

Daily Record SUNDAY

UPTO \$1,132 COUPON SAVINGS

ALL-ACCESS PASS

New picture book shows Bon Jovi hard at 'work' **Sunday Best, M1**

TOUGH WIN FOR DELBARTON

High school football coverage, **Pages B1, B4**

WHARTON WOMAN VIES TO BECOME MISS N.J.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS FRONT, CENTER

CCM student aims to raise awareness, provide inspiration



BOB KARP/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Gina Ruiz of Wharton, a 20-year-old with cystic fibrosis, is competing in the Miss New Jersey pageant.

MICHAEL IZZO @MIZZODR

Walking out of orientation for the Miss New Jersey pageant earlier this month, Gina Ruiz felt confident she could win. "I saw a lot of others doubt themselves," said Ruiz, 20, of Wharton, "But I felt positive about my chances." Ruiz is competing for a cause that she hopes will set her apart from the competition — raising awareness for cystic fibrosis. Ruiz has had cystic fibrosis since birth, and was diagnosed at 6 months old. Cystic fibrosis affects the lungs, where a buildup of mucus makes it difficult to breathe.

See **CYSTIC**, Page A5

"You don't know what battles people are going through every day."

GINA RUIZ
MISS NEW JERSEY CONTESTANT

Trial in fatal beating to open

Body was found in Lincoln Park

PEGGY WRIGHT
@PEGGYWRIGHTDR

MORRISTOWN — A third homicide trial this year in Morris County is scheduled to get started this week in the case of a construction worker charged with killing a man with a hammer and leaving his motor oil-soaked body in the trunk of a car that was abandoned in Lincoln Park.

State Superior Court Judge Robert Gilson, sitting in Morristown, is expected to start jury selection on Tuesday for the trial of Carlos Rojas, now 23, of North Bergen. In an alleged dispute over a debt, Rojas is accused of using a hammer to fatally beat Esteban Hernandez-Vazquez, 27, of North Bergen on Aug. 3, 2011, in Fairview, Bergen County.

The trial will come on the heels of two other homicide cases that were tried over the summer. Morris County Assistant Prosecutor Matthew Troiano, who will try Rojas, handled the trial of Roman Pacheco, who was found guilty of aggravated manslaughter in the beating death of a patron outside a bar in Dover. And, Anthony F. Novellino was tried and convicted for the murder of his ex-wife, Judith, in Denville.

Oscar Benedicto-Aleman, a second man accused of being present in Fairview during the Hernandez-Vazquez slaying and helping Rojas dispose of

See **TRIAL**, Page A2

Oscar Benedicto-Aleman told police that Carlos Rojas approached the unsuspecting victim and struck him in the head with a hammer that he pulled from his backpack.



FILE PHOTO

Carlos Rojas of North Bergen appears in August 2011 in state Superior Court in Morristown. His trial is expected to begin Tuesday before Judge Robert Gilson.

MORRIS PLAINS' MEMORY CAFÉ

Alzheimer's patients get to relax

LORRAINE ASH @LORRAINEVASH

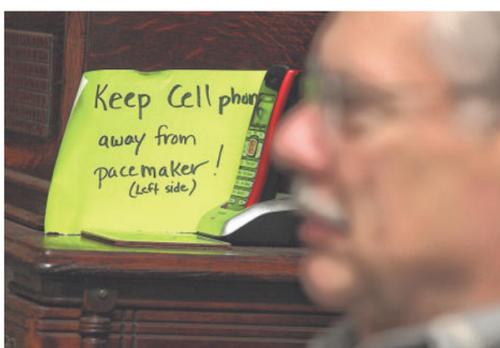
MORRIS PLAINS — For a year, the Memory Café at the Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains has been serving up coffee, cake and companionship to people diagnosed with Alzheimer's and caregiver members of their families.

In that time, it's been a refuge for 10 sets of mild- to moderate-stage patients and their care partners. As a group, they span various types of dementia, many faiths and a variety of occupational backgrounds. Only one couple, Ginny and Jeff Fisher of Randolph, are members of the church.

But they all have a common need — normal, healthy, nonjudgmental interactions among friends who understand their daily challenges.

"When people get together, you see a lot of joy because they are getting to function and participate in a

See **CAFÉ**, Page A2



KAREN FUCITO/CORRESPONDENT

Jeff Fisher of Randolph, who has dementia and relies on a pacemaker, enjoys meeting people at Memory Café, his wife, Ginny, says.

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