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South Brunswick Post

Vol. 55, No. 21

Published every Thursday

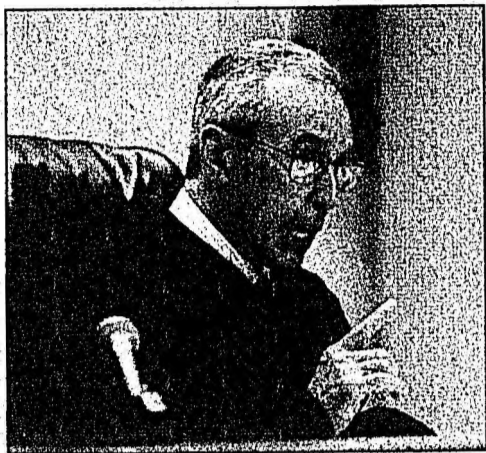
Thursday, May 24, 2012

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One dollar

Ravi sentenced to 30 days



Staff photo by Phil McAuliffe

Judge Glenn Berman gestures at Dharun Ravi during Monday's sentencing.

Prosecutor says that's too short and will appeal

By Victoria Hurley-Schubert
Packet Media Group

Dharun Ravi, of Plainsboro, was sentenced to 30 days in jail Monday for 15 counts of invasion of privacy and bias intimidation for viewing his roommate, Tyler Clementi, having an intimate encounter with another man via a webcam.

Mr. Ravi, 20, who did not make any statement during the sentencing, will not receive credit for two days served when he was arrested and must report to the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility on May 31.

Prosecutors say they will appeal the 30-day jail sentence. Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said the sentence is too short.

In addition to the 30 days, Mr. Ravi was sentenced to probation for three years, 300 hours of community service, a counseling program about cyber bullying and alternative lifestyles in addition to a discretionary \$10,000 fine, which will be allotted to a state organization that assists victims of bias crimes, plus other fines. He will be required to pay the



Staff photo by Phil McAuliffe

Dharun Ravi, 20, of Plainsboro, was sentenced May 21 to serve 30 days in jail.

See RAVI, Page 11A

SBHS losing principal, head football coach

By Ed Birch
Special Writer

The high school is losing its principal and head football coach.

Timothy Matheny, who has served the district for the past eight years as the principal of South Brunswick High School has accepted the position of Director of Evaluation with the State of New Jersey Department of Education, according to officials.

Schools superintendent Dr. Gary McCartney announced the departures during Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

According to Dr. McCartney, Mr. Matheny will direct the newly formed Excellent Educators for New Jersey program.

Board members voted Monday to authorize the "loan" of Mr. Matheny's services effective July 1.

Dr. McCartney said the agreement with the state would not cost the district any money and that the state would pay Mr. Matheny's \$145,632 salary and benefits.

The program is a new initiative for the Department of Education, and has operated for the past year.

Mr. Matheny presently serves as a member of the Evaluation Pilot Advisory Committee that is designing an evaluation system that will evaluate performance of both teachers and principals in public, private and charter schools throughout the state.

"I am most proud to have continued to create a very positive educational environment in the high school," Mr. Matheny said Tuesday. "We have focused on academic



Tim Matheny

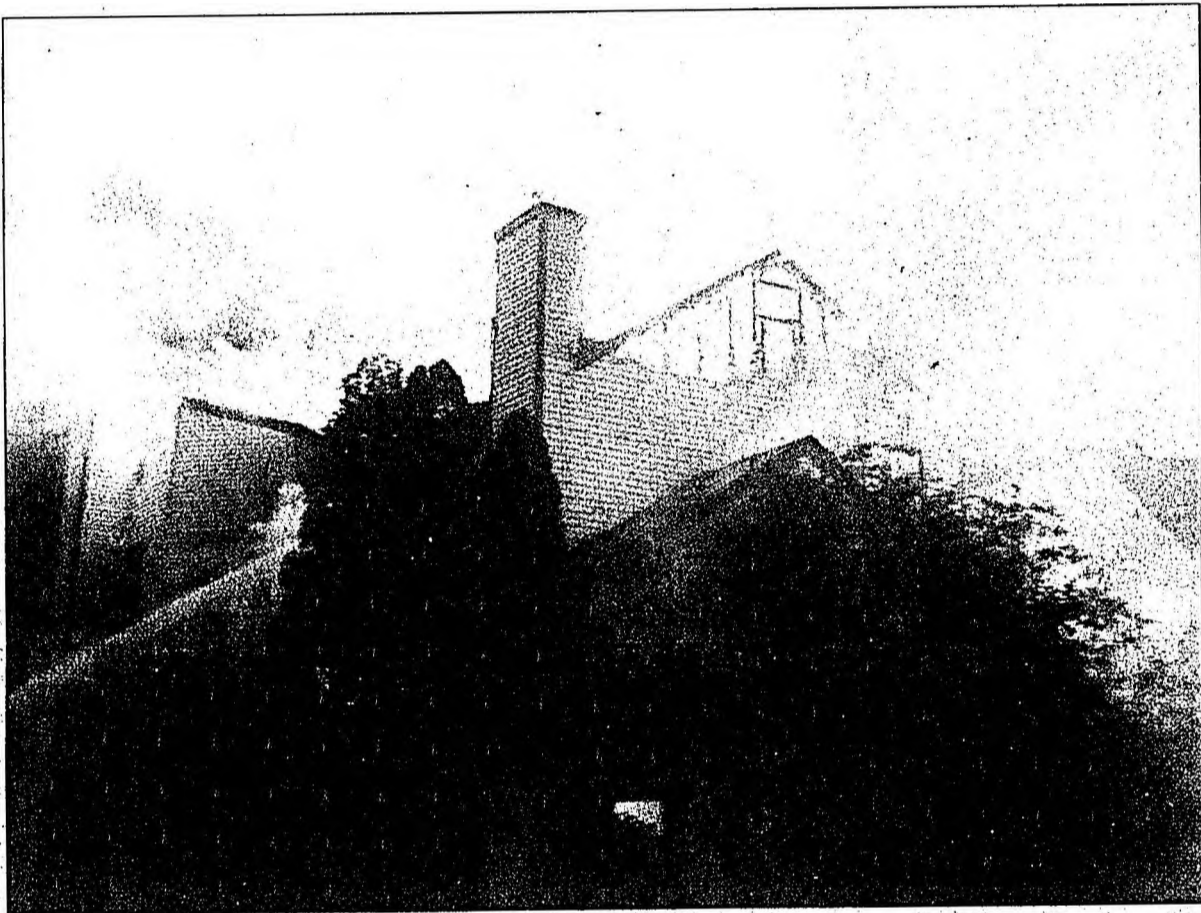


Rick Mantz

achievement and provided these services to our students while making our big school feel smaller to each individual student and their families."

Mr. Matheny stressed that he has created "a more personalized environment in a rather large campus

See LEAVING, Page 11A



Kendall Park Fire Department photo

Flames shoot out of the roof during an early morning fire in Whispering Woods May 20. The blaze destroyed eight of the 21 units in the building and left 12 people displaced.

Townhouse fire displaces 12

By Charles W. Kim
Managing Editor

Twelve people were displaced and eight out of 21 units were destroyed following a fire in the Whispering Woods condominium development May 20.

According to police, the 5 a.m.

fire started in the second floor of the 7100 building on Elm Court of the development Sunday morning.

A resident of the complex called in to 911 at 5 a.m. to report the fire that started in a second floor residence, according to police.

Police responding to the scene rushed into the building to evacuate 21 sleeping residents from the town-

homes.

Firefighters arriving on the scene had to confront heavy fire conditions on the third floor with flames shooting through the roof of the building, according to police.

More than 60 firefighters from all three township departments

See FIRE, Page 2A

Police alert residents to rash of burglaries

By Charles W. Kim
Managing Editor

Police want residents to be aware of recent burglaries taking place throughout the community.

The burglaries usually take place during the overnight hours and the suspects generally enter the homes through a rear sliding door, usually unlocked, according to police.

"This type of crime is highly unusual for our community and that is why I authorized the alert be issued," police Chief Raymond Hayducka said in a statement this week. "I ask residents to be attentive to any unusual activity in the overnight hours. This may include motion lighting coming on for no reason or unusual noises."

The burglaries have taken place during the last six weeks in occupied homes in different areas of the township with the latest off Kendall Road in

Kendall Park, according to police.

Chief Hayducka said that the nature of the crimes gives it a larger degree of concern and he is asking residents to be more aware during the nighttime hours.

Residents are advised to make sure any rear sliding doors are securely locked at night and any suspicious activity in the neighborhood should be immediately reported to police.

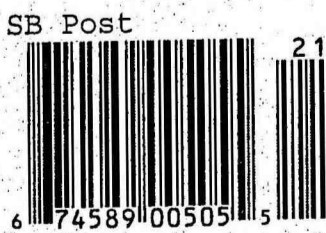
Local police are coordinating with other law enforcement agencies to gather intelligence and leads during the investigation, according to police.

If anyone sees something suspicious, they should call 911 or 732-329-4646 immediately, police said.

A team of detectives is investigating the crimes.

Anyone with information is asked to call Detective Sgt. James Ryan or Detective Sgt. John Klemas at 732-329-4000 ext. 7496.

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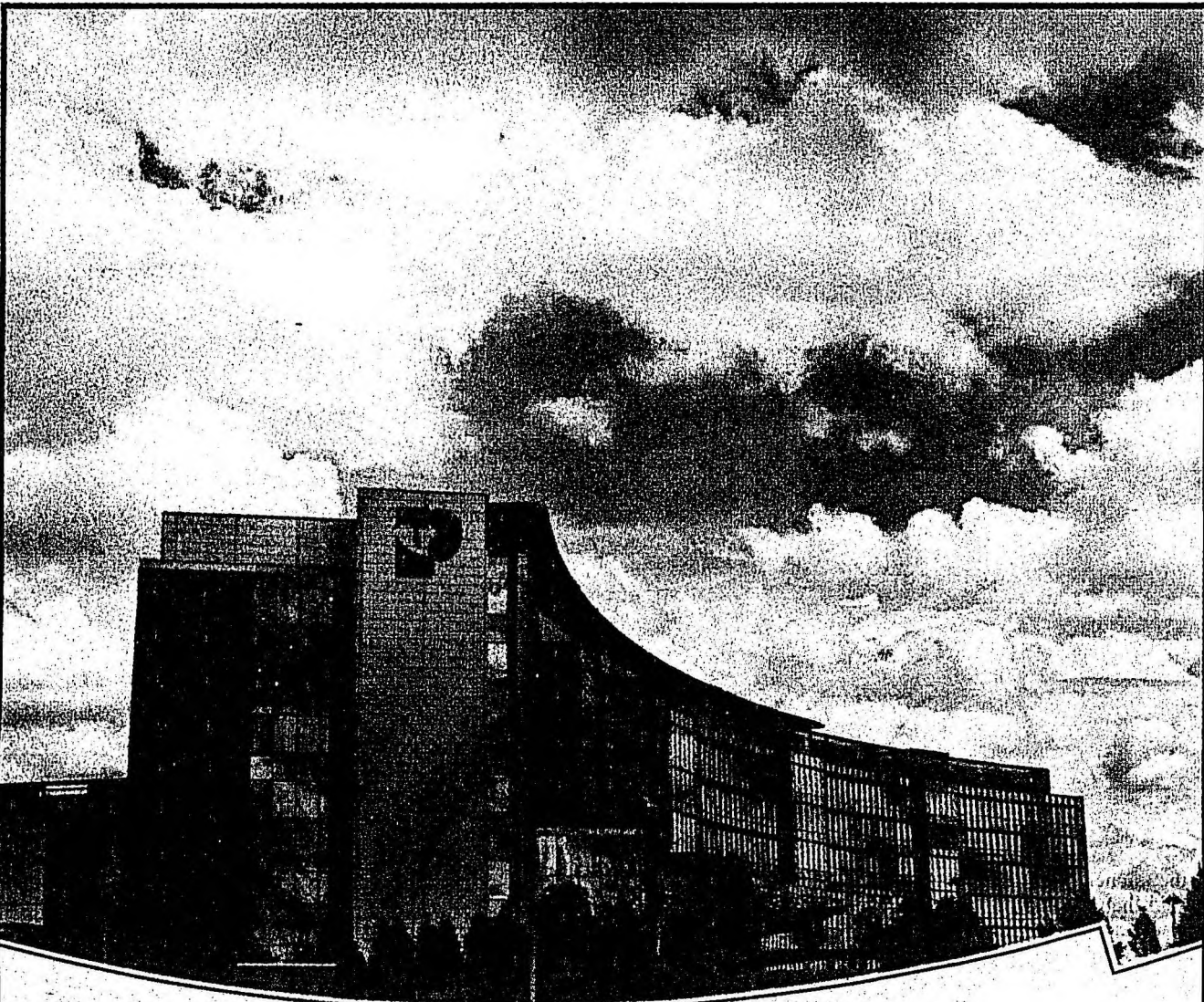


Bill Mielko photo

Farewell party

Seniors on the South Brunswick Girls' Softball Team were celebrated May 18 during the annual Senior Day party.

