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& Citizen-Gazette

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Braun Honored With President's Award At Raritan Bay Medical Center

PERTH AMBOY — Sayreville resident Joan Braun, MA, RN, C., Director of the Staff Development Department at Raritan Bay Medical Center, was the honored recipient of the medical center's fourteenth annual President's Award given during the annual business meeting held recently.

The President's Award recognizes a manager or director who demonstrates unique skills and leadership in such areas as productivity, patient satisfaction and employee

motivation.

"With an optimistic and upbeat approach to meeting challenges, Joan Braun contributes substantially to the success of the medical center," said Keith H. McLaughlin, president and CEO. This contribution involves participation in major program development as well as new policies and includes meeting the standards of HFCA, JCAHO and the State Department of Health. Braun serves as a role model and mentor for staff and incorporates the principles of Pride

in Caring in all that is done.

Braun, a Summa Cum Laude graduate of New York University's Nursing Administration and Education master's degree program, has worked for Raritan Bay Medical Center since 1985. But she began her relationship with RBMC as a jr. volunteer while in high school and has worked here as a nursing assistant, an RN, and finally as a director.

As Director of Staff Development, Braun is responsible for continuing education, orientation training, in-service

programs for staff and coordination of student affiliations. She provides consultation and participates in numerous committees and teams and also teaches the principles of Pride and Caring as well as other courses.

Braun resides in Sayreville with her husband and daughter. She is certified in Staff Development and Continuing Education and currently teaches at Kean University.

IN THIS ISSUE!

Letter from South
Amboy Mayor
John O'Leary
See page 10

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What An Honor, Indeed

EDISON—Matthew DeZaio, an eighth grade student at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Edison, received first place in the Level I National Spanish Examination. The test was given in March at Edison High School. Matt's score of 58 out of 60 placed him third in the nation.

Statewide, approximately 200 students took this exam and over 1,000 students did the Level I test nationally. Matt's teacher, Mrs. Marcia A. Schwartz, said that she is extremely proud of Matt's accomplishment.

Four other Woodrow Wilson eighth graders received honor-

able mentions. They are: Jonathan Milam, Priya Bolikal, Priya Soohi and Palak Amin.

These students are taught by Mrs. Marcia A. Schwartz and Mrs. Joann Garrigan.



Matthew DeZaio

THOMAS M. FLOSKONKA
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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Bowl-A-Thon Has A Positive Spin

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. has announced their first annual "Knock Down Addiction" Bowl-A-Thon. The event will take place on Saturday, June 23 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the AMF Mid State Lanes, East Brunswick.

Bowlers of all ages are welcome to participate. Bumpers will be available for very young bowlers. Shoe rental and three games will be provided. Every bowler will receive a T-shirt designed exclusively for the event. In addition, there will be door prizes awarded throughout the day, donated by Etienne Aigner Group, Edison, who has also provided a surprise for each bowler.

This is an opportunity for families to do a fun activity together, or for someone to fulfill community service hours or just bowl for fun. Registration is

required by calling NCADD at (732) 254-3344. Bowlers must secure pledges of \$25 or more. All proceeds will support NCADD's programs and services that aim to promote healthy communities in Middlesex County.

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc., founded in 1980, is a private, non-profit health education agency. Their mission is to promote the health and well-being of individuals and communities in Middlesex County through the reduction or elimination of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use problems. Located in East Brunswick, they provide a Prevention Resource Center, Information & Referral Helpline, community, education, professional training, school-based prevention programs and advocacy.



MOTHER SETON'S SCIENTISTS SCORE!—Thirteen students from Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, competed in the State Science Olympiad at Middlesex County College. Mother Seton's team of Monique Tanna, Union and Jenny Buontempo, Cranford, placed first in the physics lab competition. Camille Roque, South Plainfield and Jasmine Bauknight, Roselle, placed second in the cow-a-bunge competition. Camille Roque, South Plainfield and Christine Wendt, Fords, placed fourth in the Qualitative Analysis competition. Out of thirty-five schools participating in this statewide event, Mother Seton's team placed in the top twelve. The team is under the direction of the science department at Mother Seton. Mrs. Katherine Sullivan, Physics teacher and Mrs. Jaime Cunningham, Chemistry teacher are the coaches of Mother Seton's medalists. (L.-R.) are Jasmine Bauknight, Roselle; Monique Tanna, Union; Mrs. Jaime Cunningham, Camille Roque, South Plainfield; Mrs. Katherine Sullivan, Jenny Buontempo, Cranford and Christine Wendt, Fords. Photo by Joan Barron.

Vitale Honored

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex), has been honored by the Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey for his "Outstanding Contributions to Women and Families."

"I am honored to accept this award," said Senator Vitale. "The Displaced Homemakers Network offers programs which provide necessary support for thousands of women

in New Jersey. I look forward to working together in the future to ensure that these programs receive adequate levels of funding."

The Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey assists women who are recently widowed, divorced or separated in obtaining self-sufficiency through services which enable these women to join the work force and gain important job experience.

We are your hometown newspaper, look to us for news about your community!

The ATOM TABLOID & Citizen-Gazette

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Senior Art Contest

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Any person age 60 and older residing in Middlesex County may enter the Middlesex County Senior Art Contest by submitting one entry completed with the past three years. Entrants may be of either professional or nonprofessional status. There are eleven categories that include oil, acrylic, watercolor, print, pastel, drawing, mixed media, photography, computer graphic, sculpture, and craft. Please note that all artwork must be the original creation of the artist.

To enter or obtain information on the rules of the contest, contact Andrea Bolton at (732) 745-3295.



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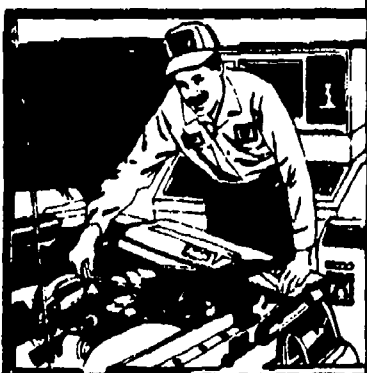
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Service Honors Go To Middle School

ISELIN — Kenneth Kuchtyak, Superintendent of Woodbridge Township's schools announced that Iselin Middle School has been selected as a 2001 National Service-Learning Leader School.

"The national honor is very befitting because Iselin Middle School was selected two years in a row as a New Jersey Service-Learning Leader Schl, 2000 and 2001," said Kuchtyak. "This is a

great honor for our school district."

Iselin Middle School is one of 23 across the nation to be selected for national honors.

Under the direction of service-learning coordinators, John Crowe and Jacqueline Lentini, the staff and students have designed and implemented interdisciplinary projects that address genuine community needs.

All of the school's students and 70 percent of the faculty are involved in at least one service-learning project through the year.

Principal Walter Uszenski said Service-Learning projects have had a positive impact on student academics and behavior.

English teacher Julia Duffy reports that components of the service-learning projects have produced an increased awareness

of writing conventions and the importance of clear, concise communication among students.

"At the conclusion of our Service-Learning projects, my students clearly demonstrated an increased ability to analyze data and record results," said Michelle Lean, a science teacher.

Service-learning projects have focused on poverty and its impact on the Woodbridge community, food drives, cancer research, community out-reach for Census 2000, Cystic Fibrosis, Foster Care Backpack project, Valentines for senior citizens and veterans.

Other projects were stream bank stabilization, restoration of the garden for the blind, Random Acts of Kindness, Martin Luther King Day, compiling recipe books for inexpensive meals in both English and Spanish and a com-

munity Get-Out-the-Vote campaign.

Spearheaded by Cynthia Lagunovich, Gladys Jackson and Patricia Osborne, Service-learning is a growing trend in education.

The U.S. Department of Education found that in 1999, 46 percent of our nation's schools were participating in service-learning projects.

"Service-learning challenges young people to higher achievement and prepares them for a lifetime of responsible citizenship," said Wendy Zenker, acting CEO of the Corporation for National Service. "By integrating service-learning into their curriculum, the educators at Leader Schools are enriching their students, their school environments and their communities."

Un-Seasonal Success

WOODBIDGE—Woodbridge Township recently participated in Christmas in April, a nationwide program of volunteers helping senior citizens on limited income renovate

their homes. This was a very successful program because of the total involvement and commitment made by Mayor James E. McGreevey, Donna Brightman—

Authority, John McCormac—Business Administrator, Council Members, Corporate Business and the large number of volunteers.



SIMILARITY ENDS HERE—Sixteen senior citizens homes were renovated over the weekend, but the one home that was different was the one at 21 Calfon Avenue, Colonia. Mark Cavallero was the house captain and local residents were part of the volunteers but that's where the similarity ends. The Senior Citizen's Club of Colonia were also represented and we were able to relate to the home owners, our aches, pains and concerns that we have in common. "Senior Citizens helping Senior Citizens" that made it different!

Directory of Professional Services

"Car Accident Victims Get A Crash Course On Their Rights!"

Carteret, NJ- A new free report has recently been released that reveals information every car accident victim should have before they speak to anyone. Research shows that even a "fender bender" can cause pain, headaches, even arthritis. Many car accident victims worry more about their car than they do their rights. If you have been involved in an auto accident listen to the 24 hour toll-free recorded message by calling 1-888-721-8231. The call is FREE and so is the report.

