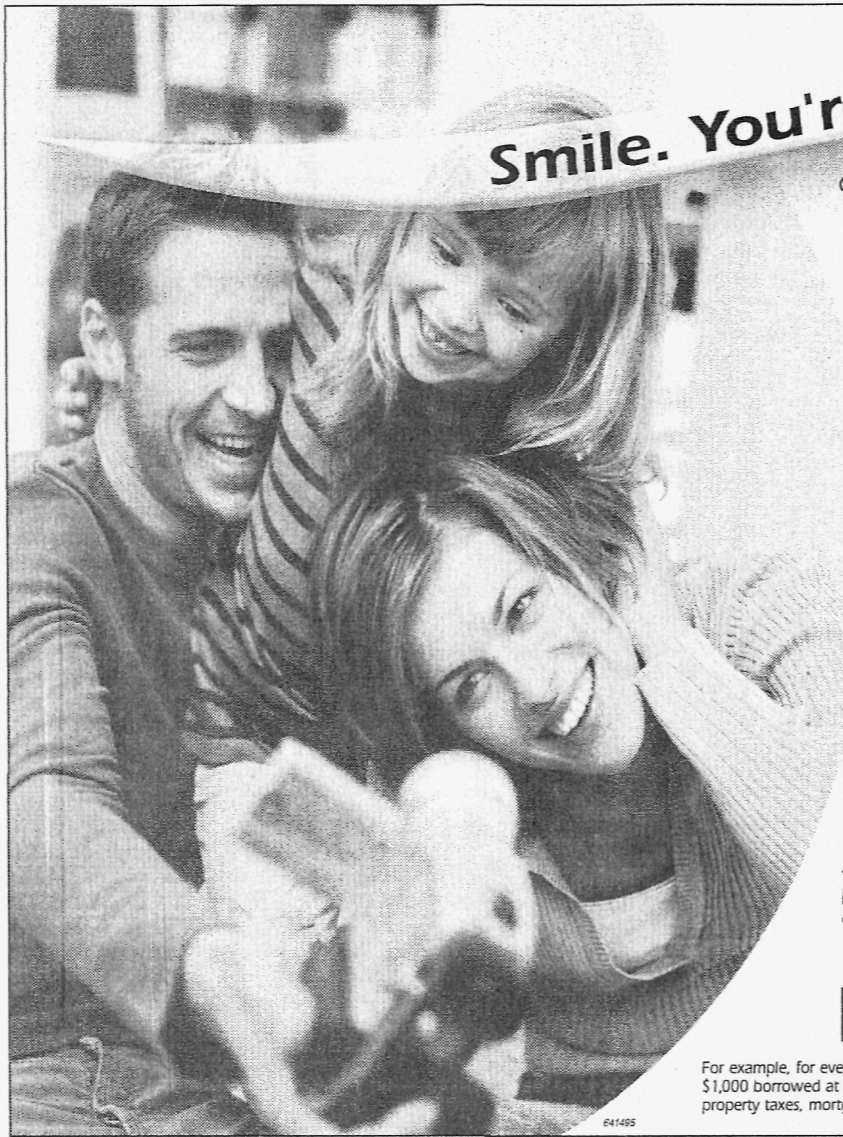
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<input type="checkbox"/> Lip balm	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipes (travel size)	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Fleece blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> Calling cards
<input type="checkbox"/> Feminine products (w/o wings)	<input type="checkbox"/> Razors	<input type="checkbox"/> Small drink mixes	<input type="checkbox"/> Microwaveable foods (Can or box)	<small>*Donated items must be in their original packaging.</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ear swabs	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Socks	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard candy/gum	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eye drops	<input type="checkbox"/> Clothesline/pins		




Photo Courtesy of The Army National Guard Official Web Site

### Edna Louise Coddington

MIDDLESEX — Edna Louise Nelson "Babe" Coddington, 86, died March 4, 2005 at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Born in Piscataway, she lived in Green Brook before moving to Middlesex in 1997.

Mrs. Coddington was a past president of the Green Brook Lions Club.

Her husband, W. Judson Coddington died in 1974. Two sisters, Marguerite Kirchner and Genevieve Brown, are deceased.

Surviving are a son, Gary Judson Coddington of Florida; two daughters, Carol Coddington Leeds of Middlesex and Dale June Caswell of Hillsborough; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by Direct Cremations in Paterson.

### Katherine Ruck

BOUND BROOK — Katherine L. Ruck, 84, died March 9, 2005 in the Holly Health Center at Arbor Glen, Bridgewater.

Born Dec. 31, 1920 in Port Jefferson, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Carl and Clarice Gellinger Ruck.

Miss Ruck had lived in Bound Brook since the 1940s. She retired in 1992 after over 30 years as a Grade 5 teacher at Vanderveer School in Somerville and at Somerville Middle School.

She held a master's degree in education from the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University. Miss Ruck received a bachelor's degree in education from Bloomsburg State Teachers College.

For many years Miss Ruck was a volunteer at Somerset Medical Center in

Somerville. She was a member of the Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook, the National Retired Teachers Association and the New Jersey Education Association.

Surviving are four cousins, Janet Graham of Glen Mills, Pa., David Kline of New Orleans, La., Robert Moore of Scranton, Pa., and Barbara Moore of Delaware.

Services were held Saturday at the Presbyterian Church, of which Miss Ruck was a longtime member. Burial was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Presbyterian Church, 409 Mountain Ave., Bound Brook, NJ 08805 or St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center, P.O. Box 5281, 3201 U.S. Route 22 East, North Branch, NJ 08876.

### Frank J. Cirello

BOUND BROOK — Frank J. Cirello, 88, died March 12, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born Aug. 9, 1916 in Raritan, he was a son of the late Giovanni and Rose Oliveri Cirello.

Mr. Cirello lived in Bound Brook for most of his life. He retired in 1986 after over 50 years as a furrier for companies in New York City, Raritan and Somerville.

For many years Mr. Cirello ran the annual Festa for the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Society, based at St. Mary of Czesochowa Roman Catholic Church. He was an usher for Masses at his church and a member of the parish's Leisure Club.

