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YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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South Amboy Station Upgrades Steam Ahead

SOUTH AMBOY - NJ Transit will bridge its local rail depot with the city's downtown using \$2.5 million from a federal Transportation Equity Act grant to fund part of an \$18 million train station upgrade.

Plans call for construction of a new \$4 million plaza across from City Hall connecting Broadway with a pedestrian overpass, a high-level platform at the station and a 1,000-space parking deck.

Local officials are very receptive to the plans, which include some long-sought improvements.

"The train station has been part of this community forever and it's always been cut off," said Mayor John T. O'Leary. "People would come to our city and be locked on that side because of the gates."

Last year, NJ Transit completed its first phase of the station upgrade by converting an old rail yard into a 244-space parking lot.

Turn-of-the-century architectural elements have been incorporated into the station design to make it fit in with the look of the city's downtown, O'Leary said.

Construction on the pedestrian overpass will begin this summer, according to NJ Transit spokesman Michael Klufas, who said significant parts of the project is still being designed.

Alongside the plaza, a new 10,000-square-foot office building will be constructed.

South Amboy was among five communities selected in 1999 for the agency's transit village program, which is intended to make the train station the heart of the town's activities by increasing number of riders and economic growth

in the surrounding areas. The rail improvements are among a number of changes already taking place on Broadway and the city's waterfront.

Face-lifts at local stores have been supported by a facade program for business owners that has distributed \$169,000 in grants and the exterior of City Hall is also being renovated.

New luxury homes line the waterfront and the old Jersey Central Power & Light plant off Main Street is home to a high-speed ferry service to Manhattan.

Vas Exploring Challenge To Menendez?

Special from PoliticsNJ.com
AREA - Perth Amboy Mayor Joseph Vas may be mulling a bid for the Democratic nomination for Congress in the 13th district against Rep. Bob Menendez in the June primary.

A pollster was calling Hudson County Democrats yes-

terday testing Vas and another potential House candidate, former Jersey City Mayor Gerald McCann.

Questions in the poll suggest some level of input by someone close to Vas.

There is speculation that this poll may be connected to an effort by Jersey City Mayor

Glenn Cunningham to recruit a candidate to challenge Menendez in the Democratic primary.

Cunningham called on Menendez to resign as Hudson County Democratic chairman, but the rest of the county's mayors announced that they are supporting the Congressman's

re-election after the June Democratic primary. The rapidly deteriorating relationship between Cunningham and Menendez stems from differences over who will serve the balance of former County Executive Robert Janiszewski's term, which expires in January, 2004.

Middlesex County Republicans Select Hopefuls

MIDDLESEX COUNTY - Republicans chose Roger Craig of South Brunswick and Joe Paone of Woodbridge over New Brunswick resident Tracy Ford to challenge Democratic Freeholders David B. Crabel

and Camille Fernicola. Ford, a technician at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital and minister of the Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, was an unsuccessful freeholder candidate in last year's general

election. Republican John Krenzel of South River is hoping to upset county Surrogate Kevin Hoagland, the Democratic incumbent.

GOP leaders say about 620 county committee members

voted at a convention Tuesday at the Victorian Manor in Edison.

Ric Medrow of Edison, the Republican choice for Congress in the 6th District, is a conservative who hopes to topple Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone.

Freshman Rep. Mike Ferguson is running for re-election in the 7th District.

Rev. DeForest B. Soaries of Franklin, the former New Jersey secretary of state during the Whitman administration, will challenge incumbent Congressman Rush Holt the 12th District.

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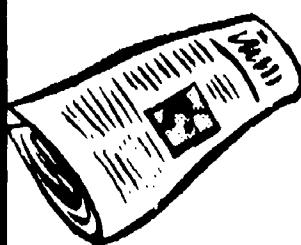
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...for other store locations, see page 13



YOUR LOCAL NEWS



MANY THANKS—Joan Costello of Colonia is pictured with U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter (Pa.) during a party to thank the senator for his continued efforts on behalf of Wills Eye Hospital and its core mission to serve as a leading center for primary and subspecialty patient care, education and research. Sen. Specter attended the cocktail reception given by D. McWilliams Kessler, Wills Executive Director and CEO and his wife, Judith, at their Ardmore, Pa. home on Feb. 15. Mrs. Costello is the mother of Judith Kessler. Sen. Specter and the Kesslers were joined by leadership of the Wills Eye Hospital Medical Staff and Administration, the Board of Directors of City Trusts, Wills' governing body, and friends of the Hospital.



