

Abraham taking on jawbreaker Miranda again
On Boxing, B1



Euro2008
Germany outdoes Portugal to advance to semifinals B1



DePaul's Crosgile will play for St. Joseph B1



HERALD NEWS

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Friday, June 20, 2008



An edition of The Record



First against the wall

Two former Bear Stearns hedge fund managers indicted on conspiracy and fraud charges.

In Money, C8



WPU Jazz Week drawing galaxy of stars

In Friday, D1

Slain Clifton High graduate remembered

In Our Towns, C1

WEATHER Looks like rain

Partly sunny with highs in the upper 70s.
Tonight and Saturday: Mostly cloudy tonight with lows in the 50s. Partly sunny Saturday with highs in the mid-80s. **BB**

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West Paterson, New Jersey
Vol. 137, No. 172



The parents' pain

They saw warning signs that led to Maria's death

By ED BEESON and HEATHER APPEL
Staff Writers

RANDOLPH – Josephine Hoppe feared for her daughter's future whenever she saw the bruises left by the man Maria Hoppe called the love of her life.

"She always came back with finger marks around her neck, and I told her, 'one of these days, you're not going to get up,'" said Josephine Hoppe, the mother of the 26-year-old Randolph woman whose body was found this week inside a Paterson apartment.

A mother's warning didn't convince Maria Hoppe to leave.

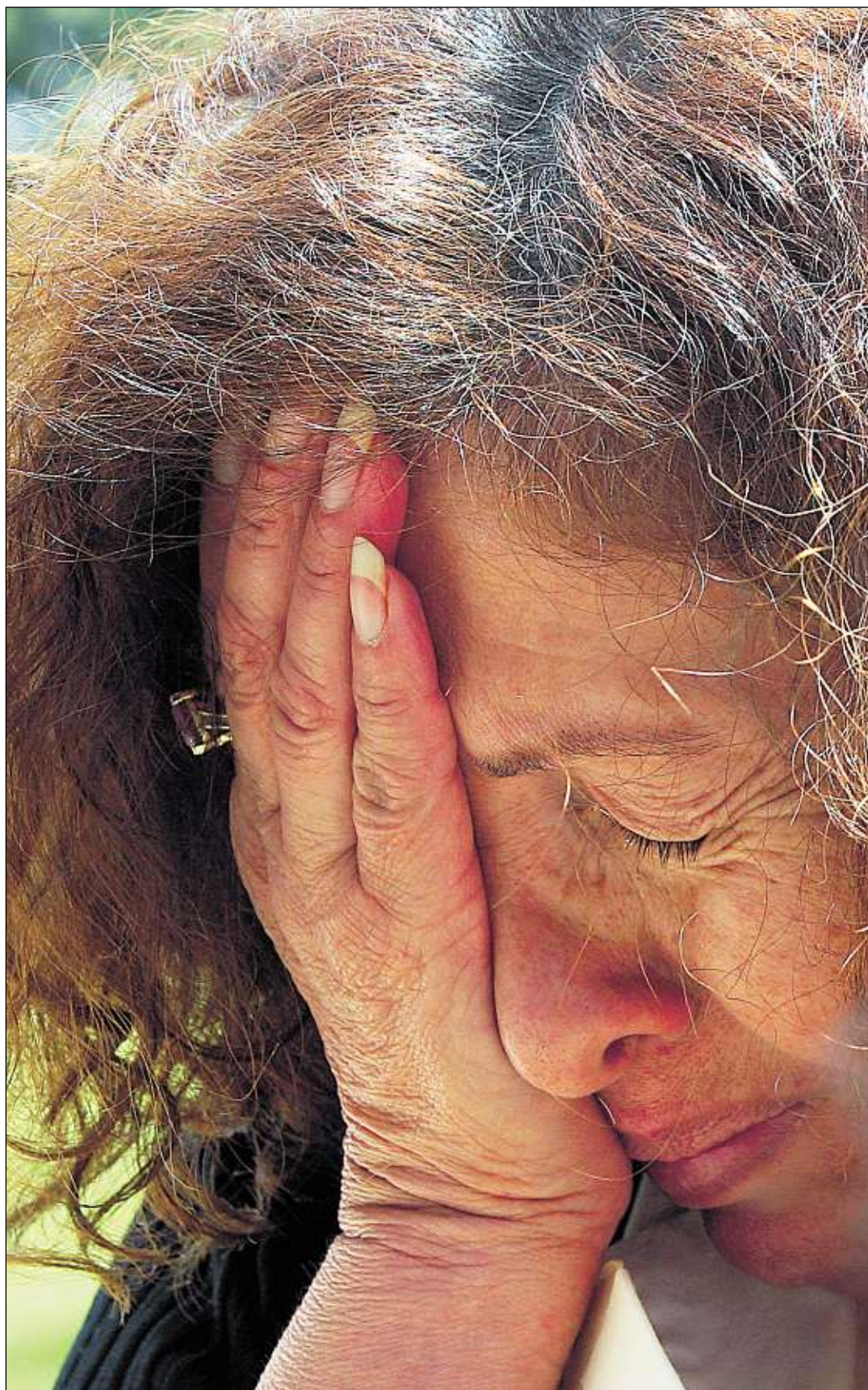
Maria Hoppe returned to the Paterson home of Randy Martin, her boyfriend and father of her two small children. It was here where police investigators said she met her end. Some three weeks after authorities said they believed she was killed, Hoppe's body was discovered Tuesday stuffed in a plastic garbage bag inside Martin's 12th Avenue apartment. Martin, a 37-year-old ex-convict, was arrested by Paterson police officers Tuesday and charged with murder, and is being held in Passaic County Jail in Paterson on \$1 million bail.

