



# DANCE PARTNERS SET: FILL IN YOUR BRACKET

Sports — 5D



South Jersey's Newspaper

# COURIER-POST

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75 cents

Monday, March 14, 2011

## Reactor concerns increase



GeoEye/Associated Press

The Sendai Airport (left) in Sendai, Japan, is shown last August and after a massive earthquake struck (right). The quake has been called Japan's worst crisis since World War II.

### Family, friends in S.J. wait, fear, hope

By **SHRUTI MATHUR DESAI**  
Courier-Post Staff

"I'm fine, but I feel fear."  
That was the first Facebook status posted by one of the Japanese exchange students who stayed in Haddonfield after an earthquake hit the island nation.

The quake has triggered a series of other natural disasters, including a tsunami and a volcanic eruption causing humanitarian and nuclear emergencies and a death toll exceeding 10,000 people.  
With communications lines sometimes cut off and headlines changing hour-

See **JAPAN**, Page 6A

### Explosion reported at plant in Japan

By **ERIC TALMADGE**  
Associated Press

SOMA, Japan

Soldiers and officials along a stretch of Japan's northeastern coast warned residents that the area could be hit by another tsunami today and ordered them to higher ground. But the Meteorological Agency said there

Japanese port city stunned by disaster. **4A**

was no risk of another deadly wave.  
The warning came as an explosion rocked the nearby Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. The blast was felt 30 miles  
See **JAPANESE**, Page 6A



PETER ACKERMAN/New Jersey Press Media

Rancocas Valley players celebrate their 67-52 win over Paterson Kennedy in the Group 4 state final.

## Rancocas Valley girls capture lone state title

### Four area teams lose in finals

Courier-Post staff

The Rancocas Valley girls' basketball team emerged as South Jersey's lone state champion in tournament action Sunday at the Poland Spring Center.  
Led by the solid play of Brianna Logan, who scored 21 points, the Red Devils routed Paterson Kennedy 67-52 to capture the NJSIAA Group 4 state girls' title.  
Four other local teams were not as fortunate as the Haddon Township girls (Group 1), Rancocas Valley boys (Group 4) and Burlington Township boys (Group 3) all lost in their respective state title games. The St. Augustine ice hockey team also dropped a 3-2 decision to Delbarton.  
See pages 3D and 4D for state championship coverage.



PETER ACKERMAN/New Jersey Press Media



DENISE HENHOEFFER/Courier-Post



DENISE HENHOEFFER/Courier-Post

Other teams weren't so lucky. New Providence's Laura Gregory (above left) meets resistance from Haddon Township's Katie Getzinger. Tariq Jett (above right) of Rancocas Valley goes up to the net before falling to Paterson Eastside. Burlington Township's Jalon Wilson (left) battles Plainfield's Dijon Allen-Jordan.

## Access to records plagued by delays

### Despite Sunshine Week, obstacles still in place

By **ELIZABETH BEWLEY**  
Gannett Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON

Journalists and others are still waiting to see official files that might shed light on January's mass shooting in Arizona, even as open-records advocates prepare to mark Sunshine Week, an annual tribute to the cause of greater transparency in government.  
Delays in gaining access to records on the shooting incident, which wounded Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona and killed six others, underscore larger problems with disclosure laws, transparency advocates say.  
They say law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is working with Arizona authorities to investigate the Tucson shootings, are among the least responsive to requests for information under the federal Freedom of Information Act. Law enforcement records that might compromise an ongoing investigation are exempt from the act.  
But the exemption is sometimes applied to records that are decades old or only tangentially related to a current case, experts say.  
"Is it overplayed, and even used as abuse? The answer is yes," said Ken Bunting, executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition. "In some cases, any vague notion that an investigation is open closes an entire file of information."  
Authorities err on the side of nondisclosure because penalties for releasing sensitive information are much more severe.  
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Vol. 136 No. 360  
A GANNETT NEWSPAPER



1A designer: Eileen D. Mannion  
emannion@gannett.com