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Middlesex County Edition

VOL. 121, NO. 37

Friday, September 13, 2002

50¢



Sayreville Man Sentenced In Maine

SAYREVILLE—A New Jersey man who shot his father to death while the two were in Maine on a hunting trip last November has been sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Alan Michalik, 35, of Sayreville, pleaded guilty Aug. 26 to murder and was sentenced on Friday in Sagadahoc County Superior Court in Bath, Maine. Defense lawyer Jeffrey Toothaker said his client decided that entering a guilty

plea was the right thing to do adding that he hoped the judge would impose the minimum sentence of 25 years. The state recommended a sentence of 35 years. Prosecutors said Michalik shot his father, Alfred Michalik, in the back of the head after they started arguing while hunting.

The elder Michalik's body was found in a shallow grave 100 yards behind his cabin near Route 179. The

77-year-old victim owned a camp near Graham Lake eight miles east of Ellsworth, Maine and came to the state regularly to hunt and fish. Alan Michalik lived with his parents in New Jersey. The victim's body was found after his wife and daughter hadn't heard from him in several days and called a neighbor.

The neighbor found a note written by Alan Michalik that indicated he had

shot his father and buried him in the woods, according to Maine State Police. Police found Alan Michalik the next day at a motel in Ellsworth, Maine, where he confessed, said authorities.

Alan Michalik's lawyer sought to block the confession from testimony, saying the defendant was highly intoxicated at the time, but Justice Ellen Gorman denied the request.

College Honors Two New Jersey Legends

EDISON—The Paige D. L'Hommedieu Outstanding Citizenship Award, the highest honor paid annually by Middlesex County College to a member of the community, was

recently presented to the memory of two outstanding citizens, David T. Wilentz, Esq. and Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz. Thomas M. Wilentz, son of the late Chief Justice,

accepted the award and spoke of his family's commitment to social justice and individual dignity.

In a resolution by the Board of Trustees, the College honored this father and son team whose service to New Jersey and Middlesex County spanned more than 40 years, including many years in pivotal roles in the department of Middlesex County College. From immigrant roots to becoming New Jersey Attorney General and

one of the State's most influential politicians, David Wilentz's intelligence and talent built one of the most respected law firms. As Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, Robert Wilentz made landmark decisions that defended civil liberties, honored individual dignity and promoted social progress as he led the New Jersey State court system to become the envy of the nation.

The Paige D. L'Hommedieu

Outstanding Citizenship Award is named in honor of the founding chair of the Board of Trustees of Middlesex County College who was known throughout his lifetime as a humanitarian who worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens. When he died in 1974, the trustees of the College adopted a resolution establishing an award to be given each year in tribute to the kind of unselfish devotion and personal idealism that he exemplified.



CELEBRATING AT THE FESTIVAL—The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. held the 16th annual Roberto Clemente Festival last weekend at St. Stephen's R.C. Church playground. Festival goers enjoyed live music, food, rides, games and other entertainment for the whole family. Pictured here, one of the vendors prepares food for sale.



HONORING NJ LEGENDS—Gerald M. Ostrov (L.), Chair of the Middlesex County College Board of Trustees, presents the 2002 L'Hommedieu Outstanding Citizenship Award to Thomas M. Wilentz in honor of his late father and grandfather, Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz and David T. Wilentz, Esq.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Record Number Of Farms Approved By County Board For Preservation

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Nine farms totaling 485 acres were granted final approval for the Farmland Preservation Program by the Middlesex County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) at its meeting on Aug. 15. These farms are in Cranbury, East Brunswick, Monroe, South Brunswick and Old Bridge. Landowners submitted offers to sell their development rights to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) on Aug. 12. The price was based on two independent appraisals which were reviewed and certified by the SADC. Mayor Peter Cantu of Plainsboro

and Chairman of the CADB noted, "This is the greatest number of farms the CADB has approved in one year and reflects the outreach efforts of the Board and staff and the interest in the program by municipalities in the County."

The nine farms receiving final approval were the 130 acres Simonson Farm on Cranbury Neck Road and the 87 acre Barclay Farm on Ancil Davidson Road in Cranbury, the 29 acre Barnes Farm on Schoolhouse Road and the 44 acre Kovacs Estate Farm on Federal Road in Monroe, the 72 acres Von Thun Farm on Ridge Road, the 10 acres Farrington Farm on Davidson Mill Road and the 53 acres Seven Kay Associates Farm on Dey Road, South Brunswick, the 48 acres Warren Farm on Fresh Ponds Road in East Brunswick and the 12 acre Miller Farm on Cottrell Road,

Old Bridge. Freeholder Camille Fernicola, Freeholder liaison to the CADB stated, "I am extremely pleased with the success of the Farmland Preservation Program in Middlesex County. We now have over 3,200 acres preserved for farmland in Middlesex County. Within the next year we plan to preserve an additional 485 acres on 9 farms which might otherwise be sold for development. Preservation efforts serve to provide fresh farm produce for our citizens and to enhance the beauty of our County. These farms along with current applications could provide over 4,300 preserved acres by 2004."

Under this program, landowners may sell their development rights or easements on their farmland to the County. In exchange, the landowners agree to restrict their land to farming with a permanent restriction

placed on their deed. The landowners maintain ownership of the farm and may sell the farm but it can never be developed. The program is funded by the State, County and respective municipality.

Participating farms must be in an Agriculture Development Area (ADA). The ADA delineates those lands which are in farmland assessment and which are determined by the municipality and the CADB to be areas which have high quality soils and where the municipality and CADB would like to see farms preserved. Both the CADB and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) then prioritize the applications according to such criteria as quality of soils, percentage of tillable acres, boundaries and buffers, the size of the farm, development pressure and local commitment to agriculture.

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Ferguson Fails Workers

AREA—The state AFL-CIO panned freshman Rep. Mike Ferguson in a report on the congressman's voting record and refused to endorse the politician for another term.

"Ferguson has earned a failing grade when it comes to looking out for working families," wrote Charles Wowkanech, state president of the AFL-CIO and Secretary-Treasurer Laurel Brennan. "On the most important issues of his freshman term, Mike Ferguson let working people down."

"Whether the issue was

patient protection, tax cuts or an economic stimulus following the September 11 attacks, Rep. Ferguson put the interests of big money ahead of working families," according to the labor leaders.

The report also said Ferguson, 31, "voted for trade legislation that will put the USA on a 'fast track' to lower labor and environmental standards by rewarding nations that abuse workers' rights."

Overall, the organization reported that Ferguson voted against the interests of working families on four out of five key measures considered by Congress last year.

"The district is more favorable, generally, to Republicans, and I've worked hard to communicate the work I've done in Washington to the people in our district," Ferguson said. "They've told me they think I'm doing a good job."

Wowkanech noted that union

delegates took formal action in Atlantic City recently to endorse candidates who care about working families and unions. Ferguson was one of only three New Jersey incumbents who were denied the labor group's endorsement.

"Winning a New Jersey State AFL-CIO endorsement also earns our commitment to register union members to vote, educate union members about candidates and issues, and to mobilize union members over the summer and throughout the fall," Wowkanech said. "In this way, we will ensure that our endorsed candidates are elected on November 5, 2002."

The AFL-CIO also recently criticized Ferguson for his vote for 'Fast Track' legislation that would export American jobs and his opposition to the Morella Amendment to the Homeland Security Act.

The Morella Amendment would have protected employees who work in agencies which will become part of the new Homeland Security Department.

The amendment failed to pass by a close vote, leaving about 50,000 federal employees now under collective bargaining agreements out in the cold as their agencies are integrated with the Department of Homeland Security.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

Midori And Robert McDonald In Recital

NEW BRUNSWICK—The State Theatre launches their esteemed Classical Series on Saturday, Sept. 28, with a Patron Dinner immediately prior to the 8 p.m. performance of violin virtuoso Midori and pianist Robert McDonald. The dinner is black tie optional, and there will also be a champagne toast and reception onstage after the concert to celebrate the State Theatre's new Steinway Concert Grand piano, which will be debuted that evening.

Midori's visit to the State Theatre is part of her major recital tour in key concert halls around the world celebrating the 20th anniversary of her professional debut. One of the world's most foremost violinists, critically lauded Midori has appeared with such orchestras as the Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra de Paris, and the Vienna Philharmonic. Her talent and lively personality have brought her wide recognition in the media, including the 1992

Winter Olympic Games telecast, CNN, CBS *Sunday Morning*, A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*, *Sesame Street* and *The Tonight Show*.

Midori records exclusively for Sony Classical, and has done several discs of violin and piano repertoire with her duo partner Robert McDonald. These releases include the Elgar and Franck sonatas; "Encore," a recording of virtuoso showpieces; and soon-to-be-released sonatas of Bartok, Enescu and Schnittke, followed by another duo recording of the music of St. Saens, Debussy and Poulenc.

