

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

VOL. 128, NO. 1

Friday, January 5, 2001

Incorporating the Atom Tabloid, South Amboy Citizen & Perth Amboy Gazette

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Democrats Override Tenure Veto GOP Takes Control of Council

SAYREVILLE- Democrats managed to protect the job of Bernard Bailey last week by overriding Mayor Kennedy O'Brien's veto of an ordinance that gave tenure to the public works director, but Republicans quickly asserted themselves by taking control of the municipal council on Monday.

Four Democratic council members voted to override O'Brien's tenure veto at a special meeting last week, while the two GOP council members opposed the motion.

The meeting was scheduled

by Sayreville Democrats after the Republican mayor vetoed the ordinance that provides for tenure for Bailey, who has served as public works director since 1995.

The Jan. 1 reorganization put the GOP in control of the council for the first time in six years. Phyllis Butko and John Melillo replaced Democrats Mary Novak and Ray Skarzynski, giving Republicans a 4-2 majority on the council.

Republicans fulfilled some of their key campaign promises on New Year's Day by introducing

an ordinance close bars at 2 a.m. instead of the current 3 a.m. closing time, which has been in place for more than 60 years, and another measure to ban nude dancing in the borough.

A public hearing and final vote on the new closing time is scheduled for Jan. 22.

In his second annual address, O'Brien said, "We're on the road to redefining who and what we are" and the mayor expressed optimism that economic progress would continue in the year ahead.

Searching For Super

SOUTH AMBOY - Robert Bloodgood will retire at the end of June, and school board members are hopeful they will have selected the superintendent's replacement by then.

The board agreed to set an application deadline on Feb. 16.

The board will interview candidates for the top school job in March, with a second round of interviews in April.

Board members hope to have Bloodgood's replacement hired by May 1, to give the old and new school superintendents a chance to together.

Bloodgood, schools superintendent since 1996, has been with the district for 34 years.

School Board Petitions Available

SOUTH AMBOY - Residents interested in running for the Board of Education must file nominating petitions by Feb. 26.

Elections will take place Tuesday, April 17 for three seats on the school board.

To become a member of a local board of education in New Jersey, you must:

- Be able to read and write;
- Hold citizenship and one year's residence in the school district;
- Have no interest in any contract with, or claim against, the board of education;
- Not hold office as mayor or member of the governing body of the same district;
- Be registered to vote in the district and not be disqualified as a voter under state law (N.J.S.A. 19:4-1).

Board members are elected by the district's voters at the annual school election for terms of three years.

To be included on the ballot, candidates must obtain the signatures of at least 10 voters living in the district.

Nominating petitions must be filed with the school board secretary by 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26.

A kit, published by the New Jersey School Boards Association that includes information about legal qualifications, campaign procedures, and the role of school board members, can be picked up at the local Board of Education office.

NJSBA President Patti J. Pawling urged residents to consider Board of Education

membership. "Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education," Pawling said. "The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in your community, its children, and their education."

The state Campaign Contributions and Reporting Act requires candidates in school elections who receive any contribution including their own funds, to file forms with the Election Law Enforcement Commission.

For information on campaign reporting requirements, contact the Election Law Enforcement Commission at (609) 292-8700. Additional information is also available online at www.njsba.org

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

"Lunch And Learn" About Mammography

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Middlesex County Health Ambassador "Lunch and Learn" seminar, can help save lives for women in Middlesex County by educating community leaders on breast health and the benefits of mammography. The seminar, presented by the Middlesex County Coalition in collaboration with the Peer Review Organization of New Jersey (PRONJ) will be held on Jan. 11 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Woodbridge Housing Authority in Woodbridge.

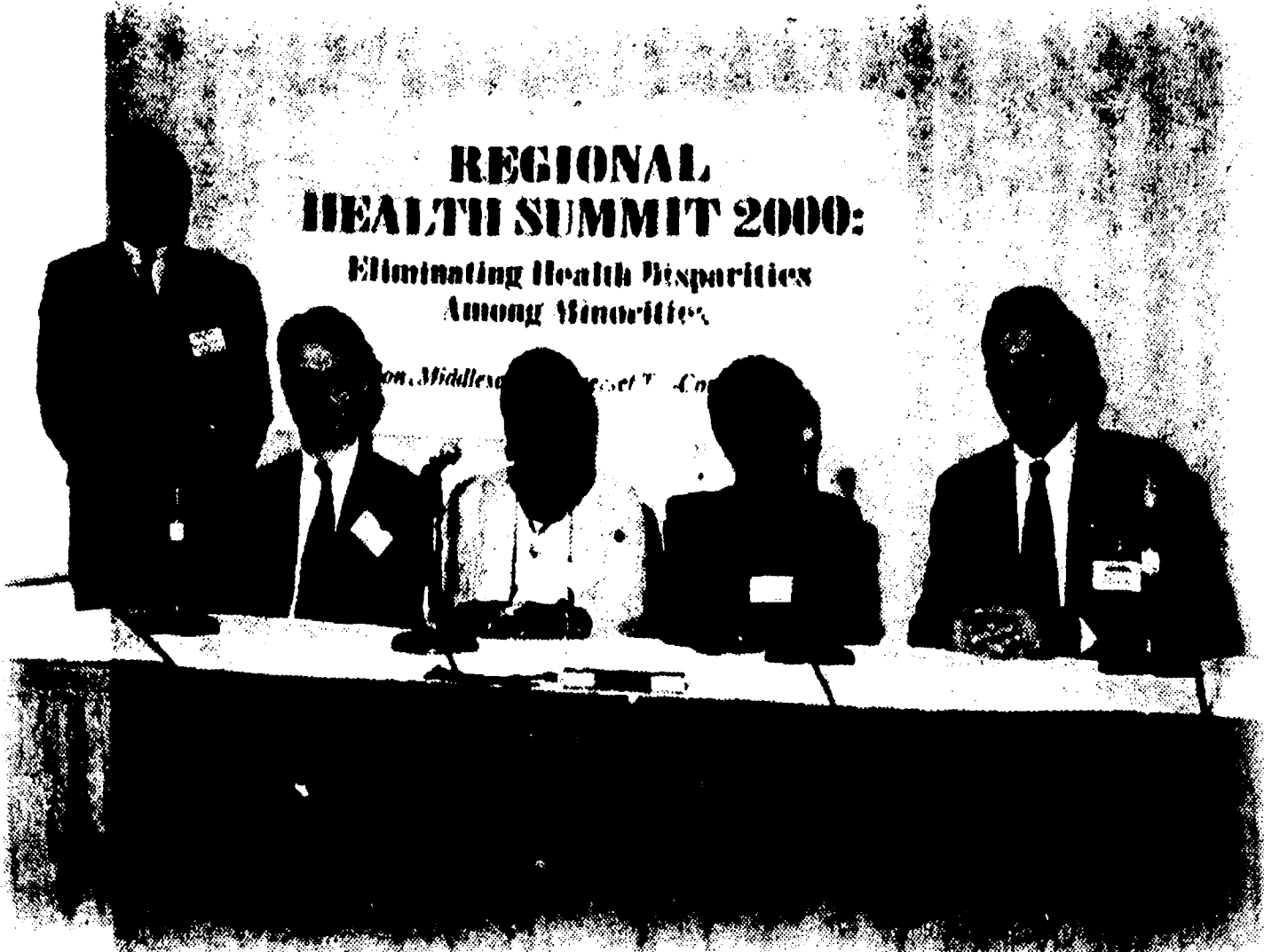
Speakers will educate health-care providers and community leaders on breast health and the need for women over age 40 to get annual mammograms. The Middlesex County Coalition includes representatives from the Middlesex County Office on Aging, Woodbridge Division on

Aging, Woodbridge Health Department, American Cancer Society, St. Peter's University Hospital, PRONJ, Middlesex County and South Brunswick Health Departments. The coalition is united in their goals to increase mammography rates for women in Middlesex County.

The probability of developing breast cancer increases with age. However, Medicare statistics indicate more than 52 percent of women in Middlesex County do not get annual mammograms. Mammography can diagnose breast cancer in its earliest stages, when it's most treatable.

Reservations are required.

For more information, contact Jacki Roschblach at (732) 238-5570, ext. 2103.



CENTERS HOST MINORITY HEALTH SUMMIT—Julane Miller-Ambrister, (second from L.), co-chair of the Regional Health Summit 2000 and President and Chief Executive Officer of the Plainfield Health Center, welcomes featured speakers to the event, which focused on eliminating health care disparities among minorities. The successful summit, with more than 120 people attending, was organized by JFK Medical Center, Edison, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield and the Plainfield Health Center and developed a community steering committee. With Miller-Ambrister are (from R.-L.) Jerome C. Harris, Executive Director for the Urban and Public Policy Institute at Rowan University; George DiFerdinando, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Services for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; Linda Holmes, Executive Director for the Office of Minority Health for the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services; and John P. McGee, President and Chief Executive Officer of Solaris Health System. Summit speakers encouraged participants and the organizations they represent to invest time and resources in programs that will lead to health status improvements for minority populations.

Franklin Villagers Presents The Compelling "New" Play By Tennessee Williams

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Franklin Villagers, New Jersey's premiere community theatre company, is presenting *Not About Nightingales*, the recently discovered early play by Tennessee Williams, one of America's greatest playwrights. This riveting drama opens on Friday, January 12.

Written in 1938 during the height of the Great Depression, *Not About Nightingales* was uncovered by legendary actress Vanessa Redgrave, and received its world premiere in London in 1998, sixty years after it was written! It was immediately declared "one of the most remarkable theatrical discoveries of the last quarter century."

Based on actual events, the play follows the shocking story of a prison uprising, which galvanized the nation; unruly prisoners involved in a hunger

strike were locked in a steam-heated cell and roasted to death. The story, initially reported by local papers, swept the nation and resulted in a huge public outcry, compelling the young, soon-to-be famous playwright to take his typewriter and passionately rail against social injustice. *Not About Nightingales* was a play of its time: a politically charged, socially conscious play that dealt with the issues of the American downtrodden during one of the most difficult times in America's social history. Its sympathetic depiction of the social outcasts of the 1930's (in this case blacks and homosexuals) was later given as one of the reasons that this play was unable to find a producer when it was written.

Not About Nightingales was one of the first full-length plays by Tennessee Williams, who

would later on on to international fame for such plays as *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Speaking about *Nightingales*, Williams later observed, "I have never written anything since that could compete with it in violence and horror."

Directing *Not About Nightingales* is Jonathan Wierzbicki, who in addition to making his Villager's directorial debut in the evenings is also a practicing physician by day. "*Nightingales* is unlike anything Williams wrote, because it is so political and there is so much graphic violence," says Dr. Wierzbicki. "Of course, America was not as immune to violence as it was when Williams first wrote the play, so the challenge is to make it exciting and relevant to today's

(continued on page...3)

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- Published by Devine Media Enterprises, Inc. -
P.O. Box 3095, South Amboy, New Jersey 08879
Phone: (732) 574-1200 - Fax: (732) 388-4143 - E-mail: devine@usa.net

James J. Devine - Publisher
JennaLee Gallicchio - Editor

PRODUCTION STAFF:
Production Manager - Michele I. Nagiewicz
Graphic Designers - Lenore A. Ledzion, R.E. Barker, Michael Angelo Alfonso
Typesetter - Carol J. Green • Proofreader - Garnet R. Pisano

ADVERTISING STAFF:
Retail Advertising Director - Francene Sciortino-Kopas

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The Atom Tabloid & Citizen-Gazette (USPS 501-860) is published weekly on Friday by Devine Media Enterprises, Inc. Subscription rates are \$15 per year, \$50 outside Middlesex County. Periodicals postage paid at South Amboy, NJ, and other post offices.
POSTMASTER - Send address changes to:
Atom Tabloid & Citizen-Gazette, P.O. Box 3095, South Amboy, NJ, 08879.

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JFK Medical Center Presents To Auxiliary Unique Plaque

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — JFK Medical Center recently held a celebration and dedication ceremony for the official unveiling of the contribution wall honoring the Auxiliary for its contributions to the facility.

The contribution wall proudly exhibits a plaque, an artistic piece of "family history" that illustrates a timeline. It chronicles past members, the Auxiliary's work and donations to the medical center since 1962, five years prior to JFK Medical Center even being built. The display plaque has also been designed to branch out and to showcase future accomplishments or "with enough room to add on to," as John P. McGee, president and CEO of Solaris Health System lightheartedly said. He also extended his most sincere appreciation and said the medical center's main lobby was "the most appropriate place to honor the Auxiliary and proudly display their accomplishments."

"The Auxiliary has raised \$7.5 million dollars to benefit the medical center in its more than 30-year history," exclaimed John G. Nolan, Jr., vice president of the JFK Medical Center Foundation. "On behalf of the administration, management and entire staff of the medical center, I would like to extend a special thanks to all of the Auxiliary's presidents—past and present—and the leadership of the Auxiliary for their decades of committed support."