He also was a member of

Knights of Columbus Council 2510; the Bound Brook Lions Club; and Giles-Biondi Post 63, American Legion. Mr. Cirello was an Army veteran of World War II.

His wife, Angelina Pinto Cirello, died in 1997.

Surviving are a daughter, Sandra of Three Bridges; a brother, Furrey of Bound Brook; a sister, Rose Amorosa of Raritan; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. Mary of Czesochowa Church, following services at the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bridgewater.

### Michael Giammarco Sr.

BOUND BROOK — Michael W. "Gee" Giammarco Sr., 50, died March 13, 2005 at home.

Born in Middlesex, he lived in Hillsborough before moving to Bound Brook in 2003.

Mr. Giammarco was a machinist for 26 years with Taylor Forge in Branchburg. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Bridgewater.

His mother, Stella, died in 1989. His father, Emilio, died in 2003.

Surviving are his former wife, Melinda Collins Giammarco; a son, Michael W. Jr. of Hillsborough; two stepsons, Jason Rogers and Jeremy Rogers; a brother, Laurence L. and wife Sharon of Stewartsville; and a sister, Deborah Brennan and husband John of Middlesex.

A funeral Mass was held Thursday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Middlesex. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Michael W. Giammarco Jr. College Fund.

### Celestine 'Sal' Antini

MIDDLESEX — Celestine J. "Sal" Antini, 88, died March 14, 2005 at his home.

Born in White Plains, N.Y., he lived in Plainfield before moving to Middlesex in 1995. Mr. Antini retired in 1984 after 22 years as a maintenance worker and security guard with Bell Labs in Murray Hill. A mess sergeant in the Army during World War II, he owned the Netherwood Market in Plainfield before the war and supplied live poultry in the Westfield area after the war.

He was a member of Chaumont Post 243, American Legion, in South Plainfield. His wife of 60 years, Minnie

Huffman Antini, died in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Sandra Lee Mirsky and husband Gary of Clinton and Celeste Ruzak and husband Robert of Rahway; a sister, Mary Lammers of South Plainfield; a brother, William of Bridgewater; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday at the McCriskin Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Middlesex Borough Rescue Squad, 1400 Mountain Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846.

### Peter W. Schreiber

DUNELLEN — Peter W. Schreiber, 91, died March 12, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Brooklyn and had lived in Dunellen since 1952.

Mr. Schreiber was with Wood-Hall Industries in Elizabeth for 40 years, retiring in 1978 as a supervisor. He was a third-degree and fourth-degree knight with Commodore John Barry Council 2544, Knights of Columbus.

He was a member of the Catholic War Veterans in Richmond Hill, Queens, and St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church in Dunellen. Mr. Schreiber was a Navy veteran of World War II.

His wife, Marion Schuessler

Schreiber, died in 1996. A brother, Albert, is deceased.

Surviving are two sons, retired Master Chief Petty Officer Peter W. Jr. of Virginia Beach, Va., and Paul J. of Hawaii; three daughters, Catherine McDowell and Marian Saul, both of Dunellen, and Susan Wojtach and husband Joe of Dunellen; a brother, Jerome of Fort Myers, Fla.; a sister, Rosemarie of Rockaway Beach, Queens; nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. John the Evangelist Church, following services at the Sheenan Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association or American Heart Association.

### Robert J. Clifford

SOUTH BOUND BROOK — Robert J. Clifford, 79, died March 9, 2005 at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System, East Orange Campus.

Born Aug. 19, 1925 in Shamokin, Pa., he was a son of the late Raymond and Celesta Leahy Clifford.

Mr. Clifford had lived in South Bound Brook since 1958. He retired in 1995 after 39 years as a machinist with General

Dynamics Corp. in Avenel.

He was in the Navy from 1943-55 with stints in World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Clifford was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

He was very active in

American Legion Post 363 in South Bound Brook.

Surviving are two daughters, Celeste Uicny of Manville and Sandra Connor of South Bound Brook; a son, David Nadolny of Martinsville; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Hagan-Chamberlain Funeral Home in Bound Brook. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Legion Post 363.



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### Senior Citizens Calendar

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

**Upcoming Trips and Events:**  
 For information, call President Frank Gilly at (732) 356-6310. Non members are welcome.

Atlantic City trips are the third Tuesday of each month, leaving 9:45 a.m. from El Imperial. Call Ed Kimmel at (732) 469-1263.

**Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's** Bound Brook club sponsors bus trips to Atlantic City Casino Taj Mahal every fourth Tuesday of each month. Bus departs from St. Mary's Church Parking Lot at 10:15 a.m.

The Senior Leisure Club of St. Mary's meets at 1 p.m. every second Monday in the cafeteria of Holy Family Academy School located at 201 Voessler Ave. in Bound Brook. For further information, call club president Sal Barbatii (908) 725-5444.

**Event Schedule:**  
 April 11 — Membership meeting, 1 p.m. at school cafeteria.

### Dunellen

**The Dunellen Senior Citizen Club** is open to all Dunellen residents 60 years and older. Meetings are held each Friday at 10 a.m. at the new seniors building on Orange Street in Columbia Park. Bingo is played each Friday after the meeting. Bus transportation is provided. We are currently looking for new members, come out and enjoy! Why stay home, we serve coffee and tea, bring your own sandwich, and enjoy the company of your peers.

For information, call (732) 968-

1285; President of Dunellen Senior Citizen Club, Ida Cihanowyz.

### Edison

**Edison Chapter of AARP #3346** reminds members that new applications are being accepted.

### Metuchen

**The Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP**, will hold its monthly meetings at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. and Middlesex Ave. (Route 27). The monthly board meeting was at noon on March 14 and the general meeting started at 1:15 p.m. Refreshments were served. Guests are always welcome.

The chapter is currently accepting new members; call Ruth Hancock for further information at (732) 548-2332.

### Middlesex Borough

**Middlesex: 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 home-bound 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 the

second Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. in the church hall. Members are asked to bring boxes of pasta for F.I.S.H.

