

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

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Two Men Plead Guilty

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Two partners in an Edison construction company last week admitted paying kickbacks to employees of GATX Terminals in Carteret to obtain their help in rigging contract bids for work at the terminal, according to U.S. Attorney Robert J. Cleary.

Elliot Apter, 49, of Robbinsville, and Richard McConagly, 58, of Bayonne, partners in Task Management, Inc. of Edison, both pleaded guilty to separate two-count Informations before U.S. District Chief Judge Anne E. Thompson in Trenton.

The business partners are the fifth and sixth defendants to plead guilty in the government's bid-rigging investigation at the Carteret site of GATX Terminals Corp. Authorities said the investigation is continuing.

GATX is one of the world's largest petroleum and chemical

products handlers and transporters. It owns and operates terminal sites throughout the U.S., where it receives and ships bulk liquids by ship, rail, barge and truck. GATX company officials cooperated in the investigation, and the company is not a target in the probe, Cleary said.

Apter and McConagly admitted that they paid kickbacks beginning in 1991 to rig contract bidding at GATX's Carteret Terminal. Both defendants said the kickbacks were paid so that contracts would be awarded to TMI and other companies that they controlled or recommended, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Joan Thomas.

Apter admitted that he submitted phony contract bids to GATX in the names of shell companies he controlled. Apter also admitted that he caused TMI, and other companies he controlled, to sub-

mit inflated invoices to GATX for payment.

Apter pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and tax fraud. Apter also pleaded guilty to one count of income tax evasion, for failing to report and pay taxes on approximately \$888,000 he received in the scheme to defraud GATX.

For the conspiracy count, Apter faces a maximum prison sentence of five years and a \$250,000 fine. The tax evasion count carries the same potential penalties.

McConagly pleaded guilty to the same conspiracy charge and one count of mail fraud, which also carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Both defendants also face an order of restitution. Judge Thompson set sentencing for Apter on May 23 and for McConagly on May 24.

McConagly admitted that it was part of his agreement with Apter and others to conceal from both GATX and the Internal Revenue Service the kickbacks paid and the moneys he and others received on the rigged contracts and inflated invoices submitted to GATX.

Apter and McConagly both admitted that they made payments to GATX insiders, including Douglas Rizzi, the former operations manager at the Carteret terminal, so that they would cause GATX to approve and pay for these fraudulently inflated invoices.

On March 15, 2000, Rizzi pleaded guilty to a two-count Information, admitting among other things that he received kickbacks through Technologies Crafters Inc., a shell company incorporated in 1991 in his wife's name, and evaded taxes on the income.

Rizzi also admitted to improperly rigging bids and approving various false and fraudulently inflated invoices submitted to GATX by companies controlled by his co-conspirators outside GATX.

Under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Judge Thompson will determine the actual sentences based on a formula that takes into account the severity and characteristics of the offenses, and the defendants' criminal histories, if any. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Under Sentencing Guidelines, defendants that are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

K Of C Foul-Shooting Contest Winners

COLONIA—On Jan. 16, Knights of Columbus Council #6571, Colonia, held their annual Foul Shooting Contest for boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14.

The winners were: 10 year olds—Natalie Bujalski and Rohit Mehta; 11 yr. olds—Lauren Leiggi and C.J. Carrell; 12 yr. olds—Maryann Leiggi and Ryan Marques; 13 yr. old—Nick Olsen and 14 yr.

old—Adam McCabe.

All the winners move onto the regional contest which will be held on March 3 in Fords.

In 2000, over 222,000 boys and girls competed in this state wide program. The chairman of this event is Joe Pampalone who was assisted by Joe Knapp, Lou Leiggi, Chris McDonough, Rich Kopaz, Nick Anorusko and Charlie Shaughnessy.



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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

McGreevey Launches Community-Focused Campaign

STATE — Extending the community-focused campaign style that has allowed him to repeatedly overcome formidable political obstacles as an underdog candidate, Jim McGreevey recently outlined a schedule for the gubernatorial primary that will bring him to all 21 counties over the next four months. Using town meetings as a centerpiece, McGreevey will devote weeks at a time to specific regions of the state, allowing for activities and interactions unique to each community.

"I believe the best sources for common-sense government are the local communities — certainly there is no monopoly on wisdom in the halls of the State House," said Mayor McGreevey. "This is the type of campaigning and governing that keeps public officials focused on the priorities of everyday people."

In addition to the town meetings, the regional activities will include visits to local schools, senior citizen centers, police stations, food banks, business groups, health care

facilities and other organizations that are part of the community's personality. The presumptive Democratic gubernatorial nominee started the "Jersey Journey" in his home county of Middlesex on Sat., Feb. 3 and will conclude the regional tour in Essex County in May.

"Government should be more responsive to the needs of the people and public officials should be strictly accountable for their actions," Mayor McGreevey said. "The political insiders in Trenton have become too removed from the concerns of working families and their complacency has allowed too many opportunities for true reform and real progress to be lost."

The trademark McGreevey style, a tireless and sincere interaction with everyday people from all walks of life, once viewed as an appealing but politically-anachronistic trait, is now seen as an important ingredient of his success and a potent antidote to the insider politics that has dominated Trenton over the past seven years.

Selective Service Board Volunteers Needed

AREA — The New Jersey Headquarters of the Selective Service System is seeking volunteers to serve on Local Boards throughout the State of New Jersey. The Selective Service System is the federal agency responsible for administering the draft in the result of a national emergency. Boards are made up of civilian volunteers from the communities they serve. The Board Members are responsible for hearing and deciding the claims of young men who are seeking to avoid or postpone military service due to their conscientious objection, hardship to their families, or status as students or ministers of religion.

The need for new Local Board Members has not arisen because of a plan to reinstate the draft or due to an impending national emergency, but as a result of the 20-year mandatory retirement date for Board Members. A large number of current Board Members have served since 1981, when

President Carter authorized the reformulation of draft boards in the wake of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. Because of the loss of members with 20 years of service, many Local Boards in New Jersey will not be at functioning strength in the coming year.

During peacetime, Board Members must go through an initial 12-hour training session and then attend four hours of refresher training a year. In the event the board is activated during a national mobilization, the Board Members must meet as needed to hear the claims of the young men in their community. American citizens at least 18 years old who do not work as law enforcement officers and who are not active duty or retired military are invited to apply online at the agency's web site, www.sss.gov, or call the New Jersey Headquarters at 609-562-0890 for more information.

Divorce Mediation Seminar

AREA — The Continuing Education and Professional Development Program at Rutgers' School of Social Work will hold a seminar on divorce mediation, which is rapidly becoming the option of choice for couples seeking a divorce.

The Divorce Mediation Seminar will be held from 6-9:30 p.m. every Wednesday from March 7-May 23 in Building 4161, 100 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Livingston campus, Piscataway.

Mediation involves the use of a neutral mediator to help the divorcing couple resolve disputes and reach an amicable agreement outside the courtroom. The seminar provides an overview of the legal, economic and emotional issues involved in the divorce process. Topics include equitable

distribution, spousal and child support guidelines, custody and visitation arrangements, and managing conflict. Role-playing will be used to practice divorce mediation skills.

The program is geared toward attorneys, certified public accountants, social workers, psychologists, and mental health and business professionals with advanced-level degrees. The seminar has been approved by the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts.

