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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Son Of Edison Couple Supports Navy, America In Enduring Freedom

by Wendy Bodetka

EDISON—The recent terrorist attacks in the United States continue to arouse new concerns among citizens, politicians and military leaders about how to ensure the safety of the American people. In addition to Air Force bombers and Army mountain divisions, there are more than 350,000 Sailors in the United States Navy currently participating in *Operation Enduring Freedom* and playing their part in homeland defense.

In September of 1997, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian P. Gillingham, son of James and Judith Gillingham of Edison, took the oath to serve his fellow

Americans and protect and uphold the Constitution of the United States, at whatever cost.

Every Sailor has personal reasons for joining the Navy and for Gillingham the choice was clear. "Being in the military was something that I wanted to do since I was four years old," said the 1997 graduate of Edison High School. "I followed in the footsteps of my father who was in the Navy during Vietnam."

As an aviation boatswain's mate assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69), Gillingham is one of many Sailors whose very presence in the military means they are playing an important part in

America's new war against terrorism. In addition to SEALs, submariners and pilots, Navy Sailors serve in roles ranging from the medical and aviation support fields to information systems technology and construction battalions.

Sailors stationed all over the world are trained and ready to act immediately when called upon. Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian P. Gillingham is one of thousands of military members who have left their own families

and loved ones behind, willing to endanger their lives protecting their country, its values and their fellow Americans. It is this self-sacrificing spirit, seen so many times on so many levels throughout our nation's history, that ensures the future of America and defines the character of the men and women of the United States Navy.

Wendy Bodetka is a journalist at the Pacific Affairs Center, Norfolk, Va.

Annual Holiday Parade Ready To Step Off

PERTH AMBOY — The Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce will host their Annual Christmas Parade on Sat., Dec. 8 starting at 1 p.m. Mayor Joseph Vas will lead the parade from Water Stadium on Eagle Ave., to Amboy Ave., Oak St. and Smith St. The parade finishes at City Hall Circle on High Street where punch and cookies will be served.

The parade will feature a contingent of marching bands, floats, vintage cars, cartoon figures and Santa Claus. A drawing for the "World's Largest" Christmas Stocking (8 feet) will take place at the reviewing stand on Smith Street and Hobart Street. In addition, the Chamber and the City of Perth Amboy Recreation Dept. co-sponsor the Holiday Home and Business Decorating Contest open to all Perth Amboy residents and businesses. All applications

must be submitted by Dec. 11. Prizes will be awarded for most Beautiful and Most Original Home and Best Dressed Store Window.

For more information or an application for the parade or Home/Business Decorating Contest, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (732) 442-7400.

The Lunatic, The Lover, And The Poet

EDISON — Meet them and more when J.P. Stevens High School Theatre Company presents *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Dec. 7, and Sat., Dec. 8, at the High School Auditorium, 855 Grove Ave., Edison.

For more information, call (908) 561-2624.



FUNDS KEEP CULTURE ALIVE—Commerce Bank recently donated \$15,000 to help fund the annual Navrati Festival, an Indian religious and cultural celebration. The event, held for the area's Indian-American community, in Edison, is hosted by the Indian Business Association, Inc., and the Indo-American Cultural Society, Inc. Representatives of Commerce Bank presented the donation to Pradip (Peter) Kothari (C.), president of the Indian Business Association and Indo-American Cultural Society. Pictured with Kothari are, from (L.-R.) Eric Radell, South Plainfield branch manager, Patricia L. Witte, retail market manager, Gabe Rosanio, Woodbridge branch manager and Howard Becker, retail market manager.

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Christmas Seals Are The Picture Of Health

AREA—The tiny, colorful stickers arrives each year in mail-boxes across the United States. They have featured many different images over the years, such as wreaths, birds, winter homes and other pictures of holiday cheer. But the true picture they represent is the picture of health. They are "Christmas Seals," and for 92 years they have raised money to support the programs, services and lung disease research provided by the American Lung Association.

Most people are familiar with the American Lung Association, the oldest health organization in the United States, and their Christmas Seal Campaign. But they are not familiar with how the seals originated. This is the story.

Three years after the American Lung Association was founded in Atlantic City in 1906, a group of doctors in Wilmington, Delaware searched for financial help to aid their small hospital for tuberculosis patients. One of them turned to his cousin, Emily Bissell, to assist them in raising \$300. She agreed, and designed the first Christmas Seal—a wreath of holly with the greeting "Merry Christmas."

Bissell then persuaded the Philadelphia North American, one of the leading daily newspapers of that time, and its editor to tell the story of the TB hospital, its patients and the Christmas Seal. During the entire month of December, the newspaper echoed the news that TB could be "stamped out" with donations made in exchange for the small seals. Together they succeeded in raising ten times the needed amount of \$300, and thus began America's first health crusade.

Today the American Lung Association continues the tradition, and has kicked off another season of Christmas Seals. Be on the lookout for Christmas Seals in your community.

The American Lung Association of New Jersey is dedicated to the prevention of lung disease and the promotion of lung health. These goals are achieved through education, research and advocacy, with a major focus on asthma, tobacco, and the environment. For more information, call 1-800-LUNG-USA or log onto www.lungusa.org. Support your local lung association—because "when you can't breathe, nothing else matter."

YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Unity Bank Helps In Ways Large And Small

"Unity Bank went into action almost immediately after Sept. 11," Stashko noted. "Within a very short time, we had organized fundraising in all twelve branches..."

AREA—Unity Bank has sent a check for several thousand dollars to the American Red Cross, said Kelly Stashko, Senior Vice President of Marketing for the Bank. "Unity Bank went into action almost immediately after Sept. 11," Stashko noted. "Within a very short time, we had organized fundraising in all twelve branches."

Larina Lippincott, IT analyst at the bank, initiated the idea and then made up signage and donation canisters for all twelve bank branches in the first days after the disaster. Customers have responded generously and continue to do so. Canister donations are deposited weekly into a special WTC account; proceeds go to the Red Cross periodically.

Unity's work on behalf of the WTC victims was not limited to canisters, however.

In an unusual move, the Bank published an announcement in September that it would do no advertising for 30 days. In memory of the lives lost, all of the monies ordinarily budgeted for advertising during that month were donated to the WTC fund.

Individual bank branches chose to do even more. In

Flemington, for example, Head Teller Tara Rausch, organized a bake sale, and several colleagues gathered at her home to bake. Their cookies, cakes and pies, many of them with patriotic decorations, sold for more than \$300 during a two day sale in the branch's lobby. Rausch says that these proceeds were all sent to the American Legion, which was collecting specifically for the children of Hunterdon County victims.

John Celmer, Branch Manager at Union, dedicated the Unity Bank table at the annual Italian American Feast to the WTC effort. At that popular street fair, bank employees collected \$750 for the WTC fund.

In South Plainfield, Assistant Manager Tino Fontes organized a car wash during Saturday banking hours. Many of the staff got good and soapy for the cause, and the American Red Cross gained another \$225 for their WTC work.

Stashko said that the prize for originality went to the Whitehouse branch. At a regular meeting of the entire bank, Whitehouse employees were scheduled to sing a "Team Unity" song that they them-

selves had written. Before they began to sing, however, they announced the raffle of a single pair of ear plugs for the benefit of the WTC fund. According to Branch Manager Colleen O'Brien, spirits were running high. The bidding started at \$10, the price ran up quickly with several people participating, and David Dallas, Chairman of the Board, finally "took home" the prize ear plugs for \$500.

In addition to its ongoing work in response to the World Trade Center tragedy, Unity Bank is conducting other seasonal holiday charitable drives. All branches are collecting unwrapped toys for children in conjunction with Foster and Adoptive Family Services, a nonprofit New Jersey agency, as well as the Marines' Toys For Tots.

Make A Difference This Holiday Season

AREA—You can make a difference this holiday season by donating your used car, truck or van to a charity you have known and trusted for more than 50 years: the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey. The Foundation will pick up the vehicle free of charge and issue a letter that may be used for tax purposes.