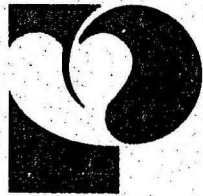
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Freeholder unveils initiative to assist military veterans

Middlesex County Freeholder Deputy Director Ronald G. Rios has unveiled the Veterans Outreach Program, the goal of which is to connect veterans with needed services.

"I am very pleased to unveil an initiative that will give back to the men and women who have put themselves into harm's way to protect our freedom," Mr. Rios said.

Mr. Rios said the program he is establishing will connect veterans to employment, training and education opportunities and transportation and housing. He said he has been working closely with and has the support of Freeholder Blanca B. Valenti, chairwoman of the county's Community Services Department.

As a first step, community services staff will set up in-

formation tables at Brunswick Square Mall in East Brunswick, Menlo Park Mall in Edison and Woodbridge Center Mall in Woodbridge.

One other component of the endeavor is the Middlesex County Veterans Housing Assistance Program.

"This is a workable, sustainable plan that will prevent and end homelessness for our military veterans," Mr. Rios said.

The county is setting aside funding to assist veterans by providing help in paying rental arrears, security deposits for apartments and temporary rental assistance and finding suitable housing, accessing other resources and conducting ongoing evaluations, he said.

The assistance will be based on the individual needs of the veteran and his or her family.

Federal rental assistance exists for veterans, but it does not cover security deposits or rental arrears. The assistance also does not cover comple-

mentary services such as those being offered through the Middlesex County initiative.

"Our assistance will fill the unmet need," Mr. Rios said.

Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano said, "On behalf of the rest of the freeholder board, I want to commend Deputy Director Rios and Freeholder Valenti for their dedication to the veterans of Middlesex County. By taking a holistic approach to meeting the needs of our veterans, we are more effectively serving them. And that is the mark of good government."

Information and assistance will be available at Brunswick Square Mall on Aug. 17 and 18 and Nov. 16 and 17. Veterans outreach services will be available at Woodbridge Center Mall on June 15 and 16, Sept. 14 and 15 and Nov. 2 and 3. The initiative also will be at Menlo Park Mall on July 20 and 21 and Oct. 19 and 20.

Services will be available at all locations from noon to 7 p.m.

Homecare forum set

"Preparing Today for Tomorrow: Discovering Your Home Care/Care Giving Options," a participatory forum, is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Brunswick Public Works Building in the Municipal Complex Route 522W.

Lowell Arye, deputy commissioner of N.J. Department of Human Services, the headline speaker.

The forum is designed to give the boomer and sandwich generations (children of families and the seniors themselves) resources and how to access this information to establish why "aging in place" can be a viable option.

Topics include: What If? Hospital Discharge/Emergency Services; Prob-

lems and Information Gaps; Questions Nobody Asks; Getting Things in Place; Family Support/Personal Advocate; Financial and Insurance questions, and Telehealth.

Created by the Aging in Place PARTNERS - South Brunswick Senior Center, Volunteer Nurse Corps, South Brunswick Community Development Corp; Middlesex County Office on Aging, and other leading organizations.

Open to all. Space is limited. Registration and lunches are free until June 1. Lunches at the door - \$10.

Register in advance at Jacque@AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org, online at www.AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org. Or call 732.305.7079.

Fire

Continued from Page 1A

—Monmouth Junction, Kendall Park, and Kingston fire companies — and units from Jamesburg, Brookview, Plainsboro, North Brunswick and Little Rocky Hill fought the fire for an hour before bringing it under control, according to police.

Fire crews remained on the scene with the South Brunswick Office of Emergency Management until 10:30 a.m., police said.

In addition, the Monmouth Junction and Kendall Park First Aid squads also responded to the scene.

One firefighter twisted his ankle while fighting the fire, police said.

The 12 residents displaced by the fire were relocated with family and friends, according to police.

The South Brunswick Fire Safety Bureau determined that the cause of the fire was accidental.

The damage to the building was contained to just one section and no other injuries were reported, according to police.

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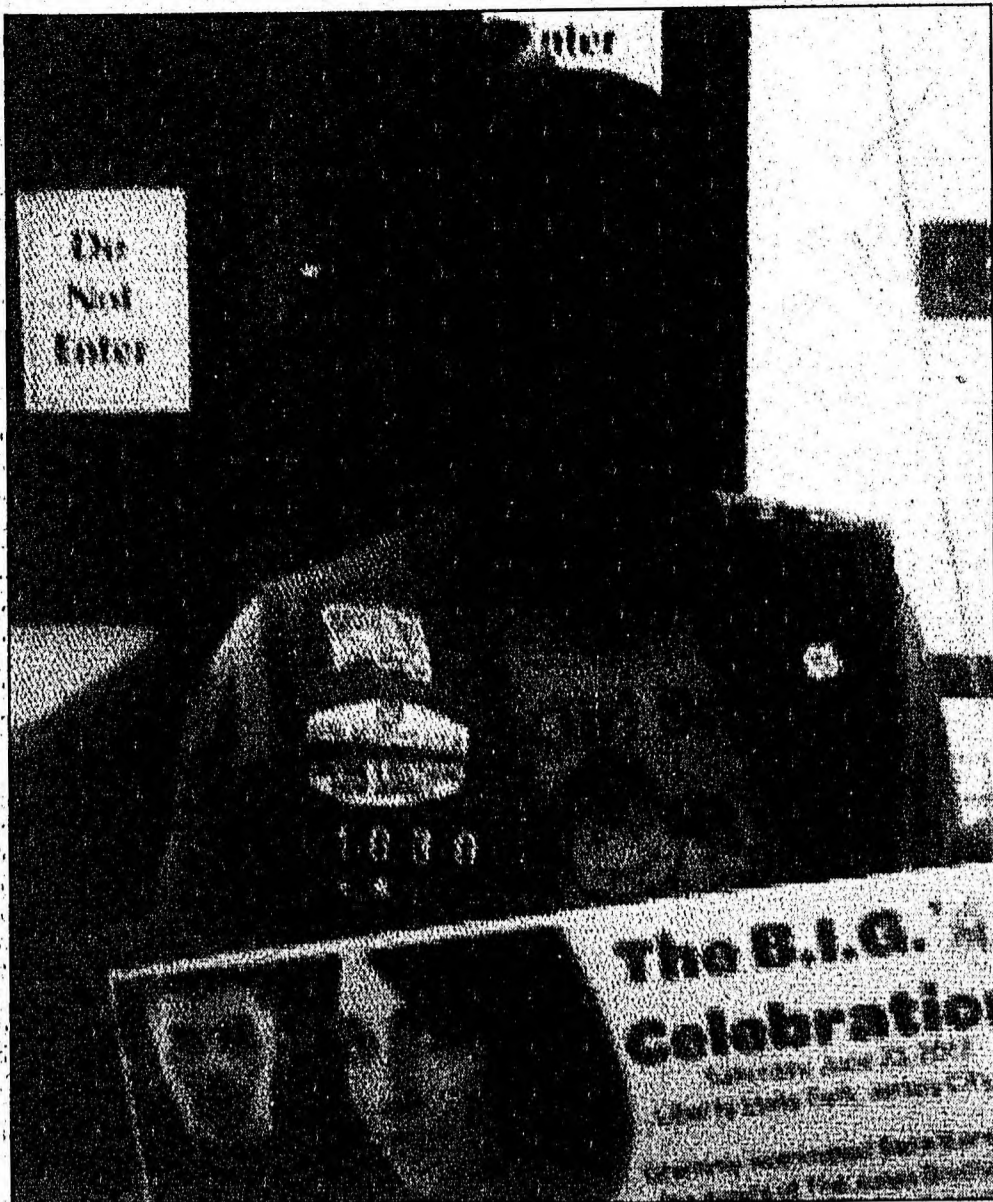
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Submitted photo

Mahiyah Sampson, 9, of Dayton shows off her ticket to attend a national Girl Scout conference after selling more than 3,000 boxes of cookies in this year's sales drive. The township Girl Scout sold the most in the Southern and Central Council region.

Girl Scout hits cookie pinnacle

By Jennifer Bradley Staff Writer

Mahiyah Sampson, 9, of Dayton, proved that business skills are not just for professionals when she sold 3,406 boxes of Girl Scout cookies during this year's campaign.

This achievement made her the top cookie seller for the Central and Southern New Jersey region.

"I'm really proud of myself because not many people can say they have the same experience," Mahiyah said. "I made history in this 100th year of Girl Scouting."

According to the Girl Scouts website, Girl Scout cookie sales have been an integral part of the organization since 1917.

According to Ginger Haithcox, director of the products program for the Central and Southern New Jersey Girl Scout Council, more girls participated in cookie sales this year than in the past. Ms. Haithcox said that the top cookie sellers in the Central and Southern New Jersey area this year ranged in age from 5-14, which shows the diversity of participation.

She said, however, that the council would not release the actual amount raised during the campaign.

According to the organization's website, the cookie program is a \$760 million business and the largest girl-led business in the country. The revenue from the cookie program is used to support individual troop goals as well as to fund broader service units and local council goals such

as funding grants, outdoor activities, trips and by providing aid to under served areas.

"Selling cookies is like having a business for a month," Mahiyah's mother and Girl Scout troop leader, Tawanna Sampson, said. "You're a CEO for one month."

Mahiyah's troop's goal was to sell a total of 3,300 boxes. Instead, the troop sold 6,450 boxes, which was nearly double the goal amount.

"Some girls in my troop had a hard time reaching their own goals so I loaded up my red wagon and went to help out," Mahiyah said.

Ms. Sampson emphasized the importance of a goal-oriented attitude when selling cookies. According to Ms. Sampson, Mahiyah's decision to approach potential buyers by saying "I am trying to reach my goal" and asking for help rather than simply asking "do you want some Girl Scout cookies" made a huge difference in gaining buyers' support.

According to Ms. Sampson, Mahiyah owes much of her success to the purchases made by postal service workers and educators.

"You always have to be kind and polite," Ms. Sampson said.

Ms. Sampson described a time when Mahiyah asked a man if he would like to buy cookies, but the man could not pay the \$4 required for the cookies because he only had \$2 cash on hand.

The patron offered to donate his \$2, but his two sons were disappointed that they

could not purchase a box of cookies.

According to Ms. Sampson, Mahiyah accepted the man's \$2 and paid the remaining \$2 from her own pocket so the boys could enjoy their cookies.