The celebration for the dedi-

cation of the official wall included a traditional high tea, served with the Auxiliary's "special occasion" silver tea service. The medical center's Food and Nutrition Department went the extra mile to include homemade goodies, such as scones and a unique fruit dip to accompany a fruit platter. The extra touches and the audience in attendance, including Richard L. Hines, chairman, Board of Directors, Solaris Health System and Thomas Sharp, chairman of the JFK Medical Center Board of Directors, demonstrated a true appreciation for the Auxiliary's services to the medical center.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, both Doris DeSarno, current president and A. Joyce Busch, past president and current advisor of the Auxiliary, extended their gratitude for "this moment of appreciation" and for "the timeline of history displayed on the lovely wall."

The Auxiliary of the JFK Medical Center Foundation, with a membership of more than 500 volunteers, has been in existence since 1962. Activities and programs the Auxiliary sponsors include community awareness campaigns, significant financial support to the medical center through fundraisers, scholarships for local college students and merit awards for local high school students. JFK Medical Center is an affiliate of Solaris Health System, serving the greater central New Jersey region.

"New" Play By Tennessee Williams continued...

audiences. We plan to do that by grasping the audience with an abundance of sensory images: light sound and music. And, or course, with the great resources of the Villagers stage, there are exciting possibilities with the set as well."

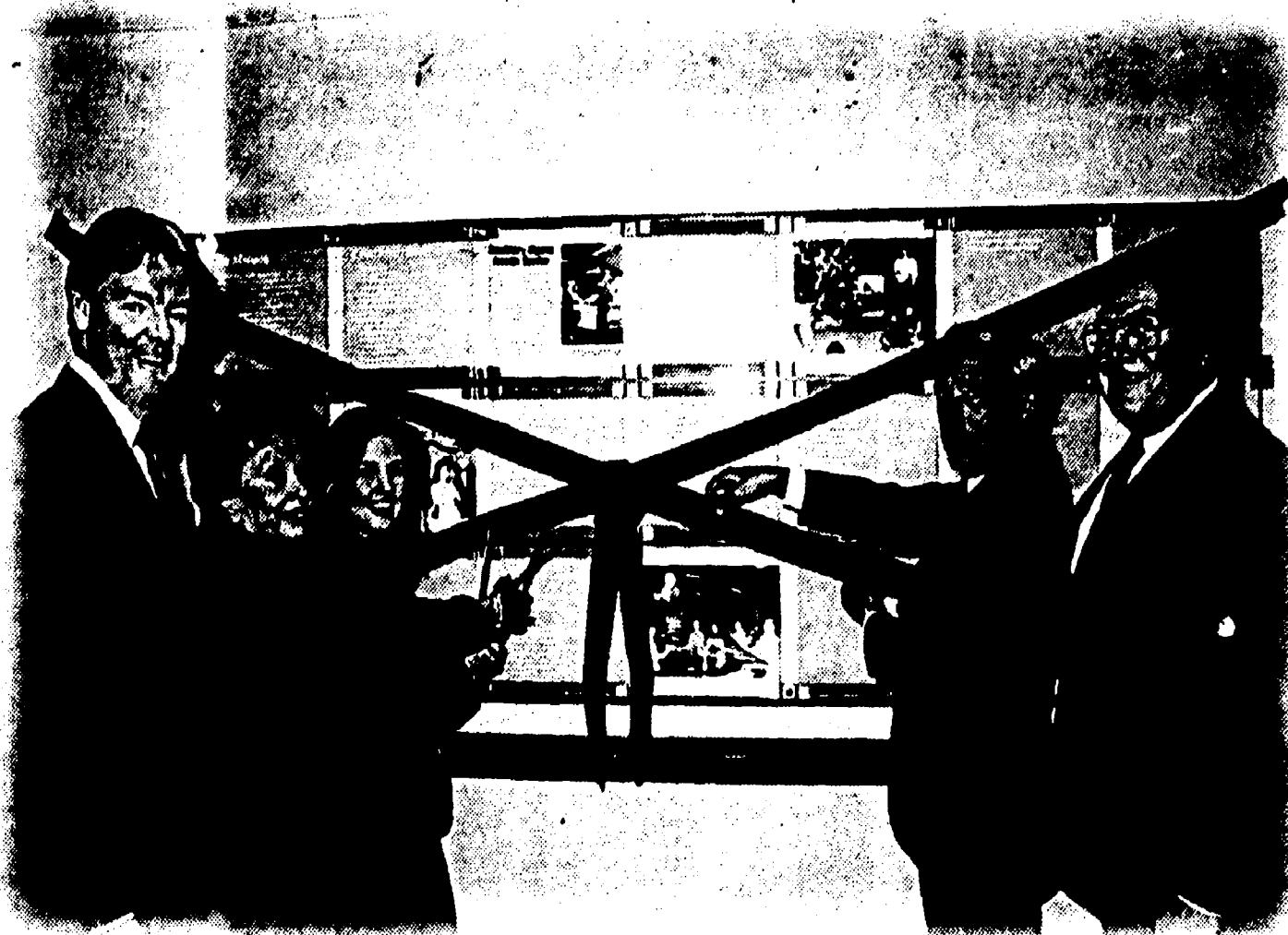
Mr. Wierzbicki has assembled a terrific cast, including: Patrick Andrae as convict Jim Allison, Jeff Maschi as convict Butch O'Fallon, Jerry Marino as Boss Whalen and Vikki Massulli as secretary Eva Crane.

Not About Nightingales will run from Saturday, Jan. 12—

Saturday, Feb. 3 in a state of the art theatre located in the Franklin Township Municipal complex. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$12 for students and seniors with valid I.D. Group rates are also available.

For more information about the Theatre, Subscriptions, the Drama Camp or to order tickets call The Villager's Box Office at (732) 873-2710.

For additional information, call The Villagers' Press Office at (732) 873-3009.



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY—John G. Nolan, Jr. (L.), vice president of the JFK Medical Center Foundation, joins the medical center's celebration and dedication ceremony for the official unveiling of the contribution wall honoring the Auxiliary of the JFK Medical Center for its contributions to the facility. The contribution wall proudly exhibits a plaque, an artistic piece of "family history" that illustrates a timeline. It chronicles past members, the Auxiliary's work and donations to the medical center since 1962; five years prior to JFK Medical center even being built. Pictured (L.-R.) are Doris DeSarno, current Auxiliary president; a Joyce Busch, past president and current advisor of the Auxiliary; Thomas Sharp, chairman of the JFK Medical Center Board of Directors; and Richard L. Hines, chairman, Board of Directors, Solaris Health System.

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AREA & STATE NEWS

Measure Amending Forgery Statue Passes Assembly

STATE—The Assembly approved legislation that would make it a specific crime to possess or produce forged sales receipts and UPC labels.

“Forgery is an offense that stretches beyond the mere counterfeiting of checks,” said Assembly Neil M. Cohen.

“With the rapid advancement of technology, criminals are now able to use equipment that enables them to forge documents that in the past were almost impossible to copy. It’s time for our law books to reflect the crimes of the 21st century underworld.”

The bill (A-2803) amends New Jersey’s forgery statute to include falsified retail sales receipts and universal product code (UPC) labels. Currently, state law only lists the forging of checks as a crime.

Forgery is generally a crime of the fourth degree—which is punishable by up to 18 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Under this bill, a person convicted of forging 15 or more bogus sales receipts or UPC labels is guilty of a crime of the third degree—which is punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$15,000. Possession of less than 15 of these items is a disorderly persons offense.

“The state must ensure that the counterfeiting of sales receipts and UPC labels fall within the definition of forgery,” said Cohen. “Today’s criminals are highly educated and are capable of forging almost any document. To effectively combat fraud, New Jersey needs to regularly update its laws to reflect the changing face of forgery.”

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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
32	25	37/27	38/26	34/14	30/15	30/16	33/26

THE WEEK AHEAD... NATIONAL SUMMARY THE WEEK AHEAD...

Temperatures

Arctic air masses will continue to dominate the nation, sending temperatures as much as 15 degrees below normal across the Tennessee Valley. Wet weather will be found across the southern Plains, spreading across the Gulf Coast, then up the Eastern Seaboard.

Precipitation

U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	47 35 c	44 31 r	42 25 c	41 21 c
Boston	24 14 pc	28 20 pc	36 24 sn	37 20 sn
Chicago	16 4 pc	20 6 c	23 9 sf	22 4 c
Cleveland	28 16 pc	30 20 sn	28 14 sn	25 9 sn
Denver	39 13 c	33 11 pc	37 13 c	39 23 c
Des Moines	22 11 sn	18 6 sf	18 7 c	19 2 pc
Detroit	18 10 pc	22 17 sn	27 13 sf	24 7 sn
Houston	50 33 pc	54 33 s	56 36 c	50 32 c
Indianapolis	29 20 c	25 17 sn	23 9 sf	22 8 c
Kansas City	24 17 sn	26 13 pc	26 11 pc	25 9 s
Los Angeles	74 46 s	74 47 s	74 46 s	74 45 s
Miami	78 65 r	78 60 r	76 58 c	72 51 sh
Minn.- St. Paul	14 -2 sn	12 -6 c	8 -6 sf	12 -2 c
New Orleans	59 44 r	61 40 pc	53 34 c	51 32 c
New York City	28 20 pc	32 26 pc	30 24 sn	34 17 sn
Omaha	22 11 sn	20 6 c	19 5 pc	23 6 pc
Phoenix	69 43 s	71 43 s	67 43 pc	67 41 s
San Francisco	58 44 s	59 44 s	58 43 s	58 44 s
Seattle	46 38 c	48 39 c	48 39 sh	47 32 sh
Washington	32 20 pc	34 26 i	30 24 pc	33 18 pc

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	7:20 a.m.	4:38 p.m.
Fri.	7:20 a.m.	4:38 p.m.

Moonrise Moonset

	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	9:27 a.m.	7:22 p.m.
Fri.	10:02 a.m.	8:19 p.m.

Moon Phases

	New	First	Full	Last
Dec				
Jan	16	25	Jan 2	Jan 9

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	40 30 sn	38 38 c	37 34 sn	36 31 sn
Berlin	40 33 c	34 30 pc	34 27 sn	32 31 sn
Buenos Aires	85 63 s	89 63 s	88 62 s	85 67 s
Cairo	76 53 s	74 45 s	64 45 s	67 49 pc
Jerusalem	62 43 s	65 42 s	54 39 s	53 42 c
Johannesburg	83 64 pc	83 63 pc	81 61 pc	86 61 s
London	38 29 pc	39 29 c	36 28 c	39 30 pc
Madrid	48 45 pc	53 41 pc	51 38 sh	46 44 r
Mexico City	64 47 pc	59 45 r	58 47 r	57 43 sh
Moscow	30 29 sn	35 31 i	37 29 i	35 27 i
Paris	38 32 pc	37 26 sn	31 25 sn	33 24 c
Rio de Janeiro	83 71 pc	83 71 pc	83 72 pc	80 71 r
Rome	54 36 pc	51 43 pc	52 30 pc	45 31 pc
San Juan	84 73 pc	86 73 pc	85 73 pc	84 71 pc
Seoul	39 24 pc	40 28 pc	34 20 s	37 30 s
Sydney	74 60 s	70 58 s	72 66 pc	79 67 pc
Tokyo	44 38 c	46 32 s	49 48 pc	53 35 pc
Toronto	18 10 c	19 18 sn	20 19 sn	20 14 sn
Winnipeg	0-17 pc	-1-15 c	0-11 c	5-8 c
Zurich	34 24 sn	33 26 sn	29 25 sn	27 24 sn

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS**Attention Taxpayers: You May Be Entitled To A Tax Return**

STATE—Just in time for the holidays, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. is urging residents of the Sixth Congressional District who believe they are entitled to a tax return from last year to contact his office.

More than 250 current and former Sixth District residents are entitled to tax returns from 1999, but the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has been unable to locate them. (The Sixth District includes most of Middlesex County, as well as the coastal and Bayshore areas of Monmouth County).

The list of taxpayers owed a refund on his website: www.house.gov/pallone. Those who see their names on this list should call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to get their refund, or fill out Form 3911 (Taxpayers Statement Regarding Refund) and send it to IRS. Pallone's site also includes the names of people who are still owed a 1998 refund.

Area residents can also contact any of Pallone's area offices to see if their name is on the list. For privacy reasons, the list does not indicate how much money

the taxpayers have coming to them.

Postal Service rules require that the IRS refunds be returned to the government if the checks are undeliverable. That could happen if a person does not leave a forwarding address, gets married and does not have the check addressed to the new name or if the address on the tax return is illegal or incorrect. In cases where the taxpayer is deceased, the executor of his or her estate may be unaware that the refund is unclaimed. Federal law prohibits the IRS from

releasing on its own the names of those due unclaimed refunds.

"These unclaimed or undeliverable checks are just collecting dust at the IRS," Pallone said. "Since current laws prevents the IRS from releasing the names on their own, I'm trying to get the word out. Some of the refunds may be for relatively small amounts, and people may have just forgotten about them. But I'm sure that some of these refunds are quite significant, and that people are just not aware that they are entitled. This

money does not get forfeited back to the government. It just sits there until the day someone claims it. This is the taxpayers' money and we need to get it back to them."

Pallone said he would also support legislation requiring the IRS to post the names of people who are entitled to undelivered tax refunds on their web site. This would allow taxpayers, no matter where they are, to log on to the IRS web site to find out if they have an unclaimed tax refund.