All donations help fund the National Kidney Foundation, America's number one choice for car donations in its fight against kidney, hypertensive, and urologic diseases that affect one in four people.

Through programs funded by the public, including organ donor awareness, cutting edge research and support efforts that help families and patients, the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey is a cru-

cial resource that touches the lives of thousands of people.

The National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey is dedicated to the treatment and cure of kidney, hypertensive and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by these diseases and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation. The Foundation receives no government support and relies solely on the generosity of corporations and the general public. The Foundation also welcomes gifts of real estate and appreciated securities.

For more information on how you can make a donation of a car, truck or van, call the National Kidney Foundation of New York/New Jersey at 1-800-63-DONATE.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

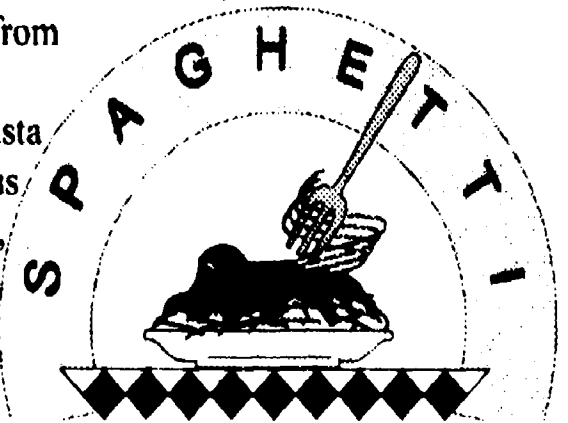
Spaghetti Dinner, Buffet Style Hundreds Visit Health & Wellness Fair

CARTERET — The American Legion Post #263, 1155 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret, will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner served buffet style on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 2-6 p.m.

The menu includes pasta with "Dorothy's famous sauce," meatballs, salad, bread, butter, cake, coffee, tea and soda.

Take out orders are

available. A 50/50 raffle is available at the door. The ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children (7-12 years old). Under 6, free.



SOUTH AMBOY—Over 700 people attended a Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by Raritan Bay Medical Center, The Parish Nursing Program at Christ Church and the South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary on Nov. 10.

Free flu shots were the most popular service provided, provided by the Middlesex County Health Department.

"A steady flow of visitors continued for the next several hours, with the line consistently leading out the door. By the end of the day, nearly 600 people had received flu shots."

After getting their flu shots, guests took advantage of other free screenings and health information. Screenings and services include blood pressure, diabetes, blood glucose,

posture, height and weight, pneumonia vaccinations and take home colorectal kits. Additional information included HIV, cancer, heart, addiction treatment, nutrition, smoking cessation, infection control, advance directives, fire safety and D.A.R.E.

The fair was held at Christ Church, Main St., South Amboy.

Adult Care Center Celebrated Newest City Facility

PERTH AMBOY — On Dec. 5, Perth Amboy Mayor Joseph Vas and Dr. David Myers, President, 2nd Home Adult Medical Day Care

Center announced the official grand opening ceremony of the fifth 2nd Home facility. The new spacious medical "home away from home" facility for

adults and seniors is located at 420 Fayette Street in the Amboy community and is owned and operated by Second Home LLC, a Paterson-based group of medical doctors, who plan to open these facilities throughout New Jersey.

A Holiday Season Celebration was part of the day's festivities, where Mayor Vas, Council Members, Commissioners, State Representatives, Chamber of Commerce members and 2nd Home President Dr. David Myers welcomed visitors and introduced the beautiful \$1.5 million senior facility.

Mayor Vas stated that "the City of Perth Amboy welcomes 2nd Home into the

community. The unique social and medical benefits that this facility will provide are much-needed and greatly appreciated.

Offering morning programs, 100-percent covered by Medicaid and providing members with a full range of easily accessed services, the innovative centers are unique in offering a visionary new breed of cost-effective programs designed to foster and maintain adult and senior citizen independence in urban communities.

The Perth Amboy Center is the first of its kind in the City. There are also 2nd Home facilities in Paterson, Union City, Elizabeth and Irvington.

David Myers, M.D., 2nd Home president and the orthopedic physician in Paterson, is gratified by the warm welcome and the overwhelming responses from the community, primarily from those unaware they were eligible for the program. With offices in Irvington and New Brunswick, Dr. Myers maintains an active presence in medical and civic programs for residents of urban neighborhoods.

"The Medicaid community is a large and growing population that until now has been poorly served with programs of this caliber," said Dr. Myers. "This is an excellent opportunity for us to give back to the community in the form of quality services primarily for seniors."

Raising the bar on services for urban adults and senior citizens, 2nd Home offers a full range

of social, recreational, health, medical and educational activities, including two meals daily and transportation—at no cost to members, stated Dr. Myers, noting that Medicaid pays \$59 per day for the services 2nd Home provides.

"Our members are the same people who might otherwise be alone in their homes or apartments as shut-ins—easily susceptible to poor eating habits and physical and mental deterioration," said Dr. Myers, pointing to recent studies showing that the health and well-being of seniors in adult day care centers improves from socialization with others. "This is an excellent respite for caregivers and adults who are taking care of their parents or relatives."

Being the next best place to home for its members is 2nd Home's goal. Members are served low-sodium, low-fat catered meals each day. An in-house doctor and nurses tend to medical needs, a dentist and podiatrist come in regularly, while a social worker handles concerns such as food stamps, electricity cutoff and appliance repair. Fleets of mini-vans transport members to and from home, doctors' offices, free beauty shop services and food stamp appointments.

To become a member, seniors must have a medical problem, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, or osteoporosis and receive clearance from their doctors to join.

For more information about eligibility and sessions, contact Shavonda Sumter, Vice President of Public Affairs, at the Paterson membership office at 100 Hamilton Plaza by calling (973) 523-0792.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Wearing The Cause

ISELIN—Siemens employees in Iselin took a break from their usual business attire on Oct. 5 to dress in denim to show support of Lee National Denim Day®, an event that raises awareness and collects funds to find a cure for breast cancer. This is the 2nd year that Siemens employees have donated \$5 each to wear their jeans to this event honoring survivors of breast cancer as well as those lost to the disease.

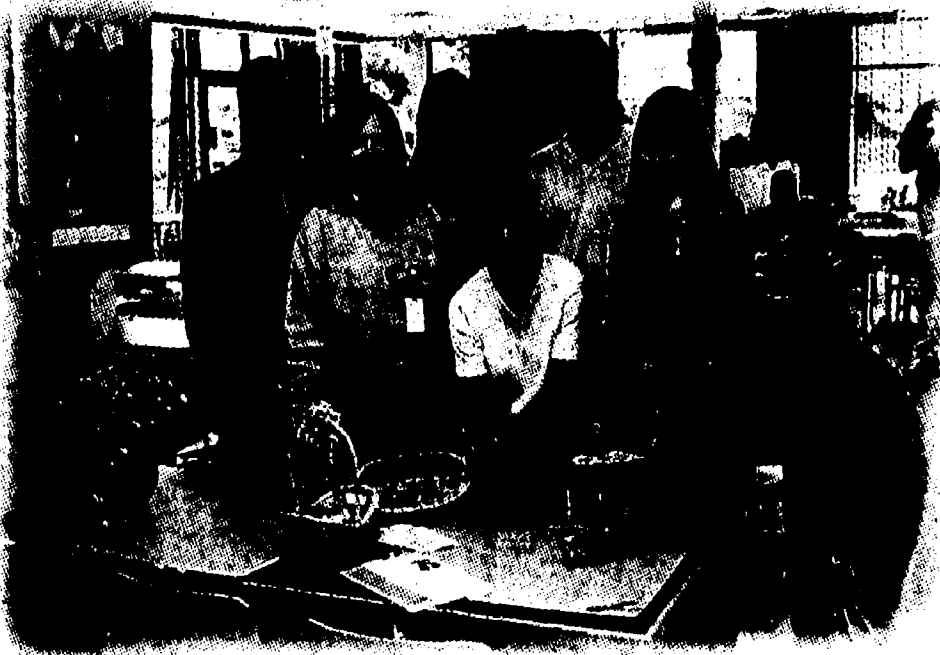
The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, the nation's leading private funder of breast cancer research and community

programs, receives 100 percent of the donations.