The seminar presenters are: Douglas K. Schoenberg, a practicing attorney specializing in family law in New Jersey. He is an accredited family/divorce mediator and a practitioner member of the Academy of Family Mediators.

Mary Vivian Fu Wells, a New Jersey state-licensed clinical social worker and marriage and family therapist. She has been accredited as a mediator by the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators and is a practitioner member of the Academy of Family Mediators.

Court systems in six New Jersey counties are participating in a pilot program that awards judges discretion to refer divorce cases to mediation. Participating are Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Morris, Somerset and Union counties.

To register, contact the Continuing Education and Professional Development program at Rutgers' School of Social Work at (732) 445-3178.

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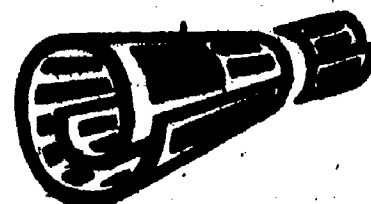
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Art Exhibit for "Overcoming Hatred/Creating Community"

AREA — During the last week in February, Union County College will be host to "Overcoming Hatred/Creating Community," a series of events open to the community dedicated to creating a more civil society through an understanding of the roots of hatred. The week of events will also serve as a bridge between the end of the College's observation of Black History Month and the beginning of

Women's History Month. All events are free and will be held at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Throughout the entire week, from Mon., Feb. 26 through Thurs., March 1, an Art and Photography Exhibit will be on display in the Tomasulo Art Gallery, in the Kenneth MacKay library. The works in the exhibit are on loan from the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton and

the Haremza Foundation Collection. The various pieces will depict the Holocaust and other examples of persecution, and will include works by Charles White, Jacob Landau, Ben Shahn, Alex Nozick, and Edward Kufko. Gallery hours are Mon.-Thurs., 1-4 p.m.; Tues., Wed. & Thurs. evenings from 4-6 p.m.

The week's events were made possible by a grant from the

New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional support was provided by The Chase Manhattan Bank, The Karma Foundation, The Haremza Foundation, Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, and CEPAC and the Union County College Student Government Association.

More information and free tickets to all events being held at the College during this week may be reserved by calling the Development Office at 908-709-7505, E-mail at EimontL@ucc.edu, or are available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. For directions to the College, go to www.ucc.edu.

Couples Needed

AREA—Rutgers' Center of Alcohol Studies (CAS) is seeking couples to participate in the "Rutgers Couples Assistance Program," a treatment outcome study funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

The study uses a modified form of couples therapy that has been successful in treating alcoholic couples as a means to treat drug-addicted men in committed relationships.

Couples are needed in which the male has abused drugs in the past 90 days, does not use IV heroin, is psychiatrically stable and is between the ages of 18 and 75. Spouses/partners must attend weekly treatment sessions together. Couples must be in committed, heterosexual relationships and be either married, married but separated with hopes

of reconciliation, dating for one year, or living together for at least six months.

The treatment protocol was developed at Rutgers and is one of only four marital therapy-based programs in the country for the treatment of drug abusers.

"Most therapy for substance abuse in the country is based on treating the drug abuser through individual or group therapy," said Elizabeth Epstein, principal investigator of the study and an associate professor at CAS. "The Rutgers treatment program combines couples therapy and cognitive-behavioral therapy, and requires both spouses/partners to participate in therapy as part of the treatment program."

The goals of the program are to achieve and maintain abstinence from drug use by enlisting

the support of the spouse/partner, to improve general coping skills, to increase marital/couple satisfaction by helping to repair relationship damage caused by substance abuse, and to help the couple adjust to a drug-free lifestyle and relationship.

"We are teaching the couple to communicate and problem solve together, and to deal with angry feeling that have developed over time related to the drug use. We are also showing the spouse/partner how to change her own behavior to help the drug user stay clean and protect herself from the negative consequences of drug use," said Epstein.

The treatment protocol involves an intake and pre-treatment interview, 20 therapy sessions over six months, and follow-up interviews at six and nine

months. Each 90-minute therapy session is conducted by a clinical psychologist specially trained in marital and substance abuse counseling. The entire treatment program is free to participants, and couples can receive up to \$300 in local store vouchers for taking part in the study.

The study started in 1999 and will treat a total of 24 couples

over the three-year period. The program is abstinence-based and is compatible with Alcoholics Anonymous treatment, but is not 12-step-based.

For a confidential telephone screening and to set up an appointment, interested couples should call the Center of Alcohol Studies at (732) 445-0901.

The Ticket To Work And Work Incentive Improvement Act

STATE —Ten years after the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) guaranteed that qualified adults with disabilities cannot be denied the opportunity to work, 70% of adults with disabilities remain either underemployed or unemployed. Federal legislation went into effect in January to change this.

The Ticket to Work and Work Incentive Improvement Act allows people with disabilities to enter the work force without fear of losing their government-funded health care coverage. The act also provides beneficiaries with a "ticket" to be used at a rehabilitation program of choice to purchase job training and employment services that will help them enter the work force. Most important, Ticket to Work gives millions of adults with disabilities the chance to contribute their skills to the workplace. For many, it offers a first chance at financial inde-

pendence.

Businesses with little experience in hiring people with disabilities are often apprehensive about the associated costs and logistics. Like people with disabilities trying to enter the work force, these businesses need training and help in understanding new workplace issues. For example, the average cost of a job accommodation for a

person with a disability is less than \$500 — significantly lower than many employers may guess. When the federal government passed the ADA ten years ago, it gave people with disabilities the right to work. Now, Ticket to Work creates an exciting opportunity for people with disabilities to finally become part of the work force.



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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Playground Safety Pushed In New State Budget

STATE — Playgrounds would be made safer in New Jersey under a proposed state program that provides funds for towns to make needed improvements.

The new "Safe Kids" initiative would dedicate \$1 million for playground safety improvements under the last state budget proposed by Governor Christie Whitman. The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs would offer the money to local communities in the form of matching grants of up to \$10,000.

"This will result in a \$2 million investment in safer playgrounds across the state," said DCA Commissioner Jane M. Kenny.

Some of the improvements that are typically necessary include installing shock-absorbing surfaces, replacing aging equipment and improving accessibility.

New Jersey recently adopted new regulations for playground safety written by the National Consumer Product Safety Commission, and gave communities an eight-year deadline to meet them. DCA said these new funds would help towns and schools to make the needed improvements more quickly.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 200,000 children are treated for playground accidents each year.