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Military Briefs...

Wallo Graduates Basic Military Training

SOUTH AMBOY—Army Pvt. Joshua J. Wallo has graduated from basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo.

During the training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid and Army history and traditions.

Wallo is the son of Patricia Ronquillo of South Amboy.

Layeski Arrives For Duty

SAYREVILLE—Air Force Maj. Eugene D. Layeski has arrived for duty at Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

Layeski is a weather flight commander assigned to the 8th Operations Support Squadron.

He is the son of Elizabeth and Eugene J. Layeski of Sayreville.

The major is a 1982 graduate of St. Joseph's High School, Metuchen, and received a bachelor's degree in 1987 from Cook College/Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He earned a master's degree in 1998 from Webster University through the military extension program at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Okla.



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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Sharp New Idea Takes A Bit Of Adapting

AREA—Anyone who depends on a pencil to prepare estimates, make diagrams or take measurements and notes knows how frustrating it can be when the pencil point breaks or becomes too blunt to write with. This can be especially frustrating out in the field where there is no way to sharpen the point. Now there's a fast and easy way to keep a sharp point for writing while on the job or in the field using a drill bit that adapts to sharpen pencils.

Inventor Richard Boucher of Bayville came up with the idea for the Pencil Sharpener Adapter Bit recently while working at a job site. He wanted to find a quick way to sharpen his pencil points.

This original idea is now being made available for licensing to manufacturers interested in new product development, especially in the tool industry. Boucher is hoping to have the Pencil Sharpener Adapter Bit in full production and available to the public within the very near future.

Additional information about the new invention can be obtained by contacting the Publicity/Press Department of Invention Technologies, Inc. at (800) 940-9020 ext. 285 or at products@invent-tech.com. Invention Technologies, Inc. is a Coral Gables, Florida based firm that is handling the publicity and public relations for the Pencil Sharpener Adapter Bit.

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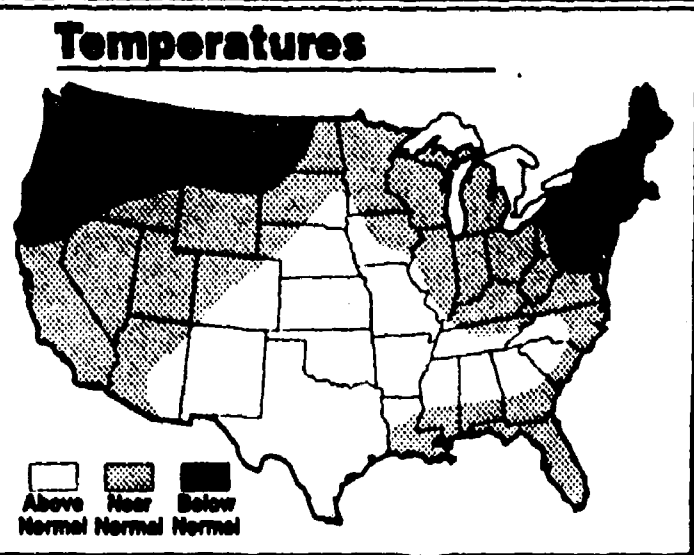
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Cloudy and breezy.	Rather cloudy.	Times of sun and clouds.	Plenty of sunshine.	Mostly sunny.	Sun and some clouds.	Times of clouds and sun.	Warm with some sun.
74	59	76/55	72/55	78/48	71/57	79/62	85/65

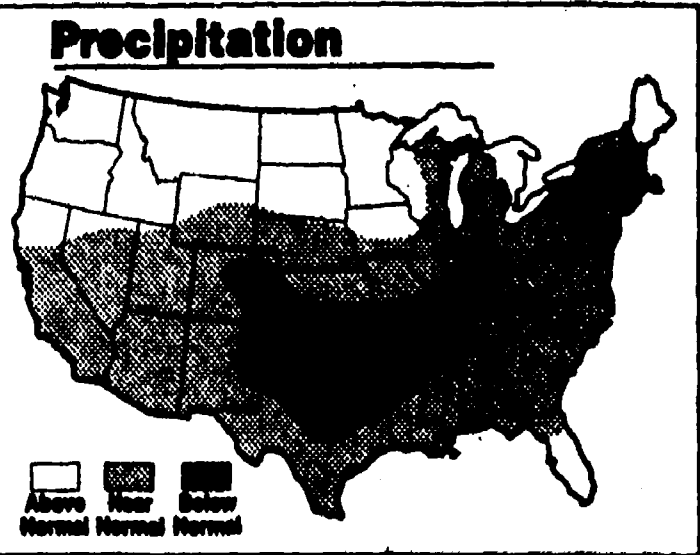
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Storm systems will travel across the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountains during the period. As a result, wet and cool weather will be common across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Dry, hot weather is expected across the central and southern Plains. Cool weather will continue to dominate the Northeast and northern New England.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	82 62 c	82 61 c	78 61 s	80 55 s
Boston	68 52 c	68 54 c	70 52 c	72 46 s
Chicago	70 50 pc	74 52 s	80 56 s	82 58 pc
Cleveland	68 54 pc	68 50 pc	70 52 pc	74 52 s
Denver	84 54 s	84 56 s	86 56 s	88 54 s
Des Moines	71 55 s	76 58 s	76 80 s	77 61 pc
Detroit	66 47 c	67 49 pc	70 54 s	74 51 s
Houston	91 70 t	89 70 pc	89 72 pc	90 69 c
Indianapolis	70 53 pc	72 52 pc	76 57 s	78 54 pc
Kansas City	84 56 s	86 60 s	88 64 s	81 65 t
Los Angeles	89 60 s	88 58 s	83 57 s	82 44 s
Miami	88 76 pc	88 75 sh	89 74 sh	88 71 sh
Minn.- St. Paul	70 50 s	74 52 pc	78 56 t	78 54 sh
New Orleans	87 73 t	89 71 pc	87 70 s	87 62 s
New York City	72 60 sh	74 58 pc	76 58 pc	76 50 s
Omaha	78 56 s	82 58 s	84 60 s	84 64 pc
Phoenix	110 82 s	110 80 s	106 78 s	102 78 s
San Francisco	70 53 pc	70 55 s	68 52 pc	67 41 s
Seattle	68 49 pc	64 49 sh	62 48 sh	62 47 c
Washington	78 60 sh	78 56 pc	78 56 c	80 54 pc

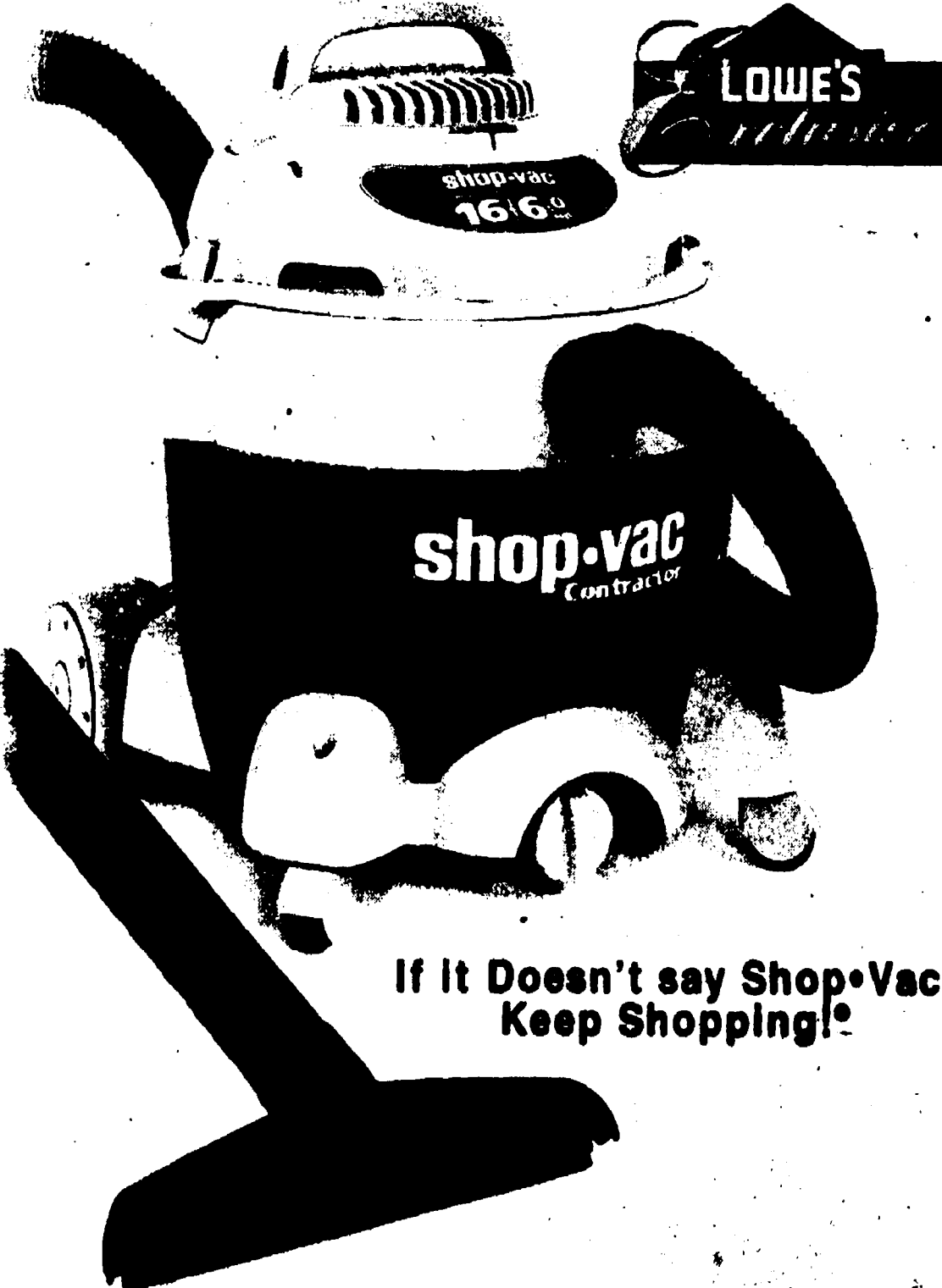
SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	5:26 a.m.	8:26 p.m.
Fri.	5:26 a.m.	8:26 p.m.
	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	10:05 p.m.	6:39 a.m.
Fri.	10:54 p.m.	7:30 a.m.
Moon Phases		
Full	Last	New First
June 5	June 13	
June 21	June 27	
Weather (W):		
s-sunny, pe-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
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	56 42 sh	57 40 pc	54 39 c	57 41 pc
Berlin	63 50 sh	61 47 pc	62 42 pc	57 42 c
Buenos Aires	64 54 pc	64 48 pc	55 40 s	61 44 s
Cairo	90 58 s	91 61 s	93 61 s	92 64 s
Jerusalem	79 51 s	83 55 s	84 58 s	86 58 s
Johannesburg	72 44 s	67 43 pc	70 41 s	71 39 s
London	60 40 pc	59 40 c	55 41 c	58 43 pc
Madrid	88 56 s	89 56 pc	79 47 sh	74 46 pc
Mexico City	88 61 sh	88 62 r	88 60 r	89 59 r
Moscow	67 52 c	73 55 pc	77 60 c	70 48 c
Paris	58 49 pc	58 42 sh	60 40 s	60 41 pc
Rio de Janeiro	79 66 pc	78 66 pc	77 64 pc	69 55 pc
Rome	78 56 s	78 57 s	81 61 s	83 64 c
San Juan	87 76 pc	89 75 pc	88 75 pc	88 74 pc
Seoul	85 68 pc	86 69 pc	86 67 pc	85 71 pc
Sydney	66 62 c	66 58 r	68 51 pc	64 46 pc
Tokyo	80 67 pc	77 66 pc	80 70 s	84 72 s
Toronto	61 45 sh	55 39 c	61 41 pc	66 48 pc
Winnipeg	72 49 s	78 54 pc	81 60 pc	74 58 c
Zurich	64 51 pc	70 55 sh	59 55 r	60 43 r