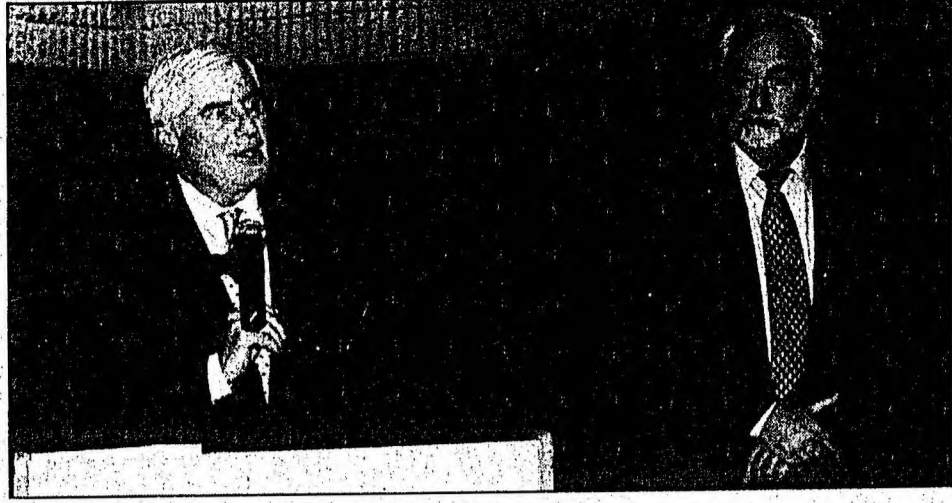
Mahiyah and her mother volunteer at Elijah's Promise soup kitchen in New Brunswick and elected to buy extra cookies and donate them to the kitchen. Ms. Sampson also said that she and her daughter also donated cookies to other needy children in area foster care and transitional homes.

Cookie selling can also be a sweet reward not only for the buyers, but also for the Girl Scouts selling them. Those selling more than 1,000 boxes of cookies receive a trophy and a pin for their achievement, according to the council.

Mahiyah's troop raised enough money to fully finance trips for all members to Girl Scout events such as a "beach jam," a trip to Washington D.C., and the Believe in Girls expo. The expo is an event that brings Girl Scouts from all over the world together to celebrate their achievements, and top cookie sellers, such as Mahiyah, receive backstage passes to meet with performers at the event like Joe Jonas and Sara Bareilles.

According to Ms. Haithcox, cookie selling is one of the many opportunities to get involved with the Girl Scouts that emphasizes goal setting, entrepreneurial skills and helps shape future success for the girls.

"Any girl can join Girl Scouts and be as successful as Mahiyah," Ms. Haithcox said.



Ed Birch photo

Parting words

Schools Superintendent Dr. Gary McCartney pays tribute to retiring teacher Ray Tucholski at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

County Mosquito Extermination Commission prepares for season

Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination officials anticipate higher than normal populations of mosquitoes and an early arrival of West Nile Virus this summer.

In order to address these kinds of mosquito activities, the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission has begun inspecting and treating sites throughout the county.

Experts use a comprehensive and integrated approach, which includes mosquito surveillance, water management, biological control, chemical control and public education.

"The commission works to not only minimize the overall number of mosquitoes, but, more importantly, to reduce the spread and threat of mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile Virus, that they may carry," said Freeholder H. James Polos, chairman of the county's Public Safety and Health Committee and liaison to the Mosquito Extermination Committee.

The early mosquito season is the result of the unusual weather patterns experienced in New Jersey in 2011, officials said. It was the wettest and third warmest year in the state since 1895. It also was followed by a mild winter.

John Kranz, executive director of the Mosquito Extermination Commission, said many mosquitoes come from large flood plains and swamps, which can best be controlled by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection-licensed personnel employed by the commission.

However, he said, there also may be many small breeding sites in and around homes or places of business that individuals can eliminate. These areas can produce the common house mosquito, which can transmit West Nile virus and can produce other species of mosquitoes that are vicious biters.

There will be no mosquito production in the area without standing or stagnant water since female house mosquitoes look for such places to lay their eggs.

"We are asking our residents and business owners to help us in our mission to control the house mosquito by making every possible effort to eliminate sources of standing water around your home or place of business," said Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano. "The more people involved in the effort, the more aggressively we can tackle this pest problem."

Some of the things residents can do are:

- Dispose of all containers that hold water.
- Store those you want to keep by turning them upside down or punching holes in the bottom so water drains out.
- Clean roof gutters and drainage ditches.
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish.
- Change water in bird-baths, fountains and pet dishes weekly.
- Make sure septic, air conditioning and other water tanks are sealed with screened vents.
- Empty wading pools when not in use and keep swimming pools clean and filtered.
- Make sure boats are covered or water drains out of them completely. Store small boats upside-down.
- Flush sump pumps weekly.
- Maintain window and door screens to exclude mosquitoes from house or business.

If you have a mosquito problem or if you need additional advice or information, call the commission at 732-549-0665.

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DOT outlines jughandle trial plan for Route 1

By Victoria Hurley-Schubert
Staff Writer

PRINCETON — Plans to eliminate jughandles at two major Route 1 intersections in Mercer County continued this week as stakeholders met during a Transportation Forum in Princeton Wednesday.

One of the suggestions from the forum, held May 23 at the New Jersey Hospital Association, was to involve neighbors to the north and south in South Brunswick and Lawrence in the planning process, as they might see some overflow motorists.

"As you know Route 1, especially at peak periods, operates at over capacity," said Joe Dec, director of communications at the Department of Transportation.

Traffic is further snarled while motorists cue up to use the jughandles at Harrison and Washington streets, diminishing lane capacity. The plan would send u-turn traffic to Scudder's Mill Road in Plainsboro, which is the next northbound interchange.

Plainsboro Administrator Robert Sheehan said the changes to the traffic pattern will impact the whole Route 1 corridor. "Although traffic conditions were worse when the economy was better, Route 1 problems are larger than just one troubled intersection."

"The solutions are few along Route 1, absent significant expenditures and major infrastructure and that doesn't look like its going to happen anytime soon," he said. "DOT should be applauded for being creative and working with all of us to try and make the best of a bad situation."

Motorists traveling east and west on Washington Road will still be able to make left turns onto Route 1. Only the movements from the jughandles will be restricted, according to the DOT plan.

DOT officials hope the plan alleviates the back up from Scudder's Mill Road onto Route 1, and this will be done by adjusting the timing of the light at Harrison Street, allowing more traffic to flow on Route 1.

"It will allow us to retime it and allow more green (light time) on Route 1," said Mr. Dec. "We will also retime Washington Road to allow more traffic through these two intersections."

West Windsor Mayor Shing-Fu Hsueh, said Route 1's reputation has cost the area some business development and all the trouble spots are in West Windsor and the impact of the left turn prohibition will extend into South Brunswick and Lawrenceville.

"We're all going to lose a little bit here and there and at the end of the day, we are going to find we all are going to gain something," he said.

He said Quakerbridge and Province Line roads and Canal Point Boulevard would feel the impacts of closing the northern jughandles.

"People are going to eventually figure out which way is going to be better," Mayor Hsueh said.

The mayor also mentioned that the connection between West Windsor and Princeton, which is a narrow bridge on Alexander Road, would also need to be improved at some point. Last year, the area saw major traffic tie ups as the S-curve in the road was improved.

One alternative access to Princeton will be closed at the same time as the jughandle experiment-Quaker Road, said Liz Lempert, Princeton Township deputy mayor. The bridge over the Stony Brook is scheduled to be replaced beginning Aug. 1.

Officials said they are concerned about the impact on the roadways north and south of the new traffic patterns.

The 12-week test period will begin on either July 30 or Aug. 6, which are both Mondays, according to DOT officials.

Signs and dynamic message boards will announce the changes before the trial period begins, said Mr. Dec.

Traffic surveys taking car counts are already in place in Princeton to collect baseline data before the trial period begins.

Bluetooth technology will be used to gather trip times while not identifying vehicles throughout the trial period.

The DOT will evaluate the impact the changes have on local business communities throughout the process, officials said.

Karen Jezerny, director of public affairs at Princeton University, said university officials have been cooperating with the DOT to get an accurate use of Faculty Road and driver behaviors, such as those that make U-turns out of frustration. The university will be supplementing the DOT data with traffic flow in residential communities, such as Broadmead Road.

They are concerned about the impact of the changes on the 5,000 employees at the university, its Tiger Transit system and maintenance vehicles who service buildings throughout the area.

Mr. Dec reiterated that the DOT will be watching out for unintended consequences and if the project is a failure, the plug will be pulled.

After delaying the start of the trial because of outcry from local officials and the Princeton business community, officials said the test will begin in August because traffic is not at its peak, schools are not in session and local universities have not reconvened.

Pam Hersh, vice president for government and communi-

ty affairs at Princeton Health-Care System said the hospital's move to Plainsboro focused attention to the traffic problems in this section on Route 1 and the experiment "is an excellent test and long overdue."

"We still have facilities in Princeton, so we are concerned in both directions," she said. "The development on Route 1 will continue and we need to address the problem."

Hospital officials are worried about the backups onto Route 1 from Scudder's Mill Road.

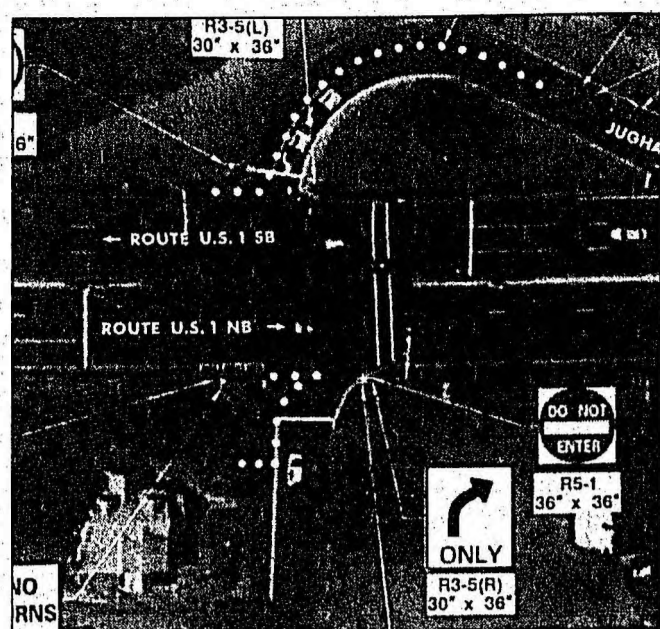
By the trial start date, all the ambulances that service the hospital should have their Opticom systems installed to allow the ambulance drivers to change the light at Harrison and Route 1 to get through the signal.

The hospital will begin an employee education campaign to address fears about getting to work.

Lori Rabon, president of the Princeton Regional Convention and Visitor's Bureau, said many visitors would be coming into the area during the trial time period. She also said information will be placed on the visitprinceton.org website and featured on the homepage, as well as the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Route 1 hotels will also need to adapt to the changes in the traffic patterns and officials are trying to get the traffic alerts sent to GPS systems. She also said they would be watching how NJ Transit would be responding to the changes along its routes.

Many officials present asked the DOT to create a special webpage with all of the trial information, so other agencies like the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and businesses can link to it from their websites for consistency of information.



DOT graphic

Department of Transportation graphics show the proposed changes in traffic flow at one of several intersection on Route 1.

