

n to 10 years in scamming five companies out million over five

Court Judge Salem Vincent Ahto asked Vito B. Gruppuso, the 56-year-old disgraced former president of the Hanover-based Nation-

"I don't have any money, your honor," responded Gruppuso, who came to court looking tan and nattily dressed in a brown suit.

judge pressed. "From day to day, your honor," Gruppuso said. He added that he now rents a home in Berkeley Heights

Gruppuso pleaded guilty in Superior Court, Morristown, in January 2004 to three counts of theft by failure to make required dis-

sentencing was put on hold for more than a year while the U.S. Attorney's Office pursued federal bank fraud charges against Gruppuso.

strict Court on Oct. 19 between five and seven years in prison.

SEE BROKER / A12

## Brief

### Close to deal preservation

ny Corps of and Wildlife Inc. are near-ement to operties in the e Meadows Passaic River asin as a nat-storage area, ey Frelinghuyding, d this week. perty, spread rfield, Lincoln Montville, is ide up of wet- preservation ll allow for the n of 472 acres, one of the en space pur-Morris Coun-

### Safety Day in Mt. Olive

MT OLIVE — In n of Baby nth, the 'Us in Flan-host "Baby y" on Saturday n to 4 p.m. ies include a seminar pro-struction on by-proof a l product ations to help hoose the right or details on in Flanders, risten Worthy 1-5939.

### Arts center film society

NGTON TWP. yhelan Cultural er will hold the elan Film Soci-rcing on Satur-7 to 9 p.m. lms from the hat Matter" val will be fea-lowed by dis-ight refresh-ll be served, ne with an n film is wel-e center, locat-chooley's 1 Road, is an nning nonprof-ation dedicated ting communi- lural under- through the more informa- yhelan's many ; or to register s, visit the Web v.myhelan.org 08) 876-5959.

### Cats holding on forum

IS PLAINS — tic candidates nbly in the 25th districts will n 2 to 4 p.m. t a "No Child nd" forum at nunity Center, ar Drive. um is spon- Kate McCabe, a e for the New ssembly in the rict.

### Series

ard A. Montville d L. Corby, la. Wagnez, Rox-

ret G. , Newton ve Berman, ay ev. Grady rkland, New Conn. rine H. Rongo, g Harbor

# For sale: The oldest house in Madison



The historic Luke Miller House in Madison is being auctioned by the borough, but with guarantees that it will be preserved.

## Borough auctioning historic dwelling

BY JENNA M. MCKNIGHT  
DAILY RECORD

MADISON — Wanted: Prospective home buyers, looking for true old-world charm. Must be under 6 feet tall.

The Luke Miller House — an 18th-century abode on Ridgedale Avenue that narrowly escaped the bulldozer — is now up for sale. And the borough, which swooped in last year and bought the endangered piece of real estate for \$1.2 million, has taken measures to protect it before selling it back to a private owner.

The borough has placed a conservation easement on the circa-1730, three-story house, ensuring it won't ever be altered or torn down. It's the oldest structure in the borough, said John Solu, chairman of the Madison Historic Preservation Commission.

"It will be a special person who wants to live in this house," Solu said. "It will be somebody who has a vested interest in this community."

The entire Luke Miller property covers 1.6 acres. In an unusual arrangement, the borough is selling only the house and a roughly 30-foot area surrounding it — in total, about four-tenths of acre.

The town will retain ownership of the rest of the site, which has been designated

SEE MILLER HOUSE / A16



BOB KARP / DAILY RECORD

John Solu, chairman of the Madison Historic Preservation Commission, says the cellar of the Luke Miller House may have been part of the Underground Railroad.

# Turf tab at Morristown: \$928,000

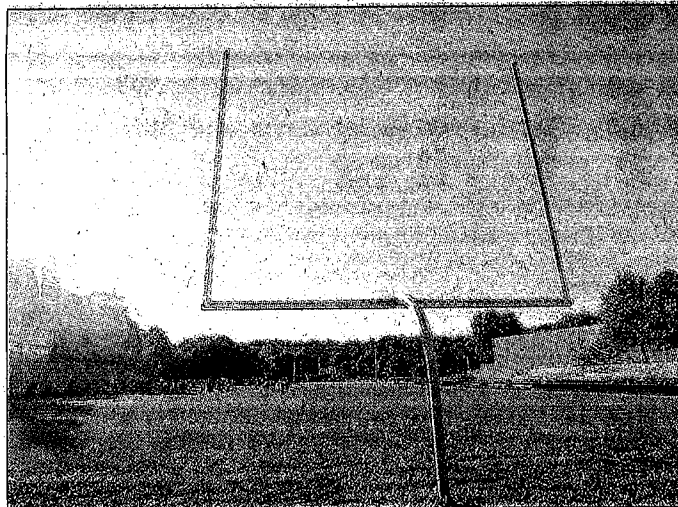
## School district weighs replacing football field grass at high school