Measure Creating A State Government Review Commission Advances

STATE—Legislation was introduced that would create a Commission to review and evaluate the effectiveness of state programs.

The Commission will report to the Legislature as to the performance of state agencies and the programs they administer.

"More checks and balances are needed so taxpayers and their elected representatives are fully informed about how government agencies perform," said Assemblyman John Wisniewski. "Giving the Legislature the ability to review each state agency and its programs will serve to eliminate future debacles like E-ZPass and Parsons auto inspections."

The measure (A-2703) would establish the Joint Commission on Governmental Per-

formance Review and Evaluation, which will convene as it sees fit or by request of the Legislature. The Commission will be made up of nine bipartisan members, including four Senators and four Assembly members and the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer, who would serve ex-officio.

"The Legislature appropriates billions of dollars to various state agencies and programs," said Wisniewski. "There needs to be some accountability for the funds. Are they being spent in the interests of the people and for the purposes the Legislature appropriated them?"

The Commission would provide a report to the Legislature at least once every two years. The report may include a summary review, an update of pre-

vious reviews, recommendations to the Legislature, a report on misuse or deficiency within a state agency or program and recommendations to correct the problems.

A seven-year schedule will be adopted to evaluate different groups of state programs that are inter-related. The Commission will inform a group up for review a year prior to its examination.

The Commission's main purpose is to ascertain if a program meets the following criteria: Is there a valid public need for the program? Is the Legislative intent being carried out? Is the program or agency in the public's best interest? Are the program's objectives defined? Can the program's results be measured? Is the program or agency

being managed efficiently?

"Commissioners and high level managers receive periodic memos and updates regarding the effectiveness of the programs they oversee," said Wis-

niewski. "It's time the Legislature is privy to that information so it can evaluate whether a program provides the benefit that was intended."



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AARP NEWS

ISELIN Chapter #3810—The Iselin Chapter of AARP #3810 has announced the following trips for the year 2001:

Feb. 17, 2001—Broadway Show, "Chicago." Spring—3 days/2 nights, Rhode Island, Block Island and Foxwood. April 19—Lunch & Show, "Hello Dolly." June 23—Lunch & Show, "Dancing in the Street"; July 5—Show, "Carou-sel"; Aug. 11—Summer Musical and Lunch at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse; Nov. 4—show, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," and Oct.—8 days/7 night trip to the Casino Capital of the South Tunica, Mississippi Beale Street Tour, Tour of Graceland, Nashville, Memphis; Grand Ole Opry, Mississippi River Boat Cruise and much, much more.

For more information, call (732) 283-2790.

All meetings are held at the K K of C Hall, Grand Avenue, of C Hall and all trips leave from Iselin.



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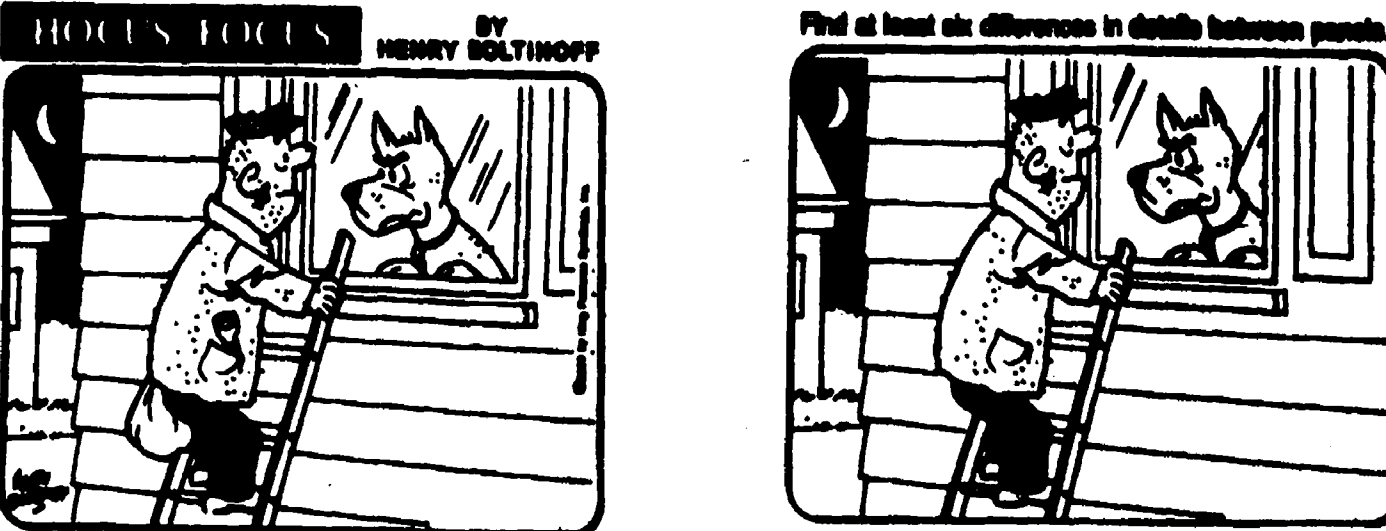
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ACROSS

1 Tizen's son
4 Equal status
7 Cobbler's supply
12 Stride center
13 Marie's man
14 Portion of Hispaniola
15 Filly XXIII's
16 Fair exchange
18 Cudgel
19 Funt's directive
20 Neighbor of Turkey
22 Asphy resident
23 Homer's son
27 E.T.'s craft
29 Mr. Ed's owner
31 Unfriendly
34 Superhot
35 Duty
37 Gluton
38 Bump into
39 Dida abbr.
41 Warmonger
46 Stage equipment
47 The woman
48 Sound of baby steps
52 Impresario
53 Hurk
53 Romantic affair

DOWN

1 Disney movie
2 PBS curmudgeon
3 1945 conference site
4 Cretan
5 With hands on hips
6 Tend a stubborn shoelace
7 Comic-strip news editor
8 Skull need
9 Torched
10 Composer Hoffmann
11 Perch
17 Took off
21 Ring used in pitching game
23 Bounty captain
24 Gettysburg addresser
25 Play with robots
26 Aqueduct
28 Superloud, musically
30 "Had a Hammer"
31 After-lrs. bank
32 New Guinea port
33 Chinner is one
36 "M*A*S*H" actor
37 Tropical fruit
40 "Belena" star
42 Syrian leader
43 Unshaded
44 Shade of green
45 Fringe benefit
46 Dance lesson
48 Oom follower
49 "Yankee ..."
50 Nursery item
51 Calendar abbr.

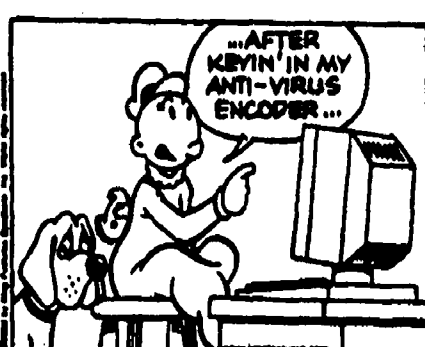
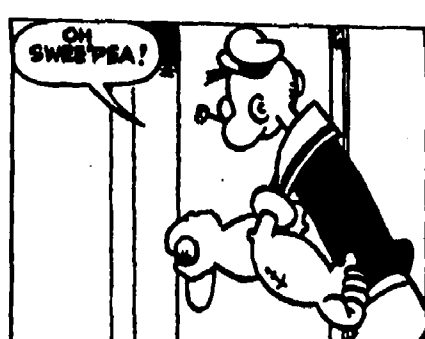
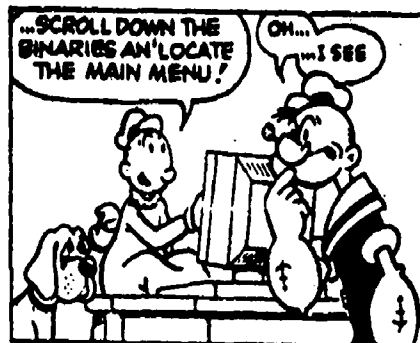
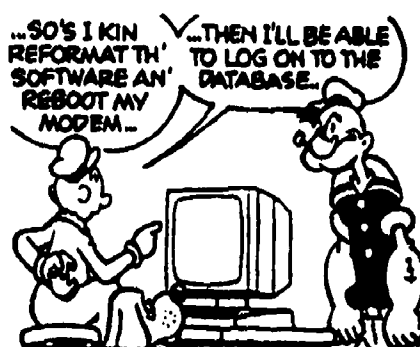
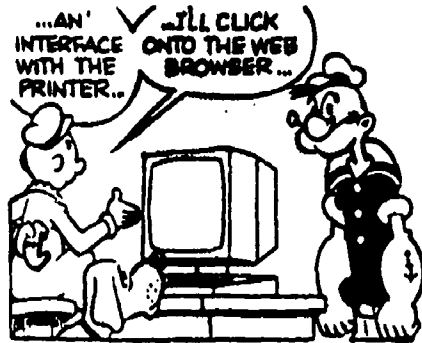
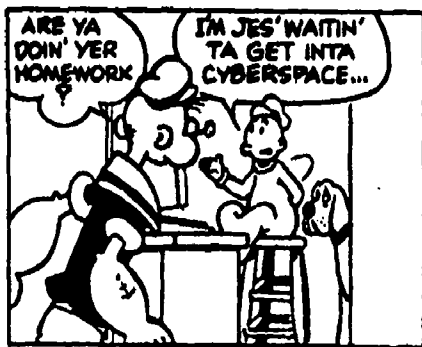
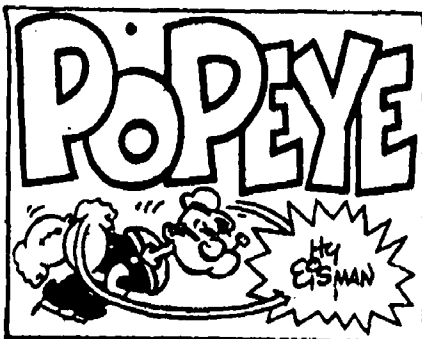
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Z H I L D E G A R D B A H R Z
X N W U B Y T R Q O N L B E E
L M U M N E E U Q J I E O B P
G I F D Z T U B L R A E B L O
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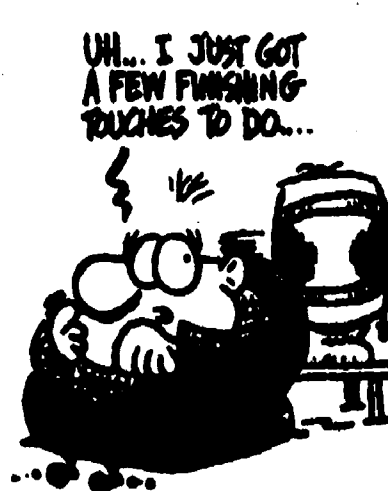
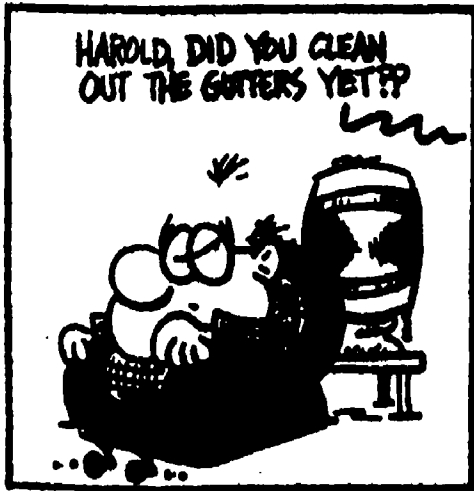
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Al Lopez Buddy Ebsen Eddie Lauder John Mills
Adlene Francis De Boney G. Burns M. Berto
Arlene Shaw E. Albert Hepburn Queen Mum
Bob Hope Earl Butz Hildagarda

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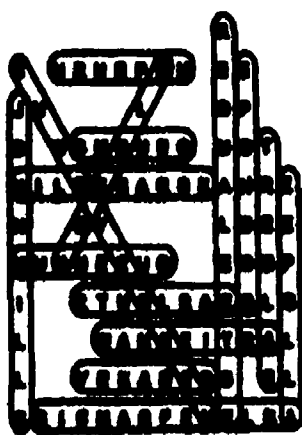
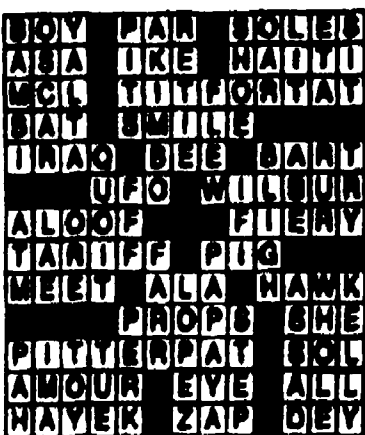
THE SPATS



Hocus-Focus answers

1. Pinklight is missing. 2. Ladder is shorter. 3. W-100 is missing. 4. The is missing. 5. Nelson is reversed. 6. Dog is missing.

Everyone loves the comics page!



YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"Vertical Limit"

This High Anxiety Isn't Funny



popcorns

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

By Michael S. Goldberger



Following a viewing of "Vertical Limit," an action-packed, thrill-a-minute, stomach-agitating adventure yarn about climbing the world's most dangerous mountain, I am humbly inspired. Hence, for at least one week I will forego the elevator at work and forge upward via the stairs (I think I know where they are).