**Trips and Events:**  
 June 15-18 — Niagara Falls, Toronto. Details to follow. For information on trips, call Ellie Procacci (732) 752-3093.

### Piscataway

The Piscataway Senior Center has announced its schedule of upcoming events at the Center, located at 700 Buena Vista Ave., behind the J. F. Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane (Rt. 18). Group meetings for Tai Chi will be Wednesday's from 10-11 a.m. This is a drop in class. Sign up at the Reception Desk. The Visiting Nurse Association will visit the center the third Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. No cost. Sign up at reception desk.

April 18 — Blood Sugar and Blood Pressure Screening by St. Peter's Mobile Health Unit, 10-11:30 a.m. Appointments required. (732) 562-1133. No cost.

May 11 — Vision Screening 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Senior Center. Sign-up required, no cost. (732) 562-1133.

### 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 every Wednesday and refreshments are served. 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 or reservations, call Catherine (732) 356-4080.

**Events and Trips**  
 April 17-24 — Branson, Missouri, 8 days, 7 nights \$698 per person includes round trip motorcoach, most meals, excursion admissions, gratuities. For information - reservations, call Elsie at (732) 356-4338.  
 May 20 — Duke Gardens and Larison's Restaurant.

\*\*\*

**South Bound Brook Senior Citizen Center**, 113 Clinton Ave., offers the following programs:

Exercise - Every Mon. and Wed., 10:30 a.m.  
 Bingo & Cards - Tues. & Thurs., 10:30 a.m.  
 Librarian - 2nd Wed. of month, 11:30

Post Office - 4th Wed. of month, 10:30 a.m.  
 Liquid Embroidery - Every Tues. & Thurs., 10 a.m.-noon  
 Outreach Specialist at Center - 3rd Thurs. of month, 10-11 a.m.  
 Cards or games - every Friday March 21 — Art Class: March 21 to March 25, Easter Egg decorating.  
 March 28 — Art Class

**Trips:**  
 For information, appointments or to register for programs, call the center at (732) 271-1646.

Admission to center programs and activities is free. For lunch, contact the senior center by 10:30 at least one business day in advance to make a reservation. A suggested donation of \$1.50 is recommended for lunch.



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### Briefs

#### Cub Scout Pack 26 consignment sale

**DUNELLEN** — A Children's Consignment Sale will be held on March 19 at the Dunellen Presbyterian Church Annex Building, located between 1st Street and Dunellen Ave. The event is sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 26 and the doors open at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. with a half-price sale beginning at 2 p.m.

The sale consists of gently used baby and children's clothing, toys, games, furniture and baby accessories. Bring the children and browse the tables.

#### Photojournalist will show creatures

**BOUND BROOK** — Geraldine

Breen, photojournalist, will show how *Las Islas Encantadas, Galapagos* are more than a Jurassic Park of strange animals, plants and geology, and how they became unique. The program will start at 8 p.m. March 21 at the Congregational Church, located on the corner of Church and High Streets. All are welcome. Free event. Call (732) 356-2428 for more information.

#### Edison holding a candidates night

**EDISON** — The Township Parent-Teacher Advisory Council will be hosting a Candidates' Night 7 p.m. April 6 at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, 50 Woodrow Wilson Drive.

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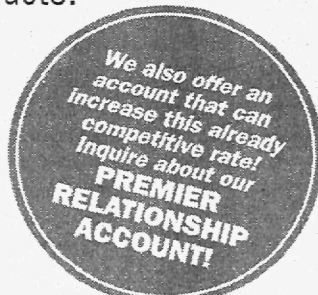
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# Somerset County releases tennis schedule for 2005

The Somerset County Parks Commission has announced the opening of the Green Knoll Tennis Center on Garretson Road in Bridgewater for reserved and open play with a full schedule of tournaments for all ages and abilities.

The courts are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. through October. Advance reservations may be made by calling (908) 722-1303. Open play is available dependent upon availability.

Rates are \$3.50 per court hour until 5 p.m. on weekdays

and \$5 per court hour after 5 p.m. Weekends are \$5 per court hour all day. The courts at Colonial Park are available for walk-on play during daylight hours, seven days a week.

The Park Commission runs amateur tournaments including men's and women's singles and doubles, mixed doubles, youth singles, and seniors.

This year's schedule will include the new "East vs. West County Tournaments" and will include Colonial Park in the schedule.

On June 25, men's and women's singles will compete

at both Colonial Park and Green Knoll Tennis Centers. Winners of the Saturday event will compete on June 26 at the Green Knoll Tennis Center in the first East vs. West County Singles Tennis Finals.

The format will also include men's and women's doubles on July 30 at both locations with the "East vs. West Doubles Finals" on July 31. The Youth Tournament on July 23-24 will follow the same format.

The Mixed Double Tournament will be held on July 16. The one day tournament will be held at Green

Knoll only.

Summer lessons are available for children and adults and are offered in the morning for children ages seven and older. Adult lessons are available in the evening.

Tennis lesson and tournament brochures are available at Green Knoll Tennis Center or may be requested by calling Park Commission Headquarters at (908) 722-1200.

The Park Commission has also announced that the Colonial Park Putting Course in Franklin Township opens on

April 16 for the 2005 season. The facility will be open Saturdays and Sundays from noon-8 p.m. through May 22.

Summer hours, beginning May 28, will be 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week through Labor Day, Sept. 5. Fall hours will revert to Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

The Putting Course offers 18 holes of quality "golf in miniature," with greens up to 70 feet long made more challenging with sand traps and water hazards. The facility is beautifully landscaped, fully handi-

cap accessible, and provides a challenge to both experienced golfers and first time players.

The cost per round ranges from \$4 per person (group rate) to \$5 for an individual adult. Ten play passes are available at a discount. Combination tickets for both the Putting Course and Paddle Boats are also available.

For information, call the Colonial Park Putting Course at (732) 873-8585.

Information on Somerset County Park Commission activities may be found at [www.somersetcountyparks.org](http://www.somersetcountyparks.org).

## Parks Commission seeking summer help

The Somerset County Parks Commission is seeking qualified individuals to fill positions at all facilities, from Franklin Township to Basking Ridge.

