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PAGE B1

KEY NEWS
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Lottery..... A2
Movies..... B5
Obituaries.. A10
Datebook.... B6
Editorial.... A13

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RUTGERS STUDENTS HELP FEED ELDERLY



Staff photos by Joe McLaughlin

Above, from left Rutgers University senior Peter Brereton of Sayreville, university community-service officers Michelle Bolognini of Somerset and Joyce Cheung of Edison, and sophomore Evan Gentry of New Brunswick fill Thanksgiving meal packages for homebound elderly residents at the Rutgers Student Center in New Brunswick yesterday. Below, Rutgers police officer Jennifer Hammill checks the outgoing meal packages.

Extracurricular generosity

By ERICA HARBATKIN
Staff Writer

RUTGERS — A group of Rutgers University students gathered around a table at the student center yesterday, placing large trays of turkey, stuffing and vegetables onto heated racks.

"All right, here's what we're doing, guys," Rutgers senior Russell Young said to the students standing around the table. "We've got 28 bags and every bag needs to have one of each thing — so turkey, stuffing, green beans, all that."

The Rutgers Senior Citizen Outreach Group was preparing hot meals for 28 shut-in seniors in East Brunswick. They raised money to buy food from the Rutgers Dining Service and were separating the food into individual meals, which Rutgers police and community service officers would deliver to the seniors.

"There's a need for this sort of thing all over," said Young, a 21-year-old business major who previously volunteered with a similar program in Howell Township that has local families cook meals for shut-in seniors.

"We looked to bring the idea up to the Rutgers area," Young said. The dining hall's cooking "was important given that the students don't know how to cook and they don't have the means to cook. So we had to find another way."



Monroe athlete succumb to cancer

By JIM WHITE
Staff Writer

MONROE — No one again wear number 2 Monroe Township School boys basketball. Not if head coach Bob Walp has anything to do with it.

That's because No. 2 Walp, a former player-coach, lost his hard-fought battle with cancer Tuesday. He was 18.

And, as far as Turco is concerned, the number 2 jersey is a retirement.

See Ryan Walp's obituary, Page A10

ended up teaching u Turco, who coached from 2005, when he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor, up until his graduation from Monroe High in 1998.

What Walp taught through his attitude was courage, patience, and the ability to comfort those who were less than well. It was less to save a sick friend.

Turco was moved yesterday when asked to describe the young man who had accepted to Rider University and planned to be a doctor. "He never got the chance."

"Ryan was probably the most patient in the history of the school," he said. "He is anyone else be down on what he was fighting for."