All employees who donated to the cause received a pink ribbon pin—the universal symbol for breast cancer awareness—and were encouraged to wear it throughout the month.

Employee contributions from Siemens totaled approximately \$2,000. Added to that were matching gifts from Siemens Corporation and Siemens Medical Solutions. An additional donation came from the Siemens Caring Hands foundation, a voluntary charitable fund established and

operated by employees to reach out to the local community by helping not-for-profit organizations. Total donations from Siemens were \$6,000.



STILL DRESSED FOR SUCCESS—Siemens employees wear denim to show their support of Lee National Denim Day®, an event that raises awareness and collects funds to find a cure for breast cancer. Proceeds are donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The event took place in Iselin on Oct. 5. Pictured from (L.-R.) are Frank Molinaro, director of Business Operations & Market Intelligence of Siemens Corporation and chairman of the Company's corporate citizenship program; Joanne Scott-Santos; Marianne Bartkovich; Terry Kaban; Michael McCauley; Jillian Guadagno; and Kimberly Cooper. Photo courtesy by Siemens.

CONGRATULATIONS

IT'S A GIRL! Mr. and Mrs. William Haley of Bridgewater are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, **Katie Therese**, born October 28, 2001 in St. Barnabas Hospital. Katie weighed 7 lbs. 10 ozs. and measured 19 inches. She has a brother, Kyle Joseph, age 5 years and a sister, Colleen Marie, age 3 years. The maternal grandparents are Mimi and Dane Greenop of Grand Rapids, MI. The paternal grandparents are Connie and Joe Haley of Carteret.

Thank you, on behalf of our entire family, to each of you who have reached out to us since the tragedy of September 11 changed all of our lives.

Over the past few weeks, the Colonia community and the parish of St. John Vianney have truly risen to the occasion, offering support and assistance to make our lives better. My husband's dream of building a treehouse for our children has come true, our yard has a brand new fence and hundreds of people shared a special time at a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for the Adam Larson Children's Trust Fund.

To the hundreds and hundreds of friends, family and complete strangers who helped, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate everything you have done.

A special thanks to the groups and companies who were extraordinarily generous with their time and donations of food and supplies:

- Father Edward O'Neill and all of the clergy and staff of St. John Vianney Parish
- Principal Janet Ferlazzo and all of the teachers and support staff at St. John Vianney School
- John Karabin and the maintenance staff at St. John Vianney Parish
- National Fence Company • A&A Tree Service • Clayton Block Company • Mocci Industries
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- John Roesler and Woodbridge PBA Local #38 • Ivy Developers • J.J. Bitting Brewing Company
- Peter Catelli Sign Company • Rahway Lumber Company • Abbe Lumber Company
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- St. John Vianney Rosary Altar Society • Ladies Auxiliary of St. John Vianney Knights of Columbus
- Council of Catholic Women of St. John Vianney
- Laura Buckiewicz and the St. John Vianney Girl Scout troops
- Scoutmaster Bruce Whitaker and the Boy Scouts of Troop 523 • Green Street Athletic Club
- Woodbridge Township Council • Colonia Senior Citizens Club • Adele Ellis
- Jim and Bonnie Nolan, Mike Cerami and John McCormac for their leadership in organizing the tree house, fence and spaghetti dinner projects.

-Patricia Larson, wife of John Larson and our children Kelly, 9, and Joseph, 6.

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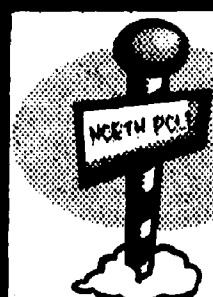
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According to NJAR President Timothy J. Richards, "The fund has been created to make mortgage or rent payments to help the families of victims as they work through the coming months. The financial burden of their loss makes this a very difficult time and we're providing assistance with mortgage and rent payments to help in a tangible way."

The fund was created by the National Association of REALTORS® and has received pledges and donations totaling \$5 million to date from individuals and businesses both inside and outside the REALTORS® Community.

The New Jersey Association of REALTORS® (NJAR) is a non-profit organization serving the professional needs of approximately 34,000 real estate agents in the state. NJAR and its member boards of REALTORS® are part of the National Association of REALTORS®, the largest trade association in the United States with more than 750,000 members.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

New Year's Resolutions Can Put Money In Your Pocket

AREA — Tired of making and breaking the same old resolutions every New Year? Why not try something different that can put money in your pocket? For those determined to improve their financial well-being in 2002, the New Year is a good time to take action. The following financial resolutions suggested by the NJ Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJ SCPA), should prove to be well worth the willpower necessary for keeping them.

I Will Set Financial Goals. Today. — Whatever your dream, be it buying a new home, building a college tuition fund, or saving for retirement, planning can help make your dream a reality. The first step is to decide what it is you want and how much you need to accumulate to meet your goals. Finally, you need to devise a plan for saving and investing toward your goal.

I'll Set Up An Emergency Fund. Finally. — What if you were suddenly laid off or suffered an illness and couldn't work? If you find such thoughts unsettling, start taking steps now to put aside some money each month until you have accumulated the equivalent of six months' worth of living expenses. Without an emergency fund, you could be forced to sell off investments during a down market or, worse yet, cash in retirement funds in order to meet living expenses.

I Will Reduce My Credit Card Debt. For Keeps. — One of the smartest ways to improve your family's overall financial health is to minimize debt. Concentrate on paying down the credit card with the highest interest rate first, then move on to the next highest. Don't fall into the trap of paying only the minimum amount due. You also

might consider restructuring your debt with a tax-deductible home equity loan. Just remember that a home equity loan puts your house in jeopardy should you default.

I Will Pay Myself First. Always. — Many people fall into the trap of saving what, if anything, is leftover at the end of the month. Since you tend not to miss what you don't see, arranging to have a specific portion of your pay automatically deposited to a savings or mutual fund account will make it easy to keep this resolution.

I Will Review My Investment Portfolio. Or Else. — The past year's market volatility has left many investors' portfolios out of balance. Review your investment portfolio and take necessary steps to rebalance your investments in line with your financial goals and your tolerance for risk. It's also a good time to make sure your portfolio is well diversified and not heavily-weighted in one company or industry.

I Will Boost My Retirement Savings. Without Fail. — The best way to ensure a comfortable retirement is to begin saving now. Under the new Tax Act of 2001, all taxpayers can contribute more to virtually all types of retirement accounts, and those age 50 and older can deposit even more under the Act's new "catch up" provisions. Make every effort to invest the most you can in a 401(k) retirement plan, particularly if your employer matches the funds you contribute. If you plan to contribute to an IRA, make the contribution early in the year to maximize tax-deferred growth and benefit from the power of compounding.

I Will Update My Insurance Needs. Regularly. — Your life,

homeowners, car and disability insurance needs are likely to evolve along with changes in your family situation. Evaluate your coverage needs and then seek quotes from other insurers to make sure you're getting the best deal. If you would like to free up some cash to pay down debt or to increase savings, consider raising the deductible on your homeowners or car insurance policies.

I Will Review The New Tax Act. Carefully. — From lower tax rates to new tax credits, from improved education breaks to new estate tax laws, the Tax Act of 2001 includes a number of important provisions that take effect in 2002. Go over the changes in the new tax law with the help of a CPA and put into place a year-round plan for making the most of

the Act's tax-saving opportunities.

I Will Not Lose Sight Of What Is Really Important. I Promise. — To really enjoy life, be sure to count your blessings, and not just your assets. If you would like to receive more information on various financial matters, subscribe to E-CPA, the NJ SCPA's free, monthly email newsletter. To subscribe, visit www.njscp.org/finances.