Park maintenance workers are needed in the three general use parks, Duke Island in Bridgewater, Colonial in Franklin Township, and North Branch in Bridgewater. Golf maintenance workers are needed at Quail Brook and Spooky Brook in Franklin, Green Knoll in Bridgewater, Warrenbrook in Warren Township and Neshanic

Valley in Branchburg.

Gardeners are needed in Buck Garden in Far Hills and in Colonial Park.

Individuals with equestrian experience will be interested in the trail guide and stable worker positions at Lord Stirling Stable in Basking Ridge. Lifeguards are needed for Warrenbrook Pool in Warren Township, and conservation workers are needed for trail work at the Environmental Education Center in Basking Ridge.

Park Rangers are needed throughout the 10,000 acre park system to assist the full time Rangers with programs and special events including the Fourth of July Family Festival and the 4-H Fair. Naturalist Assistants are needed at the Environmental Education Center to support the activities and numerous programs run by the Naturalists.

Facility attendants are needed for the Putting Course and Paddle Boats in Colonial Park, at the Green Knoll Tennis

Center in Bridgewater, and at the pool in Warren. Golf shop attendants are needed at all five courses. The Therapeutic Recreation Department is looking for Camp Counselors to work with children with learning disabilities.

Individuals interested in summer positions may call (908) 722-1200, Ext. 239, for an application. Up to the minute information on all Somerset County Park Commission programs and activities may be found at [www.park.co.somerset.nj.us](http://www.park.co.somerset.nj.us).

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## Golf performance center open

BRANCHBURG — The Somerset County Park Commission has announced that the Callaway Golf

Performance Center at Neshanic Valley Golf Course is open and accepting appointments for swing analysis and club fitting.

The Performance Center is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Appointments may be made by calling the Performance Center at (908) 369-8232.

The Callaway Golf Performance Center is the only one of its kind on an east coast golf course. The only similar Center in the nation is located at Indian Wells in Palm Springs, California, home of the Bob

Hope Classic. There are only five such permanent centers in the country.

The center includes a highly sophisticated computer system that utilizes high-speed cameras and sound equipment to capture data that provides swing analysis and custom fitting for the individual golfer.

The Callaway Center is the focal point of the Learning Center at Neshanic Valley Golf Course.

Also included are a two-ended driving range with grass hitting areas on each end, a 16,000-square-foot practice green, three chipping and pitching greens and two practice holes. The center is located in a 2,500-square-foot building at the entrance to Neshanic Valley Golf Course.

The computer system measures club head speed, ball speed, ball rotation, angle of impact, and other measurements that affect the flight of the ball. Callaway trained technicians will operate the system and provide a video and print assessment of the golf swing.

Information on this and other Somerset County Park Commission activities may be found [www.somerset-countyparks.org](http://www.somerset-countyparks.org).

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Saturday, March 19, 2005

# Flanagan claims second state crown

By DAVE ALLENA  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — For two years no one had been able to beat him, and Andrew Flanagan wasn't about to let that happen in the final match of his high school career.

Facing Alex Caruso of Watchung Hills — the one wrestler who has been able to challenge the Bound Brook standout on a consistent basis during that time — for the state's 152-pound title Flanagan capped his brilliant career with an 8-5 victory Sunday at Boardwalk Hall before more than 10,000 fans.

In winning the top-rated Flanagan capped a 40-0 season with his second straight NJSLAA state championship, ended his career with a 79-bout winning streak and finished as the state's all-time leader in victories with 148 against 11 losses.

Spurred on by talk that the second-seeded Caruso (34-3), who was fourth a year ago after Flanagan beat him 7-3 in the semifinals at 145, would finally defeat him Flanagan walked onto the mat ready for his final bout.

"That was actually the first time I can actually remember not being nervous before a match," he said. "It was weird. It felt like everything I had done during my high school career would be finished by winning one more match. After all the work I had put in to get there winning one more seemed like a small thing to do."

"I heard that it was his time to beat me all over the place and read it in newspapers. It motivated me a lot to prove to go out and prove to everyone I was the best. Beating him a fourth time would prove who the better wrestler was."

"It feels real good. Probably the first time was more satisfying. It's a different feeling winning the second time. You're



LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Bound Brook High senior Andrew Flanagan works on freeing himself from the grasp of Demarest's Tommy Spellman during the 152-pound semifinals of the state tournament Saturday. Flanagan got out and beat Spellman 7-2, and then trimmed Alex Caruso of Watchung Hills 8-5 for his second state title Sunday.

the one with a target on your back and everyone is trying to knock you off. It does feel pretty good to do it another time."

It was the fourth time Flanagan and Caruso had squared off during the past two seasons. Along with the decision in the state semis last year

Flanagan pinned Caruso in the Somerset County Tournament finals. This year Flanagan had to rally in the SCT 160-pound title bout to earn a 5-4 decision.

"I think (familiarity) makes for a less exciting match from both sides," he said. "I know what he's going to do, and I he knows what I'm going to do.

Both of us are trying to get out the match with our hand raised, and it makes it harder to score points.

"I think wrestling four times had a lot to do with the scores. He was tough. Tommy Spellman (of Demarest) was tough, too. I think Caruso was one of the two toughest oppo-

nents along with Spellman I had over the past two years."

Flanagan met the fourth-seeded Spellman (28-2), who went on to finish third, in the semifinals Saturday and came away with 7-2 victory. To that point Flanagan had breezed with a pair of technical falls — 21-6 in 5:33 against Point

Pleasant Beach's Justin Barowski, who was 35-1 at the time, in the quarter-finals and 17-1 in 4:00 against Al Wonesh of Northern Burlington.

In the title bout Flanagan led 4-3 in the second when he came up with a big takedown during a scramble to extend his advantage, and then held off Caruso for the decision.

"I felt like I controlled the whole match," Flanagan said. "He was in on my legs once early, and again during a scramble. I don't know if that takedown that made it 6-3 broke him, but I felt like if I needed to score I could have scored any time on my feet. I just wanted to win."