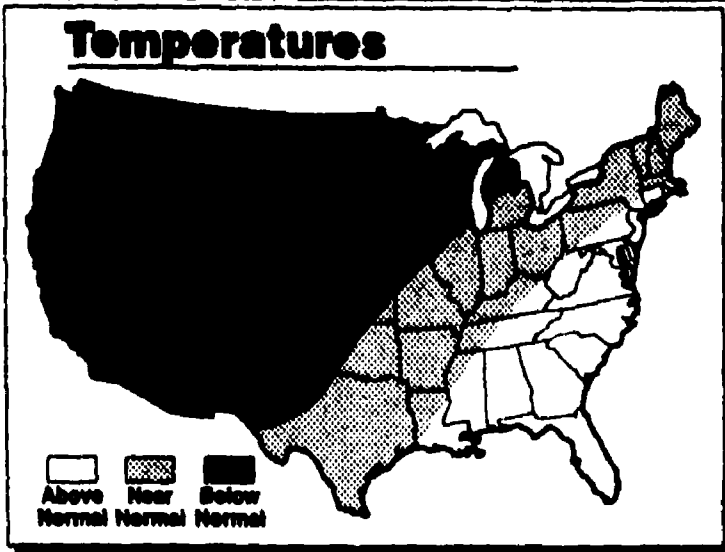
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Sunny and mild.	A few clouds.	Mostly cloudy with rain.	Windy with some sun.	Partly sunny.	Cold with some sun.	Sunny and cold.	Cold with some sun.
48	34	54/41	46/27	40/15	32/16	32/17	34/26

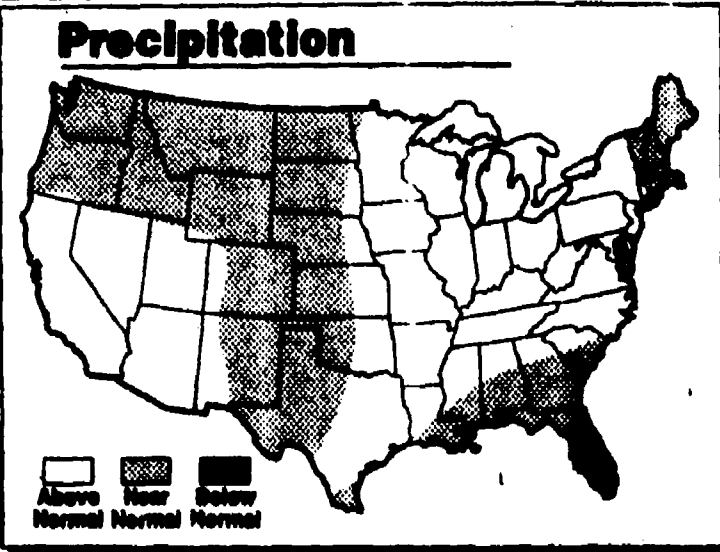
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

The jet stream will dive southward across the western and middle portions of the nation. As a result, stormy and cold weather will dominate the West Coast, Rocky Mountains and Plains. A storm is expected to bring precipitation to most of the lakes and East later in the period.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	72	52	c	66	45	sh	58	40	pc	56	36	pc
Boston	40	28	pc	34	28	sn	40	26	s	36	22	s
Chicago	37	30	sn	34	22	c	32	18	c	31	7	sf
Cleveland	46	37	pc	45	34	c	35	20	c	32	8	c
Denver	36	16	c	29	10	c	36	18	pc	38	9	pc
Des Moines	39	30	c	30	15	c	29	13	c	27	6	c
Detroit	40	32	sn	40	26	c	33	20	c	30	7	c
Houston	70	50	r	66	46	c	67	54	c	66	52	c
Indianapolis	49	43	sh	55	32	c	38	22	c	33	11	c
Kansas City	45	37	c	38	24	pc	37	21	c	32	12	c
Los Angeles	57	43	pc	56	44	c	62	43	c	67	37	c
Miami	84	70	s	84	72	s	82	66	s	80	62	pc
Minn. - St. Paul	26	14	sf	22	6	c	26	8	c	28	12	sf
New Orleans	76	65	c	75	55	c	71	49	pc	65	47	pc
New York City	42	36	pc	46	36	r	44	32	pc	39	16	pc
Omaha	36	28	c	30	15	c	30	11	c	29	7	c
Phoenix	62	44	c	63	45	pc	68	49	pc	69	39	c
San Francisco	56	45	pc	55	44	c	57	44	c	56	36	c
Seattle	40	28	pc	41	30	pc	45	32	pc	45	29	sh
Washington	46	36	pc	50	36	c	48	34	pc	44	20	c

SUN & MOON

Sunrise		Sunset	
Thu.	6:51 a.m.	5:32 p.m.	
Fri.	6:50 a.m.	5:33 p.m.	
Moonrise		Moonset	
Thu.	1:00 a.m.	11:19 a.m.	
Fri.	2:01 a.m.	11:56 a.m.	
Moon Phases			
Last	New	First	Full
			
Feb 14	Mar 2	Feb 23	
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		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	44	35	pc	37	29	pc	40	39	sn	44	33	r
Berlin	47	34	pc	35	24	pc	35	34	pc	38	25	sn
Buenos Aires	82	68	pc	82	68	s	82	62	s	84	68	s
Cairo	67	47	s	66	46	s	67	45	s	63	47	s
Jerusalem	54	37	s	56	37	s	58	37	s	51	35	pc
Johannesburg	74	62	c	78	61	pc	79	59	pc	84	64	pc
London	47	33	pc	41	33	pc	43	41	sh	49	40	sh
Madrid	61	37	pc	58	33	pc	52	31	c	50	29	pc
Mexico City	75	45	s	72	45	pc	69	45	pc	72	44	pc
Moscow	34	29	pc	34	25	c	27	12	pc	26	13	pc
Paris	49	35	pc	38	24	c	38	33	pc	38	35	sn
Rio de Janeiro	85	73	c	85	72	pc	83	71	pc	82	70	pc
Rome	53	38	c	56	41	c	53	33	pc	50	41	pc
San Juan	82	70	pc	82	70	pc	83	70	s	82	70	pc
Seoul	30	26	pc	35	28	pc	46	38	pc	46	37	r
Sydney	80	58	c	66	56	pc	66	58	pc	69	59	pc
Tokyo	37	22	s	41	36	pc	48	32	pc	43	38	pc
Toronto	38	28	sn	42	20	sh	21	4	sn	17	3	pc
Winnipeg	10	-1	c	0	-12	c	1	-18	pc	8	-2	c
Zurich	49	34	s	45	30	pc	34	22	pc	34	32	sn

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Using Education IRAs To Boost College Savings

AREA. — Although children get welcome breaks from school during the summer and for holidays, parents cannot afford to take a break from college savings. The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) points out that one way parents can boost their college savings is by taking advantage of Education Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs).

Despite the name, Education IRAs have little to do with retirement savings. Instead, these IRAs offer qualified taxpayers a tax-smart way to save for the future college education expenses of their children or other beneficiaries. Earnings in education IRAs accumulate tax-free and there is no tax on withdrawal if the money is used for qualified education expenses. Unlike some IRAs, though, contributions are not deductible.

Contributions to Education IRAs must be made in cash before your child (or another beneficiary) reaches age 18. You

can set up Education IRAs for as many beneficiaries as you choose. So parents who are saving for the higher education costs of more than one child can reap a greater benefit. However, total contributions per beneficiary cannot exceed \$500 in any tax year. It's wise to make sure you don't inadvertently exceed this limit. There's a six-percent excise tax for contributions that exceed \$500 in any given tax year.

Another important restriction to note: No contribution may be made by any person to an Education IRA during a year in which contributions are made to a qualified state tuition program on behalf of the same beneficiary. So for example, if, during the 2001 tax year a grandparent makes a contribution to a qualified state tuition program on behalf of a grandchild, the parents cannot make the \$500 annual contribution to an Education IRA on behalf of the same child in 2001.

Don't forget that Education IRA savings can be used only for qualified higher education expenses. These include tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment. Expenses of room and board qualify only if your beneficiary is at least a half-time student at an eligible educational institution. Room and board is limited to the school's designated room and board charge for students living on campus or \$2,500 each year for students living off campus and not at home. You also should be aware that distributions in excess of qualified expenses may be considered taxable income and may be subject to a 10-percent additional tax.