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YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

AAA Issues New Safety Guide For Handling Roadside Emergencies

AREA — Motorists should be careful not to let growing reliance on mobile technologies — such as wireless telephones, in-car navigation systems and satellite global positioning systems — replace common-sense in anticipating and reacting to roadside emergency situations, the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club said recently.

To help motorists understand their rights and responsibilities if they're stranded suddenly on the road, AAA has developed a new consumer brochure that discusses what to do when your vehicle breaks down.

AAA, North America's largest motor club and annually responding to more than 30 million calls from motorists with vehicle trouble, recommends that motorists follow these steps before seeking assistance via a wireless telephone or on foot:

- **Always Note Your Vehicle's Location** — Wireless technologies don't always work in remote areas, and in-car systems may be useless if your vehicle experiences electrical failure or it becomes necessary to move to a place of greater safety. Be aware of landmarks, street names (including cross streets), specific addresses, and highway numbers and exits. This information is important

when summoning assistance, or confirming your location to an operator.

- **Assess Your Vehicle's Operating Problem** — Watch for warning lights on the instrument panel and listen for odd noise, or a change in your vehicle's handling characteristics. Check the fuel, temperature and oil pressure gauges. Any information you can provide about what might be wrong with your vehicle will assist an emergency road service operator dispatcher in sending the right equipment.

- **Pull Off the Road** — Immediately switch on your safety/emergency flashers. On most roads, pull onto the far right shoulder as far as possible. If your vehicle has lost power in the roadway, set the emergency brake and place flares or warning triangles well behind the vehicle — while being extremely careful of other traffic. If you or your vehicle could be struck by traffic, leave your vehicle for a place of safety. Do not risk injury by trying to push your vehicle to a safe location, unless safely assisted by others.

- **Alert Other Motorists** — In addition to using emergency flashers or flares, raise your vehicle's hood and tie a brightly colored handkerchief or scarf to the antenna or door handle to

signal the need for assistance.

After making every effort to ensure your safety as well as the safety of your passengers and others on the road, be sure to:

- **Communicate the Situation** — Call a trusted friend, family member or motor club for help. If you have a cell phone on hand and it's safe to do so, make the call from inside your vehicle. Otherwise, carefully leave your vehicle to place a call for help.

- **Remain With Your Vehicle** — Generally, it's safest to remain with your vehicle until a law enforcement officer or tow truck operator arrives. If you don't have a cellular telephone, or it's not operable, do not accept a ride from a stranger. Instead, carefully walk to a nearby public phone, get the attention of a law enforcement officer or ask another motorist to make the call for you.

- **What to Expect from Emergency Road Service** — Road service providers can usually provide gasoline, attempt to change a tire or boost a battery. If the problem is more serious, your vehicle will need to be towed. An extra charge — paid in advance — often applies for longer distance tows.

- **What to Tell the Operator** — Regardless of how a road serv-

ice provider is contacted, be prepared to provide a phone number, your exact location, and describe your vehicle, including year, make, model, color and license plate number. Provide your AAA membership number (or other motor club number) or insurance number, if applicable. Indicate whether you'll need alternate transportation, ask about extra towing charges, and for the name of a nearby, reputable repair shop, if needed.

- **Determine When Service Should Arrive** — The operator should be able to give you an estimated time of arrival. Depending on circumstances, including weather, time of day and location, service could take as few as 30 minutes, or as long as several hours. Check your watch and confirm the estimated time of arrival with the operator.

- **What to Do When Help Arrives** — Remain calm and cooperative. Verify that the driver offering assistance is the one your motor club sent to help you. Most firms have trained personnel that know what to do. Do not attempt to help the tow truck driver unless you're asked. If you need alternate transportation, ask to ride with the tow truck driver to the towing facility, or ask that alternate transportation be arranged. Do not

accept a ride from a stranger.

- **Know Your Rights and Responsibilities** — Having a cellular telephone or other communications device in your vehicle doesn't always mean you'll be able to find reliable help when you need it most. Without a motor club membership, or other road service plan, it may be difficult to find an available tow vehicle and driver during times of bad weather, traffic congestion or late at night. Know what your road service coverage provides. Some plans cover only a single vehicle, have up-front fees or a deductible, and expect you to arrange your own service, or require towing back to a new car dealership. A good road service plan doesn't have these limitations or restrictions.

For more detailed information on safely handling roadside emergencies, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Vehicle Break Down, AAA Public Relations, 1 Hanover Rd., Florham Park, NJ 07932.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield, and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

Driver Distraction, Cell Phone Safety

AREA—"Drive Safer, Talk Later: The AAA Guide to Cell Phones and Driving" — a new guide which addresses distracted driving and the use of cell phones — is now available to educate motorists about safe driving practices, according to the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club.

The brochure also addresses the issue of hands-free cell phones. "Drivers who use hands-free phones are no safer than those who use hand-held phones. The major distraction associated with mobile phones is intellectual—the conversa-

tion—so drivers are similarly distracted when using either a hand-held or hands-free phone."

As part of AAA's ongoing effort to improve traveler safety, the free brochure provides the following common sense tips about cell phone use:

- Recognize that driving requires your full attention.
- Use your cell phone only if it's an absolute necessity.
- If you have to use your

phone, pick a safe time and place to do so.

- Keep conversations short and sweet.

- Before you get behind the wheel, familiarize yourself with the features of your cell phone.

- Ask a passenger in the car to place the call for you.

- Hang the phone up as soon as possible, especially in heavy traffic, hazardous weather conditions, etc.

- Secure your phone in the car so that it doesn't become a

projectile in a crash.