Robert McDonald has performed extensively as a solo artist and as a recital partner to Isaac Stern and Midori, among others. An active chamber musician, he has collaborated with the Julliard, Muir, Takacs, Brentano, Fine Arts, Orlando, and Chicago quartets. He is on the piano faculties of both The Julliard School and the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore and he gives piano

and chamber music master classes at prominent universities, schools and festivals in North America, Japan and Europe.

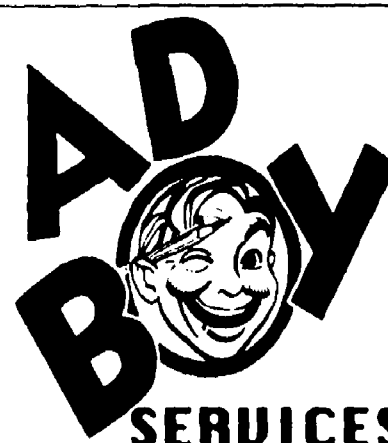
A pre-performance *Insight*, a discussion to enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the evening's performance, will take place at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, just steps away from the State Theatre doors. Composer and conductor Raymond Wojcik will facilitate the discussion focusing on the musical works to be performed in particular and the art form in general.

Pre-performance *Insight* tickets are \$6 (\$5 for subscribers) and may be purchased in conjunction with your tickets or at the lecture site one-half hour prior to the lecture.

Tickets for this performance

are on sale now for \$45. (Premium Orchestra/Loge), \$40 (Orchestra/Front Balcony), \$30 (Rear Orchestra/ Balcony), or \$25 (Gallery). The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For telephone ticket orders or information call (732) 246-7469 or toll free 877-SATE-11 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and

Wednesday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Patrons may order tickets online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org or listen to audio clips. For group sales information, call (732) 247-7200, ext. 536. The State Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for patrons who are hard of hearing, and the main floor is wheelchair accessible. Program notes are available in large print or audiotape format.



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WOODBIDGE—Woodbridge Center is excited to announce that they are the host for the 2002 Spring Wonderful World of Women Expo! This exciting event will be open to the public Oct. 4-6, during regular mall hours.

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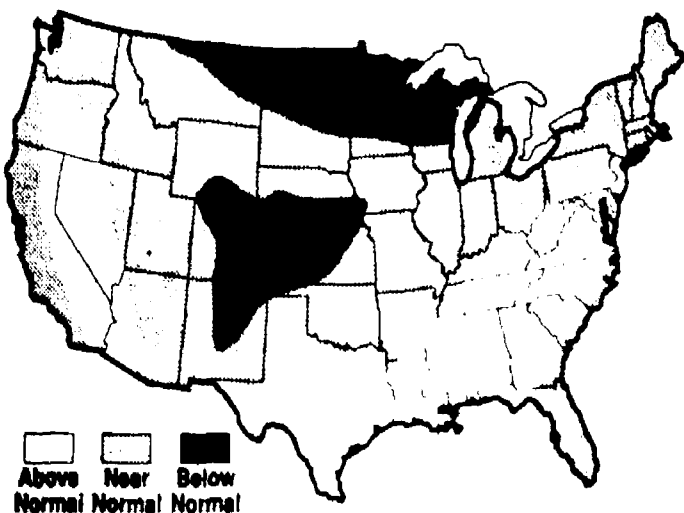
Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Sunny.	Clear.	Sunny much of the time.	Times of sun and clouds.	Clouds and sun.	Cloudy and humid.	Cloudy with a t-shower.	Times of sun and clouds.
73	53	77/56	77/58	79/64	76/67	75/61	73/61

THE WEEK AHEAD...

NATIONAL SUMMARY

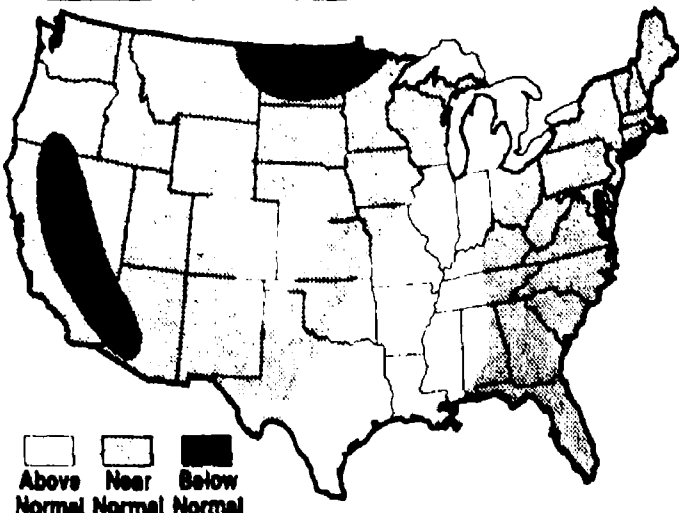
THE WEEK AHEAD...

Temperatures



A trough of low pressure will allow cool air to spill southward into the northern Plains and upper Great Lakes. Cloudy and wet weather will keep temperatures across the central Rockies and central Plains below normal. Warm air will cover the Southeast and Middle Atlantic. A storm will bring rain to the Midwest, Mississippi Valley and Texas. High pressure will keep the West Coast hot and dry.

Precipitation



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	80 62 s	80 63 s	80 64 pc	82 67 c
Boston	68 56 s	74 58 s	72 58 pc	74 61 c
Chicago	76 56 s	80 60 pc	80 55 pc	73 51 pc
Cleveland	68 52 s	72 56 pc	78 56 pc	74 64 pc
Denver	71 51 c	72 50 r	74 51 s	80 50 pc
Des Moines	73 54 pc	75 55 pc	74 55 c	74 45 pc
Detroit	74 56 s	78 60 pc	76 56 pc	73 63 t
Houston	94 74 pc	94 74 pc	90 72 pc	89 70 pc
Indianapolis	78 56 s	74 56 pc	79 57 c	76 64 c
Kansas City	78 54 pc	75 56 c	76 57 c	81 52 pc
Los Angeles	86 63 s	86 65 s	90 62 s	89 59 s
Miami	89 77 t	88 77 pc	89 78 c	90 77 pc
Minn.-St. Paul	76 54 pc	76 56 t	72 50 sh	68 48 pc
New Orleans	90 74 pc	90 73 pc	88 73 pc	89 71 s
New York City	74 56 s	78 60 s	78 60 pc	79 66 pc
Omaha	78 54 pc	80 58 t	78 54 pc	75 48 s
Phoenix	98 78 s	99 77 s	99 78 s	100 70 s
San Francisco	75 57 s	75 56 s	73 56 s	73 59 s
Seattle	76 58 s	74 56 pc	71 52 s	71 51 s
Washington	76 54 s	78 58 s	80 58 pc	81 70 pc