CAT IN THE HANDBAG??? "The Cat In The Hat" played by a representative of the New Jersey Education Association paid a surprise visit to Etienne Aigner's corporate headquarters in Edison. The company hosted 43 second-graders from the Menlo Park Elementary School on March 1 for Read Across America Day. Students learned about the handbag and shoe retailers' business with a tour of the company's distribution center and retail outlet. Employees also served the youngsters cake to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and read them "Green Eggs and Ham."

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School Board To Receive Playing Fields

METUCHEN—Mayor Ed O'Brien wants to give playing fields outside Edgar School to the school district. However, some board members wonder if they'd be getting anything more than extra maintenance costs.

Students already use the land, donated to the borough in 1917. The high school football and soccer teams also play there.

Parents and students have complained for years about worn grass, poor drainage, and other problems. School board President Phyllis Tranotti says that it's a problem throughout the borough. The growing demand for recreation means that "all fields need care and some upgrading."

O'Brien says that the borough plans to renovate the field at an estimated cost of \$175,000. After making that investment, borough officials want to be able to limit its use. "We can't spend the money and then take the abuse in two years, with everybody saying, 'Oh, the fields are in terrible shape,'" said O'Brien.

According to board member Ron Grayzel, part of the renovation work includes reconfiguring the area for baseball, as well as football and soccer.

Tranotti said that the borough would lease the field to the school board for \$1 per year. The real cost would be for maintenance.

According to Business Administrator William Kyle, the district would probably need to add a groundskeeper. With materials and water, that would cost about \$35,000 annually, he said.

Board member Timothy Brosnan said, "The fields are in the terrible condition they're in because they've been neglected." If the issue is maintenance and overuse, simply passing the costs onto the school board would not necessarily correct the situation, he said.

ME AND MY SHADOW

Angela Hogan of Iselin and an employee in the x-ray department at Clara Maass Medical Center, takes a break with son, Thomas, age 10, during the hospital's observance of National Job Shadow Day. Sponsored by Monster.com, the Medical Center participated in the Medical Center's day-long event that invited employees to bring their children to work to "shadow" their parents and gain a better understanding of what they do at work. More than 60 employees' children participated.

For more information on Clara Maass programs and services, call 1-800-CLARA MAASS or to take a virtual tour of the Medical Center, visit www.saintbarnabas.com.



of the Medical Center, visit www.saintbarnabas.com.

Easter Bunny Visits Menlo Park Mall

EDISON—Shoppers can hop into the Easter spirit with the arrival of the Easter Bunny at Menlo Park Mall, a Simon mall, from March 9–30. During mall hours in the Nordstrom wing shoppers are invited to visit and get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

"Menlo Park Mall Easter activities will provide shoppers with the opportunity to celebrate the holiday with a visit to the Easter Bunny," said Suzy Lichter, Marketing Director at Menlo Park Mall. "Bringing fun and interactive entertainment to our mall is another way in which we are able to provide our shoppers with the most enjoyable shopping experience possible."

On March 16, the festivities

will begin from 1–4 p.m. with videotaping and fingerprinting with KinderVision; sponsored by Dried Plum Board, courtesy of WCBS FM Radio, in which shoppers can have their children videotaped and fingerprinted as a safety measure.

Another warm and fuzzy activity will be held on March 23, where shoppers can enjoy an "Egg" Stravaganza, sponsored by Radio Disney from 2–4 p.m. In addition, shoppers can take advantage of a gift with purchase promotion, which entitles anyone who purchases an Easter Photo Package valued at \$30 or more, to receive a \$5 Simon Gift Certificate.

