

Family of detained American woman asks Iran to lower or drop the \$500,000 bail amount.

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TODAY'S SUNBEAM

YOUR GOOD MORNING NEWSPAPER

192nd Year, No. 3 USPS No. 358940 SERVING SALEM COUNTY, N.J., SINCE 1819, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 © 2010 Today's Sunbeam 50¢

State's school funding approved

■ The \$268M can be used for educators' salaries and perks among other things

By Lisa Fleisher

Statehouse Bureau

TRENTON — New Jersey's application for \$268 million for educators' salaries and benefits has been approved, the U.S. Department of Education said on Monday.



CHRISTIE

The state will use its own formula to determine which districts get money — and how much. Gov. Chris Christie's office, which could not be reached immediately for comment, had said it would wait at least until the application was approved to say which districts will get funding.

The money can be used for a wide range of salaries and perks, including transportation or student loan reimbursements for teachers, librarians, coaches, custodians and other workers outside the superintendent's office.

But the funding, part of a \$26 billion stimulus package Congress passed last month to help states, is

(See STATE, Page A-5)

School's students will utilize WTC steel in new memorial

VO-TECH GETS PIECES OF HISTORY



By Deena DiBacco

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MANNINGTON TWP. — Executive Deputy Director of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Bill Baroni said Monday only 12 of 1,000 requests from around the state for artifacts from the World Trade Center had been granted. Of those, he called Salem County vo-tech's application one of the best.

Monday evening, more than 200 people gathered at the Salem County Vocational and Technical School as Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno and Baroni made the last stop on their 12-town tour to officially present the school with steel from the twin towers destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

"When I was reviewing the school applications, this one stood out from the others," said Baroni, a former state senator. "We wanted to make sure the steel was preserved, and yours did. One of the best letters we received was from right here in Salem County."

The reason vo-tech's applications stood out?

Pieces of steel were granted to organizations who proved they'd be applicable, permanent homes for steel. That means constructing a 9/11 memorial to serve as a permanent display for steel

(See VISIT, Page A-7)

Above, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, right, speaks during the presentation of steel from the World Trade Center, pictured left, as Vo-Tech Air Force Junior ROTC Cadets, from left, Ryan Cundiff and Nicholas Spegel look on Monday evening at the Salem County Vocational Technical School in Mannington. At right, emergency responders from throughout Salem County applaud during the presentation.

Staff photos by Britney Lillya



Photo special to Today's Sunbeam

Brian Richards of Pennsville is pictured at the 25-mile point of the 22nd Annual Boston Marathon's Jimmy Fund Walk. Richards has lost 14 family members to cancer and this is his 13th year walking.

P.V. man honors lost family in cancer walk

By Deena DiBacco

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PENNSVILLE TWP. — Brian Richards didn't expect to finish this year's 5-mile Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk, as last year's event almost ended in an ambulance.

But instead of five, he walked 13.1 miles Sunday, honoring family he's lost.

Richards, 60, of Pennsville, has walked the past 13 years in the Jimmy Fund Walk to

honor 14 family members he's lost to cancer. But this year he walked for his brother.

Brother Kevin Richards was the most recent death Richards has dealt with. He lost his fight with lung cancer three months ago.

At last year's marathon, Richards was close to being taken out by ambulance after his blood sugar dropped to low levels. But his brother's recent death gave him more reason to continue the tradition he's

made to honor his family.

He chose not to overexert himself in 2010, the 22nd-annual Jimmy Fund Walk.

But last Thursday, just days before he drove to Boston, Richards had a change of heart. The 5-mile walk he'd signed up for just wasn't enough.

"I went to Valley Forge last Thursday to train for the walk, and I couldn't even do 5 miles there," he said. "So I had no expectations of finishing five

in Boston."

It got Richards thinking.

"I said to myself, I'd rather do the 13 and fail, than do the five and finish," said Richards. "I figured if I could do six of the thirteen miles, that's one more mile for my brother than the five would've allowed. If I didn't, I would've always wondered if I could've pushed myself."

So last Thursday, while at work, Richards officially

(See WALK, Page A-7)

Senate Republicans: will block tax hike

By Andrew Taylor

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama claims it's still a "wrestling match," but with Senate Republicans in uniform opposition, his plan to raise taxes on wealthier people while preserving cuts for everyone else appears increasingly likely to founder before Election Day.

Both Republicans and Democrats are already using the looming expiration of Bush-era tax cuts as a defining battle in elections to determine control of Congress that are just seven weeks away.

Gridlock appears to be an increasingly likely result in the Senate. Republicans said they had the votes to

block legislation to extend the middle-class tax relief Democrats follow through on their plan to deny tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. The issue is more likely to be decided in a post-election session.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the GOP whip, said Monday that his party was united in opposing Obama's proposed tax hike on the wealthy.

