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SUNDAY

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From left, Jaelyn Giguere, Kara Pease, Carlee Bellard and Ashleigh Girard, ballerinas from Dawn's School of Dance in Northborough, check out the parade behind them while riding in a convertible during Northborough's Applefest yesterday.

A HAPPY APPLEFEST



The Algonquin High School marching band partakes in the parade. At right, Algonquin cheerleader Amanda Hubley, a sophomore, rides on the shoulders of Ashley Berger, a senior, during Applefest in Northborough yesterday.



IMMIGRATION INVESTIGATION

Ecuadorean workers seek back wages

► U.S. companies subcontracted roof jobs to illegal laborers

By Liz Mineo
DAILY NEWS STAFF

FRAMINGHAM – A local immigrant advocate is helping more than 20 workers recover unpaid back wages for work they did for two American companies that subcontracted Milford Ecuadorean roofer Daniel Tacuri.

The workers are owed a total of \$26,630 for labor they did before and even after Tacuri's arrest last December, said Diego Low, director of the Framingham-based MetroWest Immigrant Workers Center.

Tacuri, who was sentenced to TACURI WORKERS, Page A5



DAILY NEWS FILE PHOTO BY LISA CASSIDY
Diego Low, left, director of MetroWest Immigrant Workers Center, talks with Daniel Tacuri's wife, Maria, son Jonathan, 5, and a family member.

Strata Bank hurt by Freddie and Fannie

► Local lender lost \$6.5M, could see 2nd straight quarterly loss

By Aaron Wasserman
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Strata Bank expects regulators to downgrade its classification as a well-capitalized bank after it wrote down the value of its stock holding in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by about \$6.5 million.

The downgrade to "adequately capitalized" means regulators view the bank as riskier because its ratio of capital to liabilities has decreased, and the premium the FDIC charges the bank to insure it will increase.

The value of Strata's stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which buy mortgages to finance the housing market, was \$7.2 million on June 30, the bank STRATA, Page A4

MENTAL HEALTH BARRIERS

Stigmas survive in the system

► Mentally ill face cynicism, stereotypes in unlikely places

Editor's note: This is the last in a four-part series on challenges facing the mentally ill.

By David Riley
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Cindy said when she was a patient in a state hospital, a few longtime staffers were like her backbone, helping her find the confidence to make progress in her program and get back to living her life.

Not everyone in the mental health system proved as supportive.

One professional told Cindy she would be lucky to ever be

released from the facility, she said. Others didn't bother to ask or didn't consider her own objectives when making decisions about her treatment, she said.

"I find that very hard to swallow," she said.

That is because Cindy, who struggled with bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress and substance abuse, knows she is more than her illness. She believes she deserves a voice in treating her disease.

"We may have this diagnosis, but that doesn't make (us) who we are," she said.

Today, Cindy is reminding the mental health system of that fact. She has spoken to professionals about her experience and is talking with other people MENTAL ILLNESS, Page A6

Farm stand burns

► Workers say blaze started above deli

By Cheryl Lecsese
GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Residents, employees and customers watched late yesterday afternoon as the main building of Verrill Farm on Wheeler Road went up in flames.

"It really didn't stand a chance," said Barbara Ramsey of Lexington, one of the many VERRILL, Page A6



A severe fire burned the main farm stand at Verrill Farm in Concord yesterday afternoon. One firefighter was injured battling the fire. The farm has 200 acres in Concord and Sudbury.

GATEHOUSE PHOTO BY ANN RINGWOOD

INSIDE



WEATHER/A7
Morning fog then sunny. Low 70s.

DAILY NUMBER A2

Automotive	K1-10	Lottery	A2
Business	F1-6	Movies	C2-3
Crossword	i5	Nation	A2-4, B8
Local News	B1-8	Opinion	E1-8

Real Estate	G1-8
Television	F4-5
Sports	D1-8
World	A2, B8



SLOW RECOVERY
Galveston tries to envision rebuilding after Hurricane Ike. See story page B8.