Legal-Public Notices		
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH BRUNSWICK		
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX		
As required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5A-15, the following is a synopsis of the audit of the financial statements and supplementary data for the year ended December 31, 2011		
Statement of Net Assets December 31, 2011		
Assets:		Governmental Activities
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 938,424	
Prepaid insurance	36,679	
Total current assets	975,103	
Fixed assets (net of depreciation)	3,476,918	
Total assets	4,452,021	
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	22,531	
Accrued interest payable	23,407	
Bonds payable	80,000	
Capital lease payable	100,749	
Total current liabilities	226,687	
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Bonds payable	350,000	
Capital lease payable	680,406	
Total noncurrent liabilities	1,040,406	
Total liabilities	1,267,093	
Net assets:		
Investments in capital assets, net of related debt	2,255,763	
Restricted net assets:		
Capital	325,259	
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	322,356	
For subsequent year's expenditures	281,550	
Total net assets	\$3,184,928	
Statement of Activities For the year ended December 31, 2011		
Government activities:		Total Governmental Activities
Operation appropriations:		
Administration	\$102,645	
Costs of operations and maintenance	626,361	
Operating appropriations offset with revenues	26,218	
Length of service award contribution	37,392	
Total government activities	792,616	
General revenues:		
Miscellaneous revenue	1,824	
Operating grant revenues	6,298	
Amount raised by taxation	683,652	
Total general revenues	691,774	
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(100,842)	
Net assets, January 1	3,285,770	
Net assets, December 31	\$3,184,928	

For the year ended December 31, 2011 there were the following recommendations:
2011-1: The District must maintain a complete and accurate fixed asset listing
2011-2: The District must maintain a complete and accurate inventory listing
2011-3: The District must accurately report employees earnings for State and Federal payroll tax purposes.

The above synopsis was prepared from the report of the audit of the Fire District No. 1 of the Township of South Brunswick as of December 31, 2011.

This report of audit, submitted by Holman & Frenia, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, is on file at the office of the Fire District No. 1 of the Township of South Brunswick, 95 Henderson Street, Kendall Park, New Jersey and may be inspected by any interested person.

SBP, 1x, 5/24/2012 Fee: \$87.42

Organ restoration benefit set

A benefit concert for the renovation of the organ installed in 1892 will be held at 5 p.m. at Six Mile Run Reformed Church, 3037 Route 27, Franklin Park. Admission \$10. Tickets available at door. Visit www.sixmilerun.org.

Performing will be Dimitri and Lenore Kauriga with ten-

or Justin Gonzalez.

Mr. Kauriga is a conductor, accompanist and vocalist. He has performed throughout the Tri-state area, and is co-musical director for Bensalem Presbyterian Church.

Ms. Kauriga has sung with the Philadelphia Oratorio Choir and Chorale and per-

formed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Lyric and Grand Opera Companies of Philadelphia and Ocean City Pops.

With husband, Dimitri, she serves as co-music director for the Bensalem Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Gonzalez has been

performing in the Tri-state area for over a decade, having appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Peter Nero, and the Ocean City Pops Orchestra. He has performed internationally in Portugal, Germany and has sung with Rod Stewart for Prince Charles.

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Junior Prom held in Edison

By Marla Riegel
Special Writer

South Brunswick High School's Class of 2013 held its Junior Prom at The Rosewood in Edison May 19.

"I think it (Prom) went very well," Co-Junior Class Advisor Anastasia Marcella said. "I think it was a success."

According to Ms. Marcella 268 students attended the annual event, which is normally the average amount of attendees each year.

She also said that the junior class sold enough of its \$75 each person tickets to put a deposit down for their senior prom next year.

In the past, the Junior Prom has been held at the East Brunswick Chateau, but Ms. Marcella said that because of

The Rosewood's accommodations, she and Co-Junior Class Advisor Alex Witkowski, decided to hold the Prom at the Rosewood.

"The Rosewood was available and the Junior Prom had been held there a couple of years ago," Ms. Marcella said. "They were extremely accommodating and the food was great."

Ms. Marcella said that the junior class officers, Mr. Witkowski, and herself chose the 'Midnight Masquerade' theme for the Prom.

The tables were decorated with evening masks and party boas.

Gianna Rosamilia was crowned Prom Queen and Kenny Drost was crowned Prom King. Gianna and Kenny then shared the traditional 'King and Queen Dance.'

Junior Kenny Hart performed with his rap group KOH and DJ Tapz to 'surprise the junior class' Ms. Marcella said.

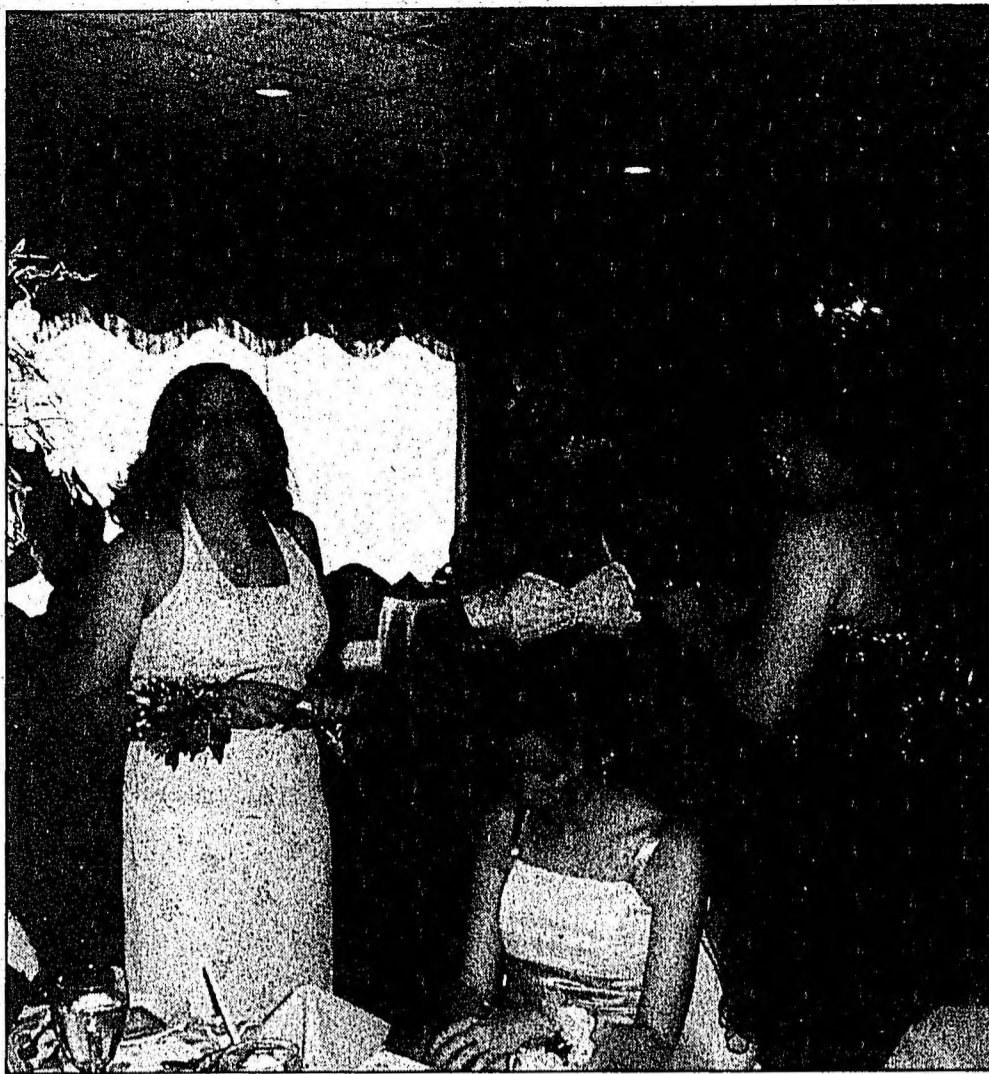
"He asked us if he could do this as a surprise," Ms. Marcella said.

A handful of attendees also brought Mr. Witkowski out on the dance floor to sing 'Happy Birthday' to him because his birthday was the following day.

Mr. Witkowski teaches junior English, and many students felt compelled to sing to him for his birthday because they have him as their teacher, according to Ms. Marcella.

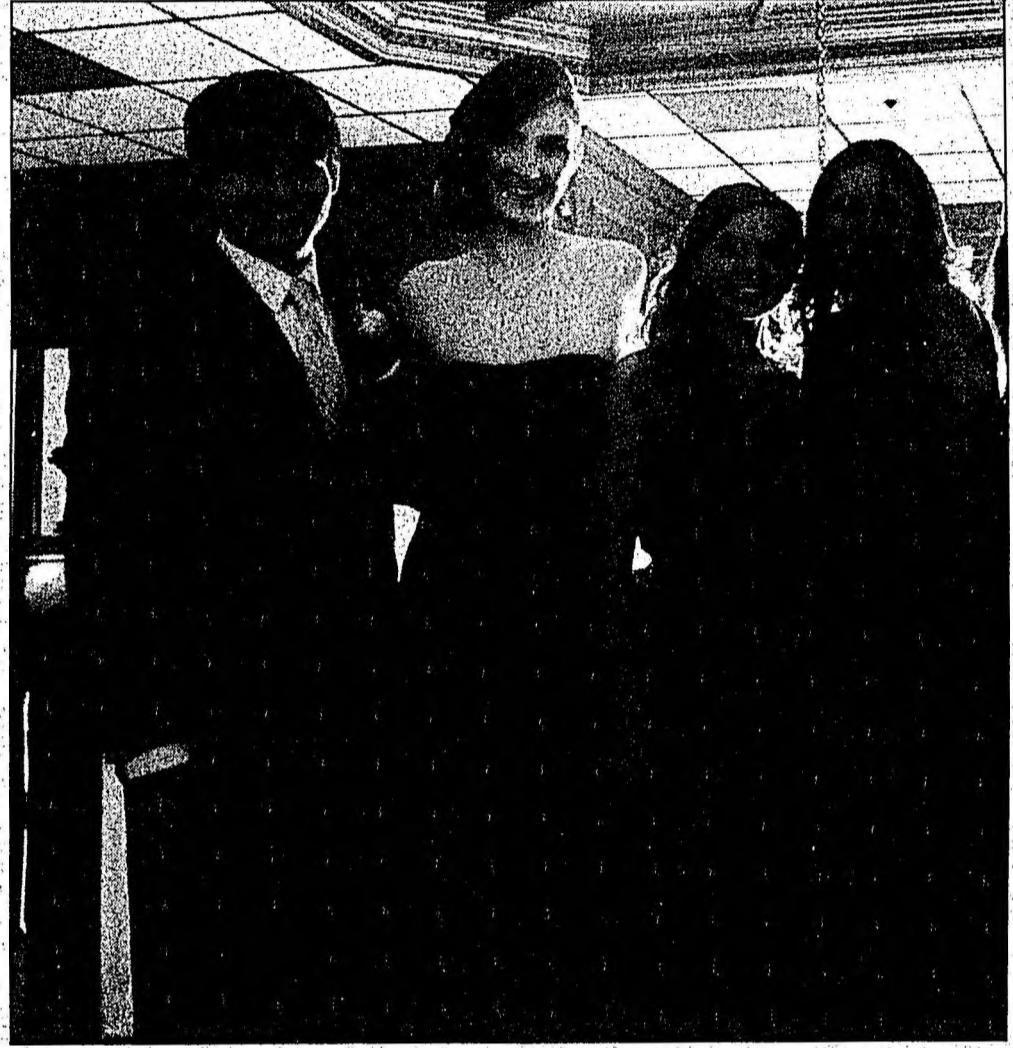
Overall, the Junior Prom was a success and Ms. Marcella said that she is excited for the Senior Prom next year.

"I just hope Senior Prom goes just as well," Ms. Marcella said.



Marla Riegel photos

Members of the junior class enjoy the annual Prom May 19 at the Rosewood in Edison.