Generally, any accredited public, nonprofit, or privately-owned postsecondary institution, including vocational schools, meet the eligibility requirements.

Unfortunately, not everyone can take advantage of the benefits of Education IRAs. The pro-

visions allowing contributions to an Education IRA are phased out for taxpayers whose AGI is between \$95,000 and \$110,000 if single, and between \$150,000 and \$160,000 if married filing jointly.

Education IRA balances must be distributed by the time a student reaches age 30. The earnings portion of the distribution must be included in the beneficiary's gross income. So what happens if your child decides not to attend college or any other postsecondary school for which you have set aside funds in an Education IRA? Your child will face a 10-percent penalty on the amount withdrawn if not used for qualified education expenses. One way to avoid this penalty is to roll over the balance tax-free into a new Education IRA for another member of the original beneficiary's family.

Keep in mind too that you cannot take either the Hope or Lifetime Learning credit in a

year in which you withdraw money from an Education IRA.

If you meet the income thresholds and other requirements, you can work with a CPA to determine whether the Education IRA should be a part of



your overall college savings strategy or if you would obtain a better return on your investments by putting your money in other savings vehicles.

Prepare For "R" Day

by Dr. Karen Easle,
RD, FADA, CFCS

AREA — On Friday, you get up in the morning and go to work, just as you have every day for the last 30 years. On the following Monday and every day after, you don't. Welcome to retirement and living the good life — you hope.

Unless you've won a million dollars in a lottery or game show, it's going to be more complicated. It certainly takes more time if you want to retire successfully.

Think of retirement as a mountain to climb and that, in all likelihood, it's going to take you three years to get to sunshine on the other side. Specifically, those three years are the year before you retire the year that you retire, and your first full year of retirement.

Much of a person's retirement planning the year before retirement should be spent tying up loose ends. Your employer should be informed of your plans to retire as well as the retirement plan administrator that you will be withdrawing money from the plan instead of adding. Next, there is life and disability insurance to review. You won't need disability insurance to replace your salary if you aren't earning one. The year prior to retirement is also the time to visit the Social Security office. You should get the paper work going at least 90 days ahead of your "R" date.

There is also a less tangible but real matter of preparing for retirement psychologically. For many people, we are what we do. We identify ourselves with our work. That final Friday, you were Professor Smith or the manager of a department store. On the next Monday, you are just plain John. That can take a lot of adjusting to.

The second year of the three-year window is when you are actually quitting. It is a year of planning your retirement cash flow. You don't want to wake up on day one asking what have I done? I don't have enough money. I retired too early. Retirees won't have the anxiety if they have done their homework. First, they must evaluate their Social Security, pensions, profit sharing, personal

investments and whatever other assets they have. Then, they must determine how much of this they can spend. All of their lives, they have been saving for a rainy day; now it's raining. From here, they must examine how much money is actually needed to live on. Many don't feel they need much money, but there are new activities to be discovered.

In all of this, retirees should look realistically at how long they are likely to need to provide income for. Chances are it could be a very long time depending on their age at retirement.

The third year — your first full year of retirement, is a time to re-evaluate. By this time you will have found out exactly what your monthly expenses are. You may have added some new ones like travel. You may sell your home

and downsize. But on the other hand, you may "upsized" to something south of New Jersey.

Now you made it over the mountain.

This MONEY 2000™ message is sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative

Extension. MONEY 2000™ is a program designed to increase the financial well being of New Jersey residents through increased savings and reduced household debt. For further information about MONEY 2000™ and other educational programs, contact your local Rutgers Cooperative Extension office.

Kenneth Vercammen, Esq.

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Comics & Puzzles



YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"Shadow of The Vampire"

A Method To His Madness



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberger

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



"Shadow of The Vampire" brazenly flirts with both sides of your brain...enchancing one lobe and confounding the other.

The sensible you dismisses as absurd this fanciful faux docudrama about the making of the silent horror classic, "Nosferatu" (1922). After all, it's too far-fetched, not to mention an affront to the memory of those film pioneers it chronicles. But the more adventurous you is infatuated with the implausibly outlandish premise that fuels director E. Elias Merhige's haunting homage to filmmaker F.W. Murnau. Just bring on the insanity, sez you. You don't mind the liberties screenwriter Steven Katz takes. If it's the director's contention that the German expressionist at the center of his tale was able to achieve realism by actually hiring a 400-year-old vampire to play the title role, who are you to argue?

This is certainly among the strangest backstage sagas ever told. As the film opens, John Malkovich's Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, already Berlin's acknowledged film genius, tells the cast and crew his plan. Max Schreck, his title player and the penultimate Stanislavskian, will appear only for his scenes, and then always in full make-up. Oh...and it'll only be at night. Reputedly, he cut his, er, acting teeth, in the great Max Reinhardt's acting troupe. And then further ruffling his company's feathers, the director whisks them away from the creature comforts of their Berlin studio to humble and realistic locations in Czechoslovakia.

Murnau's eager assistants, who wear long lab coats and address him as Herr Doctor, have their curiosity aroused, but that's all. They're used to the unorthodox and creative wiles of their artistic boss. And though some emit a note of anxiety when Willem Dafoe as the hideous Schreck makes his first appearance, they are for the most part too self-obsessed to immediately realize what has alighted in their midst. Only Udo Kier, as producer Albin Grau, looks on at the hideous specter and blankly opines, "He's not from Reinhardt's company."

The audience isn't quite so nonchalant, as well they shouldn't be. Mr. Dafoe's physical and emotional re-creation of the pointy-

eared monster that Max Schreck brought to life (or death, depending on your take) is frighteningly accurate.

Remember though, technically this isn't Dracula. Bram Stoker's wife wouldn't sell the movie rights. So they called him Count Orlock/Nosferatu and made minor story changes. Mrs. Stoker sued anyway and, after a successful run, Pan Graf Films wound up burning all the prints (of course, boot copies survived—yup, even then). But no matter, even if you've never seen the original—everyone instantly recognizes who this chillingly back lit demon is. For no vampire movie retrospective begins without startling images of this ghastly granddaddy of them all. Utterly despicable, he smirks with unholy satisfaction, amused by his shockingly repellent self.

Dafoe has a great time with the stunningly lurid role. And check out the digit extensions. There isn't a receptionist in the Greater Metropolitan Area has anything on this Nosferatu. Equipped with those legendary long fingernails, pallid and soiled by centuries of skulduggery, delightful Willem exploits this symbolic prop for all



its freakish worth.

Clutching these finger fangs to his breast the way a Geisha might nuzzle her fan, he imbues his monster with a strangely offsetting coquetry.

But in trying to understand him, don't mistake his curious vanity with the mortal variety. This isn't the sad, old, romanticized vampire who longs for human love or the ultimate peace of death. There is no moment of Homo sapien warmth within this cold-blooded fiend. To underestimate or attempt to ingratiate yourself with him is a sign of weakness. After curdling your blood with fear, he will bite you. In short, he is the essence of uncompromising evil.

Other players have just about as much fun with their portrayals, especially John Malkovich in his studious depiction of the F.W. Murnau persona. It is

Berlin....Europe between the wars. "Cabaret" and all that. And thus aside from being a great director, completely and effete full of himself, he is an imbibor of his era's decadence. In a way, he is the other monster. The kind that contends society should sanction his behavior.