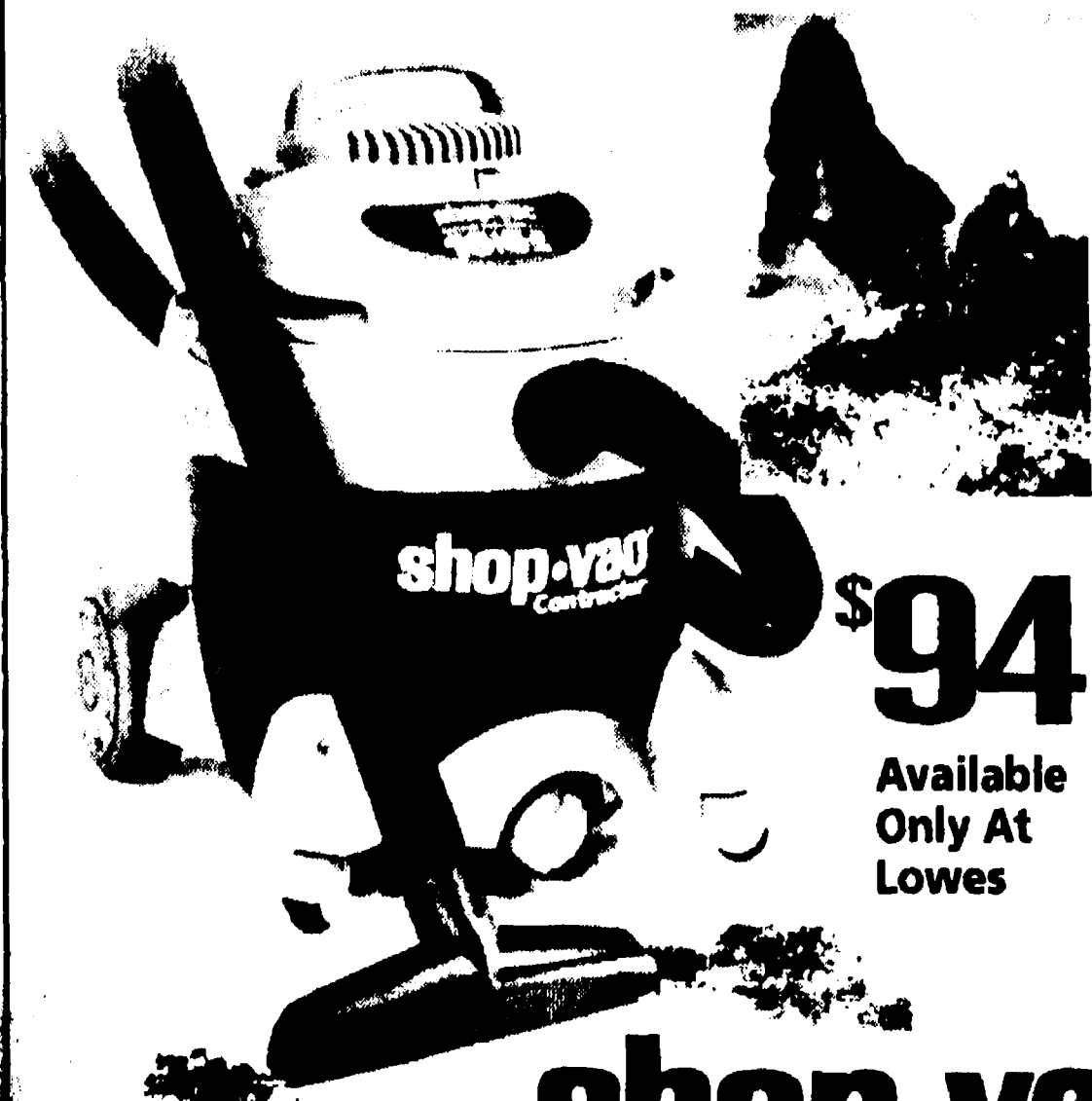
SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thu.	6:35 a.m.	7:12 p.m.	
Fri.	6:36 a.m.	7:10 p.m.	
	Moonrise	Moonset	
Thu.	1:07 p.m.	10:49 p.m.	
Fri.	2:16 p.m.	11:35 p.m.	
Moon Phases			
First	Full	Last	New
			
Sep 13	Sep 29	Oct 6	
Weather (W):			
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.			

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	70 53 pc	75 53 pc	72 54 s	71 53 s
Berlin	71 52 s	73 54 s	68 51 pc	65 49 s
Buenos Aires	66 46 s	65 47 pc	64 49 pc	65 53 r
Cairo	91 64 s	95 67 pc	96 67 pc	91 66 s
Jerusalem	77 53 s	78 54 s	82 56 s	85 58 s
Johannesburg	72 45 s	70 46 s	69 46 s	73 46 s
London	76 55 pc	77 56 pc	75 59 pc	75 57 pc
Madrid	87 60 pc	72 58 r	69 57 r	71 55 r
Mexico City	67 61 r	68 61 r	70 59 r	72 60 r
Moscow	53 37 pc	54 39 pc	46 33 r	49 37 pc
Paris	66 54 r	68 52 pc	68 58 c	71 58 pc
Rio de Janeiro	75 67 s	76 67 c	75 63 c	72 61 c
Rome	73 53 c	77 58 s	74 60 c	75 59 c
San Juan	88 77 pc	88 77 pc	89 78 pc	89 80 c
Seoul	75 64 c	74 66 c	71 68 r	72 61 sh
Sydney	65 44 s	69 50 pc	72 51 c	78 58 pc
Tokyo	80 73 sh	80 68 c	72 66 pc	75 73 r
Toronto	70 52 s	70 52 s	71 51 pc	67 59 t
Winnipeg	66 44 pc	63 50 c	58 33 sh	52 34 c
Zurich	62 55 r	71 52 pc	73 54 s	71 55 pc

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 15 from 12 noon-6 p.m.—Sayreville Democratic Organization Picnic will be held at Frog Hollow Swim & Tennis Club.
September 15 from 7:30-11:30 p.m.—The Widows or Widowers (WOWS) Dance/Social with a live band and refreshments is \$8 to be held at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Call (732) 297-1775 for further information.

Sept. 18 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.—Pathfinder Consulting Group announces its popular Mega Job Fair held at the Ramada Inn, 666 Route 1 (South), New Brunswick. Log onto www.megajobfair.net for more information.

Sept. 18 at 12 noon—The Holy Family Seniors of Carteret will be hosting a trip to see "The Lion King" in New York with dinner later. The bus departs from the VFW Parking Lot, Pershing Avenue, Carteret at 12 noon. The cost is \$130 per person. Call Dottie at (732) 541-8506 for reservations.

Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.—The Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue, will present a free program "Helping Families Become Debt Free and Financially Independent." To register, call the library at (732) 287-2298, ext. 1 or you may sign up at the circulation desk.

September 18 at 7:30 p.m.—An annual Open House Mid-Jersey Branch AAUW (American Association of University Women) will be held at Centenary United Methodist Church, 200 Hillside Ave. (off Grove Ave.), Metuchen. There is no cost and refreshments will be provided by members. For reservations, call (732) 548-7116.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN "S1mOne"

A Star is Downloaded



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberger

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



Parables about stardom, idol worship and egocentricism abound in "S1mOne," a delightful and whimsically cerebral comedy that delivers Al Pacino to us on a buoyant tuft of whipped cream. He is poor, poor Viktor Taransky, Hollywood director currently down on his heels.

But don't worry. The setback won't be for long. After all, this is Tinsel Town. What's the sense in failing if you're not going to dust yourself off, learn a lesson in humility (or at least pretend to) and then rise up from the ashes to laugh at everyone who laughed at you on your way down? Viktor is a survivor. However, what he doesn't know yet is that the Digital Age's deus ex machina is about to land right in his lucky, scheming hands.

Speaking to no one in particular while surveying his latest demise, he notes that this can't be happening to the filmmaker who was twice nominated for an Academy Award. "That was for short subject," icily reminds Catherine Keener as hardhearted Elaine Christian, studio boss and former wife. When his career slide began, so ended their bliss. Now, adding insult to injury, she hands him his professional walking papers. She rationalizes, "I was only keeping you on for Lainey's (their teen-aged daughter) sake." Miss Keener is splendid as the bloodless counterpoint to our starry-eyed artiste. Should any

director ever decide to cast a woman as the Sheriff of Nottingham, this is your gal.

While perhaps the lightest confection that Mr. Pacino has ever spun, and one of his few forays into fantasy unless you count his hardly cheery flirtation with the dark side ("The Devil's Advocate"-1997), be aware there is no let up in the national treasure's energy level. You can see the thespic wheels turning. And it isn't all one style. Rather, it is a giambotte of acting techniques that Pacino employs in fleshing out Viktor Taransky, who, when we first meet him, is experiencing a loss of faith in humanity, or at least in actresses. Prima donna Nicola Anders (Winona Ryder) has just walked out on his last ditch, do-or-die production, "Sunrise, Sunset."

For the most part, Pacino's mode is strictly Actor's Studio, which glibly plays like a send-up considering the fluffiness of the role. But the star obviously also delights in applying big dabs of hamminess when the instinct dictates, creating an equally lampooning effect whilst reminding that the riches-to-rags-to-riches story has noble roots in Hollywood lore. When necessary to string the whole caboodle together, he competently goes the technical route. Not surprisingly, it all works rather gloriously.

The funny thing is, Viktor is probably just as damaged and jaded as everyone around him.

Bemoaning the recent turn of events, he maintains that it all should be "about the work"—that personality and egos have no place in the industry.

But in reality, even in failure as he packs his Bentley and prepares his exit from the studio, he is reluctant to make time for beseeching Hank (Elias Koteas), an unknown admirer and computer genius who will later prove his cinematic savior. And Hank even informs that he only has about a week to live.

The thing is, among a cast of dilettantes, Viktor is our chosen fop. He's the one we associate with, whether it's because he's a little better than all the rest, or simply because the camera happens to like him.

In any case, our faith is rewarded. Our man is soon back on top. In "S1mOne's" one little sliver of black comedy, inventor Hank dies as promised. But in his will, he bequeaths Viktor what it'll take to turn his career around: Simulation One. It's the software necessary to digitally create a motion picture actress...one that can't walk out on you. A few taps of the keys and, voila...S1mOne. A star is downloaded.

Viktor completes his "Sunrise, Sunset." We are shown one brief scene...a ponderous caricature of an art film meant to conjure Bergman and Fellini. Just the sort of thing the masses would never buy, no matter how profound the purveyor.

But remember, this is the movies. So the public responds with a thunderous ovation. The lead credit merely reads Simone. Overnight the beauti-

ful chimera is an international sensation. Viktor is redeemed. And because, for obvious reasons, Simone does the Garbo thing, shunning the limelight makes her an even greater attraction.

