

The ATOM TABLOID & Citizen~Gazette

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Advertiser Index

Addressing Safety Issues At South Amboy Train Station

SOUTH AMBOY—Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski introduced a bill on Friday, calling for a pedestrian overpass to be constructed at the Augusta Street railroad crossing.

Wisniewski said that building a pedestrian overpass will improve safety and prevent future accidents.

On May 6, a thirty two year old woman trying to catch an eastbound train was struck and killed by a westbound train while crossing the tracks at Augusta Street in South Amboy.

On May 14, Wisniewski and South Amboy Mayor Jack O'Leary met with New Jersey Transit Executive Director George Warrington regarding safety issues at the South Amboy Train Station. Of particular concern was the Augusta

Street railroad crossing.

"There have been several accidents and near misses between the trains and pedestrians at the Augusta Street crossing for years," said Wisniewski (D-Sayreville). "It is imperative that NJ Transit do what it can to improve safety at this crossing so that future catastrophes can be avoided."

"I believe the Augusta Street crossing is the most dangerous railroad crossing in the state, if not the nation," said Mayor O'Leary. "NJ Transit has promised us improvements for some time. Now is the time to make good on those promises."

NJ Transit Executive Director George Warrington agreed that the current crossing appeared dangerous and said he would evaluate the need for

a pedestrian overpass.

Wisniewski's bill (A-2362) appropriates \$6.5 million from the state's Transportation Trust Fund, a source of revenue dedi-

cated for critical transportation projects throughout the state, to build an overpass over the three rails of the North Jersey Coast Line in South Amboy.



CALL FOR IMPROVED SAFETY—Mayor Jack O'Leary and Assemblyman John Wisniewski address safety issues at the South Amboy Train Station.

Bonus Books Honors Perth Amboy Resident Who Lost His Life On 9/11

PERTH AMBOY — The family of WCBS-TV engineer Isaisas Rivera, who died while on the job at the World Trade Center on September 11, was honored by Bonus Books and the New York University Department of Journalism recently at a reception for the newly released book *Covering Catastrophe*. Rivera was one of six television engineers who lost their lives that day.

Rivera's family, who reside in Perth Amboy, was saluted by Governor George Pataki and officials from New York's television stations, including Vice President and Director of Corporate Affairs Carmen DiRienzo (WNET-TV), news anchors Roz Abrams (ABC7), Jim Watkins (WB11), Ernie Anastos (CBS2) and Jim Rosenfield (NBC4).

Covering Catastrophe
chronicles the personal ac-

counts, recollections, fears and raw emotions of more than 130 broadcast journalists who reported from the frontlines as the attacks against American unfolded.

All royalties from the sales of this book, and a matching contribution from the publisher, will be donated to two 9/11 related charities: The Society of Broadcast Engineers Relief fund, which benefits the families of the broadcast engineers killed in the World Trade Center attack and the Citigroup Relief Fund, which will provide scholarships to children of the victims of the September 11 attacks.

Covering Catastrophe is filled with haunting descriptions of broadcast professionals as they struggled to describe the indescribable, as well as their misgivings and regrets.

One reporter, for example, shares that she cannot forget a conversation she had with a man trapped in the World Trade Center. She told him not to worry, that help would arrive soon, as she continued to interview him. In retrospect, the reporter is guilt-stricken, pained by the lingering question, "Should I have just told him to run like hell?"

"This book is a truly collaborative effort, reflecting the participation of hundreds of broadcast journalists," said Publisher and CEO Jeff Stern.

Bonus Books is an independent publishing house specializing in non-fiction professional and trade books. For more information, visit their website at www.bonus-books.com.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS**Long-Time Employees Honored**

MIDDLESEX COUNTY Middlesex County College paid tribute to 60 current employees at the annual Spring State of the College assembly, and honored original faculty and staff members in a special Founder's Day tribute. Dr. Rose Channing Danzis, an early employee of the College who ultimately became its third president, shared her reminiscences. Dr. John Bakum, current president, and Gerald M. Ostrov, chair of the Board of Trustees, presented each staff member with gifts of appreciation and commended them on their loyalty, dedication and excellence.

Employees from four different areas of the College were recognized for personal excellence and 56 others were honored on five milestone anniversaries.

Area residents honored include: Dr. John Bakum, President, Middlesex County College of Edison; Lynn Winik, Assistant Professor Performing Arts of Metuchen; Dr. Virgil H. Blanco, Professor, Chairperson, Modern Languages of Edison; Dorothy DeLoe, Assistant Professor, Dental Auxiliaries Education of Metuchen; Michael Balogh, Leadperson, Grounds Department of Edison; Muriel Ganger, Administrative Aide,

Project SPAN of Edison; Toleather Williams-Thomas, Student Records Analyst, Financial Aid Office of Parlin; Anthony Haiduk, Computer Operator, IT Network and Technical Services of Perth Amboy; Yolanda D. J. Calacat, Administrative Assistant to Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs of Port Reading; Karen Gormish, Administrative Assistant, Social Sciences and Humanities of Edison; Eva Dianne Harrison, Special Services Assistant, Counseling and Career Services of Edison; Evelyn Muniz-Perez, Student Records Assistant, Office of Admissions of Edison; Dr. Lucia Tillotson, Assistant Professor, Biology of Edison; Theresa Orosz, Manager, Counseling and Career Services of Fords; Elisabeth Oliu, Assistant Professor, Library Services of Metuchen.

Those honored for their personal commitment to excellence were Janet Baker of Edison, assistant professor of biology; John Evancho of Bridgewater, adjunct faculty in the department of Accounting and Legal Studies; Karen Ford of Highland Park, coordinator of Development and Administrative Services for the New Jersey Center for Advanced Technological Education (NJCAE) and Li Jin of Edison, director of Student Records and Communication Management in the Office of the Registrar. Each of their names will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed in the Performing Arts Center.

Following the program, the College hosted a luncheon on behalf of all the honorees.

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Local Dance Team Wins National Title

MIDDLESEX COUNTY-The Jersey Girls Junior and Senior All-Star Dance Teams from Middlesex won the Eastern Dance Association 2002 National Championships last weekend.

The national competition, which attracted thousands of cheerleaders and dancers from Maine to Tennessee, was held at the Atlantic City Convention Center, in Atlantic City April 19-21.

The Jersey Girls Juniors, a group of 15 girls who are in grades 4 through 8, won the Junior Jazz/Funk Championship title, and the Jersey Girls Seniors, 9 girls in 8th-12th grade, won the Senior Jazz/Funk division. This is only their second year competing, and their first year competing on the national level.

They are coached by Kristianne Fleischman, who was a member of the NDA (National Dance Association) Collegiate 1999 and 2000 National Champion Towson University Dance Team, from Towson University in Towson, Maryland.

Assistant coach is Annie Tyburski. Two Jersey Girls alumni, Kelly Pina of Hillsborough and Cassie Berrios of Carteret, are currently dancing with the Towson Dance Team, which just won the NDA 2002 Collegiate National Championships for the fourth year in a row, April 5th in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The Jersey Girls will be holding auditions for their 2002-2003 team on Monday June 3, 2002 at Central Jersey Dance and Gymnastics Center, 612 Lincoln Blvd. Middlesex. For more information, call Central Jersey Dance and Gymnastics Center at 732-560-3555.

Jersey Girls Junior All-stars:

Middlesex: Kaitlin Beckerman, Melissa Bennett, Lisa Esposito, Sarah McGahey, Megan Powell
Piscataway: Ariel Biondo, Nicole Blair, Danielle Gray

South Bound Brook: Danielle Castano, Jennifer Kordell

Bridgewater: Nicole Nicholas

Hopelawn: Corinne Astrom

North Brunswick: Ashley Carlino

Stewartsville: Kaitlyn Escott

Perth Amboy: Natalie Ortiz, Christina Pittel

Jersey Girls Senior All-Stars:

Middlesex: Rachel Brown

Dunellen: Jamie Monsell, Shannon Monsell

Piscataway: Joann Szesko

Hopelawn: Gina Aochoa

Woodbridge: Jenna Lin Boni

Carteret: Erica Hapstak, Tara Hapstak

Port Reading: Heather Kotuski

**Register Now For 4-H Explorations Program**

MIDDLESEX COUNTY-The Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Department will be hosting the 2002 Explorations Week Summer Program from Monday, July 8 to Friday, July 12 at the Middlesex County 4-H Center (located at 645 Cranbury Rd) in East Brunswick. There are only a few spaces left for Explorations Week - so call now to get your registration in.

E-Week is open to boys and girls who will have completed grades 3 through 7 in 2002. The program is open to all youth without regards to race, color, national

origin, sex, disability or handicap. Arrangements can be made for kids with special needs by contacting the 4-H office.

Attendees of the program will have a chance to enjoy daily activities such as rocketry, dance, crafts, wilderness survival, drama, drawing and outdoor cooking. The aim of the program is to encourage kids creativity, as well as to promote their self-confidence. Helping kids make new friends and achieve a sense of accomplishment are important goals of the program as well.

The cost of the program is \$135 for 4-H members, \$140 for

non-members and includes program materials, lunch and beverages, an E-Week T-shirt, field trip and an optional Friday night overnite stay.

To register and for more information, please contact the Middlesex County 4-H office at (732) 745-3446. 4-H will also accommodate efforts to carpool, and the need for early drop off or late pick-up. 4-H offers educational programs to all youth, grades K through 13 on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

The ATOM TABLOID

Citizen-Gazette

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Bush Knew About Terror Plot

Intelligence officials warned President Bush in the weeks before Sept. 11 that Osama bin Laden and his terror henchmen might have been plotting to hijack passenger airliners, the White House said last week.

The warnings, which came in the first 10 days in August, resulted in a secret alert to law enforcement.

But Bush's spokesman said the administration believed bin Laden was merely plotting a "traditional" hijacking.

"There's been a long-standing awareness in the intelligence community, shared with the president, about the potential for bin Laden to have hijackings in a traditional sense," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

"The information the president got dealt with hijackings in the traditional sense - not suicide bombers, not using planes as missiles," he added.

But evidence has surfaced in recent weeks that intelligence and law-enforcement officials had evidence something bigger

HAD WARNING IN AUGUST—In the months before the Sept. 11 attacks, President George W. Bush received intelligence that Osama bin Laden was plotting to hijack U.S. jetliners, prompting the administration to put law enforcement agencies on alert last summer, the White House said last week. "The information the president got dealt with hijackings in the traditional sense, not suicide bombers, not using planes as missiles," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said. But one FBI agent on the case wrote in notes that Zacarias Moussaoui was the kind of person who might "fly something into the World Trade Center."

might have been in the works:

- A classified memo written by a Phoenix FBI agent last summer urged the bureau to investigate a number of Middle Eastern men enrolled in American flight schools, citing bin Laden as someone who could organize such flight training.

- Last August, shortly after the arrest of accused bin Laden terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui, a Minneapolis FBI agent on the case wrote in notes that Moussaoui was the kind of person who might "fly something into the World Trade Center."

