

Event to benefit family of Air Force pilot killed in crash

By DONNA WEAVER
Staff Writer

LACEY TOWNSHIP — Friends of Air Force Capt. Nicholas Giglio said they did not have to think twice about organizing a fundraiser in his honor to benefit his wife and children.

"Being that his wife is now widowed and has another baby on the way, who wouldn't do it," said Jason Hildebrant, one of the event's organizers. "He was my buddy. I couldn't in good conscience not do anything."

Giglio, 32, was killed Oct. 15 when his F-16 collided with another over

Lacey Twp. man died Oct. 15 when plane collided with another

South Carolina. Hildebrant said he watched news coverage the day Giglio's plane crashed and hoped that it was not his childhood friend.

"I said to myself, 'Nick just moved down there and he was a pilot.' I just couldn't believe it," Hildebrant said.

Now a group of his friends is holding a benefit Saturday at The South Winds Restaurant & Marina Bar in Lacey Township.

All of the donations will go to the Air Warrior Courage fund to support the children of Giglio and his wife,

Leigh. She requested that the donations be sent to the fund, Hildebrant said.

Hildebrant, of Lacey Township, said he knew Giglio since the sixth grade and described him as humble and respectful. "You were just a better person for knowing him," Hildebrant said.

Hildebrant said the two kept in touch as much as they could after high school, when they parted ways.

"Since the day I knew him, he



GIGLIO

always was into airplanes and space. He always wanted to be a pilot. I can't tell you how many model airplanes he and his dad built," Hildebrant said.

He described his best friend's job as a dangerous one, but one he could identify with since Hildebrant works as a police officer in Long Beach Township.

□ See Giglio, C5

If you go

What: Fundraiser for family of Air Force Capt. Nicholas Giglio, who was killed Oct. 15 when his F-16 collided with another over South Carolina.

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday

Where: The South Winds Restaurant & Marina Bar, 361 E. Lacey Road, Lacey Township

Details: No entry fee, half-price appetizers and drinks until 4 p.m. Live music. Silent auction. Those who cannot attend the fundraiser may make donations online at www.awc.org

Murder try conviction tossed for Shiloh man

■ An appeals panel finds multiple errors in the 2005 conviction of Thomas Stiles for allegedly trying to hire someone to kill his ex-wife, Diane.

By DANIEL WALSH
Staff Writer

A state appeals court Wednesday overturned the 2005 conviction of a Shiloh man sentenced to 17 years for the attempted murder of his ex-wife.

A three-judge panel ordered a new trial in the case of Thomas Stiles, writing in an 18-page decision that impermissible behavior during the trial by the case's prosecutor and a detective tainted the trial and misled the jury.

Cumberland County Prosecutor Ron Casella's staff now has to decide whether to retry the case, strike a plea agreement with Stiles or appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, according to county trial chief John Jerspersion.



STILES

"Most importantly, we have to talk to the victim to see how she wants to pursue this," Jerspersion said Wednesday.

Stiles remains imprisoned at South Woods State Prison in Bridgeton, where he is serving an eight-year sentence for attempted sexual assault. That sentence, ordered in 2004, carries a mandatory minimum term of six years, nine months and 22 days, which means he could be released from prison in 2011.

The judicial panel cited several points as cause for overturning the case, which stemmed from Stiles' time in Cumberland County Jail in