The uproarious adulation supplies several humorous observations about our often undiscerning need for icons, and gives director Niccol's film its finest moments of satire.

But don't get too happy. Said ebullience is followed by phase two of "S1mOne." In this act, the protagonist discovers there's much more to this Pygmalion thing than taking bows and waxing humble. In fact, we wonder if Viktor himself believes the altruistic statements he repeats ad nauseam whenever the press hounds him for details about Simone.

They are getting insistent. Allegations are made. Ugly rumors and threats fly. But one thing's for sure: Regardless of what he said he believed about egos and the arts, Viktor's newfound fame is having its way with him.

If he is not completely drunk with power, he is at least tipsy. And when he becomes aware of that truth, the introspection and attempt at remediation that follow supply the film with yet another batch of humorous deductions.

Derivative? You betcha. But in the finest sense of the term. Someone once cynically noted that while stealing from one source amounted to plagiarism, borrowing from many

sources qualified as research. And in that case filmmaker Niccol's savvy synthesis reminds of a large, superbly researched mosaic, chock full of familiar titles. You don't have to look too hard to spot "Frankenstein" (1931), "A Star is Born" (1937) and "My Fair Lady" (1964). But that's just skimming the surface. Give it a little more thought and you'll come up with others. And still, "S1mOne" definitely boasts its own identity.

This is Mr. Niccol's third dabble into the brave new hi-tech world of what used to be referred to as phony baloney...before it got so real that it got scary. Previously he wrote and directed the futuristic "Gattaca" (1997) and penned the screenplay for "The Truman Show" (1998). So he knows his way around terms like artificial intelligence, synthetic life, and virtual reality. Hence the happy surprise is that, in addition to his acumen at the cutting edge of what is and is not, he's also a versatile director with a fine sense of what is and is not funny. *Because there's certainly nothing fake about the laughs "S1mOne" delivers. I wonder, though...you think he can tell that my clone wrote this review?*

"S1mOne," rated PG-13, is a New Line Cinema release directed by Andrew Niccol and stars Al Pacino, Catherine Keener and, contrary to what New Line may wish you to think, Rachel Roberts. Running time: 117 minutes

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Evening 581 0795		MONDAY, Sept. 2
MONDAY, Sept. 2		 3-10-14-31-35
Mid-Day 553 2131		TUESDAY, Sept. 3
Evening 753 9986		 2-6-19-30-32
TUESDAY, Sept. 3		WEDNESDAY, Sept. 4
Mid-Day 640 7463		 15-17-21-28-33
Evening 860 6799		THURSDAY, Sept. 5
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 4		 1-10-15-18-24
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Evening 129 9570		 2-5-20-27-36
THURSDAY, Sept. 5		SATURDAY, Sept. 7
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..... 3-17-27-38-46-48		 2-20-32-35
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..... 6-9-13-15-23-44		 16-25-39-71

YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Lights, Action, Folktales!—Children's Acting Class

 AREA—Looking for the perfect way to stimulate your child's creativity? The Shoestring Players, a professional, non-profit theater company for young audiences, will be offering Lights, Action, Folktales!, a fall acting class for students ages 8–12. Classes will be held on Saturdays, Oct. 19–Nov. 23 from 9:30–11 a.m. and will take place on the Douglass Campus of Rutgers

University, New Brunswick. The cost of the class is \$100 per child and students must register in advance. The deadline is Oct. 4. Space is limited so call now to register at (732) 932-9772.

The Shoestring PLUS artist/educator team will introduce the students to improvisation, storytelling and ensemble acting techniques. In this class students will rehearse a folktale adapted by Artistic Director and Rutgers Professor Joseph P. Hart. Using Shoestring's unique perform-

ing style, students will rehearse and perform without sets or props to create the images used in telling the story. The class will culminate in a performance of the folktale for family and friends. Whether a beginner or advanced acting student, this class will teach each child about the endless possibilities of his or her imagination.

The Shoestring Players is a not-for-profit professional touring children's theater company in residence at the Mason Gross School of the Arts,

Rutgers University, New Brunswick. Founded in 1980 by Joseph P. Hart, Master Teacher of Creative Dramatics at Mason Gross School of the Arts, Shoestring has performed in over 30 states, on and Off-Broadway, at seven festivals in the United Kingdom and the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. Shoestring has also received the prestigious Fringe First Award for "Outstanding New Dramatic Work" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, and was the only

theater company from the United States to be invited to the Kaleidoscope International Children's Festival in Aberdeen, Scotland in June of 1999.

Programs are made possible in part by funding from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on Shoestring's workshops, assembly programs, and public performances, call (732) 932-9772.

Get Students To Love Homework So Much They Advertise It

AREA—*Motivation. Commitment. Excitement.* Timeless—but often challenging—classroom goals. Especially when it comes to homework. So, this year, thousands of teachers are turning to the Grade "A" Donuts Homework Achievement Program to add a little spark to this essential educational activity.

Developed by Dunkin' Donuts and JMH Education with the guidance of an educator advisory panel, the eight-

page activity guide and end-of-year commercial contest gives teachers tools to engage students, involve parents and shine a much-needed spotlight on the importance of homework.

"Homework reinforces lessons that are learned in school and helps children to develop a sense of responsibility," says Don Rauf, editorial director at JMH Education. "It also builds an essential bridge between home and school. Parental

involvement in education is essential for success."

Lights! Camera! Homework!

The most exciting addition to the expanded Grade "A" Donuts program is a contest asking students to create a commercial "selling" other students on the importance of homework. As a group, classes are encouraged

to write, direct and star in the commercial. Advertising professionals will evaluate the commercials and more than \$10,000 in prize money (to go toward electronics and audiovisual equipment) will be awarded to the winning classes. Entries must be postmarked by April 1, 2003.

Materials in this year's program include fun-filled homework ideas for teachers, a weekly homework planner for students and a homework "contract" for students and

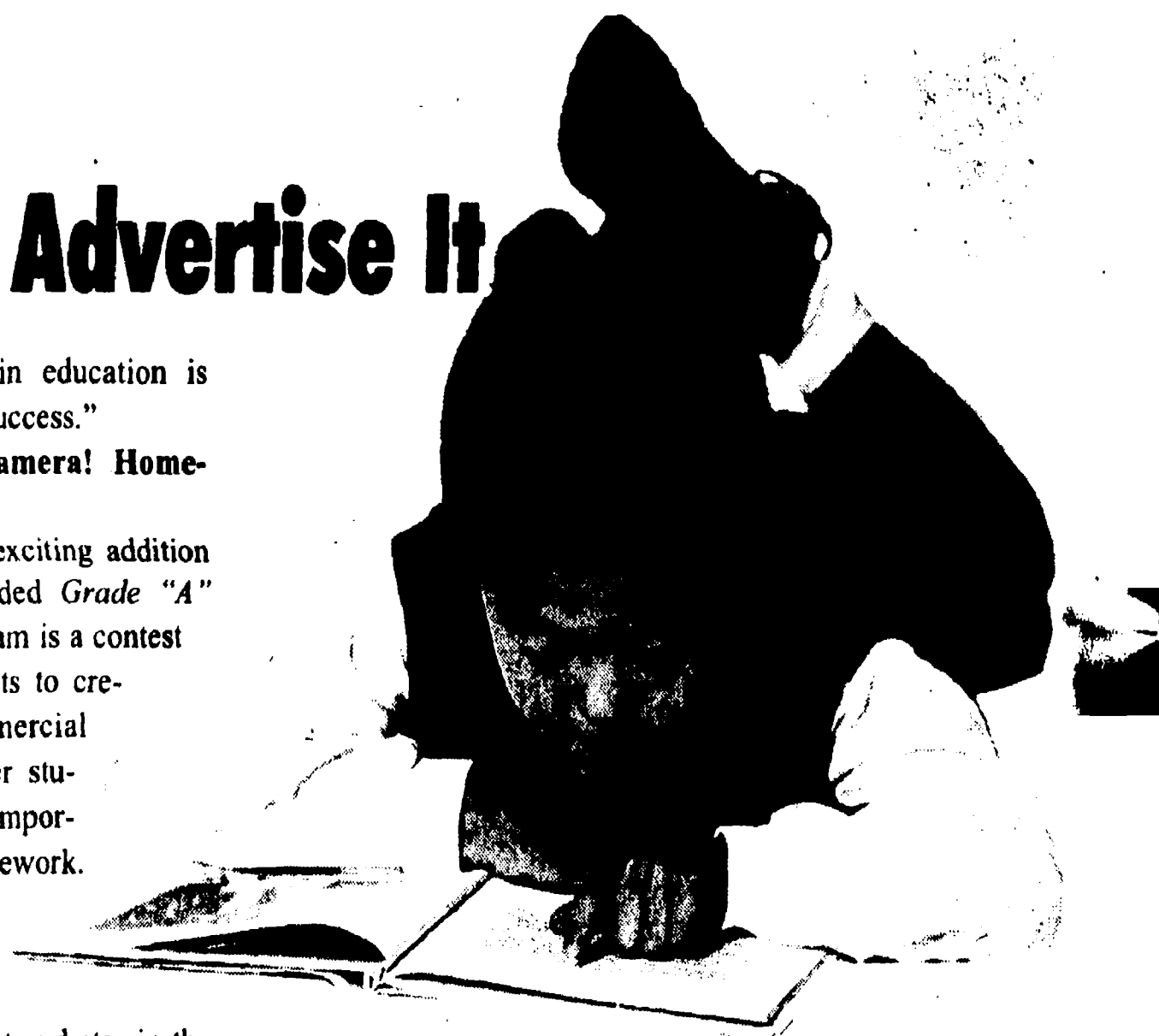
parents, on which participating teachers outline their individual criteria for success. Also in the program guide is a listing of helpful homework Web sites for students, a reproducible certificate of homework achievement, homework and study tips and a Hollywood-themed classroom poster that inspires students to "get their names in lights." In addition, teachers are given a year's supply of coupons good for two free donuts (one for the