To obtain a free copy of AAA's new brochure, "Drive Safer, Talk Later: The AAA Guide to Cell Phones and Driving," send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to Drive Safer, AAA Public Relations, 1 Hanover Road,

Florham Park, NJ 07932.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

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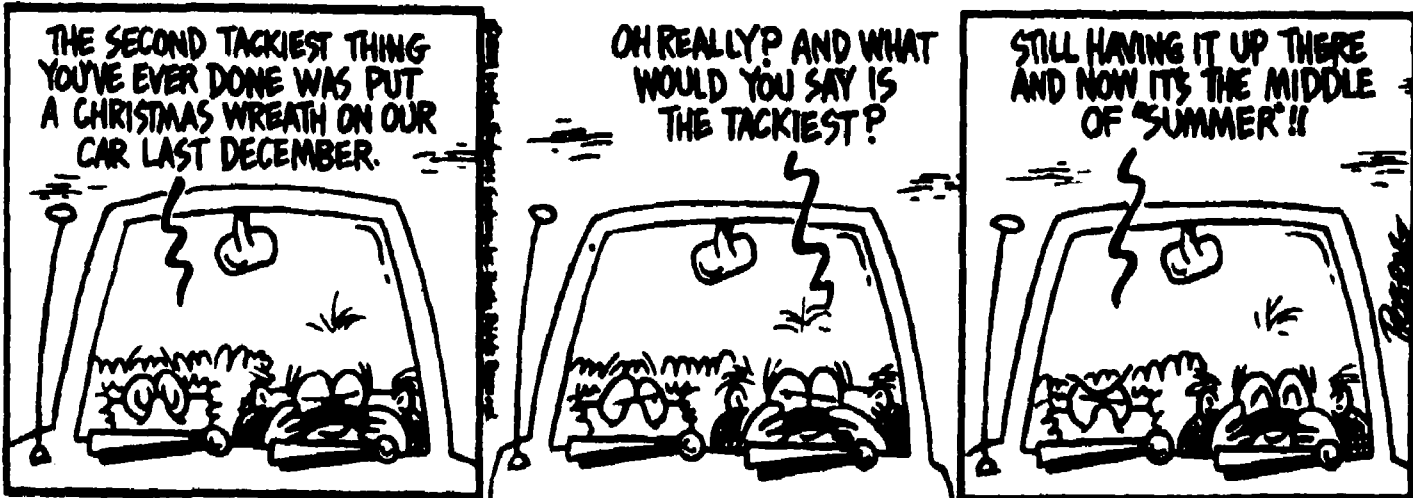
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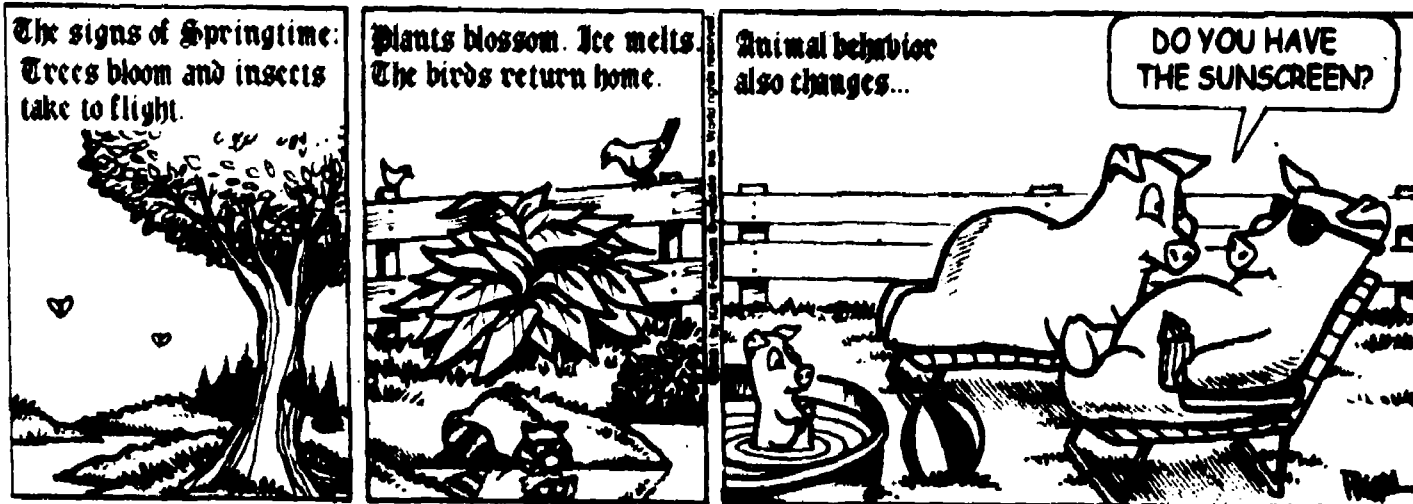
THE SPATS

by JEFF PICKERING



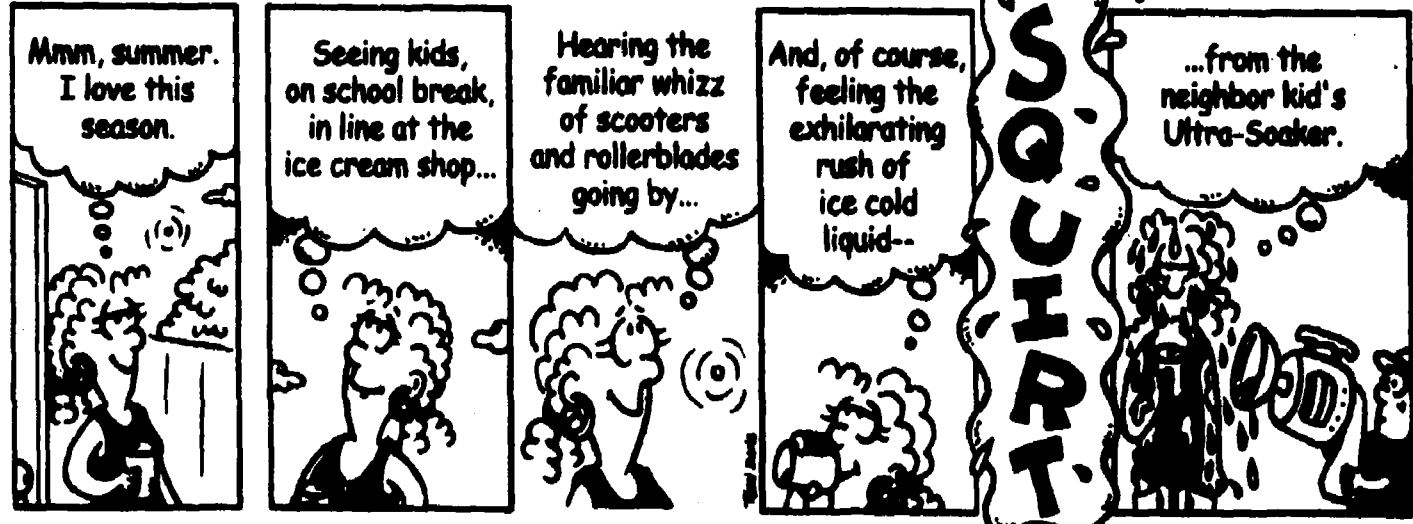
AMBER WAVES

by DAVE T. PHIPPS



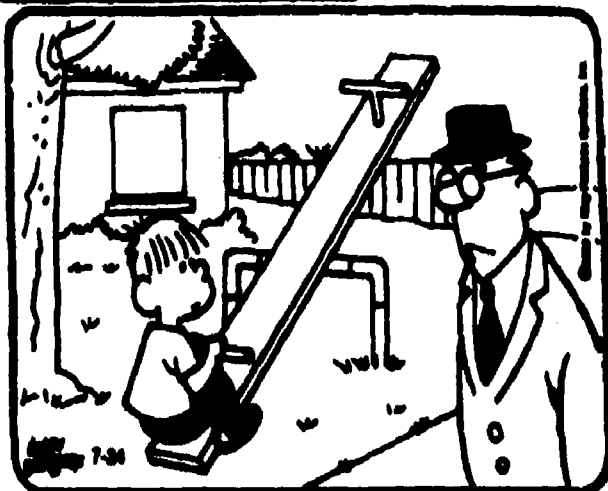
GOT A LIFE

by TERRI DAVIS

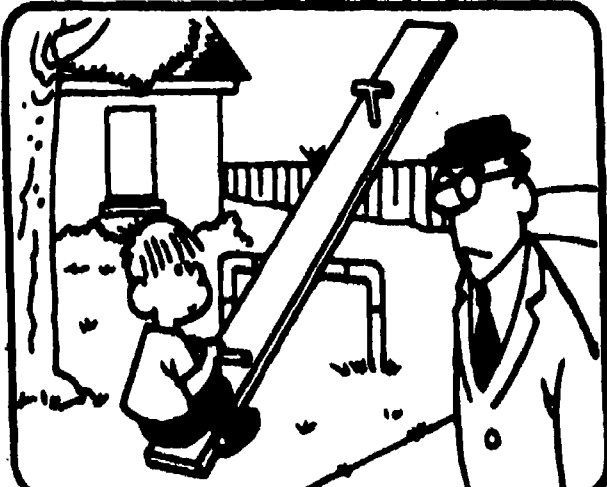


FOCUS FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



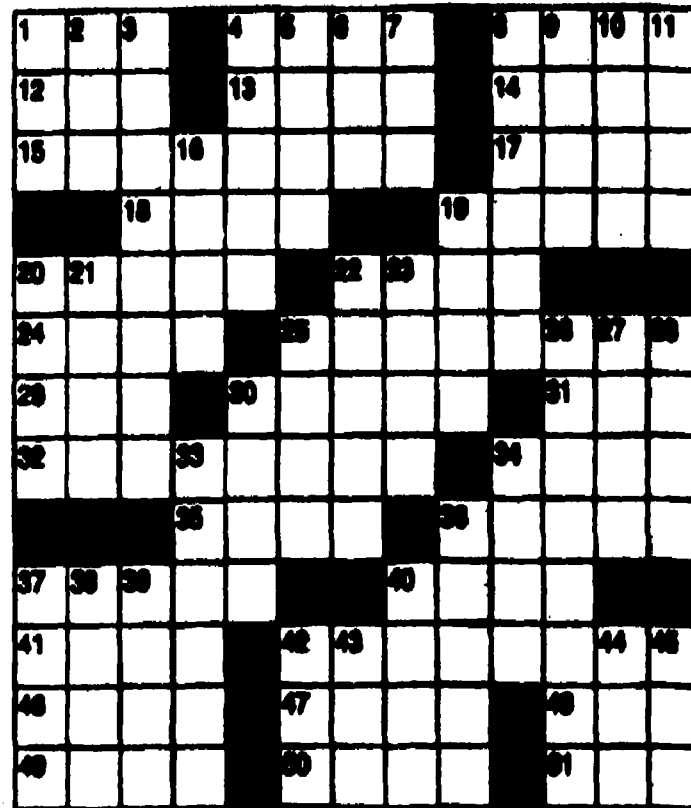
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Window is missing. 2. Hedge is missing. 3. Hedge is missing. 4. Window is missing. 5. Hedge is missing. 6. Hedge is missing.