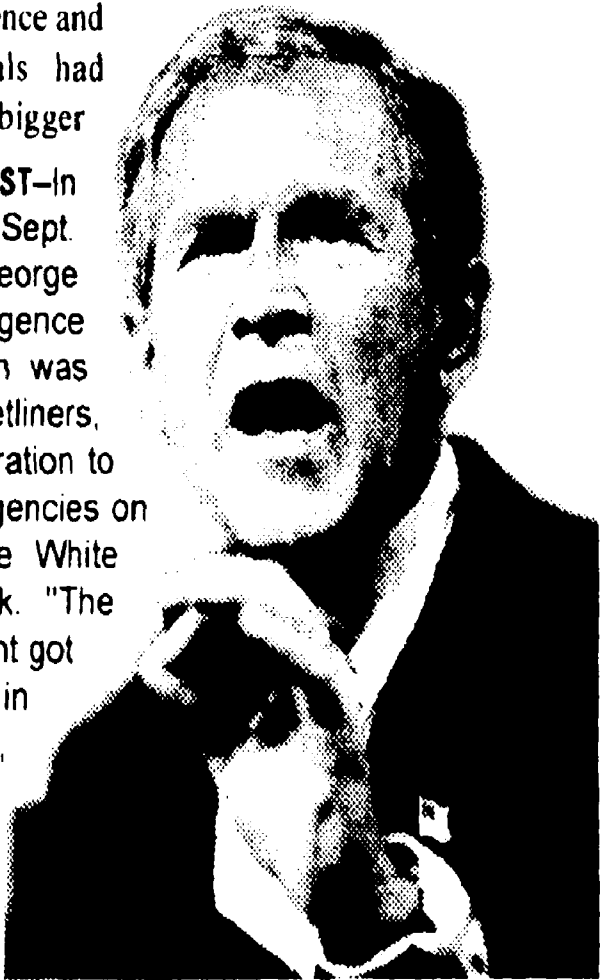
- A French investigating judge and terrorist hunter had presented the FBI information weeks before Sept. 11 warning that Moussaoui was a dangerous Islamic extremist.

But nobody in Washington appears to have connected the dots.

Bush and his intelligence experts had no idea any hijackers would be on suicide missions to use the planes as murderous missiles against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, officials said.

As a result of the information,

(continued on page...17)



TSD Enterprises Makes Special Offer To Businesses & Groups

AREA — In conjunction with the promotion that TSD Enterprises announced recently, they are announcing a "special promotional offer for local businesses." From today through June 16, any business, club or organization that produces just four Lifetime Memberships in TSD's Discount Hotel and Travel Club for the "Support the Arts" program that TSD is offering, TSD will provide the Manager/Owner with a free Lifetime Membership and two tickets to the Union County Dance Center's June 22 performance of "Oz 2002" at the Union County Arts Center.

Further, TSD's donation for those four memberships will be increased to be equivalent to five memberships to include the free one earned by the business!

That means that the total donation would be \$375!

Also, if the business or group produces either (4) one-year or (4) five-year member-

ships, the bonuses and donations would be calculated in the same manner and they would still get the two free tickets.

"This is a fantastic way for the entire community to pull together and really support the arts in Union County. We would really like to see this promotion be a huge success and all participants will be recognized for their efforts."

The owner of TSD Enterprises, Gil Daggert, explained that the breakdown of the donations would be as follows:

For each one (1) Year Membership at \$89.95, \$10 goes to the Arts.

For each five (5) Year com.

Membership at \$129.95, \$25 goes to the Arts. For each Lifetime Membership at \$299, \$75 goes to the Arts.

The benefactors of the promotion will be based on the total amount of memberships sold and will include at least one private, non-profit organization based in Union County which will get 75 percent of the total raised and the remaining 25 percent will go to the Rahway Arts Guild.

Anyone interested in participating should use the coupon seen here or contact Gil at TSD Enterprises at (732) 381-9453, by e-mail at tsd4g@usa.net or through their website at www.tsdenterprises.com.



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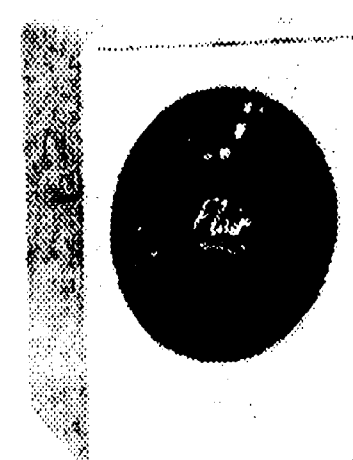
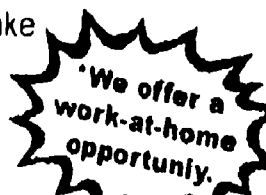
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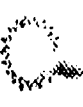
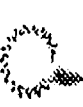
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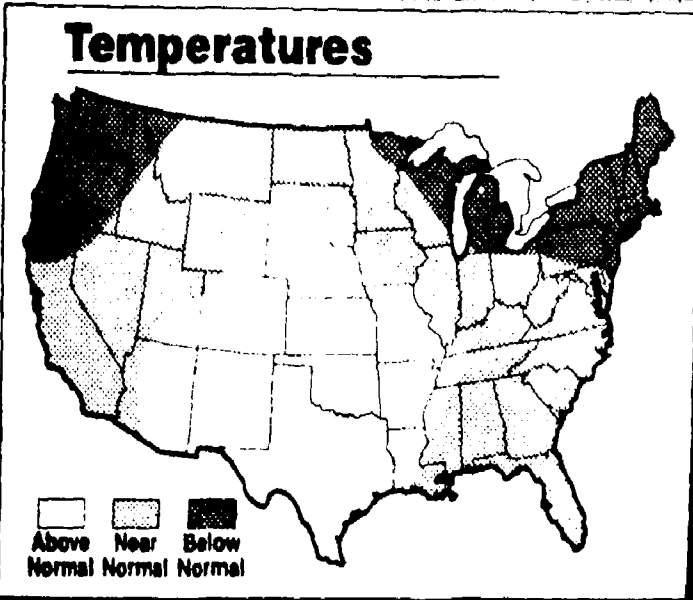
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Bright sunshine.	Fair.	Sunshine and warm.	Mainly cloudy; showers.	Partial sunshine.	Sunshine.	Cloudy with a shower.	Cloudy.
75	56	80/59	79/57	74/46	67/56	68/55	65/56

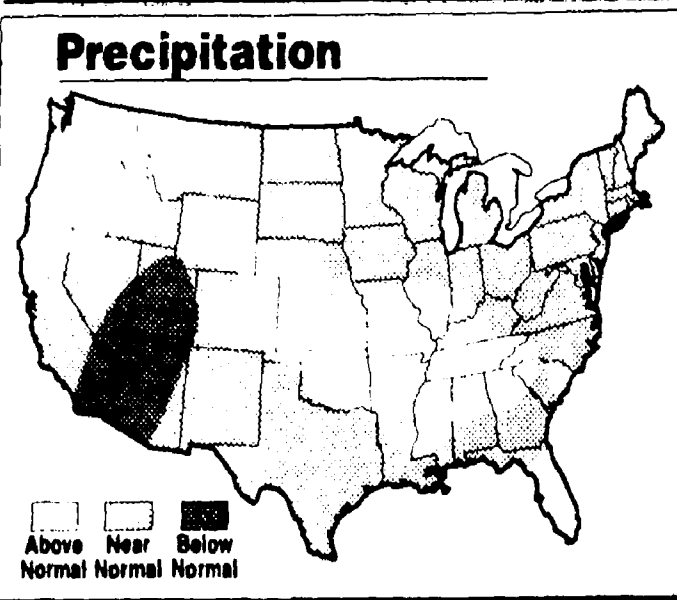
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Cool and wet weather will cover the Pacific Northwest. Storms will bring rain to the central Plains and Mississippi Valley. Cool air will continue to move across the Great Lakes and Midwest. Temperatures across the Northeast are expected to average 5 to 10 degrees below normal by the end of the period.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	80 60 s	82 64 s	82 64 s	80 62 c
Boston	76 56 s	76 58 s	71 55 sh	68 48 c
Chicago	74 54 sh	70 48 c	68 48 c	69 52 c
Cleveland	72 52 s	76 56 s	68 50 s	68 42 sh
Denver	68 42 pc	70 44 pc	72 46 pc	76 48 pc
Des Moines	74 53 t	71 50 pc	68 54 s	73 60 c
Detroit	74 54 s	72 54 c	68 51 pc	69 45 c
Houston	86 72 pc	86 74 s	88 74 c	88 74 c
Indianapolis	75 57 s	80 55 t	71 52 c	72 49 c
Kansas City	78 56 pc	76 54 pc	74 54 c	74 60 pc
Los Angeles	80 52 s	84 56 s	81 57 pc	82 52 pc
Miami	85 74 pc	86 74 s	87 74 pc	87 71 s
Minn.-St. Paul	70 46 t	66 44 pc	68 46 s	70 48 s
New Orleans	86 68 s	86 70 s	86 70 s	86 70 pc
New York City	76 58 s	78 62 s	78 62 c	76 48 pc
Omaha	76 54 t	70 48 pc	70 56 s	74 62 c
Phoenix	94 68 s	98 70 s	100 72 s	100 72 s
San Francisco	66 50 s	66 52 s	70 54 pc	70 56 pc
Seattle	64 48 c	66 48 c	63 50 sh	65 53 c
Washington	78 58 s	82 62 s	80 62 s	78 52 c

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thu.	5:34 a.m.	8:14 p.m.	
Fri.	5:33 a.m.	8:15 p.m.	
	Moonrise	Moonset	
Thu.	5:03 p.m.	4:00 a.m.	
Fri.	6:18 p.m.	4:29 a.m.	
Moon Phases			
Full	Last	New	First
			
May	26	June	2
June	10	June	17
Weather (W):			
s	sunny, pc		
c	cloudy, sh		
t	thunderstorms, r		
sf	snow flurries, sn		
i	snow, ice		

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	62 49 c	60 51 c	55 47 r	59 51 r
Berlin	70 62 c	70 53 c	65 46 c	63 45 c
Buenos Aires	64 57 pc	68 57 pc	69 56 pc	63 44 sh
Cairo	94 60 pc	92 59 s	94 62 s	98 67 s
Jerusalem	76 50 pc	74 49 s	77 52 s	85 58 s
Johannesburg	70 45 pc	73 46 s	73 50 pc	69 49 pc
London	60 53 c	55 49 r	56 48 r	59 49 r
Madrid	57 42 pc	64 50 c	72 45 pc	75 50 s
Mexico City	75 53 c	76 56 pc	76 59 sh	77 58 c
Moscow	68 46 pc	73 58 pc	81 62 pc	79 60 s
Paris	60 47 pc	52 40 sh	58 43 c	57 50 r
Rio de Janeiro	71 58 pc	71 57 c	68 57 pc	70 60 pc
Rome	76 60 c	66 48 pc	65 49 c	68 48 s
San Juan	87 74 pc	85 77 c	84 77 r	84 77 sh
Seoul	76 55 pc	76 56 s	78 55 s	71 52 pc
Sydney	60 49 pc	60 50 c	59 47 sh	62 47 pc
Tokyo	76 64 c	71 51 s	69 57 s	72 57 s
Toronto	67 51 pc	67 45 pc	59 38 pc	55 37 sh
Winnipeg	51 35 r	48 28 pc	52 37 c	55 34 pc
Zurich	60 49 sh	64 49 pc	64 44 pc	57 45 c

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 28 at 8 p.m.—The Hammond Organ Society of New Jersey proudly presented mario Di Matteo in concert at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Orchard Terrace and Princeton Road, Linden. Everyone is welcome. A Donation of \$6 is suggested. For further information, call (973) 256-5480.

May 29 and 30 from 6-8:30 p.m.—The Carteret Public School System will hold their 14th annual Art Expo at the high school gymnasium. Works by art students from all the public schools will be displayed. A free exhibit is open to the public each evening.

May 30 at 6 p.m.—The Children's Department of the Dowdell Library, 100 Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, will hold a Bingo for children of all ages. For further information, call (732) 721-6060.