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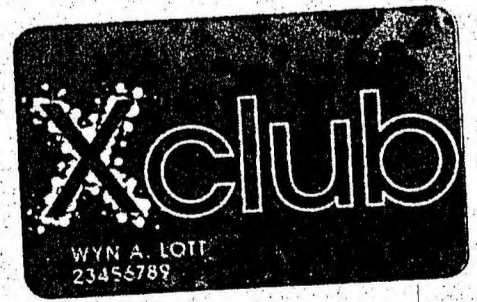
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TOWN FORUM

8A South Brunswick Post

Thursday, May 24, 2012

LETTERS

Holiday is important reminder

To the editor:

Memorial Day is an important time to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

Servicemen and women have always been important to me.

Many members of my family were in the military, including my husband Michael, who served with distinction in Desert Storm as a Major in the United States Marine Corps. He is a member of the Marine Corps League Detachment 927 — the Hunterdon County Bulldogs.

Our family remains passionate about honoring our troops. Volunteering at the Lyons Campus of the VA New Jersey Health Care System reminds me how important it is to let veterans know their sacrifices are appreciated.

Playing bingo with our veterans is more than calling out numbers. It's a small thank you that says: "You are not forgotten and we are grateful for your service."

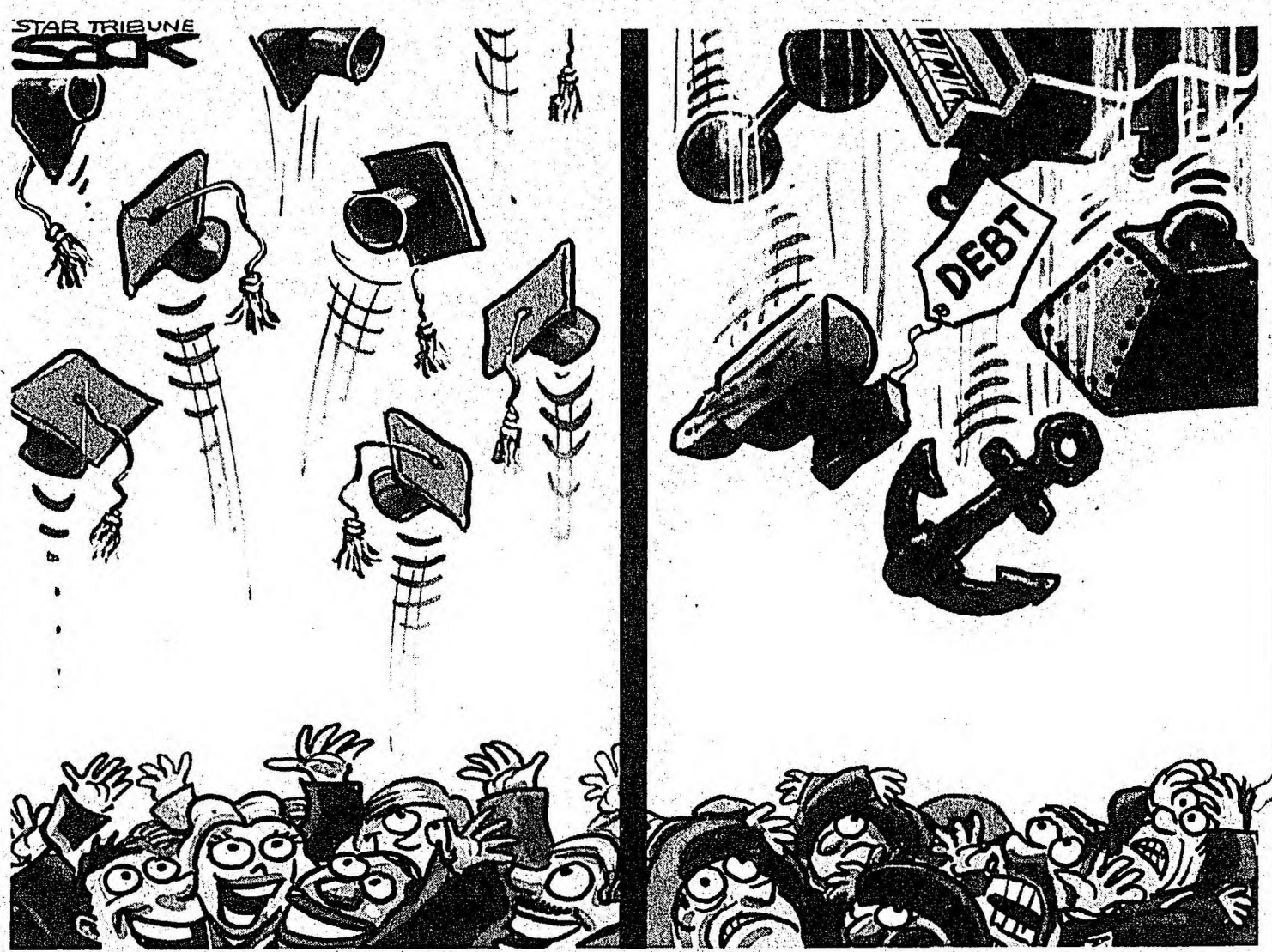
I am very serious about making sure veterans are not forgotten.

I support New Jersey's "Operation: Hire a Jersey Hero," which is committed to expand employment opportunities for veterans. Recently, more than 50 employers with nearly 3,000 job openings — attended a state-sponsored job fair for veterans.

Many employers know that the skills people gain in the military make them valuable members of any organization.

I'm proud that New Jersey values our veterans and encourage everyone to take this Memorial Day as an opportunity to remember those who have given their lives and thank those who were willing to do so.

Donna Simon
Assemblywoman 16th District



THE STATE WE'RE IN Michele Byers

'Spill Spotters' needed to keep eyes on water

After the devastation of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico two years ago, many New Jerseyans wondered whether our state's waters would be next.

Although offshore drilling is not allowed right now, the Delaware and Raritan bays are home to some of the nation's most active ports and oil refineries with giant tankers loading and unloading petroleum and other chemicals.

New Jersey is vulnerable and must be prepared. That's why the American Littoral Society should be applauded for its new Spill Spotters program, which trains volunteer citizens and community groups to recognize and respond to signs of an oil spill.

"The more eyes we have on the water, the better off we'll be," says Stevie Thorsen, education coordinator for the Littoral Society. "Even though in New Jersey the risk of an oil spill seems pretty small, we want to be prepared."

The first three Spill Spotters workshops will be held just before Memorial Day weekend — one on Delaware Bay, one on Barnegat

Bay and one on Raritan Bay — and more are planned over the summer.

The Littoral Society is looking for individuals as well as teachers, Scout leaders and other community activists who can, in turn, pass the knowledge on to those interested in coastal protection.

Using seine nets, clam rakes and binoculars, Spill Spotters trainees will learn how to collect baseline data on birds, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, worms and other creatures living in and around coastal waters. Knowing the normal background conditions will help them detect problems in the future.

After taking the three-hour class, volunteers can "adopt" spots along bays or estuaries, collect biological data with the help of American Littoral Society staff members and return regularly for follow-up visits.

"They'll really get to know their local waterways," Thorsen predicts. "They'll be the first to spot any changes."

"On-the-ground" and "in-the-water" knowledge is critical if and when a spill oc-

curs. Thorsen notes that one of the challenges of the Gulf of Mexico cleanup was a lack of baseline data in many locations.

All Spill Spotters will receive an oil spill response toolkit and contact information for reporting problems. Spill Spotters won't be taught how to care for oil-soaked birds, but they can get that training if they're interested.

If you love our coastal waterways, bays and estuaries, become a Spill Spotter!

For more information about the Spill Spotters program and how to find a workshop near you, visit www.spillspotters.net or contact Thorsen at Stevie@littoralsociety.org or 732-291-0055.

Even if you don't have time for a workshop, the site provides valuable information about what to do if you notice a spill.

Michele Byers is executive director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation. For more information, contact her at info@njconservation.org or visit NJCF's website at www.njconservation.org.

Local Contacts

Contact information for South Brunswick township and the South Brunswick Board of Education follows:

South Brunswick township offices:
P.O. Box 190, Monmouth Junction, N.J. 08852; telephone, 732-329-4000; Web, www.twp.south-brunswick.nj.us/.

- Council and staff e-mail addresses:
- Mayor Frank Gambatese (D) — mayor@sbt.nj.net
 - Joe Camarota (D) — joeatwork@aol.com
 - Charles Carley (D) — chascarley@msn.com
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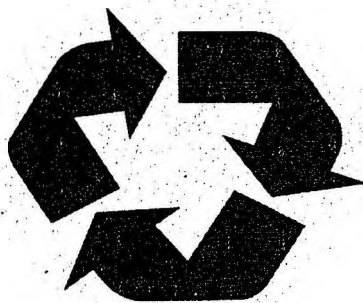
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- School contact information:
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 - Brunswick Acres School, 41 Kory Drive, Kendall Park, N. J. 08824; 732-297-6621; Neel Desai, principal, neel.desai@sbschools.org
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- Dayton School, 310 Georges Road, Dayton, N.J. 08810; 732-329-1043; Amand Rosenberg, principal, amanda.rosenberg@sbschools.org
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LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Tuesday and should not exceed 500 words.

Letters must include home address and a daytime telephone number. It is our policy to print the name and town of the letter writer. The telephone number is for purposes of con-

firmation only and will not be published.

We reserve the right to edit letters, limit length and frequency and limit the number of letters that run in the paper on any given week.

Contacting staff

The South Brunswick Post staff can be

reached at the following e-mail addresses:

- Charles W. Kim, managing editor, at ckim@centraljersey.com.
- For circulation issues, call 609-874-2169. The South Brunswick Post, P.O. Box 350, Princeton, New Jersey, 08542

CAPITOL NEWS AND COMMENT

The following items are taken from reports issued by legislators and other items of political concern.

Camera ban

Sen. Michael Doherty, R-23rd, the sponsor of legislation that would result in the elimination of red light camera ticketing systems in New Jersey, has launched an online petition in support of the effort.

The petition can be signed by visiting www.senatnj.com/cameras.

"In the few days since my legislation banning red light cameras was introduced, the amount of support I've received has been overwhelming," Sen. Doherty said. "People really dislike the cameras, but aren't sure what to do about it. That's why I launched our online petition to ensure that people can have their voices heard and be counted in their support of this legislation to prohibit red light cameras and automated ticketing systems."

Sen. Doherty's legislation, S1952, prevents municipalities that do not currently use red light cameras from employing the systems and would prohibit municipalities that already use the systems from renewing their contracts with the vendors that operate and maintain them.

Additionally, the bill removes the provision from current law that provides law enforcement with a 90-day timeframe to issue tickets for violations of traffic control devices, including those generated by red light camera systems.

Mr. Doherty noted it has become apparent red light cameras are really less about safety and more about generating income from motorists for municipalities and the state.

"There was a story in the news today about a town in Ocean County that collected \$1 million in fines over the past two years—from a pair of red light cameras," Sen. Doherty said. "It's clear that towns have little interest in actually making intersections safer. They want violations to occur so they can continue collecting fines to prop up government spending. It's an easy way for elected officials to justify bloated local budgets."

The issue is also one of personal privacy and the right of citizens to be free to travel without having their every movement tracked in a government database, Sen. Doherty said.

"We shouldn't accept this continual encroachment of our civil liberties that red light cameras represent," Sen. Doherty added. "We shouldn't accept a 'Big Brother' government that takes photos and videos of us and records our movements as we travel. If you agree, I encourage you to show your support by signing my online petition."

Protecting animals

Legislation sponsored by Assemblymen Nelson Albano and Matthew Milam upgrading penalties for anyone who threatens or harms a law enforcement animal has been approved by an Assembly panel.

"Often times, law enforcement animals are on the front lines, putting themselves in harm's way right along with their human counterparts," said Mr. Albano, D-Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland. "They are highly trained and a tremendous asset to police operations. Any intentional harm inflicted on these animals is not only cruel, but it impedes law enforcement operations and negates the enormous time and effort put into training these highly specialized animals."