ACROSS

- 1. Thimbleful
- 4. Adversaries
- 8. Grah
- 12. Baker's county
- 13. Incessantly
- 14. Discourteous
- 15. Long, slender cigar
- 17. Oklahoma city
- 18. Clone
- 19. Becomes encrusted
- 20. Regretted the workout
- 22. Lather
- 24. Podiatric's concern
- 25. Eagle's "reach"
- 29. "What can - for you?"
- 30. Crowd quarum
- 31. Mound stat.
- 32. Grand view
- 34. On
- 35. Minnesota -
- 36. Balls of yarn
- 37. Chewy treat
- 40. Flight's papa
- 41. Stage statistic
- 42. Almond confect-ion
- 46. Bellow
- 47. Fake of "The Supreme"
- 48. In older days
- 49. "Phoney"
- 50. Mixed hoodlum
- 51. Just out



DOWN

- 1. Potential syrup
- 2. Wash, neighbor
- 3. Rankin of baron
- 4. Nubious
- 5. Microwave
- 6. South-bar item
- 7. Mine, across the Pyrenees
- 8. Debate exclusively
- 9. Example of bookish
- 10. Corfield's pal
- 11. Becomes one
- 16. Overwhelms
- 19. "Baking Arizona" star
- 20. "Take - from me"
- 21. Last several notes
- 22. Corporations
- 23. Sans deferment
- 25. "Honest again"
- 26. Collar style
- 27. "Red pretty made all in -"
- 28. Status
- 30. Silver
- 33. Presents
- 34. Jai follower
- 36. Decade
- 37. Undecided
- 38. "- ben Adam"
- 39. Authoritative decree
- 40. Viracity
- 42. "Little Women" woman
- 43. Connection
- 44. Vital statistic
- 45. Without delay

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THINGS WE TIE

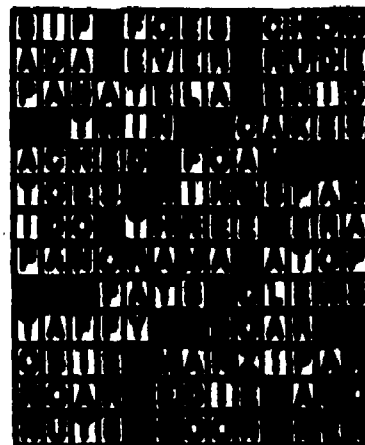
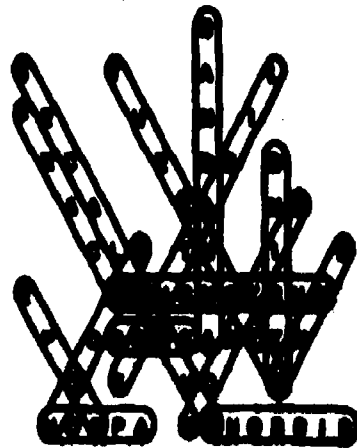
AROLJGEDAXVSPNK
IFCAXIVSBQOLJHE
SCAXTVTRAPNLLJH
FEFKDHBYNXIVTRP
ORCMKIEGDGEGDBZ
XBAAWUTKARQNEON
NLICLEITNGFIDCB
EAYXSEUGNOTRUOW
VPTODROCAWTTWSR
POONELKHOJISGFE
CNORPABBSNOBBIR

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

Agon Cord Our tongue Shoelace
Bendone Knot Ribbons String
Bones Ligature Rope The knot
Bow tie Noose Scarf

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to Puzzles



YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN "Pearl Harbor"

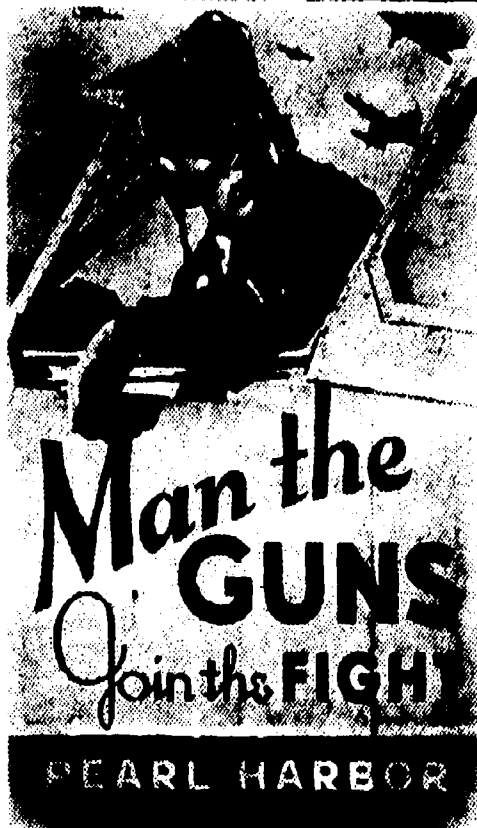
Provides a Berth for Precious Lessons



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberger

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



modities among blockbusters--a soul. A la "Saving Private Ryan" (1998), you are indelibly reminded of the sacrifice made. You realize that you can't leave the theater without a renewed respect and profound sympathy for those men and women who suffered the cruel devastation unleashed upon Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. By crafting an homage in addition to an entertaining movie, director Bay does himself and his subject proud.

Some especially cynical naysayers have pooh-poohed the love triangle that evolves among Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett and Kate Beckinsale as the two fly-boys and a nurse caught up in the cataclysms of WW II. They feel that affairs of the heart don't belong in war movies. Others, who have not yet even seen the picture, are upset upon learning that the three-hour film contains only one-half hour of actual bombing. Thus one must wonder what percentage of the movie would have to be devoted to catastrophe in order to make these faultfinders happy. It would also be interesting to note if these folk allow for a higher ratio of love to war in real life. But no matter. They are wrong. Romantic sagas of the sort that "Pearl Harbor" tells are what give history its pageantry and sweep. Said detractors might find what they're looking for at a cock-fight.

Granted, the tale is typical.

Which makes it all the more relevant, albeit politically incorrect. But remember, Rafe (Ben Affleck), Danny (Josh Hartnett) and Evelyn (Kate Beckinsale) are products of their time. The two Southern boys, gentlemen through and through and aviation enthusiasts since childhood, are in search of adventure. Evelyn and her fellow nightingales are on the lookout for husbands. And both groups are looking for fun while living their lives to the fullest, war or no war.

The film manages to be stirring without the rallying call to combat that identified the purposely patriotic efforts released by studios during WW II. Yet the graphic battle scenes are painfully realistic, and like no other since the first twenty minutes of "Saving Private Ryan." But though director Bay combines modern camera techniques with the stylish editing pace of a

picture that might have been made in the 1940s, the difference is in the portrayals.

These are not caricatures simply dancing to era-identifying swing tunes blaring from the background. The principals and some equally good supporting players breathe the proverbial life into their roles. We are reminded that these heroes were real people—for the most part our parents and grandparents. And thus watching them interact, their fashions and coiffures perfectly re-

created via award-worthy costume and makeup work, it affectingly dawns on us just how young the Warrior Generation was, how much was expected of them, and how much they accomplished.

The realization is heart-rending. Hence you don't have to be a flag-waving zealot to be moved...to then want to go up to any of the wizened old soldiers standing in front of the

supermarket entrance and say: "I know that n o motion picture will ever do you justice, and I know that the only good war movie is an anti-war movie. I know that you were once taller and younger, and full of hope. And I'm sorry

that our society hasn't figured out a better way to repay you than to ask you to stand here and collect coins in a can. Thanks for what you did over there."

Considering all the emotions that "Pearl Harbor" manages to foment for your money, three hours isn't really that much time to spend at all.