This is a respect thing. It's the least I can do after being witness to such relentless hardship, pain and misery. And as I ceremonially trudge to my second floor destination, I will count my blessings. I will be thankful that I'm not 24,000 feet up, suffering temperatures well below zero, and sporting an ice-enveloped mustache that gives me that Dr. Zhivago look.

But most of all I will give thanks that, for all the interests and passions I have thus far indulged, climbing the bald side of a snow-covered mountain with little more than a rope and a pickax has never been one of them. Memories of scaling the tall school yard fence when it was locked on Saturdays still give me the willies. That woven metal barrier was my Mt. Everest. But if you wanted to play second base for the Yankees, there was no way around it.

So convincingly fraught with peril at every turn, it's no wonder "Vertical Limit" can conjure such personal recollections. All of which gives testament to what a fine job director Martin Campbell does in evoking the utter danger that's available to us in this world if we so choose, or are just plain unlucky. Unfortunately for armchair sociologists, he doesn't really get into why the climbing elite who populate his scenario want to ascend mountains, other than the tacitly and classically acknowledged, "Because it's there."

Oh, there's a bit of a Greek tragedy at the root of this saga about a world famous mountain climber (Stuart Wilson) and the uncomfortable legacy he leaves his similarly inclined son (Chris O'Donnell) and daughter (Robin Tunney). In fact, doth protesting a bit too much, the studio exhorts that "Vertical Limit" is not just a mountain-climbing movie. That it is a very serious drama which simply plays out to

the backdrop of the great outdoors. But the slight script amounts to no more than the typical melodrama perfunctorily inserted to anchor the great cataclysm at hand. And though the

the slopes bleaker.

Portrayed by Robin Tunney, sis is Annie Garrett, the darling of mountain climbing. A "Sports Illustrated" cover girl, of late she's a special assistant to Texas millionaire Elliot Vaughn (Bill Paxton). His philistine quest? To conquer Pakistan's K2 and tie it all in with a new airline venture.

Now, are you ready for the audience manipulation of the year? In a coincidence that takes



director seems to confuse the two, soapsuds and snow don't mix.

This is a disaster movie, despite what froth the Hollywood spin doctors have issued. And truth be told, there is so much Sturm und Drang relentlessly convulsing throughout this adventure that any semblance of an honest-to-goodness dramatic plot would prove incompatible with the high-intensity action. But if you like your agony and woe piled high, rejoice. The story about a brother and sister who can't reconcile their differences after Dad makes the ultimate sacrifice only serves to make matters on

more chutzpah to foist upon viewers than scaling any daring height, Annie's brother Peter is on hand for the much ballyhooed occasion. Yup, played rather inconsequentially by Chris O'Donnell, he has abandoned the vanity of competitive climbing and just so happens to be on assignment for "National Geographic." This makes him mountain climbing's moral equivalent of a National Public Radio personality: impassioned and informed, but free from the ego-challenging involvement of the big time.

But let's just imagine—not to say this is the plot, mind you, but just imagine—that Peter

from his neutral status and thus afford him the opportunity for complete and total vindication? Remember, she's miffed, and blames brother for dear old Dad's unfortunate fate. Surely it would take a Herculean feat to change her stance.

But before you answer, and regardless of your response, consider this. Assuming that the studio wasn't just giving us the company line, and this were truly a drama of complex relationships, wouldn't we all be a lot more comfortable if the setting were, for example, a college campus. She could be a botanist. He could be a philosophy prof. Then they could thrash all this sibling stuff around while seated in nice thick leather chairs and having tea and crumpets. Some big academic competition could be the emotion-fomenting factor

instead of having that huge icy mountain (brr!) serve as the catalyst. You could even throw in a murder or two if you wanted. How about an embezzlement, too? Who cares whether or not it's an improvement. At least we'd be warm.

Obviously unconcerned that there is a difference between action and agita, the fabulously filmed and stunningly choreographed "Vertical Limit" churns its anguish and privation with the single-minded tenacity of a snow blower. And that can leave you rather cold.

"Vertical Limit," rated PG-13, is a Columbia Pictures release directed by Martin Campbell and stars Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney and Bill Paxton. Running time: 123 minutes

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

NJ Blood Services In Critical Blood And Platelet Emergency Shortage

AREA—Due to an alarmingly low blood inventory, especially Type O, New Jersey Blood Services has declared an emergency blood donor appeal effective immediately, it was announced by John A. Giandelone, Executive Director at NJBS.

Anyone eligible to donate blood is being urged to call toll-free at 1-877-90BLOOD to make a donation appointment at one of the many blood drives held daily or at one of our donor centers. Walk-in donors are always welcome.

NJBS's supply of Type O

blood, which is the most common and most in demand blood type, is projected to reach a less than one-day supply this month and remain at reduced levels through February. As of December 11, shipments to area hospitals of Type O blood have already started to be reduced.

The community's supply of blood is far less than the five-day supply needed to deliver nearly 400 pints of life-saving blood daily to patients in 60 hospitals in New Jersey. This critical shortage creates a real and immediate health care crisis for our metropolitan community,"

points out John Giandelone. "Blood shortages are very disruptive to hospitals. Emergency care is delivered at greater risk due to lack of blood and physicians may be forced to provide type-mismatched blood to patients to compensate for the lack of critical blood types," he added.

The community's low blood inventory is due to several factors including a lower than national average donor participation rate. "Less than 2 percent of eligible residents of New Jersey donate blood compared to 5 percent in most other parts

in the nation. And within New Jersey, the donor rate drops even further to less than 1 percent during the holiday season," Giandelone pointed out.

At the same time, demand for blood is rising due to an aging population, an increase in cancer diagnoses requiring aggressive chemotherapy with blood transfusion support and more sophisticated medical and surgical procedures requiring blood.

The shortage of blood has become a nationwide problem well beyond just holiday or seasonal periods. The U.S. shortfall this year is expected to be over 250,000 pints of blood. With no substitution available, communities across the nation are reliant on increased volunteer

donors and donations. "We are urging our existing donors to make one more blood or platelet donation this year or in January and ask others to "Give Blood and Save a Neighbor" by joining a life-saving blood donor team," Mr. Giandelone concluded.

Donating blood takes less than an hour and features a free mini medical exam (pulse, blood pressure, iron count and temperature). Donors must be at least 17*, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good general health.

*17-year-olds must present written evidence of parent's or guardians' permission to donate and must present proof of age.

Cancer Survivors Join to Celebrate Life

(NU) — The world's first hospital-based proton treatment center for cancer and other diseases celebrated its 10th anniversary in November 2000 at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Many of the patients who successfully treated their cancer with proton therapy were on hand for the festivities.

At the celebration, thousands of cancer survivors treated with proton therapy at LLUMC were honored as "heroes" and attended a reunion with their physicians for a "celebration of life"

at the Southern California medical center.

At the anniversary event, the center's director Dr. James Slater predicted that over the next decade, additional proton centers would become operational in the United States, as well as abroad. With an international center in Southern California and a new regional center in Boston nearing completion and 10 years of successful clinical experience, proton therapy has become a recognized war-

rior for winning the battle against cancer. Other hospitals in Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and Jacksonville, Florida, have plans to build proton facilities.

Over the past decade, proton therapy has proven its initial promise of treatment to tumor and other autotomic sites with fewer adverse patient side effects than surgery, radiation, laser and radioisotope (seed) implants. Nearly 6,000 patients from across the United States have benefited from successful treatment of more than 20 different types of cancers, as well as treatments for macular degeneration.

As a reflection of the success of proton treatment, a second center for proton treatment is scheduled to open in 2001 as part of a joint project between Harvard University and Mass General Hospital in Boston.

Just 10 years ago, many in the medical community questioned the vision that physicists and medical scientists had for more than 40 years — that

inside a space-age hospital center, physicians could activate a small accelerator and fire off whirling protons at the speed of light through a device that looks like a giant Ferris wheel into the body of a cancer patient. A second later, the proton beam kills the cells in a cancerous tumor, leaving healthy cells and organs virtually untouched.

Today, this vision and the proton beam accelerator are no longer considered questionable as proton beam therapy has proven itself to be a major breakthrough in the war on cancer. This is particularly true for men with prostate cancer who account for nearly 50 percent of the treatments.

For men with prostate cancer, proton therapy is a sophisticated form of therapy. It targets proton radiation, where the protons are "shaped" into a beam to match the shape of the tumor to eliminate damage of surrounding tissue. This "bloodless surgery" precisely delivers a cancer eradicating proton beam and has virtually no dangerous side effects to healthy tissue or organs.

For men and women, in the

10 years since the world's first hospital-based proton facility at Loma Linda became operational, patients received proton treatment for tumors of the brain and spinal cord, base of the skull, eye, head and neck, chest and abdomen, pelvis, hepatocellular carcinoma, and metastatic and primary tumors of the liver. Children from throughout the world also have been successfully treated for pediatric cancers.

Also in 2001, Loma Linda physicians will begin treating patients with breast cancer with proton therapy using proton scanning technology. This will allow the beam to be painted across a tumor site, in a stop-start manner, delivering the necessary beam level to a precise pattern within a large area or volume. Women with breast cancer will immediately benefit from this noninvasive and non-destructive treatment, as will those afflicted with lung cancer.

To learn more about proton therapy, call 1-800-PROTONS (776-8667) or simply log onto www.proton.llu.edu/.

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To be seventy years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old.

— Oliver Wendell Holmes



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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

New Jersey Religious, Ethical Leaders Ask Governor, Legislators For Death Penalty Moratorium

STATE — The leaders of more than 3,000 New Jersey religious congregations and ethical organizations called on Governor Christine Todd Whitman and state legislators to enact a moratorium on the state's death penalty. Possibly for the first time in history, all of New Jersey's major religions agreed to speak as one voice on a single issue.

Resolutions from the groups, which comprise more than 5 million members statewide, were presented during a noon news conference at the State House Annex. Among presenters were Bishop John M. Smith of Trenton, for the New Jersey Catholic Conference, spiritual leaders of New Jersey's 3.4 million Roman Catholics; Bishop Roy Riley, Trenton, for the New Jersey Council of Churches, comprising 2,300 congregations, Imam Hamid Chebli,

Islamic Society of Central New Jersey; and Rabbis Gerald Zelizer of Metuchen, for the International Rabbinical Assembly and Eric Lankin of Linden, for United Synagogues of New Jersey.

Moratorium supporters contend that the death penalty fails to deter crime, is applied inconsistently, is costlier than life imprisonment and is sometimes carried out in error.

The news conference was called by New Jerseyans for a Death Penalty Moratorium (NJDPM), a grassroots organization of some 2,000 individuals and supporting group members. NJDPM chair Celeste Fitzgerald of Chatham, said she believes this event marked the first time all of New Jersey's major denominations collaborated to take identical positions.

"We ask the governor and the legislature for a two-year pause

in executions," said Fitzgerald, "while an impartial commission can study its costs, risks and fairness, as well as effective alternatives, such as life imprisonment without possibility of parole."

Last January, Assemblyman Alfred E. Steele (Dem. 35th), introduced Assembly Bill A-1853, which calls for a death penalty moratorium and study, but the bill has been in committee ever since, effectively blocking public hearings on its merits.

"The evidence shows that the death penalty process costs New Jersey taxpayers \$22.8 million annually over the cost of life imprisonment sentencing," said Jack Callahan of Cherry Hill, NJDPM Education Chair. "And in death penalty states, the homicide rate is 48 to 101 percent higher than it is in states without the death penalty."

Pointing to the release from

death row of 87 people, some within days of their scheduled executions, Callahan said: "The most thorough report on the death penalty to date concludes that state courts erred in 68 percent of cases, and that seven percent of convicted murder suspects were later found innocent, most after years on death row."

Keynote speaker at the news conference was former N.J. Governor Brendan T. Byrne, an outspoken death penalty opponent during his tenure. Later in the day, religious leaders and NJDPM principals conveyed more than 100 resolutions to Whitman, Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco (Rep. 22nd) and Speaker of the General Assembly, Jack Collins (Rep. 3rd).

Moratorium supporters and reporters filled Annex Meeting Room 11 to capacity while representatives of petitioning organizations stood, in turn, as their resolutions were added to a stack at the front of the room. Also among the presenters were June and Larry Post of Cape May, parents of a murdered

child, who carried a resolution from Murder Victim's Families for Reconciliation.

"During the past three months, we received resolutions from every major religious denomination in New Jersey," Fitzgerald said, "including Christians, Jews, Quakers and Buddhists, as well as peace and justice organizations, such as the New Jersey Bar Association and the New Jersey Association on Correction."

Fitzgerald said organizers hope this strong showing of support for A-1853 convinces New Jersey Assembly leaders to schedule hearings on the bill, and State Senators to introduce a companion bill.

A recent national poll, conducted for the National Justice Project jointly by Republican research firm American Viewpoint, and Peter Hart Research, a Democrat firm, reported that 80 percent of Americans now favor reform or abolition of the death penalty. Sixty-four percent support a moratorium on executions, until issues of fairness can be resolved.

Bill Targeting Firearms Traffickers Approved By Assembly

STATE — The Assembly recently approved legislation that would subject leaders of firearms trafficking networks to prosecution under the state's "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations" (RICO) law.

