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Huskies Win National 8th Grade Football Championship

PERTH AMBOY—Mayor Joseph Vas was joined by Perth Amboy Board of Education representatives and faculty and students from William C. McGinnis Middle School to honor the McGinnis Huskies for capturing the National Middle School Football Championship.

In honor of their achievement, Mayor Vas presented the Huskies with a plaque on behalf of the City of Perth Amboy, which will be permanently displayed in McGinnis School's trophy case. Members of the Board of Education, along with the Huskies' coaches, also presented the team with a trophy for their championship victory.

"The Huskies deserve every bit of recognition they receive. To be recognized as the best

eighth grade football team in the country is a tremendous achievement. We congratulate them and their parents and wish them all the best. We are extremely proud of them," stated Mayor Vas.

Middle Schools from all over the country converged in North Carolina over the Thanksgiving weekend for the annual championships, which honor teams that have won their divisions throughout the school year. The Perth Amboy Board of Education sponsored a bus trip to send the Huskies and their family members to the National Championships for the weekend.

While both the seventh and eighth grade McGinnis School team competed and emerged victorious, the championship is

determined by the eighth grade teams. The eighth grade Huskies beat a team hailing from North Carolina, while the seventh grade Huskies conquered a

Virginia team. The Huskies are no stranger to victory, having won the championship just four years ago, as well.

City Searches For Missing Money

SOUTH AMBOY—About a quarter of million dollars is believed to be missing from municipal bank accounts, officials said this week.

The Middlesex County Prosecutors Office is investigating in an attempt to determine if the missing money is just a clerical error or if it was stolen. Assistant Prosecutor Ronald Abramowitz, who is heading the investigation,

could not be reached for comment before our deadline.

Mayor Jack O'Leary said, "As far as we're concerned, it appears to be either a computer-software or data-input problem that has caused the disparity. The problem is not with the bank. The problem is in the computer system where the numbers didn't jive with the end-of-the-year book numbers."

The missing \$255,000 represents nearly 2.5 percent of the annual city budget.

The mayor has said that while the problem is serious and must be resolved, taxpayers will not be affected because the city is insured.

The city's chief financial officer, John McCormac, said that the good news was that the computerized control system worked as it was supposed to.

O'Leary and Business Administrator Stanley Marcinczyk first discovered the discrepancy in September, and notified auditors. Independent auditor Gary Higgins is expected to report his findings within the next week.



WITH CHILDLIKE FASCINATION—Michael Valentin, age 4, of Sayreville, takes a turn shooting the fire hose during National Fire Prevention and Safety Week, when members of the Belleville Fire Department paid a visit to the Kid's Place Child Care Center at Clara Mass Medical Center

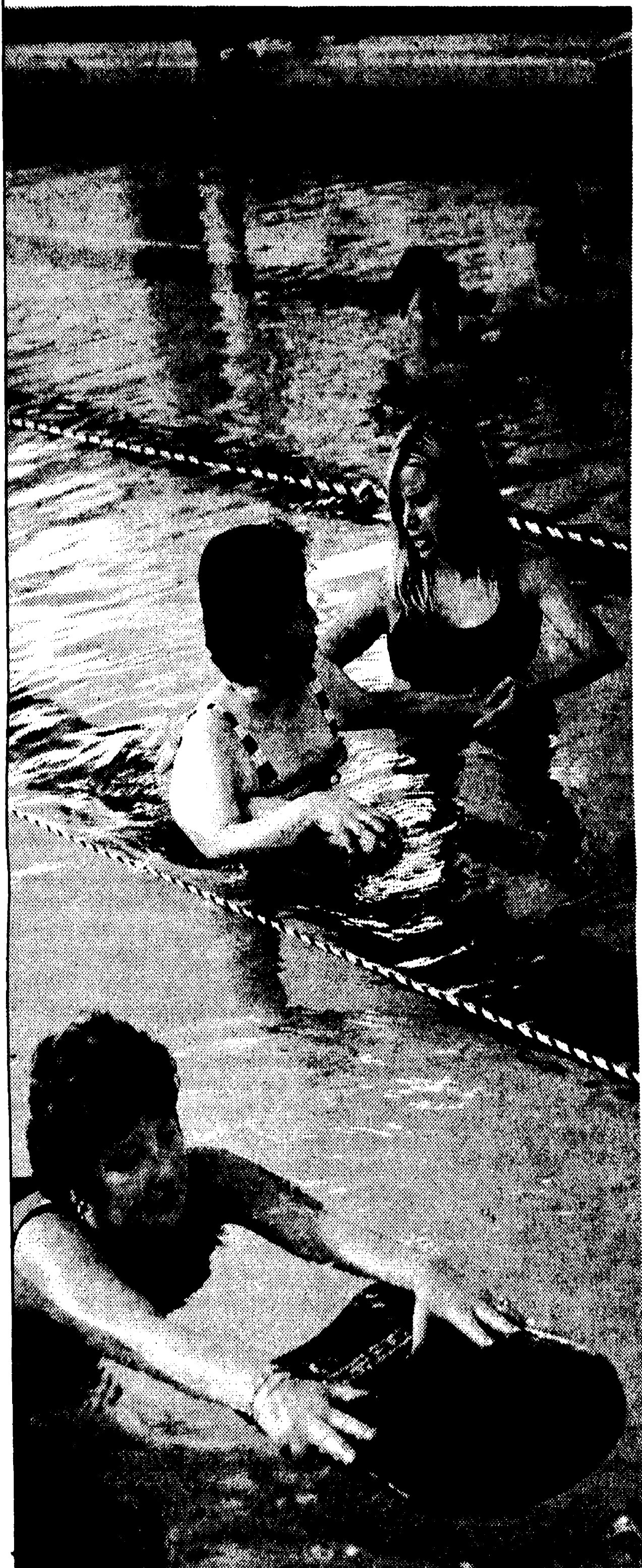
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Benefit Dance Set For Dec. 21

PERTH AMBOY—The final
Seniors' Benefit Dance for the
year 2001 has been set for
Friday evening, Dec. 21 at the
Simpson United Methodist
Church, High Street, Perth
Amboy.

The dances, sponsored
monthly by the Epps family of
Perth Amboy, have generated
thousands of dollars to benefit
worthy causes from the
Muscular Dystrophy Associa-
tion to Concerts by the Bay and
most recently, to the American
Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

A special dance on Hallo-
ween raised more than three
hundred dollars for the Fund
and the proceeds from the
recent November dance will be
combined with December's
donations to go to the same
charity.

Dance Coordinator Kurt
Epps is hoping that the two
events will generate enough to
each the \$1000 goal he and his
family set after Sept. 11.

Epps' wife, mother and three
sons, set up, serve refreshments,
entertain and clean up for a
loyal following of senior citi-
zens from the area.

"These folks built this coun-
try and helped to make it great,"
said Epps. "It's my family's
way of saying thanks. It's a
great feeling to see them enjoy
themselves."

The dances have been ongo-
ing for more than five years and
have attracted a faithful cadre of
line dancers, couples and those
who just enjoy listening to the
music, which Epps provides.

"The admission fee is just
two dollars at the door and
many seniors throw in a couple
extra bucks depending on the
charity," said Epps. "Many also
donate baked goods and bever-
ages to add to the enjoyment."

The December dance, with
most attendees wearing red,
also features a Christmas song
sing-a-long.

The dance runs from
6:30-8:30 p.m. Doors open at
5:45 p.m. Donations of re-
freshments are gratefully
accepted and greatly appreciat-
ed.

For information, contact
(732) 826-8007.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Woodbridge Food Bank Offers Holiday Hope

WOODBIDGE—Thanks giving Day was a little brighter for 20 Woodbridge families this year, thanks to the generosity of a local labor organization.

"The State Office of Weights and Measures PBA Local 269, which is based in Avenel, donated 20 Thanksgiving meals to 'We Feed,' the Woodbridge Township Food Bank Committee. The Woodbridge community extends our thanks and appreciation to Local President John McGuire, Delegate Raymond Szpond and all members of the Local for displaying the true holiday spirit," said Mayor James E. McGreevey.

Each basket contained a 10-to-12 pound turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, yams, green beans and dinner rolls. The baskets were purchased with donations from the 16 members of the Local.

"This is our way of giving thanks —by extending a helping hand to families in need," said Local President John McGuire.

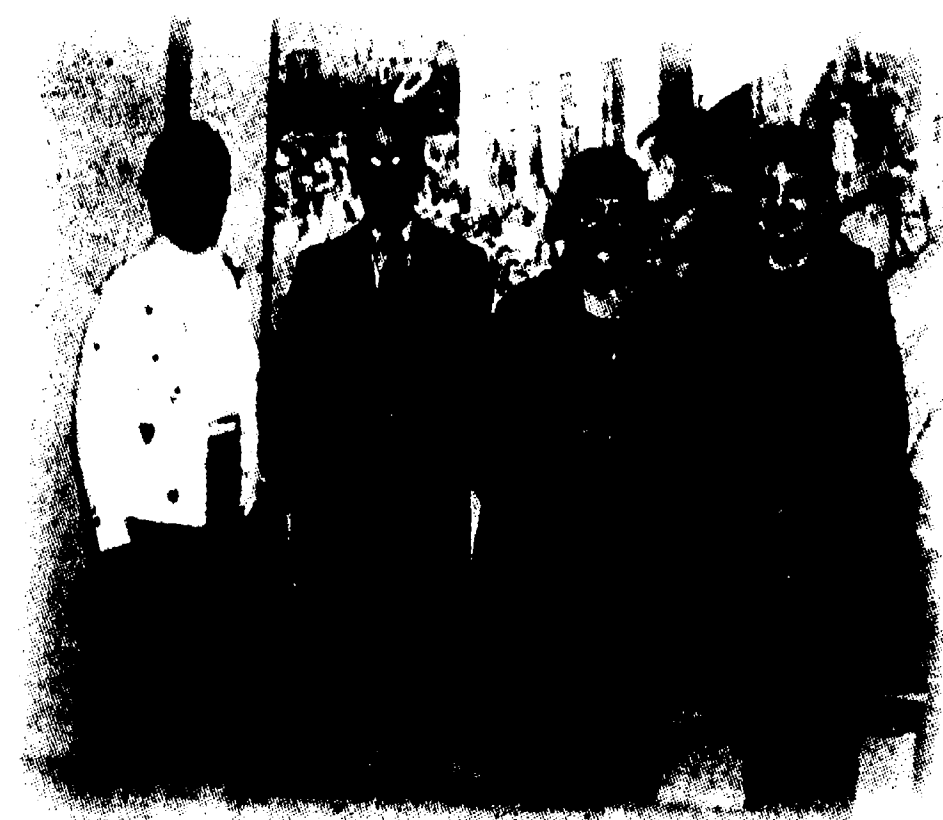
McGuire said the donation program was initiated five years ago through the efforts of State Delegate Raymond

Szpond. Twenty meals were purchased with last year's contributions.

Members of the Local are responsible for regulating items which are sold by weight and other measures, including gasoline, food, home heating oil and firewood.



FOOD BANK DONATION—Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey (R.) accepts holiday meals on behalf of 'We Feed,' the Woodbridge Township Food Bank Committee, from delegate Raymond Szpond (L.) of the State Office of Weights and Measures PBA Local 269 and Local President John McGuire.



PHA TRUSTEES VISIT STATE HOUSE—Proprietary House Association Trustees Rosemary Mazzeo, Ralph Jones, Marianne Brehun and JoAnne Xidias went to Trenton to speak for Assembly Bill A-2551 before the Appropriations Committee. The Bill, introduced by Assemblywoman Arline Friscia and Assemblyman John Wisniewski, asked for \$2.5 million to restore the Royal Governor's Mansion built in 1762.

Military Briefs...

Kimball Completes Basic Military Training

CARTERET—Marine Corps Pvt. George F. Kimball, III, son of Joyce M. Drew of Piscataway and George F. Kimball Jr. of Carteret, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Kimball successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, Kimball spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

He also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values —honor, courage and commitment and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Kimball is a 1994 graduate of Montclair High School, Montclair.