Menlo Park Mall is located at Rt. 1 South and Parsonage Road, Edison

Cycle Tribe Hosts Trophy Party

CARTERET—The Cycle Tribe, Middlesex County, will be holding their first Annual Trophy Party at the American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret on Saturday, March 30 from 8 p.m. til ??

There will be a variety of trophies awarded such as the Most Represented in Middlesex County, the Furthest Distance

Rider, Furthest Distance Club, etc. The donation of \$5 includes music, food, 50/50 and more.

The directions to the trophy party are from north or south of the N.J. Turnpike to exit 12, bear right (West Carteret), go over bridge, pass traffic light and make first left. For further information, call (732) 541-2566.

Star On-Site Program

PERTH AMBOY—Every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. a Social Worker and Registered

Nurse, sponsored by Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Edison, hold a program of special interest to seniors at the Perth Amboy YMHA.

Lunch is served at the end of the program. There is no charge for the program or lunch, but participants must be a paid-up member of the Y's Senior Club. Call (732) 442-0365 for information about Y membership or visit 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy.

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Auto Emissions Contract Criticized

STATE - As governor, Christine Todd Whitman promised to make the air cleaner by privatizing emissions testing of automobiles. But the project has turned into a \$500 million political car wreck.

When the computerized system was launched in December 1999, emissions testing came to a virtual standstill. There were long waits at inspection stations. Equipment froze and computers crashed, among other problems.

The system is back in operation. But the contract - awarded to the politically connected Parsons Infrastructure and Technology Group of Pasadena, Calif. - has resulted in two legislative investigations and proposals to limit state work given to companies that make political contributions.

Now, Democratic Gov. James E. McGreevey is asking state lawyers to look for ways to break the contract his Republican predecessor, now head of the Environmental Protection Agency, made with Parsons. McGreevey has appointed a panel to review how much the program has cost and how the lone bidder won the project.

Parsons representatives said they welcomed McGreevey's review and pledged to cooperate.

Whitman's decision to privatize the state-run auto inspection system came in 1998 while New Jersey was under pressure from the EPA to fight smog or lose highway funding.

For \$500 million, Parsons agreed to operate a test that analyzed engine emissions by placing the vehicle on a treadmill and spinning the wheels at highway speeds. The older test analyzed

the exhaust from the tailpipe while the vehicle was idling.

Parsons was the only bidder on the contract. The year before, the company donated more than \$60,000 to Republican state political committees run.

Pete McDonough, former Whitman communications director, said the state was under pressure from the EPA to act promptly. "We were very much under the gun," he said. "We stood to lose a billion dollars in mass transit and highway funds."

Other states that were also under EPA pressure at the time opted for similar vehicle emissions tests using treadmills. But Parsons and the Whitman administration said New Jersey was the first state to use such a complicated automated system.

In 2000, a four-month investigation by a state panel said top state officials ignored or concealed warnings that the company was bungling the auto inspection system.

The report blamed Whitman and two top aides, who were later transferred to other state posts. Parsons was also fined by the state for failing to meet its contract.

Parsons officials insisted the system has been repaired and the lines have disappeared.

In addition, an investigation found that the company's bid proposal called for giving subcontracts to politically connected Republicans. And, a former Whitman spokesman, Carl Golden, left the administration to work for Parsons. Golden has denied any impropriety.

Last week, a state lawmaker introduced a bill to limit contracts to political donors.

Fox Fires Transit Biggies

STATE - A dozen New Jersey Transit employees have been laid off to save more than a million dollars in salary and benefits.

Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox requested the cuts and said there are more to come.

Last month, Gov. James E. McGreevey said NJ Transit con-

tinued hiring even after he called for a spending freeze. Among the workers who lost their jobs are Republican Matt Stanton, who earns \$130,000 as chief of staff, and Jonathan Lowry, who earns more than \$85,000 as director of government relations.

All of the employees let go were hired between March 1998

and November 2001. Fox said the cuts were not politically-motivated, but were part of a streamlining process at NJ Transit.

Fox, a graduate of St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, is expected to be named to the school's hall of fame this spring.