Shortly after Josephine and Fernando Hoppe returned to their Morris County home on Thursday from the Norman Dean Home for Services in Denville that is handling Maria Hoppe's funeral on Saturday, her parents spoke to reporters for the first time about their daughter's death.

Her parents, natives of Ecuador, in Spanish spoke longingly for their 4-foot-11 daughter and spitefully of the man who authorities said took her life. When a friend brought them a framed photo of Maria Hoppe, her father touched it, turned and let out a mournful wail, which echoed across the hilly apartment complex where they live.

The Hoppes said they felt their daughter was headed for disaster in a relationship they felt powerless to stop.

They recalled their daughter as a bright child who played piano and danced to the Latin American rhythms of cumbia. She grew into a romantic young woman and wrote poetry to express her feelings, Josephine Hoppe said. Her parents, who had longed for a



"She always came back with finger marks around her neck, and I told her, 'one of these days, you're not going to get up.'"

JOSEPHINE HOPPE,
the mother of Maria Hoppe, whose body was found this week inside a Paterson apartment

Please see **MARIA**, A12



ELIZABETH LARA/
Staff Photographer

Josephine Hoppe breaks down as she and her husband Fernando talk about their daughter for the first time following her death. At left, Maria with her daughter, Jewel, who is now 2, in June 2007. She also leaves behind a 5-month-old son, Zahir.

Courtesy of the Hoppe family

GAS PRICES

Stations caught hosing drivers

Passaic County ranks high on list

By HEATHER HADDON
Staff Writer

WEST ORANGE – Motorists feeling the pinch of skyrocketing fuel prices have another headache in New Jersey: an increasing number of gas stations delivering the wrong octane, pumping less fuel than motorists paid for, or charging different prices on opposite sides of the pump.

About a third of all inspections conducted in a statewide, three-day sweep of gas stations last month found violations of the New Jersey Motor Fuels Act or the Consumer Fraud Act, state Attorney General Anne Milgram announced in a press conference Thursday. That's up from rate in 2005 of one violation out of every four inspections.

Passaic County ranked fourth in the state for the most violations. Of the 18 issued in the county, Clifton stations had 13. State officials did not release the nature of the individual violations on Thursday. Burlington County had the most violations, with 53 offenses. Bergen County had the least, with one in Lyndhurst.

Statewide, the most frequent offense was for pumps not properly metering delivered gas. Some motorists got less than they bought, some received more, according to John McGuire, supervisor of law enforcement for the state Office of Weights and Measures.

The second top offense was stations not displaying their annual inspection certification. The third was different gas prices on each side of a pump.

"The results are deeply disturbing," said Milgram, standing with inspectors from Passaic, Morris, Essex and Union counties at the Essex Green Sunoco station in West Orange.

The sweep was conducted by county offices of weights and measures in cooperation with the Attorney General's Office. Inspectors fanned out to a third of New Jersey's 3,000 gas stations May 28-30.

Passaic County's five inspectors visit its 200 stations throughout the warmer months of the year, according to Ernest Salerno, the superintendent of weights and measures.

Please see **GAS**, A4

PASSAIC

Pomp and consequence

On Graduation Day, not all students are moving forward

By DANIELLE SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

This is the third of three stories about Lincoln Middle School in Passaic that explore the sometimes tricky transitions for students moving on to another phase of their education. Today's installment looks at the experiences of students excited about graduation and the disappointment of those left behind.

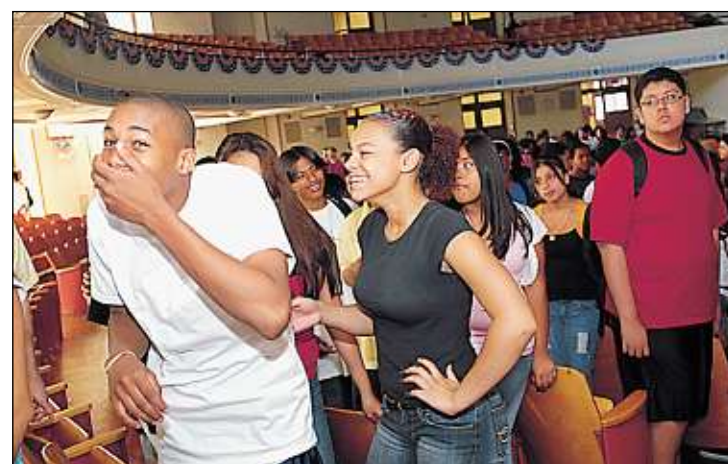
PASSAIC – Daniel Morales should be starting his senior year in high school this fall. Instead, he will repeat the eighth grade for the fourth time.

"I'm super embarrassed," he said Tuesday as most of his classmates rehearsed for their graduation today. Next year, the 16-year-old will be joined at Lincoln Middle School by his two brothers, one 12, who will enter the seventh grade, and the other 13, who will be in the eighth grade

with Daniel.

Daniel is one of 94 eighth-grade students at the school who will not graduate and will be left back. Another 112 students will spend a month in summer school making up classes they failed. If they pass, they can go on to high school. "Uuuuuuuugh," said Christopher "Snowy" Gil, 15, when asked about next year. He will repeat the eighth grade, as he did the fifth grade. "I'll be able to walk the halls with my eyes closed, and that's not good at all."

Please see **GRADUATION**, A12



DANIELLE P. RICHARDS/Staff Photographer

Elijah Rosas couldn't contain his enthusiasm during the eighth grade rehearsal for today's graduation at Lincoln Middle School. About 600 students will move on to high school, but more than 200 face the possibility of repeating the year.