The difference is, Malkovich's Murnau is not inherently evil. Convinced of his mission, the film pioneer has appointed himself the keeper of posterity. And in his zeal to preserve on celluloid this vampire-turned-method actor extraordinaire, he winds up biting off more than he can chew, to coin a phrase.

Eventually, the film's two forces go at loggerheads. The climax approaches. The sparks fly. Man against beast, with a pretty girl, actress Greta Schroeder

(Catherine McCormack) as Nosferatu's heart's desire, thrown in for good measure. Naturally, or rather, unnaturally, the cast and crew are not immune to the cataclysmic fallout. The blood flows. The body count mounts. Yet in an operationally self-effacing statement about the towering arrogance of art, the cameras keep rolling. Whew! Pretty nutty stuff.

Thinking what price glory, such sang-froid has us abashed. But hey, none of this is true, is it? Well, not all of it, right? Schreck lived until 1936 and made a few more films. And yes, he had been with Reinhardt. Wonder if Actor's Equity knew he was a vampire? Anyway, if he has any living relatives, what must they think of this outrageous contention?

Insofar as the golden boy is concerned, he is credited with

influencing a very young Alfred Hitchcock when he studied under him in Berlin.

Eventually making it to Hollywood, he had notable success with Fox, and in the South Seas continued his groundbreaking work with location filmmaking. A little while later, F.W. Murnau's still young life and brilliance were snuffed out by a car accident in California. Hence it is apparent that director E. Elias Merhige's preposterously unconventional paeon to this filmmaker captures not the details of his life, but rather the spirit and shadows of his being.

"Shadow of The Vampire," rated R, is a Lions Gate release of a Saturn Film directed by E. Elias Merhige and stars John Malkovich, Willem Dafoe and Catherine McCormack. Running time: 91 minutes

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner

PERTH AMBOY—Simpson United Methodist Church, High & Jefferson Sts., will hold an "All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner" along with a great salad bar, coffee, tea, soda and desserts on Saturday, Feb. 17 from 5-7 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

'The Lamb's Book Of Life'

SOUTH AMBOY — The Pastor's Prayer Fellowship will sponsor a life giving drama, "The Lamb's Book of Life," produced by New Beginnings Ministries of Mussolula, Mt.

The drama will be presented at the South Amboy High School Cafeteria on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Call (732) 721-5433 for directions and/or more information.

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Pet Owners Find Haven In Woodbridge

WOODBIDGE—For those who love pets and those who have yet to find the right one to call their own, *Animals and Things* is the place to seek out first. Opening the doors of *Animals and Things*, established in 1971 in Woodbridge Center by Gordon McKay and his wife, Helen, began a long love affair with animals of all breeds, shapes and sizes. While McKay is not sure exactly what brought on the desire to establish a business devoted to animals, he does confess that animals have always been an integral part of his life. As evidence to this fact, Gordon and Helen have two additional family members named Donald and Islay who happen to be German Shepherds.

From humble beginnings in the mall, McKay has expanded *Animals and Things* into a thriving business located on Rt. 1 South in Woodbridge. The relocation took place in 1986 to accommodate his rapidly expanding clientele and the variety of animals with which he deals. Exotic fish, AKC registered pedigree dogs, hand-raised birds, playful ferrets and friendly felines are just some of the pets that one would find at *Animal and Things*.

In 1999 a renovation and expansion of *Animals and Things* brought them to 26,000 square feet. Housed within are scores of cats, dogs and 30,000 gallons of fresh and salt water containing thousands of fish. McKay also boasts of his store's extensive stock of essential products for the care and maintenance of animals, numbering over 15,000 items. Special orders can always be placed for items if customers do not find what they are seeking on the shelves. *Animals and Things*



Sharon Hassick, star of *Animals and Things* cable TV commercials, helps owner, Gordon McKay bathe a canine friend in the new Pet Wash.

carry unique items like St. Bernard's brandy keg collars and a whole selection of elaborate leather studded collars for canines.

When asked about any special moments in his years of business that stood out in his mind, McKay delights in telling the story of a bride and groom who appeared at the cash register one afternoon in their full formal wedding attire. The bride, in her gleaming white gown and groom in his pressed tuxedo, stood at the counter. They were tearing open wedding envelopes and pulling money out of each, searching for the cash to buy a Golden Retriever. When McKay inquired why they were there fresh from the altar, the bride explained that her mother had told her she could only have a dog once she was married. So, after the nuptials, the very first thing she did was come to

Animals and Things to purchase the long desired dog. The wide smile displayed on McKay's face as he related the tale revealed that this is a memory he cherishes.

Animals and Things requires over 50 employees to maintain a smooth operation. These employees look after the animals everyday. A daunting task, but one eagerly attended to by the caring staff. With thousands of living creatures to attend to it takes a special group of dedicated people to coordinate the feeding and nurturing of these animals.

The year 2001 will mark the 30th anniversary of *Animals and Things*. A long-standing dedication and devotion to both warm and cold-blooded pets has made the name *Animals and Things* synonymous with quality and professional service.

Gordon McKay speaks proudly of the most recent addition to

his facility—The Pet Wash. Being the first in New Jersey to offer such a convenient method of bathing a pet. *Animals and Things* has broken new ground with this unique venture. The Pet Wash provides all materials, including soap, brushes, shampoo, bathtubs, aprons, towels and hair dryers to make this experience easy and enjoyable for both owner and animal.

The Pet Wash makes bathing a furry family member a fun, instead of exasperating, experience.

Gift Certificates for the holidays or any occasion, are available at *Animals and Things* as a perfect present for the animal lover in your life.

For more information about The Pet Wash, merchandise, animals or gift certificates, call their helpful staff at (732) 855-8515.

20 Bearcats Receive Medals At Tourney

FORDS—A total of twenty-six Bearcat wrestlers entered the sin-

gle-elimination Edison Dan Donahue (B-110). Tournament last weekend and all Silver medalists included: but six brought home medals. Michael Nagy (B-50), Peter Striking Gold for the Cats Buttitta (JR-63), were: Michael Buttitta (B-50), Chuck Sabin (B-65), Sebastian Waters (M-69), Tommy Hogan (JR-72), Anthony Jason Rodriguez (INT-95), Joe Bubenheimer (INT-108) and Faiello (INT-95), Brett Epps

(INT-100), Nick Afonso (M-110) and Anthony Watkins (M-HWT). Bronze medal winners were: Frank Maglione (B-75), Michael Hart (M-65), Matt Hart (M-70), Kacy Epps (M-72), Craig Batista (JR-85) and Vin Maglione (JR-HWT).

Tom Skibo (JR-95), earned a fourth place finish, as did the Bearcats for the tourney.

"Twenty out of twenty-six is a pretty good showing," said Bearcats' Head Coach Carl Buttitta. "Many of the teams who finished ahead of us entered many more wrestlers than we did."

The Bearcats will attend the Old Bridge Tournament.

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READERS COMMENTARY



Resource Recovery Facility In Fresh Kills?

Dear Editor,
For the past twenty-five years we have allowed paranoid environmentalists and "doomsayers" to have their way.

Construction of electric generating stations and oil refineries has been stymied, yet the demand for their products has increased.

Manufacturing plants have left the state and country. We are now faced with a power shortage in California and New York City, add this to New York City's critical garbage problem.