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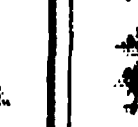
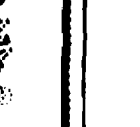
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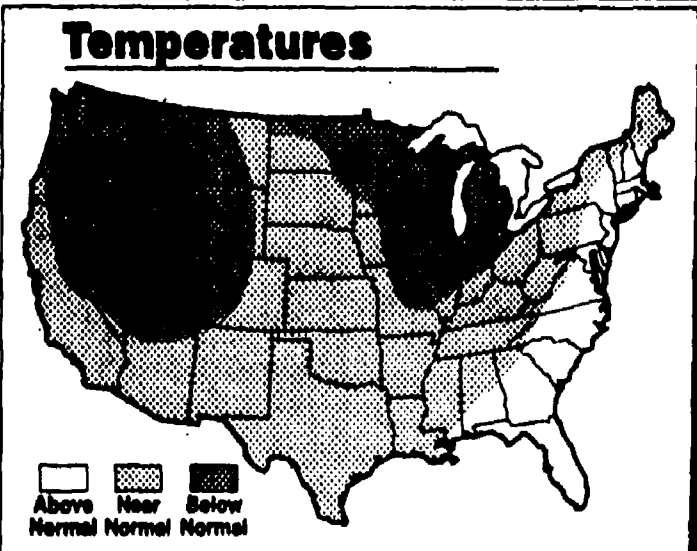
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
46	31	44/32	48/34	47/35	52/44	48/30	42/26

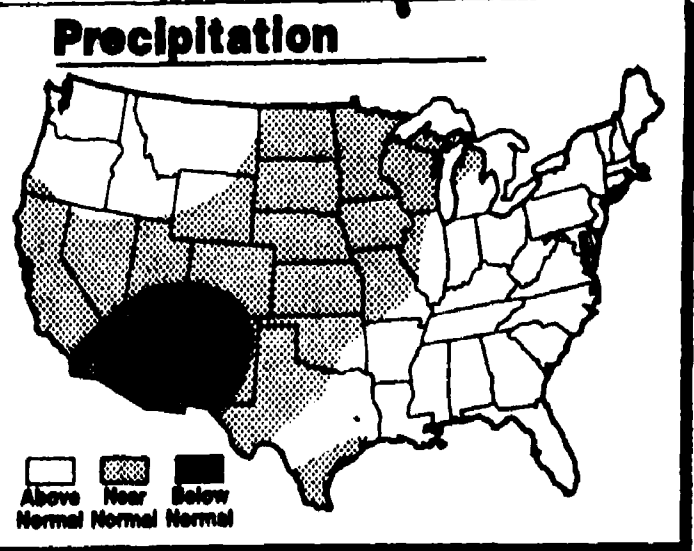
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Above-normal temperatures are expected to cover much of the country during the time period. The exception will be in the Pacific Northwest, where temperatures will average 5 to 10 degrees below normal. Storms will bring precipitation to the Ohio and Tennessee valleys. Wet weather will continue to affect the Pacific Northwest.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	56 38 s	56 40 s	60 40 s	62 48 c
Boston	44 26 c	40 28 pc	41 32 pc	46 34 s
Chicago	42 26 pc	44 36 s	42 36 sh	40 28 sh
Cleveland	38 28 sf	43 29 pc	38 29 c	44 37 c
Denver	52 20 s	38 14 c	32 16 sn	40 16 pc
Des Moines	44 24 pc	44 22 s	34 19 pc	35 14 pc
Detroit	40 28 pc	40 30 pc	38 27 c	41 34 c
Houston	68 46 s	66 58 c	74 56 c	72 56 sh
Indianapolis	40 26 pc	42 29 s	41 28 c	43 35 c
Kansas City	47 30 s	44 27 s	39 28 pc	42 15 c
Los Angeles	62 48 c	67 46 s	69 46 s	70 37 s
Miami	78 64 pc	78 64 pc	81 66 s	81 62 s
Minn. - St. Paul	34 20 pc	34 22 c	32 18 sn	28 12 sf
New Orleans	62 44 s	64 48 s	70 48 s	68 58 c
New York City	46 32 pc	42 32 pc	46 34 s	49 39 s
Omaha	44 26 pc	44 22 pc	33 19 s	39 11 pc
Phoenix	68 44 s	62 38 pc	60 38 pc	62 42 s
San Francisco	54 40 s	56 40 s	56 42 pc	59 42 pc
Seattle	44 34 c	46 36 r	46 38 c	48 42 c
Washington	50 36 pc	44 32 s	50 32 s	52 40 c

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	Sunset
Thu. 7:17 a.m.	4:33 p.m.
Fri. 7:17 a.m.	4:33 p.m.
Moonrise	Moonset
Thu. 11:25 a.m.	10:10 p.m.
Fri. 11:51 a.m.	11:08 p.m.
Moon Phases	
First	Full
Dec 22	Dec 30
Jan 5	Jan 13
Weather (W):	
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy,	
c-cloudy, sh-showers,	
t-thunderstorms, r-rain,	
sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.	

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	32 31 pc	35 28 sn	29 27 c	36 25 sn
Berlin	25 15 c	22 17 sn	24 19 sn	26 20 c
Buenos Aires	73 66 pc	77 66 pc	83 57 s	80 57 s
Calo	57 42 pc	66 45 pc	67 45 s	67 48 s
Jerusalem	44 34 pc	52 39 pc	57 39 s	56 41 s
Johannesburg	88 62 pc	81 64 sh	84 65 pc	87 64 pc
London	34 33 pc	35 25 pc	33 28 c	43 38 sn
Madrid	44 20 pc	43 24 s	46 28 pc	44 29 pc
Mexico City	59 43 c	61 44 c	66 46 pc	62 49 c
Moscow	20 18 sn	19 3 sn	10 4 c	12 6 c
Paris	29 24 pc	28 21 pc	30 23 c	32 30 sn
Rio de Janeiro	84 71 pc	84 72 c	83 74 sh	79 74 r
Rome	45 28 pc	41 34 pc	45 28 pc	44 30 pc
San Juan	84 76 c	85 75 c	84 73 pc	83 73 pc
Seoul	28 20 sn	30 15 pc	28 24 pc	29 25 sn
Sydney	90 72 pc	89 70 c	78 63 c	80 65 pc
Tokyo	44 41 s	48 29 c	44 27 s	43 34 pc
Toronto	34 21 pc	36 27 c	34 22 c	40 32 c
Winnipeg	25 9 c	18 5 pc	27 11 sn	18 1 sn
Zurich	25 18 pc	23 22 sn	25 20 sn	27 21 sn

YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Measure Appropriates \$360K For Firefighters

STATE—The Assembly Appropriations Committee has released legislation Assembly Minority Deputy Conference Leader John S. Wisniewski sponsored to foster greater cooperation when fire departments from different municipalities team up to fight fires.

Wisniewski's bill (A-2056) would appropriate \$360,000 to the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for fire incident management training programs—educational programs that teach firefighters from different municipalities about what strategies to employ when working together to combat a raging fire.

"When different fire departments join together to fight a fire, there is a need for clear lines of command and communication," said Wisniewski (D-Middlesex). "Additional training in these areas would help firefighters in their efforts to spare property and save lives."

Incident management training teaches fire departments about how to control the position and duties of all firefighters while also regulating rest and work cycles.

A companion version of Wisniewski's bill was released from the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on May 11 and was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations committee.

Wisniewski's measure was approved 11 to 0 by the Assembly committee. The bill now goes to the Assembly Speaker, who may post it for a vote by the full Assembly.

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Holiday Recycling Tips From The MCIA

MIDDLESEX COUNTY— One of the least joyous aspects of the holiday season is the amount of household trash it produces.

The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) offers the following tips on how to get rid of your holiday clutter.

* **Wrapping paper**—Non-metallic wrapping paper should be placed in your mixed paper container for recycling. Metallic wrapping paper must be disposed of with your regular garbage.

* **Decorations**—Ribbons, tinsel and other package and home decorations must be disposed of with your regular garbage.

* **Boxes**—Gift boxes should be flattened and placed in your mixed paper container for recycling. Corrugated cardboard boxes should be flattened, tied in bundles no more than 24" square and placed curbside for recycling.

* **Packing material**—Styrofoam packaging "peanuts" and the plastic packing material often used in boxes containing electronics or toys must be disposed of with your regular garbage.

* **Greeting cards**—Holiday greeting cards may be placed in your mixed paper container for recycling.

* **Real Christmas Trees**—Most Middlesex County municipalities have their own curbside programs to collect Christmas trees, which are then

recycled by the MCIA. Because the trees are processed through wood-chippers, all stands, lights, decorations and tinsel must be removed from the trees left curbside.

Information about tree collection schedules is included in the individual towns' 2002 recycling guides or is mailed to residents in December. For more information, contact your municipality's public works office.

* **Artificial Christmas Trees**—Artificial Christmas trees cannot be recycled and should be disposed of with your regular garbage.

* **Christmas Wreaths (Real or Artificial)**—All Christmas wreaths should be disposed of with your regular garbage. Even real wreaths are held together with wire and plastic, so they cannot be safely processed by wood-chippers.

* **Discarded ornaments and lights**—Ornaments of any kind and lights or light bulbs must not be placed in recycling containers. Dispose of these items with your regular garbage.

For more information on recycling in Middlesex County, visit the MCIA's award-winning web site, www.mciauth.com, e-mail the MCIA Recycling Division at mciaarcy@superlink.net, or call 1-800-488-MCIA.

YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Portrait of a Winning Team



GROUP SHOT OF A WINNING TEAM—Standing from (l. to r.) Dr. David Myers, Founder/Owner of 2nd Home, John R. Bruno, Chairman of the Board of the Bruno Group, Shavonda Sumter, Vice President Public Affairs for 2nd Home, Edna Alex, former Board of Social Services, Mayor Vas and Mel Ramos, Economic Development Director.



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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"Ocean's Eleven"

All Wet

popcorn

By Michael S. Goldberg

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

Just for a moment, disregard the heretical implications of remaking "Ocean's Eleven" (1960), the Technicolor magna caria of Frank Sinatra's legendary Rat Pack. In a show of tolerance, you may also wish to forgive director Steven Soderbergh and company for the unmitigated chutzpah such an undertaking represents. Maybe even assume there was some sort of good reason—aside from financial profit—for recreating the familiar Vegas heist tale. But then after you've exercised all due liberalism, fuhgetaboutit! It's to no avail. Try as we may to be fair, it's still mind-boggling attempting to figure exactly what the filmmakers were hoping to accomplish with this curiously drab refashioning.

Misconceived, misdirected and misbegotten, the second coming of "Ocean's Eleven" is celluloid proof that you can't go home. It's also proof that an unclear vision will inevitably lead to an equally indistinct motion picture. Knowing that he couldn't reprise the cachet that Frank and the boys embodied, Mr. Soderbergh assembles what he thinks is an analogous collection of this generation's cool guys. And no doubt about it, George Clooney, Matt Damon, Brad Pitt and Don Cheadle suffer no paucity of glitter. What they are short of, however, is a common history.

After all, what captured the filmgoer's imagination was the storied bond that existed among Sinatra and his pals. It led the

smitten viewer to ponder: "Look up there. It's Frank, Dean, Sammy, Peter and Joey. What good friends they are. Boy, they must of had a blast making this movie. And they seem like regular guys, too. Me and my buddies could probably fit right in with 'em. Gambling, drinking, hanging out, and breaking the house at Vegas. Man 'o' man. That's a movie."

About the only thing we figure Clooney and his clan have in common is a personal trainer and a first name relationship with the maitre D' at Spago. They're cute. But they're no rats.

As a curiosity piece, the original is fun to reinspect every few years. The Rat Pack mystique is a given. It is what it is. But truth be told, it isn't really that much of a film. Granted, the production standards are top notch and director Lewis Milestone knew where best in the personality-driven fraternity jaunt to place emphasis. But aside from a nice twist ending, the grand theft aspect is no great shakes. And in an unintentional irony, the remake follows suit.

Adding insult to injury, after already failing to generate its own brio, the circa 2001 "Ocean's Eleven" can't even steal a plot. So expect a poor man's iteration of the typical "Mission Impossible" template that's being trotted out by every heist film without an imagination of its own. You know: a pair of resident geeks spewing gobbledygook about

fingerprint recognition, a gaggle of outwitted security cameras, oodles of those crisscrossing infrared lines to circumvent, and enough hi-tech gadgetry to fill the window at Hammacher Schlemmer. A weak-kneed subtext about Danny (George Clooney) trying to win back his lady fair (Julia Roberts) from the cruel casino boss (Andy Garcia) who has recently gained her affections only bears mention as a way of explaining Miss Roberts's place in the credits.

Bottom line, you can't count on much personality to accompany screenwriter Ted Griffin's warmed over derring-do. And again, it's not that Clooney, Pitt, Damon et al are without their appeal. Ask any lady you know. But harking back to that age-old drama school exercise, what's their motivation?

Plopped down in the midst of these trumped-up circumstances, bereft of the sort of lines that might show their star power to best advantage, the uncertain crew are like deer mesmerized by the approaching headlights. Sure, to a man they've all been feeding the press that company line about not trying to be like their title namesakes. Yeah, right. Well, then what was the whole purpose? To be these other guys that no one cares about?

George Clooney informed that the only similarity between this edition and the original was that both groups had a lot of fun making their movie. Well, if it's true about your film, George, then you've certainly kept it a secret from the audience. Because in the final analysis, this "Ocean's Eleven" is not very seaworthy.