student and one for his/her "Homework Helper") to be used at their discretion.

WEE CARE: Community Partnership for Children

The Grade "A" Donuts: Honoring Homework Stars program is part of Dunkin' Donuts WEE CARE: Community Partnership for Children. Throughout the year, Dunkin' Donuts WEE CARE works with local leaders and within individual neighborhoods to protect and nurture the area's youth.

For more information about how to get involved in the Grade A Donuts: Honoring Homework Stars program, as well as other Dunkin' Donuts WEE CARE initiatives, educators and parents can call 877-WE-DUNKIN (877-933-8656).



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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Country Cow Creamery Offers An "Udderly" Delicious Experience

COLONIA—It's long awaited opening is finally here! Country Cow Creamery, the highly anticipated home-made ice cream and country store, located at 523 Inman Avenue in Colonia, (in the Walgreen's shopping center), has opened its doors to customers.

"My family and I are so excited to finally open our store," explained Genevieve Dubroski, Owner. "We have been working for three long months and we are so happy to finally celebrate our grand opening. We hope everyone will look for our blue and white Country Cow sign shining brightly on Inman Avenue and stop by to say hello."

Country Cow Creamery is owned and operated by the Dubroski Family. The store boasts a menu chock-full of homemade treats such as: homemade ice cream in a vari-

ety of flavors including sugar free and fat free, sundaes, cappuccino, espresso, gourmet coffee, tea and hot chocolate, homemade gourmet desserts with ice cream, and spectacularly decorated ice cream cakes and pies.

Head chef and ice cream maker is Ed Dubroski, Jr., who serves as Assistant Pastry Chef at Basilico's Restaurant in Millburn. Ed brings his creativity, culinary talents, and a zest for the unusual to Country Cow Creamery.

This unique country and ice cream store does not only tempt the taste buds, it also offers customers a unique assortment of country crafts and gifts such as candles, scented caches, and wreaths for all occasions. In addition, Country Cow offers an assortment of gift baskets for any occasion, as well as taking special requests for personal-



COUNTRY COW CREAMERY OPEN FOR BUSINESS—The Dubroski Family (L.-R.: Ed, Genevieve, Jennifer and Edward) proprietors of the Country Cow Creamery, located at 523 Inman Avenue, Colonia. The store boasts a large selection of homemade ice cream, sorbets, Italian ices, desserts and country gifts and baskets.

ized gift, gourmet and fruit baskets with delivery available.

Country Cow Creamery (732-882-1234) is open seven days a week: Sun. 1 to 10 p.m., Mon - Thurs. 12 p.m. to 10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. from 12 p.m. until 11 p.m. Country Cow Creamery also hosts parties for all occasions and has a number of party packages to offer customers.

Albin Clears Hurdle

Special from PoliticsNJ.com

WOODBIDGE—Winning the unanimous approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee this week was Gov. James E. McGreevey's choice for an open seat on the New Jersey Supreme Court, attorney Barry Albin.

There is no real opposition to the appointment of Albin, a former deputy attorney general and a partner at the politically powerful law firm of Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer.

He is expected to be confirmed by the full State Senate with ease and take the seat once held by retired Justice Gary Stein.

Rather amazingly, there was no senator from either side of the aisle who sought to engage Albin with any form of substantive questioning.

This was especially surprising of the Republican

Florio Talk Show on WCTC

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—"Talk radio doesn't have to be stupid," according to former Gov. Jim Florio, who will host a call-in radio show at WCTC, beginning Sept. 27, on AM 1450.

Florio hosted a show at WCTC, an ABC affiliate that broadcasts across Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties, in the late 1990s.

The former governor left the station to wage an unsuccessful Democratic primary campaign against Jon Corzine for U.S. Senate in 2000.

Florio will be on the air during the evening rush from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

Recent polls have given the

(continued on page...15)

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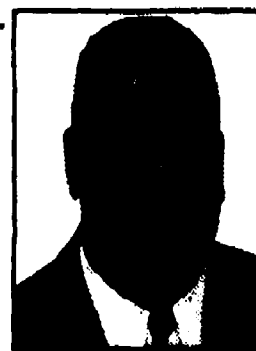
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(continued on page...15)

EDITORIAL



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

Wednesday, September 11, 2002, marked one year. It was a year that changed our nation and changed the way we view ourselves and our security. Before that date we possessed a collective feeling of invincibility. Our nation was protected by two vast oceans and Democratic institutions. After that date many of us harbor a feeling of insecurity. Those oceans have diminished into ponds and our very freedoms were used against us in those cowardly attacks.

This week, all across this state and nation we pause to remember the innocent fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and children who left for work that day, never to return. We honor the brave police officers, fire fighters and other emergency workers who rushed in when everyone else was rushing out. And we provide comfort to the victims left behind; The wives, husbands and children for whom everything changed on that brilliant sunny morning.

In the weeks and months leading up to this anniversary, there have been discussions about making that date a holiday, in tribute to those who lost their lives and those who continue to suffer. There are plans underway for a number of monuments and

memorials to be erected in memory of the tragedy of September 11th. As a people, this is our way of making sense of a senseless tragedy. The services, the tributes and memorials are a way of healing the scar left on us all by September 11th.

At the same time we are remembering those who died here on our native soil, let's not forget our servicemen and women who continue to work to protect our nation from the evil forces that planned and carried out the attacks on September 11th. In Afghanistan and around the world our Armed Forces are hard at work to find and root out terrorists who have inflicted harm on us and who may so do again in the future. Some of these service people have lost their lives fighting in the aftermath of September 11th. Let's not forget them in our thoughts and prayers.

Finally, although we are a nation that expects things to be done quickly, let us remember that the war on terrorism, our Nation's response to September 11th, will not be concluded quickly or easily. We are regularly reminded that there may be further terrorist attacks on our nation. We are, after all, a Nation at war. While we should pray for peace and hope that the worst is behind us - we should prepare for what comes our way knowing that God has given our nation the strength, the courage and the values to see us through even the most difficult days.

Readers Commentary

Poor Taste

To the Editor:

According to a *New York Times* article titled "Worried Saudis Pay Millions to Improve Image in the U.S." (front page, Aug. 29), an adviser to the Saudis said the

royal family considered giving the American victims of 9/11 the racehorse that won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes. I am at a loss as to what good this would do.

Besides, the horse is named War Emblem. Didn't any of those pricey public-relations firms figure out that this would be in especially poor taste?

**Suzzane Russian
Metuchen**

One Year Later

Dear Editor,

It is almost one year since the horrific tragedy of the terrorist strike on the World Trade Center and the commemoration of that day will be different for each of us. As The Salvation Army of New Jersey, from its headquarters in Union, continues to aid the families and victims of the disaster, we are keenly aware of the emotional stress that will be endured that day. Each of us will be vividly reminded of the events of that fateful day, not only by the media, but also

through public events throughout the metropolitan area.

The Salvation Army, in support of those affected by the tragedy, will be available for emotional and pastoral support. Our devoted case workers and support staff will also join in that effort. I hope and pray that as the years pass, the horror of that day will not be as acute in our memories and that peace will reign.

Though I have said this before, I cannot say it too many times. Thank you. Thank you to the rescue and relief

workers, to the volunteers who gave so many hours of hard work, to all the companies who magnanimously donated goods and supplies, to the groups of people who ran local drives and of course, to those of you who were so generous with your financial contributions. I feel blessed by the support of so many wonderful people and I know I can count on your continuing support in the future.

