



AFTER ALL THESE YEARS
The House of the Good Shepherd Continuing Care Retirement Community in Hackettstown recognized its longtime employees with Years of Service Awards at a ceremony. **A5**

Hometowns

Go to www.dailyrecord.com to view the Daily Record's news videos and updates.

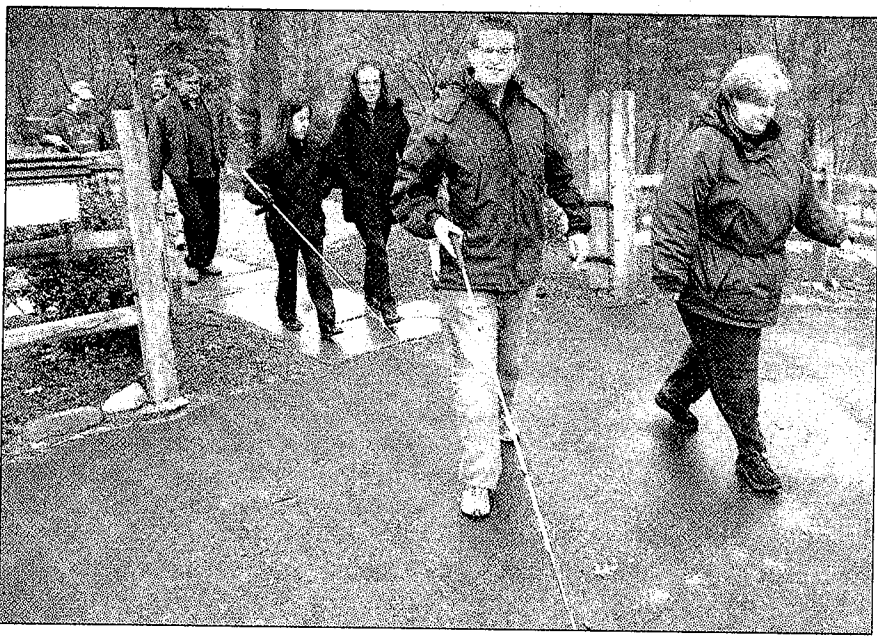


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FEBRUARY 25, 2008

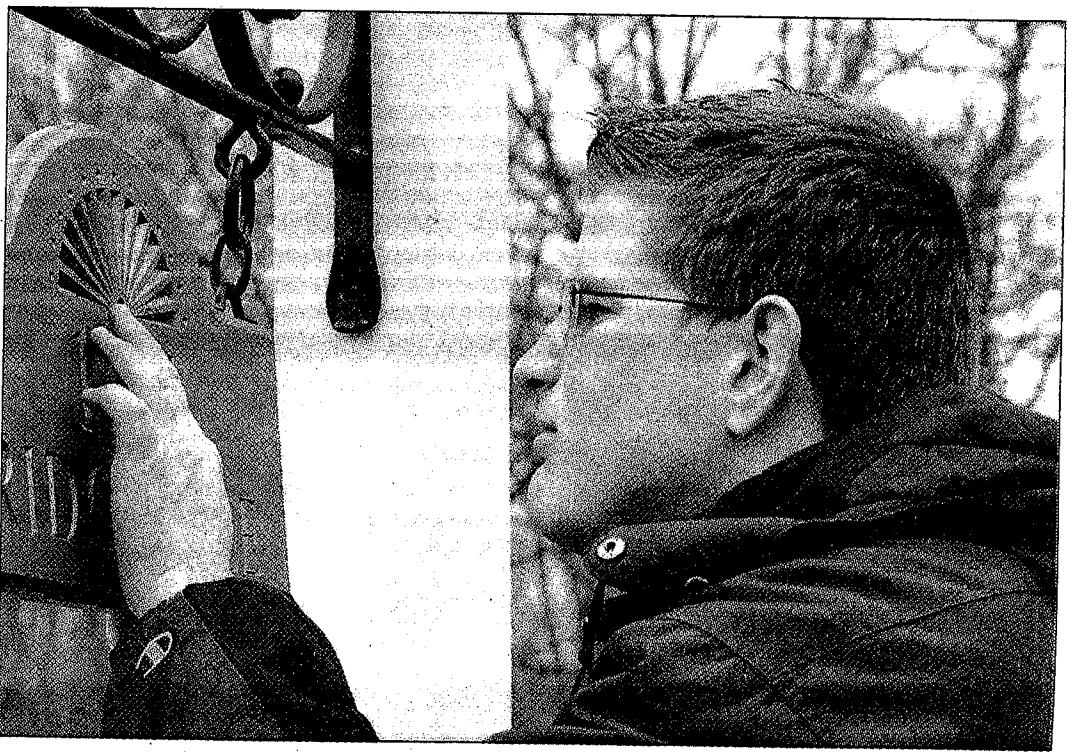
SUNDAY

Visually impaired tour historic Madison house



David Quirk, above at far left, wearing a cap, owner of the historic Colonial-era Luke Miller House in Madison, held a first-ever "Touch Tour" of his home for blind and visually impaired visitors on Saturday. The visitors learned about the history of the home as they used their hands to feel and touch many objects there. Above right, Quirk helps Serena Cucco of Madison feel the contours of the wrought-iron address. Visually impaired guest Jon Gabry, right, of Kearny feels the address sign; below, he feels an original glass pane. **JIM WRIGHT / DAILY RECORD**

To view more photos from the tour of the Luke Miller House, visit dailyrecord.com



rief

Course offers checking tips

County offers free seminars on the practical course in search will run 1:30 p.m. and find background on potential