♥♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦
"Pearl Harbor," rated PG 13, is a Touchstone Pictures release directed by Michael Bay and stars Ben Affleck, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Kate Beckinsale and Josh Hartnett. Running time: 183

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In planning for the task that awaited, I bid adieu my friends, colleagues and family. I made sure my affairs were in order, and paid any bill that might come due during my absence. I checked the refrigerator and freezer. If anything looked like it might go bad while I was gone, I ate it. There was also psychological preparation to be considered. Would I be up to the challenge? I knew I would approach my mission a middle-aged man. But after it was accomplished, what would I be like? And what of the world around me? Would it be much changed? And if so, how? You see, I was setting out to see the movie "Pearl Harbor," and at three hours plus, these are the sort of questions that most haunt the film critic's mind. But to coin a phrase, it turns out I had nothing to fear but fear itself. Thanks to an engrossing script by Randall Wallace ("Braveheart"), conductorial direction by Michael Bay and the invigorating work of an obviously dedicated cast, the time flew. And though some may argue the point,

I emerged from the theater a better man for the experience. For whether you're a history buff, unabashed patriot, summer film fanatic or just a sucker for a good love story, "Pearl Harbor" proves an instructive and moving entertainment.

True, it's a big commercial movie. It has most of the earmarks. The special effects are phenomenal; the art direction is outlandish; and the tale is splashing. But it diverges from its typical genre mates by also possessing that rarest of com-

YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Working Toward A Cure

AREA — Anyone who tells you that marriage is always a bed of roses should be selling real-estate near Chernobyl. Under the best of circumstances marriage means work for both husbands and wives. When one of the partners is ill, both parties must work a little bit harder to maintain a happy and productive marriage.

My wife is a Physical Education teacher and always appeared to be very healthy. Although my wife appeared healthy, she manifested symptoms of scleroderma and Ray-

naud's disease for at least 25 years. One night my wife shook me awake and said that there was something radically wrong with her. We then started to visit several doctors together. We continued to visit doctors until one of them suggested that we see a rheumatologist. The rheumatologist looked at her and almost immediately diagnosed her as having scleroderma. Her fingers were slightly discolored, her finger joints were swollen, her skin appeared to be tight and hard on her arms and legs. She also had little red

spots on her extremities. He took several blood tests that confirmed his diagnosis. The confirmation of the disease was almost a relief for both of us. We will always be extremely grateful to this doctor.

We joined a Scleroderma Foundation/Tri-State Chapter support group run by an extremely caring individual. We attended meetings together for approximately two years and learned a great deal about scleroderma and ways to cope with the disease. It is a great gift to have friends who care. The members of our support group were always a tremendous help. Our support group leader was an

inspiration to both of us. We decided that we would go to the Scleroderma Foundation's National Convention and learn how to be support group leaders for the North Jersey area. We have established the Tri-State Chapter's Teaneck Scleroderma Support Group. We will always strive to be of assistance to anyone who needs help.

There are over 300,000 people in the United States who share my wife's battle with scleroderma, a devastating, painful and potential life-threatening autoimmune disease affecting the skin, and, in many cases, internal organs. Currently, there is no cure for scleroderma, but

doctors across the country are working hard to develop one.

June is National Scleroderma Awareness Month. Please take a few moments this month to help fight the battle against scleroderma. Call the Tri-State Chapter, your local support chapter, at 1-800-867-0885 or the national Scleroderma Foundation helpline at 1-800-722-HOPE to find out how you can help. (Betty and John Lockwood run the Tri-State Teaneck Scleroderma Support Group. For more information, contact the Tri-State office at 1-800-867-0885.)

How To Handle A Family Medical Crisis

by Dr. Karen Ensle, RD, FADA, CFCS

AREA — Each year, thousands of American households face a severe medical crisis. Some people are diagnosed with cancer, heart disease, or diabetes while others are severely injured in an automobile or work-related accident. Almost as serious as a medical problem are its financial after-effects. Below are five tips for coping financially during a medical crisis:

1. **Identify Primary and Secondary Costs** — Primary costs are out-of-pocket expenses

for co-payments, deductibles, and physician and hospital bills not covered by health insurance. If you've never read the "fine print" of your health plan, now is the time to find out what is covered and what is not. For example, some traditional "fee for service" plans cover only 80% of the cost of radiation and chemotherapy and cancer patients are responsible for the balance. If these treatments cost \$50,000, you could be responsible for \$10,000 (20%). Secondary medical costs include mileage, parking, and tolls to travel to

hospitals, increased telephone bills to call doctors and family members, and lost wages for the patient and/or their spouse. To "find" money to pay these secondary costs, you may need to reduce expenses elsewhere or tap household savings. If you are one of the 44 million Americans lacking health insurance, investigate charity care, Medicaid, and the New Jersey Family Care program. For more information, check www.njfamilycare.org or call 1-800-701-0710.

2. **Keep Good Records** — Save every document related to your medical condition including diagnostic reports, medical bills, "explanation of benefits" statements from health insurers, and receipts or canceled checks for out-of-pocket expenses. If you belong to an HMO, save a copy of each referral form and note the expiration date and number of authorized visits to avoid a denial of claims. If you're scheduled for surgery or diagnostic tests, always ask if the procedure has been pre-certified.

3. **Don't Pay Bills Automatically** — Several recent published articles have reported that about

90% of hospital bills contain at least one error and the majority of mistakes are made in the hospital's favor. Check all bills for medical services and ask for explanations about questionable items. Also beware of medical providers who agree to accept a contracted rate from a managed care plan and then bill patients for an additional amount. Some people pay bills that they are actually not responsible for. If certain expenses are supposed to be covered, call the medical provider and/or your insurance company and ask why you received a bill.

4. **Consider Tax Benefits** — If unreimbursed medical costs exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income, they can be included as an itemized deduction on federal income tax returns. Among the expenses that can be deducted are: medical insurance premiums, meals and lodging during treatment, transportation expenses, home improvements required for medical care, and prescription

medicines. If your household income has decreased during a medical crisis and/or if you have a number of reimbursed expenses, you may qualify. Save your receipts.

5. **Consider Family and Medical Leave** — For employees of companies with 50 or more workers (within a 75-mile radius of each other) who lack employer-paid "sick days," family and medical leave can be used during a medical crisis to care for a family member or for oneself. Eligible employees can receive up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave per year and return to their previous (or similar) job and maintain health coverage while they're away. This leave can be taken in small increments. For example, cancer patients can take a few days or a week off after each chemotherapy treatment. You do not need to use the 12 weeks all at once. Employees must generally provide their employers with 30 days' advance notice when their leave is "foreseeable."



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Lupus Foundation Meeting

AREA — The Metro/Union County Branch of the Lupus Foundation of America, NJ Chapter will hold its monthly meeting on Sat., June 9, 11 a.m., at The Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Ave. & Randolph Rd., Plainfield (meeting in the Muhlenberg Room).

Arvind Kumar, M.D. Hematologist, will be the guest speaker. The topic will be announced at the time of the meeting. Members, families, friends and the general public are all invited to attend.

Lupus is a chronic, inflammatory disease which afflicts an estimated two million Americans. Lupus can affect the skin,

joints, heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, and other parts of the body. Although the disease is controllable in most people today, it can be fatal and there is still no known cause or cure.

The Lupus Foundation of America, NJ Chapter provides patient and family support services, information and referrals, public education about lupus and funds lupus research projects.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For further information about the meeting or about lupus, contact the Foundation office at 287 Market St., Elmwood Park, NJ 07407, 201-791-7868.

OBITUARIES

Donald Lachmund of Carteret

Mr. Donald M. Lachmund of Carteret died May 24 at home. He was 73.

Born in West New York, he lived in Guttenberg for 21 years before moving to Carteret 46 years ago.

He was an officer with the New York-New Jersey Port Authority Police for 22 years, where he was awarded three commendations before retiring in 1974.

After retiring, he was an inspector with the Middlesex County Mosquito Commission for 15 years.

Mr. Lachmund was a member of the Port Authority Benevolent Association and the Association of Port Authority Retirees.

He served in the Navy during World War II.

Mr. Lachmund was a former member of the F&AM Hoboken Lodge.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Dorothea E.; a son, Douglas; four daughters, Mrs. Deborah Bialowarczuk, Mrs. Dorothea Andrella, Donna and Mrs. Diane Corbett; a sister, Mrs. Mildred Reith; and 11 grandchildren.

Mark Mochan, Sr. of Carteret

Mr. Mark Mochan Sr. of Wichita, Kan. (formerly of Carteret) died May 28 at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita, Kan. He was 51.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided in Carteret before moving to Kansas 13 years ago.

He was employed as a steeplejack with Chelbian & Son for many years.

His parents, Peter and Helen Kubacki Mochan and three brothers, Joseph in 1980, James in 1981 and Robert in 1986 are all deceased.

Surviving are a son, Mark Mochan Jr. of Sewaren; three sisters, Linda Trafficante of Jersey City, Geraldine Sitar of Golden, Texas and Nancy Lovas of Woodbridge and a granddaughter, Amber Mochan.

Bertha Tuzeneau of Colonia

Mrs. Bertha Tuzeneau of Colonia died May 15 in Rahway Hospital. She was 91.

Born in Blaine City, Pa., she lived in Hazlet before moving to Colonia 50 years ago.

She was a press operator with Thomas & Betts Co. in Elizabeth for 28 years before retiring in 1974.

Surviving are five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Josephine P. Mullen of Edison

Mrs. Josephine P. Mullen of Edison died May 23 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 91.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Woodbridge for 49 years before moving to Edison 21 years ago.

She was a grand regent of the Catholic Daughters of America and a former member of the Altar Rosary Society of St. James Church and the Parent-Teacher Association of St. James School.