Since no town or city in New Jersey with an industrial zone, will host a modern Resource Recovery facility, similar to the Rahway and Newark plants, perhaps New York City should

consider building one at the Fresh Kills land fill site. They would generate much needed electricity and solve the city's costly garbage disposal problem. It would also eliminate the need for expensive transfer stations and more important, the unwanted garbage trains in New Jersey.

Modern, safe, high temperature Resource Recovery plants have a 90 percent waste reduction. It is the only safe, effective way to deal with garbage. As a point of information, New Jersey exports approximately three million tons of garbage a year, hence, the need for more Resource Recovery plants.

Vincent R. Martino
Port Reading

Good Fun That Is Funny

Dear Editor,

Sen. Ted Kennedy, champion of the poor and downtrodden, has added \$4,000,000 to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2001 appropriations bill. But you might be surprised that this rather generous taxpayer contribution wasn't slated to house a single homeless child. No, it's intended instead to help build a memorial to Dr. Seuss in the Senator's home state of

Massachusetts. It's a "green eggs and pork" kind of thing.

To quote one of Seuss's best-known characters: "I know some good games we could play," said the cat. "I know some new tricks," said the Cat in the Hat. "A lot of good tricks. I will show them to you. Your mother will not mind at all if I do." A line Ted Kennedy may have used once or twice himself.

Henry A. Damen
Edison

Got something to say? Why not write a letter to our "Readers Commentary" column? Tell us how you feel about current situations both locally and nationally.

Send to: AT/CG, "Readers Commentary", PO Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065

YMCA And Oakcrest Swim Club Join Forces

EDISON—The YMCA and the Oakcrest Swim Club, Inc., have reached an historic agreement that will greatly enhance the quality of life in Edison and surrounding communities. The newly created YMCA Family Swim Club at Oakcrest boasts 14 acres and an outstanding facility that includes the swimming pool, tennis courts, athletic fields, a sand volleyball court, a basketball court and an archery field.

The four-year lease agreement provides the foundation for a unique collaboration that will benefit both the YMCA and the Oakcrest Swim Club and will capitalize on the Y's proven expertise in outdoor pool management. The YMCA's previously

established day camp will flourish at the Oakcrest facility. In addition to pool memberships, the community will have the opportunity to enjoy fabulous family activities, such as Family Fun Night, Teen Night, private swim lessons, backyard pool programs, tennis lessons and volleyball tournaments.

Membership to the YMCA Family Swim Club at Oakcrest is available now, open to the public, at the Metuchen-Edison YMCA. After June 25, you may contact the pool office at (908) 756-9853. Take advantage of this fantastic opportunity for your family to enjoy the beautiful facility on Inman Avenue in North Edison.

What Is 55 Alive?

PERTH AMBOY — "55 Alive" is a classroom refresher course for drivers 50 years of age and over. This program is presented by AARP.

The course will take four hours a day, for two days and will be held at the Perth Amboy YMHA, 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy, on Tuesday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 14.

The benefit of the program is,

that after completing the two-day course, you will receive a 5 percent discount from your auto insurance company for three years. Or, if you have points on your license, two points will be removed.

Registration is limited, and a payment of \$10 per person must be paid by March 5. Checks should be made out to AARP. Reservations are being accepted now. Call (732) 442-0365.

Police Upgrade Laptops

WOODBIDGE—A series of technological advances at the Woodbridge Township Police Department will continue with the installation of new laptop computers in the patrol cars.

"Woodbridge Township is committed to providing our police officers with the tools needed to maintain and enhance public safety throughout the community," Mayor James E. McGreevey said. "The new, more powerful laptops will help ensure public safety," he said.

Information Systems Director Michael D. Esolda said Woodbridge will use a federal grant to purchase 30 IBM Thinkpad A20M laptop computers, each with 128K memory upgrades.

The computers, which will

replace laptops currently in police cars, will provide police with a faster processor to speed the response time for the records officers request through the units.

Police Chief William Trenery said officers use the laptops to obtain critical data such as national crime information, DMV records, and local records.

Woodbridge will receive the funds under the Federal Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance, which is the granting agency, allows local police departments to determine how to utilize the funds to meet their operational needs.

Woodbridge Awarded Clean Communities Grant

WOODBIDGE—The Township has been awarded a \$123,369 Clean Communities Grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

"The grant underscores Woodbridge Township's commitment to protect and preserve our environment," Mayor James E. McGreevey said.

"Through increased recycling and litter cleanup programs, educational projects, strict enforcement of environmental regulations and other initiatives, Woodbridge provides the community with a

safe and healthy environment," he said.

The Township will use the funds to conduct educational programs on the environment in Woodbridge schools, cleanup programs for municipal roadways and parks and other projects designed to keep the community clean.

"The Clean Communities Program was created in 1986," McGreevey said.

"Since its inception, the program has provided more than \$100 million to assist local governments with litter control and other projects."

Kosnik Named To Dean's List

COLONIA—Patricia Kosnik of Colonia was awarded a certificate of achievement and was among the 1,051 Lehigh University students who were named to the Dean's List for the fall 2000 semester. The announcement was made

by Sharon K. Basso, dean of students.

Undergraduates on the Dean's List earned a grade point average of 3.5 or better—on a 4.0 scale—and carried at least 12 hours of courses.

Seventh Annual Irish Talent Night

PERTH AMBOY—Join us at Emmaus House for an evening of sheer fun! Irish Talent Night featuring our own Jim Payne & Co.

Corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The show begins at 6:30 p.m.

Donation is \$15 per person; \$10 for the show only. Please make reservations by Feb. 27. Call (732) 442-7688.

Larrea Completes Marine Corps Training

PERTH AMBOY—Marine Corps Pvt. Winder B. Larrea, son of Tula V. Vateri of New Brunswick and Manuel A. Larrea of Perth Amboy, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

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

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

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

Larrea is a 2000 graduate of New Brunswick High School.

Peters Completes Basic Training

WOODBIDGE—Marine Corps Stanley J. Peters, III, son of Emma G. and Stanley G. Peters of Woodbridge, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

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

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

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

Peters is a 1999 graduate of Woodbridge High School.

YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Got Fear? Get Facts

by Michael Gough
(NAPS) — Got fear? That's the message some special interest groups promote about our food.

Under the banners of "physicians' committees," "public interest" groups and "consumer rights" organizations, they scare us to raise money for themselves.

A recent campaign-in TV and newspaper ads, highway billboards, supermarket flyers and the Internet-abuses the popular "Got Milk?" ads. These groups ran "Got Beer?," "Got Prostate Cancer?" and other misguided ads to scare consumers away from dairy products.

Other wild claims include milk causing diabetes, cancer, ear infections, infant allergies, colic and anemia. One group actually said calcium rich milk increased, rather than decreased the risk of osteoporosis.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, American Cancer Society, American Dietetic Association and many other government and independent experts, the scary claims are seriously misleading and often just plain false.

Some state "public interest" groups placed fullpage newspaper ads attacking milk produced by cows receiving hormones. Similar messages circulated in

"Safe Food News" magazines at pricey "natural" food supermarkets.

This "Got hormone-free milk?" campaign falsely claims dairy consumers risk breast and prostate cancer, increased antibiotic resistance and other ills. The campaign offers coupons for "hormone-free" ice cream and ways to help schools ban the offending milk.