The bill is known as Dano's Law, named for the canine partner of Somerset County Sheriff's Officer Capt. Tim Pino, who was threatened during an incident in Hillsborough several years ago when local police had stopped a suspected drug dealer and asked for assistance from the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.

The suspected dealer's boyfriend then appeared on the scene and tried to distract police by threatening to kill Dano. Afterward, Capt. Pino found that, under current law, the boyfriend could only be charged with a disorderly person's offense for threatening Dano.

The bill (A495) approved would upgrade the penalties for killing, maiming, inflicting harm or interfering with an animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog or for threatening to do so.

"Dano, like many K-9 partners, is more than just a dog to his community," said Mr. Milam, D-Cape May, Atlantic, Cumberland. "He is a vital asset to law enforcement officers and all law-abiding citizens. This law will ensure that all K-9 counterparts have strong protections against criminal threats."

Current law provides that any person who purposely kills an animal owned or used by law enforcement is guilty of a crime of the third degree; purposely maims or otherwise inflicts harm upon an animal owned or used by law enforcement is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree; and interferes with any law enforcement officer using an animal in the performance of his official duties is guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

The bill would upgrade the offense from a fourth-degree crime to a third-degree crime for purposely maiming or otherwise inflicting harm upon a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog. While a fourth-degree crime is punishable by up to 18 months in jail, a fine of up to \$10,000 or both, a third-degree crime is punishable by three to five years in jail, a fine of up to \$15,000 or both.

Furthermore, the bill also adds a provision to the current law that a person who purposely threatens to kill, maim or otherwise inflict harm upon a dog, horse or other animal owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog, under circumstances reasonably causing the person to whom the threat is made to believe it is likely it will be carried out, is guilty of a crime of the third degree.

The measure was approved by the Assembly Agriculture Committee and awaits consideration by the full Assembly.

Adoption and religion

Legislation sponsored by Assembly members Gary Schaefer, Pamela Lampitt and Upendra Chivukula that would require private adoption agencies, the courts and the state to maintain a child's religious upbringing when placing a child with a guardian, into foster care or into an adoptive home has been approved by an Assembly panel.

"A child's religious and cultural backgrounds are significant aspects of determining the best interests of the child," said Mr. Schaefer, D-Passaic, Bergen, Essex. "That's why it's so important that the placement of a child into foster care or adoption should be consistent with their religious and cultural backgrounds unless it's proven by convincing evidence that such placement is not in the best interests of the child."

The legislation (A2448) would permit agencies and courts to place a child in a setting of a different religion only with a written statement from the child's birth parent or legal guardian. In the case that such a placement is not feasible or not in the child's best interest, a written statement will be required explaining the placement decision.

"For many children, religion is a guiding force in their life and a strong part of their

inherent identity," said Ms. Lampitt, D-Camden, Burlington. "This would preserve and protect that identity, which is important, particularly, during times of enormous transition such as adoption or foster care."

In cases where a court or an agency places a child into a resource family home of a different religion than the child, the bill requires provisions be made for the child to continue religious observance, education and training in the new setting. Such provisions are not required when placing a child into an adoptive home.

Various advocates have expressed support for the measure, including Dr. Aref Assaf, the president of American Arab Forum and an advisory board member of the New Jersey Council on American Islamic Relations, and David Mandel, chief executive officer of Ohel Children's Home and Family Services Inc.

The measure was approved by the Assembly Women and Children Committee and awaits consideration by the full Assembly.

Tax credit

Sen. Jim Holzapfel and Assemblymen Dave Wolfe and Greg McGuckin, all 10th District, have introduced a bill (S1957/A2939), which would provide an income tax credit for tolls paid on state roads via E-ZPass.

Under the bill, taxpayers whose toll expenses exceed \$1,000 per year would be eligible for a \$1,000 credit on their New Jersey income taxes.

"With this bill, we are trying to put money back into the wallets of commuters who have seen relentless toll increases," Sen. Holzapfel said. "By providing commuters with a means to offset a portion of their commuting costs, our bill recognizes that these taxpayers are paying more than their fair share for transportation and economic development projects while encouraging commuters to use E-ZPass."

New Jersey residents experienced the most recent toll increase Jan. 1, 2012, during the second half of a two-phase toll increase adopted by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority under Gov. Jon Corzine in October 2008. The first increase at the end of 2008 raised Turnpike tolls 40 percent and Parkway tolls 43 percent.

"We opposed former Gov. Corzine's plan to increase tolls back in 2008, knowing that shore residents would not see any benefits from increased tolls," Assemblyman Wolfe said. "We have been proven right in our opposition. Funds from increased tolls paid on the Parkway have been diverted to pay for transportation projects in other areas in the state. Our constituents in Brick and Toms River, who make up a large portion of toll-paying commuters in the state, deserve tax relief for shouldering the burden of funding transportation projects across New Jersey."

Tolls increased substantially this January with a 53 percent increase on the New Jersey Turnpike and a 50 percent increase on the Garden State Parkway. The average passenger vehicle toll rose from \$2.20 to \$3.30 on the Turnpike and 70 cents to \$1.05 on the Parkway.

"Over the years, substantial toll monies have been diverted to other transportation expenses and economic development projects which are not

directly related to the cost of maintenance of tolled roadways." Assemblyman McGuckin said. "Commuters are essentially paying twice, once through their income taxes and again through the tolls they pay. Our tax credit for commuters recognizes that they shoulder a larger burden than they should through tolls for projects that benefit all of the people of the state."

User fee cap

Legislation sponsored by Senate President Steve Sweeney that would help insulate property taxpayers from efforts by local officials to make end runs around the state's 2 percent cap has cleared the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee.

"For some services, the term 'user fee' is just a clever way to avoid actually calling it what it is: property tax," said Sen. Sweeney, D-Gloucester, Cumberland, Salem. "Property taxes are high enough without local officials trying to come up with clever and new ways to raise them even more. The cap was put in place because New Jerseyans have had it with ever-increasing property taxes. It shouldn't be seen as simply something to get around."

The bill, S1914, would prevent local officials from moving spending items traditionally covered by the property tax levy, like trash collection, off the property tax bill into a "user fee" to get around the state's 2 percent property tax cap.

Instead, services shifted from a property tax base to a "user fee" base would continue to be counted as part of the cap.

Since the enactment of the 2 percent cap in 2010, 17 New Jersey municipalities have gone to referendum asking voters to override the cap with several of those attempts tied to the creation of a new "user fees" to fund services that would be taken off the property tax bill if the vote failed, but would continue to be publicly provided as they were before.

Current law isn't clear about prohibiting this practice. The Senate president's bill would make it clear any services that get shifted out of the property tax base to a user fee still are subject to the 2 percent cap.

"Hardworking families in this state need a break," Sen. Sweeney said. "They are already, on average, paying 20 percent more in property taxes under this administration. They don't need their property taxes increased in other ways. When we eliminate these kinds of loopholes and implement our proposed 10 percent property tax cut, we are going to start to see real relief for New Jersey's middle class."

The bill now heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Substance abuse

Deputy Assembly Republican Leader Anthony M. Bucco, R-Morris and Somerset, has introduced legislation that would establish a grant program for school districts to provide substance abuse prevention programs for eighth-grade students.

Assemblyman Bucco's bill, A2907, is modeled after Project Positive Choice, a successful drug and alcohol education program that was incorporated into the curriculum of

the Copeland Middle School in Rockaway Township in 1998.

The assemblyman was part of a group of concerned parents who wanted young teenagers to learn about the dangers of substance abuse after a rash of heroin overdoses by middle school and high school students in the area occurred in the summer of 1997.

"Students transitioning from middle school to high school are faced with many social and emotional challenges," Assemblyman Bucco said. "In today's world, no one should be naive enough to think drug and alcohol issues don't exist in their community. By providing eighth-grade students with a curriculum that involves listening to the dangers and real life experiences of substance abuse, we can help them make the right choices and not succumb to a potentially deadly addiction."

"The students learn firsthand not only the impact drug and alcohol abuse has on an individual, but on their family as well. Educating students on how to avoid the pressures and pitfalls that come along with drug abuse will save lives and prevent tragedies that too many families deal with."

Assemblyman Bucco's bill would direct the commissioner of education to establish a program to provide grants to school districts — if state funding is available — to implement a substance abuse prevention program, which includes two components: faculty and parent education and student education.

Also, the school district may raise funds through individual, corporate or other private sector donations or federal funds for the purpose of financing the substance abuse prevention program.

It has been referred to the Assembly Education Committee.

Jeans for Troops

Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Chairwoman Cleopatra Tucker are urging members to ditch their formal wear in favor of jeans for the May 24 Assembly voting session to show support for the third annual Jeans for Troops fundraising drive benefiting thousands of New Jersey veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The fundraising drive will be held May 24 in honor of Memorial Day. Employers that choose to participate in the fundraising drive allow employees to wear jeans to work in exchange for a \$5 donation to the G.I. Go Fund. Several major employers already have signed up.

The Assembly also will be participating during its May 24 voting session, Assemblywoman Oliver said. Assembly members and staff are encouraged to participate and will be permitted to wear jeans as part of their professional attire.

Jackets and ties still will be required for male members and staffers.

The idea was suggested first by Assemblywoman Tucker.

"While there is a traditional dress code expected from legislators, I think we can all agree that this is one cause worth putting it aside for," said Speaker Oliver. "I hope to see all my colleagues, Democrat and Republican, wearing jeans on May 24 in support of our military men and women who have served our country and must now adjust to civilian life at home."

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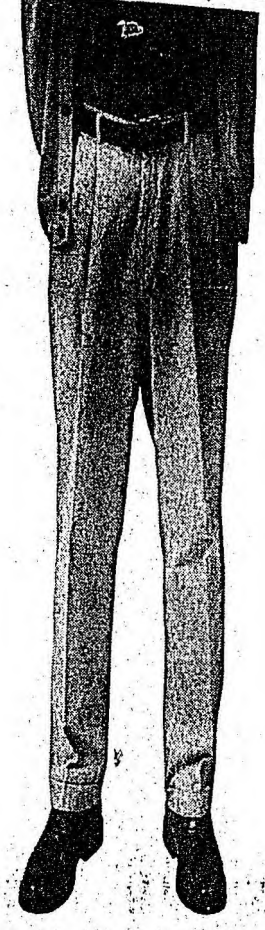
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CALENDAR

Sat., May 26

Fiddle Concert, presented by Hanneke Cassell, 3 p.m., South Brunswick Public Library, 110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction. Free. Call 732-329-4000, ext. 7286, or visit www.sbppl.info.

Sun., May 27

Shavuot is the holiday when G-d gave the Jews the Torah on Mount Sinai. The synagogue therefore, has a tradition to relive the moment by reading the 10 Commandments. Chabad Jewish Center, One Riva Avenue, North Brunswick, will host a special children's Shavuot ice-cream party at 10 a.m. Reading of the 10 Commandments begin at 11 a.m. followed by a traditional dairy Kiddush and Ice Cream Party. All are welcome. Call 732-398-9492 or visit chabadsouthbrunswick.com.

Mon., May 28

Memorial Day Remembrance Services will be held on the front lawn at the Lt. John Farnkopf American Legion Post 401, 148 Major Road, Monmouth Junction, at 11 a.m. Gary Cooper, post commander, and Barbara Buhl, auxiliary president, will present the ceremonial wreath. Music will be provided by the South Brunswick High School Band. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Fri., June 1

The orchestra from Cambridge Elementary school and a Jazz Band from Brooks Crossing Elementary school will perform at 12:30 p.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the municipal building at Route 522. Sponsored by the Board of Education, the program is free and open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

A new session of **Zumba** led by Fran DeCarlo will be held for four weeks on Fridays at 1:15 p.m. starting June 1 for \$12 for the four sessions. Register at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the municipal building at Route 522 by May 30. Open to resident seniors 55+. Call 732-329-4000 x7670.