□ See Stiles, C4

Inside

Millville apartment fire

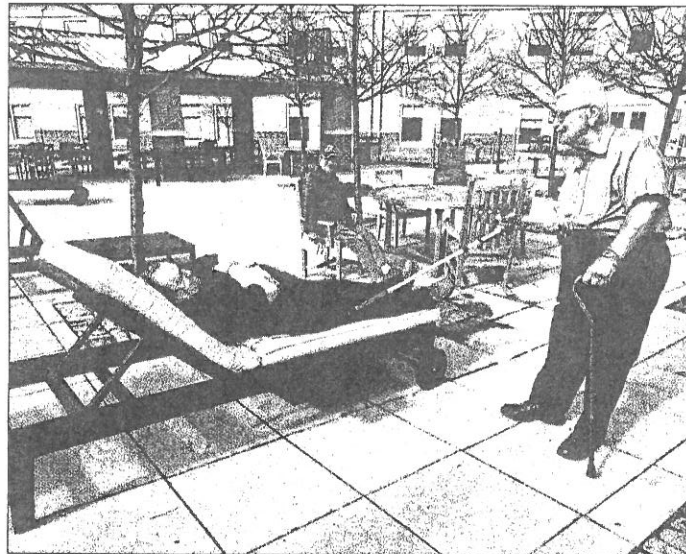
Fire officials say an unattended pot is to blame in a fire at Lakeview Manor Apartments. C3

New home for turnpike turkey

State officials capture a wild turkey that had been hanging around a toll plaza in Jersey City and take it to Popcorn Park Zoo in Lacey Township. C4

Stimulus funds fall short

New Jersey mayors meeting at the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City saw the federal the



C. Anthony Confalone pokes Edwin Foldoe with a cane as he tries out a new outdoor chaise lounge while Robert Watt rests in one of the new chairs Wednesday at Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland. Williams-Sonoma donated more than 60 pieces of outdoor furniture to the home.

Veterans now at ease Williams-Sonoma gives outdoor furniture to Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland

By DANIEL WALSH
Staff Writer

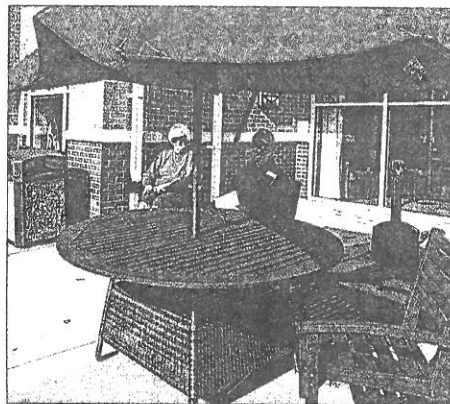
VINELAND — For years, outdoor activities could be somewhat of an inconvenience for residents of the Veterans Memorial Home.

The facility lacked outdoor furniture, so residents often would have to ask for help to do something as simple as sit outside on a nice day.

"We'd have to ask someone in activities to drag out a table for us," explained Rick Toler, a disabled military veteran living at the home. "Sometimes they'd be able to do it."

Now that problem has been eliminated, thanks to a donation of more than 60 pieces of outdoor furniture by the corporate parent of the Pottery Barn chain of stores.

Williams-Sonoma donated chairs and tables earlier this month after one of its pilots, Ron "Fuzzy" Freswick, heard about the situation from Susan Friedenbers, who works in avia-



Colleen Bradway and Watt try out some of the other furniture that was donated.

tion, according to Mark Hayland home. Freswick knew Pottery Barn's local distribution manager

Van Pelt attorney says plea unlikely

■ A third postponement in the former assemblyman's federal corruption trial was granted last week, moving the deadline to set a trial date or reach a plea bargain to Dec. 11.

By LEE PROCIDA
Staff Writer

Daniel M. Van Pelt's attorney said Wednesday that the former Assemblyman and Ocean Township mayor would not agree to a plea bargain in his federal corruption trial based on the current evidence against him.

Toms River attorney Robert R. Fuggi said he thinks the U.S. Attorney's Office lacks information in its prosecution against Van Pelt "of such magnitude and such significance" to alter its case against him.



VAN PELT

"I've been able to evaluate the government's evidence," Fuggi said, "and I think there are significant issues that the government did not investigate before they charged our client."

He would not elaborate on those issues.

A spokesman with the U.S. Attorney's Office did not return a call for comment Wednesday.

Federal prosecutors and attorneys for Van Pelt have agreed to postpone the trial three times since he was

□ See Van Pelt, C4

Ex-governors: Christie must honor pledge

■ The panel at the state League of Municipalities Conference says voters have no tolerance for candidates who go back on promises such as Republican Gov.-elect Chris Christie made to not raise taxes