May 22 at 7:30 p.m.—Asian Indian Art of the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be presented at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. The Lecturer is Darielle Mason, Curator/Director of Asian Indian and Himalayan Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art. Free donations are graciously accepted. Reservations are suggested. Call (732) 634-0413. The building is disabled accessible.

May 28 at 8 p.m.—The Hammond Organ Society of New Jersey proudly presented Mario Di Mario in concert at the Presbyterian Church Hall, Orchard Terrace and Princeton Road, Linden. Everyone is welcome. A Donation of \$6 is suggested. For further information, call (973) 256-5480.

May 29 and 30 from 6-8:30 p.m.—The Carteret Public School System will hold their 14th annual Art Expo at the high school gymnasium. Works by art students from all the public schools will be displayed. A free exhibit is open to the public each evening.

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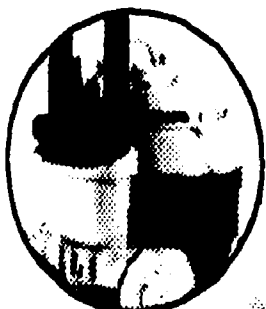
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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS**Property Tax Reimbursement Filing Deadline Extended Again**

STATE — Governor James E. McGreevey recently directed the Division of Taxation to extend the due date for filing 2001 Property Tax Reimbursement Applications to June 1, 2002. The filing deadline was previously extended from the original date of March 15, 2002 to May 1, 2002.

"We want to provide our senior and disabled citizens with every opportunity to take advantage of this very important tax relief program," said McGreevey. "The extension will ensure that eligible New

Jerseyans have an opportunity to take advantage of the program's benefits and receive reimbursement for property tax increases."

The Governor noted that the Property Tax Reimbursement Program is part of a \$12 billion budget commitment to direct and indirect property tax relief for New Jersey citizens. Other programs include the NJ SAVER Rebates, increased homestead rebates and the Veterans' and Senior Citizen's Property Tax Deduction.

The Property Tax Reim-

bursement Program reimburses eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for property tax increases. The amount of the reimbursement is the difference between the amount of property taxes due and paid in the year the applicant first becomes eligible for the program (the "base year") and the amount of property taxes due and paid for the current year, provided the amount paid for the current year is greater. Applicants must continue to meet all eligibility requirements and must file an application each year to receive the reimbursement.

To be eligible for a 2001 property tax reimbursement a

first-time applicant must:

- Be age 65 or older or receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits; and

- Have lived in New Jersey continuously since before January 1, 1991, as either a homeowner or a renter; and

- Have annual income for 2000 that is less than \$37,174 for single applicants, or \$45,582 (combined income) for married couples and annual income for 2001 that is less than \$38,475 for single applicants, or \$47,177 (combined income) for married couples; and

- Have paid the full amount of the property taxes (or site fees if a mobile home owner) that were due on the home for both

the base year and the year for which the reimbursement is being claimed.

There are two different versions of the 2001 Property Tax Reimbursement Application. Form PTR-1 is to be used by first-time applicants and applicants who did not receive a 2000 property tax reimbursement. Form PTR-2 is a personalized application for those who applied for and received a 2000 reimbursement check.

For more information or to obtain an application, contact the Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline at 1-800-882-6597. Division representatives are available from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Frequently Asked Questions On NJ Tax Amnesty

AREA—New Jersey's Tax Amnesty program ends at midnight on Monday, June 10.

Tax Amnesty is an opportunity for people and businesses to clear up back taxes without paying the penalties, interest and other costs. Under Amnesty, a taxpayer pays only the actual tax owed; all penalties and interests are waived.

Here are the answers to some questions often asked about the New Jersey Tax Amnesty program:

1. What taxes are eligible for Amnesty?

Even tax collected and administered by the New Jersey Division of Taxation is eligible, including the State income tax, sales tax and corporate taxes. Taxes that are not eligible for NJ Tax Amnesty include Federal taxes, local property taxes and taxes paid to other states.

2. What tax periods are eligible for Amnesty?

Tax liabilities incurred for tax returns due on or after January

1, 1996 and before January 1, 2002 are eligible for Amnesty. Liabilities for returns due before January 1, 1996 and after January 1, 2002 are not eligible for Amnesty.

3. What happens if I owe New Jersey back taxes and don't take advantage of Amnesty?

Once Amnesty ends, all the penalties and interest will be reinstated and an additional, unabatable 5 percent penalty will be added to all outstanding tax liabilities. A collection service fee may also be imposed. The 5 percent penalty and the collection service fee will be in addition to all other penalties, interest and other costs authorized by law.

4. Where can I get more information and the forms I need to file for Amnesty?

- Call the Amnesty toll-free hotline at 1-800-781-8407. Operators are available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Friday and from 8:30 a.m.-1:30

p.m. on Saturdays.

- Visit the Tax Amnesty web site at www.njtaxamnesty.com.

- Write to the Division of Taxation at Amnesty Headquarters, PO Box 445, Trenton, N.J. 08646-0445.

- Visit one of the Division of Taxation's field offices in Asbury Park, Camden, Fair Lawn, Newark, Northfield, Somerville and Trenton. For information about office hours and locations, call 1-800-323-4400.

- To have forms and returns sent to you via fax, contact the Division of Taxation's TaxFax line 1-609-826-4500 from your fax telephone.

5. Why should people who have always paid their taxes support the idea of an Amnesty for people who have not paid what they owe?

In the long run, Amnesty benefits everyone. When some people don't pay their taxes, everyone else pays more. A limited Amnesty gives people who

have not paid the proper amount of taxes a final chance to pay their share before additional interest, penalties and costs of collection are assessed.

The process also adds new people and companies to the tax rolls, thereby reducing the burden on the rest of the tax-paying public and allowing the Division to concentrate on the pursuit and prosecution of

hard-core tax evaders.

Finally, it is no secret that New Jersey is facing a budget crisis. Amnesty is a rarely-used compliance tool that has been proven to generate revenue quickly. In addition, studies have shown that much of the revenue that comes in through a limited Amnesty is money that might never have been collected through normal channels.



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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS**Middlesex County College Expands Nursing Program**

EDISON — The Middlesex County College nursing program recently ranked first in the nation for its 100% pass rate on the national licensing examination, will increase the number of students it trains beginning in fall 2002. Thanks to a nearly \$426,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 20 more full-time students will be able to enter the evening and weekend program, in addition to

the 40 full-time students currently enrolled.

"The nursing program, which is jointly administered by the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), will be able to accept a greater number of students from its growing applicant pool," said Dr. Reginald K. Luke, dean of the Division of Science, Mathematics and Health Technologies. "We are

very grateful that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has distinguished our program with their strong support."

"The grant shows a response to the nursing shortage needs we see locally," said Dr. Luke. "Nursing directors from hospitals in our area have told us for years that they'd like to see our program expanded, to make use of the qualified people we have been unable to accept because of lack of space." This year, 265 people applied for the 40 slots.

Dr. Luke anticipates that many of the applicants will be

people who are already working in hospitals who don't have their degrees and are looking for a program they can fit in their schedules. The grant money will also allow the program to offer more mentoring and tutoring to nursing students.

In the Middlesex/UMDNJ program, nursing courses are taught on the Edison campus by the faculty of UMDNJ. Clinical experiences are offered in many locations throughout the state.

It is widely acknowledged that the current nursing shortage is expected to become increas-

ingly severe, due to a large number of factors. New Jersey is expected to have 13,950 fewer registered nurses than needed, an 18% shortfall, by 2006. In February, Johnson & Johnson launched a \$20 million national campaign using prime time advertising, scholarship offers and an educational Web site to encourage more interest in the nursing profession.

People interested in applying to the nursing program at Middlesex County College may contact Peter Rice, Director of Admissions, at 732.906.7796.

Algebra Consortium Focuses On Student Success

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Department of Education has provided seven New Jersey community colleges and universities with funds to establish the NJ Algebra Consortium.

The Consortium, which is led by Middlesex County College, is funded through a \$247,000 Dwight D. Eisenhower Higher Education Professional Development Grant.

The program focuses on increasing student success in algebra through teacher development.

"Different students learn in various ways," said Darlene Yoseloff, director of the college's Office of School Relations. "So teachers need to be able to present the material in different ways. That's what these classes will address."

Many school districts have increased their focus on algebra because it is considered a "gate-keeper" to student success in higher education. The consortium addresses this concern by

creating a partnership of community colleges, school districts and universities to provide current and pre-service teachers with 48 hours of professional development.

The development focuses on enhanced teaching methods in algebra and the use of technology in the classroom. The program also provides teachers with graphing calculators, software and other supporting materials to use with their students.

The project began with a one-day institute held at Middlesex County College. The first year

of the project will conclude with a three-day summer institute in June and August. The summer institute will provide teachers with 18 hours of professional development.

Middlesex County College heads the Consortium, which includes Atlantic Cape, Camden, Mercer, Ocean and Raritan Valley Community Colleges. Each community college will partner with local school districts in their counties. Kean and Montclair State University are responsible for recommending students for pre-service training.

CELEBRATING CULTURAL DIVERSITY — Students and staff at Caldwell College recently celebrated the 5th Annual Cultural Diversity Day on campus to enhance student appreciation and understanding of various ethnic cultures. The International Student Organization presented the college with flags representing the newest cultural groups on campus, which include Egypt, Trinidad/Tobago, Antigua-Barbuda and Ethiopia. From left, junior Eden Woredekai of Ethiopia, who resides in Edison, presents the Ethiopian flag to Paul Douillard, Ph.D., of Randolph, the college's vice president for academic affairs.



From left, junior Eden Woredekai of Ethiopia, who resides in Edison, presents the Ethiopian flag to Paul Douillard, Ph.D., of Randolph, the college's vice president for academic affairs.

Boston University Graduates Edison Resident

EDISON — Boston University awarded academic degrees to 1,251 students this winter.

Among the graduates was Edison resident Dipesh B. Patel, who received a B.A. in Biology.

Boston University is the fourth largest independent uni-

versity in the United States, with an enrollment of nearly 30,000 students in its 15 schools and colleges.

Located in the heart of a city rich in cultural and intellectual attractions, the University is one of the nation's preeminent institutions of higher learning.

Essex County College Dean's List

AREA—Area residents were among the Essex County College students named to the college's Dean's List for the Fall 2000 Semester. Students must attain a 3.5 or higher grade point average to be recognized.

Students named to the list include Zelia Jorge of Colonia; Abdullah Shabazz of Edison; Paul Awinde of Elizabeth; Thomas Ndirangu of Fords; and Abayomi Adeyi and Leodaris Allen, both of Rahway.

Adams Named To Dean's List

WOODBIDGE — Benjamin P. Adams of Woodbridge was named to the Dean's List at Liberty University for the Fall 2001 semester. Adams was one of 1179 students who earned Dean's List recognition at Liberty for the fall.

Undergraduates named to the Dean's List earn a grade point of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and carry an academic load of at least 12 credit hours.

Liberty University is a private, Christian liberal arts university in Lynchburg, Va.

Rowan Univ. Fall 2001 Dean's List

COLONIA — Rowan University has announced its Dean's List for the Fall 2001 semester.

The students from Colonia named to the Dean's List are John K. Pagano Jr. and Nicole E. Peretti.

Students who earn a 3.45 grade point average or above for the fall 2001 semester are honored for their achievement.

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CLASS REUNIONS

Perth Amboy High School, Class of 1992, is planning a 10-year Reunion. For more information, call Tara at 908-281-1041.

Woodbridge High School, Class of 1947, will be holding its 55th Reunion on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2002 at the Pines Manor in Edison. For more information, call Doris at 732-738-7445.

YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN "Unfaithful"

Doesn't Deserve Your Loyalty



popcorns

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



By Michael S. Goldberg

In "Unfaithful," it is out of sheer lust that Connie Sumner, a sultry Westchester housewife played by Diane Lane, cheats on her devoted husband Edward (Richard Gere). Director Adrian Lyne doesn't sugarcoat it. We are apprised of no marital problems per se. Edward is obviously caring and attentive. And while the passion may have ebbed somewhat from the couple's eleven-year marriage, doubtless there are compensations.

Like their impressive home alongside a river, the security it represents, and the lifestyle it implies. And then there is their cherished little boy, Charlie (Erik Per Sullivan). Yet on a windy day in the SOHO section of New York City, when she is smitten by a young French bookseller (Olivier Martinez) who dashes to her aid, the seeds of Mrs. Sumner's adulterous affair are sewn.

But is she bad? That's kind of the question. Or at least it would be if the movie did its job.

Granted, the overall subject itself is disturbing. But there's something beyond that which is disconcerting as well. And it takes a little while to realize what it is. Then it clicks in. For while wanton women are nothing new to us moviegoers, this middle-class variety throws us for a little bit of a loop.

For example, when young Bette Davis's Mildred Rogers sadistically cheats left and right on Leslie Howard's poor love struck Philip Carey in "Of Human Bondage" (1934), we aren't surprised. We know what she is, or at least we think we do. And in any case, we don't see her loose morals as a function of her libido. It's more a manifestation of her station...a class thing. But now, when Miss Lane's perfectly civilized Junior Leaguer suddenly throws caution to the wind and says full steam ahead to her fantasies, she might as well grow werewolf fangs, too. Surely something has gone out of control. No doubt there are evil forces at work beyond our understanding, or so we've been socialized to think.

Yet per director Adrian Lyne's thesis, albeit poorly stat-

ed, Connie Sumner is acting no differently than the way philandering men have been portrayed in the movies for decades. It actually tests your objectivity. Just as an aside, take the language itself. Another term for rake, which practically connotes a dashing adventurer, is the less appealing womanizer. But there is no "manizer." Instead there are a host of very demeaning terms that highlight the double standard.

While Diane Lane is not a beauty in an Andie MacDowell or Julia Roberts sort of way, she exudes a much more familiar attractiveness that makes her effectively convincing in the role. In fact it would have hardly seemed coincidental if a couple of men in the audience had to suddenly leave once the femme fatale next door began her cheating ways. One might have muttered about having to "check on something." Another could inform no one in particular that he had left the gas on. And despite the attempt to muffle his cell phone conversation, another might be heard incredulously inquiring: "Out of town conference? Since when does your job have out of town conferences?"

Nah....none of that happened. But one gets the distinct impression it could have.

However, after "Unfaithful" issues its initial shock waves and salvos of sensationalism, it has little more to say. And alas, it would have taken a lot more artistry and sociological savvy to make Mr. Lyne's naughty little exercise as important to understanding women's sexuality as Paul Mazursky's "An Unmarried Woman" (1978) was to comprehending the inherent roadblocks to feminine liberation among the middle-aged set. Instead, and therefore less auspicious, "Unfaithful" is more

like the distaff version of "Fatal Attraction" (1987), but not as well written, acted or directed. The comparison is no surprise considering director Lyne garnered an Oscar nomination for the latter.

Thus after tawdrily trading on its titillation and taboo factors to scoot it along for awhile, it is also not so surprising when "Unfaithful" suddenly jumps tracks, adds a major note of violence to its central theme, and then details the inevitable comeuppance. But the so-called suspense that follows will hardly put you at seat's edge, and only the very nervous need worry about ruining their manicures. Rather, what is bound to astound you on the way to the film's rather disingenuous, pasted-on conclusion that adultery is bad, is how absurdly careless everyone is. And that's putting it nicely.

For starters, Connie does very little to keep her dalliance a secret. This despite knowing how much it'll hurt her kindly spouse if he finds her out. Yet she traipses in the open with her self-styled Lothario, visiting cinema and cabaret alike. And maybe just to prove what a brazen hussy she really is, she consents to an assignation in the facilities at one cafe while, lo and behold, her two unwitting girlfriends wait for her at the table and chatter racily about how handsome the man who went to the bathroom is. How perfectly wicked. How perfectly manipulative, too.

Apologists for Mr. Lyne might note that Mrs. Sumner's blatant indiscretion is actually proof of how beguiled she is by her young Bohemian lover. Realists will simply see it for the poor filmmaking it is.

One wonders. Could it be the feckless attitude is catching? Because exhibiting hardly more smarts or self-control is hubby Richard Gere who, in a hotheaded moment, commits a most dastardly crime. Perhaps he's completely distracted, too. He leaves clues everywhere. And this might ordinarily be a problem, especially when we're

accustomed to cinema cops piecing things together so lickety-split. But the curious fact is, the gumshoes in "Unfaithful" are about as clueless as the culprit.

Eventually, the one stroke of graphically indelible violence and the vast array of inconsistencies relegate any serious discussion of adultery to a spot somewhere just behind the scenery. And it becomes clear that, regardless of why filmmaker Lyne wanted to tackle this subject in the first place, somewhere along the filmic route he loses his way, or has he?

But whether or not he is actually attempting to add something to the sexual dialogue (and I think not), he winds up fashioning quite a steamy smoke screen. And herein lies the irony.

Because when the fog lifts and we take a good look, it's the same old story...female sexuality as a hot button topic. The usual exploitation in the name of art. Simply surround it with a typical, commercially viable tale of sin and retribution and then pass it off as something more. No wonder "Unfaithful" gives you that cheated feeling.

"Unfaithful," rated R, is a 20th Century Fox release directed by Adrian Lyne and stars Richard Gere, Diane Lane and Olivier Martinez. Running time: 125 minutes

Orchestra String Trio Performs

EDISON — The Edison Symphony Orchestra String Trio will be performing at the Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue on Saturday afternoon, June 8 at 1 p.m.

Katrina Marie Jones Kormanski, Principal Cello chair with several orchestras, including the Edison Symphony and violinists Susan Conner Shome and Judith Morse, conductor of the orchestra, will perform classical, semi-classical, and even a little ragtime music.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Edison Public Library. They will provide refreshments following the concert.

Call the library at (732) 287-2298, ext. 1 to reserve a seat. You may also sign up at the Circulation Desk.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Memorial Day Weekend Events Kick-Off Summer Season

AREA—Even though summer officially begins June 21, people consider Memorial Day weekend the “unofficial” start of summer. Six Flags Great Adventure will launch the 2002 summer season May 25 with daily park operations, a power-packed family entertainment program, evening fireworks, concerts and the opening of Six Flags Hurricane Harbor water park. Following are the Memorial Day weekend shows and events:

New-Circo Magnifico Debuts May 25

A variety of amazing acrobats comprise this internationally themed production. Acts of effortless grace and balance, seemingly impossible feats of strength and flawless juggling will leave the audience awed in the Showcase Theater. This show will run daily through Labor Day weekend.

New-America! Debuts May 25

This awe-inspiring fireworks production will be the perfect ending to an action-packed day at the park. Stirring music and a soundtrack chronicling our nation's history will provide an uplifting background to the colorful fireworks and special effects set on and above the picturesque Great Lake. The elaborate, original show was conceived and created by the park's entertainment director, Robert O'Neill. It runs nightly when the park is open until 10 p.m.

The Charlie Daniels Band and 38 Special—May 27 at 6 p.m.

A little bit of Nashville comes to Six Flags Great Adventure when two great country performers take center stage in the park's Northern Star Arena. 38 Special created a string of hits over the years, including “Rockin’ Into the Night,” “Hold On Loosely,” “Caught Up In You” and “I’d Been The One.” Crossing over the rock and southern rock genres, 38 Special earned five gold and four platinum albums, and generated sales of more than 12 million records.

For more than 35 years, legend Charlie Daniels has influenced the country music industry. His resume includes recording sessions with Bob Dylan, Flatt & Scruggs, Ringo Starr and Johnny Cash. Elvis Presley and Tammy Wynette recorded his songs, and in 1998 the Academy of Country Music presented him with the Pioneer Award. The Charlie Daniels Band will perform “Uneasy Rider,” “The South’s Gonna Do It,” “Long Haired Country Boy” and a classic performance of “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” and other hits. Concerts are free with park admission and Six Flags season passes.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Opens May 25

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor opens for its third wet ‘n wild season May 25. This lush, tropical paradise features nearly 20 high-speed thrill slides, a mammoth, heated wave pool, one of the world's longest lazy rivers, a gigantic family water playground with tons of “cool

things” to do. The park will operate weekends until June 14 when daily operation begins. A limited number of Six Flags Hurricane Harbor season passes are still available. Call (732) 928-1821 or visit the Web at www.sixflags.com.

Park Launches New Season Pass and Safari Tour Programs

In time for Memorial Day weekend, Six Flags will launch on-line season pass sales and a new interactive, hand-held Safari “tour guide.”

Beginning May 20, guests can purchase discounted Six Flags season passes on the Web at sixflags.com/great-adventure. Passes are \$72.50 per person plus tax, with a minimum of two passes purchased. Guests can have the passes delivered to their homes or pick them up at the park. Each pass is paid for in less than two visits and valid at all Six Flags theme parks across the country.

Also beginning in late May, guests who visit the Six Flags Wild Safari can learn in-depth facts about the animals and Safari staff with the touch of a finger. **TouchPak™** is an interactive, hand-held computer activated by touching images on the screen. Guests can rent TouchPak to learn more about their favorite animals, Safari history and its staff while they tour the Safari. It features audio and video capabilities and will be available for a nominal fee at the Safari main gate.

A Call For Poems

AREA—Write a poem and win the \$1,000 grand prize! Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest, open to everyone. There is no entry fee.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue #126,

Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter online at www.famouspoets.com. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

“This is our big contest of the year,” says Executive Director Mark Schramm. The deadline for entering is June 22.

Summer Spotlight Theater Classes

METUCHEN—The Forum Theatre Company is proud to once again off SUMMER SPOTLIGHT, an exciting acting workshop for kids ages 8 - 11 that takes place on stage at the Forum Theatre.

This year, Summer Spotlight will focus on comedy. Through playing the same improvisational games as seen on television's “Who's Line Is It Anyway?”, students will learn to think on their feet, work cooperatively with others and perform with confidence. In addition, acting games and exercises will teach performance techniques and self-expression. The two week workshop will end with the students' performance of a comedy one-act play.

Summer Spotlight is unlike other summer theatre programs. It is not a musical theatre production program, in which students spend a great deal of time watching others rehearse. Every student will experience hours acting, improvising and playing the type of theatre games professional acting schools use to expand students' creativity. Through this program, students will learn to find their own comic timing, enhance characterization and increase their stage presence and confidence. In addition, the program will introduce kids to audition tech-

niques and strategies that they will be able to use in future performances.

Above all, Summer Spotlight is about the joy and fun of performance. Summer Spotlight will be taught by professionals experienced both in teaching and in theatre arts. Workshop coordinator Catherine LaMoreaux has taught drama workshops for schools in Metuchen, Edison and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She has a degree in theatre from the University of Michigan and has completed the Young Playwrights Inc. Teacher Training Institute program. Catherine worked for New York's Circle Repertory Company and other performing arts organizations before joining the Forum Staff.

The program will run for two weeks, July 29 through August 9, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Friday, August 9 will be the final performance for family and friends at 11:00 a.m. The program fee is \$200 for the first child, \$175 for additional students from the same family. Installment payments are available, and can be made by check, money order or credit card.