♥♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

"Ocean's Eleven," rated PG-13, is a Warner Bros. Pictures release directed by Steven Soderbergh and stars George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon. Running time: 126 minutes

Seeking Nominations For Arts Awards

STATE—VSA arts of New Jersey (VSA/NJ), a statewide not-for-profit organization dedicated to assuring that the arts are available and accessible to individuals with disabilities, is accepting applications for the 2002 Art Achievement Awards. The annual competition honors New Jersey students ages 14–21 years old not to exceed twelfth grade level, who are classified and in mainstreamed, inclusive or self-contained classes or activities. Arts Achievement Awards recipients become candidates for the New Jersey Governor's Awards in Arts Education.

The annual VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards include the Student Arts Excellence Awards, which honor students who demonstrate outstanding achievement in and commitment to an art form, and the Education in the Arts Awards, which are presented to educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The Education in the Arts Awards also recognize individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students.

Funding for this program is made available through the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, NJ Department of Community Affairs, NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, VSA arts international headquarters, under an award from the U.S. Department of Education and United Way of Central Jersey. VSA/NJ is a state affiliate of VSA arts, which is designated by Congress as the national coordinating agency for arts programs for individuals with disabilities and is an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Application deadline is January 14, 2002. For applications and registration information, contact VSA arts of New Jersey, 703 Jersey Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901 or call (732) 745-3885, 745-3913 (TTY), Fax (732) 745-4524, info@vsanjan.org.

Volunteer At Liberty Science Center

AREA—Are you looking to do something more with your free time? Do you want to make a New Year's resolution that can actually make a difference in a young student's life? You can, by volunteering at Liberty Science Center; a dynamic, interactive museum devoted to informal education through hands-on exploration.

Liberty Science Center can provide you with a vibrant environment where you can enrich yourself while educating others about the world of science. Choose between a variety of volunteer positions, such as providing guests with activities, assisting with behind-the-scenes and administrative work, or demonstrating and explaining exhibits on the Health, Invention or Environment floors.

Volunteers receive a wide array of benefits including education programs, lounge privileges, store discounts, free parking and a year-round recognition program. Become part of the excitement at Liberty Science Center! Candidates are interviewed on a rolling basis and orientations are held monthly. For an application, or more information, call LSC's Volunteer Services Department at (201) 451-0006, ext. 297, or visit us on the web at www.lsc.org.

Make this year's resolution one that will count!

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SCOTCH PLAINS TAXI

American Heart Association Seeks NJ Nominations For Second Annual American Heartsaver Awards

AREA — The American Heart Association is seeking nominations for the second annual American Heartsaver Awards to be held on American Heartsaver Day, Tue., Feb. 5, 2002, during American Heart Month. The American Heart Association's American Heartsaver Awards recognize and honor "hometown heroes of the chain of survival" — people who saved or helped in an attempt to save a life by performing CPR or by using an automated external defibrillator (AED). Individuals, organizations or companies that have taken some "extraordinary steps" to strengthen the chain of survival in their community or organization will also be recognized.

The purpose of American Heartsaver Day and the American Heartsaver Awards is to bring attention to the critical need to improve the national survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest. At least 220,000 people, young and old, die annually from sudden cardiac arrest. The national survival

rate from sudden cardiac arrest, which is different than a heart attack, is about 5-8%. Few victims survive after 10 minutes. The American Heart Association has been on a crusade for three years to improve the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest by "strengthening the chain of survival" — a four-step process that can mean the difference between life and death. The critical second and third "links" in the chain of survival are early CPR and early defibrillation.

New Jersey's first-ever American Heartsaver Awards last year recognized more than 45 local "hometown heroes of the chain of survival." Among the 2001 American Heartsaver Awards recipients were: Investors Savings Bank; Wakefern Food Corporation (ShopRite); Harrah's Atlantic City; officers from the Old Tappan Police Department; officers from the Ringwood Police Department; an officer from the Lopatcong Police Department; employees from Carefree Bus

Tours in Lincoln Park; Livingston resident Jane Horwitz; the Jersey City Fire Department; Cablevision Systems Corporation; members of the Clifton Fire Department; officers from the Leonia Police Department; and The Prudential Insurance Company "Helping Hands Program" among others.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the American Heart Association's state office in North Brunswick at 732.821.2610. The deadline for submitting all nominations and accompanying materials is 12 noon on Fri., Dec. 28.

Those eligible for consideration for an American Heartsaver Award include lay people, medical or healthcare professionals, members from law enforcement or public safety, civic or business leaders involved in a rescue or attempted rescue, or individuals, corporations, businesses and organizations involved in an extraordinary effort to strengthen the chain of survival. The rescuer or

rescuers should live, work, have been trained, or have attempted to save the life in one in the state of NJ between Dec. 1, 2000 and Dec. 1, 2001. The save or attempted save must have involved CPR or the use of a defibrillator. The attempted save is eligible for recognition regardless of the outcome.

When someone goes into sudden cardiac arrest, it becomes a desperate race against the clock to save his or her life. Every second counts!

Tragically, each day in America more than 600 people die of sudden cardiac arrest before they reach the hospital. This February, American Heart Month 2002, the American Heart Association urges all people in NJ to Be An American Heartsaver! by helping to improve the national survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest by strengthening the chain of survival.

For more information about American Heart Month, American Heartsaver Awards or to request

nomination materials, call the American Heart Association state office at 732. 821.2610, the North Jersey regional office at 973.376.3636 or the South Jersey regional office at 856.546.5600.

The American Heart Association is a national voluntary health organization whose mission is to reduce death and disability from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The American Heart Association achieves its mission through cardiovascular education and community programs, research and advocacy. The American Heart Association spent more than \$382 million during fiscal year 2000-01 for research support, public and professional education, and community programs. The American Heart Association serves New Jersey's 21 counties and a population of more than 8 million people. In Sept. 1998, the American Heart Association set a goal to reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, stroke and risk by 25% by the year 2010.

Poison Control Center Keeps Vigilant During Holiday Celebrations

AREA—Make safety and poison prevention your first priority this season! The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) wants to promote holiday safety with the following tips for safe celebrations:

- * Labels give age recommendations; use this as your guide. Avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard to infants and toddlers.
- * Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- * Breakable decorations and

trimmings with small removable parts should be kept out of reach of children.

- * Do not burn wrapping papers in fireplace, since this is a potential fire hazard.
- * Choose decorations that are fire safe and supervise young children around them at all times.
- * Use care with "fire salts" for the fireplace, they may look like candy to a child and if eaten they can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting.
- * Discard plastic wrappings on toys, before they become deadly playthings

for children or animals.

- * Place older ornaments and decorations that might be painted with lead paint out of reach of small children, who may place them in their mouths or eat the peeling paint.
- * Take care in handling and storing food and do not leave items such as alcoholic beverages where children may get into them.
- * Remember your pets are at risk too, with items as simple as chocolate candy, which can be fatal to your dog or cat.
- * Never drink and drive, provide non-alcoholic drinks for

designated drivers and other guests.

The Poison Specialists are here on holidays! For more information on poison preven-

tion and holiday safety, call 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Control Center Hotline is accessible 24 hours per day, every day!

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Blood Center Night At The Devils

AREA — Tickets are available now for "Blood Center Night at the Devils" for Dec. 26th when the Devils take on the Pittsburgh Penguins at Continental Arena at 7:30 p.m. BCNJ is pleased to offer \$52 box office seats for just \$35, a discount of 33%! Last year's night at the Devils was a sell-out.

BCNJ will receive \$5 for each ticket sold for this game. Please pass this information along to any other NJ Devils fans you know. These tickets will also make great holiday gifts!

For mail-in ticket order form, please call Judy Daniels at 800-652-5663, ext. 104 and leave your name and address.

A friend of mine confused her valium with her birth control pills. She had 14 kids, but she doesn't really care.



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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Both In Line & On-Line, Holiday Shoppers Should Guard Their Credit Cards

AREA — With the holiday shopping season upon us, shoppers are beginning to flex their credit muscle, not only at the malls, but in cyber space as well. What they may not realize is that credit thieves are lurking — waiting to steal credit card information.

According to the National Retail Federation's 2001 Consumer Holiday Outlook survey, consumers plan to spend an average of \$940 per household this holiday season on gifts for family and friends, decorations, greeting cards, etc. But whether shoppers stand in line at the mall or shop on-line at home, they could become victims of credit thieves. The Insurance Council of New Jersey offers these tips to protect you from becoming a

victim of holiday credit crime.

When shopping at the mall:

- Carry only the credit cards that you plan to use. Not only will this reduce the risk of theft, but it may also discourage unnecessary spending.
- Guard your card. It's not difficult to memorize credit card information over someone's shoulder. Take the card out of your wallet when it is needed, and as soon as the cashier hands back your card, put it away.
- Tear up carbons and protect your receipts. Thieves often steal credit card information from discarded papers. Make sure any credit card information is shredded before it's thrown out.
- Is it yours? With all the activity going on at the sales counter, it's possible that cards may

get switched. Mistakes can happen. Check to make sure the cashier returns the proper card to you.

- If you believe your card is lost or stolen, contact mall security and your credit card company immediately.

A growing number of people are avoiding crowds and turning to the Internet to make their gift purchases. In order to take full advantage of the Internet as a powerful shopping tool, consider these safe on-line shopping tips:

- Shop secure web sites. You can identify a secure web page by an icon, usually on the home page, that indicates a secure site certification. Secure site browsers/addresses may also use "https://" instead of "http://". At a secure web page, your in-

formation is encrypted so that only the intended receiver can unscramble your information with a specific protected key that unlocks your information so that it can be processed.

- Be cautious about making transactions on a web sit that doesn't offer a secure transaction option. When in doubt, call the company directly.
- Most web sites ask you to register. Protect your password. Do not use the same password as you use to log on into your Internet service provider or network. Use a different password for each web site you register with.
- Do not use bank or debit cards when shopping over the Internet. Monies are immediately transferred and the U.S. federal

consumer credit card protection laws for claims/disputes do not apply to bank cards — only credit cards.

If you are the victim of credit card theft, don't despair. Under consumer credit card protection laws, you are only liable for up to \$50 per card. In addition, your card is typically credited up to \$1,000 per incident. Your homeowners insurance also provides limited coverage, usually \$500, for lost or stolen cards.

The Insurance Council of New Jersey reminds residents that however you choose to do your holiday shopping this year, at the mall or over the Internet, be mindful that your credit card could end up in the wrong hands.

End-Of-Year Planning And Action May Help Reduce Your Taxes

AREA — April 15 is the date most people associate with taxes. But you also should be aware that Dec. 31 is the final date for many decisions that will affect your upcoming tax bill, according to the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants.

The downturn in the stock market has made tax planning especially important this year. One of the most important end-of-year tax strategies, according to Tamara Haskins, CPA, of Merrill-Lynch & Company in Plainsboro, is to "take advantage of taking capital losses."

"You can generate up to \$3,000 in capital losses to offset ordinary income," Haskins says. "If you have capital gains in stock or real estate, for example, you can offset them on a dollar-for-dollar basis against capital losses. Any unused losses may be carried forward indefinitely and used in the future."

Dec. 31 is also the deadline for people who are making gifts to individuals or donations to charity. However, don't put this off until the last minute, Haskins warns. "The IRS looks for the date when the gift check

is deposited or, in the case of stock, when the new owner registers it," Haskins says. "Be sure you give yourself time to complete the transfer by Dec. 31. If you want to be sure you get the full, fair market value benefit from a charitable deduction, give property you have owned at least a year and a day. The deduction for gifted property that you have held for 12 months or less is limited to its cost basis — just what you paid for it."

Here is a rundown of a few key items to consider for year-end tax planning purposes:

- Take advantage of your ability to offset investment or business losses, either from this year or carried over from previous years
- Maximize your pre-tax benefits by contributing to certain types of retirement plans, including the familiar 401(k) plans as well as 403(b) plans for teachers and 457 plans for government employees
- Plan ahead if you want to make tax-deductible gifts to relatives, friends or charities
- Since the holiday season is a time when people think about making charitable donations, here are a few relevant reminders and tips:
 - Get a receipt for any cash donation of \$250 or more
 - Keep track of any mileage

or tolls paid when performing volunteer work. You can add 14 cents per mile plus tolls and other out-of-pocket expenses, such as toll calls and supplies, to the "charitable contributions" on your tax form

- Donate appreciated stock to a charity and get a deduction at the total fair market value of the stock, instead of selling the stock and paying capital gains tax
- Remember to get an appraisal for any non-cash contribution that exceeds \$5,000

"It's important to keep your overall financial picture in view," says Rosen. "Year-end tax planning is just one piece of it. But it could be a very important part of your financial plan."