"This is the brand of gun safety legislation that government should be involved with—imposing tougher punishment for these who engage in illegal sales and distribution of firearms," said Assemblyman Neil M. Cohen.

The bill (A-1992) would make "leader of a firearms trafficking network" the 23rd classification of criminal conduct to be listed as prosecutable under the state's RICO statute.

Current law includes the following in the definition of "racketeering activity," which may result in both criminal and civil sanctions: murder, kidnap-

ping, gambling, promoting prostitution; obscenity; extortion; fraud; unlawful manufacture or use of firearms or explosives; and violation of the Casino Control Act.

The RICO statute was enacted to primarily aid prosecutors in combating organized crime.

Most RICO offenses are generally considered second-degree crimes, which are punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine. But when violence is involved, RICO convictions can become first-degree offenses, which are punishable by up to 20 years in jail and

\$200,000 in fines.

The RICO statute also provides prosecutors with enhanced forfeiture powers to seize the ill-gotten assets of criminals.

"This is another means of cracking down on the flow of illegal weapons that can find their way into the hands of children," said Cohen. "Individuals who help to put guns in the hands of children are a menace and they should be punished as much—if not more severely—as any juvenile who uses an illegal weapon to commit a crime or provoke a tragedy."

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Improving Your Personal Finances For The New Year

AREA — Another year, another set of New Year's resolutions. If improving your personal finances is among your resolutions for 2001, the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) recommends that you break down your goal into manageable tasks. Just like resolving to lose 25 pounds

doesn't mean you do it all in January, achieving financial fitness requires a month-by-month plan.

1. January — Pay Down Your Debt

If you've run up large credit card bills during the holiday season, your first financial resolution for 2001 should focus on paying down your debt. Review the interest rate and terms on outstanding loans and credit cards to identify opportunities to restructure debt at more favorable terms. Then, work out a realistic repayment plan and stick to it.

2. February Set Long-Term Financial Goals And Save For Them

Whether establishing a college fund for your children or planning the vacation of a lifetime, concrete objectives form a solid foundation for achieving your goals. Prioritize your list of goals and assign your top goals a dollar

value and a target date. Use an online calculator to determine how much you need to save each month to achieve your goals and devise a specific plan for doing so.

3. March — Get Ready To File Your Taxes

To avoid last-minute income tax-filing panic, begin gathering tax-related receipts and documents now, and make an appointment with your CPA or a tax adviser to help minimize your tax liability.

4. April — Fund Your Retirement

April is a great time to think about the tax benefits of retirement plans. You can make your Individual Retirement Account contribution for 2000 by April 15 and those who qualify can claim a deduction on their 2000 return. Qualification for the deduction depends on the adjusted gross income of you and your spouse, if married, and whether or not your company offers a retirement savings plan. If your company has a retirement savings plan and you're not a participant, sign up now, so you can start to benefit from tax-deferred savings.

5. May — Automate Your Savings

Now that Uncle Sam has been taken care of, it's time to pay yourself in savings that is. When you sign up with an automatic savings plan through your payroll department, the dollar amount you choose is deducted from your paycheck and sent to the mutual fund or other investment destination of your choice. If your employer doesn't offer this service, you can usually arrange

for your bank to make automatic deposits to your investment account.

6. June — Learn More About Personal Finance

June is a great month to sit in the sun and read books and magazines about personal finance. If you stick to reputable sources, you can also find excellent financial advice sites on the Internet.

7. July — Review Your Investment Portfolio

It's mid-year and an opportune time to check on your asset allocation.

Changes in the performance of your investments could mean you need to rebalance your investments in line with your goals and tolerance for risk.

8. August — Check Insurance Coverage

Check out your home, health, car, life, and disability policies to determine whether there are any gaps in coverage. Talk to your agent to see if you may be able to obtain more effective coverage by increasing or reducing deductible amounts on your policy. Also inquire about any discounts that may be available for taking special safety precautions such as adding an alarm system to your home or car.

9. September — Get Organized

Back to school time is an excellent time to organize important financial papers and legal documents. Also consider investing in computer financial software that can help you keep track of your finances and monitor your progress.

10. October — Prepare Or Strengthen Your Estate Plan

An estate plan should include a will. It's also important to consider a durable power of attorney, a living will, and any living or irrevocable trusts. You should also review how your property is titled and what measures you can take to minimize estate taxes and probate costs.

11. November — Take Advantage Of Year-End Tax Savings Strategies

Make charitable contributions. Consider whether it makes sense to offset capital gains with capital losses. Plan now to delay income and accelerate deductions. Check on your flexible spending accounts at work and make plans to spend unused funds.

12. December — Calculate Your Net Worth

Add up all your assets (what you own) and subtract the total of your liabilities (what you owe) to determine your net worth. By doing this each year, you can chart your progress and watch your assets grow.

A CPA can provide you with additional guidance for making your way through 2001 — the year you achieve your resolution to improve your financial fitness.

If you would like to receive more information on various financial matters, subscribe to E-CPA, the NJSCPA's free, monthly email newsletter. To subscribe, visit www.njscpa.org/consumer.

Money Management is a weekly column on personal finance distributed by NJSCPA. If you would like an expert to talk on this topic, or another financial planning matter, please contact Ellen Ricciardi at 973-226-4494, ext. 228.

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— E. Joseph Cosman

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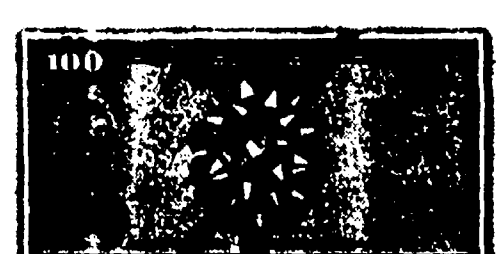
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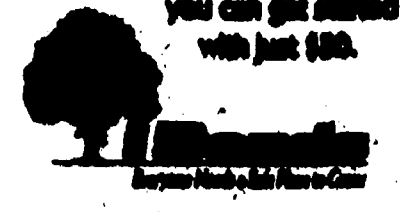
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S.A.H.S. Visits The United Nations

A Visit at the United Nations

SOUTH AMBOY — The Contemporary Issues and Global Awareness classes from South Amboy High School recently spent a morning visiting the United Nations.

They toured the Security Council and General Assembly Chambers, with a tour guide. The group was informed about some of the upcoming meetings to be held by these world delegates.

That afternoon a session was held for further discussions regarding the situation in the Middle East.

After the United Nations, the group headed for a brief tour and lunch at the newly refurbished Grand Central Station. Following this quick visit they headed to the Plaza Hotel and F.A.O. Schwartz.

While visiting the world's famous toy store, they saw Phil Simms, former Quarterback of the N.Y. Giants taping his weekly Jet's show. Many of the students milled around for his autograph and then asked him to take a picture with the group. He was extremely gracious and consented.

The photo really made their day in the Big Apple a huge cultural success.



Pictured above are the S.A.H.S. students with Phil Simms (C.) while in New York City.



Just last week, Governor Whitman delivered her annual State of the State address. It was the sixth time that she delivered this address to a joint session of the New Jersey State Legislature. Unfortunately, the message from the governor revealed her lack of vision, and even worse for the people of New Jersey, none of the leadership that will be necessary to tackle the serious problems that New Jerseyans still face daily from Bergen County down to Cape May.

The Governor spent her speech focusing on four E's. Education, the environment, the economy, and the elderly were the thrust of her address. These are remarkably safe topics, and important ones which everyone can agree upon. However, the Governor, in

a time when leadership should be at a premium, showed little in the way of boldly leading New Jersey into the 21st century.

Two years ago, following her narrow victory in the gubernatorial election, Governor Whitman recognized that high property taxes and auto insurance rates were a large problem in this state. Now in 2000, over two years after her 1997 election, we still have the highest rates in the United States. Her administration's NJ SAVER program, a band-aid attempt at a rebate, was difficult to access for most applicants, and is insignificant as meaningful property tax reform. The exorbitant auto insurance rates which she promised to help bring down have not been significantly lowered as the legislation she championed meant real savings to only a precious few drivers. The Governor failed to take a stand on the issues which need to be taken

care of. Drivers in New Jersey now face a crisis with auto-emissions testing and long inspection lines. The E-Z Pass implementation along the Garden State Parkway still has many questions left to be answered. She did not touch upon the renewal of the Transportation Trust Fund which is necessary to pay for important road work and mass transit projects for New Jerseyans, and the governor touched only briefly on school construction which is a very important and divisive issue that needs to be addressed for the sake of children all over New Jersey.

What is on the mind of New Jerseyans is the auto-emissions testing and their high property tax bills. The governor needed to show leadership to let the people of New Jersey know that she is working on solving these problems. The proper response here should be what should we tackle

next, not that the economy happens to be in good shape so nothing else matters.

Working families in Sayreville and South Amboy need real solutions to their every day problems, and fluffy speeches about the four E's while nice and positive, do not solve these difficulties which have existed since the Governor took office. The Governor mentioned that Thomas Edison and Albert Einstein made New Jersey their home. These are two men who saw problems and invented and discovered innovative ways to improve them, something that the governor has not yet been able to master. Maybe the Governor was so intent on avoiding controversy for her own personal, National ambitions within the Republican party, that she failed to set forth a blueprint with the legislature on how to fix the problems which plague this state.

She focused on issues which resonate nationally without setting forth a plan for New Jersey.

Governor Whitman's address was disheartening and disappointing. There are many issues which face this state that she could have acknowledged in her long speech. The Governor has run her course with New Jersey, she has run out of vision and leadership two years too soon.

Santa Graduates From Basic Military Training

SAYREVILLE—Air Force Airman Kasey L. Sonta has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

She is the daughter of Jeff B. Sonta of Sayreville.

The airman is a 2000 graduate of Old Bridge High School.

OBITUARIES

Fred Lazo, 67 of Sayreville

Mr. Fred Lazo of Sayreville died December 4 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 67.

Born in Pennsylvania, he lived in Linden before moving to Sayreville 36 years ago.

He was employed for 23 years by Gordon's Distillery as a machinist/mechanic, retiring in 1983.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Veterans of South Amboy.

Mr. Lazo was a communicant

of St. George Byzantine Catholic Church, Linden, and the church's Holy Name Society.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Tillie Kushner, who died three weeks ago and Mary Palya and three brothers, Robert Lazo, Nicholas Lazo and Gordon Lazo.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Barbara S. (Trebis) Lazo; a daughter, Susan P. Adkins of Norwalk, Ohio; a son, Glen L. Lazo of Sayreville and a granddaughter, Breanna R. Adkins.

Alexander Craig, 58 of Carteret

Mr. Alexander R. "Ron" Craig of Carteret died December 18 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 58.

Born in West Wyoming, Pa., he lived in Carteret for the past 44 years.

He was employed by Pinkerton Security Co., Union, stationed at General Motors, Linden, for the past 10 years.

Mr. Craig was a former 20-year volunteer with the Carteret First Aid Squad. He was the medical director of Middlesex County Special Olympics the past 15 years.

He was co-director of the Carteret Buddy Night Program

for mentally-challenged children.

He served in the Army during peacetime.

Mr. Craig was former Assistant Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 89, Carteret.

A son, Lawrence A. Craig, died in 1997.

Surviving are his wife of 35 years, the former Diane E. Banick; a son, Walter Craig of

Englewood, Colo.; a daughter,

Monica Craig of Carteret; a sister, Jeanette Dorsey of Pittston, Pa.; a daughter-in-law, Dawn

Craig of Carteret; and three grandchildren, Nicholas, Kevin

and Christopher, all of Carteret

Margaret Konopka lifelong resident of P.A.

Mrs. Margaret A. Konopka of Perth Amboy died December 9 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 66.

Born in Perth Amboy, she was a lifelong resident.

She was employed by Garden State Shipping in Keasbey for 20 years, retiring in 1991. Mrs. Konopka was a member of St. Michael's Hungarian Catholic Church, Perth Amboy.

Four sisters, and three brothers, are all deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 46 years, John V. Konopka, Sr.; a son, John V. Konopka Jr. of Perth Amboy; three daughters, Margaret Martinez of Perth Amboy, Marie Palombi of Woodbridge and Joann Stamatis of Perth Amboy; a sister, Alice Appice of Port Reading; and eight grandchildren, Shaun and Jason Martinez, Megan, Eryn and Tyler Palombi, Jennifer and Jessica Stamatis and Brittany Konopka.

Robert K. Cox, Sr. of Iselin

Mr. Robert K. Cox, Sr. of Iselin died November 29. He was 81.

Born in Newark, he resided in Iselin for the past 46 years.

He was first employed by Burry Biscuit as a computer-operations manager for 25 years, then by Purolator Products, Rahway, for several years until his retirement.

Mr. Cox was a member of the T. Nulty American Legion Post 471, Iselin. He served with the Army from 1942-45, serving with the Battery C 397th

Armored Field Artillery Battalion during the Ardennes, Central Europe, Battle at Normandy Beach, Northern France and Rhineland. He received the Distinguished Unit Badge, European/African/Middle Eastern Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Five brothers and two sisters, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Rae; a son, Robert Kenneth Cox, Jr. of Venice, Calif.; and several nieces and nephews.

