RARITAN BOROUGH — Sure the sky was gray, the roads slippery and the rain dripped down their helmets and faces mile after mile. But so what?

“I love the rain,” said Natasha Wieschenberg, a Bedminster resident participating in the three-day Tour de Pink bicycle race. “The rain reinforces what the challenge is all about. Circumstances may not be great but you can get through it.”

The challenge is breast cancer and the race began Friday, running from Morristown to Princeton to Bucks County, Pa., to Long Branch.

In its eighth year, the race is sponsored by the Young Survival Coalition, a nonprofit dedicated to helping young women with breast cancer.

Nearly 150 people, a mix of breast cancer survivors and their supporters — including Wieschenberg, who’s battled non-Hodgkin’s
Man exiting Route 15 onto Route 80 in Rockaway dies when his car hits parked tractor-trailer (Daily Record)

Madison woman identified as Morris Twp. crash victim (Daily Record)

Officials: Disease reducing NJ deer population (Daily Record)

Morris County American Heart Association walk, 5k attract 2,700 people (Daily Record)

Chatham Township woman: ‘I’m grateful to be able to watch my children grow up’ (Daily Record)

The route brought cyclists to the statue of hometown World War II hero John Basilone, Duke Island Park and the castle — actually a pump house — built by James Duke in 1926.

The cyclists shared the roads with motorists. In Raritan the race snaked through North Branch River Road, Old York Road, Lyman Street and River Road.

Jenna Glazer, development director with Young Survival Coalition, and a breast cancer survivor for seven years, said events like these are an important part of “survivorship.”

She didn’t ride in the race, but she cheered from the sidelines and handed out peanut-butter sandwiches to rider who stopped at the park facing Gaston Avenue on Old York Road here.

“There is so much we deal with,” Glazer, 40, said. “As young women who are ill, they are going through trying times in their lives. We are really trying to empower them to live the best lives as possible and be as educated as they possibly can.”

Sergio Bichao: 908-243-6615; sbichao@njpressmedia.com