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PICK 3				
PICK-IT DATE	#	STRAIGHT PAY OFF	BOX	PAIR
FRIDAY, Nov. 23				
Mid-Day	145	\$291.50	\$48.50	\$29.00
Evening	163	\$281.50	\$46.50	\$28.00
SATURDAY, Nov. 24				
Mid-Day	407	\$260.50	\$43.00	\$26.00
Evening	115	\$184.00	\$61.00	\$18.00
SUNDAY, Nov. 25				
Mid-Day	700	\$206.50	\$68.50	\$20.50
Evening	452	\$301.50	\$50.00	\$30.00
MONDAY, Nov. 26				
Mid-Day	443	\$280.50	\$93.50	\$28.00
Evening	912	\$218.50	\$36.00	\$21.50
TUESDAY, Nov. 27				
Mid-Day	054	\$301.00	\$50.00	\$30.00
Evening	452	\$343.50	\$57.00	\$34.00
WEDNESDAY, Nov. 28				
Mid-Day	726	\$211.00	\$35.00	\$21.00
Evening	575	\$253.50	\$84.50	\$25.00
THURSDAY, Nov. 29				
Mid-Day	924	\$310.00	\$51.50	\$31.00
Evening	244	\$210.50	\$67.00	\$20.00

PICK 4

Number Straight Box

FRIDAY • Nov. 23 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 3149 \$2,645.00 \$110.00

Evening 6474 \$3,962.00 \$330.00

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 2-3-6-9-30

BIG GAME ... 3-4-38-42-49/31

SATURDAY • Nov. 24 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 2395 \$2,906.50 \$121.00

Evening 4485 \$3,378.50 \$281.50

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 4-25-30-33-35

LOTZEE ... 4-5-19-63

SUNDAY • Nov. 25 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 8862 \$3,037.00 \$253.00

Evening 7665 \$2,967.00 \$247.00

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 4-19-21-30-36

PICK SIX ... 1-5-11-26-30-40

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 13-21-23-34-38

TUESDAY • Nov. 27 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 6943 \$4,237.00 \$176.50

Evening 9534 \$2,823.50 \$117.50

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 10-16-20-23-28

BIG GAME ... 1-22-25-43-46/10

WEDNESDAY • Nov. 28 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 7291 \$3,345.00 \$139.00

Evening 0323 \$2,800.50 \$216.50

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 5-20-30-38-38

THURSDAY • Nov. 29 • Devine Media

Mid-Day 9974 \$3,438.50 \$286.50

Evening 8745 \$2,244.00 \$93.50

PICK SIX ... 7-12-13-21-22-30

JERSEY CASH 5 ... 8-12-16-18-29

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Ten Things You Should Know About Anthrax

AREA — • Anthrax is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium, *Bacillus anthracis*.

• The anthrax bacteria occur naturally in soil and animals. It has been around for tens of thousands of years. It is not unusual for farmers to contract cutaneous (skin) anthrax and recover fully after treatment.

• Anthrax is not contagious. It cannot be passed from one person to another.

• Nasal swab tests will not diagnose anthrax disease, are unreliable for assessing exposure and should not be done. There is no screening test available for diagnosing anthrax infection in a person who is not exhibiting symptoms.

• Public health experts agree that clinical testing for anthrax is not necessary unless the individual has had direct contact with a site or facility that has tested positive for the presence

of anthrax spores, or the individual has symptoms or signs compatible with anthrax disease.

• In people with symptoms or signs (for example, an atypical skin condition) compatible with anthrax, specific tests to diagnose anthrax disease could include blood and skin cultures and skin biopsies.

• Treatment for confirmed anthrax includes a variety of effective antibiotics. However, individuals with no known ex-

posure to anthrax and no symptoms should resist the temptation to ask their doctors for a "just-in-case" prescription for antibiotics. Misuse of antibiotics can be dangerous, leading to severe side effects and allowing other harmful germs to grow unchecked.

• As a result of recent bioterrorist incidents using the mail, more than 2,000 NJ postal workers have been evaluated. To date, less than ten people have confirmed anthrax. All these patients are now recovering.

• Remember, as frightening as anthrax can be, the flu poses a far greater risk for most people. Each year, more than 20,000 people die in this country from influenza while millions more become ill due to the flu.

• Finally, if you were at a site where anthrax exposure was confirmed or if you have specific symptoms that are worsening rapidly, call your family physician or the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services at 609-538-6030 or 609-392-2020.

Holiday Food Safety Advice From The Poison Center

AREA — The NJ Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) recommends these basic tips to reduce your chance for food poisoning:

Clean: Always wash your hands in hot soapy water before preparing food. Wash cutting boards, utensils, knives and countertops after preparing one food and before going onto the next

item. A solution of chlorine bleach and water should be used to disinfect the area.

Separate: Do not cross contaminate foods! Store raw poultry, meat and seafood on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator or on a tray so juices do not drip onto other foods. Never place cooked food on an unwashed plate that held raw poultry, meat or seafood.

Wash hands after handling raw food.

Cook: Cook foods to proper temperatures. Turkey should be cooked to a minimum of 180°F, the amount of time needed to cook properly depends on the weight of the bird, and measure the temperature near the hip joint and in the breast. Bake stuffing to 165°F separately from turkey. (Stuffing in the center of the bird often does not reach 165°F). Call 1-800-222-1222 for recommendations for cooking and reheating ques-

tions. When serving foods, hot foods must be held at 140°F or higher.

Chill: Keep cold foods cold. Cold foods should be held at 40°F or colder. In the danger zone between 40°F and 140°F, bacteria can multiply rapidly. Perishable foods should not be left at room temperature for longer than two hours. Refrigerate or freeze leftovers promptly in shallow covered containers.

Also, to decrease the possible risk for food poisoning associated

with drinking apple cider or juice, buy pasteurized apple cider or juice. The label will tell you if the product is pasteurized. Refrigerate cider appropriately at 42°F or below, fresh cider can last approximately two weeks at this temperature. Warm your cider to 212°F to help reduce contamination risks.

For more information on food poisoning risk and treatment call 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Center Hotline is accessible 24 hours per day, everyday!

Latest Breakthrough In Fertility Treatment At IVF New Jersey

AREA—A fertility technology the risk of multiple births, has that not only increases the been used at IVF New Jersey of chances of pregnancy, but also Somerset and Manalapan, with provides an opportunity to reduce great success.

"The use of in vitro fertilization with blastocyst stage embryo transfer can minimize the incidence of triplets and higher order multiple pregnancies," emphasize the physicians at IVF New Jersey, Michael Darder, M.D., Susan Treiser, M.D., Ph.D., and Jeryl Natofsky, M.D.

They made their comments after noting that "the birth of the septuplets has brought to the forefront the numerous complications both to mother and babies from the use of fertility medications." Dr. Treiser points out that multiple birth pregnancies also mean that women routinely deliver the babies approximately two to three months prior to their birth date and this can cause numerous complications.

"Our success rate at IVF New Jersey, using blastocyst transfer in

women of all ages using their own eggs has been extraordinarily high, greater than 60% per transfer, with the triplet or higher order multiple pregnancy rate of only 2.5% per pregnancy," said Dr. Treiser.

The new method is known as blastocyst transfer. A blastocyst is an embryo that has advanced to the five day stage, not the typical three days. The embryo which has divided many times into many cells over the 5-day period is considered a more select group than 3-day embryos. "The 5-day-old embryos have a higher chance of implantation," noted the doctors.

At IVF New Jersey, over 90% of the transfers are done at the blastocyst stage. "The primary advantage of the blastocyst transfer is that the embryos that make it to the 5-day stage are more healthy and hearty and therefore only two embryos are typically transferred," said Dr. Treiser. "Few programs routinely do blastocyst transfers. Typically, 3-day transfers are done. As a result, a greater

number of embryos need to be placed in the uterus in order to get similar success rates. As a result, the incidence of higher order multiples is greater.

She added that in addition to reducing the triplet or higher order multiple pregnancy rate significantly, the pregnancy rates have improved significantly as well.