"Just before the recess we had a meeting and we discussed this, and every Republican was absolutely supportive of the idea that there shouldn't be any increases in taxes," Kyl said.

Congressional analysts say renewing the tax cuts for everyone would cost the government \$4 trillion over the next decade. With polls showing a broad public

(See VOTE, Page A-5)

Blaze levels barn in Quinton Twp.



Staff photo by Britney Lillya

Farm equipment was damaged in the blaze that leveled a barn, located at 32 Beasley Neck Road in Quinton, after a fire Saturday evening. Firefighters from around the county spent over four hours battling the blaze.

By Phil Dunn

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QUINTON TWP. — After a hard day's work on his Beasley Neck Road farm, Albert Bell was just about to sit down to a steak dinner at his daughter's house when he got the call — his barn was on fire.

"At first, I didn't believe it," said Bell, a farmer for more than 60 years. "Then I took a glance outside and I made my way over as fast as I could."

The call was made Saturday evening by a motorist traveling by on Beasley Neck Road. Albert's wife, Marguerite, also was not home during the time of the fire.

The Bells were close by though, as their daughter lives just next door.

"I just had this instinct to stay close to home," Marguerite Bell said of

(See FIRE, Page A-5)



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For breaking news visit www.nj.com/south

Walk: Pennsville man honors family he lost to cancer

(Continued from Page A-1) changed his route — from the 5 miles to the 13.1 miles.

Sunday, in Boston, Massachusetts, Richards prepped. It was his 13th time walking the Jimmy Fund. As he prepared to walk 13.1 miles, his attitude was less than positive.

"I went up to one of the volunteers and, with a serious urgency in my voice, asked her if any doctors were nearby," he said. "She asked what was wrong, and I said I needed my head examined because I must be crazy if I thought I'd finish thirteen."

Just before the starting line, Richards picked up a pen to write on Jimmy Fund's message wall. His message read, "Kevin, this one's for you."

At 2.2 miles, Richards' knee started to ache.

By the 4.2-mile mark, he was in excruciating pain, about to throw-in the towel.

"I took out my phone and pulled up a picture of me and my brother," he said. "There were tears rolling down my face, and I said,

'Kevin, I'm sorry. I can't finish this for you.'"

So Richards turned to the one thing that helped him through his father's death, his mother's death, and various other deaths in his family — all to cancer.

He pulled out his iPod and began to play Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

"Valli's music goes back to when I was 14 years old, when my mother died and my father became cold and distant to his children," Richards said. "My only solitude was to go hide and listen to Frankie. It helped me cope in life, zone out."

The next thing he knew, Richards was at the 5.62 mile marker, .62 miles more than he expected to complete.

The next thing he knew, he'd hit the 8-mile mark.

But it was at the 12-mile mark he knew he'd finish.

"At the 12-mile marker, this song came on, and the lyrics say, 'I'm gonna make it, just you wait and see,'" he said, adding that those were the words he repeated over and over at last year's race. "When I heard

it, I turned off my iPod and said, 'Sorry, Frankie. But I'm going to walk this last mile with just my brother.'"

A few times in that final mile, Richards stopped to cry.

But at 4:15 p.m., just over seven-and-a-half hours after he began walking at 8:30 a.m., Richards had completed all 13.1 miles.

Since he began raising money for cancer — he started with a bike race in 1988, then switched to Jimmy Fund Walk 13 years ago — he's raised \$70,000.

This year, he raised \$2,000, with help from more than 20 sponsors, including PSEG Nuclear, where he's employed as a procedural writer.

Walkers each have a number, which is based on where they placed last year in raising money. This year, Brian finished 13.1 miles as number 416 out of 8,000 walkers.

"To be truthful, I think I finished because the music helped me zone out and ignore the pain," he said. "Yes, I could've stopped

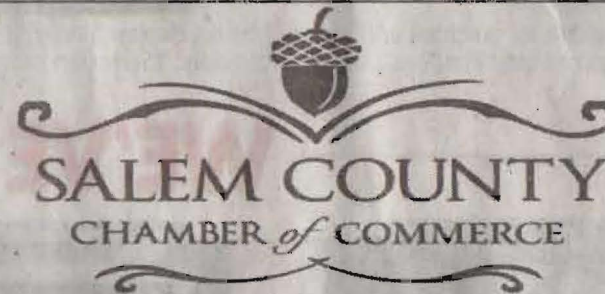
a number of times. But someone who's fighting cancer doesn't have the option to stop."

Brian's walk can be tracked on his Facebook page, www.facebook.com/profile.

SALEM, N.J. — Friends may call after 10:00 AM. Burial will be in Salem Baptist Cemetery.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

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The Salem County Chamber of Commerce is proud to present

Economic Development Forum

"Small Business: Removing Barriers to Success"

Friday, October 8, 2010 – 8am-12 noon

No cost for participants but registration is required.

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Hollywood Avenue, Carneys Point, NJ

Agenda