"Even if he had gotten the takedown in that (second-period) scramble and taken the 5-4 lead I still would have won the match."

Flanagan, who expected to attend either Princeton or Harvard, has always been a confident wrestler, and buoyed by an outstanding work ethic that has seen him put in three-four hours a day the past two years he has earned everything he has gotten.

"When I was a freshman I wanted to win the states four times," he said. "I guess I always expected to win and it was always expected of me. I don't think I'm surprised, but I'm happy with what I accomplished."

"After my sophomore year I started putting more time. I was so devastated after taking fifth place there was no way I was going to let that happen again."

Flanagan ended his career with a pair of fifth-place finishes in the state tournament to go with his two titles along with four SCT crowns, three District 18 gold medals and three Region 5 championships.

# Conroy, Ashnault take 2nds, Damon gets 3rd

ATLANTIC CITY — Jimmy Conroy and Billy Ashnault took center stage Sunday afternoon before more than 10,000 fans and gave performances worthy of the spotlight. Unfortunately both came up a bit short.

Facing opponents who had handed them their previous losses South Plainfield High teammates Conroy and Ashnault could only come up with slight improvement the second time around and it left them having to settle for runnerup honors at the NJSLAA State Wrestling Tournament at Boardwalk Hall.

A third area wrestler, Piscataway's Rob Damon, also advanced to Sunday's matches of finals and consolations and came home with a third-place.

Conroy, a state champion at 103 pounds a year ago as a sophomore, earned a rematch of the Region 3 title bout with two-time state champion and top-ranked Mike Grey of Delbarton in the state final at 119 and dropped a 9-4 decision. Grey (38-1), who has now won titles at 103, 112 and 119, topped Conroy 10-4 in their previous match.

Ashnault preceded his teammate to the mat in the 112 final, where he went against Rahway's fourth-seeded Ryan Wilson once again. Wilson (32-0), who had defeated Ashnault 5-0 the previous week, fashioned a 3-0 decision Sunday to claim his first state crown in a clash of sophomores.

Damon, who completed just

## STATE WRESTLING

his third season as a wrestler, tripped Marlboro's ninth-seeded Nick Parisi 7-5 in the consolation bout for third place.

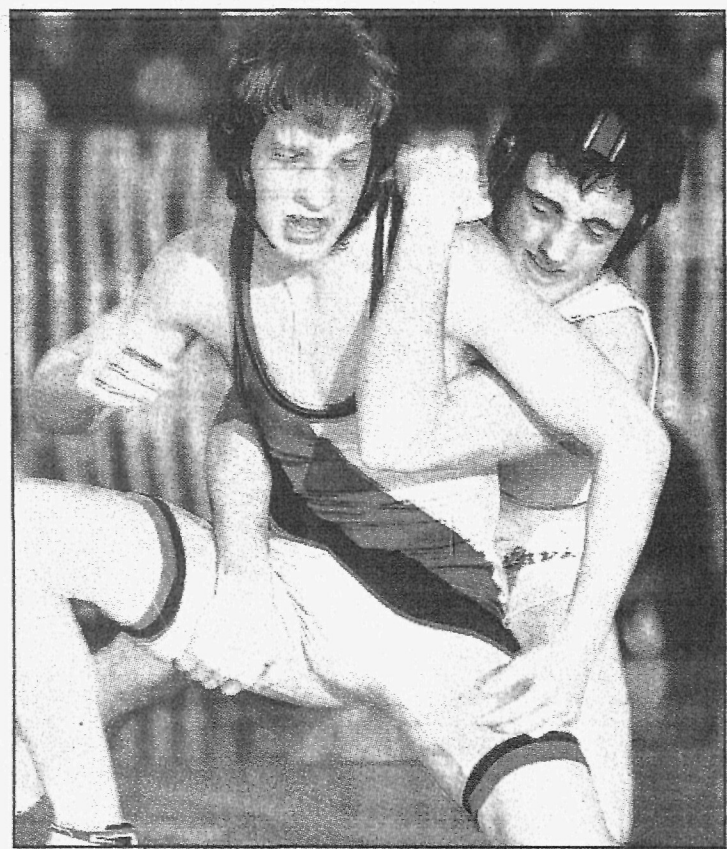
Ranked second at 119 Conroy (37-2) opened the tournament with a 14-1 major decision over Southern's Sean Quinn and then Glassboro's Josh Means in 2:28 in the pre-quarterfinals. He then handled seventh-seeded Tim Cornerly of Camden 7-2, and earned the final by blanking Delaware Valley's 11th-seeded Kris Sigafos 4-0.

Starting as the 10th seed overall Ashnault (31-7) had a great tournament. He opened with a fall in 5:27 over Emerson's Ryan Fullam and then edged seventh-rated Pat Strizki of Hunterdon Central 3-2.

In the quarter-finals Ashnault whipped Cherokee's second-seeded Kyle Packer 9-0, and reached the final round by blitzing Point Pleasant Boro's sixth-rated Jim Airey 14-3.

Damon had the 10th seed at 171 and opened the tourney with 9-5 decision over Jeremy Miles of Winslow and a fall in 5:31 over second-ranked Angelo DeLeo of Seton Hall Prep.

Going against 11th-rated Jeff Siciliano in the semifinals Damon lost for the first time this year when he dropped a 4-



LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

South Plainfield High's Jimmy Conroy, seen here battling Delbarton's Mike Grey in the Region 3 final, squared off with Grey for the 119-pound state title Sunday in Atlantic City, and once again fell short as Grey earned a 9-4 decision in a clash of returning state champions for his third gold medal.

2 verdict. The junior then bounced back to third-seeded Dan Zander of Gateway in 2:38 before beating Parisi to close out a 34-1 season.

Four area performers —

Patrick Hunter and Rob Maistickle of South Plainfield, Bound Brook's Nick Murray and Chris Jones of Piscataway — managed to reach the second round of wrestlebacks

before bowing from the tourney.