Witchhunter Eyes Senate Campaign

STATE - Until January 1998, he was a registered Democrat in New York City but Robert Ray, who replaced Ken Starr in 1999 as independent counsel in the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, is now indicating that he wants to be the GOP's US Senate candidate in New Jersey.

Ray drew fire from Democrats as soon as he started making his intentions clear, since he is still barred from political activities even though he recently released a final report on the scandal.

But he has made a flurry of phone calls to Republican leaders in recent days.

Cape May County GOP Chairman David Van Savage said Ray called him last week and

said he would make a decision soon. In the final report, Ray said his office had sufficient evidence to charge Clinton criminally and probably would have won its case.

As a GOP primary contender, Ray may have to explain why he negotiated the deal that spared Clinton from indictment in the perjury and obstruction inquiry involving his sexual relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Five other Republicans already are seeking the nomination to take on Democratic Sen. Robert Torricelli.

A poll released last week showed Torricelli has a large lead over any of his potential

Republican challengers, including Ray.

Ingrid Reed, director of the Eagleton New Jersey Project at Rutgers University, said many Republican voters already feel an allegiance to at least one of the five declared candidates because of their political service on the local, county or state level.

Those candidates "have pockets of people who know who they are," Reed said. "I think Ray is going to have a problem in the primary, just because nobody knows him. He doesn't have a hometown cheering crowd."

Ray, 41, is a graduate of Princeton University and a resident of Rumson.

New Jersey Civil Rights Act Passes Assembly Panel

STATE—The Assembly Judiciary Committee released amended legislation Assembly Deputy Majority Leader Neil M. Cohen sponsored to establish the New Jersey Civil Rights Act. Unlike a number of other states, New Jersey currently does not have a civil rights act.

The measure (A-510) would allow the Attorney General to bring civil actions against any individual who

(continued on page...4)

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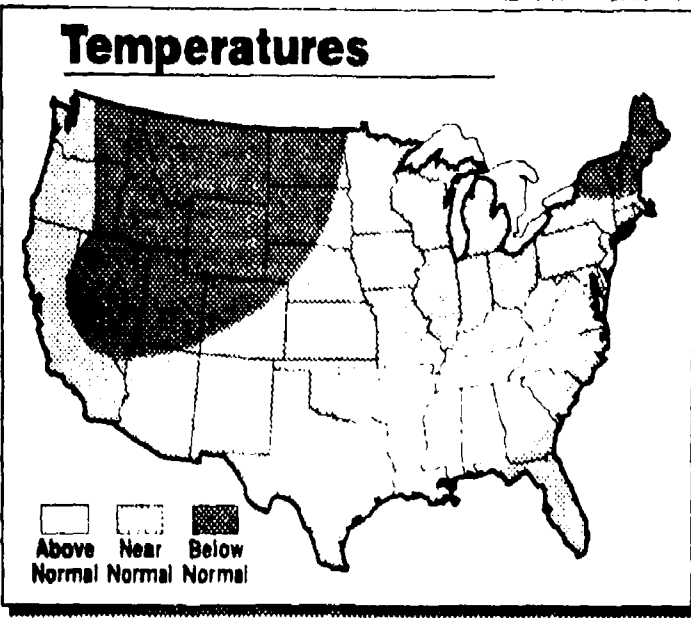
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Windy with sunshine.	Fair and breezy.	Mostly sunny.	A good deal of sunshine.	Sunshine.	Cloudy with a few showers.	Showery and very windy.	Cloudy with rain.
52	30	43/25	43/25	47/24	46/41	56/45	59/46