Feb. 19, the pro: The Target Job ch will explain a proactive role ch, and how to ential employers applicant's pro-rands and per-

ession, Internet tips will be dis- eb. 25 seminar is on the practi- f, searching for Internet and will Jersey jobs, jobs, salary sur- ads and online

imited and regis- uired. ay sign up for ies or a single f the seminars t the Morris ury, 30 E. in Whippany. mation may be alling (973) 285- ng fo.

ting down's Birthday

nty govern- will be closed ervice of thday. Day is Feb. 18 blic schools are nd on the follow- mid-winter

astic bottles cling bins

plastic bottle" the recycling g to the Morris cipal Utilities a plastic con- ceptable in County munici- st in fact be a must also have de on or near

to be consid- ts neck or be narrower lders" and its

tle must also ETE or #2 containers er than #1 or th no codes at clable. table bottles for soda, ilk, shampoo ertgent. ng the coded #1 to a recycling ecyler should lid into the back onto the

he should and put in ng bin. s that once rdous materi- or oil or t be put into

Merkt: Government shouldn't be a back-seat driver

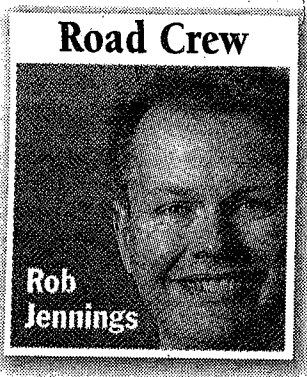
Get ready, perhaps, for a "Click it or Ticket" crack-down on back-seat passengers not wearing their seat belts.

The state Assembly approved legislation on Thursday that would extend the seat belt law to all passengers. Under the current law, front-seat passengers caught not wearing a seat belt face a \$46 fine.

While the Democratic-sponsored bill, which passed by 62-13, drew crossover support from 15 Republicans, it was opposed by five Republican lawmakers from Morris and Sussex. Michael Patrick Carroll, Richard Merkt and Alison Littell McHose, along with newly seated members Gary R. Chiusano and Jay Webber, voted against the bill.

Merkt explained on Saturday that he supports wearing seat belts in principle, but believes that even the existing law goes too far.

"There is a real question of how much government should be telling adults how to run their lives," Merkt said. "I wear them. Everyone in our family wears them, and we don't wear them because some silly law tells us to wear them," said Merkt, who voted

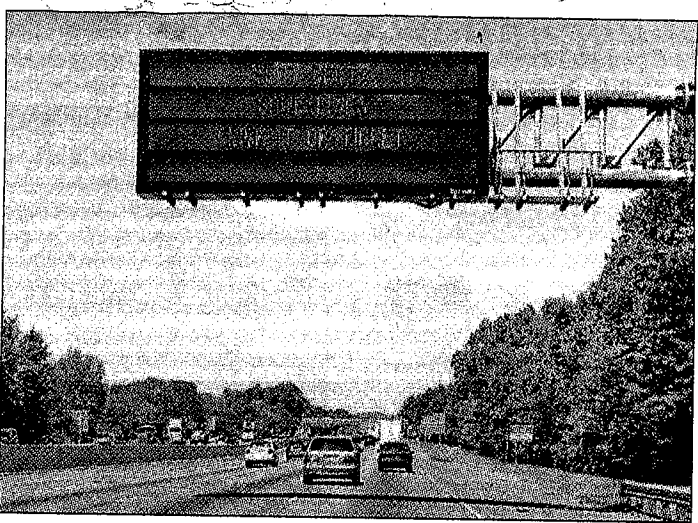


Road Crew blog at <http://www.dailyrecord.com/blogs/roadcrew>.

Driver manual now online

Remember studying for the driver test by reading a booklet filled with laws, regulations and safety tips? The state Motor Vehicle Commission announced on Friday that the driver's manual is now online at www.njmvc.gov.

An added benefit of providing the information online, according to the MVC, is that drivers who already have their licenses will have an easy way to brush up on their



This sign over Route 287 North in Parsippany in May warned motorists to fasten their seat belts.

knowledge. That makes sense, since most people probably throw away that driver's manual upon passing the test.

An interesting nugget from Chapter 1 — motorists moving out of New Jersey must report their new out-of-state address to the MVC within one week. Wonder how many former New Jerseyans remember to do that.

Just around the corner

TransOptions of Hanover sent out a special edition of its commuter newsletter on Friday reminding motorists that the cell phone law is about to actually mean something. Starting on March 1, talking on a hand-held phone while driving or sending a text message — somehow that seems even more distracting — will become a primary offense.

Previously, officers could only pull over a motorist upon witnessing another infraction.

Gas prices

New Jersey had, on average, the third-lowest gas prices in the nation on Saturday.

The average price of regular gas in New Jersey was just under \$2.83 per gallon, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge report. Only Missouri at \$2.80 and South Carolina at \$2.81 were lower.

Of course, paying \$2.83 is hardly grounds for celebration — and the primary reason for New Jersey's good fortune, relatively speaking, is that we have one of the lowest state gas taxes in the nation.

If you have any strategies for minimizing the pain at the pump — maybe you've formed a car pool with co-workers, for example — we'd like to hear about it.

The Road Crew column appears every Sunday. Read Rob's blog at <http://www.dailyrecord.com/blogs/roadcrew>. Rob Jennings can be reached at (973) 428-6667 or robjennings@gannett.com.