Sun., June 3

Benefit Concert for the renovation of the organ installed in 1892 will be held at 5 p.m. at Six Mile Run Reformed Church, 3037 Route 27, Franklin Park. Admission \$10. Tickets available at door. Visit www.sixmilerun.org.

Mon., June 4

A **workshop** on Developing Respect and Understanding of People of Other Cultures will be held at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the municipal building at Route 522 from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Discussion leaders will show how the understanding and acceptance of ethnic heterogeneity nourishes America instead of diminishing it. Following at 1:30 to 3 p.m. part two will focus on Continuing Cultural Conversations. Looking Back at 9/11 discussion

with Angus Gillespie, professor of American studies at Rutgers. This program is open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Tues., June 5

Preparing Today for Tomorrow: Discovering Your Home Care/Care Giving Options, a participatory forum bringing together leaders and innovators from multiple sectors is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the South Brunswick Public Works Building in the Municipal Complex Route 522. W. Lowell Arye, deputy commissioner of N.J. Department of Human Services, is the headline speaker. The forum is designed to inform the boomer and sandwich generations about resources for determining how and why "aging in place" can be a viable option. Registration and lunches are free until June 1. Lunches at the door - \$10. Register Jacque@AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org. on line at www.AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org. Or call 732.305.7079.

A new session of **Tai Chi** will be start at 9:30 a.m. with instructor June Counterman. Register at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the municipal building at Route 522. This is an eight-week session and the cost is \$32. Please register by June 20. Tai chi combines a type of meditative relaxation process with flowing movements, which results in benefits to both the power of the body and the mind. This program is open to South Brunswick Senior residents 55+. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

"Preparing Today for Tomorrow: Discovering Your Home Care/Care Giving Options," will be the topic of a forum from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the South Brunswick Public Works Building in the Municipal Complex located on Route 522W. The keynote speaker is Lowell Arye, deputy commissioner of N.J. Department of Human Services. Pre-Register and lunches are free until June 1. Lunch at the door - \$10. Register in advance at: Jacque@AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org. on line at www.AgingInPlacePARTNERSHIP.org. Or call 732.305.7079.

Wed., June 6

A **lecture on Common Foot and Ankle Problems in Older Adults** will be held at 10:45 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the municipal building at Route 522 presented by TwinBoro Rehab Center. This lecture is free and open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Thurs., June 7

The **ELL White Book Project** will be held at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522, at 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. Seniors and students participate in a read-aloud of a student created alphabet book as told by English Language Learners, an English as a Second Language Program. Sponsored by the Board of Education, the program is free and open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Wed., June 13

A **lecture on Social Security benefits and entitlements** will be held at 10:45 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Robert Wood Johnson Hospital presenter Kevin Liebkemann will discuss you're options. Social Security beneficiaries are not only retired people but also those who have been disabled by injury or illness, the survivors of workers who have died and dependents of beneficiaries. Gather information on SSDI and SSI benefits. This lecture is free and open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Thurs., June 14

A **breast cancer discussion** will be held at 12:15pm at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Come learn about the myths surrounding this disease, what puts you at risk, and the signs and symptoms you may not know about. You will be moved by a breast cancer survivor's inspirational story. Speakers include: Elizabeth Krefski, RN, MSN, director of University Medical Center at Princeton's Breast Health Center Princeton Breast Cancer Resource Center Health experts. Free mammograms will be available for those who qualify. This free program is presented by Princeton HealthCare System Community Education and the YWCA Princeton Breast Cancer Resource Center. Program is open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Mon., June 18

See what your **gold is worth** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Have your unwanted gold appraised by a professional, Joe Goulzian, from Gold Gives Back in NJ. He will give you a free appraisal. If you accept the price you will receive cash on the spot. Registration required by calling the Senior Center at 732 329-4000 x7670. Pre registering will give you a coupon for an additional 5 percent cash back while supplies last. A portion of the proceeds are donated to the senior center. This event is open to the public. Call 732-329-4000 x7682

Maurice Mahler, a historian, lecturer and artist, will present a lecture about Salvador Dali at 12:30 p.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Dali was a skilled draftsman, best known for the striking and bizarre images in his surrealist work. This event is for South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Thurs., June 21

A **Barbecue and Entertainment** is set for 11 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Entertainment by Winton will be from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. He will perform show tunes and take requests. Register for by June 14. The lunch is run by the Middlesex County Senior Meal Program with a suggested donation of \$2.25 for the

lunch. This event is for South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Mon., June 26

"**Warhorse**" will be shown at 12:30 p.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Directed by Steven Spielberg the movie is about the relationship of the horse and a young man, through brutal scenes from World War I. This event is for South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

All **South Brunswick seniors** 55+ are invited to the monthly birthday luncheon on at 11 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. If your birthday is in February please call the office by June 19. A special menu will be served followed by birthday cake. During your celebration there will be games and trivia for all. So come celebrate your special day with everyone at the center. Call 732-329-4000 X7670 to register.

Wed., June 27

The **Residence at Forsgate & Princeton Healthcare** at 10:45 a.m. will present an interactive exercise session geared toward the older adult population at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Learn techniques on how to improve posture, breathing, as well as improving chronic muscle pain. This session is for all levels of movement ability. This lecture is free and open to South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Thurs., June 28

Girl Scout Troop 1030 hosts a free Fashion Show and Dance Party at 12:15 p.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. They will serve ice cream sundaes, sugar free available with all the toppings. Please sign up by June 19. This event is for South Brunswick residents 55+ only. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

Tues., July 10

A new session of **pilates** will start at 9:15 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. The instructor Maryanne Carroll is leading this exercise class. This is an eight-week session and the cost is \$24. Please register by June 26. Pilates dramatically transforms the way your body looks, feels and performs. It builds strength without excess bulk, creating a sleek, toned body with slender thighs and a flat abdomen. This program is open to South Brunswick senior residents 55+. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

A new session of **Chair Yoga** class will be starting at 10:30 a.m. at the South Brunswick Senior Center in the Municipal Complex Route 522. Please register by June 26. The session runs for eight weeks at a cost of \$32. Chair Yoga engages your body, mind and spirit which may lead to a feeling of self-reliance and control over pain. This program is open to South Brunswick senior residents 55+. Call 732-329-4000 X7670.

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Ravi

Continued from Page 1A

finishes by the end of his probation.

"I heard this jury say guilty 288 times; 24 questions, 12 jurors, that's the multiplication, and I haven't heard you apologize once," said Judge Glenn Berman in his New Brunswick courtroom, addressing Mr. Ravi, who did not stand when the judge spoke to him. "The letter you gave to the pre-sentence people I'll call unimpressive. I know in that letter you apologized to Tyler and his family, but you didn't even mention M.B. (the man in Mr. Clementi's room that evening), and you didn't even mention the seven cover-up charges.

"The second irony is that your 'letter of apology' to the pre-sentence people doesn't mention M.B. as if he doesn't exist. He wrote a letter offering to help you avoid deportation," said Judge Berman, who said he was not recommending deportation.

"Mr. Clementi did nothing wrong but mistakenly trusting his roommate to respect his privacy," Judge Berman said.

Judge Berman said he thinks Mr. Ravi's conduct was a result of circumstances that are unlikely to reoccur, and he is not likely to reoffend.

"I don't believe he hated Tyler Clementi; he had no reason to, but I do believe he acted in colossal insensitivity," the judge said.

Mr. Ravi was found guilty after a three-week trial in a Middlesex County courtroom in March. Charges included witness tampering. Three of them included sentences of up to five to 10 years, the most serious being 10 years for bias intimidation.

His roommate, Tyler Clementi, killed himself Sept. 22, 2010, by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. Mr. Ravi was not charged with anything in connection to Mr. Clementi's suicide.

After rejecting several

motions for acquittal of select portions of the verdict and a retrial, Judge Berman heard victim impact statements from the Clementi family and M.B.

As the defense argued motions, Tyler Clementi's parents wiped away tears as they sat in the front row.

Richard Pompeilo, attorney for M.B., read a victim impact statement on behalf of his client. He said M.B. felt he and Mr. Clementi were "placed under a microscope for the sole amusement of Mr. Ravi and his friends." He also talked about the impact of being nameless, faceless and unable to defend himself and the hurt the Clementi family has endured.

"Mr. Ravi should serve some type of confinement for the harm he has caused," Mr. Pompeilo read. "I wonder if he knows he has caused me a great deal of pain, and he does not know me" as he talked about Mr. Ravi not understanding diversity.

Mr. Clementi's father, Joseph Clementi, said Mr. Ravi's actions had a severe, shocking and lasting impact on he and his family, noting one of his son's last actions was to check Mr. Ravi's Twitter page 37 times before his death so Mr. Ravi's actions must have troubled his son.

He said he thought Mr. Ravi did the criminal acts he was convicted of because his son was gay.

"(Mr. Ravi) did it without any thought . . . in a cold and calculating manner without any thought as to how it would affect Tyler, and then he tried to cover it up," said Mr. Clementi, noting his family was "seeking justice and accountability, not revenge."

"I love my brother and will mourn him every day for the rest of my life," said James Clementi, Tyler's older brother.

Jane Clementi, Mr. Clementi's mother, said she "felt as a piece of me had died in September 2010" as she sol-

diered through her statement, remaining composed as she read her remarks.

The actions of the then-teenaged Dharun Ravi also have affected his own family, which came to this country from India when Mr. Ravi was a boy.

Ravi Pazhani, Dharun Ravi's father, said Mr. Clementi will always be in his family's thoughts. He said his son was never a bully and not aggressive, and his son has been the target of bullying by prosecutors and an unfair trial.

"I'm standing here helplessly. I've never felt so powerless in my life," he said, noting he believes in the American justice system.

The only time throughout the trial and sentencing that Mr. Ravi showed any emotion was when his mother, Sabitha Ravi, openly wept as she talked about her son to the judge.

She called her son a "wonderful person" and said he is working on his computer programming degree online. She also said she worries how the stress of the situation is affecting her son's health, noting he has lost 25 pounds since the trial began.

"Dharun's dreams are shattered, and he has been living in hell for the past 20 months," said Ms. Ravi as she wept in court and clutched her son. "As a mother, I feel Dharun has suffered enough."

Judge Berman also recommended Molly Wei, a West Windsor resident who viewed Mr. Clementi's intimate encounter with Mr. Ravi, have her pretrial intervention terminated early because by the time she testified during Mr. Ravi's trial, she had completed 250 hours of her required community service in 10 months.

"This does not need to be held over her head any longer," said the judge, who noted the prosecutor has to agree to the motion.

"I'm not sure how the Clementis will ever get total closure," Judge Berman said.

Leaving

Continued from Page 1A

setting" at the almost 2,000 student facility on Stouts Lane.

Mr. Matheny said he is grateful that his legacy will include being recognized for "consistency, firmness, fairness, and making sure that all students know what is expected of them in their performance."

Mr. Matheny said he has accomplished these objectives at a time that the entire school district and the high school in particular have faced great economic challenges with literally dozens of positions being eliminated and or consolidated.

Based on these program cuts, Mr. Matheny said the high school administration has created "the best quality staff and programs, while the staff is working harder than ever."

He feels these results are well documented by student achievements in the National Merit exams, improved SAT scores, and rankings by national publications.

In addition, Mr. Matheny said he has implemented "a systemized approach to identifying and helping many students who had the potential for failure."

He also feels the highly organized guidance program has given these students extra support and many students who were identified are achieving excellent results in higher education institutions both locally and across the nation.

In his new position, Mr. Matheny said he would bring his love for education to

"create a fair system for the evaluation of both teachers, administrators, and principals."

He said he would oversee a staff that has already started to prepare for this "very important" initiative.

