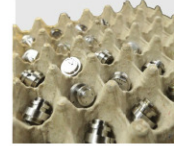


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Oxford finds small town setup sells. Page 5

**SPOTLIGHT: CONSTRUCTION & ARCHITECTURE**



## Office space

Open, casual and comfortable is way of the future

BY JOSHUA BURD

If you ask **Tomo Oh**, there's something different these days about **Panasonic's** employees in New Jersey.

It's something he's noticed over the past nine months or so — ever since they moved into their new home in downtown Newark.

"They talk more," said **Ohi**, the director of procurement, real estate and facilities for **Panasonic's** North American subsidiary.

"And I think they're meeting people who they've never seen before."

That's exactly what company executives had in mind when they opted to move from their longtime headquarters in Secaucus, leaving behind the 6-foot-high cubicle walls and private offices that created a maze inside their sprawling campus.

Those have been replaced by low-profile, See **OFFICE** on page 18

The new Panasonic building in Newark certainly has a room with a view. —AARON HOUSTON

## Cost comparison: Insurers eager to talk price points

BY BETH FITZGERALD

Whether it's an MRI, knee surgery or another medical procedure, consumers are turning to the Web to research and price shop for health care providers.

Insurers have taken notice — and they're lending a hand to their members with tools such as rating systems and cost estimators.

Experts say the popularity of online health care shopping is fueled by the spread of high-deductible health plans, in which the premiums are lower

but members have to pay a bigger share of their medical bills.

Once members log on, they quickly discover that the prices doctors, hospitals and outpatient facilities charge for the same procedure vary tremendously — and that the providers with the highest quality ratings aren't necessarily the most expensive.

For instance, a search for a colonoscopy in the Parsippany area finds the costs vary considerably — from under \$3,000 to nearly \$6,000 — in part because

See **INSURERS** on page 10

## Wi-Fi over four-wheel drive? Carmakers are shifting focus

Autos with business needs in mind are latest trend

BY MEG FRY

Imagine getting ahead on research for work during your commute while Pandora plays your favorite radio station and Twitter reads aloud your daily tweets.

Or napping behind the wheel as your car drives you to work entirely.

OK — the latter is still being tested — but now that total connectivity has become a necessity for car consumers, that day is not far off.

It's all part of the business

car of the future, a market car manufacturers are starting to address.

**Robyn Williams**, the senior marketing manager for vehicle connected services at **Nissan North America**, said the company understands why work-oriented drivers multitask and is working to meet that need.

"Nissan continues to develop connected services with business use in mind," she said in an email. "For example, our telematics suite is designed to

See **CONNECTED** on page 8

For address or name corrections, fax label to (732) 846-0421

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**By the numbers**

**8.2 percent**

It's New Jersey's unemployment rate, which only includes all jobless persons who are available to work and have actively sought work in the past four weeks. The national average is 7.4 percent.