For information, call Forum Theatre at 732.548.0582.

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WEDNESDAY, May 15					
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THURSDAY, May 16					
Mid-Day	970	2044			
Evening	098	0012			
FRIDAY, May 17					
Mid-Day	510	3750			
Evening	610	9081			
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Mid-Day	544	7134			
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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Rules For Switching Medicare Health Plans Are Changing

AREA—New rules for when and how often people can switch Medicare health plans are being phased in over the next two years.

"Medicare now will operate like most other health insurance programs and allow people to change health plans only during certain times of the year," Dennis Mass, Social Security manager in Elizabeth said.

More than 38 million Americans are enrolled in various Medicare health plans. These plans include the original Medicare plan, Medicare managed care plans (HMOs

and similar organizations) and Medicare private fee-for-service health care plans.

"Until the end of last year, people could leave a Medicare health plan at any time, for any reason," Mass said.

Now, people will be able to leave a Medicare health plan and join another plan only once between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2002. Their coverage will begin the first day of the month following the change in Medicare plans. In November, 2002, they will have another opportunity to switch plans. If they switch plans, then the change will be effective Jan. 1, 2003.

The rules will change again starting January 1, 2003. People can leave a Medicare health plan and join another plan only once between Jan. 1 and March 31, 2003. Their coverage will begin the first day of the month following the change. Just like in 2002, they will have another opportunity to switch plans during the annual election period between Nov. 1 and Nov. 30 every year. Any change made in November will be effective the following January.

"The new rules are being put in place to help Medicare plan providers manage their health

care costs and payments and plan for enrollee care," Mass said.

Mass noted that people also will be able to leave or join a Medicare health plan if:

- their health plan leaves Medicare;
- they move out of their plan's service area; or
- they are in another situation that Medicare decides is an exception.

Different rules also apply for people who are turning 65 years old and are new to Medicare and for people who just became eligible to join a Medicare-managed care plan or

private fee-for-service plan.

"If people are in a Medicare health plan or are thinking about joining one, they need to know how the new rules will affect them," Mass said. "They can talk to the plan representative or membership office."

If anyone wants more information, they should call Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 (TTY/TDD 1-877-486-2048 if they are deaf or hard of hearing) to ask for publication CMS-02241, *New Rules For Switching Medicare Plans*, or visit www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/ on the Internet to read, print or order a copy.

Sunny Weather And UV Rays Present Danger To Eyes

AREA—People who spend a lot of time outdoors should know that exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun can cause damage to the eyes.

Dr. Robert Scharfman, an Old Bridge ophthalmologist, says that UV radiation in sunlight, including both UV-A and UV-B, has been shown to be harmful to the eye. "UV-A penetrates deep into

the eye and may injure the macula, which is the part of the retina that's responsible for sight in the center field of vision. Corneal sunburn, or Photokeratitis, is also the result of intense exposure to UV-B. It's very common among people who spend long hours on the beach or on ski slopes without proper eye protection. It can be extremely painful and can

result in temporary loss of vision."

He explains that athletes, construction workers, fishermen, farmers, beach goers and anyone who spend extended time outdoors are the people that have the greatest risk of incurring eye damage from UV rays. "I recommend that people wear sunglasses that screen 99-100% UV rays

and avoid looking directly at the sun and wear brimmed hats. Protecting your eyes now can also prevent you from developing eye diseases as you age."

UV rays can contribute to the development of cataracts. Cataracts are the most prevalent age-related eye disease in the world. The World Health Organization says cataracts are the leading cause of blindness. There are now more than 20 million Americans age 40 and older with cataracts. They affect more than half of all

Americans by the age of 80.

Dr. Scharfman adds, "Any steps that one can take to decrease the risk of developing cataracts must be taken seriously. It's important not only in saving sight but because the costs associated with treatment are staggering. The federal government spends more than 3.4 billion in Medicare dollars a year on cataract treatment.

Visit www.njlasikmd.com or call (732) 607-0555 to learn more about Dr. Scharfman and his practice.

New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline Encourages HIV Testing

AREA — **Thursday, June 27th, 2002 is National HIV Testing Day!** This is the 8th annual testing day sponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA). The New Jersey AIDS/STD Hotline encourages all people, at risk for infection, to get counseling and get tested.

If the tests show you do not have HIV (HIV-negative), you can learn how to stay HIV-free. If the tests show you have HIV (HIV-positive), you can get counseling and the medical care you need. It is thought that early treatment delays or prevents some of the serious complications of HIV.

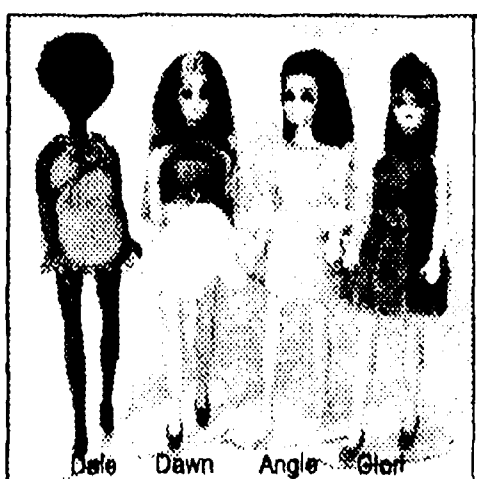
Testing is the **ONLY** way to know if you have HIV. You cannot rely on symptoms to know if you are HIV positive. Many people who are HIV-positive do not have any symptoms for years.

You can get HIV testing at a private doctor's office, a hospital, your local health department or a publicly funded site specifically set up for HIV testing. There are two types of test procedures: anonymous, in which no name is ever given to the testing center and only the person who is hav-

ing the test is aware of the results, or confidential, in which your name is recorded with the results of the test. In confidential HIV testing the only people with access to your test results are medical personnel and in some states the health department. However, your HIV status may become known if you sign a release form to have your personal physician notified. Once your

HIV status becomes part of your medical record, it may be seen by health care workers, insurers or employers.

To find a testing site close to you or if you have questions concerning HIV/AIDS or STDs call the hotline. **Remember Help is Just a Phone Call Away! 1-800-624-2377.** The AIDS/STD Hotline is available 24 hours per day, everyday!



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EDITORIAL**Readers
Commentary****A Question Of
Prominence**

To the Editor:

I have been named in the *Atom Tabloid* as being one of 200 people who went from being a Democrat to a Republican. This is true.

What isn't true is that I was never a "prominent Democrat" as this paper said. I went to the polls and voted. If that makes me "prominent" then maybe I should be running for office too!

Tell me why, out of 200 "converts," my brother and my names were chosen? I'm very curious. Is it because I write on the Middlesex County Forum and voice my opinion there?

**Lori D. Strojan
Carteret**

Ed. Note: Being outspoken is one road to prominence.

**Don't Re-Elect
Anybody**

Dear Editor,

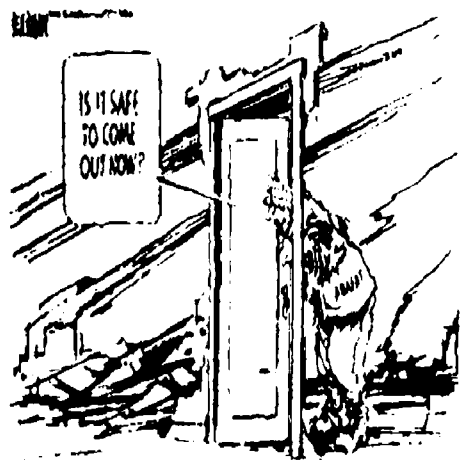
There is too much in-house bickering and not enough action to get things done. Get rid of all incumbents in Carteret.

Vote Naples & Krum (if you are Democrat)

Vote Walsh, Aveta & Mazan (if Republican)

DON'T "RE-ELECT" ANYBODY!!!

**Name withheld by request
Carteret**

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

"From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

That quote is from the Gettysburg Address which Abraham Lincoln gave on November 19, 1863, when the nation was still embroiled in a civil war in which many young men died for their country. On Memorial Day, we pause as a

nation to remember and honor those who have shown the full measure of devotion to their country in that they have lost their lives in the fight to uphold democracy. In order to preserve the great democratic experiment which is the United States of America, many lives have been lost in a number of wars. On this day we pause to honor our fallen brothers and sisters who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their country.

Throughout the course of American history, New Jersey has played a significant role in the military affairs of the nation. The foundations of Democracy have been laid in many battles of the Revolutionary War which occurred here in New Jersey. More battles of the great war for Independence were fought in

liely address your boss in the language that the two of you, but nobody else in the room, understand.

If I were that boss, I would answer back in English; later I'd take you aside and tell you to address me in English and not Esperanto at all future meetings. And if I were a co-worker left out in the Esperanto cold, you'd get dirty looks from me the rest of the day.

Very rude.

But imagine another scenario. Say you and your boss happen to meet in the elevator. Say there are other people there, but you do not know them. Is it still rude to speak Esperanto?

Nope. Now it's a personal conversation. And what you say, or in what language you say it, is none of anybody else's business.

Those two extremes make it abundantly clear (to me, anyway) that sometimes it's rude to speak a foreign language in public, and sometimes it's perfectly fine.

Where in this do the Tampa airport workers fall? If they were pointing fingers at Van Susteren, making it obvious they were talking about her, then she was right

New Jersey than in any other state in the union.

New Jersey also lost many of its sons and daughters in the Civil War. More American soldiers lost their lives in the Civil War than in any other war in history and many of those killed were fellow New Jerseyans. This bloody war on American soil was the impetus for the establishment of Memorial Day as we know it today.

New Jersey and its residents played an important role during the first and second World Wars as well. Camp Kilmer opened in New Brunswick in 1942 and represented a major staging area for the second World War. The vast majority of troops were organized and shipped out of this port.

The Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne supplied virtually all the materials used in the European theater. And the contributions of both Fort Dix and

to be upset. If, on the other hand, they were simply carrying on a conversation among themselves, then Greta should have quietly gone on to catch her flight.

But I can't say what happened. I was not there.

I can say this, though: The fact that the incident came up in a program devoted to the analysis of public issues tells me that Van Susteren did not intend to start a discussion about bad manners, a la Emily Post. What she meant to do was tap into the Speak-English-You're-in-America sentiment that is so widespread in this country, especially among people likely to watch Fox News.

In the end it comes down to manners, not patriotism. Speaking a foreign language in public is the equivalent of whispering in public — sometimes it is rude to whisper and leave other people out, and sometimes it is not.

Well, actually not really the equivalent. Whispering, rude though it can be, does not bring out language vigilantes questioning your patriotism on cable TV shows.

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McGuire Airforce Base are very well known. On Memorial Day, we give pause to recognize the importance of honoring those who have given their lives for the United States of America. But remembering our brothers and sisters who have been killed in the line of duty should not only happen once a year. Everyday we enjoy the freedoms for which they lost their lives. Our remembrance, honor and gratitude should therefore not be a once a year event. When we worship we should say a prayer in thanksgiving to the men and women who make sure we can practice our religious beliefs freely. When we vote, enjoy the freedoms enumerated in the Bill of Rights, or we speak our mind, we should remember with gratitude the dear price paid by our Veterans who preserved those rights.

**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.

**Fighting
Tooth & Paw**

The Russian army's looking for a few good recruits—the four-legged kind, that is. According to ananova.com, citizens of the former USSR have been called upon

to surrender their pet dogs, horses, donkeys and reindeer to the Russian Defense Ministry—to be registered for possible active duty.

