

# Colts Neck beats THS girls in Group 4, B1

UConn women win 71st straight game, B1



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## Cablevision restores ABC, but leaves viewers unsettled

By Erin Duffy  
STAFF WRITER

Cathy Stefaniak was able to catch Sunday's Oscars ceremony. Part of it, at least.

"I saw bits and pieces," said the Hamilton resident.

While a down-to-the-wire battle over fees between Cablevision and the Walt Disney Company initially threatened the Oscars telecast for 3.1 million Cablevision customers in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut after Disney yanked ABC from the cable provider's lineup midnight Saturday, the channel was restored at 8:43 p.m. Sunday after the two companies struck a deal.

"I'm happy I got to see the pretty dresses after all," said Hamilton resident Ellen Lovejoy.

Though service was eventually restored, albeit nearly 15 minutes into the Academy Awards broadcast, the dispute still rankled Lovejoy and other local Cablevi-

**"We just got done with the whole thing with the Food Network and HGTV. How many times is this going to happen?"**

*Cablevision subscriber Cathy Stefaniak*

sion customers.

For Cablevision customers in Robbinsville and Hamilton, the latest impasse was an unwelcome reminder of a similar dispute between Cablevision and Scripps Networks Interactive Inc. that resulted in Scripps pulling the Food Network and HGTV from their Cablevision lineup for three weeks in January.

"I was ready to start a militia," said Lovejoy. "It's exploitative on everybody's side."

"We just got done with the whole thing with the Food Network and HGTV," said Stefaniak. "How many times is this going to happen?"

While ABC is back on the air, for now, viewers like Stefaniak said they're growing weary of the interruptions.

"I think it's very unfair, because there's nothing we can do," she said. "If I pay my bill and the service is disrupted, there's nothing I can do. We're helpless."

A woman who identified herself only as Joyce, at Risoldi's Great Valu in Hamilton, said she gave up on watching the Oscars Sunday night, only to later discover ABC had been turned back on.

"By the time I realized it, it was too late," she said.

"That's a channel I watch all the time. I'm about ready to get a satellite."

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**If they were lucky, Cablevision customers got back ABC programming just in time to see a joyful Christoph Waltz accept the Oscar for best supporting actor Sunday night.**

**■ Kathryn Bigelow makes history, the first woman to win the best director Oscar for "The Hurt Locker." Page A5.**

## Parents get time to save Catholic school

Must raise \$300,000 in 23 days for Ewing's Incarnation-St. James

By Carmen Cusido  
STAFF WRITER

EWING — Parents, parishioners, alumni and other supporters of Incarnation-St. James School have 23 days to come up with more than a quarter of a million dollars to ensure it reopens in September.

The school is threatened with closure owing to declining enrollment and insufficient funds, and members of the school and parish community have embarked on a fundraiser dubbed the "Save Our School Campaign." They hope to raise \$300,000 by the March 31 deadline.

"\$300,000 is a tremendous amount of money. We're all realists, but we're also hopeful. Every waking minute I'm not working or with the kids, I'm putting work into this," said Sue Totaro, 44, of Ewing, whose fundraising role is to ensure volunteers reach out to as many sponsors and alumni as possible to garner donations.

The week-old campaign has so far raised \$14,950, according to the school's website. Word began to get out in February that the Ewing Catholic school may not be able to re-open in September, prompting concerned parents and others to rally to the school's defense.

A 1980 graduate of the parochial school, then called Incarnation, Totaro also taught sixth

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## VALOR NOT FORGOTTEN



CIE STROUD/FOR THE TIMES

Following a ceremony at the Hamilton Public Library yesterday, Robert Schmidt of Florence Twp. and his wife, Shirley, hold the Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Medal and other medals awarded to Schmidt's late brother, Robert, for his service in World War II.



Eli Quattroni of Titusville says a few words after accepting medals for his late brother, Cosmo — a World War II prisoner of war — from U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, right, in Hamilton yesterday.

## Late veterans get their due

Smith gives kin medals that soldiers never saw

By Erin Duffy  
STAFF WRITER

HAMILTON — Cosmo Quattroni died nearly seven months after being captured and tortured by Japanese forces during the Allied assault on the Philippines.

Robert Edward Hickman was a prisoner of war at a stalag in Germany, while Francis Schmidt's service as a combat engineer in Burma helped earn him a Purple Heart.

These three World War II veterans were honored yesterday for their service and valor by U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-Hamilton, who presented medals to the families of the men in a

ceremony at the Hamilton Library.

"Today it is my high privilege to honor three extraordinary brave veterans of World War II and to present to their families medals that should have been presented more than a half century ago," said Smith.

Hickman, who lives in Fanwood, was not able to attend but was awarded the Prisoner of War Medal and the Bronze Star.

It was an emotional ceremony for the family members in attendance, who said they were relieved and gratified to see their relatives receive recognition.

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## Obama lays into insurers, the GOP

In Phila. suburb, demands an end to health-care impasse

By JULIE PACE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENSIDE, Pa. — President Barack Obama accused insurance companies of placing profits over people and said Republicans ignored long-festering problems when they held power as he sought to build support yesterday for swift passage of legislation stalled in Congress.

"Let's seize reform, the need is great," Obama said at an appearance that had the feel of a campaign rally.

"How much higher do premiums have to rise before we do something about it?" said Obama, making the first in an expected string of out-of-town trips to pitch his plan to remake the health care system.

The president said dismissively that Republican critics in Congress say they want to do something about rising health care costs, but said they did not when they held power. "You had 10 years. What happened? What were you doing?" he said to applause from an audience at Arcadia University.

Obama made his appeal as Democratic leaders in Congress worked on a rescue plan for sweeping changes in health care that seemed earlier in the year to be on the brink of passage. The two-step approach calls for the

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**"You had 10 years. What happened? What were you doing?"**

*President Obama in Glenside, Pa.*

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Mercer County freeholders consider a document surcharge to aid the poor. Page A3.

#### Two kinds of buzz

Area bartenders compete in annual contest to whip up the best Irish coffee. Page A3.

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The borough and township may not get state funding for their consolidation study. Page A3.

#### Think shrink

Detroit, with a population half of what it was in its motor-industry heyday, is planning to turn large swaths of the city back into fields, farms and parks. Page A5.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

#### Sign of change?

Early results in Iraq elections show a possible shift away from Islamists. Page A5.

## Increase in bears likely to bring a Jersey hunt



TIMES FILE PHOTO BY MELISSA DOTY

A young black bear wanders among gravestones at Princeton Memorial Park in Robbinsville in 2008. While bears have been sighted in the Trenton area as recently as last September, a bear hunt is unlikely to include Mercer County.

By Brian T. Murray  
NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Citing a surge in New Jersey's black bear population — and a corresponding increase in complaints — the Fish and Game Council is expected to introduce a policy today calling for the state's first bruin hunt in five years.

The hunt, to be held over six days in December, is one facet of a bear management plan that highlights how much the population has grown and how nonlethal control techniques championed by former Gov. Jon Corzine have failed to stem bear-human interactions.

The move comes with the support of Gov. Chris Christie, who had vowed to end his predecessor's ban on bear hunts.

At the same time, the policy is sure to be met by the same kind of passionate opposition that surfaced during the last hunt in 2005, when protesters took to state parks and other hunting grounds.

Bob Martin, acting commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection, said the policy cannot be fully adopted until a series of public hearings is held. If the management plan does win final approval, Martin said, he will make the ultimate decision on whether a hunt goes on.

He said several studies conducted by state biologists and outside authorities have confirmed the number of bears in New Jersey — and the

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