Hunter kicked off his bid at 103 in the prelims by edging T.J. Urbanek of Egg Harbor 8-6 before dropping a 6-4 verdict in the pre-quarters to Belleville's Filberto Colon. Hunter bounced back to top North Plainfield's Mike Sarfati 8-1, but then fell 3-2 to Fred Santaite of Northern Highlands.

Murray was dropped into the wrestlebacks at 130 with a 6-2 verdict against Southern's Rob Hickman in the pre-quarters, bounced back to whip Brian Swick of Roselle Park 20-9 but then was sent home with a 20-6 loss to Dale Fava of Don Bosco Prep.

Jones also wrestled well in three matches as he posted a fall in 3:08 over John Elia of Pascack Vaklley, but he came up short in his other two bouts, losing a 4-3 verdict to Lenape's Valley Nagy in the pre-quarters and a 5-2 decision to Zach Weinrich of Kittatinny in the second round of wrestlebacks.

Maistickle went a similar route at 215, although the South Plainfield wrestler needed to win in the prelims. He opened with a fall in 1:25 over Voorhee's Zach Voyce, but then was pinned by top-seeded and eventual champion Dave Zabriskie of High Points in 5:36. Maistickle recovered to deck Seton Hall Prep's Chris Birchler in 3:13 before losing on a pin in 3:14 to Lodi's Keith Dobish.

Metuchen's Jack Barrett suffered a pair of heart-breaking losses to get knocked out at 145. After opening with a 7-3 decision over Union's Pete Jacangelo, Barrett dropped a saw 2-1 bout in double overtime to Matt Pietcher of Rancocas Valley and then fell 7-7 to Brad Marquat of Rutherford in the first round of wrestlebacks.

Jesse Harrington of Bound Brook and South Plainfield's Eddie McCray also fell in the first round of wrestlebacks. Harrington lost an 8-5 verdict to Clifton's Corey Bleakon in the pre-quarters and then got eliminated with 10-4 setback to Tom Cunningham of Cherry Hill West.

McCray also had a first-round bye and was then knocked out with consecutive losses as he fell 7-6 to Oscar Orellana of Lakewood in the pre-quarters and 10-7 to Millville's Shacol Berry at 135.

Four area wrestlers saw their seasons in the prelims, including from South Plainfield. Paul Ritchey dropped a 10-6 decision at 145 to Chris Floyd of Lawrence, while Kevin Crilly lost a 5-2 verdict to Lenape's Valley Colin Nagy at 189.

Edison's J.C. Bandiero, who suffered his first loss in the Region 5 final, made a quick exit with a 6-3 loss to Dave Siedenbergh of Raritan at 125, and Pavel Stuchinsky of J.P. Stevens was eliminated at 215 with a 7-4 setback to Chris Birchler of Seton Hall Prep.

# Metuchen comes up short in bid for CJ I championship

PISCATAWAY — Completing the task just wasn't in the cards for the Bulldogs.

With its entire roster either in diapers or not even born yet the last time it had played for a sectional title the Metuchen High boys basketball team saw its bid for its first Central Jersey Group I crown in 17 years dashed by a strong Florence squad 64-50 March 9 at Piscataway High School.

After getting off to a good start by claiming a 10-8 edge through eight minutes the third-ranked Bulldogs suffered through a difficult second period and played uphill the rest of the way.

The Flashes, who improved to 21-6, opened the second period with a 6-2

run to grab a 14-12 lead and never surrendered it. Matt Ordog then fueled a half-ending 13-4 surge with three three-pointers as Florence opened a 31-22 cushion at halftime on the strength of its 23-12 second-quarter showing.

It was an 11-point game at 41-30 late in the third period when Metuchen went on a 12-4 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to carve the deficit to 45-42 with 5:33 remaining.

The Bulldogs, however, could not keep it going, and Florence, which had scored only six points during the previous seven minutes when it failed to connect from the floor, ended the comeback by Metuchen by closing the game out with a 19-8

## BOYS BASKETBALL

surge over the final 4:10.

Quite capable of putting plenty of points on the scoreboard while showing incredible balance at times, but the Bulldogs had neither the overall production nor the balanced scoring against fifth-seeded Florence, which reached the final with three victories by an average margin of 24.7 points a game.

Marcus Blakely turned in a huge effort in the loss as he dropped in 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, but no one else had more than eight points (Dujahn Miller) and Blakely's point total represented 36 percent of

the offense.

Neither team had a lot of success from the field, but the Flashes' 6-1 advantage in three-pointers and a 24-17 cushion at the foul line proved to be more than enough.

Metuchen got to the line 29 times for a 59 percent showing, while Florence shook off a slow start to finish at 71 percent 24 of 34. After missing 10 of their first 16 attempts, the winners closed out the game by making 18 of their final 20, including 15 in a row at one point and 14 of 16 in the fourth quarter.

In its first winning season since the 1987-88 campaign Metuchen finished up at 17-9 under first-year Head Coach Rich Stoner with only two seniors among its top eight players,

so the future looks good for the program.

The Bulldogs will lose one starter, Jerry Nichols, and the first player off the bench, Kevin Rush to graduation, but with Blakely, Miller, Lamar Nichols, Jon Brown, Nick Storts and Steve Thomas all returning Metuchen figures to make a return to the state tournament a year from now.

## FLORENCE (64)

Ordog 0-4-4-16, Cathoun 5-1-11-24, Jones 2-4-8, Edston 3-0-6, Giambinne 0-1-5-8, Jenkins 1-0-2. Totals: 11-6-24-64.

## METUCHEN (50)

Brown 2-1-5, J. Nichols 1-2-4, Blakely 5-8-18, Storts 2-0-4, Miller 4-0-8, Rush 0-1-3-6, L. Nichols 1-3-5, Thomas 0-0-0, Phillips 0-0-0. Totals: 15-1-17-50.