Surviving are two sons, John M. and James T.; two daughters, Rose Marie and Mrs. Joan Marie Venezia; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mary T. Morton, 71 of Edison

Mrs. Mary T. Morton of Edison died May 21 in Mount Carmel East Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. She was 71.

Born in Ireland, she lived in Edison for 30 years.

She was a secretary with Huls in Piscataway before retiring.

Earlier, she had been a secretary with The Star-Ledger.

Mrs. Morton was a member of the Irish Club of New Brunswick and past president of the Altar & Rosary Society of Guardian Angels Church.

Surviving are a son, Michael; a brother, Thomas Comer; and three grandchildren.

Susan Funicelli, 69 of Edison

Mrs. Susan (Caponigro) Funicelli of Edison died May 17 in JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 69.

Born in Newark, she lived in Edison for the past 35 years.

Mrs. Funicelli was a communicant of St. Matthew's R.C. Church, Edison, and a member of the Edison Senior Citizens.

Her husband, Stanley, died in 1995 and a brother, Thomas Caponigro in 1986.

Surviving are a son, Dino M. Funicelli of Edison; a brother, Anthony Caponigro of Irvington; and a sister, Josephine Maisto of South Orange.

William D. Daniel of Perth Amboy

Mr. William D. "Popcorn" Daniel of Perth Amboy died May 26 at Veterans Administration Hospital, Lebanon, Pa. He was 74.

Born in Belleville, he lived in Edison before moving to Perth Amboy three years ago.

He retired after 15 years as a truck driver for Pecter's in Harrison and was a member of the Bakery Drivers and Salesmen Local 194, Union.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of the Sgt. John B. Egan American Legion Post 45, Perth Amboy and Fords VFW Post 6090. He was also a member of the Free & Accepted Masons-Raritan Americus Lodge 61, Perth Amboy.

His wife, Cecelia Rupp Daniel, died in 1994.

Surviving are two sons, Andrew R. Daniel and Raymond W. Daniel; four daughters, Jodi M. Daniel, Renea D. DeVau, Elizabeth J. Murphy and Karen Y. Nichols; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Fred J. Luke, 81 of Perth Amboy

Mr. Fred J. Luke of Perth Amboy died May 27 at Perth Amboy Nursing Home. He was 81.

He was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy.

He was a truck driver for Colonial Trucking, South Plainfield, for many years.

Mr. Luke was a member of the First Baptist Church of Perth Amboy.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Ramona Kelley, 43 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Ramona Kelley of Perth Amboy died May 19 in Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 43.

Born in Elizabeth, she moved to Perth Amboy 15 years ago.

She was a nurse's aide at the Woodbridge State School.

She earned a nurse's aide certification from the Woodbridge State School.

Surviving are three sons, Troy and Allen Takell Lockley and Tony Maurice Kelley; two daughters, Tasha Ann and Eboni Shamirah; her father, John Henry Kelley; four brothers, Leonard Tucker, Wayne Mosley and John Jr., and Keith and Floyd Kelley; a sister, Mrs. Kim Akisanmi and a grandchild.

Hamilton Billings of Iselin

Mr. Hamilton William Billings, Jr. of Iselin died May 25 at home. He was 85.

Born in California, he lived in Colonia before moving to Iselin 56 years ago.

He worked for the Regina Corp., Rahway in electric booms production for 20 years before retiring. Before that, he was a laborer at the Security Steel Corp., Avenel, for several years.

He was an Army veteran of World War II, and served with the Headquarters-Company 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry, 38th Division. He received the Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star.

He received the Philippine

Anna Specht, 83 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Anna Specht of Toms River (formerly of Woodbridge) died April 30 at The Medical Center of Ocean County, Brick. She was 83.

Born in Queens, N.Y., she lived in Woodbridge for 46 years before moving to Toms River a year ago.

She was employed as a saleswoman by Abraham & Strauss

John P. Murphy, 85 of Iselin

Mr. John P. Murphy of Iselin died May 12 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 85.

Born in New York City, he lived in Iselin for the past 23 years.

He was a steamfitter engineer working out of Local 638, Pipefitters and Steamfitters Union, New York City, for 33 years before retiring in 1979.

Mr. Murphy was an Army veteran of World War II,

Liberation Medal, the Philippine Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Defense Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Citation and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Billings was a member of the American Legion T. Nulty Post 471, Iselin and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2636, Iselin.

Surviving are a son, Hamilton William 3rd; a daughter, Mrs. Diane Dodd; two sisters, Mrs. Mildred Gerner and Mrs. Violet Halpin; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

department store in Woodbridge for 20 years before retiring in 1992.

Her husband, Russell F. Specht, died in 1974.

Surviving are a son, Russell F. Specht of Brick; a sister, Edna Emme of Statesville, N.C.; and a brother, Julius Jirinec of Carteret.

attaining the rank of staff sergeant in a gun battery and saw action in Northern France, Central Europe and the Rhineland.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Iselin.

Surviving are his wife, Helen of 52 years; a daughter, Mrs. Veronica Bisordi; a sister, Mrs. Marie Donoghue; a brother, Michael; and a granddaughter.

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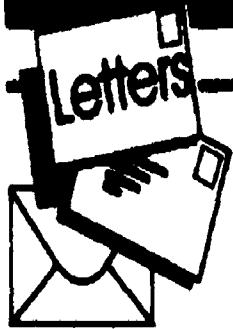
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• Dr. B. Glover-Williams, Executive Assistant Pastor

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EDITORIAL

READERS COMMENTARY



A Win/Win Proposal

Dear Editor,
City residents recently

rejected the Budget proposed by the South Amboy Board of Education by a resounding 2 to 1 vote against the spending plan. The questions proposed by the Board were likewise rejected.

Pursuant to State Regulation, the City Council along with the mayor and City Administrator are required to determine the final budget figures. The Board of Education has the right to appeal the decision of the City Council if an amicable, negotiated compromise cannot be achieved.

As the Mayor of South Amboy, I have the responsibility of providing leadership, giving serious consideration to the wishes of the electorate and most importantly, ensuring that the children who attend the public schools in the City of South Amboy receive the quality education they deserve.

During the past two weeks, I have engaged in a series of discussions and meetings with the City Administrator, the Council President, Superintendent of Schools, School Board President and the School Board's Business Administrator.

I have presented the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the Board of Education with a proposal which if accepted by the majority of the Board of Education, will ensure that our children will receive the quality education they deserve via an improved curriculum and the taxpayers in the City of South Amboy will not be subject to a tax rate increase for school purposes.

My proposal is based on the Board of Education agreeing to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City specific to providing transportation services to special needs students. After careful review and consideration, the Board President, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Board of Education Business Administrator are confident that this proposal works and have accepted it.

Council President Jim Reick and City Business Administrator Stan Marcinczyk have been involved in the process on an on-going basis. I have asked Stan to draft the intended agreement within the framework of our prior discussions.

There is an added advantage to City taxpayers in that the State Department of Community Affairs provides added tax relief directly to residents based on savings that result from interlocal agreements.

In my view, this is a win/win proposal for everyone involved.

It is my hope that all members of the Board of Education will vote favorably on this proposal.

There is an alternative plan which would result in no tax increase and preclude the Board of Education from appealing the City Council decision.

This is about leadership, it's about compromise and it's about common sense.

I trust that the entire board will realize that their major responsibility is the children of his community and the quality of the education they receive.

John O'Leary
Mayor of South Amboy

See Me As
Others See Me

This is from the flag that once flew so proudly in front of your business. Please notice that I said "once flew so proudly."

I am writing this letter to ask that you please take me down. You see, I am ashamed of my appearance. I am tired and very tattered and torn. I can no longer fly proudly when strangers drive past and look at me with shame and a tear in their eyes. I represent our fathers, sons, brothers, sisters, mothers, daughters, uncles, aunts, husbands and wives who have fought and died beneath my stars and stripes to keep this country free.

I am asking to be taken down so that I may be retired with dignity and be able to rest in peace knowing that a new flag is hanging so proudly in my place.



I ask that you take a moment to step outside and take a really good look at me in my present condition and try to understand how I feel at this very moment. My hope is that you will look at my appearance and see me as others see me, and that you will then replace me. As you take me down, take a moment to remember how you felt when you first flew me.

Please donate me to one the following organizations so that I may be properly retired: The American Legion, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Boy Scouts of America, The United States Marines, or your local Elks Lodge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Your Country's Flag



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOHN WISNIEWSKI'S
**Report
From
Trenton**

Did you ever notice how a lot of the things we enjoy really aren't that good for us? Take coffee for example. Many of us really love that cup of coffee in the morning, but too much caffeine gives you all kinds of problems. And what about the sun? We all need the sun. It gives us strength, gives us Vitamin D, and gives us color, and if we aren't careful, too much exposure to the sun can give us skin cancer.

Each summer, many of us flock to the beaches and pools, enjoying the summer sun and sand. However, that love of the sun can cause serious harm down the road. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Each year, over one million new cases of basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma are diagnosed, and an additional 41,600 people will be stricken with malignant melanoma each year.

Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, while not often life threatening, can cause considerable damage and disfigurement if they are left untreated. With early detection and treatment, more than 95% of these carcinomas can be cured.