IVF New Jersey Fertility and Gynecology Center, located at 1527 Route 27, Somerset, (732) 220-9060 and at the Jode Professional Plaza, 193 Route 9, Manalapan, (732) 577-6500, is now celebrating its 10th anniversary. IVF New Jersey has been responsible for the birth of more than 1,000 babies since 1992 having a greater than 60% success rate from in vitro fertilization and egg donation.

IVF New Jersey was founded by Drs. Darder and Treiser, both of whom trained in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Columbia University.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Prize-Winning Fire Photos At Rutgers-Newark

AREA—Star-Ledger photographer and Rutgers alumnus Matt Rainey captured the hearts and minds of thousands of readers with his heart-wrenching photos chronicling the recovery of students injured during the Seton Hall University dormitory fire in January 2000. His inspired work also earned Rainey the Pulitzer Prize in photography.

From now, through Jan. 6, Rutgers-Newark's Robeson Center Art Gallery will host an exhibition of Rainey's Pulitzer-winning photos. "After the Fire" is open to the public, free of charge, from Mondays-Thursday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Rainey photographed the students, Shawn Simons and Alvaro Llanos, as part of a seven-part series in the Ledger, written by Robin Gaby-Fisher. He and Gaby-Fisher followed the students' progress over eight months as they recovered from the blaze that had killed three and injured a total of 58 residents in Boland Hall dormitory. The series resulted in the Pulitzer for Rainey and a Pulitzer nomination for Gaby-Fisher.

On Dec. 8, Rainey and Gaby-Fisher will discuss the "After the Fire" series during a multimedia presentation in the Robeson Campus Center Multipurpose Room, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., which will include a tour of the gallery and a continental breakfast. The program is jointly sponsored by the Office of Campus Communications, the North Jersey Press Club, the Rutgers-Newark Journalism Program and the Star-Ledger. For information or reservations, contact Carla Capizzi at (973) 353-5262.

The Robeson Campus Gallery is wheelchair-accessible as is the Rutgers-Newark campus. Rutgers-Newark can be reached by New Jersey Transit buses and trains, the PATH train and Amtrak from New York City and by Newark City Subway. Metered parking is available on University Avenue and at Rutgers-Newark's public parking garage, at 200 University Ave. Driving directions are available online at: <http://www.rutgers.edu/kiosk/directions/NWKDirections.html>.

For additional information, call Carla Capizzi at (973) 353-5262; e-mail: capizzi@andromeda.rutgers.edu.

POPCORN
"Amelie"

Say "Oul" To Subtitles



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberger

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



If she were American, she'd be America's sweetheart. That's because Audrey Tautou, the title character in the deliciously frothy "Amelie," is sexy yet demure; attractive, but comfortably familiar; poetically melancholy, yet heroically optimistic; comically cynical about love, and yet still the perennial romantic. In short, she's the It Girl, but in French with English subtitles.

And the extra-good news is that while Mademoiselle Tautou is the main reason you'll be taking in this highly delightful foreign film, there's also the artistically witty direction by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and the smart script he penned with Guillaume Laurant to highly recommend the import.

For starters, in pseudo-documentary style we are immediately apprised via an entertaining run-down of the various oddballs and characters in Emily's early life that the French have their healthy share of dysfunction, too. Take her parents, for example. Both obsessive compulsives mired in depression, unconsciously they have done everything in their negative power to make their daughter afraid of living--to expect really nothing from life, let alone love. A wonderfully perspicacious narrator, describing the players through their quirky likes and dislikes in a surrealistic style reminiscent of Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., sadly informs that the closest Emily ever got to receiving the hug she so wanted from her doctor dad was the touch from his stethoscope during her monthly checkups.

But of course Amelie isn't the type of gal to let a silly little thing like an unhappy childhood ruin her life. If she were, we wouldn't be so enamored of her. Because what it is about

her that we're actually cheering for as she grows up, moves to Paris and tries to find her way in the world is the inviolability and strength of the human spirit. Not too unlike the little would-be author in "A Tree Grows In Brooklyn" (1945), who is metaphorically compared to a seedling navigating its way through the concrete sidewalk cracks on the way to becoming a mighty tree, Amelie's Quixotic journey wins our imagination and fires our hope.

Landing an apartment and then a waitressing job in a gossipy little cafe hortly after her move to the big city, what Amelie initially sets out to find is her mission in life, her raison d'etre if you'll pardon my French. And she pretty much thinks she's found it when she accidentally discovers a small tin box of toys cached (French again) behind a bathroom baseboard.

Doubtless the possession of the small boy who once-upon-a time resided in what are now her digs, the box enchants the wistful Amelie into suddenly declaring her calling. Quite simply, unequivocally, she will be a do-gooder. And why not? What's the good of being 21 if not to have world-changing epiphanies on a regular basis?

For her first project she sets out to find, the box's rightful owner, to spread her revelation among those who will benefit by it. Thus in seeking to restore to the now grown Monsieur Bretodeau his childhood memories, if not his childhood itself, Amelie casts her bread upon the waters, perhaps indirectly hoping that her good deeds will be returned in kind. Her research has a whimsically jaunty domino effect as one venture just can't help but lead to the next. Thus she becomes

Cupid to a fellow waitress and the cafe's resident grumbler; a chastising influence on the crude grocer who mistreats his slowwitted helper; and a friend to a reclusive artist who repetitively renders picture-perfect copies of Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party." And in a moment of truly inspired mischief, she even hatches a wacky scheme to free her retired dad from the drab corner of neurotic ritual and senseless routine into which he has painted himself.

But of course we sense that all this constructive impishness must ultimately lead to the piece de resistance (French again--see what this movie will do to you?) of her social work. And it does, in the form of Nino Quincampoix (Mathieu Kassovitz), a young man who scurries between his part-time clerical job in a porno shop and his costumed role in a fun house. But his real passion lies in the imagined lives he collects and assembles

in his scrapbook, composed of torn and rejected photos found in and around the instant photo machines at the train station. It's what attracts Amelie, who initially observes him zealously trying to slide a photo from underneath a booth. Could this retriever of lost lives be her soul mate? C'est possible, no? (What Gaulle, huh?)

Just to spice things up, Messrs. Jeunet and Laurant attach a note of mystery to Nino's strange hobby, creatively intertwining it with the cat and mouse game he and Amelie decide to play in place of conducting a traditional courtship. But there's no mystery about "Amelie's" entertainment value. Putting it in plain English, c'est magnifique.

"Amelie," rated R, is a Miramax Pictures release directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet and stars Audrey Tautou, Mathieu Kassovitz and Serge Merlin. Running time: 120 minutes



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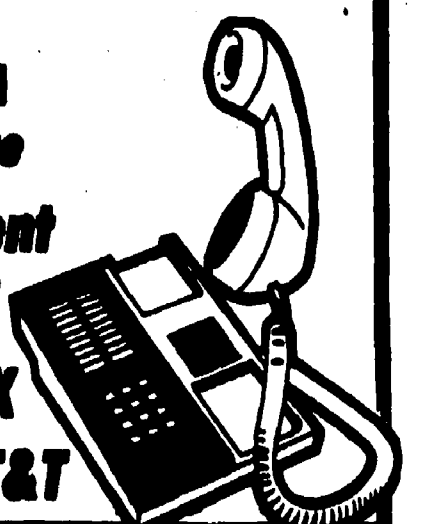
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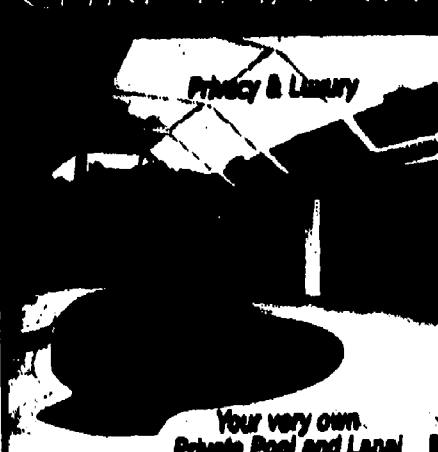
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS



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

"December 7, 1941...a date that will live in infamy..." These words were spoken by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt the day after the military base at Pearl Harbor, 230 miles north of Oahu, Hawaii, was unexpectedly struck from above by Japanese military aircraft. Pearl Harbor was unprepared because intercepted diplomatic messages from Japan were not decoded until after the attacks began.