Students reacted to the news Tuesday.

"I really wasn't expecting it and I thought they would be here for a couple more years," senior Corey Koppel said. "It's been nice having (Mr. Matheny) for four years and its unfortunate I won't get to see the new principal. Although I didn't agree with all of his policies it was nice to have a principal who cared about the school."

During his tenure in the district, Mr. Matheny has been a staunch supporter of the students and can usually be found at the various sporting and other extracurricular activities during the year.

Peter Varela, present Assistant Principal for Academic Leadership, will serve as Acting Principal at South Brunswick High School while the district begins to find a replacement for Mr. Matheny.

Head Football Coach Rick Mantz also resigned that position Monday night, effective immediately.

"This was a personal decision that I arrived at after lengthy conversation with my family. I feel that at this time I need to take a break from coaching football," Mr. Mantz said Tuesday. "I have neglected both my family and my health for the four seasons that I have served South Brunswick High School."

Mr. Mantz did not go into detail about how his health

has been impacted, but said he wants to stay on in his security position at the school.

That position pays an annual salary of \$87,995 with a \$9,669 stipend to coach the football team, according to the district.

The team lost only one game last season, falling in the state semi-finals.

Mr. Mantz said he is very proud of all his players and staff and was very grateful for the undying support that everyone in town has given to Vikings football.

"I would like to single out the high level of assistance that I have received from Jake Rodriguez for all of his efforts as Junior Varsity Coach and my Assistant Coach with the Varsity team," Mr. Mantz said. "Without his untiring efforts, this program would not have been the winning program that it is today."

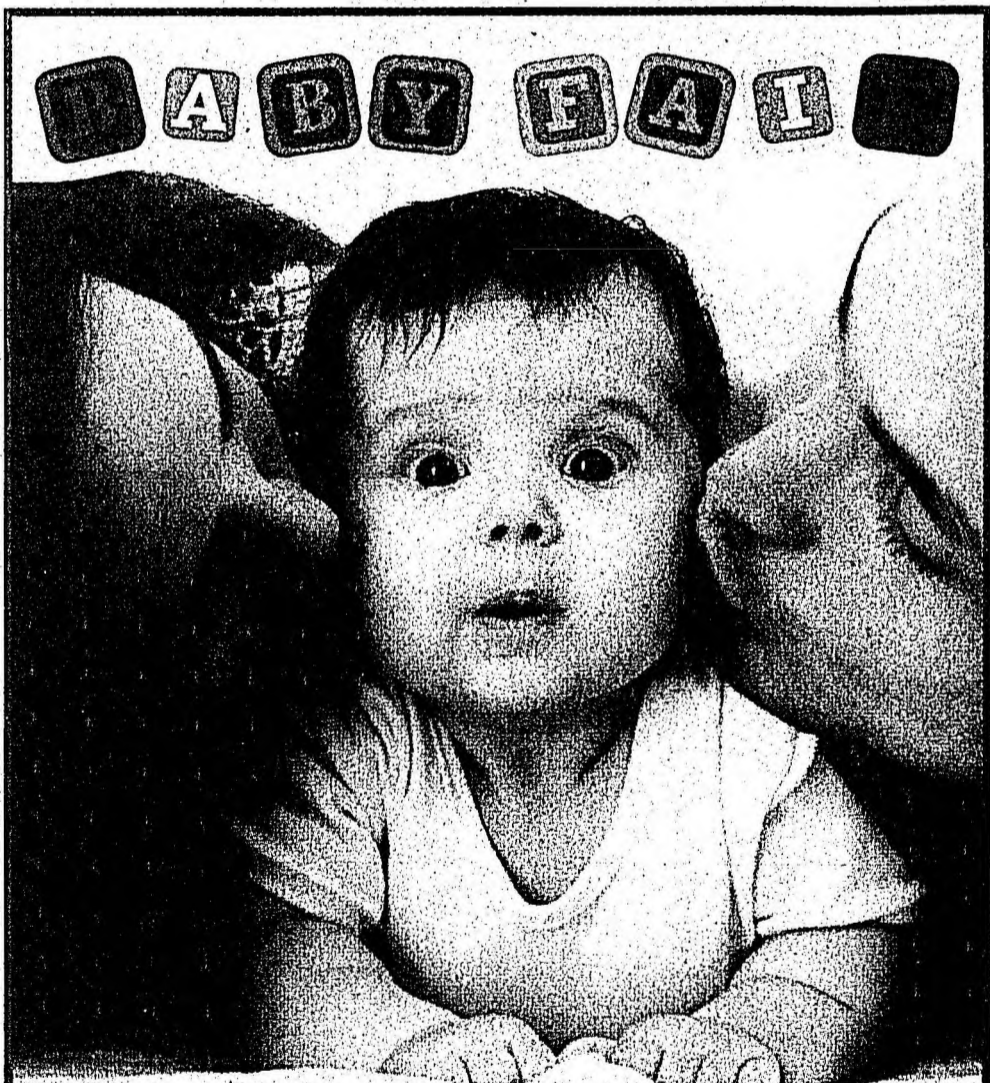
Students praised both men Tuesday.

"It's really unexpected because they have both been here for so long and Mr. Mantz has been the football team coach for so many great championships," junior Natasha Thaker said. "They will be missed."

Junior Jeremy Richardson said he was sad to see Mr. Matheny leave the school after contributing so much, a sentiment echoed by junior Rebekah Reyes.

"I feel that Mr. Matheny has done a good job with keeping the school safe," Rebekah said. "I am excited to see how a new principal will further improve, advance, and better the school. I really think the school has an untapped potential."

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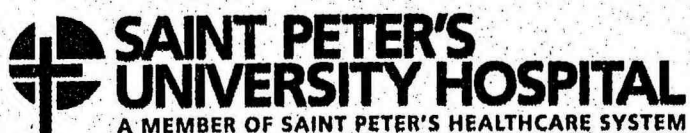
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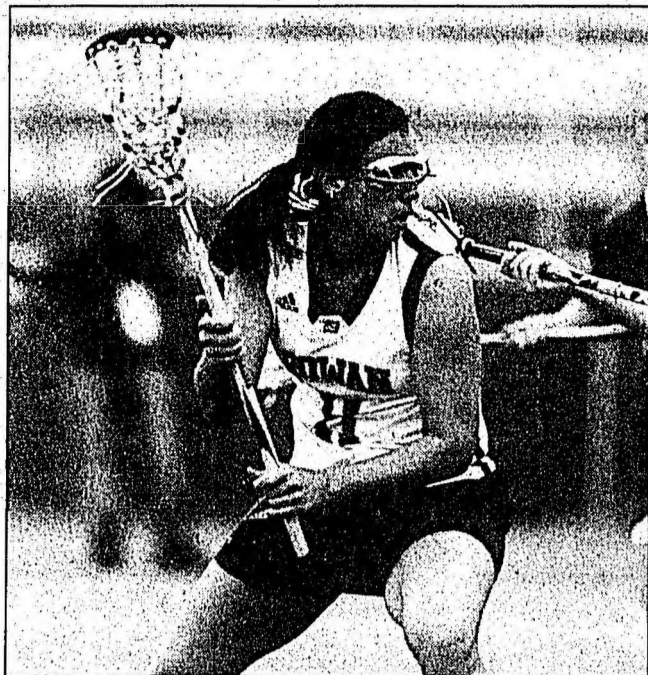
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SPORTS

12A South Brunswick Post

Thursday, May 24, 2012

O'Brien named to All Region team



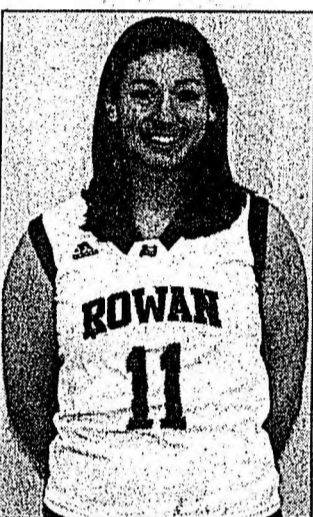
Rowan photos

Kendall Park's Shannon O'Brien, pictured in a match above and team photo below, is one of three team members named to the All-Region Team.

GLASSBORO — Three Rowan University women's lacrosse players, including Kendall Park's Shannon O'Brien, were named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Boardwalk All-Region Team. O'Brien, a junior defender on the team, and midfielder Michelle Lubrano, a senior from Delanco, were chosen for the IWLCA Boardwalk All-Region first team. The pair was also selected to play in the Under Armour/IWLCA North-South Senior All-Star Game. Attack Becca Wood, a freshman from Cherry Hill, received All-Region second team honors. The IWLCA All-Region first team selections move on to the national ballot for All-America consideration. The All-American players

are scheduled to be announced today. The Under Armour/IWLCA North-South Senior All-Star Game is 2 p.m. June 16, at the United Sports Training Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. This season, O'Brien totaled seven points with four goals and three assists. A team captain, she compiled 36 draw controls, 33 ground balls and 15 caused turnovers. In 51 career contests, she has 19 points on 11 North-South Senior All-Star goals and eight assists. O'Brien has registered 97 ground balls, 80 draw controls and 57 caused turnovers. She was selected to the NJAC All-Conference first team and garnered NJAC Defensive Player of the Week honors one time. O'Brien was selected to the 2011 IWLCA Boardwalk All-Region second

team. A team captain, Lubrano led the Profs with 80 points on 70 goals and 10 assists. She was also first in draw controls with 89, ground balls with 40, and caused 19 turnovers. Lubrano set a new school single season record with 70 goals, surpassing the previous mark of 68. In 68 career games, she totaled 170 points with 133 goals and 37 assists. Lubrano collected 201 draw controls, 102 ground balls and 60 caused turnovers. She is ninth all-time at the University in career goals. She also earned New Jersey Athletic Conference All-Conference first team honors. This season, she received NJAC Offensive Player of the Week honors once and she was chosen the conference's Defensive Player of the Week twice. Last year, she was named to the IWLCA Boardwalk All-Region first team and All-America third team. In her rookie year, Wood finished second on the team with 61 points and 50 goals. She tallied 11 assists, 28 ground balls, 13 caused turnovers and eight draw controls. Wood received NJAC All-Conference honorable mention.



Bill Mielko photos

Above, Melissa Mielko strokes a grand slam in a 12-9 victory over Piscataway May 17. Below, seniors Danielle Rybinski, Aaren Blair, Ally Mischke, Jen Resnick are celebrated May 18.

Mielko's 7-run cycle lifts Vikings past Piscataway

By Bill Mielko
Special Writer

After an easy 8-0 victory in the first round of the Greater Middlesex Conference playoffs May 16, the Vikings

clawed back the next day to defeat Piscataway 12-9 with Melissa Mielko driving in seven runs including a grand slam and hitting through the cycle.

In the first game, Leann Panconi hurled a one-hitter

through five innings followed by two more scoreless innings of pitching by Ashley Shor to seal the victory.

Ally Mischke had 3 hits. Melissa Mielko had 2 hits and Aaren Blair, Danielle Rybinski, Jen Resnick, Jacquyn Harrison and Sara Finnegan also hit safely in the winning effort.

The next day, the Vikings came back from an 8-1 deficit in the first inning to beat Piscataway 12-9.

Melissa Mielko had 7 RBI's hitting through the cycle with a grand slam.

Ally Mischke had 3 hits in the contest and Danielle Rybinski, Jen Resnick, Sara Finnegan, Aaren Blair and Ashley Shor also hit safely securing the win.

The Vikings celebrated departing seniors on May 18.

Every year there is a party to say farewell to the graduating seniors. Aaren Blair will be attending Florida Atlantic University, Jen Resnick will be attending The College of New Jersey in Ewing, Danielle Rybinski will be attending Coastal Carolina University and Ally Mischke will be attending Penn State University.

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