Malignant melanoma accounts for more than 75% of all deaths due to skin cancer. It is not only the most deadly form of skin cancer, but it is also the most rapidly increasing form of cancer in the United States. But keep in mind, as with many types of cancer, early detection dramatically reduces the mortality rate attributed to the disease.

While these numbers are frightening, it is important to note that learning the ABCD's of skin cancer; Asymmetry, Border irregularity, Color variability, and Diameter larger than a pencil eraser, can save a life.

The best prevention against skin cancer is being smart about the sun. Adults, children, and infants older than six months should always use a sun screen with an SPF of 15 or higher when outdoors, regardless of the weather. Even overcast days can be dangerous because the ultraviolet rays from the sun can penetrate cloud cover.

But remember, everyone has to be careful of too much exposure to the sun. Not just the people who go to the beach with a book and some baby oil. You need to protect yourself whether you are by the pool or planting flowers or watching the Little League game. Wear sunscreen and wear a hat. And you can help too by performing a thorough self examination at least once every three months, and follow up with your doctor if you see anything suspicious.

My office has made available to you a brochure regarding skin cancer exams and prevention techniques. Any individual or organization interested in receiving a copy of this brochure should contact my office at 732-316-1885 or E-mail my office at AsmWisniewski@njleg.state.nj.us. I urge residents to follow the simple prevention methods in this brochure to ensure that it is not only a fun summer, but a safe one as well.

S n i g L e t t e r s

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

Hamadi Alston, a student in Irvington, recently stood up at his desk, pointed a gun at his classmates and said: "I'm going to kill you all." Before you assume this is about another deadly school shooting, there are some additional facts to the story, as reported in *The Newark Star Ledger*: the setting was a second-grade classroom, Hamadi is eight years old and his "gun" was made of paper.

When Hamadi said he was only imitating his friend, Jaquill Shelton, with whom he had been playing cops and robbers earlier in the day, both

boys were suspended. Under the town's zero tolerance policy, the boys and their parents were escorted by police to the local headquarters to be interrogated by a juvenile detective. After *nine hours* of questioning, they were charged with making terrorist threats.

I kid you not. The school superintendent, Ernest Jones admitted the boys meant no harm (but was afraid of losing his job) defended the police intervention policy, saying rules are rules. Hamadi's father, Ron Alston, who still is mired in the legal system over his son's use of paper, had the best assessment: "This is stupid, stupid, stupid. How (in a free society) can you take two boys to the police precinct over a paper gun? This is very bad judgement of the politicians and law enforcement." DITTOS.

And then there's...

According to the Associated Press, first-grader Christopher Kissinger was suspended for three days from his public school in Jonesboro, AR for pointing a weapon at his teacher and saying, "Pow, pow, pow!" Jonesboro is, of course, where four students and a teacher were killed in a schoolyard in 1998 when two youths opened fire on them.

But in this case, the offending weapon was...a breaded chicken finger. It was not reported what caliber the chicken finger was. Using a chicken finger as an imaginary weapon apparently violates the school district's

zero-intolerance policy.

Dan Sullivan, the principal of South Elementary School, waxed philosophical about the incident. He said punishment for threats "depends on the tone, the demeanor and in some manner you judge the intent. It's not the object, in the hand, it's the thought in the mind." I see. So little Christopher's real offense was the thought of a fictional attack with a poultry part. I'm sure suspending first graders who aim chicken fingers at people will prevent any school violence from ever happening again.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Perth Amboy Entrepreneurship Initiative A Success

PERTH AMBOY—Perth Amboy's historic train station, built on the Bay Head Line in 1923, will become the home of a Manhattan Bagel franchise owned and operated by MCEOC. This exciting new venture in fighting poverty will employ Armed Forces veterans, broadening the range of opportunities available to homeless veterans by offering jobs with training in areas of management, finance, sales, food handling and food preparation.

Present at the signing were: Perth Amboy's Mayor Joseph

Vas; MCEOC's Chief Executive Officer Carroll H. Thomas; Wayne Berry, representing Manhattan Bagel; President of Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce Barbara J. Booz; MCEOC's Corporate Attorney William Miller; Matthew Meehan, the Chief Volunteer Officer of the Manhattan Bagel Project; support staff and community members.

During his remarks, Mayor Vas stated, "We are extremely pleased that Manhattan Bagel has chosen to join the renaiss-

sance taking place in Perth Amboy. With the million dollar restoration of our train station nearing completion, we look forward to working with MCEOC to make this vital transportation hub a state-of-the-art commuter center."

Primarily recognized as a provider of Head Start and Child Care Programs, MCEOC, C.E.O. shared that the agreed-upon business plan is predicting profits of \$223,539 by the project's fifth year. "We like to say, 'Eat a bagel, save a child,'" said Thomas. "Profits realized from Manhattan Bagel will help support children's programs and services."

Roger Craig, former Freeholder and current Vice Chairman of the MCEOC Trustee Board, stated that, "It's wonderful to be on the mainline with NJ Transit and Manhattan Bagel to help veterans, Head Start kids, and for all people we help in Middlesex County."

EDISON MAYOR RECOGNIZES OPERATION STROKE PROJECT



Edison resident Dr. Souvik Sen, co-chairman of the American Stroke Association's Middlesex County Operation Stroke project, is pictured receiving a proclamation recognizing Stroke Awareness Month and Middlesex County Operation Stroke from Edison Mayor George A. Spadaro at a recent Edison Township presentation. The American Stroke Association is a division of the American Heart Association. Sen, director of stroke services for the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute at JFK Medical Center, and Mayor Spadaro urged residents to know the warning signs of stroke and to treat stroke as an urgent medical emergency, calling 9-1-1 immediately if stroke symptoms occur.

CARING ABOUT KIDS



Dr. Rudy Nilooban of Edison Pediatrics Associates is pictured here, receiving Easter Baskets from Boy Scout Charles Defendorf. Dr. Nilooban helped St. John the Apostle Boy Scout Troop #330 of Clark/Linden to distribute two dozen Easter Baskets that the Scouts assembled. They wanted to help brighten the Holiday for local area children whose families could use a helping hand.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned Repair Facility in accordance with N.J.S. 39:10A-1 et seq. Notice Requirements, shall expose for sale on June 11, 2001 at 9 am the following vehicle in As Is Condition, which came into facilities possession through abandonment or failure of Owners or any Parties of Interest to claim same, at the following location: Danny's Auto Connection, 163 Port Reading Ave., Port Reading, who is claiming a Lien in the amount of \$11,409.80 on a 1995 Dodge Vint# 3P3ES67C6ST585935.

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LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS JOIN IN "AMERICA'S BULLPEN"—Members of the Perth Amboy Girl Scout Troop #706 and two of their troop leaders are pictured with New York Mets and Philadelphia Phillies baseball great Tug McGraw, the celebrity chairman of the American Heart Association's New Jersey's National CPR Weekend event. McGraw thanks Girl Scout Troop #706 for taking such an interest in learning to save lives with CPR and attending National CPR Weekend to join him as a member of "America's bullpen." Just over 800 people attended the American Heart Association's National CPR Weekend in New Jersey, one of the more than 50 free mass community CPR training events throughout the country. McGraw, a former baseball relief pitcher, coined the phrase "America's bullpen" to acknowledge that everyone learning CPR has the skill to "make the save" by using CPR to save someone's life. Save the life of someone you love by learning CPR anytime during the year. Call the American Heart Association at 1-877-AHA-4CPR for information.



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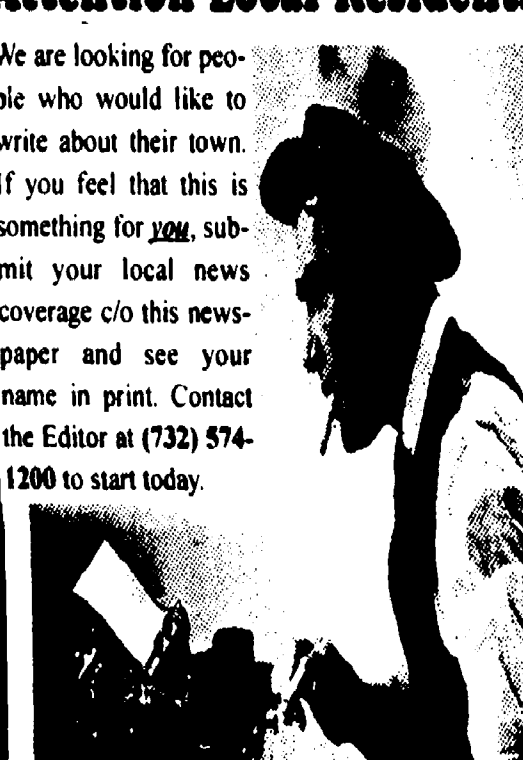
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SAL D'ADDARIO HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS, INC.

Serving Union, Middlesex, Monmouth & Ocean Counties
For Over 50 Years

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RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
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Free Estimates

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43 Cutters Dock Road

Woodbridge

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• Deck, Sealing & Staining

• Complete

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MOST HOMES 1 DAY COMPLETION

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A & A TREE SERVICE

Free Estimates

Fully Insured

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FIREWOOD

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(Gutter System)

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ask about our 6 point Gutter Tune-up

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Protect Your Investment!

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"GUARANTEED SERVICE • BEST PRICES"

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• Landscaping • Snow Removal • Spring & Fall Clean-up

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