

**MONDAY**  
**December 5,**  
**2011**

**I WANT THAT**  
Stores try to keep ahead  
of kid trends. **BUSINESS, A-6**



**IT'S IN THE HOLE**  
Tiger Woods ends two-year victory  
drought on the links. **SPORTS, B-1**

# Gloucester County Times

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## History in the making

**Dianne Ashton the first female editor of the 'American Jewish History' journal**

By Jessica Driscoll  
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As a professor of religion studies at Rowan University, a published author and — now — the first female editor in the 118-year history of the “American Jewish History” journal, Dianne Ashton says she doesn’t know where she finds the time. But she loves every minute of it.

“It’s great just to be the editor. The fact that I’m the first woman is just really a matter of historical events,” said Ashton of her new position at the helm of the premier journal on the study of Jewish history in America. “It’s an extreme honor and great responsibility to be the editor of a very important journal on the American Jewish experience. It has a great reputation, and it’s my responsibility to keep that up.”

Ashton said, in her new role, she has to learn quickly.

“A journal has to come out on time, and it’s a fairly complicated process,” said (See ROWAN, Page A-5)

## A BLOSSOMING PROGRAM



Above, Delsea High School juniors Steve Milosh, 17, and Earl Brown, 16, dig around a tree that will be planted in the courtyard of the high school. They are with the Future Farmers of America Club. At right, junior Joe DelGiorno, 17, checks plants in the greenhouse.



Staff photos by Tim Hawk

## Delsea’s horticulture club keeps growing

By Carly Q. Romalino  
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Delsea Regional High School’s chapter of the Future Farmers of America club might be young, but that hasn’t stopped the group of more than 85 students enrolled in the club and high school horticulture classes from nabbing more than a dozen first-place prizes at competitions.

Gary Nelson’s classroom is decorated with the blue ribbons, first place trophies and plaques that list the accomplishments of the students in the horticulture program and Future Farmers of America — the club Nelson oversees.

The awards are a sign of how much Delsea’s horticulture program has blossomed since the early 1990s, when it existed as a special education program with just five students participating.

“It’s to the point now where classes are overflowing,” said Nelson.

In 1995, the curriculum was revitalized to “appeal to the kids,” and reinvigorate students’ interest in agriculture, which their Elk and Franklin township communities were built on.

“A lot of them do have agricultural backgrounds.” (See DELSEA, Page A-5)

## N.J. state police seeking diversity

By Christopher Baxter  
Statehouse Bureau

Recruiters for the State Police returned to churches in some of the most crime-plagued cities this weekend with a renewed sense of urgency to attract more black candidates to the force.

The division faced sharp criticism in August when only five black recruits were invited to train among a class of 123. With the academy’s graduation nearing in January, only two black candidates remain among 85.

“We are really making a renewed and concerted effort to reach not just the black community but all of the communities,” spokesman Maj. Gerald Lewis said on Saturday at a recruiting event at New Hope Memorial Baptist Church in Elizabeth. “We’re going to build on the partnerships we have, strengthen them, and work together to fix this problem.” (See STATE, Page A-9)

## Groups look to provide oxygen masks for pets

By Joe Green  
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WASHINGTON TWP. — In any fire, humans are the top priority for rescue. But anyone with a heart feels badly when a pet dies because responders cannot give it oxygen after it’s been pulled from an inferno.

That’s why several groups throughout the country are raising money to provide fire departments with special breathing masks for animals.

Among them is Project LOMA (Life-saving Oxygen Masks for Animals), started recently by local resident Jena Mazzio.

Project LOMA aims to provide six sets of three masks each, one set to each of the township’s six fire stations or sub-stations.

“However, I do hope to continue to grow this project and take it far beyond Washington Township — perhaps to a statewide or even nationwide level,” Mazzio said.

She didn’t have to look far for the idea. The wife of a township

volunteer firefighter, Mazzio said she was deeply moved by a picture she saw of firefighters resuscitating a dog mouth to snout.

Although that *can* help, it’s not as effective as with humans. It can also result in a nasty bite if the animal wakes up and is startled or frightened.

Breathing masks obviously designed for a human face also don’t work well with dogs, cats and other common pets.

“But specially designed animal oxygen masks, developed by

veterinarians, fit snugly over the snouts of animals, enabling oxygen to enter the lungs more effectively,” Mazzio said.

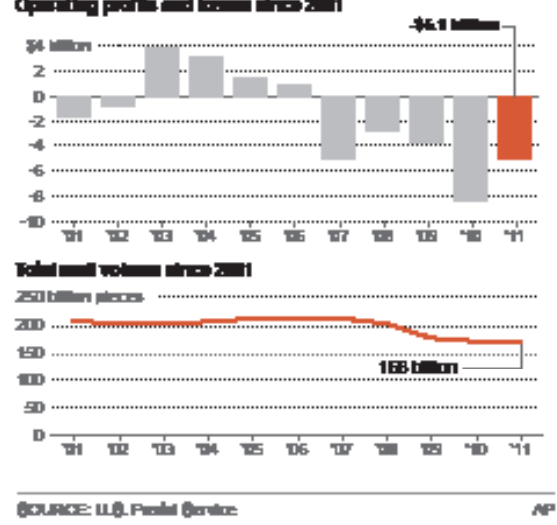
“Furthermore, the masks are reusable and serve as a protective barrier against bites to the rescuer.”

The animal masks come in different sizes and can reportedly fit a variety of species.

“The mask sets that Project LOMA will purchase contain three sizes, which are designed (See FIRES, Page A-9)

## Postal woes grow as volume sinks

Steep operating losses from increased online competition and high overhead costs are leading the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service to cut spending to avert bankruptcy.



## Postal Service cuts to slow delivery of first-class mail

By Hope Yen  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Facing bankruptcy, the U.S. Postal Service is pushing ahead with unprecedented cuts to first-class mail next spring that will slow delivery and, for the first time in 40 years, eliminate the chance for stamped letters to arrive the next day.

The estimated \$3 billion in reductions, to be announced in broader detail on Monday,

are part of a wide-ranging effort by the cash-strapped Postal Service to quickly trim costs, seeing no immediate help from Congress.

The changes would provide short-term relief, but ultimately could prove counterproductive, pushing more of America’s business onto the Internet. They could slow everything from check payments to Netflix’s DVDs-by-mail, add costs to mail-order prescription drugs, and threaten the existence

of newspapers and time-sensitive magazines delivered by postal carrier to far-flung suburban and rural communities.

That birthday card mailed first-class to Mom also could arrive a day or two late, if people don’t plan ahead.

“It’s a potentially major change, but I don’t think consumers are focused on it and it won’t register until the service goes away,” said Jim Corridore, analyst with S&P (See MAIL, Page A-5)



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**WEATHER** Variable clouds and mild. High near 60, low in the low 50s.