DEVINE MEDIA ENTERPRISES, Inc. week of: 12/07/01 - 12/13/01				
PICK 3				
PICK-IT DATE	#	STRAIGHT PAY OFF	BOX	PAIR
FRIDAY, Dec. 7				
Mid-Day	555	\$163.50	\$0.00	\$16.00
Evening	730	\$205.00	\$34.00	\$20.50
SATURDAY, Dec. 8				
Mid-Day	304	\$215.50	\$35.50	\$21.50
Evening	414	\$177.50	\$59.00	\$17.50
SUNDAY, Dec. 9				
Mid-Day	804	\$235.00	\$39.00	\$23.50
Evening	405	\$295.00	\$49.00	\$29.50
MONDAY, Dec. 10				
Mid-Day	779	\$264.50	\$88.00	\$26.00
Evening	894	\$315.50	\$52.50	\$31.50
TUESDAY, Dec. 11				
Mid-Day	691	\$313.00	\$52.00	\$31.00
Evening	098	\$266.50	\$44.00	\$26.50
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12				
Mid-Day	440	\$171.00	\$57.00	\$17.00
Evening	374	\$280.50	\$46.50	\$28.00
THURSDAY, Dec. 13				
Mid-Day	398	\$319.00	\$53.00	\$31.50
Evening	430	\$189.50	\$31.50	\$18.50

PICK 4			
Number	Straight	Box	
FRIDAY • Dec. 7 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 4011	\$1,512.50	\$126.00	
Evening 7059	\$3,160.50	\$131.50	
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 2-22-26-27-38			
BIG GAME ... 5-6-13-20-48/15			
SATURDAY • Dec. 8 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 2052	\$2,657.00	\$221.00	
Evening 8525	\$3,130.50	\$260.50	
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 7-18-20-26-32			
LOTZEE ... 29-58-66-98			
SUNDAY • Dec. 9 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 4888	\$2,451.50	\$612.50	
Evening 9247	\$3,258.00	\$135.50	
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 7-19-23-24-36			
MONDAY • Dec. 10 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 6558	\$3,292.00	\$274.00	
Evening 3110	\$1,363.50	\$113.50	
PICK SIX ... 6-7-9-13-17-25			
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 2-3-6-28-35			
TUESDAY • Dec. 11 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 1878	\$2,323.00	\$193.50	
Evening 8823	\$3,097.00	\$258.00	
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 7-14-28-33-34			
BIG GAME ... 18-22-24-32-47/2			
WEDNESDAY • Dec. 12 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 0761	\$4,743.00	\$197.50	
Evening 0371	\$2,800.00	\$116.50	
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 3-4-23-24-31			
THURSDAY • Dec. 13 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day 8855	\$3,536.00	\$294.50	
Evening 9298	\$3,578.00	\$297.50	
PICK SIX ... 12-14-21-25-32-47			
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 18-22-31-36-37			

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Head Start With Convenient 3-Week Winter Session

AREA — For the fourth consecutive year, in recognition of the fact that college students are often interested in accelerating the pace at which they can complete their college degree, Union County College is offering a wide array of popular courses during what has been the traditional winter holiday break. These intensive three-week courses will provide students who successfully complete them the same number of credits that they would earn over a traditional 15-week semester.

Beginning on Wed., Dec. 26, and ending on Fri., Jan. 11, 2002, the College is offering twenty-eight of its most popular courses. During the session, in

observation of the holiday, no classes are scheduled for New Year's Day Jan. 1, 2002.

Winter Session courses include Biology of People and the Environment, Introduction to Contemporary Business, Organization and Management, Introduction to Chemistry, Principles of Economics I, English Composition I and II, Public Speaking, American Literature II, Music Appreciation, Physical Geology, Introduction to Western Civilization I, Introduction to Mathematical Ideas, Algebra, Concepts of Adult Fitness, Decisions for Wellness, Beginning Golf, General Psychology, Principles of Sociology, and Beginning Spanish I. All sections will

be offered in the morning on the College's Cranford campus.

Students from UCC, as well as other colleges, will no doubt recognize that many of these are required for completion of their degree programs. Area residents from local colleges as well as students at home for the holidays can get a head start on a future semester's work by enrolling in and completing them in the space of only 12 class days.

Last year students from more than 30 colleges and universities joined UCC students for the Winter Session. Among these were students from NJIT, Rutgers, Drew, Fairleigh Dickinson, Kean, Montclair, New

Jersey City and Rowan Universities and Bloomfield College, the College of New Jersey and the College of St. Elizabeth, in New Jersey. Students attending college outside of New Jersey came from schools that included Johns Hopkins University, Bloomsburg University, the Universities of Delaware and Maryland, Quinnipiac and Marist, Colleges, Virginia Military Institute, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

According to Dr. Wallace Smith, UCC's Vice President for Academic Affairs, both traditional students who enter college directly after high school graduation and adult students who have delayed their education recognize the value in securing credits at convenient

times and locations. "With the pressures that both traditional and non-traditional students face with regard to balancing school, families, and careers, any opportunity to accelerate their education should be a welcome one," said Smith. "At Union County College we are committed to providing educational services which will help relieve today's students from the 'time poverty' with which they are faced," he stated. "This 3-week Winter Session has proven extremely popular and is one of our efforts to help them out."

For information on the Winter Session call Union County College at (908) 709-7518 or visit the Admissions office on any UCC campus.

Impact Of Election On School Policy Uncertain

STATE — The decisive election of Woodbridge Mayor Jim McGreevey as our next governor could have a significant impact on public education and the operation of local school districts. The extent of that impact, however, will not be known until the governor-elect's cabinet selections are made and the top leadership positions in the Legislature are settled.

The NJ School Boards Association looks forward to working with the next governor and the new Legislature when the transition is completed in January 2002. NJSBA is encouraged that McGreevey intends to make education one of his top priorities.

While Democrats will control the governor's office and the General Assembly for the first time in nearly ten years, the election produced a 20-20 split in the Senate. Senators Richard J. Codey of Essex County will lead the Democratic caucus and John O. Bennett of Monmouth County, the Republican caucus. But while the Democrats challenge the slim re-election victory of Republican Senator James S. Cafiero in South Jersey's 1st Legislative District in the hopes of winning a clear majority, a decision on who will be Senate President has been put on hold.

In the Assembly, Republicans have chosen Paul DiGaetano of Essex County to be the minority

leader. Assembly Democrats have so far been unable to agree on the selection of a new Assembly speaker.

Until the impasse in the Senate and Assembly is broken, no one, including McGreevey, will know how the new administration's initiatives will fare. The tug-of-war over the position of Assembly speaker is important because the speaker decides what bills are posted for a vote and who will chair legislative committees.

The struggle for political con-

trol of the Senate is even more noteworthy because of the extensive power wielded by the Senate president. This person not only controls the legislative agenda of that house and selects its committee chairs, he/she automatically serves as acting governor if the governor resigns or leaves the state. The Senate president's appointments can help or hinder the sitting governor.

Whoever the Senate president chooses to be chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee can

influence the course of gubernatorial nominations, including cabinet and Supreme Court selections. The chair of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee can influence spending priority, and the chair of the Senate Education Committee can influence education policy. A power-sharing agreement between the two parties could result in some committees being chaired by Democrats and others by Republicans.

First Union Foundation Supports UCC Students

AREA — The Union County College Foundation recently received a generous donation of \$2,500 in support of the UCC Foundation's Scholarship Fund from the First Union Foundation. The First Union Foundation, representing First Union Bank, is continuing its tradition of generous support for UCC students as is evidenced by their endowed scholarship with the Foundation.

The First Union Scholarship provides annual assistance for an academically gifted Union County College student from the City of Elizabeth, the City of Orange or the City of East Orange. The Union County College Foundation will provide

more than 350 scholarships this year to needy and deserving students who are matriculated at one of the College's three campuses in Cranford, Elizabeth, and Plainfield. Individuals, organizations, or corporations interested in establishing a new scholarship or in contributing to the First Union Scholarship should contact the Union County College Foundation at (908) 709-7505.

For complete details about qualifying for the First Union Foundation Scholarship, or any of the other scholarships offered by the Union County College Foundation, call the Office of Financial Aid at (908) 709-7137.

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EDITORIAL

Guest Editorial

Helping Our Economy, One American At A Time

by Senator
Robert G. Torricelli

Our nation is facing dramatic changes in economic circumstances. The startling terrorist attack on Sept. 11 did more than inflict an emotional wound on thousands of families; it changed the financial landscape for the foreseeable future. The nation's unemployment rate increased by 1/2 point in October to 5.4 percent and overall earnings of American workers shrank for the second straight month. While the entire nation is in pain, it is most severe in those areas directly impacted by the terrorist attacks. Not only did hundreds of New Jerseyans lose their lives in the attacks, for those left behind, the economic impact is particularly acute.

Jobs are growing harder to keep and even harder to find. In New Jersey, an estimated 8,000 jobs were lost in the last month. In October, over 400,000 American jobs were lost, the largest increase in unemployment in two decades. Thousands of people are now struggling to pay rent, tuition, mortgage and medical bills.

In Washington there is a great deal of disagreement about how to get the nation's economy back on track, but common sense says that getting help into the hands of those who need it most should be our first priority. Recently, the United States Senate began debate of a proposal that would meet this

priority by helping Americans pay their bills and access health insurance while they weather these challenging economic times.

Unemployment insurance is the first safety net for out of work Americans. The Senate proposal provides an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance beyond the current limit of 26 weeks, expands unemployment insurance to part-time workers and supplements monthly unemployment benefits by 15 percent. In New Jersey, this means 50,000 people who are currently without work will be able to continue their unemployment benefits. These reforms would not only relieve some of the hardship on working families, but would also help stabilize the economy right away. Every \$1 invested in unemployment insurance generates \$2.15 in gross domestic product. In the last five recessions, unemployment insurance cushioned 15 percent of the decline in gross domestic product.

The Senate proposal also ensures that dislocated workers have access to health coverage. On top of losing their health benefits, many laid-off workers often don't collect enough in unemployment benefits to pay for health insurance under COBRA, a program that enables people who pay a monthly premium to maintain their health benefits after they

leave a job. Although the average monthly unemployment check is about \$1,000, the average COBRA premium is about \$558 per month for a family. There are also thousands of other workers who are ineligible for health insurance under COBRA. As a result, many laid-off workers are forced to take the risk living without health insurance.

The Senate plan provides a 75 percent COBRA premium subsidy to help workers afford the expensive monthly premiums, expands Medicaid to cover laid-off workers who are not COBRA-eligible, and make it easier for states to maintain Medicaid coverage at a time when many states are considering cuts to this program because of budget constraints.

The American people are doing their part to heal the country by coming together in their communities and as a nation. It is now time for the federal government to do our part and pass legislation to help our country through this difficult time. The Senate proposal constructs the bridge to help families make ends meet, to maintain health insurance for millions of workers who have lost their jobs and to provide a fiscal stimulus for the economy. In the coming days, Congress and the President must find the will to cross it.



Real or artificial, Douglas Fir or Scotch Pine. To those of us who celebrate Christmas, the type of tree our families lovingly decorate each year holds the same kind of loyalty as our favorite sports team. But what was the origin of this odd custom of bringing trees into our home for several weeks each year?

It's surprising to learn that the origin of decorating our homes with plants and trees predates the advent of Christianity. Long before we celebrated Christmas in any form, trees and plants that remained green all year long had a special meaning for people during the winter season. In the Northern hemisphere, the shortest day and longest night of the year falls on December 21 or 22. This day is called the winter solstice. Both the ancient Egyptians and Romans worshiped sun gods. Both cultures recognized that the solstice meant that soon daylight hours would be growing longer and soon farms would be green and fruitful. To mark the occasion they would decorate their homes with green palms and evergreens. In Northern Europe and Scandinavia, decorating with evergreens signified special occasions.

It was the Germans who are credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we know it today. As early as the 16th century devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. The Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, is recognized as the first to add lighted candles to a tree. Legend has

it that he was walking home one winter's night a was taken aback by the beauty of the stars shining through a stand of evergreens. To recreate the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room of this house and affixed candles to it's branches.

The strict Puritan ethic of America's earliest settlers shunned the tradition of Christmas trees along with other joyful Christmas traditions such as caroling. It was not until the 19th century, when the tremendous influx of German and Irish immigrants came to America, that the Christmas tree again became a staple of our holiday season.

While we may have been late to the tradition, we have made up for lost time. Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850 and are now grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska. It was assistants of the inventor Thomas Edison who came up with the idea of electric lights for the trees. With the advent of electric lights Christmas trees began to appear in town squares all over America. While our 14th President Franklin Pierce may have brought the first Christmas tree into the White House, it didn't have lights until President Calvin Coolidge started the Annual National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in 1923.