BY ROB SEMAN  
DAILY RECORD

MORRISTOWN — The school board wants to spend more than \$900,000 of local and state dollars to replace the high school football field grass with artificial turf.

The board envisions an artificial turf field used to host the athletic activities played on the fields at Frelinghuysen Middle School and the Harter Road annex while those fields' natural grass grows back.

The Frelinghuysen and Harter Road fields have been worn thin from constant use by school and community ath-



BOB KARP / DAILY RECORD

The Morris District school board is weighing replacing the grass on the Morristown High School football field with artificial turf.

unveiled plans for the field improvements at a special

### If you go

The Morris District Board of Education will listen to public views of the turf plan on Monday, 7:30 p.m., at the Lafayette Learning Center, 31 Hazel St.

grass turf, based on district salary and maintenance records, is \$19,000, though the industry average is \$33,000, said Mary Donohoethe district's community relations representative.

The cost to maintain artificial turf, however, would be \$4,000.

The cost of installing the turf would be \$928,000, \$176,000 of which would be paid for by the state Department of Education through the Schools Construction

Cost projection

# 3 arrested in string of Morristown burglaries

Hispanic residents targeted; police reaching out to find others in town who may have been victimized

BY ROB SEMAN  
DAILY RECORD

MORRISTOWN — Police arrested three men in a string of burglaries that targeted Hispanic residents within the last month. Elvin Villatoro, 28, Jose Ivan Torres, and Noel Morreno, 18, all of Morristown were each charged with burglary, theft conspiracy to commit burglaries. Torres was also charged with false identification and hindering apprehension.

Villatoro and Morreno were taken to Morris County jail on \$50,000 bail. Torres was being held at the county jail on \$75 because of the additional charges.

In the last month, police have investigated burglaries of the homes of 20 to 30 victims with Hispanic surnames, said Lt. James Wilcox. The burglaries, which also included some cars, were scattered throughout town.

Wilcox said that they believe more victims exist, but have hesitated to come forward.

"We believe there might be some people who didn't call us because of their immigration status," Wilcox said.

"Their immigration status is not our concern," Wilcox said. "Our concern is crime itself."

The most recent burglaries occurred at Atno Avenue and Vail Place.

About \$1,100 worth of items, including a necklace, a camera, a mountain bike and some cash were taken from an apartment at 23 Atno Ave. between 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sept. 20, police said.

The apartment at Vail Place was burglarized twice, first on Sept. 1, when burglars stole \$2,790 in jewelry, and again this week when burglars stole \$430 in items.

In each of the burglaries, the thief broke through the front door, police said.

A police investigation led to a search

SEE BURGLARIES / A16

# Firefighters assist with Katrina relief

Morris Twp. crew returns after setting up decontamination center. Comparisons made to Sept. 11

BY MEG HUELSMAN  
DAILY RECORD

Six members of the Morris Township Fire Department traveled to Baton Rouge to assist with decontamination efforts and return earlier this week with a new look at the issues facing the Gulf Coast region.

"Our main job was to give support to local Louisiana law enforcement agencies," Deputy Chief Scott J. Lovernberg said. "When the guys came back from working, we would help make sure they were decontaminated."

The six-member squad, the Morris County Decontamination Unit of the Morris Township Fire Department, traveled around Louisiana for 13 days setting up large white and yellow tents equipped with bleach and water. Relief workers and law enforcement personnel were able to scrub their boots, wash their clothes or, if it was necessary, decontaminate their entire bodies.

"Full-body decontamination was used on people who fell down into an infected substance that might have contained bacteria."

### Inside

Efforts to help hurricane victims, A13, 1  
Volunteers return from mission of mercy, A17