Florence 8 23 14 19 — 64  
Metuchen 10 12 15 13 — 50

# 'The audience just goes wild at every trick'

## Kovgar Troupe wows audiences at Big Apple Circus

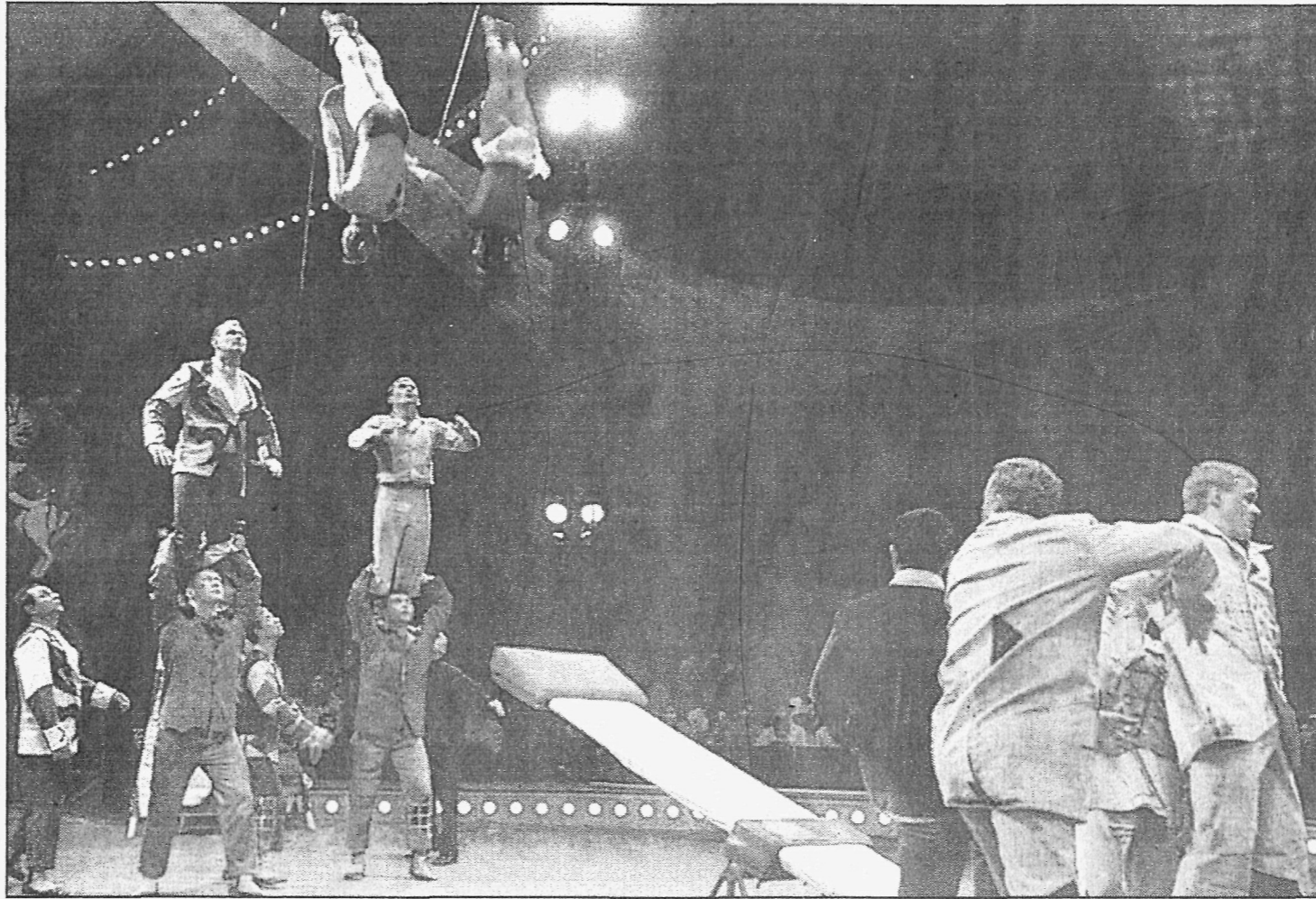
By AMY S. BOBROWSKI  
Staff Writer

BRIDGEWATER — As they spring up from the ground, completing numerous somersaults and pirouettes in mid-air, Andrey Kovgar shouts in Russian "good job, good job" to his acrobats during practice.

The 15-person world renowned acrobatic team, known as the Kovgar Troupe, the finale act in this year's Big Apple Circus show, practices at least an hour each day. On days when the circus is performed twice, the teeterboard acrobats also practice in between their performances.

While part of the troupe is completing tricks and flips using the teeterboard, those not involved in that particular trick aren't just standing on the sidelines. The performers do sit ups, leg lifts, stretches and pull-ups around the circus ring.

The group was organized by Kovgar, a Russian gymnastics champion, in 2000. Kovgar, who coaches the team, holds a record for being the only acrobat to



Elena Lovyging and Maryna Hauryluk fly through the air during a performance by the Kovgar Troupe during the Big Apple Circus.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

complete two somersaults and four pirouettes — or twists — mid-air while his legs are bound to a single stilt.

"In my act, he can do it

with two somersaults and three twists," said Kovgar of one of his acrobats. "He tried it with four, but he can't make it everyday."

During performances, Kovgar remains in the ring, assisting with the pushing of the teeterboard. The hardest trick, said Kovgar, is the one-stilt flips.

"It can be very dangerous," he said.

In practice, the acrobats wear a harness around their waists to prevent them from falling. But during an actual performance, no harnesses are used, except during one difficult trick where a per-

former is launched into a chair playing a fiddle. Since tricks include being catapulted from a teeterboard onto the shoulders of another individual, the acrobats need to wear special soft leather footwear.

"Each person has their own special shoes," said Kovgar. "You can't have laces or holes, because they could hook someone on the ear."

The Kovgar Troupe works in an almost mechanical way, said Big Apple Circus Company Manager Julie Parkinson.

"Each trick, they do six to 10 times in a row, until they

get it perfect," she said. "I've never seen a troupe work like this. It's like a machine."

Each person in the Troupe has a different role and, therefore, each performer trains differently.

"The bottom guy has to be a big, strong guy because he has to hold four people on his shoulders," said Kovgar. "Everybody has to have balance and good reflexes."

The act, which has been with the circus since its season opened in September, is a big hit.

"The audience just goes wild at every trick," said Parkinson.