And how lucky we are living in New Jersey, to be able to see in person perhaps the most famous Christmas tree in the world in Rockefeller Center. A tradition started in 1933.

Whether its real or artificial, Douglas Fir or Scotch Pine. Whether or not you celebrate Christmas, I want to wish you and your family a happy, peaceful and joyous holiday season.

Editorial Policy

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette wants to hear from you. Letters to the editor will be published weekly on the editorial page, as space allows.

All letters should be typed and must include a daytime telephone number at which the writer may be reached for verification. Letters should be as concise as possible.

Letters to the editor must be in our office by noon Friday for consideration for publication the following week.

Keep us informed of your feelings and concerns so we can keep you better informed of the events that are affecting your life.

We also welcome guest columns that cover timely topics of interest to all of our readers. Columns should be no more than 500-750 words and should be typed.

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters and guest columns for grammar, spelling, length and questionable content.

Letters and columns may be mailed to: *The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette*, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065. They also may be faxed to (732) 388-4143, Attn: Editor, or reach us via e-mail at editor@devinemedia.com.

SnigLe'ts

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

PC Minuteman

The Minuteman, of Revolutionary War fame, is the mascot of Jefferson Middle School, Fort Wayne, IN. In fact, a proud Minute-man was painted inside the entrance of the school when the place was built in 1967. But after the arrival of a new principal this year, a big change was made to the mascot's image, according to *The News-Sentinel*.

Michael Morris had the soldier disarmed. Where before he was holding a musket, now he only carries a flag. "Violence and guns have no place in school," explains Principal Morris. "I worked in high schools for 27 years, and I know how strong the impulse for violence and retribution is. Having guns in school makes no

sense. The mural needed to be repainted anyway, and this sends a kinder and better message about patriotism. Everyone is just thrilled about my choice and loves it to no end."

Not everyone. I, for one, don't love it. First of all, because it is a lie. There was no such creature in American history as a disarmed Minuteman. Without his musket, he would be defeated. There's a reason, Mr. Morris, that our planes, battleships and soldiers carry weapons. Because freedom is not secured without "violence and guns." Never has been never will be. And these, my friends, are the kind of nitwits you allow to teach your kid.

Please go to a parent teachers meeting some time!

Seasons Greetings!



Happy Holidays from Our Devine Media Family to Yours!



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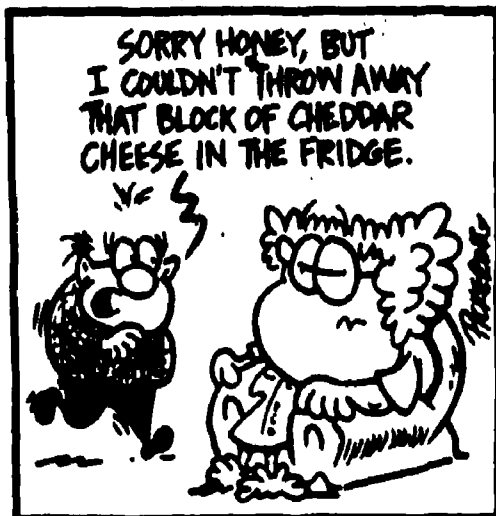
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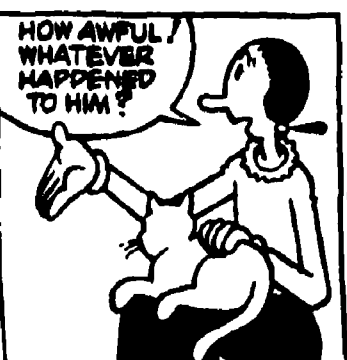
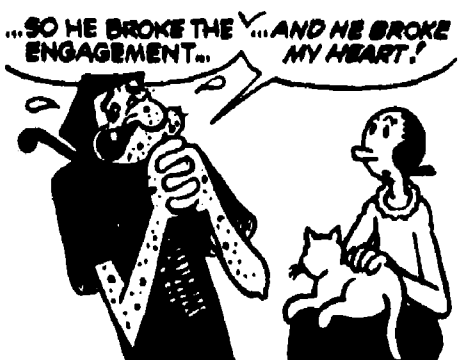
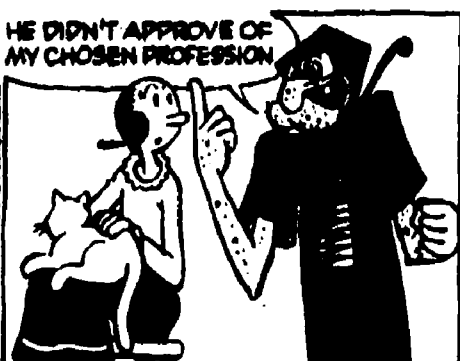
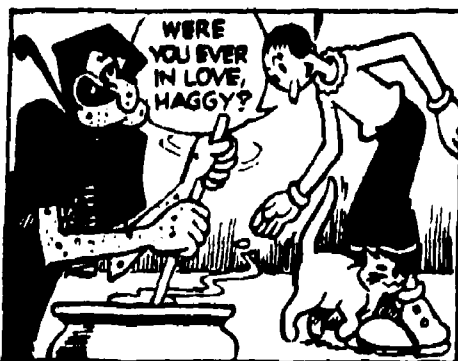
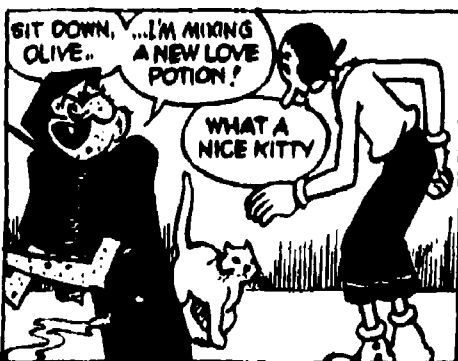
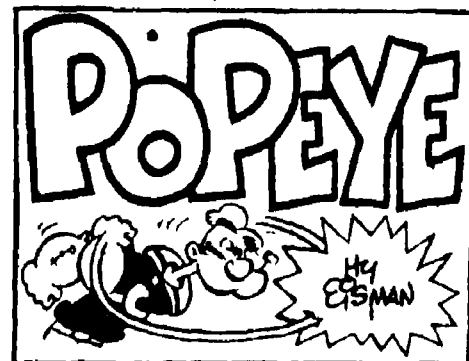
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Comics & Puzzles

THE SPATS

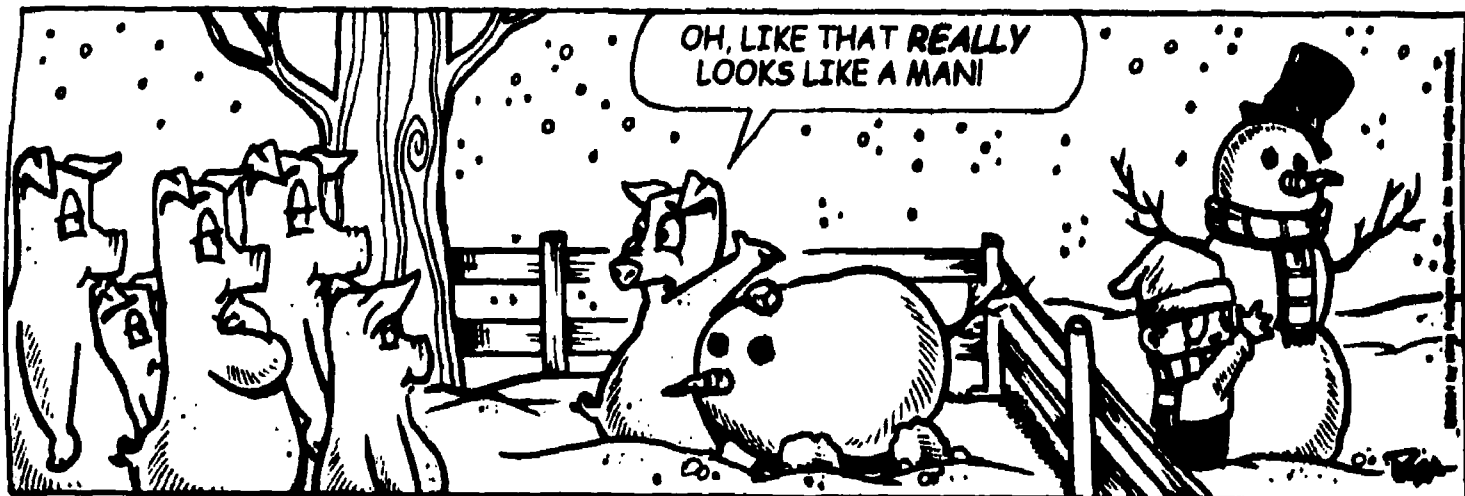


by JEFF PICKERING



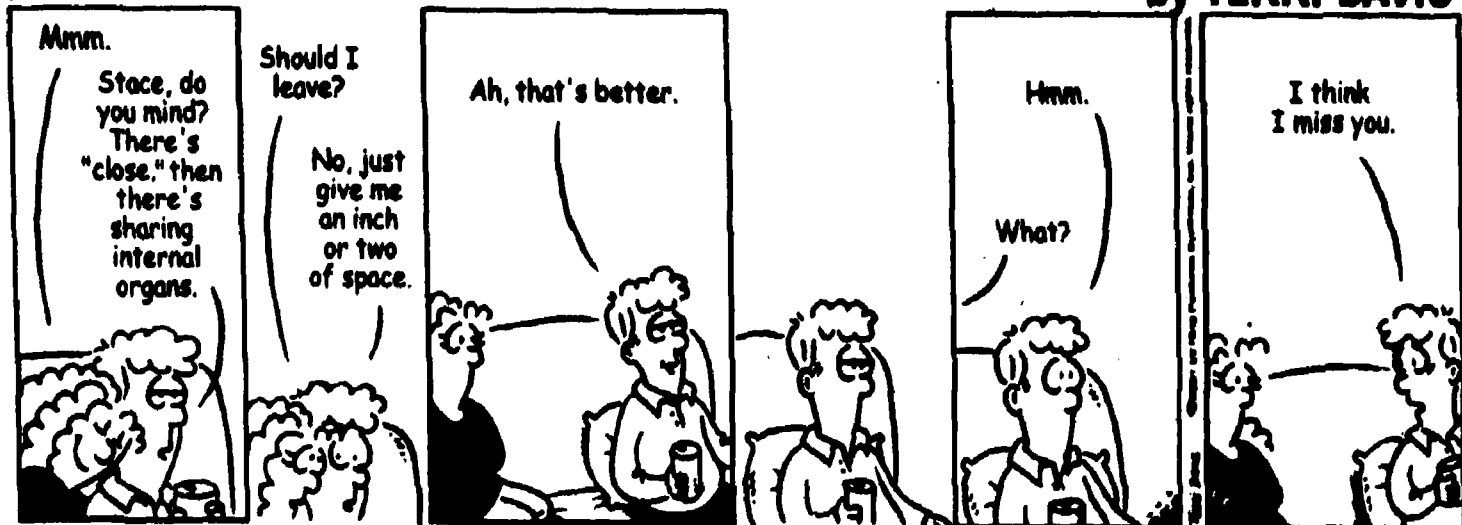
AMBER WAVES

by DAVE T. PHIPPS



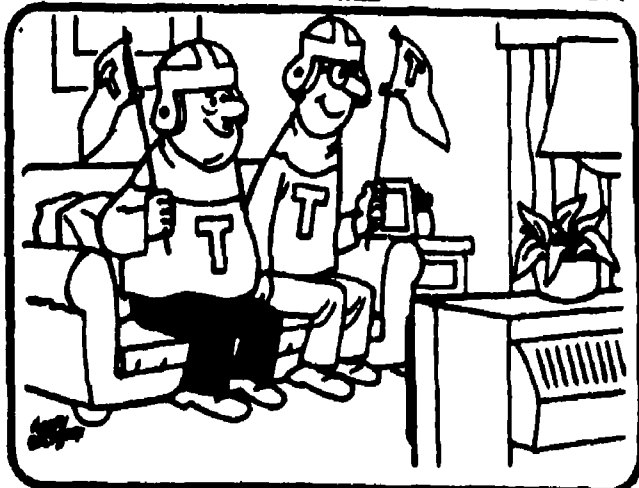
GOT A LIFE

by TERRI DAVIS



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



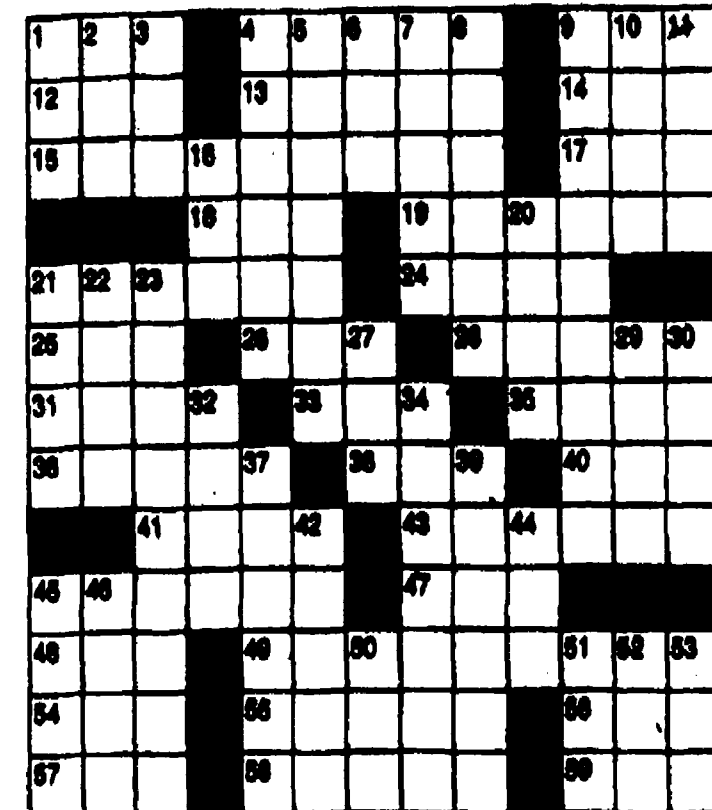
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Letter on flag is missing. 2. Mustache is gone. 3. Vase is missing. 4. Drawer knob has been added. 5. Letter on shirt is different. 6. Plant has fewer leaves.