The military thinking is that horses could be valuable during skirmishes in the south. Okay, makes sense. But then the deputy military commissioner of Moscow, Mikhail Prosduskev, said that dogs and reindeer could be used in the frigid north. For

what, pray tell? Making money off a sleighing concession?

The BBC reports the response was disappointing. Apparently, not many Russian animal lovers were keen on placing little Fido or Rudolph in the line of fire. But the country as a whole should be pleased—given the results of their last foray into Afghanistan, I would imagine this new army might be a step up.

Sciortino's Pizza Oven Could Be Historically Significant

PERTH AMBOY—Last week, a state Office of Historic Preservation specialist, made a preliminary visit to Sciortino's Pizzeria.

No determination was made about the pizzeria's room-sized coal-fed oven, which is built into the pizzeria's back wall. The family estimates that the

oven is one hundred years old. Sheri Seminski said that more research is needed before deciding whether to seek historic preservation status for the oven. Seminski's father, Louis, is co-owner of the pizzeria.

Seminski said that if the family files an application seeking historic preservation status for

the oven, the review could take six months.

Sciortino's Pizzeria is one of 18 businesses and homes bordering New Brunswick Avenue and Ogden Place which are slated for demolition to make way for the city's planned public safety complex.



FIGHTING CITY HALL—WABC TV Reporter Art McFarland (R.) gets ready to interview Lou Seminski (L.) co-owner of Sciortino's Pizzeria in Perth Amboy for a broadcast last week. Seminski is trying to save his business, which the city plans to demolish to make way for a parking lot for its new public safety complex.

Judge Rules In Township's Favor In Baldwin Condemnation Case

"This is a great victory for the residents of Edison," stated Mayor Spadaro. "It demonstrates that the community's commitment to preserving and protecting open space will not be deterred or derailed by lawsuits or those trying to develop our community in a manner inconsistent with our vision."

EDISON—Superior Court Judge, Honorable Robert A. Longhi ruled that Edison Township had every right to condemn the Baldwin property to protect and preserve open space in the township.

In a ruling issued this week Judge Longhi stated, "Edison's acquisition of the Baldwin property fulfils the valid public purpose of a) extending Nefsky Street Park and making the park accessible to the public and b) assembling properties vicinity of the (Dismal Swamp) in order to create a large or contiguous or nearly contiguous area for passive open space and/or recreation needs."

"This is a great victory for the residents of Edison," stated Mayor Spadaro.

"It demonstrates that the community's commitment to preserving and protecting open space will not be deterred or derailed by lawsuits or those trying to develop our community in a manner inconsistent with our vision."

Although Judge Longhi ordered that the Township should perform another appraisal within 60 days, he ruled that the taking of the property was consistent with the provisions of the law.

"N.J.S.A. 40:61-1 authorizes a municipality to acquire land

for open space and park lands "as it may deem advisable and also to "extend and enlarge the same."

The acquisition of the premises would permit Edison to extend and enlarge Nefsky Street Park and is also consistent with the apparent Edison plan to create a large township owned contiguous area of land in the vicinity of the swamp..."

"From the beginning the Council and I stated that acquiring this land was indeed in the best interest of the municipality and essential to our efforts of preserving and protecting open space in our community," said the Mayor.

"This property will be a welcome addition to our park system and to our open space inventory."

Ferry Company Announces Added Service, Summer Specials

SOUTH AMBOY—SeaStreak Commuter Ferry Service announced added ferry service from South Amboy and a host of exciting summer package specials.

The company, which is based in Atlantic Highlands, will be adding four weekend departures from its newly opened South Amboy ferry terminal into Manhattan.

According to General Manager David Stafford of SeaStreak America,

"Beginning on Saturday, May 25, New Jerseyans will have ferry service available to them from South Amboy at 9:00 a.m., 11:40 a.m., 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. These new departures will provide flexibility to people who may want to travel into Manhattan for leisure or work activities and not have to deal with road traffic and delays."

SeaStreak will also add a weekday, late night departure from New York that will arrive in South Amboy at 12:45 a.m. Stafford points out, "Many people who live in New Jersey take advantage of the late night social activities in Manhattan and we are pleased to give them new choices that fit their lifestyles and enable them to

enjoy the night life of the City."

A variety of leisure and recreation packages are available this summer on SeaStreak's ferries. The company is getting a jump in kicking off the "unofficial start of summer" this Memorial Day weekend. Festivities will begin Wednesday, May 22, which was designated National Maritime Day by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933, with free giveaways and prizes.

Stafford says, "On a serious note, we are pleased to remember the brave individuals who loved the water dearly and served in the Merchant Marines during World War Two. Many of young men from New Jersey and New York lost their lives in defending this country's freedom. We will pause to mark their commitment to the water and to the people. On a lighter note, SeaStreak's ability to transport people on the water with less commuting stress and more recreational options such as baseball games, parades and street fairs in New York, will make for an exciting summer season."

For more information, visit www.seastreakusa.com or call 1-800 BOATRIDE.

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ART IN OUR SCHOOLS.

NO WONDER PEOPLE THINK LOUIS ARMSTRONG

WAS THE FIRST MAN TO
WALK ON THE MOON.

It's a long way from the Apollo Theatre to the Apollo program. And while his playing may have been as lively as a moon flight, as *Time* magazine once suggested that would be as close as Louis Daniel Armstrong would ever get to taking one small step for man.



But as the jazz musician of the 20th century, great trumpet player, and a matter of course he was a man who helped make various sides a part of the vocabulary. It was he who was honored with the title "American goodwill ambassador" by the State Department. It was he who was the last jazz musician to hit #1 on the Billboard pop chart.

Not bad for a kid whose first experience with



the trumpet was as a guest in a correctional home for wayward boys. Thirty today's schools were as enlightened and informed as that reformatory was.

Alas, the arts are dismissed as extravagant in today's schools. Thus, despite all the studies that show parents believe ethnic and dance and art and drama make

their children much better students and better people. If you feel like your kids aren't getting their fair share, make some noise. To find out how or for more information about the benefits of arts education please visit us on the web at AmericansForTheArts.org. Just like the great Louis Armstrong, all you need is a little brass.

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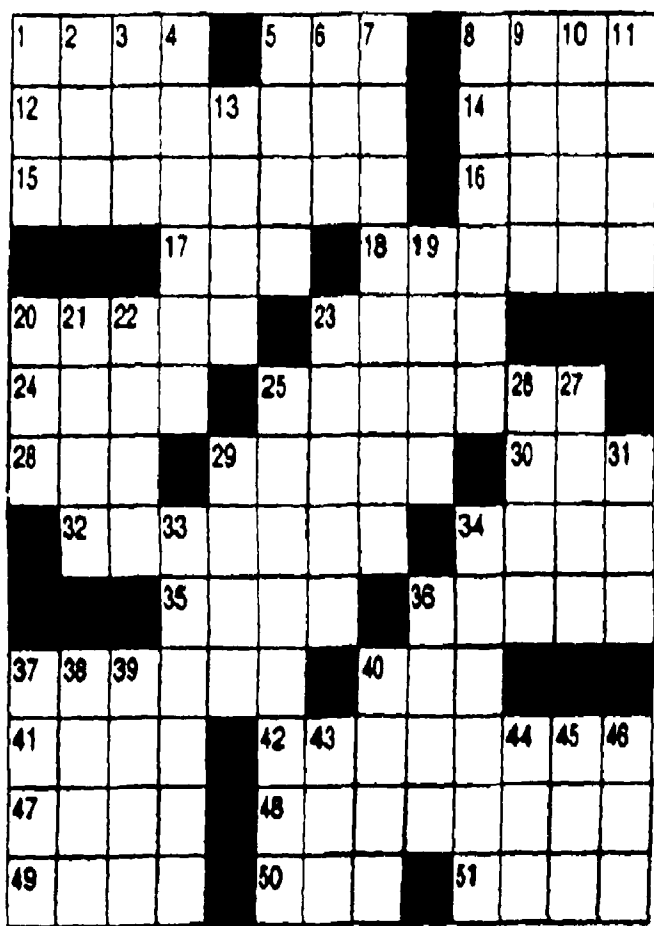
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

- 1 Soccer necessity
5 Additionally
8 Authoritative command
12 Went blonde, in a way
14 Destroy
15 Winter forecast
16 Go no farther
17 Ziering of "90210"
18 Nonliteral expressions
20 Earth mover, for short
23 Dazzle
24 Incessantly
25 Big name in mail order
28 Drench
29 Armada
30 Kanga's kid
32 Loose overcoats
34 "Death of a Salesman" son
35 Crew member
36 Devil ray
37 Cunning
40 Prickly seed case
41 Ogden Nash, e.g.
42 Assess
47 Slightly
48 Turned down
49 Stereo alter-



- native
50 Vast expanse
51 Coop group
DOWN
1 Consumer aid org.
2 The whole shooting match
3 Floral garland
4 More indolent
5 Compared with
6 "- the ram-parts ..."
7 Data for Robert Ripley
8 Joining together
9 Division word
10 Leading man?
11 Stocking stuffers
13 Autocrat
19 Air for a pair
20 Morning moisture
21 Finished
22 Catherine - Jones
23 Shell out
25 Indulges in smear tactics
26 "- Brockovich"
27 Barn area
29 Imperfection
31 Two-kind connection
33 Elvis "In the -"
34 Statesman-financier Bernard
36 Bedroom slipper
37 Unwanted e-mail
38 Vagrant
39 Harness part
40 - California
43 Victory sign
44 Devoured
45 X-rating?
46 Mag. staffers

The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

Greenlee told Leo she suspected that Vanessa killed Larry and Frankie, prompting Leo to turn the gun on Vanessa. But Jake knocked it out of his hand saying he didn't want Leo to live with the burden of having killed his own mother. Chris was so affected by Ryan's reaction to the story of his (Ryan's) mother that he (Chris) didn't realize he had moved his legs, but Ryan noticed it. Tad tried to get JR to reveal why Dixie left without telling him (Tad). Maggie awoke to find Vanessa coming toward her and fluffing a pillow. Zeke removed a syringe from his bag. Wait to See: Vanessa tells her side of the story.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Rose managed to make a dramatic escape. Paul realized all his answers went up in smoke. Craig assisted Jack's attacker. Katie went back again into Simon's past. Abigail sought out Brandy for clues. Wait to See: Rose gets a glimpse of her future. Barbara makes a breakthrough with Hal.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Eric reeled when Massimo said that Ridge and Stephanie would be going with him (Massimo).

Amber's design was a big success with the Forrester cutters. Whip assured his mother that pretending to be the father of Brooke's baby will pay off big for them. Later, Brooke's fears about Whip were realized when he demanded a huge raise, a company car and a house. Whip later warned Deacon to show him more respect or he could regret it. Wait to See: A dinner party becomes an arena.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES:

Shawn's news about "fathering" Jan's baby broke Belle's heart. Jennifer and Brandon turned up the heat in their relationship. Victor assured Nicole of his love for her, while Kate flirted with Roman. A shocked Chloe received the tape of Philip and Cynthia making out. Shawn begged Belle for forgiveness. Sami lashed out at Lucas. Wait to See: Shawn invites Jan to live in his house. Jack and Jennifer get carried away with passion.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Luke was pinned down by a falling beam as he and Laura attempted to escape from the flooding mineshaft. Sarah unnerved Nikolas when she told him she hadn't forgotten about Gia and the accident. Later, Sonny tried to get Elizabeth to tell him the truth about the accident, but she could only repeat what she was told to recall. AJ told Courtney of Sonny's attempt to keep them apart. Wait to See: Sarah meets an unusual doctor.