On Saturday, December 6, President Roosevelt sent a message to the Emperor of Japan in a last appeal for peace and avoidance of war. President Roosevelt received no reply. Later, the United States began to intercept a 14-part Japanese diplomatic message. At first, only the first 13 parts were decoded. While it was clear that the Japanese were planning an attack, the location was unknown.

On Sunday, December 7, the last part of the message was received, decoded, and passed along to the President. It said that all diplomatic relations with the United States were to be cut off. Another message said to deliver the main message to Americans at 1:00 pm. What the War Department realized is that 1:00 pm corresponds to the morning hours in the Pacific. By the time they were able to send an alert to Pearl Harbor, the attack had been underway for hours. The military personnel and civilians were caught completely off guard. American aircraft were left

parked wingtip to wingtip and battleships were lined up neatly in a row. Pearl Harbor was at peace, which as far as everyone knew, it was.

The surprise attack cost the lives of 2,335 servicemen and 68 civilians, and wounded over 1,100 more.

Before September 11th, this was one of the darkest days in American history. The attacks of September 11th prove again that America is not isolated and can be harmed. So for every reason that matters, we should take the time to thank and support our many veterans who have helped keep us safe; the courageous men and women fought for our freedoms and our way of life. We owe them a great deal of gratitude.

This year is the 60th anniversary of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. A serviceman who turned 18 on that day, would be 78 years old today. The men who survived that day are our grandfathers and uncles, they are our neighbors, or they live in the nearby veteran's home. Let's find these men and thank them for their service. Let us hear their message that the prices of our freedom is vigilance and preparedness. Many of us may not be able to comprehend the anger that Americans felt on December 7, 1941. Certainly we can talk to our veterans who can tell us. But we can also remember how we felt on September 11, 2001.

To learn more about Pearl Harbor, please visit <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec07> or <http://www.thehistoryplace.com>.

SnigLeit's

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

The Structure Of History Is Changing

History is not predictable, but history does give us the power to contrast, and the right to estimate. A knowledge of history should not allow us to say what is going to happen, but it does allow us to say what is not going to happen.

Contrary to what President Bush declared, this is not "war;" this is not the "first war of the twenty-first century"; this is not "a crusade." Such declarations obscure the reality of events. War is an armed struggle between states or nations or tribes. He also called the perpetrators of this catastrophe "cowards." They were not. Men who kill themselves for a cause are not cowards. They are fanatics, which is something far more dangerous. Such were the Japanese Kamikaze pilots. Nor were Genghis Khan, Attila the Hun, Ivan the Terrible, Hitler, and Stalin cowards. They were dreadful examples of what human beings are capable of believing and doing.

Yes, we live now in the twenty-first century and the structure of history—of how and why things happen—is changing. The American people must make up their minds. Must America be "the dictatress of the world," what John Quincy Adams warned against 180 years ago? Must Americans be told and believe, that they are the chosen people of humankind—indeed, of God? Any people through history who have believed that have been punished by God, sooner rather than later.

Sometime during the twenty-first century, the United States will withdraw from the Middle East instead of expanding further. Sometime during the twenty-first century, Americans will pay much more for gas and oil and no longer depend on Middle Eastern oil. Sometime during the twenty-first century, Americans will begin rebuilding their railroads, instead of building bigger and bigger airports. Sometime during the twenty-first century, Americans will begin to guard their frontiers seriously, instead of opening them indiscriminately.

We can only hope it's not too late.

Game Boy Made Me Do It

Plaintiff lawyers have not fared well in the various liability suits against gunmakers. In August, the California Supreme Court ruled that a gun manufacturer was not accountable for the use of one of its handguns in a shooting in a San Francisco skyscraper.

Similar suits have been tossed out of court across the country as judges reaffirm the obvious: In the United States, it is not against the law to make and sell firearms; it is against the law to commit crimes with them.

Now a federal court in Denver is considering whether or not it is illegal to make and distribute video games in which victims are attacked with firearms. In late August, the families of some of the victims killed in the 1999 Columbine High School shooting filed a \$5 billion (yes BILLION) suit against companies involved in the manufacture or distribution of the popular video game DOOM. The rationale: Following the Columbine rampage, investigators found a videotape in the home of one of the shooters that showed him holding a sawed-off shotgun he called "Arlene," named after one of the central characters in DOOM.

This kind of video game lawsuit isn't new. After the shooting deaths of three students at Heath High School, Paducah, Ky., in 1997, a similar suit was filed. A judge, who ruled that video games are not subject to product liability laws, dismissed the case.

News Flash: K-Mart, which in July ended sales of handgun ammunition was found negligent by a Salt Lake City federal jury for selling a shotgun to a schizophrenic man who killed himself with the gun back in May. The jury awarded the man's family \$13 million in compensatory and punitive damages.



Editorial Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hey Readers!

Keep those

letters

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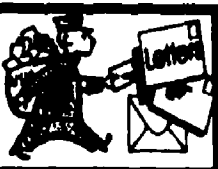
get off your

chest,

then say it here!



Readers Commentary



Display Of Patriotism

Dear Editor,

With the New Rec. Center opening in 2002, I believe an awesome display of patriotism would be to have American flags along the center divider of Woodbridge Center Drive.

Companies or organizations could sponsor a flagpole and American flag, each flag dedicated to various groups of citizens who lost their lives for our great country. Some examples, Woodbridge residents who died in the first and second World War, the Korean War and Vietnam War and the Twin Tower casualties. I hope this request will get some action from our local government, freeholders, etc.

The display of Old Glory will show that Woodbridge is a great American community.

Charles Shaughnessy
Colonla



- NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND READERS -

Please be advised of these changes in our production schedule:



CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEARS DEADLINES

For the issues of December 27 and 28, 2001 and January 3 and 4, 2002

EDITORIAL/PRESS RELEASES

Monday, Dec. 17, at 10:00am

AD RESERVATIONS

Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 10:00am

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 10:00am

LEGAL NOTICE DEPARTMENT

Friday, Dec. 21, at 10:00am

The offices of Devine Media will close 5:00pm on Dec. 21 and will reopen at 9:00am on Jan 2.



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New Child Seat Law Began Dec. 1

STATE —An upgraded child and seat belts took effect on passenger safety law that man- Saturday, Dec. 1.
dates greater use of safety seats The new law requires the

following:

* All children under age 8 be in a federally-approved child or booster seat, except if the child weighs more than 80 pounds. Children under age 8 who weigh more than 80 pounds must wear a seat belt.

* Child seats and booster seats must be secured in the rear seat, unless the vehicle has no rear seat.

* All children from age 8 up to age 18, regardless of weight, must wear a seat belt anywhere inside a vehicle.

The new law applies to passenger vehicles, which include cars,

vans, pick-up trucks and sport-utility vehicles. School buses are exempt from the new law.

"To be safe, young children must be properly secured inside vehicles," said Colonel Peter J. O'Hagan, Director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. "Motor vehicle crashes kill more young children each year across the nation than any other cause. Our new law will help save young lives."

For more information about the new law and child safety seats, visit the NJDHTS website at <http://www.njsafe.roads.com>.

Friends Forever Needs Cars

ARBA—If you would like to be part of peace efforts in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, the Friends Forever Peace Program, dedicated to bringing about understanding between youth from cultures in conflict, is inviting people to donate unwanted vehicles. "Every donated vehicle helps bring more kids into the Friends Forever program," reports Executive Director Josh O'Brien.

If you would like to donate a vehicle to the cause or know someone who would like to donate, a call to Friends Forever's car campaign at 1-800-436-9939 will start the process. They will pick up the vehicle free of charge and the fair market value may be deducted as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.