But extensive, world-wide testing of milk and meat from such cows shows the products are safe, according to the FDA. Separate reviews by the National Institutes of Health, the World Health Organization, and studies in prestigious medical journals such as Pediatrics and the Journal of the American

Medical Association also conclude the products are safe.

What do these multi-million dollar campaigns have in common besides being misleading? The special interests raise money with the assistance of a slick, marketing and public relations firm in Washington, D.C.

Documents expose these campaigns as designed to "generate revenues" for the special interests by exploiting headline-grabbing scares. When the scares were exposed as false, one group blamed the media for "muddling" the message.

The PR firm conveniently also represents many for-profit "natural" and "organic" products businesses whose marketing campaigns benefit from the scares. Often, for-profit marketing efforts are included with the non-profit ads as free product

coupons or acknowledged sponsorships. Not surprisingly, the for-profit businesses also fund the various special interest groups.

The lesson for consumers when presented with "Got fear?" campaigns, is to "Get facts."

Michael Gough is a former government scientist.

Resources for consumers about food fear claims include: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, www.FDA.gov, American Dietetic Association, www.eatright.org, Georgetown University Center for Food and Nutrition Policy, www.ceres.net.org, University of California Center for Consumer Research, ccr.ucdavis.edu.

For more information about food scares and their sponsors visit NoMoreScares.com.



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Avoiding Germs In Public

(NAPSA) — Just about anyone who works or travels outside the home uses a public restroom several times a day. In fact, the average office building tenant spends more than three workdays a year in the restroom.

Since you can't stop other people from spreading germs after using the bathroom, here are some suggestions for germ avoidance in public restrooms:

- Look for enclosed toilet paper systems that let you touch only the product that you need, reducing the potential for cross-contamination. Toilet paper in an enclosed system is also protected from dirt and moisture.
- If you have a choice, pick a restroom with no-touch faucets

and toilet flushing devices. That way you can use the restroom without touching a lot of handles or levers that may harbor germs.

• No-touch paper towel and no-touch soap systems offer the same benefits when washing hands.

• Turn off the faucet with a paper towel after washing your hands, then use the towel to open the door before throwing it away.

• Try not to touch bathroom surfaces after you have washed your hands-since germs can be spread to others via restroom fixtures, surfaces, faucets and product dispensers.

Lastly, remember to wash

your hands correctly. Use soap and warm, running water. Wash your skin well, including your wrists, palms, back of the hands, fingers and under your fingernails. Rub your hands together for at least 10 to 15 seconds. If you wash your hands correctly, you will greatly reduce the chances of spreading germs, including those that have developed resistance to antibiotics. Disease-causing germs can enter your body when your unwashed hands touch your nose, mouth or open wounds.

For more information on germ protection, visit the Kimberly-Clark Skin Wellness Institute Web site at www.kc.skinhealth.com.

Powerful Help For Powerful Coughs

(NAPSA) — Whether they're caused by colds or dry

available without a prescription for long-lasting relief.

Unlike some cough drops that taste and perform like candy, these new cough lozenges, called N'ICE

Powerful Cough Formula, deliver a powerful blast of menthol that quickly calms a cough while it cools the nasal passages.

The lozenges are available in local stores and come in Powerful Peppermint, Cherry Frost and Lemon Ice flavors that are not only effective but are considered tasty, too. This new product is also the only major brand to use sorbitol, which is sugar-free and provides a cooling sensation.



Serious coughs should be taken seriously.

Two things are bad for the heart: running uphill and running down people.
— Bernard Gimbel



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**Tracey A. Prince, 43
of Edison**

Mrs. Tracey A. Prince of Edison died January 17 at home. She was 43.

Born in Englewood, she lived in Colonia and Clark before moving to Edison 15 years ago.

She was a graduate of University of Maryland at College Park.

Surviving are her husband, Andrew; two sons, Michael and Steven; her father, Charles Bobkier; her mother, Mrs. Joan Baroni; and a sister, Mrs. Jill Freeman.

**Peter Norbut, 92
of Colonia**

Mr. Peter John Norbut of Colonia died February 1 at the Highlands Nursing Home, Edison. He was 92.

Born in Newark, he lived in North Jersey and Nutley before moving to Colonia in 1998.

He was a manager at A&P supermarkets in the Newark area. Mr. Norbut worked for more than 40 years before retiring in 1973.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Constance Penna; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Rita Everett, 75
of Woodbridge**

Mrs. Rita R. Everett of Woodbridge died February 2 at Columbus Hospital, Newark. She was 75.

Born in Philadelphia, she lived in Avenel and Woodbridge for the last 35 years.

She had been a member of the Woodbridge Senior Citizens and the Catholic Daughters Court Mercedes.

Surviving are her husband, John; a daughter, Rita M.; two sisters, Mrs. Helen Ciccone and Mrs. Catherine Reed; and a brother, John Rastelli.

James J. Warren of Carteret

Mr. James J. Warren of Carteret died February 4 in the Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division.

He was 76. Born in Newark, he moved to Carteret 45 years ago.

He was a retired toll collector for the New Jersey Turnpike for 25 years.

Mr. Warren served in the Marines during World War II. He participated in landings on Cape Gloucester, Peleliu and Okinawa, and received the Purple Heart.

He was a member of the First

Marine Division Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Star Landing Post 2314, Carteret and the Marine Corp League Martin Danowsky Detachment.

He was also a member of the Carteret Community Seniors, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Carteret and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Surviving are his wife, Mary; a daughter, Theresa and two sons, James M. and Thomas.

**Irma R. Booth, 54
of Avenel**

Mrs. Irma R. Booth of Avenel died January 28 at home. She was 54.

Born in Elizabeth, she moved to Avenel 31 years ago.

She was a licensed practical nurse at the Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains, for five years.

Surviving are her husband, Gerald of 36 years; three sons, Ron Jr., Brian and Jason; her mother, Mrs. Gertrude Albrecht; a sister, Mrs. Maryann Schmanko and several grandchildren.

**Marie Semenza, 82
of Edison**

Mrs. Marie Helen Semenza of Edison died February 1, 2001 in the Park Plaza Center Nursing Home, Monmouth Junction. She was 82.

Born in East Orange, Mrs. Semenza lived in Edison since 1956.

She had been a bookkeeper and sales associate for Montgomery Ward in Menlo Park for 20 years before retiring in 1970.

Mrs. Semenza leaves behind a son, Dominick; three daughters, Mrs. Rose Ulozas, Mrs. Marie Elaine Rogalski and Mrs. JoAnn Damiano; a brother, Salvatore Longo; a sister, Mrs. Angela Lepore; 14 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Joseph J. Kaczynski
of Edison**

Mr. Joseph J. Kaczynski of Edison died January 25 in the Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 77. Born in Harrison, he moved to Edison about eight years ago.

He worked at Becton-Dickinson in East Rutherford for nine years, before retiring in 1987. Earlier, he had worked for the RCA Corp., Harrison, for 34 years.

Mr. Kaczynski was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific and American theatres.

Surviving are his wife, Genevieve; three daughters, Mrs. Janice K. Pease, Mrs. Joanne Bogoslaw and Mrs. Judy K. Wood; a sister, Mrs. Helen Apatsky; and five grandchildren.

Mary J. Pappas of Fords

Mrs. Mary J. Pappas of Fords died February 6 in JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 70.

Born in Staten Island, she lived in Woodbridge for many years before moving to Fords a year ago.