GUIDING LIGHT

Catalina made a confession to Ray. Marina botched up her father's carefully made plans. Harley decided not to hold back her feelings anymore. Philip realized that the shoe he was looking at offered a significant piece of information. Wait to See: An unwanted suitor puts a move on Ben. Buzz confronts Gus.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Todd and Blair remained skeptical of Starr's report of seeing a man (Troy) chained to a wheel at the Funhouse. Meanwhile, Sam was crushed when Nora admitted returning Troy's kiss. Later, Sam confronted Lindsay about Troy. Starr returned to the Funhouse on her own and tried unsuccessfully

to help Troy. When the deadly spider reappeared, Starr captured it in her juice jar. Unaware that she's Jack's real mother, Blair told Sam that Todd got Jack by paying his "birth mother" for him. After a near tragedy caused by the spider falling into Jack's crib, a disconsolate Starr told Sam about the man on the wheel. Jessica offered Roxy \$10,000 to stop drinking. Wait to See: Sam tries to rescue Troy. Niki comes to Viki in her dream. Al impersonates Seth.

PASSIONS

Chad asked Whitney to run away with him. From hell, Julian continued to push Theresa toward the dark side with "advice" about how to get back with Ethan. "Diana" (Sheridan) began waitressing at Liz's Caf in Bermuda. As Luis agonized over Theresa's suicide attempt, she and Ivy tried to outdo each other as the REAL Mrs. Crane. Later, Ivy tried to blackmail Eve to change John's DNA test results. Wait to See: Julian "confronts" Ivy in the ladies' room.

PORT CHARLES

Rafe found Alison unconscious from the leaking gas and called 911, but Frank was unable to revive her, saying that she seemed to be stuck in an altered state. Meanwhile, Alison "dreamed" of her happy times with Rafe. Lucy sensed that the onset of Christina's illness coincided with Paige's arrival in Port Charles. Later, Kevin realized how he should paint his portrait of Paige and asked her if she's an angel. Meanwhile, Amy revealed herself as the dark angel when she flashed back to the night her dying father, Harris, asked her to avenge his death on the man who caused it, Ian Thornhart. Wait to See: Casey makes a terrible discovery.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

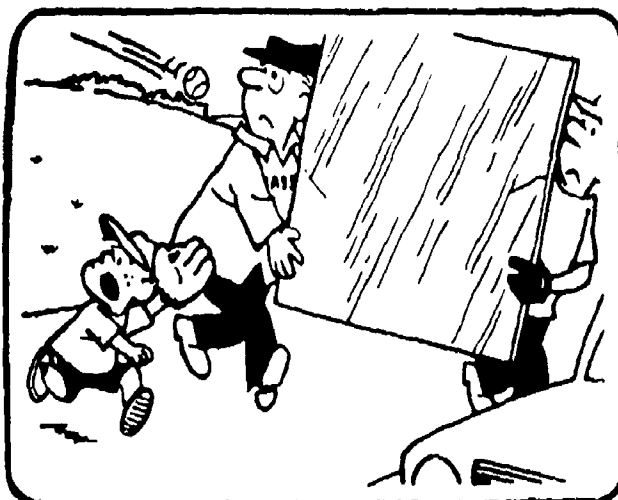
Unaware that Diane was not returning to Milan with Kyle, Phyllis told an overjoyed Jack she'd be happy to raise Kyle with him. A bleeding Diego shocked Raul and Sharon when he turned up at the coffee shop after a fight in his rooming house. Nick later offered the newly open, live-in stable hand job to Diego. Victor canceled his date with Nikki to talk to Julia (his first wife) about her business problems, and the two later recalled their shared past. Wait to See: Jack gets more information on Diane. Julia has a shocker for Victor.

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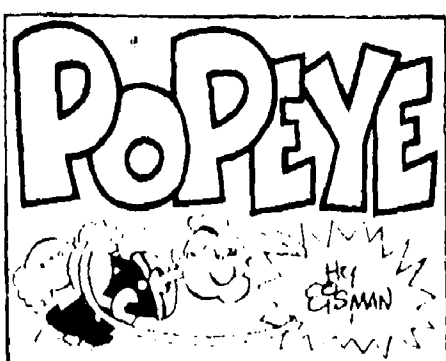
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



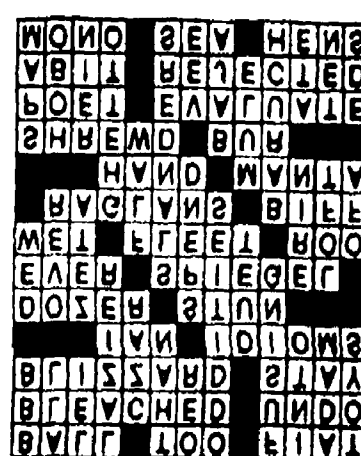
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Word is missing from vehicle. 2. Glove is black. 3. House is missing. 4. Buses have been added. 5. Letters added to man's shirt. 6. Boy is wearing shorts.



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OBITUARIES**Louise Haas, 87
of Woodbridge**

Mrs. Louise Prietz Haas of Woodbridge died May 1 at her daughter's home in Woodbridge. She was 87.

Born in Rahway, she resided in Milwaukee, Wis. and Elizabeth before moving to Woodbridge 57 years ago.

Her husband, Harold Haas, died in 1977. A brother, Edward Prietz, died in 1999.

Surviving are three daughters, Arlene Volkay of Woodbridge, with whom she resided, Betty Lou Gregory of Woodbridge and Carol Konya of Plainfield; four granddaughters, Shannon Gregory, Kelly Gregory, Danielle Volkay and Chrissy Volkay; three grandsons, Kenneth Konya, Ronald Konya and Robert Konya; a sister-in-law, Shirley Prietz; five great-grandchildren, and a dear family friend, Dora Geiling.

**Harnarain P. Verma
of Woodbridge**

Mr. Harnarain P. Verma of Woodbridge died May 7 at Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media, Pa. He was 79.

Born in Gujranwalla, India, he came to Woodbridge in 1984.

He owned and operated a textile business in India.

His parents, Parsaram and Kaushlaya Dang are deceased.

His wife, Raj H. (Kihra) Verma, died in 2000. Surviving are a son, Girish Verma of West Windsor; two daughters, Bakul Bhalla of Woodbridge and Dr. Renu Verma of Glen Mills, Pa.; a sister, Shakuntala Banga of India, and four grandchildren.

**Louis G. Popan, 79
of Hopelawn**

Mr. Louis G. Popan of Hopelawn died May 7 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 79.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Hopelawn for the past 50 years.

He was employed as a machinist by American Smelting and Refining Co. in Perth Amboy for 33 years before retiring in 1976.

Mr. Popan was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a communicant of Holy Spirit R.C. Church in Perth Amboy.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Victoria Vojcak Popan; a son, Kenneth G. of Iselin; a daughter, Christine P. Wance, of Linden; two brothers, Peter of Perth Amboy and Victor of Edison; a sister, Florence Stek of Woodbridge, and two grandsons, Matthew and Scott Popan.

**Vera P. Kane, 100
of Edison**

Mrs. Vera Pettit Kane of Edison died May 15 at JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates in Edison. She would have celebrated her 101st birthday on June 23, 2002.

Born in Little Falls, she lived in Highland Park before moving to Edison seven years ago.

Her husband, Andrew, died in 1986.

Surviving are two grandnieces, Patricia Grandjean of Edison and Joyce Terresi of Pittsburgh, Pa., and a grandnephew, Robert LaFontaine of Edison.

**Neal Clemens, Sr.
of Metuchen**

Mr. Neal R. Clemens Sr. of Metuchen died May 14 at Rahway Hospital. He was 65.

Born in Atlantic City, he resided in Metuchen since 1969.

He received a B.A. in 1962 from Rutgers University.

Mr. Clemens was employed by the New Jersey Department of Labor for 30 years before retiring in 1992.

He served in the Army during peacetime.

He was a member of the Community Presbyterian Church, Edison, where he held various positions including that of elder, deacon and clerk of session.

Mr. Clemens played the clarinet with the Westfield Community Band.

His father, Norman Clemens, is deceased; a grandson, Vincent Neal Sharp, died in 1999.

Surviving are his wife, Pat Clemens; a daughter, Catherine Sharp of Farmingdale; three sons, Neal Raymond Clemens Jr. of Normal, Ill., William Plantz of Metuchen and Bruce Paul Clemens of Parsippany; his mother, Arline (Learn) Clemens of Pleasantville; a brother, Gerald L. Clemens, also of Pleasantville; a sister, Norma Ruth Caputo of Hillsborough; and three grandchildren, Benjamin Chan Shik Clemens, Sophia Kyung Eun Clemens and Sara Melissa Sharp.

**Anthony Nessine, 72
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Anthony Nessine of Perth Amboy died May 6 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 72.

Born in Newark, he resided in Monmouth Junction before moving to Perth Amboy three years ago.

He was currently employed by Edna Mahan Correctional Facility in Clinton where he was a corrections officer for 10 years.

Mr. Nessine served in the Army.

Surviving are his wife, Juliana K. Nessine of Lakewood; three daughters, Darlene Kelly of Vineland, Agnes Ann Miller of South Brunswick and Anna Marie Nessine of Franklin Park, and a host of other relatives.

**Walter Bobenchik
of Carteret**

Mr. Walter "Whitey" Bobenchik of Carteret died May 4 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division.

Born in Carteret, he was a lifelong resident of the Borough.

He retired as a fire inspector for Chevron Oil Co., Perth Amboy, where he worked for 28 years. He was a member of Chevron's Retirees Club, Northeastern Chapter.

Mr. Bobenchik was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of VFW Star Landing Post 2314, Carteret.

He was a parishioner of St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Carteret.

He was also a member of Carteret Seniors Afternoon and Evening Groups.

Two sisters, Sophie Christenson and Olga Holowchuk; and a brother, Myron "Babo" Bobenchik, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Joan Belisario Bobenchik; a sister, Mary Such of Carteret and a brother Michael Bobenchik of Florida.

**Neri O. Marrero, Jr.
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Neri O. Marrero Jr., of Perth Amboy died May 13 in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, while on vacation. He was 57.

Born in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, he lived in Perth Amboy most of his life.

Mr. Marrero was a founder of the Puerto Rican Softball League in 1968, as well as the Hispano Social Club.

He also was the former owner of Nemar Printing Press, Perth Amboy.

His parents, Neri O. Marrero Sr. and Herminia Santiago, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Carmen T. (Rivera) Marrero, a daughter, Iveliz, a son, Neri O. Marrero III and two grandchildren, Neri and Minelli, all of Perth Amboy; five sisters, Noris Perez, Sonia Irizarry, Damaris Marrero, Haydee Batista, all of Perth Amboy, and Dolores Lopez of Lakeland, Fla.; three brothers, Perth Amboy police Det. Conrad Marrero, Alex Marrero of Pennsylvania and Carlos Marrero of Mobile, Ala., and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Esther Golub, 86
of Perth Amboy**

Mrs. Esther (Rubinoff) Golub of Perth Amboy died May 8 at her home. She was 86.

Born in New York City, she had resided in Perth Amboy since she was six months old.

She was a 1933 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

She and her husband founded Golub's Fruit & Vegetable Market in Perth Amboy in 1948. She ran the business until retiring in 1982.

She served as president of the PTA at School No. 8 in Perth Amboy.