Friends Forever is a nationally registered charitable organization that works in partnership with YMCA's Rotary Clubs and other organizations to provide live changing programs for teen leaders from some of the world's most troubled lands.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Local Resident Shines

SOUTH AMBOY—CN8, The Comcast Network, has announced that its issue-oriented family talk show, *Real Life with Mary Amoroso*, was honored with a Mid-Atlantic Emmy award in the "Outstanding Entertainment Broadcast" category for its *Halloween 2000* television special.

The team responsible for the winning entry includes

Segment/Line Producer Patrick McManus of South Amboy.

CN8 received a total of six Emmy awards at a recent ceremony held in Philadelphia. The Mid-Atlantic Emmy awards recognize excellence in broadcast content and production on a regional level. The 2001 awards honor programming that was completed in the year 2000.

Child Development Meeting Scheduled

WOODBIDGE—The Woodbridge Township School District's Office of Funded, Testing and Special Programs has scheduled a parents' meeting entitled, "Character Development"—a night of activities designed to promote positive character development in children. The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7:15 p.m. in Mawbey Street School #1, Woodbridge.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children, as a portion of the program will be devoted to creating educational materials, which can be taken home and used. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Giacopasi Given Scholarship Award

PERTH AMBOY—The Annual Scholarship Grant for the school year of 2001-02 was awarded to Caitlin Brynn Giacopasi. Caitlin was born in Perth Amboy and lived there until November, 2000 when her family moved to Edison. She is the daughter of John and Kathy Giacopasi. She has an eleven year old sister, Devin and two dogs. The family are Holy Spirit parishioners and Caitlin and Devin have been active altar servers for several years.

In June, 2001, Caitlin graduated with first honors from the Ukrainian Assumption School, Perth Amboy. While at the Ukrainian Assumption school, her activities included membership in The Sodality, Glee Club, Bowling Team, Year Book Staff and the Chimeteers Group. In September, 2001 as a recipient of a

Seton Caritas Scholarship for Distinguished Scholars, Caitlin was enrolled in Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, as a member of the distinguished scholars program.

The requirements for the Holy Name Scholarship grant are that the recipient be a parishioner of Holy Spirit Parish, have a B+ or better academic average during her scholastic coverage and must choose to attend a Catholic High School. Caitlin met all these requirements.

Her Dad, John, is employed at the Post House Restaurant in Manhattan, and her Mom, Kathy, is employed by the Perth Amboy Board of Education as a Paraprofessional at Flynn School.



WELL DESERVED HONORS—Facing picture (L.-R., first row) Bob White, president of Holy Name Society, Holy Spirit Church, Perth Amboy and Scholarship Committee member, honoree: Caitlin Brynn Giacopasi, her parents, Kathy and John Giacopasi. (Back row, L.-R.) Rev. Robert Gorman, pastor of Holy Spirit Church, Pat Basile, chairman Scholarship Fund and Mario Rapetti, member of Holy Name Society. Photo credit: Bernedette Basil.

West Nile Death In Carteret

CARTERET—A 45-year-old Carteret man, who died after contracting the West Nile virus from a mosquito was the state's first fatality from the disease this year, state health officials said.

The unidentified man was hospitalized at the Raritan Bay Medical Center on Aug. 21 after experiencing severe muscle weakness.

He died on Oct. 4 after developing complications, officials said. A spokesperson for Raritan Bay Medical

Center, Donna Sellmann, said the victim's identity was confidential.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services said the victim may have been infected in late July or early August. Initial blood tests showed the presence of West Nile virus in mid-September. State health officials were notified of the case in October and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed the cause of death was West Nile

virus last week. The disease has killed at least nine people in the United States since surfacing in New York City two years ago. First identified in Uganda in 1937, its range in North America now stretches from New England to Florida, where ten people have been infected since July.

Seven cases of West Nile virus have been confirmed in New Jersey this year. One Massachusetts man died and another became seriously ill after contracting the virus,

Massachusetts health officials said.

There is no cure for West Nile virus, which is spread from birds and animals to people by mosquitoes. Most people infected with the virus exhibit no symptoms, but a flu-like illness can occur, particularly in the elderly and people with compromised immune systems. In severe cases, deadly brain inflammation may set in.

Last year, six people in New Jersey were infected, including an 82-year-old man who was the state's first West Nile virus casualty.

The Carteret victim was also the youngest person ever to die from West Nile virus in the United States, according to the federal CDC. Twelve prior area victims who died from the virus since 1999 ranged in age from 68 to over 90.

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OBITUARIES

Mary Zuback, 90 of Carteret

Mrs. Mary Medvick Zuback of Carteret died October 25 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 90.

Born in Arnold, Pa., she lived there for most of her life before moving to Carteret 64 years ago.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Zuback was a member of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Peter Zuback, died in 1985. A sister, Mary Medvick Susick and two brothers, Charles Medvick, a World War II veteran and former prisoner of war, and Michael Medvick, also a WWII veteran.

Surviving are two sons, Nick Zuback of Carteret and John Zuback of Annandale; a brother, Alex Medvick, a WWII veteran; two grandchildren, Thomas Zuback of NYC and Laura Zuback of Los Angeles, Calif.

John A. Gerek, 52 of Avenel

Mr. John A. Gerek of Avenel died October 20 at Community Medical Center, Toms River. He was 52.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided in Sewaren before moving to the Avenel section of Woodbridge 20 years ago.

He was employed as a supervisor for Heyco Tool & Mold Company, Toms River, for many years.

His parents, John and Catherine Binder Gerek, are deceased.

Surviving are a sister, Virginia H. Edgecomb of Sewaren; and a brother, Thomas F. Gerek of Onaga, Kansas.

Ruth Bakka, 65 of Carteret

Mrs. Ruth Stelzle Bakka of Carteret died October 25 at Compassionate Care Hospice at Christ Hospital, Jersey City. She was 65.

Born in Jersey City, she resided in Carteret for many years.

She worked as a packer for ECO Labs (formerly Economics Laboratory), Woodbridge, for 30 years before retiring in March of this year.

Mrs. Bakka was a communicant of The First Presbyterian Church, Woodbridge.

Her mother, Stella Stelzle, died in June of this year.

Surviving are three daughters, Ruth Shaffer of Colorado, Theresa Kraning of Arizona and Lisa Goins of Whiting; a son, Benhart Bakka of Bricktown; a brother, Arthur Stelzle of Woodbridge; three sisters, Joan Vargas of California, Kay Fedor of California and Lucy McClusky of Edison; six grandchildren, Billy Ben Hepworth, Sara Jean Hepworth, Marissa Mazur, Michelle Mazur, Jennifer Kraning and Alica Goins.

Rose Draeger, 87 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Rose V. (Gyorfi) Draeger of Winchendon, Mass. (formerly of Woodbridge) died October 27 at LaChance Center in Gardner, Mass. She was 87.

Born in Woodbridge, she lived in Whiting before moving to Winchendon five years ago.

Her husband of 49 years, Walter R. Draeger, died in 1981. Her parents, Lajos and Theresa (Danko) Gyorfi, are also deceased.

Surviving are a son, Robert L. Draeger of Winchendon; a brother, James Gyorfi of New Port Richey, Fla.; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Alice Herer, 81 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Alice Kowalczyk Herer of Buzzards Bay, Mass. (formerly of Woodbridge and Edison) died October 21 in Buzzards Bay. She was 81.

She was a 1937 graduate of Woodbridge High School.

Her husband, Alfred, died in 1982 and a sister, Frances Commerton, is also deceased.

Surviving are a son, Dennis Herer of Wareham, Mass.; two grandchildren, Thomas and Anne Herer; a brother, William Kowalczyk of Metuchen; three sisters, Eleanor Meyers of Fabius, N.Y., Marie Gerity of Woodbridge and Martha Wenz of Burlington, Vt.

Albert Carbone, 74 of Colonia

Mr. Albert "Jells" Carbone of Colonia died October 22 at home. He was 74.

Born in Newark, he lived in Irvington and Maplewood before moving to Colonia four years ago.

He owned J.J. Jelling & Sons clothing store in Irvington for 17 years before retiring in 1988. He also was a milkman for 17 years with Curly's Dairy, a family-owned business, Newark.

