



PITTS TOWN

Leadership Takes Wing
A Hunterdon County airfield puts women in the cockpit of a single-engine plane to help them develop executive skills.

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\$2.00

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THIS WEEK

Breaking the Broadband Bottleneck

A startup finds a way to speed up voice, video and data transmissions over the cables and copper wires that run into the home. Page 3

Bye-Bye Help Line

Here comes a fingertip solution to computer problems that befuddled users can tap into from their keyboards. Page 3

Clean Sweep

In a bitter proxy battle, dissident shareholders claim control of the board of troubled Computer Horizons. Page 5

Interview

A leading economist describes the impact of high taxes on the state's business climate. Page 11

Lost Luster

Beset by accounting woes and chatters

WEST WINDSOR

NRG's Big Power Play

With a \$5.8 billion deal for a Texas electricity wholesaler, the global energy supplier takes the latest step in its dramatic turnaround

By Brian Quinlan

The newest energy supplier in New Jersey just electrified the power industry. NRG Energy, which relocated from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to

West Windsor last January, this month agreed to pay \$5.8 billion in cash and stock for power wholesaler Texas Genco. The deal immediately sparked talk of a new wave of consolidations of energy companies.

The merger is part of a turnaround for NRG Energy, which emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2003 after collapsing energy prices brought on a \$3.64 billion loss the previous year. The worldwide wholesale power company, whose operations include more than 15 plants in the Northeast, moved to New Jersey in part to be near its generating facilities in this part of the country. Other plant locations include Louisiana, California, Brazil, Australia and Germany.

Workers monitor energy prices from around the country on NRG's new trading floor.



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NEW BRUNSWICK

"We have substituted deal making for policymaking"

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TRENTON

Business Rallies The Troops

The state chamber assembles an all-star coalition to improve competitiveness

By Scott Goldstein

In a move to add muscle to the business community's lobbying in Trenton, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce last week unveiled a high-powered new coalition. Styling itself the "Platform for Progress," the group brings together an unprecedented collection of interests that cover virtually every industry in the state.

At stake are six key issues that affect New Jersey's ability to attract and retain companies and expand its economy. These issues are economic development, education, the environment, government reform, health care and transportation.

The goal is to set a comprehensive agenda for the next governor and Legislature. "You can't do something so significant by yourself," says Joan Verplanck, president of the state chamber. "We need all New Jerseyans to get involved—not just lawyers, not just bankers and not just members of the New Jersey Chamber."

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