ACROSS

- 1 Lustrous black
- 4 Beet variety
- 9 Brace insert
- 12 Start of a Latin 101 trio
- 13 Doggie Daddy's son
- 14 "What can - for you?"
- 15 Bribing
- 17 Old Olds
- 18 Wield a shovel
- 19 Treasury-related
- 21 Debonair
- 24 Adam's third son
- 25 Mont-marte monarch
- 26 Work unit
- 28 Exclude
- 31 Blunder
- 33 Potential syrup
- 35 Carry on
- 36 Whodunit writer's award
- 38 Killen's comment
- 40 Verily
- 41 Laugh-a-minute type
- 43 Newsmen Den
- 45 "Heavens!"
- 47 E.T.'s craft
- 48 Matter-horn, e.g.
- 49 Folks on the sidewalk
- 54 Jongg preceder



- 55 Carbon compound
- 56 Detergent brand
- 57 Thickness
- 58 Patronizes the library
- 59 Highlander's hat
- 60 Down
- 61 Poke
- 62 Ostrich's cousin
- 63 Stocking stuffer
- 64 Pooch
- 5 Affectionate ones, maybe
- 6 Past
- 7 Melodic phrases
- 8 Stood up to
- 9 Noted Indiana senator
- 10 Thought
- 11 Implement
- 16 Mrs. William McKinley
- 20 Hearty entree
- 21 Desire
- 22 Crucifix
- 23 Life story
- 27 Group of whales
- 29 Film critic James
- 30 Bring up
- 32 Equitable
- 34 Examined texts
- 37 Child's garment
- 39 Crisp cookies
- 42 Rib
- 44 Anderson's "High -"
- 45 Moist
- 46 Mideast airline
- 50 Depot (Abbr.)
- 51 Prepared
- 52 Lingerie item
- 53 Sweet potato

MAGIC MAZE • SALTY

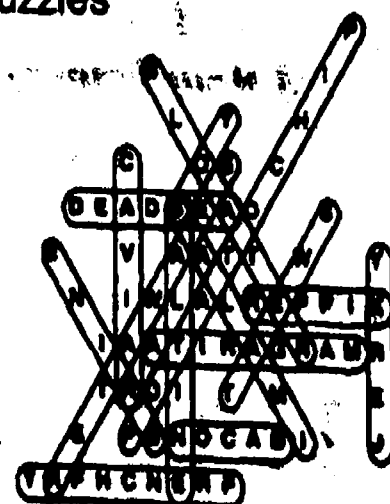
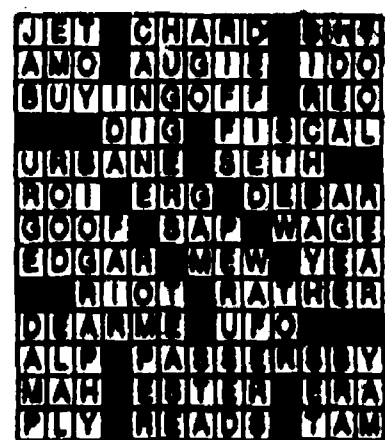
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HTNFIWLALREPPIK
EZCIAATIRAGRAMR
BEZTROITYTWMVUSE
RLEQPBNO CABIPNJ
YRFHCNERFMLJIHF

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Bacon
- Bloater
- Brine
- Caviar
- Dead Sea
- French fry
- Jerky
- Kipper
- Margarita
- Potato chip
- Salami
- Saltine
- Sea water
- Soy
- Sweet

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to Puzzles



LIFESTYLES/SINGLES

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Singles Lingo: F/S=financially secure, N/S=non smoker, S/D=social drinker, D=divorced, S=single, M=male, F=female, A=asian, W=white or widowed, B=black, H=hispanic, J=jewish, LT=long term, G=gay, Bi=bi-sexual, ISO=in search of, P=professional, C=christian, TLC=tender loving care

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

WWF 57, -slim, attractive, full of life, creative, caring, multi-interests. Looking for a man 50-65 with similar characteristics. ID# 1054

Attractive SWF 49, -5'4", 135 lbs., long hair, affectionate and honest. I am looking for an honest and caring man to share life with. For the good and bad times. ID# 1048

SWF 41, -Enjoys fun times, walks in the country, sight seeing, historic landmarks, dining out, reading. Seeking non-smoking SWM 40-50 for long term relationship. ID# 1045

WWF, widow, seeking a nice man for companionship between 65 and 70yrs of age. I enjoy movies, walking and dining out, TV and reading. I am also an animal lover. ID# 1043

SWF, 50's, 5'1", petite, attractive, romantic, seeking a white tall man 5'8"+ professional 49-56. Someone who is nice so we can both enjoy our time together. ID# 1042

SWF, semi-retired, down to earth, kind and independent, compassionate, homebody but adventurous. Seeking same in senior man. ID# 1044

SWF, 45 years old, 120lbs. I am studying English, I'm from Peru. I like to read, listen to music, dance, talk, cook and go for walks. I'm sensitive, kind, honest and enjoy family. I am Catholic. No smokers/drinkers please. ID# 1036

Hi, I am a white single lady and I am looking for a very nice man between 66-75. I have red hair, brown eyes and weigh 125lbs. Like to dance, dine out - travel etc. please write. ID# 1034

SWF, Looking for a 70-ish male with a flair for living. Nice appearance, college educated and financially secure, brownish hair. Love to cuddled by Mr. Affectionate. ID# 1033

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SWF 69, A compassionate and caring 69 year old SWF is looking for a 70's plus man who likes dining out, walks, theatre, good conversation with a good sense of humor and down to earth, trusting and caring. ID# 1032

SWF 39, Petite, attractive, romantic, adventurous. Enjoys candlelit dinners, traveling, cooking, snuggling. Seeking romantic, honest, outgoing SWM 39-46 for long term relationship. (picture?) ID# 1030

SWF 50's, Seeking gentleman 45-55 who enjoys ballroom, latin & swing dancing, for friendship and possible relationship. ID# 1028

Sincere 54, Professional, DWF, We have recently seen how precious and short life can be. I do not want to go thru life without meeting a man of substance, with a twinkle in his eyes, for a sincere relationship. He will be 55-65ish, 5'10" or taller, white, single/divorced, broad/large framed. ID# 1021

SWF 57, 5'6", very attractive, blue eyes and 125lbs. Looking to meet a man for love and a long term relationship. Give me a try. You won't be sorry! Hispanic a plus! ID# 1019

Senior Lady, Works P/T, seeking a real great guy 65-75, down to earth, good sense of humor, generous, for occasional dating. ID# 1018

Single Woman Spanish/French -5'5" Slim, poet, writer, professional 33 yr old. Seeking SWCM, tall, slim, professional, smart, artistic. Serious minded, a one woman man, for friendship. I'm Catholic and a non-smoker/non-drinker. If you're what I'm looking for then lets talk. ID# 1017

SWF 67, Seeks SWM, 65-70 years of age. Non-smoker, Enjoys the beach, movies, walks, drives. Looking for a friend. Long-term relationship. ID# 1015

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Hi, I am a 34 year old Jewish male, 5'7", who is a college grad and N/S. I'm looking for a single Jewish female, 25-37, for a serious relationship. I'm a big sports fan & have additional interests such as dining out & going to the movies. Give me a try, you'll never know what you'll get! ID# 1058

SWM 48, Athletic build, blue eyes, good looking, N/S. enjoys music (rock, "big hair bands") movies, walking and good times together. Like to meet cute WF who can cook. Teach me! ID# 1059

SWM 45, never married, 5'10", 150 lbs. Kind, considerate, honest, open-minded. Enjoys art, music, movies, reading, traveling and bicycling. Seeks vivacious SWF 30-45 to share life with. ID# 1056

SWM 45, 5'10" 170 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Enjoys cooking, dining out, good conversation, movies and fun with kids. Looking for a SWW, 40-46, honest, pretty for a LTR & friendship. Good shape and fun loving. ID# 1055

64 yr old, white, widower, seeks white female for honest relationship. I love to travel, dine out, movies etc. I am looking for a woman with a great sense of humor who enjoys the same. ID# 1052

Old Fashioned, Christian man seeking marriage minded christian woman, 35-60. I enjoy bible study, nature, zoos, NYC, water falls, fire places and hugs. Write and include phone number. ID# 1040

SWM, 44, N/S, 6'2", eyes of blue, seeks N/S female for a very special relationship. Physical features are not as important as in having a heart of gold. I enjoy movies, dining out, sporting events and taking walks. ID# 1051

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Retired WWM, trim, fit, 5'9", 155lbs, blue eyes, hair graying, n/s, artistic nature. Enjoys dining, dancing, music, old movies, theater, beaches, mountains. In search of WF dating partner, 50-60, similar traits and interests, need not bat 1000, in the ball park is fine. ID# 1047

Hi, I am a SWM, 49, 6'1" and 185lbs. I am looking to meet a woman for love and LT relationship. I'm sensitive, easy going, sensual, very secure and honest. Give me a try-nothing to lose. ID# 1039

DWM, 55, 5'10", NS, no children 185lbs. Seeking SWF 45-65, totally childless, not too thin, NS. Loves homelife, movies, music, quiet times and travelling, for friendship first. ID# 1057

SWM, 44, never married, stocky build. Enjoys staying home, oldies and talking sports. Non-smoker, a casual drink while dining out. Seeks SWF same, 40-45 for companionship or more. ID# 1038

SWM 48 - 5'5", good looking, non-smoker. Seeks pretty SWF 32-47 for lasting relationship who needs my TLC. ID# 1029

SWM 38 - In shape, Seeks sexy senior lady 60-75 for company and friendship. ID# 1025

Annulled WM 60 - Semi-retired ex-teacher, 6ft, blue eyes, husky. Non-smoker, social drinker is refined, easy going, secure, baggage free, seeks S/DWF 48-60 n/s, solvent, polished with old fashioned values for friendship with poss. LTR. ID# 1031

SWM 52 - Seeks kind, considerate, honest, sensitive, down to earth WF 40-55 for growing old with. Possible marriage in future. Want to be there in the good as well as the bad moments in life. Send photo if possible. ID# 1024

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SBM 51 - 5'6" 160 lbs, seeks black/ white woman, 25-50, who is honest, kind and sweet, for a relationship of the best kind. P/P, smoker OK. ID# 1035

FRIENDS

SWF 53 -Hi, I enjoy drives to the country, dining out, dancing and traveling. Prefer a man to be between 55-60 years of age. ID# 1053

ALTERNATIVE

SWM 38 -ISO of other SPM or BM, 21-38 yrs old, enjoys the beach, movies, clubs, smoker/social drinker. Seeking LT relationship, into cuddling, very romantic passionate, seeks same/likes to party, hang out, muscular, send pic w/phone #. ID# 1046

SBF-honest, sincere and loving. Looking for a full figured feminine woman between the ages of 30-40 yrs Looking for a friendship first, possible relationship. I'm a 38 yr old SBF, petite and straight forward n/s, n/d. No bi's please. ID# 1050

Well, I see my ex-wife wasted no time placing a singles ad!