Surviving are his wife, Ann; two sons, Samuel and Martin; two brothers, Martin and Ralph; a sister, Mrs. Antoinette Pappas; and a grandchild.

Helen L. Triano, 73 of Iselin

Mrs. Helen L. Triano of Iselin section of Woodbridge, died October 29 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 73.

Born in Roselle Park, she lived in Iselin for the past 43 years. She worked as a supervisor for New Jersey Bell, Elizabeth, for eight years until 1955.

She was also a member of the Orchid Society.

Mrs. Triano was a parishioner of St. Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin.

A sister, Angelena "Jean" Moczykowski, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Peter M. Triano; two sons, Peter T. Triano of Edison and Michael A. Triano of Morris Plains; a daughter, Karen A. Stallsmith of South Orange; a brother, Dominick Delicato of Middletown; three sisters, Florence Novack of Roselle Park, Delight Moritz of Hamilton, Va. and Antoinette Zollo of Forked River; and eight grandchildren.

Matilda C. Picher of Sayreville

Mrs. Matilda C. Strek Picher of Sayreville died October 8 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick after a long illness.

Born in Sayreville, she was a lifelong borough resident.

She was employed by Hercules, Inc., Parlin, for many years before retiring.

Mrs. Picher was a communicant of Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church, Sayreville.

She was active in the PTA at the parish school, as well as in church activities.

Her father, John F. Strek, died in 1954 and her mother, Anna Skwira Strek, died in 1975; a brother, John T. Strek, died in 1989; a sister, Wanda Marcinkowski, died in 1994 and a son, Bradford J. Picher, died Oct. 3 of this year.

Surviving are her husband, Raymond E. Picher; a son, Gary R. of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; a grandson, Gary R. Picher, Jr. of Endicott, N.Y.; a daughter-in-law, Kris Picher of Littleton, Colo.; two sisters, Edna Cornell and Theresa Strek, both of Sayreville; a brother, Edward Strek of Sayreville; four nieces, two nephews, three great-nieces and two great-nephews.

M. Pucciarello, 55 of Sayreville

Mrs. Michele Monetti Pucciarello of Sayreville died October 4 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick. She was 55.

Born in Newark, she had resided in Sayreville for the past 34 years.

Before her retirement in January of this year, she was employed as a sales assistant at Bradlees department store, East Brunswick for 16 years.

Mrs. Pucciarello was a communicant of Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church, Sayreville and a member of Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes Council 2061.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph C. Pucciarello; a son, Joseph M. Pucciarello; a daughter, Denise Shulenski of Parlin; four grandchildren, Nathaniel, Randall, Trevor and Joseph; her parents, Michael and Carmella Monetti of Jackson; two brothers, Michael Monetti of Parlin and Richard Monetti of Georgia; and two sisters, Charlotte Bongiovanni of Flemington and Angela Juganne of Florida.

Laura Ashley, 88 of Iselin

Ms. Laura Ashley of Iselin died October 29 at Edison Brighton Gardens, Edison. She was 88.

Born in New York City, she resided in Iselin for 77 years.

She was employed by Constellation Bank as an office manager for many years, working at several different locations for the bank before retiring 1971.

Ms. Ashley was a communicant of St. Cecelia's R.C. Church, Iselin.

Surviving are a sister, Evelyn Ashley Boyle and three nieces and two nephews.

Hector C. Torres, 44 of Perth Amboy

Mr. Hector C. Torres of Perth Amboy died October 23 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 44.

Born in Guayama, Puerto Rico, he lived in Perth Amboy for the past 43 years.

He was a service attendant with the New Jersey Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Torres was also a hairdresser.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Fatima R.C. Church, Perth Amboy.

Surviving are his daughter, Tanya Torres of Toms River; his parents, Noemi Rodriguez of Perth Amboy and Hector Torres of Puerto Rico and two sisters, Lucy and Mercedes Rodriguez, both of Perth Amboy.

Florence Josen, 81 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Florence (nee Pliskin) Josen of Perth Amboy died October 20 at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. She was 81.

Born in Carteret, she resided in Perth Amboy for 79 years.

She was a saleswoman at Martin Shapiro and Plaid & Tweed Dress Shops, both in Perth Amboy, for 25 years.

Mrs. Josen was a member of Hadassah. She was a former member of Temple Beth Israel. She was also a member of Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh, Perth Amboy.

A brother, David Pliskin, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 62 years, Sidney Josen of Perth Amboy; a son, Robert Allen Josen of Manhattan, N.Y.; a daughter, Susan Schwartz of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; and two granddaughters, Amy Imber and Heidi Schwartz of Georgia.



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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

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

SWF 19, college bored, athletic and top heavy, seeking much older man 50-60ish, for different kind of education. Must have read some R.L.Stine and have at least one body piercing. Submit a daring photo with letter. ID# 1041

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SWF 58's, Seeking gentleman 45-55 who enjoys ballroom, latin & swing dancing, for friendship and possible relationship. ID# 1028

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

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

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

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

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

SWF 52, In search of SWM, 50-57. Must be honest, sincere and caring. Compatibility and understanding a must. Enjoy traveling, music, dining out, movies, flea markets & laughter. Looking for someone to grow old with and enjoy all that life has to offer. ID# 1014

DWF 39, -(two children) Enjoys family, movies, music, dining out, dancing, gardening, reading and traveling. Seeking honest caring S/DWM 35-45 to share life with. Non-smoker please....ID# 1013

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

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

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

SWM, 44, N/S, 6'2", eyes of blue, seeks N/S female for a very special relationship. Physical features are not as important as in having a heart of gold. I enjoy movies, dining out, sporting events and taking walks. ID# 1061

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

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

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

DWM, 55, 5'10", NS, no children 185lbs. Seeking SWF 45-65, totally childless, voluptuous, buxom, NS. Loves homelife, movies, music, quiet times and travelling, for long term relationship. ID# 1037

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

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

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

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

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

50 Something, Marriage minded - Asian American, never been married Math/Science teacher. Does not drink nor smoke, but loves the outdoors, music, movies and quiet times. Would like to meet a catholic open-minded, kind and considerate honest lady. ID# 1022

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

SWM 21 - Seeks SWF 20-23 for friendship. Must enjoy camping, bowling, billiards and motorcycle riding. And love cats too! ID# 1012

Professional WM 55- Beard and mustache, seeking a female friend, race open, 20-40 for casual daytime dates. Need a friend to talk to, I have a good ear. Moms to be most welcome, lets meet for lunch. ID# 1020

SWM 48 yrs old - never been married, tall, trim, youthful in appearance, enjoys movies, music, walking, dining out and good conversation. Would like to hear from a slender S/DWF. South Amboy ID# 1016

DWM 46 - Would like to meet a woman who is athletic, enjoys the outdoors as well as a good movie I enjoy playing guitar, tennis, karate, all sports, playing more than watching. For dating. ID# 1011

FRIENDS

ARTIST 38 -Seeks a female model, somewhat rubenesque/ buxom for life-drawing. 18-65 years of age. Pays \$14 an hour, 3 hrs one Sunday a month. ID# 1002

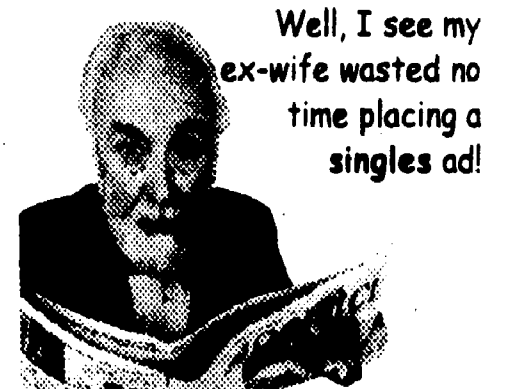
ALTERNATIVE

SWM 36 -ISO of other SPM or BM, 21-38 yrs old, enjoys the beach, movies, clubs, smoker/social drinker. Seeking LT relationship, into cuddling, very romantic passionate, seeks same/likes to party, hang out, muscular, send pic w/phone #. ID# 1046

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

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Name _____
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