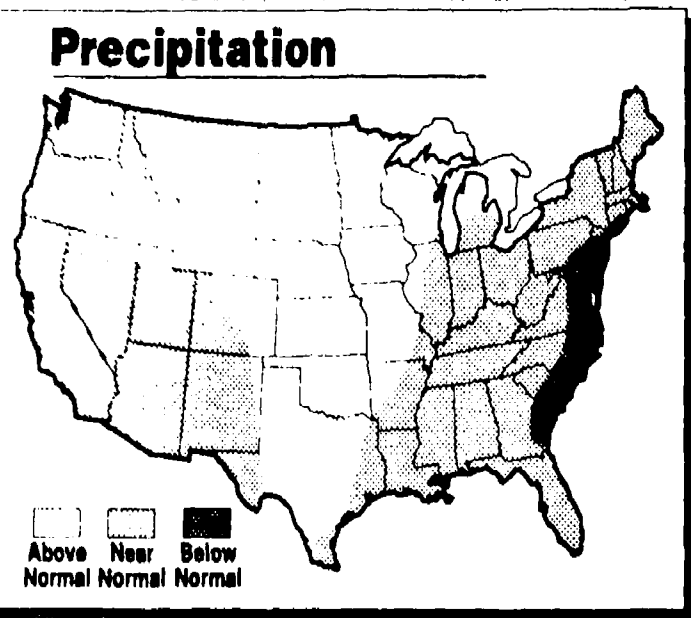
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Cool air is expected to dominate the weather across the eastern half of the country. Temperatures across the Northeast, Midwest and Ohio Valley may average 10 to 15 degrees below normal. Storms will bring precipitation to the Pacific Northwest. Cool air will enhance precipitation near the Great Lakes. Dry and warm weather will cover the central and southern Plains.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	68 46 s	64 40 s	62 40 s	61 35 s
Boston	50 30 pc	42 24 s	40 24 s	43 22 c
Chicago	32 17 pc	36 17 pc	38 23 s	41 35 pc
Cleveland	42 28 c	34 20 sf	35 23 c	44 27 s
Denver	56 31 pc	55 32 pc	56 34 pc	55 28 pc
Des Moines	32 16 c	40 18 s	39 26 s	41 40 sh
Detroit	36 20 c	34 18 pc	39 22 c	41 27 s
Houston	70 48 s	72 50 pc	72 52 c	76 56 c
Indianapolis	47 22 c	41 22 pc	44 26 s	47 37 s
Kansas City	48 22 s	46 26 s	58 28 pc	62 44 c
Los Angeles	75 50 s	68 50 c	65 47 c	67 37 pc
Miami	82 67 s	81 64 pc	80 64 s	79 59 s
Minn. - St. Paul	30 10 sf	32 14 pc	36 18 pc	36 20 sn
New Orleans	73 53 s	72 50 s	70 50 pc	75 56 pc
New York City	54 36 pc	44 28 s	44 30 s	46 26 s
Omaha	40 18 pc	48 26 s	48 34 pc	58 42 pc
Phoenix	83 57 s	83 56 s	79 55 s	75 41 pc
San Francisco	64 51 pc	59 50 r	60 48 c	60 41 pc
Seattle	52 40 c	56 40 c	53 41 c	53 39 c
Washington	60 36 pc	48 30 pc	48 32 s	53 29 s

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	Sunset
Thu. 5:59 a.m.	6:10 p.m.
Fri. 5:58 a.m.	6:11 p.m.
Moonrise	Moonset
Thu. 10:13 a.m.	12:45 a.m.
Fri. 11:04 a.m.	1:46 a.m.
Moon Phases	
First	Full
Mar 21	Mar 28
Apr 4	Apr 12
Weather (W):	
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy,	
c-cloudy, sh-showers,	
t-thunderstorms, r-rain,	
sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.	