John Pacansky of Perth Amboy

Mr. John J. Pacansky of Whitehouse Station died December 6 at home. He was 80.

Born in Perth Amboy, he moved to Whitehouse Station three years ago.

He was a weigher at American Smelting & Refining Company, Perth Amboy for 30 years before retiring in 1976.

He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II.

Mr. Pacansky was a communicant of Our Lady of Hungary R.C. Church and past president of Al Jankowski Association, both in Perth Amboy.

His wife, the former Margaret Kovacs and two brothers,

Michael and Frank Pacansky, are all deceased.

Surviving are his son, Gary of Whitehouse Station; six sisters, Ann Gregus of Old Bridge, Helen Slavicek of South Amboy, Irene Mendez, Eleanor Forian, both of Edison, Mary Bartfai and Doris Berardi, both of Florida and Margaret Louro of Aberdeen; four brothers, Joseph of South Amboy, Andy of Spotswood, George of Pennsylvania and Jacob of California; three grandchildren, Lori Rockwell and Scott, David and Melissa Pacansky and three great-grandchildren, Matthew, Tyler and Jacob.

D. Dombrowski of Carteret

Mr. Douglas P. Dombrowski of Carteret died December 17 at home. He was 56.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Carteret for the past 56 years. He was a maintenance supervisor at IBC, Queens, N.Y. Prior to that, he was employed by the Sunshine Biscuit Co., Sayreville, also as a maintenance supervisor.

He served in the Air Force during peacetime. He was a member of Carteret American Legion Post 263 and its Color Guard Marching Band. He was also a member of the Catholic War Veterans Post 797, Carteret.

Mr. Dombrowski was a communicant of Holy Family R.C. Church, Carteret.

He was a former member of the Carteret High School Band Parent Association for many years.

Surviving are his wife of 31 years, the former Donna M. Gavron; a son, David of Carteret; a daughter, Lynn Marie Indyk of Dayton; two brothers, Allan W. of East Brunswick and Henry A. of Bridgewater; a sister, Patricia Cook of Summit; his mother-in-law, Anna Gavron Bucino of Carteret; a sister-in-law, Linda Gavron of California; a brother-in-law, Michael Bucino Jr. of Hoboken; and several nieces and nephews.

Filippa Brennan, 61 of Woodbridge Township

Mrs. Filippa M. (DiLeo) Brennan of Lanoka Harbor (formerly of Colonia and Iselin) died at her daughter's home in Metuchen on November 30. She was 61.

Born in Rahway, she resided in Colonia and Iselin before moving to Lanoka Harbor four years ago.

Her son, Shawn, had died back in 1988.

Surviving are her husband of 41 years, Ronald J. Brennan. Mrs. Brennan is also survived by two children, a son, William of Lanoka Harbor and a daughter, Lisa Messina of Metuchen.

Her brother, Aurelio DiLeo of Whiting and sister, Rose Horvath of Old Bridge as well as six grandchildren and one great-grandson also remain.

"There is a grace of kind listening, as well as a grace of kind speaking."

- Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868)

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OBITUARIES

**Paul Pastrick, Sr.
of Edison**

Mr. Paul (Pastuch) Pastrick Sr. of Edison died December 8 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 64.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Edison for the last six years.

Mr. Pastrick was a member of Community Church Fixer of Hearts in North Brunswick.

He was a leader of the Noah Recovery Group ALCC in Edison and was a member of the Highland Park Group.

Mr. Pastrick worked for

Valentine Fire Brick, retiring in 1990.

Four brothers, Nicholas, Michael "Ginger," John and Paul and two sisters, Mary and Helen Lykosh, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Carol Szymborski Pastrick; two sons, Paul Jr. of Slatington, Pa. and Scott of Edison; a daughter, Robin Wall of Edison; a brother, Joseph of Perth Amboy; and a sister, Ann Michalski of Manahawkin; and three grandchildren.

**Joseph L. Kuchie
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Joseph L. Kuchie of Perth Amboy died December 6 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 64.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Woodbridge before moving back to Perth Amboy 50 years ago.

He was a warehouse supervisor for the past 24 years at the H.B. Fuller/Tec. Inc. of Edison. Prior to that, he worked 10 years at Witco Chemical Company, Perth Amboy.

Mr. Kuchie was a communicant of the Ukrainian Church of the Assumption, Perth Amboy.

He was a life member and former captain of the Humane Hook & Ladder Company of the Perth Amboy Fire Department and was currently

serving as president. He was an exempt fireman with the City of Perth Amboy and the State of New Jersey.

He was an active member of the Fire-Police and was a life member of the Double O' Rod & Gun Club, Perth Amboy.

His parents, Joseph and Ann (nee Vatal) Kuchie are deceased. A brother, Robert Kuchie, Sr. and two sisters, Olga Smith and Eleanor Poos are also deceased.

Surviving are his wife Catherine (nee Rogan) Kuchie; a daughter, Karen Gaffney of Woodbridge; two sons, Joseph Kuchie III of Woodbridge and Police Officer Jeffrey Kuchie; a sister, Dorothy DeHanes of Perth Amboy; and a grandson, Joseph Kuchie IV.

**Michael J. Wargo
of Menlo Park Terrace**

Mr. Michael J. Wargo of Menlo Park Terrace died December 2 at JFK Haven Hospice, Edison. He was 92.

Born in Waterbury, Conn., he moved to Carteret, Iselin and Menlo Park Terrace, settling in the latter in 1957.

He worked as a horse and wagon deliveryman for Dugan's Bakery, and later became a route supervisor.

He worked as a machinist at the Grumman-GM warplane factory, Linden, until 1944.

He was then employed by Standard Oil Co., traveling halfway across the world to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Island in the Persian Gulf.

He then worked for Chevron Oil Refinery in Perth Amboy, retiring in 1973 at the age of 65.

He did volunteer construction for the expanding St. Cecelia's Church, Iselin and

became one of the charter members of the Spring Wood Swim Club, Colonia.

He was a communicant for the past 40 years at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Fords and later St. Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin.

He was a volunteer coach for the Menlo Park Terrace Little League's White Sox. He was also a volunteer "pizza fryer" for the St. Cecelia's Iselin Fair.

His wife of 64 years, Ethel, died in May of this year; a son, Keith, died in 1999. His parents, Anna and Andrew Wargo are also deceased. He is also predeceased by several sisters.

Surviving are two sons, Rowland and Michael J. Jr.; his youngest brother, Jim and sister-in-law, Carolyn and a sister, Mary Fitzgerald of Conn.; four grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

**Edward Kitchen, 82
of Edison**

Mr. Edward Walter "Pop" Kitchen of Edison died at his daughter's home in Hamilton. He was 82.

Born in Easton, Pa., his family settled in the former Raritan Township, now Edison.

He joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1938. He worked in camps in Fort Dix, Stryker, Mont. and Chico, Calif. He was discharged in 1939.

He then enlisted in the Navy in 1940. He was assigned to Battleship USS West Virginia and stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. He was on board as the

attack on Pearl Harbor began.

He served in the Pacific and Atlantic Theater and was discharged in 1946.

Mr. Kitchen was a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the United Auto Workers, Edison. He was also a charter member of the VFW Post 3117, Edison. He was a plumber/pipe-fitter for Ford Motor Co., retiring in 1980.

His wife of 52 years, Elise Borbely Kitchen is deceased.

Surviving are five daughters, Karen, Patricia, Linda, Jane and Nancie and 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Nicholas J. Shelly
of Iselin**

Mr. Nicholas J. Shelly of Iselin died December 9 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 85.

Born in West Orange, he lived in Belleville before moving to Iselin in 1951.

He was a teamster for Mahon Trucking, Newark, for 30 years, retiring in 1979.

Mr. Shelly was an Army veteran during World War II.

He was a member of the

VFW Post 2636, American Legion T. Nulty Post 471 and the Iselin Knights of Columbus Council 3639, all in Iselin.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, the former Edith Joiner; a son, James Shelly of Connecticut; a daughter, Roberta Sokolowski of Long Valley; a sister, Rose Foxe; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Priscilla A. Owens
of Perth Amboy**

Mrs. Priscilla A. Owens of Matawan (formerly of Perth Amboy) died November 30 at home. She was 60.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived there before moving to Matawan in 1969.

She was a homemaker.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1976. Her parents, Charles and Helen (nee Melnick) Johnson, are also deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Christopher Owens of Marlboro and Brian Scott Owens of Kearsburg; a daughter, Jennifer Lynn Owens of Cescio, Pa.; two sisters, Charlotte Farkas of Old Bridge and Cathy Keily of Easton, Pa.; and five grandchildren.

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**George W. Monks
of Parlin**

Mr. George W. Monks Jr. of Parlin died December 6 at Muhlenberg Hospital, South Plainfield. He was 55.

Born in Newark, he lived in Parlin for most of his life.

He was employed as a security officer at the Middlesex County Courthouse, New Brunswick, for the past five years.

He was a member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3440 in New Brunswick.

Mr. Monks was an Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War and was a member of the American Legion Post 211, Sayreville, the Vietnam Veterans of America-Middlesex County Chapter 233, Metuchen.

His daughter, Melissa Jo Monks, died in 1972.

Surviving are a daughter, Melinda Dingus of Beaver, Ohio; four grandchildren, Kimberly, Shawn, Jody and D.J.; his parents, George W. and Isabella Monks of Parlin; and a sister, Linda Green of Hillsborough.

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6:00 p.m.	-	Night Church

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12:05 noon	-	Mid-Week, Mid-Day Inspiration
7:30 p.m.	-	Pastoral Teaching

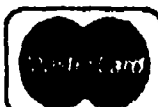
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'95 Mercury Mystique, 4 dr., auto., air, asking \$7200. Alt. 6pm 732-388-0463

'95 Jeep Cherokee Country 4 wheel dr., auto, fully loaded, 78,500 mi., \$8000 or B.O. 732-388-4886

'94 Lincoln Continental, 4 dr., moonroof, Exc. Series, 1 owner, garage kept. Best Offer 908-333-1900

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'94 Camaro, white w/gray int., auto, new tires, fully loaded, 1-top, exc. cond. 61K, \$10,000 396-0572

'94 Mazda B4000 SE V6. Low mileage, custom cap, 4-wheel drive, shift on the fly, exc. truck \$8900. 382-0628

'94 GMC Jimmy, 4 wh. dr., 4 dr., black, leather int., 110K mi., great cond., \$7000 732-501-3482

'93 Ford Escort LX Station Wagon, a/c, am/fm cassette, p/b, p/s, exc. cond., 93,000 mi. Asking \$3595 732-721-8339

'93 Honda Accord, 2 dr., 57,000 mi. JOE 732-574-2343

'93 Ford Escort LX Station Wagon, am/fm cassette a/c p/b, p/s. Exc. cond. 93,000 mi. Asking \$3595 Call 732-721-8339 ans. match before 6pm

'93 Mercury Capri Convertible JOE 732-574-2343

'93 Toyota Tercel, red, auto., a/c 90,000 mi., great condition, \$3900 or B.O. 732-680-0534

'93 Ford Temp, 4 dr. auto, fully loaded, mint cond., 93,000 mi., \$3200/B.O. 732-548-6122

'93 Mercury Sable, silver, 4 dr., auto, V8, 3.8 lit., fully loaded, good cond., a/c needs work, 111K mi., \$2750 732-548-3925

'93 Pontiac GrandAm, red w/gray cloth int., 2 dr., 1 owner, well maintained, \$5200 732-738-1484

'92 Lincoln Continental, skyblue, looks new in & out, fully loaded, runs great, great high hi-way miles. Must Sell, \$3500 or B.O. 732-388-4282 or 732-499-9040

'92 Toyota Celica GT Convertible. JOE 732-574-2343

'92 Mazda Protege 106,000 hwy mi. 1 owner, ex. cond. auto, AM/FM, CD player, a/c, \$3500. 908-354-4454

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'92 Ford Taurus, 4 dr., 93,000 mi., auto., asking \$4650 808-288-7665

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'91 Olds 88-Royale 4-dr. White all power, A/C, trailer hitch, 91K mi. Garaged. Good condition. \$3,450 (732) 382-3599

'91 Ford Thunderbird, black, loaded, moonroof, 100K mi., new factory eng., runs exc. \$2750 908-347-2888

'90 Lincoln Continental, good shape, white w/leather int., asking \$2500. Alt. 7pm 732-815-0177, days 636-0437

'90 Buick LeSabre, 4 dr., custom, 1 owner, immaculate. Must be seen! \$4100 732-388-3021

'90 Dodge Caravan, white, 6 cyl. auto, 3.0 eng., exc. cond. in/out well maint., \$2900/B.O. 732-636-5425

'90 Mercury Grand Marquis Exc. condition. Loaded, only 19k miles. Must See 732-968-7251 or 732-603-8760

'90 Mercury Grand Marquis, exc. cond., loaded, only 18K mi. Must See 732-968-7251 or 603-8760

'90 Cadillac Coupe de Ville, 1 owner, 68,500 mi., exc. cond., \$7500 or B.O. 732-382-1988

'90 Mercury Sable, full power, good running cond., 81K, alarmed, \$1800/B.O. 732-388-1431 or msg.