**Lt. Colonel
Norman E. Wood
NJ State Commander**

Answering The Call

Dear Editor,

When you hear the words "senior citizens," what picture comes to your mind? Perhaps a little old lady sitting in a rocking chair having milk and cookies? Or a little old man standing in line at a discount store and asking for his senior discount? Well, "The Senior Citizen's Club of Colonia" is working to change that image.

It has been our policy to fill the needs of our community and once again we are answering the call.

Evelyn A. MacKenzie, supervisor at Evergreen Senior Center, Brenda Yori Velasco, Council President and first woman Mayor, Mayor Frank G. Pelzman and myself, George Vassiliades, president

of the Senior Citizen's Club of Colonia, were all present for a fundraising luncheon at Applebee's of Woodbridge Center along with Steak & Ale on Route 1, Metuchen. Both restaurants graciously hosted a total of 80 senior citizens, who made a donation and received an invitation to the restaurant of their choice.

Thank you Larry Lorusso, Manager of Steak and Ale and Carlos Iturraide, General Manager of Applebee's for your cooperation and the excellent service displayed by your staff.

Carlos Iturraide and Bryant Anderson of Applebee's are discussing the possibility of taking this project a step further by duplicating it for all of

its 20 restaurants in the state of New Jersey.

The donations that were received from the seniors have been given to the Colonia High School for the replacement of the running track. The school budget has no provisions for capital improvements and there will be no help from Trenton.

Give our children the tools to work with, it's up to us, the residents of Colonia, for the children of Colonia.

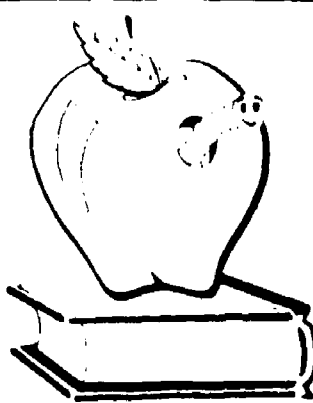
For additional information, contact George V. at (732) 381-4613 or cspress99@comcast.net.

**George Vassiliades
President
Senior Citizen's Club
of Colonia**



"I THOUGHT THE ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN WAY EASIER TO BE SIMILAR. I HAD A HUNCH OF A TIME NOT GETTING MY STYLUS TO PUNCH THROUGH THE SCREEN."

Who Is Your Favorite Teacher?



Please tell us the teacher's name, his or her school, and why you think he or she is the best. Feel free to include any other interesting information you'd like to share.

Mail your info to Editor, PO Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065, or email us at: editor@devinmedia.com, or drop off your answer at 492 West Grand Avenue, Rahway.

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ADVISORY*

What: Woodbridge Mayor's Town Meeting

Where: Woodbridge Community Center,
600 Main Street, Woodbridge

When: Thursday, September 19th, from 7-9pm

** The public is encouraged to attend and talk to the Mayor about their concerns.*

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Paraskevidekatriaphobics Beware!

Paraskevidekatriaphobia Is The Fear Of Friday The 13th

Paraskevidekatriaphobics those afflicted with a morbid, irrational fear of Friday the 13th - are no doubt cringing as we strike yet another calendrical event.

The superstitious coupling of Friday the 13th with calamity is very old in western culture.

The sixth day of the week and the number 13 both have foreboding reputations dating from ancient folklore; their inevitable conjunction from one to three times a year portends more misfortune than some credulous minds can bear.

Folklorists say it's probably the most widespread superstition in America (and no doubt other parts of the world, as well). Some people won't go to work on Friday the 13th. Some won't eat in restaurants. Many wouldn't think of setting a wedding on the date.

How many people at the dawn of the new millennium still suffer from this phobia? According to Dr. Donald Dossey, a therapist specializing in the treatment of phobias and credited with coining the

term "paraskevidekatriaphobia," as many as 21 million do in the United States alone.

If that's correct, something like eight percent of Americans are still in the grips of a very ancient superstition.

It is said ... If 13 people sit down to dinner together, all will die within the year. The Turks so disliked the number 13 that it was practically expunged from their vocabulary (Brewer, 1894).

Many cities do not have a 13th Street or a 13th Avenue. Many buildings don't have a 13th floor.

If you have 13 letters in your name, you will have the devil's luck (Jack the Ripper, Charles Manson, Jeffrey Dahmer, Theodore Bundy and Albert De Salvo all have 13 letters in their names).

Oftentimes, explanations of the origins of folk beliefs come off sounding like fanciful folktales themselves.

It's said, for example, that fears surrounding the number 13 are as old as the act of counting. Primitive man had only his 10 fingers and two feet to represent units, so he could not count higher than 12. What lay beyond that - "13" - was an impenetrable, frightening mystery, thus a source of superstition.

In any case, despite whatever terrors the numerical unknown held for their primitive forebears, ancient civilizations were not unanimous in their dread of 13. The Chinese regarded the number as lucky, historians say, as did Egyptians in the time of the pharaohs.

To the Egyptians, life was a quest for spiritual ascension which unfolded in stages - 12 in this life and a thirteenth beyond, thought to be the eternal afterlife. The number 13 therefore symbolized death - not in terms of dust and decay, but as a glorious and desirable

transformation. Egyptian civilization perished, this explanation continues, but the symbolism of the number 13 lived on only to be corrupted by other cultures.

Another explanation suggests the number 13 was purposely vilified by the priests of patriarchal religions because it represented femininity. Thirteen was revered in prehistoric goddess-worshipping cultures because it corresponded to the number of lunar (menstrual) cycles in a year (13 x 28 = 364 days). As the solar calendar triumphed over the lunar with the rise of ancient civilization, so did the number 12 over the number 13.

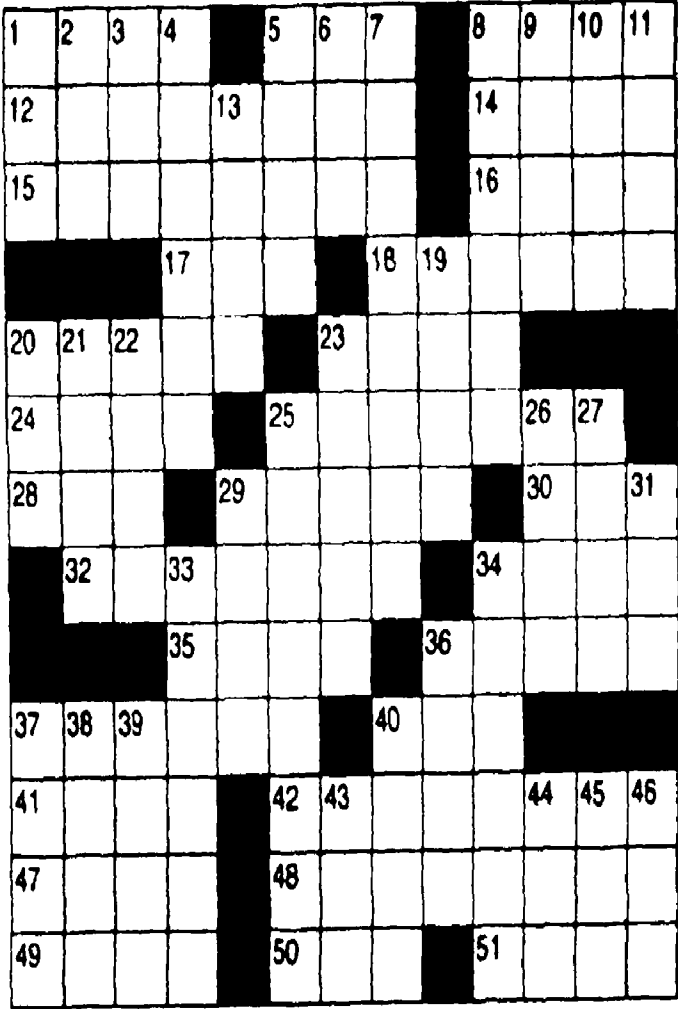
One of the more concrete early taboos connected with the number 13 is said to have started with the Hindus, who believed that it was always unlucky for 13 people to gather in one place - say, for dinner.

Exactly the same superstition has been attributed to the Vikings, though many scholars regard this and the accompanying mythological explanation as apocryphal. In any case, the story has been told as follows:

Twelve gods were invited to a banquet at Valhalla. Loki, the Evil One, god of mischief, had been excluded from the guest list but chose to crash the party, bringing the total to 13. True to form, Loki raised hell by inciting Hod, the blind god of winter, to attack Balder the Good, who happened to be a favorite of the gods. Hod took a spear of mistletoe offered by Loki and hurled it at Balder, killing him instantly. All of Valhalla grieved. And although one might take the moral of this story to be "Beware of uninvited guests bearing mistletoe," the Norse themselves supposedly concluded that 13 people at a dinner party is just plain bad luck.