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	58 49 pc	55 51 c	58 50 r	53 40 r
Berlin	47 32 pc	46 29 pc	42 30 s	49 42 c
Buenos Aires	76 59 pc	76 59 pc	78 63 pc	80 61 c
Cairo	73 53 pc	75 53 pc	75 52 pc	75 54 s
Jerusalem	52 41 sh	54 40 pc	55 40 pc	59 41 pc
Johannesburg	82 61 pc	84 62 pc	89 60 s	77 60 c
London	62 50 pc	58 54 sh	65 48 c	52 45 c
Madrid	77 49 s	76 48 s	73 52 pc	55 38 r
Mexico City	71 47 c	72 51 pc	68 55 r	69 52 sh
Moscow	40 33 sh	39 34 sn	40 30 sh	34 19 c
Paris	56 50 pc	61 51 pc	67 51 pc	52 39 sh
Rio de Janeiro	81 66 r	77 61 pc	74 63 pc	77 68 pc
Rome	74 53 s	73 52 pc	71 50 pc	63 49 pc
San Juan	84 71 pc	84 73 pc	83 73 c	83 75 c
Seoul	48 29 s	47 26 s	40 26 s	45 33 s
Sydney	80 56 pc	72 54 pc	72 53 pc	74 55 pc
Tokyo	65 56 pc	60 53 pc	56 39 c	47 38 pc
Toronto	28 7 c	27 9 c	29 11 c	32 18 pc
Winnipeg	13 -6 c	16 -5 c	19 2 pc	21 7 c
Zurich	56 48 sh	57 50 c	60 48 c	62 46 r

YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Civil Rights Act Passes Assembly Panel

(continued from page.. 3.)

deprives any other person of his or her rights, privileges or immunities as provided by the Constitution or laws of the United States or New Jersey.

An action also may be brought if a person interferes or attempts to interfere by threats, intimidation or coercion with the exercise or enjoyment of another person's rights, privileges or immunities guaranteed under the State or federal Constitutions. The Attorney General may file the civil action on behalf of the State or the injured party.

An individual also may bring a civil rights action under the legislation, and seek damages and monetary fees. A jury also may be convened upon the application of either party.

Under the proposed New Jersey Civil Rights Act, the courts also would be able to award reasonable attorney's fees and courts.

The Cohen measure was approved 4-0-2 and now heads to the Assembly Speaker, who may decide to post it for a floor vote.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Urban Forestry Committee Announces Tree Planting Grants

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Middlesex County Freeholder Camille Fernicola, Freeholder liaison to the Middlesex County Urban Forestry Advisory Committee, and the Committee's Chairwoman, Alice Tempel, announced that the Committee has authorized the distribution of requests for proposals for tree planting project grants for 2002.

Freeholder Fernicola stated, "This is the eighth year that the Committee has offered grant funds to municipalities, schools and other nonprofit organizations for planting trees in Middlesex County. We look forward to another round of exceptional projects that will promote the environmental benefits of planting trees in our communities."

Tempel noted, "The Committee appreciates the funding and staff support that the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders has been able to provide to allow us to continue this important program."

Grant proposals for tree planting projects on publicly owned or controlled lands must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15 to the Middlesex County Urban Forestry Advisory Committee at 40 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. Information regarding the proposal submission procedures and project criteria can be obtained by calling William Kruse at (732) 745-3016. Grant proposal guidance material has been mailed to each municipality and school district in the County.

Since its inception in 1994, the County's urban forestry tree planting grant program has provided a total of \$300,661 for sixty-four grants to municipalities, schools and nonprofit groups throughout the County. Freeholder Fernicola noted, "The Forestry Committee continues to be very successful in promoting the reforestation of available public lands throughout the County. This effort has been coupled with the County's aggressive acquisition of important open space. We will assure a viable forest resource in Middlesex County, into the future, for the benefit of the County's residents and the environment."

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

New Study On Early-Stage Lung Cancer Screening

AREA — The Department of Radiology at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons is currently conducting a large-scale study on the use of CAT scans in screening for early-stage lung cancer. The project will test up to 10,000 high-risk residents of New York State and

the metropolitan New York City area (which includes the suburbs of New Jersey and Connecticut) for the disease in its earliest and most treatable phases. The study is also giving researchers a significant opportunity to look closely at the possible genetic and environmental causes of lung cancer.

To qualify for the study, participants must be smokers or ex-smokers aged 60 and over with a one pack-per-day habit for ten years (or a two-pack-per-day habit for five years), have no prior history of cancer, and be in generally good health. The individuals who meet the criteria for

the study will receive two quick, safe, and painless chest CAT scans at one-year intervals — at no cost to them. In return, participants will be asked to complete a questionnaire, donate blood, and undergo lab tests as part of the screening study. If necessary and appropriate, patients will

also be invited to participate in a comprehensive smoking-cessation program and referred for immediate follow-up medical consultations.