Mrs. Pappas owned All State Catering, Inc., Woodbridge, with her husband, John, for 35 years before retiring in 1990.

She was the founder and president of the Greater Green

**Christopher Andreadis
Lived in Perth Amboy**

Mr. Christopher Andreadis of North Brunswick (formerly of Perth Amboy) died January 30 in the New Jersey Veterans Home, Menlo Park. He was 87.

Born in Greece, he lived in Hopelawn and Perth Amboy before moving to North Brunswick many years ago.

He was a field operator with the Chevron Oil Co., Perth Amboy before retiring in 1981.

He served in the Army during World War II and received the Purple Heart.

Mr. Andreadis was a member of the American Hellenic Education Progression Association Chapter 74, Monroe.

Surviving are a son, Christopher Lance; a daughter, Mrs. Connie Ferullo; two brothers, Edward and John and two grandchildren.

Street Association, Woodbridge, to fight commercial development of a residential area. She volunteered in the lunchroom and was a monitor and called bingo at St. James School, Woodbridge.

Surviving are her husband, John; two daughters, Mrs. Regina Folan and Helene; a son, Michael Laing and seven grandchildren.

Cissie Dickens, 88 of Edison

Mrs. Cissie Dickens of Edison died January 27 at Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital, Browns Mills. She was 88.

Born in London, she lived in Elizabeth before moving to Edison 50 years ago.

She worked in the distribution department of Revlon in Edison for 15 years before retiring in 1978.

Mrs. Dickens was a member of Congregation Adath Israel

and its Sisterhood in Woodbridge.

She was also a member of the YMHA Seniors in Perth Amboy and a volunteer at the Forum Theater in Metuchen.

Her husband, Samuel, died in 1992; and she was also predeceased by two sisters, Phoebe Jayne in 1999 and Rita Ullman in 1993.

Surviving are a niece, Valerie Leaf; and one uncle, Sydney Miller, both of London.

Alfred M. Rauh, Sr. of Edison

Mr. Alfred Rauh Sr. of Whiting (formerly of Edison) died February 4 at home. He was 80.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Edison before moving to Whiting seven years ago.

He worked for General Motors in Linden before retiring in 1983.

Mr. Rauh was a Navy veteran

of World War II and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3117, Edison.

Surviving are a son, Alfred; three daughters, Mrs. Patricia Ann Forner, Mrs. Margaret Walsh and Mrs. Linda Vacca; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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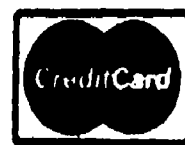
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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

New "Nitro"™ Extreme Thrill Coaster To Blast-Off In 2001 Season

AREA — On the heels of two historic and record-breaking years of major expansion, Six Flags officials once again seized center stage recently announcing a colossal new addition at Six Flags Great Adventure theme park — Nitro — the most explosive coaster on the planet. Officials also announced an unprecedented new value-pricing program making the Six Flags Wild Safari free to theme park ticket purchasers.

"Six Flags isn't a company to sit on its laurels," stated Bill

Muirhead, vice president and general manager, Six Flags in New Jersey. "Our announcement of a substantial new ride at our New Jersey theme park shakes the theme park industry at its core where three consecutive years of expansion is nothing short of historical."

Six Flags Great Adventure will turn the heat up in 2001 with the powerhouse new super roller coaster Nitro. "This is no ordinary roller coaster," Muirhead said. "It's more than just a powder-keg

of thrills, it is nuclear in terms of the overall intensity and exhilaration of the ride experience."

The single largest addition in the 27 years at Six Flags Great Adventure, Nitro transforms the "mega coaster" — an industry term meaning to tower in excess of 200 feet — into a cutting-edge ultra thrill machine. Completely unique in design, Nitro will take thrill-lovers on a white-knuckled ascent 230 feet (23 stories), only to dive 215 feet back to Earth at hyper-speeds approaching 80

m.p.h.

The ultra-intense, mile-long journey packed with relentless thrills features seven steep and dramatic drops for long "air time"—when a rider lifts off the seat from negative gravitational forces—and several extreme maneuvers including double highly-banked "flat loops," or pair of horizontal loops, an S-curve and high-speed "hammer head" featuring intense, tight twists and turns. Heightening the thrill, riders rocket through the maze of twisted steel in a revolutionary carriage composed of four-abreast, tilted-back seats and a simple lap bar. These open-air seats allow maximum air-flow, free of traditional confining fiberglass enclosures, but push the fear threshold since there's nowhere to hide, and nothing on which to cling.

popular rides since 1993.

"Nitro is a monument to Six Flags' commitment to bring the biggest and boldest cutting-edge thrill coasters anywhere in the world, or universe for that matter," Muirhead said. "This ride is off the charts — a new breed of thrill experience. An absolute-must-do for thrill-seekers worldwide," he added. Nitro is slated to debut on the park's opening day, April 7.

In an unprecedented move by Six Flags officials, theme park goes for the first time ever will gain free admission to the Wild Safari during the 2001 season, creating an extraordinary entertainment offer. "Six Flags is known not only for bringing innovative thrill rides and attractions every year to millions around the world, but also for value entertainment the whole family can

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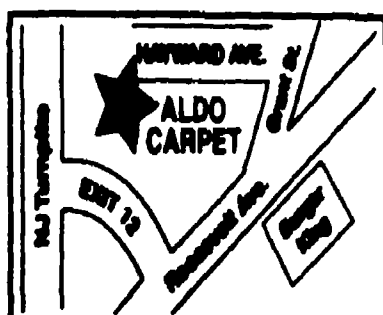
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Already the talk of the industry, Nitro has coaster experts stepping forward claiming it is the hottest new super thrill coaster for 2001. Coaster historian and life-long enthusiast Paul Ruben, editor of *Park World* magazine, raves, "Six Flags is taking the thrill ride to an entirely new level — it's pushing the envelope big-time!" Adds Steve Urbanowicz, author of *The Roller Coaster Lover's Companion*, "Nitro overdoes on adrenaline producing a white-knuckled ride from start to finish! I dare you to catch your breath!"

"Nitro completes a world-class 12-pack of thrill machines, ranking Six Flags Great Adventure 'The Mother of All Coaster Parks,'" Muirhead said. Nitro is the brainchild of the amusement industry's premier roller coaster manufacturer B&M (Bolliger and Mabillard) of Switzerland. Nitro will join the esteemed ranks of 1999's smash-hit "Medusa," the world's first top-rail floorless coaster, and the famous "Batman the Ride," one of the first suspended looping coasters that has ranked among the park's most

enjoy. This year, we're delivering family value by offering the Six Flags Wild Safari free with the purchase of a theme park ticket," announced Muirhead. "There's no greater value anywhere in the theme park industry."

A visit to the Six Flags Wild Safari is one of the most enthralling, amazing and educational theme park experiences in existence. The 350-acre wildlife preserve is the world's largest drive-through safari outside of Africa, featuring more than 1,200 animals from six continents. Its unique drive-through configuration makes it completely different from a visit to the zoo, as animals can walk right up to guests' vehicles for an up-close and personal experience. Guests in 2001 will enjoy the incredible antics of such safari favorites as giraffes, elephants, rhinos, ostriches, tigers, camels and baboons free with their theme park ticket.

Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari will kick-off their 28th season on April 7. For more information, call 732-928-1821 or visit the Web at [six flags.com](http://sixflags.com).