As if to prove the point, the Bible tells us that there were exactly 13 present at the Last Supper. One of the guests went on to betray Jesus Christ, setting the stage for the crucifixion, which took place on a Friday.

- ACROSS
- 1 Cabbie
 - 5 Disseminate
 - 8 Grouch
 - 12 Addis Ababa's land
 - 14 Top-notch
 - 15 Pizza topping
 - 16 "creature was stirring, ..."
 - 17 Morsel
 - 18 Michael Richards role
 - 20 Young pig
 - 23 Parka feature
 - 24 Throe
 - 25 Pizza topping
 - 28 Circle portion
 - 29 Ill will
 - 30 Raw rock
 - 32 Pizza topping
 - 34 Commotion
 - 35 Covered in Chantilly
 - 36 It will put you out!
 - 37 Deli request
 - 40 Micro-brewery product
 - 41 Grand-scale
 - 42 Pizza topping
 - 47 Start of North Carolina's motto
 - 48 Set on fire
 - 49 Anthropologist Margaret
 - 50 Serbia city



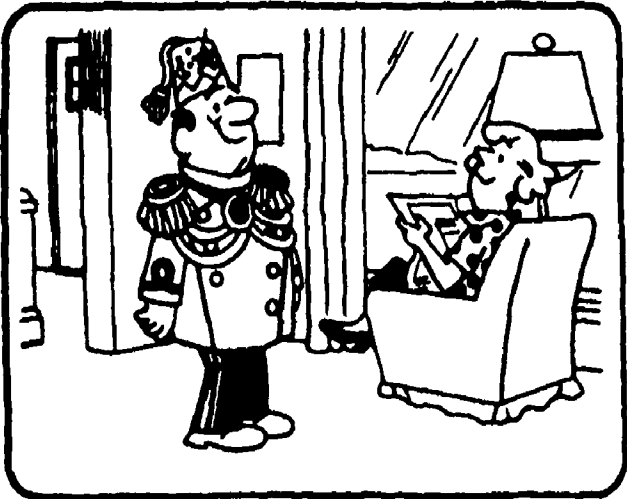
- DOWN
- 1 Height of fashion?
 - 2 Packed away
 - 3 Half a dance
 - 4 Knapsack
 - 5 Lovers' quarrel
 - 6 Lubricant
 - 7 Strikes
 - 8 America's neighbor
 - 9 Leeway
 - 10 Initial chip
 - 11 Tolerate
 - 13 Last writes?
 - 19 Got up
 - 20 Resort
 - 21 Stringed instrument
 - 22 Never again
 - 23 Hirsute
 - 25 Sample
 - 26 Barbarian
 - 27 Pennsylvania port
 - 29 Unwanted e-mail
 - 31 Mess up
 - 33 Set
 - 34 Boat's backs
 - 36 Grades K thru 12, for short
 - 37 Appear
 - 38 Basilica area
 - 39 Bart Simpson's sis
 - 40 Sends out invitations
 - 43 Sea urchin, sushi-style
 - 44 Praiseful poem
 - 45 End for pay or Cray
 - 46 Shea athlete

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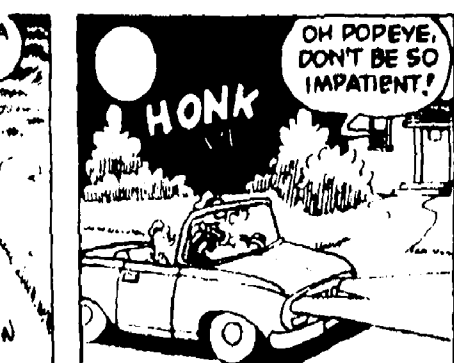
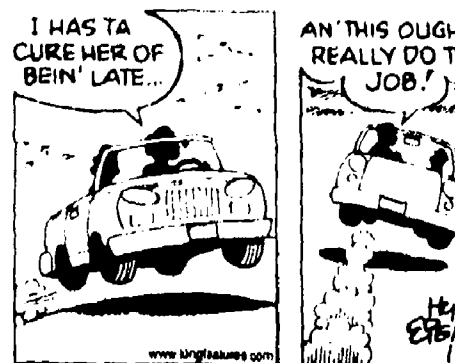
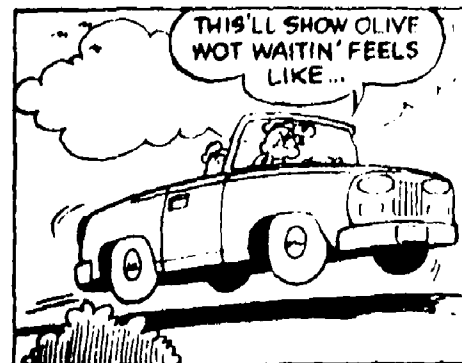
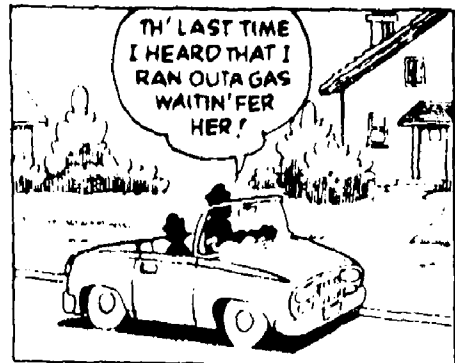
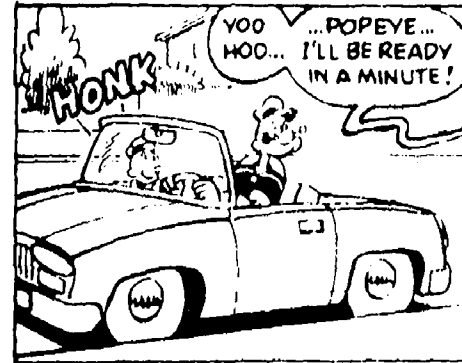
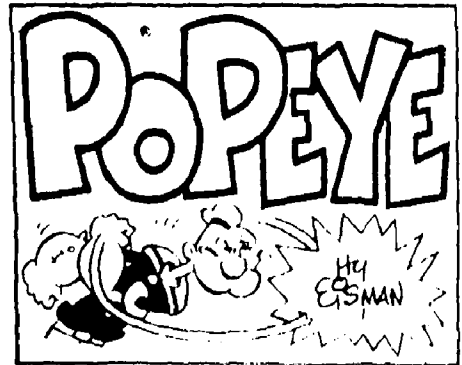
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



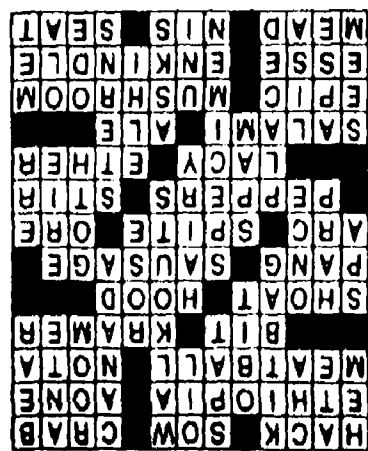
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lampshade has shape. 2. Uniform button is missing. 3. Shoes are black. 4. Pants have double stripe. 5. Window on door is different. 6. House is gone.



to Puzzle



OBITUARIES

Joseph J. Scalone, III of Perth Amboy

Mr. Joseph J. Scalone III of Union Beach (formerly of Perth Amby) died August 13 at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel. He was 38.

He was born in Perth Amboy and lived there until moving to Union Beach 33 years ago.

Surviving are his parents, Joseph J. Scalone Jr. and Loretta (Palinkas) Scalone of Union Beach.

Ethel Czeto, 97 of Edison

Mrs. Ethel Czeto of Edison died August 13 at Willow Creek Nursing Home in Somerset. She was 97.

Born Tomkins Cove, N.Y., she lived there for many years. She later lived in Edison for over 70 years before moving into the nursing home.

She was formerly employed as a housekeeper for many years.

Surviving are four cousins, Mrs. Chester Lucuski, Paul Czetto and Mary Henchon, all of Trenton, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Franz of Edison, and a longtime friend, Goldie Reese of Edison.

Pedro Blasini, 78 of Fords

Mr. Pedro Blasini of Fords died August 12 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 78.

Born in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, he lived in New York City before moving to Fords in 1990.

He was a chef for many upscale New York restaurants and later worked as a doorman for M.J. Rynes in New York.

Mr. Blasini was a communicant of LaAsuncion R.C. Church in Perth Amboy.

Surviving are three sons, Anthony R. Blasini of Yonkers, N.Y., Steven M. Blasini of Van Nuys, Calif., and Pedro J. Blasini of San Juan, Puerto Rico; three brothers in Puerto Rico, and a grandson, Steven Blasini II; his companion of Gloria Figueroa of Fords; and is also survived by her children, Elena, Gloria, Sue, Ricky, Orlando, Felix, Danny, Grieton and David.