'90 Lincoln Continental, white. Asking \$800. Days 732-636-0437, alt. 6pm 815-0177

'90 Ford Bronco II, fully equipped, orig. owner, 78,000 mi., \$6000 or B.O. 732-541-4485

'89 Olds Cutlass Supreme, 2 dr., good motor & trans., runs well. No rust. Needs touchup paint, \$500/B.O. 732-541-0946

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'89 Dodge Van, new Jasper engine. Good work van. Asking \$3700. Days 732-636-0437, alt. 6pm 815-0177

'89 Buick Lesabre, a/c, cruise, p/b & p/s, needs paint, runs good, \$1500 or B.O. 908-451-5307

'89 Ford Conv. Van, 87K mi., tv, VCR, clean, needs some work, \$2500. Lv. msg. 908-862-2788

'89 Lincoln Executive Towncar, silver gray, all power, 66,000 mi., good cond. 732-382-4271

'89 Pontiac GrandAm, Turbo SE, 86K mi., good cond., \$2799/B.O. 732-382-2381

'89 Lincoln Towncar, runs great. Good mechanical cond., \$1000 or B.O. 732-340-0371

'89 Convertible Saleen Mustang #867 Trophy Winner, garage kept, \$18,000 732-202-0188

'88 Ford Bronco Eddie Bauer Series \$7900 or B.O. 732-641-8275

'88 Taurus, automatic trans., a/c, cruise, loaded, good condition. \$2395 908-499-7774

'88 Jeep Wrangler with western plaid, hardtop with bikini. Exc. cond., \$8500 732-969-1347

'88 Ford Thunderbird LX, 2 dr., V8, auto, air, \$750 732-742-8375

'88 Dodge Dakota, auto, w/leather cap. Excellent work truck 388-5480, 382-1844

'87 Mazda RX7, 78K mi., 5-spd, new clutch, \$1450. 732-382-4730

'87 Buick Station Wag., 190K, full sz., 8 passenger, new tires. Needs some work. \$500/B.O. 732-634-9998

'86 Chevy Conversion Van, all the toys, excellent condition, \$3780 732-340-0435

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'86 Pontiac 6000, 77K orig. mi., a/c, am/fm radio, cassette, heater, \$1500 firm 908-486-0388

'85 Olds Cutlass Supreme Brougham, 2 dr., original owner, 59,000 mi., asking \$1,500 732-225-0337

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'82 Chevrolet El Camino, V8, auto., air, clean, \$2300 or B.O. 732-780-4448

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Mail Check or Money Order, or deliver to:
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EYE CATCHER & MORE
Divorced white mother of one, 5'5", slim to medium built, attractive, brown hair and eyes, fair complexion, college educated, employed in the pharmaceutical industry. Looking for a single white female, financially stable, tall, slender with a positive outlook in life. BOX 35301

TALL AND ATTRACTIVE
36 yr old, green eyed, tall, voluptuous brunette female. I enjoy working out, music, comedy clubs, shooting pool, sports, and movies. Looking for a tall, spontaneous, single man with a good sense of humor. BOX 36287

LET'S MEET
Single white, professional female, 27, enjoys nature hiking, traveling, theater, music and more. Seeking a single male, non-smoker with similar interests. BOX 11946

A GREAT CATCH
Very attractive, upscale blonde, 46, MBA in finance, dedicated Christian for 28 years, and Christ is the center of my life. Seeking a tall professional, handsome, well educated male, with strong Christian and family values. If you feel you have these credentials, please call. BOX 13060

LOVE CAN'T WAIT
Looking for older Oriental man is this mid 50's, widowed, Italian lady, blonde hair, artist, attractive, intelligent, talented, gorgeous figure, excellent quality background, self employed, with a lot to offer. Enjoys ballroom dancing, painting portraits. Looking for non-smoker, accomplished person. BOX 13106

ON THE MUNT
Are you looking for single white female, who's intelligent, attractive, and fun loving. If you are a single white male, non-smoker, between the ages 36 and 64, who likes dancing, New York and Atlantic City and live in the Union County area, give me a call. BOX 13253

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Big green eyes, 5'4", 117 lbs, fit, 50, Law Enforcement professional, interests are: hiking, dining, dancing, movies, theatre, quiet times and more. Looking for a male, who's assertive, with salt/pepper hair and mustache. BOX 13318

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single white female, 66, 5'3", 115 lbs, gray hair, blue eyes, non-smoker or drinker, enjoys quiet times, walks, bowling, the outdoors and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 13363

FIRST TIME AD
61 yr. old, 5'6", 140 lbs., salt and pepper hair. Loves travel, Atlantic City, the beach, holding hands, dining, and dancing. Seeking a single white male, 55-65, compassionate, romantic, caring. Who likes similar interests. BOX 26622

EX ASIAN MODEL
32 yr old, 5'5", ex model, very slender, affectionate, caring, good sense of humor. Looking forward to meeting a down to earth, financially secure, college educated and family oriented male, who's also loving and caring. Enjoys swimming, tennis, movies, traveling, looking and dining out. BOX 29232

HEAD TURNER
Single Caucasian female, brunette, 5'4", brown eyes, high cheek bones, curvaceous body, feminine, European born, multi faceted. Seeks a Caucasian male, 50 to 65, who is kind hearted and financially secure, fun loving, and available. BOX 29248

CONSERVATIVE WOMAN
Single, white professional, Christian female, 39, tall and slim, attractive, blonde hair and blue eyes, intelligent, enjoys health and fitness, fine dining, stock market, politics, movies, and more. Looking for an attractive, tall, Christian professional male, 39 plus, for possible relationship. BOX 36211

TAKE A CHANCE...
...You won't be disappointed! 43 yr old, single female, 5'2", with blonde hair, blue eyes, non-smoker or drinker, who enjoys fishing, the outdoors, camping, spending time with family and friends. Looking for a single male with similar interests, for friendship, leading to relationship. BOX 36299

ONE IRISH WOMAN
Single white female, 63, affectionate, caring, faithful, full figured woman, in search of marriage minded, single or divorced, white male, for everlasting love and happiness. BOX 29259

ATTENTION JOHN!
You're 39 and a pharmaceutical executive, triathlete, you responded to my ad "Romance Wanted", mailbox #29228, your message got cut off before I could get your telephone number, could you please call again and leave your number. BOX 29264

UNPROMISING WIDOW

Union County area Afro American widow, mid 50's, thin/medium build. Loyal, kind, honest, sensitive, independent, unpretentious, social drinker, no baggage. Enjoy chess, cards, walks, dining in and out, dancing, theatre and much more! Seeks widowed or divorced male, 65 to 70, race not important. BOX 30755

HUMAN PRINCESS

Single black female, 5'3", clean, non-smoker, pecan complexion, enjoys the theater, traveling, reading, dining out, dancing and winter nights. Seeking a real, intelligent, honest, passionate, romantic, non-smoking male, 5'8" plus, weight proportionate for a serious relationship. No games. BOX 34025

HEAVY SET GUY WANTED

Single white female, heavy set, 34, long blonde hair, blue green eyes, attractive, non-smoker. Enjoys movies, dining, flea markets, travel and more. Seeking single white male, 30 to 45, non-smoker, with similar interests, for dating and possibly a long term relationship. Monmouth county. BOX 26633

ARE YOU READY

Attractive, adventurous, affectionate, educated, divorced white professional female, 48, in search of upbeat, honest, compassionate, secure, divorced white professional male, who is special for long term relationship. Monmouth County Only. BOX 26652

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

40 yr old, 5'5", 125 lbs, fit, divorced white mother of one, hard working, sport minded, with a good sense of humor. Looking for a physically fit, single white male, who likes working out, the beach and more. BOX 37387

SHARING IS CARING!

Single white female, attractive, 5'4", non-smoker, social drinker, who enjoys dancing, and much more. seeking single white male, with similar interests. BOX 34737

ASIAN ATTRACTION

Single female, down to earth, sophisticated, Artist, marriage minded, enjoys ballroom dancing, walks in the village and more. Looking for an Oriental for long term relationship. BOX 36596

WHY SEEK EAST

Single white female, 58's, down to earth, enjoys quiet times, working, the outdoors, museums and more. Seeking a single Asian male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 37310

FREE SPIRIT

47 yr old, attractive single white female, is seeking a spiritual relationship with a sensitive and caring, single or divorced Hispanic or black male, 47 to 58, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy good conversations, movies, music and dining out. BOX 13535

DISTRICT CALLS

Youthful, attractive, slim, brunette, 50 yr old female, with good sense of humor, enjoys movies, theater, fine dining, beach and older seeking single, attractive white male, 48 to 58, non-smoker, for friendship and possible long term relationship. Please be caring, honest, educated and financially comfortable. BOX 13489

LOVE HAS NO COLOR

Single professional black, full figured female, 55, who enjoys theater, movies, traveling, and fine dining. Seeking a single or divorced professional male, non-smoker, fun loving, and enjoys life, for friendship, possible relationship. BOX 16030

ATTRACTIVE LADY

Vivacious, attractive, shapely, red-head, green eyes, early 50's, 5'4", 112 lbs, enjoys the theatre, dining out, and travel. Seeking professional, intelligent, attractive man, 53 to 62, for possible relationship. BOX 26617

HAPPY 2001

Single white female, 5'4", dark hair and eyes, enjoys the beach, quiet times and more. Seeking a single white male, 50 to 59, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 38651

LET'S TALK

Single Hispanic female, 34, enjoys dining, dancing, going out, talks and more. Seeing a single black male, 32 to 40, for friendship and a possible relationship. BOX 38719

CENTRAL JERSEY

Divorced white female, 5'7", 125 lbs., straight blonde hair, green eyes, mid 50's. Enjoys the outdoors, hiking, country music, travel and cooking. Seeks healthy, single male, 54 to 64, with similar interests for friendship and possible relationship. BOX 30759

BALLROOM DANCING?

Glamorous, 50's, female, smart, artist, intelligent, self-employed. Enjoys dancing and painting. Seeking someone to dance with. BOX 36890

WINTER'S HOSTESS

35 yr old female, blonde hair, blue eyes, petite. Enjoys cross-country skiing, hiking, camping, poetry readings, traveling and museums. If you are interested, give me a call. BOX 39254

TAKE OVER PLEASE

Single female, 38, 5'2", brown hair and eyes, shy, seeking attractive, romantic, dominant male, 35 to 45, for a long term serious relationship. BOX 13561

BEAUTY AND BRAINS

Single, attractive, female, 48, 5'5", 127 lbs, brownish blonde hair, brown eyes, educated, healthy, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys, walking, biking, movies and the comforts of home. Seeking educated, white Christian male, 47 to 51, committed, emotionally stable, affectionate and caring, to enjoy friendship, love, laughter and happiness. BOX 13644

ROMANCE WANTED

Athletic, slim, single white professional female, 38, dirty blond hair, Irish catholic, 5'5", outgoing, attractive, non-smoker. Likes to work out, run, and bike. Seeks single white professional male, non-smoker, catholic, fit, athletic, 33 to 39, for friendship, and possible long term relationship. BOX 28228

HISPANIC HEARTY GIRL

Single Hispanic female, 5'6", 130 lbs, dark hair and eyes. Seeks white or Hispanic professional male, 5'10" and over, who's single, sincere, honest, family oriented and enjoys New York City, Soho, the Village, dining, movies, theater and the beach. Must be non-smoker. BOX 29267

I'LL TREAT U RIGHT

Single white male, 48 yr old, 6', 155 lbs, with brown hair and eyes. Honest, caring and understanding. Looking for a single female to treat her with respect, for a relationship. BOX 38885

EXCLUSIVE BY CHOICE

Single white male, 38, 5'10", 170 lbs, handsome, loyal, low keyed, loner type, no children, smoker, non-drinker, no drugs, home body, financially secure. Likes camping, rock/country concerts. Seeking a female, 18 to 40, with no children, for a relationship, would consider moving out west. BOX 26523

OPEN TO ANYTHING

Seeking child free woman, any age, for relationship. Single white male, 32, 5'11", 175 lbs, handsome, smoker, non-drinker, home body. Employed, also has depression disability. Phone for additional details. BOX 26627

NEW BEGINNINGS

Single white male, 36, 5'11", enjoys sports, music, walks in the park, New York City, the shore. Looking for someone, 25 to 40, with similar interests, who's honest, no games, for and possible long term relationship, if agreeable to us both. BOX 26628

SEEKS CHRISTIAN

43 yr old single black Christian male, 6'2", down to earth, loves Christian music and walks in the park. Seeking someone, who loves the Lord, never married, and has no children. Race and age. BOX 13436

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

51 yr old, single white male, handsome, fit enjoys dining out, golf, walks, movies and the beach, seeking a single white female, 41 to 52, for a long term loving relationship. BOX 11657

ROMPERS BACK IN

A normal, single white professional male, in search of slender, normal white female, under 36, with a sense of humor, for possible long term relationship and wonderful times in the future. BOX 13713

LET'S MEET

48 yr old male, 5'9", 185 lbs, dark eyes, brown hair, athletic build, good looking, with a good personality and sense of humor. Enjoys boating, fishing, dining out, traveling, working out and more. Looking for female, who's easy going, attractive and interesting. BOX 37066

SPRINTER

Sensitive, educated, handsome, single white male, 48, seeks lovely single female, 33 to 45, warm, intelligent, playful, and who wishes to share her life, love and faith. BOX 11395

LADY OF MY DREAM

Single white male, 38, shy, 5'11", 175 lbs, smoker, home owner, employed, also has depression disability. Seeks a single female, child free, age open, for friendship and companion. BOX 11755

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Single Jewish male, 33, college grad, non-smoker. Still striving to meet that someone special to make the music of life sound sweeter and the stars of the night shine just a little brighter. BOX 12816

CUBAN GIRL

Looking for a caring, down to earth, educated, very attractive, between the ages of 27 to 33. Me: Handsome, in shape, professional, down to earth, single white male, 32. BOX 29273

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Single white male, 43, 5'8", 150 lbs, attractive, healthy, honest, affectionate, sincere, enjoys laughing, life, and all it offers. Seeks sincere, romantic, attractive female who enjoys dining, good conversation, quiet times for dating and possible long term relationship. Bergen County. BOX 29277

ONE IN A MILLION

55 yr old, 5'8", 165 lbs, single white male financially secure, professional, who enjoys working out, is seeking a petite, single Asian female, 40 to 55, that wants to be treated the right way! BOX 37043

THINKING LONG TERM

28 yr old, 5'6", 150 lbs, Hispanic male with black hair and dark brown eyes, enjoys movies, reading, the outdoors and much more. Seeking a single female, of any race, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 37307

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This 5'11" 40 something single white Italian male, hopeless romantic, spiritually aware, emotionally stable, Hal Hoping to hook up with a similar attractive, spontaneous, doesn't care what other people think type woman to ring in 2001 and maybe keep on ringing for 2002, 2003, 2004..... Hudson County. BOX 29280

COMMUNITY THERAPIST

Kind, bold, Jersey City or Hoboken woman, sought for very significant romance, with this single white male, 58, 5'8", trim, interested in progressive politics, jogging, music, improvement of self and others. Any religion, serious only. Hudson County. BOX 29282

YOU LIKE ME DON'T YOU?

