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# COURIER-POST

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Thursday, May 29, 2014

## Uncaged, Angelou's work spoke of empowerment

By **Tammy Paolino**  
Courier-Post

Maya Angelou isn't the sort of poet typically taught in a graduate-level English class.

Indeed, the South Jersey poetry community on Wednesday reacted to Angelou's death at the age of 86 with a common theme: Here was a poet who could not be stuck in any academic box.

In fact, the label of "poet" only scratches the surface of what Angelou's voice and message meant to those who loved her work.

### PHENOMENAL IMPACT

» For a video and photo gallery of Angelou, visit [cpsj.com](http://cpsj.com). See **Page 1B** for tributes.

Patrick Rosal is an assistant professor of English at Rutgers-Camden, where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate poetry courses. He came to admire Angelou through the hearts and minds of his own students.

"Early in my teaching career, I became familiar with some of her work, because so many of my students are



Maya Angelou's poetry inspired students and fellow writers. ASBURY PARK PRESS FILE

See **ANGELOU**, Page 6A

## Officials: Woman slain by boyfriend

Gloucester Twp. case detailed at his hearing

By **Andy McNeil**  
Courier-Post

Joshua Rivera-Santos has his girlfriend's first name tattooed on his forearm.

According to authorities, the 21-year-old Pennsauken man also had red marks on his hands and scratches on his chest after her murder, for which he was charged Wednesday.

The body of Rebecca Ugarte was found covered in blankets Tuesday in the Gloucester Township home of Rivera-Santos' mother. Ugarte, 21, the mother of Rivera-Santos' child, was in the basement with a bra and a cellphone charger cord wrapped around her neck, authorities said.

Hours after the discovery, Rivera-Santos was charged with her murder.

Members of the victim's family sobbed as Rivera-Santos was brought handcuffed into a Camden courtroom for arraignment Wednesday morning.

Asked by a judge if he understood the charges against him, Rivera-Santos said he did.

"But I didn't do it," he added.

Authorities allege Rivera-Santos killed Ugarte sometime between Monday night and Tuesday morning. Police were called by his mother, Vivian Santos, around 1 p.m. Tuesday to her Austin Avenue home, where Rivera-Santos and Ugarte were staying with their 4-year-old daughter.

Vivian Santos told police her son came into her bedroom around 6:50 a.m. Tuesday and asked if he could put the child in bed with her, according to a court record. Rivera-Santos then joined them in bed and held his mother's hand.

See **SLAIN**, Page 4A

## Preserved Evesham farm again to be used for agriculture



# GROWING AGAIN

By **Carol Comegno**  
Courier-Post

Crops will sprout again at Evesham's Croft Farm.

Township council decided Tuesday to allow active agriculture on the land, fallow since the township bought the farm in 2003 to stave off development.

Council authorized a one-year contract with the Craig Higginbotham Farm of Mount Laurel to cultivate 70 acres of Croft Farm at 1015 Tuckerton Road.

Township Manager William Cromie said the decision will save on mowing costs that approached \$10,000 a year.

Except for the farmhouse and barns,

the land remains vacant. Council has never decided how to use the property, though it occasionally has been the setting for model airplane events.

The Evesham farm is unrelated to the Croft Farm Arts Center in Cherry Hill.

The township paid 25 percent of the \$4,275,000 price tag for the 96-acre farm under the state Green Acres program to prevent it from becoming a development of 70 homes. The state and Burlington County financed the other 75 percent.

Higginbotham Farm submitted the highest of two bids for farming. It will

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"We're really excited to see it with crops on it again like it used to be."

### SHANNON HIGGINBOTHAM

Mount Laurel farmer, who with husband Craig will cultivate the Croft Farm land in Evesham

Top: A barn is one of the few buildings at Croft Farm in Evesham. Left: Tall grasses and flowers cover its cropland Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS BOVITT  
COURIER-POST



## Woodbury bank will be HQ for cops

By **Carly Q. Romalino**  
Courier-Post

Broad Street's shuttered First People's Bank will be home to the Woodbury Police Department after \$3.5 million in renovations.

Council approved the multimillion-dollar bond ordinance this month and authorized city officials Tuesday to open bidding for crews to demolish the bank's interior.

The vault will remain, repurposed as the department's armory. Drive-thru lanes will be enclosed as secure, controlled entryways — or sally ports — for transporting suspects, according to City Administrator Mike Theokas.

The city bought the South Broad Street building last year from Pennsylvania-based First States Investors for \$400,000.

The 8,848-square-foot building, built in 1959, is assessed at \$1.5 million, according to tax records.

The police department has operated from its North Broad Street headquarters since the mid-1960s. Recently, the

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