She was past president of the Sisterhood at Congregation Shaarey Tefiloh for 50 years in Perth Amboy. She was also past president of Perth Amboy Hebrew School. She served as the Chevra Kadisha of the Orthodox community for 25 years, and served as secretary of Hadassah and as recording secretary of the Young Men's Hebrew Association in Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Irving Golub, died in 1981. She was also predeceased by a son, Alan Golub, who died in 1952, and by two brothers, Sol Roberts and Samuel Rubinoff.

Surviving are two sons, Stuart Golub of Marlboro and Alvin Golub of Venice, Fla.; a daughter, Charlotte Herman of Jerusalem, Israel; a sister, Rose Lampert of Cranford; a brother, Irving Roberts of Madison; seven grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren plus a great-grandchild on the way.

Funeral services will be held at 11:30 a.m. today at Congregation Shaarey.

**Joseph Halasz, 67
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Joseph R. Halasz of Perth Amboy died May 7 at Veterans Hospital, East Orange. He was 67.

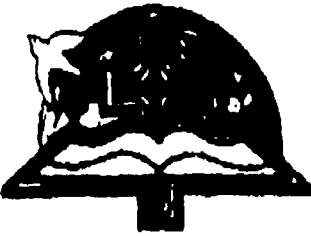
He was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy.

He was a construction worker and an Army veteran.

Surviving are his mother, Vera Halasz of Perth Amboy; and two sisters, Kathryn Clebock of Perth Amboy and Patricia McCullough of Florida.

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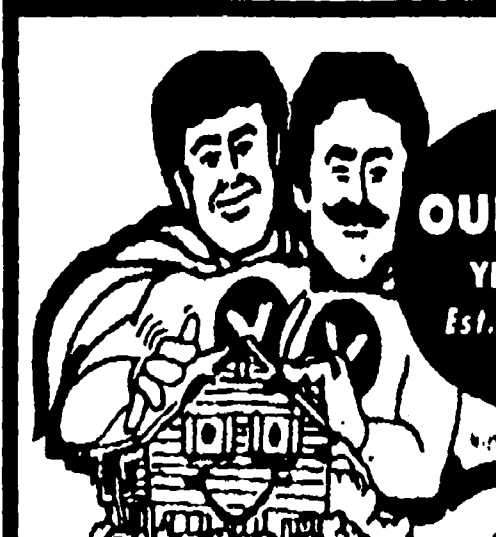
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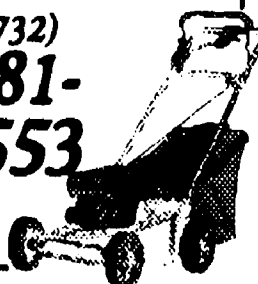
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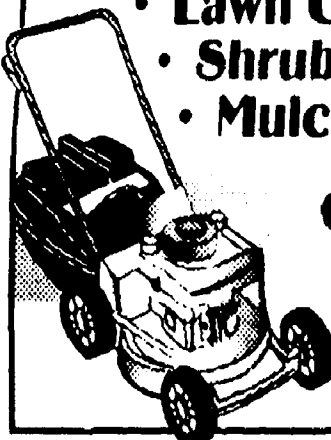
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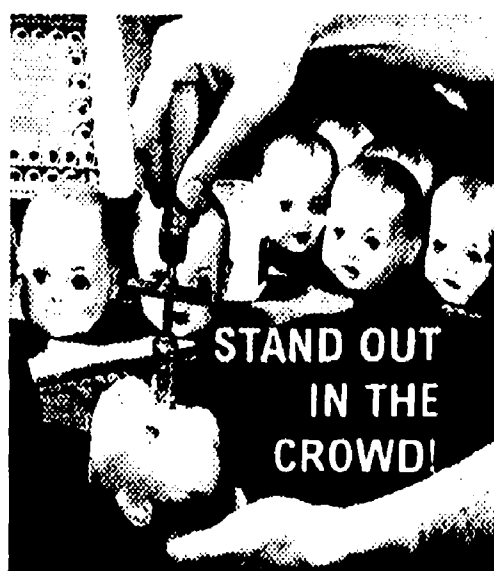
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Bush Knew

continued

(continued from page...3)

the administration alerted domestic law-enforcement agencies that hijackings "in the traditional sense" were possible, Fleischer said.

The alert, which was never made public, may have prompted the hijackers to change their tactics, Fleischer said.

The alert was "one of the reasons that you saw that the people who committed the 9/11 attacks used boxcutters and plastic knives to get around America's system of protecting against hijackings," Fleischer said.

Hijackings by al Qaeda terrorists were just one of "many things that we talked about all the time as a potential terrorist threat," said a U.S. intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"But when we talked about hijackings, we talked about that in the traditional sense of hijackings, not in the sense of somebody hijacking an aircraft and flying it into a building," the intelligence official said.

"We talked about concern about the general noise level about al Qaeda planning, and we were trying to figure out what they would do. We never had specifics about time, place, MO [method of operation]."

Congressional investigators are focusing on why the FBI failed to put the different information about the threats together.

Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the Phoenix FBI memo "was a very important warning and it was not heeded. It was not distributed. It was not acted on."

Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., the Senate Intelligence Committee chairman, said the disclosures in the memos marked an important discovery in Congress' investigation into why the FBI, CIA and

other U.S. agencies failed to learn of and prevent the Sept. 11 plot.

"How in the world could somebody have read this document and not had lights, firecrackers, rockets go off in their head that this is something that is really important?" Graham said of the Phoenix FBI memo.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., said Congress needs to find out - in hearings open to the public - what Bush and other officials knew, when they knew it and what they did with the information, in order to prevent future terrorist attacks.

"The way to do better is to understand what happened in the past," Gephardt said. "Was there a failure of intelligence? Did the right officials not act on the intelligence in the proper way? These are things we need to find out."

Senate Majority leader Tom Daschle said Thursday he was "gravely concerned" and asked President Bush to turn over to Congress information that he received.

"Clearly there is a lot more to be learned before we can come to any final conclusion about all of the facts, but it clearly raises some very important questions that have to be asked and have to be answered," he said. "Why did it take eight months for us to receive this information? And secondly, what specific actions were taken by the White House in response?"

"We've got terrorists connected to al Qaeda out in Arizona engaging in flight training, we've got Moussaoui arrested and being interrogated in Minnesota, we've got the president being briefed while he was on vacation in Texas about the possibility of these airplanes being hijacked. I mean, was anything done about any of those things?" said Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C.

Edwards called on the administration to help Congress investigate what happened, saying there has been some tension from the White House over starting a probe.

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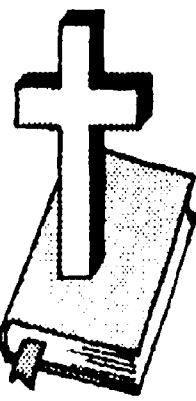
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

CAREER FAIR—Representatives from businesses, government, and social service organizations met with students, collected resumes and discussed employment opportunities at New Jersey City University's "Thirteenth Annual Spring Career Fair." Among the NJCU students who sought advice from Craig Daugherty, a senior regional leader and personal financial analyst with Primerica, a member of Citigroup, were (L.-R.) Maryann Ozoka of Jersey City, a sophomore majoring in accounting and mathematics; Martin Topol of Sayreville, a junior majoring in international business; and Angela Dzikowski of Bayonne, a freshman majoring in psychology.

Sacred Heart And Peter Rabbit Plus

SOUTH AMBOY On May 8, children in PK, K and Grade 1 from Sacred Heart School, South Amboy, went to Union County Arts Center in Rahway to see and hear the "Adventures of Peter Rabbit." Along with teachers, parent chaperones, and the Pastor-Fr. Joseph Romanoski, sixty-five students learned about Peter, Farmer MacGregor and the value of saying please and thank you. The program was presented by Acme Performing Arts and included a stage presentation, audience participation and sing-a-longs with the audience.

On May 16, Sacred Heart 6th and 7th graders visited Monmouth Battlefield where they learned about American history and New Jersey history first hand. The enjoyed a fantastic day filled with experiences to stimulate interest in the children to know more about their country and state within the years of the American Revolution. Students also enjoyed a picnic lunch on this historic site. With so much in the news today about the lack of knowledge our youngsters have in the area of American history, teachers have really done an outstanding job

planning this day.

On May 29 grades 2-5 will be off to Parsippany and a Native American village where they will see first hand how Native Americans of New Jersey lived, worked and played. Second graders will be especially interested in the musical instruments used by these indigenous people as they have been studying the instruments in class. Fourth grade spends a great deal of time learning New Jersey history and will be looking at customs, traditions, and craftworks.

School Principal Tina S. Krook stated that bringing the children out of the classroom to experience learning brings a more complete understanding to ideas and concepts. People, literature, science, math all come alive and take on a significance lecture cannot provide alone. Krook encourages a hands on approach to learning whether it is a field trip or planting tulips in November to see the flowers bloom in the Spring in the front yard of the school.

Residents Receive Education Award

PERTH AMBOY—Lynda Rizkallah, a first grade teacher at Ukrainian Assumption School, Perth Amboy, was among the honorees at the Diocese of Metuchen 13th Annual Celebration of Excellence.

Also honored was Rose Pennyfeather, an art teacher at Perth Amboy Catholic School.

Held at the Pines Manor on May 7, the Celebration recognized the gifts and talents of those who work tirelessly for the schools in the Diocese.

"All who serve in our Catholic schools put their heart and soul into their work so we can achieve excellence in education. We appreciate all they do and they are happy to have an opportunity to recognize their efforts on behalf of our children," noted the Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, Bishop of

Metuchen.

Melanie Lawrence, principal of Ukrainian Assumption said, "Ms. Rizkallah is an exemplary teacher who lives her Catholic Christian values. She tirelessly serves her school, church and community."

Sister Jeanette DeSena, administrator of Perth Amboy Catholic School said, "Mrs. Pennyfeather embodies the Christian values and commitment to children, necessary for a good Catholic education. By promoting and recognizing the talents of our students she has gained national, state, county and diocesan recognition for Perth Amboy Catholic School."

A resident of Perth Amboy, Rizkallah is a graduate of Douglass College.

Pennyfeather is a graduate of Georgian Court College and the University of Florence, Italy.

"Christmas In July" Motorcycle Run

EDISON—Santa Claus is coming to Menlo Park Veterans Home, Edison, in July to lead a Motorcycle Run.

The veterans at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, Edison will have an early visit from Santa Claus on Sunday, July 21 at 8 a.m. when the N.J. Chapter of Leathernecks Motorcycle Club International (a motorcycle club consisting of former Marines and Fleet Navy Corpsman), along with other motorcycle enthusiasts from the area will meet at the veterans home to begin a motorcycle run to South Amboy. The run which is being organized by Marine Vet Mel Meszaros is the first of its kind to benefit the veterans home.

Meszaros, who is a member of the "Leathernecks Club" and a

volunteer at the Veterans Home, said, "Motorcycle enthusiasts have always been very generous contributors to fund raising activities for veterans and this is a fun way to enjoy a day out with other enthusiasts and give something back to our veterans who made so many sacrifices for us." Santa Claus will be on his own motorcycle and lead the festivities which will include singing Christmas Carols to the veterans.

Dr. Melvin Friedman, a frequent motorcycle rider, and CEO of the veterans home, will participate in the run. Dr. said, "Motorcycling is a form of freedom in America and who made so many sacrifices to preserve all the freedoms we enjoy today? America's Veterans."

The run is scheduled for Sunday, July 21. Check-in time is 8 a.m. at the veterans home and finish at the Music Box, Route 35, South Amboy. Edison Police and Edison First Aid will escort the run.

Anyone interested in riding in the run or making a tax deductible donation to the run contact Mel Meszaros at (732) 721-5332 or Fax to (732) 525-0029.

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