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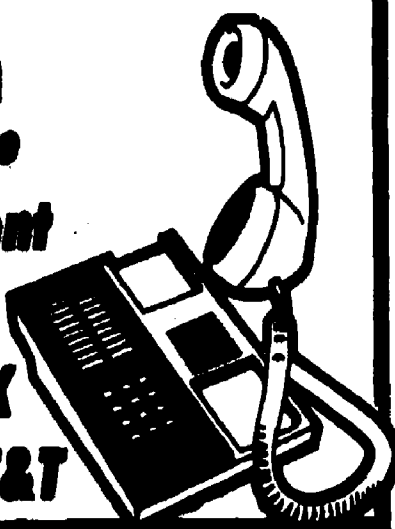
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OBITUARIES

Michael J. Kovacs of Carteret

Mr. Michael J. Kovacs of Waretown (formerly of Carteret) died November 3 at home. He was 80.

Born in Carteret, he lived there before moving to Waretown in 1985.

He retired as a custodian from Carteret High School, where he worked for many years.

He was formerly an inspector for I.T. Williams Company, Carteret.

Mr. Kovacs was a staff ser-

geant in the Army Air Force during World War II.

He was a member of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Carteret.

He was also a member of Skipper's Cove Beach Club, Waretown.

His wife, Audrey Strakele Kovacs, died in 1984.

Surviving are two sisters, Irene Weikel of Carteret and Violet J. Lawlor of Little River, S.C.; five nieces; two nephews; and five great-nieces and great-nephews.

John M. Riordan, 50 of Carteret

Mr. John M. Riordan of Carteret died October 31 at his home. He was 50.

Born in Jersey City, he had lived in Carteret for the past 24 years.

He was working for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority as a toll collector at Exit 13. He was employed by the turnpike authority for 17 years.

Mr. Riordan was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Carteret.

He was a former coach of the Carteret Girls Softball League for many years.

His father, John J. Riordan, died in 1979.

Surviving are his wife of 20 years, Kristine (Meyer) Riordan; four daughters, Erin, Jacqueline and Lauren, all of Carteret and Tara of North Arlington; his mother, Mary Clossey of Colts Neck; his sister, Ellen Fiore of Colts Neck; and several nieces and nephews.

Norah T. Klotz, 83 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Norah T. Klotz of Perth Amboy died November 6 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 83.

Born in Gates Head, England, she lived in South Amboy before moving to Perth Amboy 23 years ago.

She worked for Indiana General, Keasbey, as a production operator for 22 years before retiring in 1980.

Mrs. Klotz was a communicant of St. Stephen's R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

Her son, Gerard Tracy, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Theodore; a son, Bernard Tracy of Perth Amboy; a daughter, Margaret Conklin of Wichita Falls, Texas; a sister, Molley Riley of New Hampshire; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Bert Mihacz, 83 of Carteret

Mr. Bert Mihacz of Carteret died November 4 at Rahway Hospital. He was 83.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Carteret for the past 13 years.

He was employed as a driver for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Menlo Park, for many years before his retirement in 1980.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the

Rhineland and northern France campaigns. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Post 56 and a recipient of the Purple Heart.

His brother, John, died in 1980 and a sister, Bertha Vernachio, died in 1995.

Surviving are a niece, Barbara Murphy of Whitehouse Station; and a great-nephew, Brett.

Tillie Kratzar, 86 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Anastasia "Tillie" Urbanski Kratzar of Whiting (formerly of Perth Amboy) died November 2 at Kimball Medical Center, Lakewood. She was 86.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived there all her life prior to moving to Whiting many years ago.

She was an assembler of air-

craft flight recorders with Lockheed Industries, Edison.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, J. Arthur Kratzar of Edison and Alan Kratzar of Algonquin, Ill., seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Carlos Lopez, 44 of Carteret

Mr. Carlos Lopez of Carteret died November 1 in Trenton. He was 44.

Born in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, he lived in Carteret for the past 15 years.

Surviving are his mother, Carmen Lopez of Perth Amboy; three daughters, Natalie Lopez of Perth Amboy, Frances Lopez of Aquadra, Puerto Rico and Jeanette Lopez of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; two sons,

Carlos Lopez Jr. of Perth Amboy and Andrew Lopez of Carteret; many stepchildren; two brothers, Oscar Lopez and Samuel Miranda, both of Perth Amboy; three sisters, Digna Martir and Luz L. Lopez, both of Perth Amboy; and Carmen Lopez of Carteret; two grandsons; many nieces, nephews and his companion, Nilda Lopez of Carteret.

Gabriel W. Baksa of Carteret

Mr. Gabriel W. Baksa of Carteret died November 1 at Overlook Hospital, Summit. He was 84.

Born in Carteret, he lived there prior to moving to Scotch Plains 48 years ago.

After attending Newark College of Engineering, he worked for Foster-Wheeler, Carteret. He was employed as a construction engineer with United Engineers, which later became Raytheon, Newark, for

many years before retiring in 1988.

Mr. Baksa was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, Scotch Plains, and Lafayette Lodge 27, F&AM, Rahway.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Schroeder Baksa; a son, Richard Baksa of Ambler, Pa.; a daughter, Janet Oppel of Stamford, Conn.; and two grandchildren, Heather and Richard Oppel.

Angeline Pucci, 99 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Angeline Pucci of Perth Amboy died November 5 at Brighton Gardens Nursing Home, Edison. She was 99.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., she resided in Perth Amboy all of her life.

She graduated from the eighth grade at School No. 8, Perth Amboy. Several years later, she graduated from Drakes Business College.

She was a personal executive secretary for 67 years to David T. Wilentz, Esq., at the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Woodbridge. Her

career began in 1927 and she retired in 1994.

Mrs. Pucci was a communicant of Holy Rosary R.C. Church, Hopelawn.

Three brothers, Frank, John and George Pucci and three sisters, Mary Titulo, Josephine Alessi and Anna Duggan, are all deceased.

Surviving are two brothers, Ralph J. Pucci of Perth Amboy and Joseph Pucci of Palm Coast, Fla.; 14 nieces and nephews; and many grandchildren and grandnephews.

Margaret C. Acciani of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Margaret C. (Rizzi) Acciani of Seaside Heights (formerly of Perth Amboy) died November 5 at home. She was 90.

Born in Rocky Hill, she lived in Perth Amboy for 35 years before moving to Seaside Heights 28 years ago.

She was formerly employed as a seamstress at Community Medical Center, Toms River.

Mrs. Acciani was a member

of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Italian Tripoli Club, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Joseph Acciani, died in 1970.

Surviving are three sons, Tobias A. Acciani, Joseph P. Acciani and Patrick E. Acciani; two daughters, Mary Ann Manger and Regina Armstrong; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

George V. Klodin of Colonia

Mr. George V. Klodin of Colonia died October 20 in the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 64.

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He owned Colorest Inc., Red Bank, for 25 years before retiring in 1997.

Surviving are his wife, Carole; two sons, George and Kenneth; and two grandchildren.

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Mrs. Dionicia D. Redd of Perth Amboy died October 30 at University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Pennsylvania. She was 58.

Born in Tuskegee, Ala., she resided in Perth Amboy for 38 years.

She attended Tuskegee Institute. Exxon Mobil employed her as a research technician before her retirement in 1998.

She served on numerous boards throughout the Perth Amboy community, including Perth Amboy Housing Authority and Perth Amboy Day Care 100. Most recently, she served as board president for Day Care 100, serving in that capacity for 17 years.

Surviving are her son, Dana Redd of Perth Amboy; a granddaughter, Danielle D. Redd of East Brunswick; a brother, Reynolds Johnson of Plainfield; a niece, Andre Bryant of Perth Amboy; and two nephews, Anthony Harrison of Perth Amboy and Segrist Harrison of Tuskegee.

Ramon Lanza, 78 of Perth Amboy

Mr. Ramon Lanza of Perth Amboy died November 3 at home. He was 78.

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He was a retired furnace operator with Anaconda Copperworks, Perth Amboy for 10 years.

He was formerly employed as a furnace operator at American Smelting and Refining Co., Perth Amboy, for 15 years. Prior to coming to the United States, he worked as a baker in Spain.

Mr. Lanza was a communicant of Holy Spirit R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

Surviving are his wife, Natividad Sierra Lanza; a son, Dr. Raymond Lanza of Green Brook; a daughter, Araceli Lanza Perez-Cobo of Sacramento, Calif.; a brother, Florentino Lanza of Spain; two sisters, Oliva and Araceli Lanza, both of Spain; and five grandchildren, Alexander, Tracie, Natalie, Daniel and Niko.

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He was a fifth-grade teacher at Oakview Elementary School, Kettering.

He was a member of the National Fishing Lures Collection Club.

His mother, Janet Joyner and his grandparents, Mae D. and Fred B. Joyner, Norman D. Combs and May D. Combs, are all deceased.

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Surviving are a son, Paul W. Jr. of Bordentown; a daughter, Joan Neff of Skillman; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

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Mrs. Schwalje was a communicant of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Metuchen.

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Surviving are his wife of 31 years, Justine (Baumgarten) Stevenson; a son Benjamin H. Stevenson III of Colonia; a daughter, Victoria Stevenson of Worcester, Mass; his father, Benjamin H. Stevenson Sr. of Colonia; and a brother, John Stevenson of Iselin.

He was also a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 857, Woodbridge.

Mr. Szwast also coached for the Woodbridge Little League.

His parents, Frank and Mary (Matlosz) Szwast and two brothers, Alphonse and Frank Szwast, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Stella (Skonieczny) Szwast of Woodbridge; a son, Edward F. Szwast Jr. of Fair Lawn; a daughter, Sharon Vlasak of Green Brook; a sister, Loretta Szwast of South Plainfield; and a brother, John Szwast of Fort Myers, Fla.

Surviving are his wife of 16 years, Gloria (nee Martinez) Melendez of Edison; two sons, Darryl Melendez of Edison and Roderick Melendez of North Carolina; a daughter, Melissa Melendez of Portland, Maine; his mother, Provencia Melendez; three brothers, Carlos Melendez of Morrisville, Pa., Wilfredo Melendez and Jamie Melendez, both of Trenton; and two grandchildren, Gabriel and Vincent Melendez.

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Mrs. Misak was a lifelong member of the First United Presbyterian Church, Fords, of which her father was a founding member. She served as a deacon and also was the organist at the church for over 20 years.

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Mr. Stephen J. Yuhasz of Fords died October 21 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy. He was 73.

Born in Keasbey, he was a lifelong resident of Fords.

He was a toll collector for the N.J. Turnpike and a former Woodbridge police officer.

He was also a member of the 2nd Ward Democratic Club of Woodbridge for over 30 years and Lions Club of Woodbridge for 10 years.

Mr. Yuhasz was a county committeeman for Fords for over 30 years and a National Guard chaplain assistant at

Carteret and a member and past matron of Order of Eastern Star Raritan Chapter 58 in South Amboy.

Mrs. Misak was also a member of the National Slovak Society in Canonsburg, Pa.

Her husband of over 49 years, Steve L. Misak, died in 1998; her parents, Steve and Mary (Ondeyko) Mako, are deceased; two brothers, George, died last year and John Mako, died over 40 years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Theresa Misak-Ellis of Metuchen and Janet L. Misak, at home; two granddaughters, Heather Lynn Drysdale of Bremerton, Wash. and Tiffany Nicole Auletta of Middlesex; four great-grandchildren. Dylan James and Hunter Douglas Drysdale, both of Bremerton, Wash. and Shealee Rose and Doriana Carole Auletta, both of Middlesex; a brother, Andrew Mako of Fords; a sister, Bertha Kensicki of Toms River; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

Mrs. Boyter was active with Boy Scouts Troop 42, Colonia. She was a member of Raritan Council of Perth Amboy for many years.

Her husband, Alexander, died in 1963.

Surviving are a son, Christopher Boyter of Pattenburg; a granddaughter, Kayta Marie Boyter.

Woodbridge Armory for 50 years. He was a chairman of March of Dimes, Woodbridge. He was also an officer of Saints Drum and Bugle Corps Booster Association.

His wife, June (nee Clazey) Yuhasz, died in 1996.

Surviving are a daughter, Kathleen M. Yuhasz Kotarsky; a grandson, Joshua Kotarsky; a granddaughter, Jourdain Kotarsky; two sisters, Helen Lauritzen and Lillian Jankola; two brothers, William and Julius Yuhasz; and many, many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



Together, we can save a life.

OBITUARIES

Michael J. Kovacs of Carteret

Mr. Michael J. Kovacs of Waretown (formerly of Carteret) died November 3 at home. He was 80.

Born in Carteret, he lived there before moving to Waretown in 1985.

He retired as a custodian from Carteret High School, where he worked for many years.

He was formerly an inspector for I.T. Williams Company, Carteret.

Mr. Kovacs was a staff ser-

geant in the Army Air Force during World War II.

He was a member of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Carteret.