Raymond C. Parsons of Colonia

Mr. Raymond C. Parsons of Barnegat Township died August 19 at Deborah Heart & Lung Center in Browns Mills. He was 72.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Colonia for many years before moving to Barnegat Township.

Mr. Parsons retired as a security guard from Professional Security Bureau LTD, Lawrenceville.

He served in the Marine Corps from 1949-1950.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, Arlene (Brummer) Parsons; a daughter, Linda Basile of Tennessee; two grandsons, Frank and John Raymond Basile; a granddaughter, Christine; a sister, Jeanette Cashman of Beachwood; a brother, Leonard Parson; a niece, Joanne Young; and a nephew, and Bruce Cashman.

Helen Varney, 61 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Helen (Krisak) Varney of Texas (formerly of Woodbridge) died August 14 in Texas, where she was currently residing. She was 61.

Born and raised in Woodbridge, she lived there until moving to Texas.

Her parents, John and Julia Krisak, are deceased.

Surviving are three sons, Scott, Craig and Mark Varney; two sisters, Margaret Loder and Geraldine Fee, and six grandchildren.

Sylvia C. Smith of Woodbridge

Mrs. Sylvia Clara Staum formerly of Woodbridge, died August 18 at Loughheed Centre in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived for nearly 50 years in Woodbridge.

She mastered the skills of a commercial education in the 1930s, and later devoted 40 years to a position as secretary to Congregation Adath Israel in Woodbridge.

She was active in Hadassah, and the congregation Sisterhood.

Her husband, William Staum, is deceased.

Surviving are a son, Martin Staum of Calgary, Alberta; a granddaughter, Nina; three cousins, Sylvia in New Jersey; Burton Sher, Harvey Snitker of Long Island, N.Y.; and her dear friends, Miriam and Abe Winograd and Sarah Kaufman.

Kate Brophy, 23 of Colonia

Miss Kate Brophy, 23, of Colonia died August 18 at Rahway Hospital. She was 23.

Born in Rahway, she lived most of her life in Colonia.

She was a waitress for the past year at the Galaxy Diner in Rahway.

She was a 1996 graduate of Colonia High School.

Surviving are her parents, David and Danette (Metz) Brophy; a sister, Tara Brophy of Linden; a brother, Sean Brophy of Colonia; her paternal grandmother, Margaret Brophy of Linden, and her maternal grandmother, Dorothy Metz of Clark.

Joanne D. Velez, 54 of Sayreville

Mrs. Joanne Davis Velez of Sayreville died August 20 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. She was 54.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she had resided in Connecticut for 22 years before moving to Sayreville in 1983. Mrs. Velez was employed by the New Brunswick Board of Education as the principal secretary at Redshaw Elementary School, where she worked for the past 15 years.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church in Sayreville.

Her father, William Davis, died in 2001.

Surviving are her husband, Wilson Velez; a daughter, Melissa Velez of Timonium, Md.; a son, Steven Velez of Sayreville; her mother, Helen Conklin Davis of Norwich, Conn.; a sister, Agnes Sanchez of Sayreville, and a brother, William Davis of Coventry, Conn.

Thomas W. Kirk, 75 of Parlin

Mr. Thomas William Kirk of Brick (formerly of Parlin) died August 21 at Claremont Care Center, Point Pleasant. He was 75.

Born in Orange, he was raised in West Orange and later resided in Parlin. Then in 1995, he moved to Brick.

Mr. Kirk was employed as a service dispatcher for PSE&G, working in Irvington and Clifton for 38 years before retiring in 1986.

He served with President Park Independent Fire Co., Parlin and was a member of the Ex-Chief's Association of the fire company.

Mr. Kirk was also a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2061,

Sayreville. He was a communicant of St. Dominic's R.C. Church, Brick. Mr. Kirk was a member of the Men's Club of the Princeton Commons Homeowner's Association, Brick.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Josephine Marie (Byrne) Kirk; a son, Thomas J. of Exton, Pa.; five daughters, Maureen Sutter of Manalapan, Carol Fabiyan of Point Pleasant, Patricia Ryan of Point Pleasant, Kathryn Beno of Point Pleasant Beach, Mary Ann McGuirk of Colleyville, Texas; and a brother, Edward Kirk of Severna Park, Md.; and 17 grandchildren.

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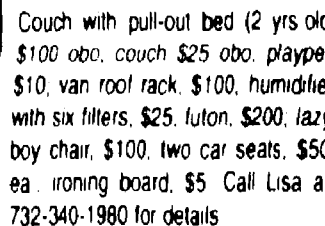
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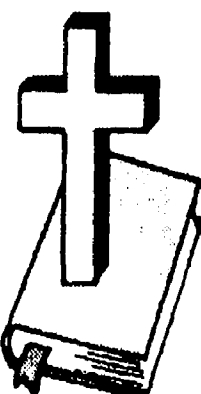
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Florio Talk Show on WTC

(continued from page...7)

former governor something to smile about: He is no longer the most unpopular politician in the state. Christine Todd Whitman has taken that honor.

Asked if the radio show signals a political comeback, Florio said, "You can announce that I'm taking care of my mortgage payments."

Albin Clears Hurdle

(continued from page...7)

half of the committee, who watched U.S. Senate Democrats vote down, on ideological grounds, President Bush's appointment of Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen to serve on the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

It's likely that Albin, who has never served on the bench at any level, will spend the next twenty years on the state's highest court, yet the Judiciary Committee members seemed uninterested in making an inquiries regarding his judicial philosophy.

There were no questions regarding the death penalty, same sex marriage, parental notification, Megan's Law, or Mount Laurel.

One leader of social conservatives commented that it may be time to simply stop holding hearings on key appointments, hinting that the Judiciary Committee is really nothing more than a rubber stamp to approve gubernatorial appointments.

Another pundit noted that senators can ask questions of a nominee and still vote to send their name to the full Senate.

A Republican legislator not on the committee said that asking Albin whether he would have joined in a recent Supreme Court opinion would have been a perfectly legitimate tactic.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**NEWS****Centering Prayer Workshop September 14th**

SOUTH AMBOY—Do you want to deepen your relationship with God? Come to the Centering Prayer Workshop on Sept. 14. The day will begin with Mass at 8 a.m. in church and move to the School Cafeteria afterwards ending at 2 p.m. Bring a brown bag lunch.

The workshop is a contemporary presentation of the discipline of Centering Prayer as "silent communion with God," beyond concepts, words and images. It includes conferences and periods of prayer and is for those new to Centering Prayer, as well as those who wish to renew

their Centering Prayer practice. The workshop, given by Theresa Sauliner from Contemplative Outreach, is open to parishioners and non-parishioners alike—so bring a friend!

If you plan to attend or have any questions, call Fran Beshada at (732) 721-2828.

Cub Scout Pack 5 Annual Registration

EDISON—Cub Scout Pack 5, Highland Park/Edison's Kosher and Shomer Shabbat pack, will have its annual registration for the new year, 5763, on Thursday, Sept. 12, at Congregation Ohav Emeth, 415 Raritan Avenue, Highland Park, from 7-8 PM.

All boys in grades 1-5 who are interested in joining cub scouts, or who are already members of the pack, should attend with their parents. This is the opportunity for the boys to meet their new den leaders. This is also the opportunity for all the

parents to get their questions answered regarding the Scout pack as well as to register their sons in scouts.

The first official pack meeting for the year 5763 will be on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 7-8 PM at Ohav Emeth. If you are unable to come to registration on the 12th you can register at this meeting as well.

The pack will introduce their new fundraiser at this time. We will be selling Israeli made plastic containers similar in style to Tupperware. This fundraiser will provide the Israeli economy with much needed help as well as provide the pack with much needed funds for their activities.

Bank And Medical Center Create Employee Home Ownership Program

PERTH AMBOY—First Savings Bank is participating in a home ownership assistance program at Raritan Bay Medical Center designed to help attract and retain employees in nursing and other health care positions where there are critical staffing shortages. The program, which is part of Fannie Mae's Employer Assisted Housing initiative, will provide a "forgivable loan" of \$5,000 towards the purchase of a home to employees who commit to remaining at the Medical Center for at least two years. Participants in the program must be first-time home buyers and purchase a home within a ten-mile radius of the Medical Center's Perth Amboy or Old Bridge campuses.

According to Richard Spengler, First Savings' Executive Vice President and

Chief Lending Officer, the Bank will provide participants with homeownership classes, a rebate of mortgage application fees and, for those who meet income and purchase price limitations, a reduced-rate loan through the Bank's "Great Start" mortgage program. "We are delighted to be part of this unique initiative to encourage both home ownership and staffing of vital health care positions at the Medical Center," Spengler stated. "This is a great opportunity to benefit the local communities we serve."

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