32, white male, fine mind and body, nice looking professional, 5'8", looking for a fun, trim, well groomed companion, under 5'5", petite, thin to slender, who can appreciate a special, fun, uncommon guy. I am not into opera or the ballet. Passaic County. BOX 29284

WOMAN OF MY DREAMS

White male, mid 40's, 5'9", 190 lbs, outgoing, likeable, nice looking, with a fantastic personality and a sense of humor. Enjoys movies, sports, music, dining out, good conversations, outdoors and just quiet times. Seeking an open, motivated, single female, for friendship, companionship and more. BOX 38037

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Single white professional male, 51, 5'8", fit, humorous, warm, caring, seeking single white female, 35 to 48, warm, attractive, fit, down to earth, for friendship, good times, possibly more. BOX 36016

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55 yr old white male, 5'8", trim, brown-grayish hair, blue eyes. Seeking a trim, personable female who likes to dress up for fine dining. Enjoys sports, travel, and NYC. BOX 36451

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Let's waltz in the soft pale moonlight. Divorced white male, average looking, 6'6", 245 lbs. Seeks average white woman, 47 to 56, 5'6" to 5'10", 150 to 180 lbs. I'm very romantic, likes to send cards, post-nylflowers, likes to kiss, cuddle and hold hands. No head game players or one night stands. Passaic County. BOX 22191

THE WANTED!

Single white male, tall, attractive, 38, high school grad, who enjoys dining out, dancing, swimming, and quiet romantic evenings. Seeking single white female, 25 to 45, non-smoker, with similar interests. BOX 13249

ANY VIBES ABOUT?

Single white male, 38, 6', 165 lbs, non-drinker, non-smoker, nature outdoors type. Loves to cook, music, art and movies. In search of non-smoking, single or divorced female, sincere, down to earth, 27 to 44. BOX 26564

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44, 5'10", 170 lbs, blonde/blue, trim, athletic build, Irish/German, handsome, financially established, soft spoken gentleman, with traditional Mid Western values. Enjoys country drives and quiet towns. Seeks warm, caring woman, 34 to 42, with attractive figure, family oriented. Children welcome. BOX 29250

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35 yr old, 5'10", 170 lbs, single white male, contractor, handsome, low key, loyal with no children, loner, smoker and non-drinker. Likes camping, concerts, considering moving out west. Seeks child-free, independent woman, 18 to 40. BOX 40268

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ATTRACTIVE FEMALE?

Single male, 44, 5'11", 165 lbs, very healthy, Italian, and Irish Gray/black hair, hazel eyes and attractive. Likes the beach, girls in bikinis, dancing, quiet times, cooking, animals and children. Seeking a lady, petite to average, attractive and sensitive. BOX 12925

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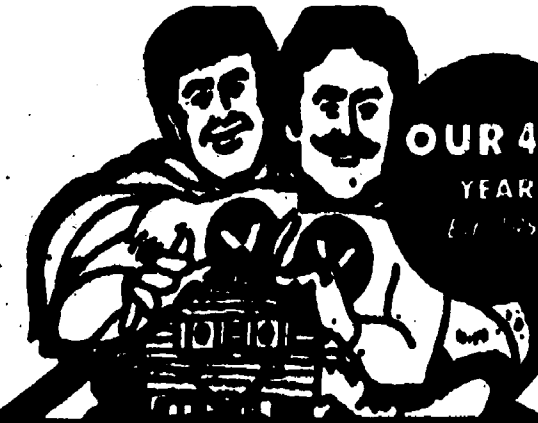
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FIREWOOD

Tips On Maintaining A Home Heating System

(NAPS)-In this time of higher fuel costs, making sure home heating systems are in top working order can mean real savings on heating bills, as well as increased comfort. These systems have several key components-boiler, radiators, pumps and valves-that need regular attention and service to operate at peak efficiency.

Here are some tips on keeping home heating systems at peak efficiency from Grundfos Pumps Corporation, a global manufacturer of pumps for residential and commercial heating systems:

- Schedule an annual check-up each fall by a heating contractor who can identify potentially serious problems and solve such "annoyance" problems as excessive noise and uneven heat. The inspection should include oil burners, motors and the chimney.
- The contractor will perform an oil service and combustion efficiency test. A good motor will burn 80 percent of its fuel as energy. Old burners can run as low as 60 percent-which could dramatically increase heating bills.

- Unburned oil that is carried into the chimney as smoke can buildup, ultimately creating a fire hazard, so the chim-

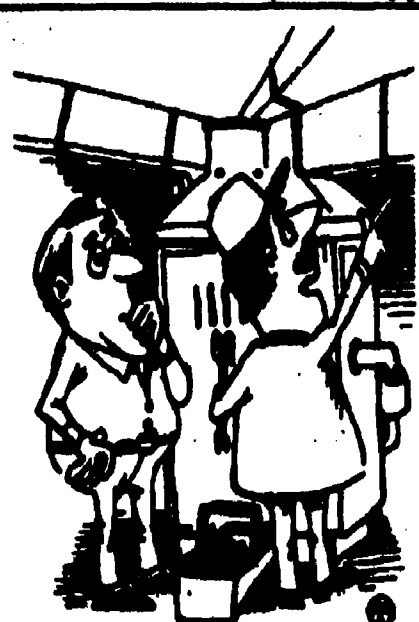
ney should be cleaned annually.

- A separate inspection by a plumber can root out further problems in water-based heating systems.

- Some circulator pumps (in use in many older homes), which move hot water from the boiler through the radiators, convectors or emitters, need to be oiled annually to keep from breaking down.

- As circulator pumps age, they are at an increasing risk to leak, which can create a fire hazard and damage carpets or furniture near the boiler. New maintenance-free circulator pumps cost less than \$500, and often improve performance as well as reducing ongoing maintenance costs.

- When air gets trapped



Heating contractors can show homeowners how to make heating systems run more efficiently.

inside a radiator system, it can cause hissing or knocking, building pressure inside the pipes that interferes with even heating. To prevent damage to the heating system, homeowners must "bleed" air several times a season. Alternatively, there are now automatic venting systems that can be installed, increasing the efficiency of the entire system.

- Pumps designed with "wet rotor" technology produce less vibrations and noise than older designs.

- Zone heating, in which homeowners can choose which parts of the house to heat, is an increasingly popular option. Zone heating systems that use pumps are more efficient than those that use valves.

- Heating systems with incorrectly sized pumps cause uneven heating. A plumbing contractor can judge what size pump a system needs. This professional can also measure water flow through the heating system to tell if it's leaking, or if a pump is malfunctioning and not providing enough circulation.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Solaris Health System Awarded Grant for Innovative Breast Cancer Detection Technology

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Solaris Health System, which includes JFK Medical Center, Edison and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, has been awarded a generous grant from the Fannie R. Rippel Foundation to purchase new and innovative equipment that uses computer technology to assist radiologists in the early detection of breast cancer.

The grant, totaling \$189,500 has been designated to obtain an R2 ImageChecker, a computer aided detection system with image analysis and display capabilities intended for use as an aid for radiologists reading routine screening mammograms.

"We thank the Rippel Foundation for once again financially supporting our medical facilities," said John G. Nolan, Jr., senior vice president of Foundations for Solaris

Health System. "This grant will help radiologists ensure the accuracy of a mammography screening providing area residents with additional peace of mind. The new equipment will also better enable these experts to detect breast cancer early, when it's most treatable."

As New Jersey has consistently ranked among the top ten states in the nation for breast cancer incidence and mortality over the past several years, it is anticipated that the purchase of the R2 ImageChecker will add another dimension to the long-standing breast care efforts offered through the breast health and mammography centers at both JFK and Muhlenberg, which for years have been providing women with a comprehensive program of breast health education, screening, diagnosis and treatment.

In addition to screening services, such as mammogra-

phy, ultrasound and stereotactic breast biopsy, both centers routinely offer outreach programs to educate women about breast health and teach self-breast examination. Last year, more than 11,000 screening mammograms were provided at JFK and more than 3,000 were performed at Muhlenberg.

Solaris Health System, serving the greater Central New Jersey region, includes two acute care hospitals—JFK Medical Center, Edison and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield; inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation centers, nursing and convalescent facilities, assisted living communities and specialized treatment programs. More than 1,000 of the area's finest surgeons, physicians and dentists are affiliated with Solaris Health System.

JFK Auxiliary Oncology Pavilion Offers Patients Enhanced Services

EDISON — The Regional Cancer Center at JFK Medical Center, Edison, recently celebrated the expansion of its

oncology services with the opening of a designated oncology unit. This newly renovated facility, named the JFK Auxiliary Oncology Pavilion, is located on the third floor of JFK Medical Center and will provide additional space for treating cancer patients.

"For Solaris Health System and JFK Medical Center, the addition of the JFK Auxiliary Oncology Pavilion reinforces our commitment to a leadership role in the diagnosis, treatment and research of cancer," explained John P. McGee, president and chief executive officer of Solaris Health System.

As part of the Regional Cancer Center, the pavilion consists of 27 beds, eight of which are private suites specially equipped for medical isolation cases. The unit also provides JFK Medical Center the capability of offering stem cell transplantation, providing another alternative cancer treatment for patients. Encompassing 9,850 square feet of space, the unit also features a seven-bed outpatient chemotherapy/transfusion suite, a spacious conference room and an expansive family room, complete with comfortable chairs and sofas, a television and VCR and refreshment station.

With services offered in Edison and Plainfield locations, the Regional Cancer Center offers state-of-the-art cancer care from evaluation and diagnosis through treatment and follow-up in a compassionate, supportive environ-

ment.

Some of the latest technology, including Gamma Knife radiosurgery and the R2 ImageChecker, are provided by highly qualified personnel, including a multidisciplinary oncology team consisting of medical and radiation oncologists, pathologists, surgeons and radiation therapists; oncology nurses, many of which hold special certification in oncology patient care by the Oncology Nursing Society, specially trained in cancer treatment and certified to administer chemotherapy treatment; counselors, who address a full range of psychosocial needs from diagnosis through bereavement; clergy to support all faiths; and physical, occupational, speech and nutritional therapists.

For more information on the Regional Cancer Center, call (732) 321-7769.

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- Resources of Business, Industry and Technology firms
- No tuition for high school students who reside in Middlesex County.

Technology High Schools for your future

East Brunswick Campus

112 Rues Lane

732-254-8700

New Brunswick Campus

256 Easton Ave.

732-247-3832

Perth Amboy Campus

618 New Brunswick Ave.

732-442-9595

Piscataway Campus

21 Sutton Lane

732-995-0717

Woodbridge Campus

1 Convent Boulevard

732-694-6868

MIDDLESEX COUNTY

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS



GUZZO CUTS THE RIBBON—Marie Guzzo of Iselin, seated, an oncology patient at the Regional Cancer Center, cuts the ribbon officially opening the JFK Auxiliary Oncology Pavilion to the public. With Guzzo are (L.-R.) Thomas Sharp, chairman, JFK Board of Directors; Doris SeSamo, president of the Auxiliary of the JFK Medical Center Foundation; Nancy Flamingo, vice president of Service Life Development, Solaris Health System; Mary Todd, D.O., deputy director, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey; A. Richard Makoff, D.O., medical director, Oncology Services, JFK Medical Center; and Louis P. Amato, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Solaris Health System.