He was also a member of Skipper's Cove Beach Club, Waretown.

His wife, Audrey Strakele Kovacs, died in 1984.

Surviving are two sisters, Irene Weikel of Carteret and Violet J. Lawlor of Little River, S.C.; five nieces; two nephews; and five great-nieces and great-nephews.

John M. Riordan, 50 of Carteret

Mr. John M. Riordan of Carteret died October 31 at his home. He was 50.

Born in Jersey City, he had lived in Carteret for the past 24 years.

He was working for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority as a toll collector at Exit 13. He was employed by the turnpike authority for 17 years.

Mr. Riordan was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, Carteret.

He was a former coach of the Carteret Girls Softball League for many years.

His father, John J. Riordan, died in 1979.

Surviving are his wife of 20 years, Kristine (Meyer) Riordan; four daughters, Erin, Jacqueline and Lauren, all of Carteret and Tara of North Arlington; his mother, Mary Clossey of Colts Neck; his sister, Ellen Fiore of Colts Neck; and several nieces and nephews.

Carlos Lopez, 44 of Carteret

Mr. Carlos Lopez of Carteret died November 1 in Trenton. He was 44.

Born in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico, he lived in Carteret for the past 15 years.

Surviving are his mother, Carmen Lopez of Perth Amboy; three daughters, Natalie Lopez of Perth Amboy, Frances Lopez of Aquadra, Puerto Rico and Jeanette Lopez of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; two sons,

Carlos Lopez Jr. of Perth Amboy and Andrew Lopez of Carteret; many stepchildren; two brothers, Oscar Lopez and Samuel Miranda, both of Perth Amboy; three sisters, Digna Martir and Luz L. Lopez, both of Perth Amboy; and Carmen Lopez of Carteret; two grandsons; many nieces, nephews and his companion, Nilda Lopez of Carteret.

Gabriel W. Baksa of Carteret

Mr. Gabriel W. Baksa of Carteret died November 1 at Overlook Hospital, Summit. He was 84.

Born in Carteret, he lived there prior to moving to Scotch Plains 48 years ago.

After attending Newark College of Engineering, he worked for Foster-Wheeler, Carteret. He was employed as a construction engineer with United Engineers, which later became Raytheon, Newark, for

many years before retiring in 1988.

Mr. Baksa was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church, Scotch Plains, and Lafayette Lodge 27, F&AM, Rahway.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy Schroeder Baksa; a son, Richard Baksa of Ambler, Pa.; a daughter, Janet Oppel of Stamford, Conn.; and two grandchildren, Heather and Richard Oppel.

Angeline Pucci, 99 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Angeline Pucci of Perth Amboy died November 5 at Brighton Gardens Nursing Home, Edison. She was 99.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., she resided in Perth Amboy all of her life.

She graduated from the eighth grade at School No. 8, Perth Amboy. Several years later, she graduated from Drakes Business College.

She was a personal executive secretary for 67 years to David T. Wilentz, Esq., at the law firm of Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, Woodbridge. Her

career began in 1927 and she retired in 1994.

Mrs. Pucci was a communicant of Holy Rosary R.C. Church, Hopelawn.

Three brothers, Frank, John and George Pucci and three sisters, Mary Titulo, Josephine Alessi and Anna Duggan, are all deceased.

Surviving are two brothers, Ralph J. Pucci of Perth Amboy and Joseph Pucci of Palm Coast, Fla.; 14 nieces and nephews; and many grandchildren and grandnephews.

Margaret C. Acciani of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Margaret C. (Rizzi) Acciani of Seaside Heights (formerly of Perth Amboy) died November 5 at home. She was 90.

Born in Rocky Hill, she lived in Perth Amboy for 35 years before moving to Seaside Heights 28 years ago.

She was formerly employed as a seamstress at Community Medical Center, Toms River.

Mrs. Acciani was a member

of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Italian Tripoli Club, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Joseph Acciani, died in 1970.

Surviving are three sons, Tobias A. Acciani, Joseph P. Acciani and Patrick E. Acciani; two daughters, Mary Ann Manger and Regina Armstrong; ten grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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Surviving are his wife, Carole; two sons, George and Kenneth; and two grandchildren.

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She attended Tuskegee Institute. Exxon Mobil employed her as a research technician before her retirement in 1998.

She served on numerous boards throughout the Perth Amboy community, including Perth Amboy Housing Authority and Perth Amboy Day Care 100. Most recently, she served as board president for Day Care 100, serving in that capacity for 17 years.

Surviving are her son, Dana Redd of Perth Amboy; a granddaughter, Danielle D. Redd of East Brunswick; a brother, Reynolds Johnson of Plainfield; a niece, Andre Bryant of Perth Amboy; and two nephews, Anthony Harrison of Perth Amboy and Segrist Harrison of Tuskegee.

Ramon Lanza, 78 of Perth Amboy

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He was a retired furnace operator with Anaconda Copperworks, Perth Amboy for 10 years.

He was formerly employed as a furnace operator at American Smelting and Refining Co., Perth Amboy, for 15 years. Prior to coming to the United States, he worked as a baker in Spain.

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Surviving are his wife, Natividad Sierra Lanza; a son, Dr. Raymond Lanza of Green Brook; a daughter, Araceli Lanza Perez-Cobo of Sacramento, Calif.; a brother, Florentino Lanza of Spain; two sisters, Oliva and Araceli Lanza, both of Spain; and five grandchildren, Alexander, Tracie, Natalie, Daniel and Niko.

Norah T. Klotz, 83 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Norah T. Klotz of Perth Amboy died November 6 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 83.

Born in Gates Head, England, she lived in South Amboy before moving to Perth Amboy 23 years ago.

She worked for Indiana General, Keasbey, as a production operator for 22 years before retiring in 1980.

Mrs. Klotz was a communicant of St. Stephen's R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

Her son, Gerard Tracy, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Theodore; a son, Bernard Tracy of Perth Amboy; a daughter, Margaret Conklin of Wichita Falls, Texas; a sister, Molley Riley of New Hampshire; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Bert Mihacz, 83 of Carteret

Mr. Bert Mihacz of Carteret died November 4 at Rahway Hospital. He was 83.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Carteret for the past 13 years.

He was employed as a driver for the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home, Menlo Park, for many years before his retirement in 1980.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, serving in the

Rhineland and northern France campaigns. He was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Post 56 and a recipient of the Purple Heart.

His brother, John, died in 1980 and a sister, Bertha Vernachio, died in 1995.

Surviving are a niece, Barbara Murphy of Whitehouse Station; and a great-nephew, Brett.

Tillie Kratzar, 86 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Anastasia "Tillie" Urbanski Kratzar of Whiting (formerly of Perth Amboy) died November 2 at Kimball Medical Center, Lakewood. She was 86.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived there all her life prior to moving to Whiting many years ago.

She was an assembler of air-

craft flight recorders with Lockheed Industries, Edison.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, J. Arthur Kratzar of Edison and Alan Kratzar of Algonquin, Ill., seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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WOODBRIDGE

YOUR LOCAL NEWS**Unity Bank Answers U.S. Marine Corps' Call To Action**

AREA — Unity Bank branch offices are collection centers for the U.S. Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots program, the nation's premier charitable Christmas endeavor. Since 1947, Toys for Tots has collected more than 272 million toys and distributed them to 133 million needy children in communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

"This is the first year that Unity Bank branches has participated in this important program," said Kelly Stashko, Unity Bank's senior vice president of Marketing.

"The Toys for Tots program is a good complement to Unity Bank's philosophy of community

involvement," Stashko added. "The toys collected in our branch offices are given to needy children who live in local neighborhoods."

"The organization works directly with local charitable agencies and churches to identify children who otherwise would not have toys for Christmas," said Stashko.

Unity Bank's toy collection drive is led by Nicole Gadow, a teller in the Clifton branch office.

"As children, my brother and I received presents from the Toys for Tots program. Those Christmas presents were an important part of our childhood," Gadow said.

"I brought the program to

Unity Bank because I wanted to make the holidays special for other children and I know that our clients would like to do the same,"

Gadow said. Those who wish to donate to Toys for Tots should bring new, unwrapped toys to any Unity Bank branch office until Dec. 22. Toys for Tots is a recognized charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. In addition to Toys for Tots, Unity Bank is participating in fundraising for World Trade Center victims and has recently collected gifts for the Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) "Giving Tree" program.

The public may call 800-618-BANK for the location of the nearest Unity Bank branch office.

January Is Jumping At The Library

EDISON—Come visit the Children's Room of the Edison Township Public Library in January. The librarians have planned some exciting programs including:

Say it with Signs: a series program for children in Kindergarten through grade 6. Children are invited to attend this four week series to learn the basics of American Sign Language with Supervising children's Librarian, Carolyn N. Cullum. Registration will begin by phone or in person on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Parents are welcome to attend but are reminded that other siblings may not be brought into the program due to distractions. Thank you. The program will be at the North Edison Branch on Thursdays, Jan. 10-31 at 4:30 p.m.

Gardens Change Lives: A program for children in Kindergarten through grade 6. Children will hear stories of gardens changing lives, such as *Westlandia* and *The Secret Garden*. Create a special bulb garden of your own to take home. Registration will begin in person and by phone beginning Jan. 14. The program will be at the North Edison Branch on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6 p.m. and Clara Barton

Branch on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

Locations of the Edison Public Libraries are: Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue, (732) 287-2351, ext. 3; North Edison Branch, 777 Grove Avenue, (732) 548-4759, ext. 228 and Clara Barton Library, 141 Hoover Avenue, (732) 738-0748.

Apply Today For Police Exam

WOODBIDGE—The New Jersey Department of Personnel has announced an examination for the "2002 Law Enforcement Officer Titles." This test is held to determine qualified candidates for the local police department.

If you know any person who is interested and eligible, please advise them that applications are freely available at the Woodbridge Township Personnel Office or at Woodbridge Police Headquarters located at 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095. Also, please be advised that the closing date for filing applications is Feb. 15, 2002. The testing will be held between April 11 and 20, 2002.

Perth Amboy Plays Santa

PERTH AMBOY—On Dec. 14, Mayor Joseph Vas presented Raritan Bay Medical Center (RBMC) with holiday gifts and donations on behalf of Perth Amboy city employees who have opened their hearts to those less fortunate this season. For the fifth year in a row, city employees have taken part in a holiday gift collection to benefit patients and

family members of RBMC's Early Intervention Program for Immunology and Infection.

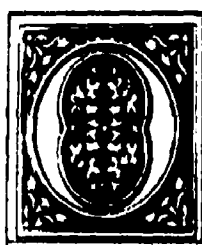
This year, Perth Amboy's employees donated over 75 gifts, while Perth Amboy's Uniformed Firefighters Local 286 made a generous contribution of \$500. Accepting the gifts on behalf of RBMC was Dr. John Middleton, Medical Director.

Restaurant School Graduate

SOUTH AMBOY — Shannon J. Bosse from South Amboy is a recent graduate of The New York Restaurant School.

Located in the SoHo district of Manhattan, The New York Restaurant School prepares students for entry-level careers in Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management. It is a recognized leader in providing graduates for the Food Service Industry.

The School is one of The Art Institutes, a system of 23 schools located throughout the United States, offering post-secondary education programs that prepare students for careers in the creative and culinary arts.



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- ...while supplies last

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*Sunday, Dec. 23rd.....3 PM
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Come in and pick a mystery ornament from our tree.** Each one has a little gift inside...
from a mug to a picnic
basket or a savings bond.



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www.unitybank.com

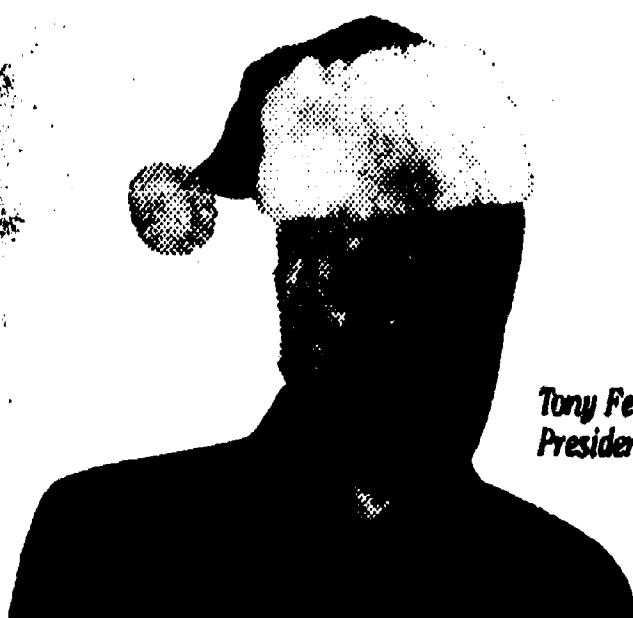
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