Irina Voevodina, Kovgar's wife, choreographed the teeterboard act. The Kovgar Troupe performs acts inspired by the paintings of Marc Chagall. The Russian-born expressionist painter contrasted bright colors to create hectic circus scenes. Chagall's influence can be seen in the costumes, props, music and staging of the teeterboard act.

The act, which has won awards around the world and has performed in the Nikulin Moscow Circus, fits perfectly with "Picturesque," this year's title for the Big Apple Show. Picturesque is a tribute to artists who've been inspired by the circus.

In addition to performing with the Nikulin Moscow Circus, the act has been part of the Wereldkerst Circus at Royal Theatre Carre in Amsterdam and Circus Knie in Switzerland. The Troupe was awarded the Golden Lion at China's Wuqia International Circus Festival in 2001, the Gold Medal at the 2002 Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris and the Silver Clown Award at the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo in 2004. Picturesque is the Kovgar Troupe's debut performance in the United States.

Kovgar, who's only been in the United States for eight months, first became involved with gymnastics when he was 5-years-old, much to the chagrin of his mother.

"She worried I would break my neck," he said. For Kovgar, now 38-years-old, gymnastics and acrobatics has been a part of his life for 33 years.

"When you perform a sport for your life, sometimes you don't know when to stop," said Kovgar. "My friends said to go into the circus. I did so I could keep doing my sport, teaching my sport."

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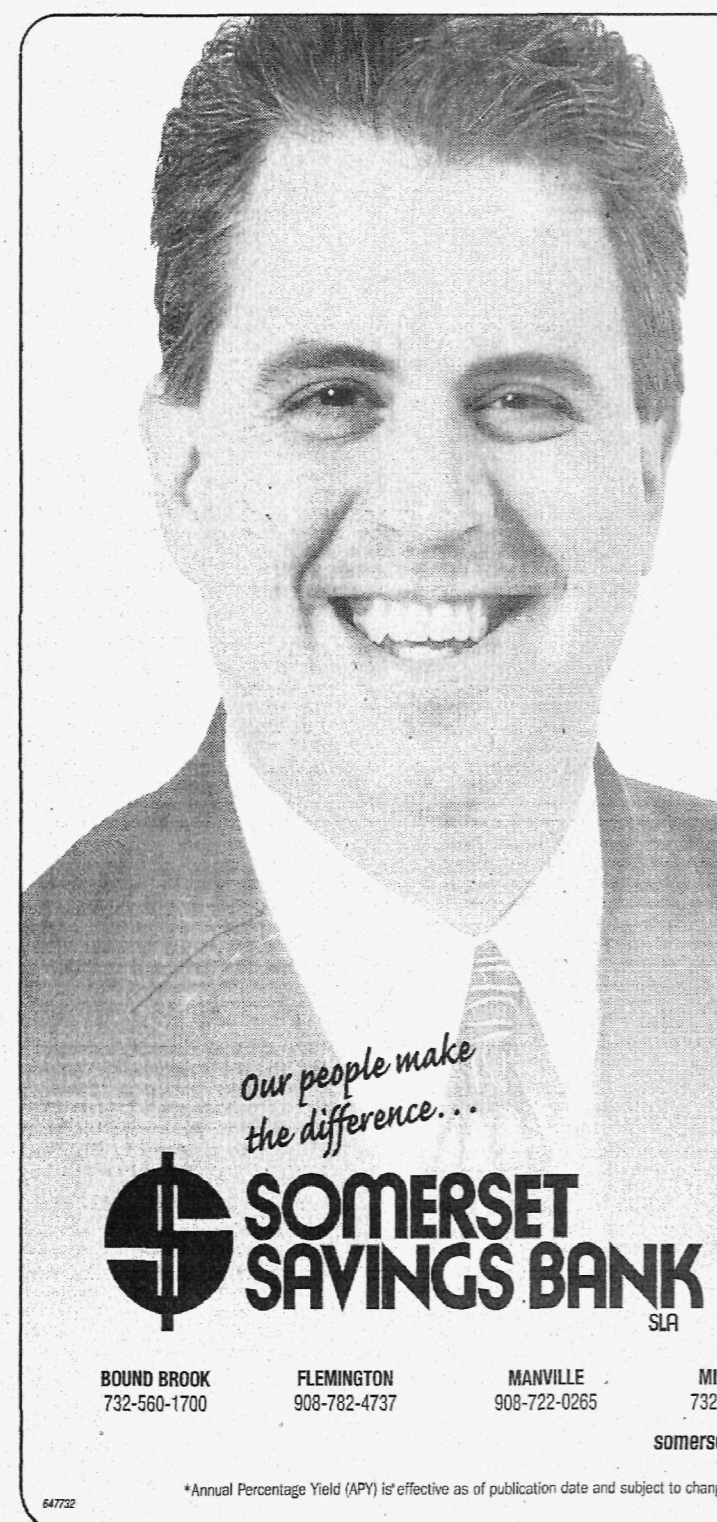
George L. Psak and James B. Graziano are certified by the Supreme Court as Civil Trial Attorneys.  
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### Legal Notices

**BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK PLANNING BOARD**  
The Bound Brook Planning Board approved an application for a preliminary plat for the construction of a residential development consisting of 100 lots, located in the REB/SR zone. The relief sought was preliminary plat approval for construction of WILLIAM D. MARTIN, JR. AND ARETHA R. MARTIN, 3 five story buildings housing 144 age restricted residential units, to WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA recorded on July 24, 2003, in adjustment of the mortgage exception for number of Book 8724 of Mortgages for MIDDLESEX County, for parking spaces. The application was approved as to sub-227, and (2) to recover possession of the concerned premises on February 3, 2005 and approved as to form on March 10, 2005.

**NOTICE OF ABSENT DEFENDANTS**  
ELIZABETH MARTIN, CEDAR BROOK SURGICAL GROUP, OLONZO WILSON  
You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Venue by calling 908-249-7500. SHAPIRO & DIAZ, LLP, Plaintiff's Attorney, whose address is 408 Lippincott Drive, Suite J, Marlton, NJ 08053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Mercer by calling 908-249-7500.

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