Prospective study participants can contact the Columbia test site directly at 212-305-6849 for more information or to enroll.

Twenty-Seven New Nurses Graduate From Trinitas

AREA — Twenty-seven graduates received nursing pins and diplomas from the Trinitas School of Nursing during convocation exercises for the School's Class of January 2002 held

recently at Union County College, Cranford.

Jocelyn Baker of Roselle attained the Dean's List of High Honors by achieving a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or

higher. Jocelyn also received the First Scholarship Award and the General Proficiency Award.

A number of graduates attained the Dean's List of Nursing Honors by maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. These included: Jacqueline Ann Bublinec of Old Bridge; Marie Terese Noonan of Elizabeth who also won the 2002 Nursing Service Professional Transition Award; Maurice Prior, III of Elizabeth who was also the recipient of the Auxiliary Award; Roseann Sweeney of Staten Island, NY; and Angelica Encarnacion Vida of Linden who also won the Lily Bierstein Memorial Award.

Other members of the School of Nursing Class of January 2002 include: Elizabeth residents Soukaina Alexandre; Elizabeth Forero; Jane Wambui Mbogo;

Lisa Rodriguez-Aviles who was also the recipient of the Auxiliary Award; Valerica Sabin and Luz-Patricia Torres; Linden resident Beth Kwiatkowski; Hillside resident Ruth Fils-Aima who was also the recipient of the June Palmieri Crincoli Memorial Award; Cranford resident Joyce Lynn Merrigan who was also the recipient of the Trinitas Alumni Association Award; Plainfield resident Karen Lorraine Phillip; Colonia resident Maria Cristina Sousa who was also the recipient of the Gerontological Nursing Award; Edison resident Althea Moneaque Hill; Belleville resident Evelyn Olfunmilayo Akanbi; Manalapan resident Sharon R. Cohn; Hazlet resident Zehra Yasmin Moinuddin; Iselin resident Dayra M. Torres; Jersey City resident Karen Watkins; Brooklyn, NY residents

Alexandra Prophete and Natacha Succes; Staten Island, NY resident Claudine M. Titus and Jamaica, NY resident Kate Nwike.

The Trinitas School of Nursing conducts a cooperative nursing program with Union County College and confers both a nursing diploma and an associate science degree to its graduates. Formerly known as the Elizabeth General Medical Center School of Nursing, the Trinitas School of Nursing has been in operation since 1891. The School boasts one of the highest pass rates among its graduates who take the NCLEX registered nurse licensing examination. Fully 99 percent of the School's graduates over the last 10 years have passed the NCLEX exam.

For more information about the Trinitas School of Nursing please call (908) 659-5200.



Council Looks For Positive Health Experiences

STATE — Has the news been too negative for your taste lately? Well, you can become the bearer of good news. The Steering Committee, an outgrowth of the Women with Disabilities Health Care Summit, wants to hear about your positive health care experiences with a physician or other medical providers. With your help, the Committee can establish a resource list of medical professionals who treat an individual with a disability as a whole person. Your story may appear on the

NJ Developmental Disabilities Council's web site.

To see a few of the vignettes, go to the web site at www.njddc.org and click on Issues/Women's Health. Then you may submit your story through a quick survey. To contact the Steering Committee off-line, please mail your story to Patricia Krupka at the NJDD Council, PO Box 700, Trenton, NJ 08625-0700 or by fax to 609-292-7114.

In June 2001, sixty-six women with disabilities attended a forum

to discuss their concerns about health care. The Women with Disabilities Health Care Summit, Strategies for Change, took place at the Woodbridge Hilton. Issues such as accessibility of medical facilities and equipment, access to care, paying for care, inclusion in medical research, aging with a disability, and wellness and fitness were discussed. A report on the Summit will be available soon.

For more information or to receive the report, please contact the Council.

"Donate Life" License Plate Debuts

AREA — New Jersey drivers now have the chance to promote their support of life saving organ donations while funding donor awareness initiatives through the purchase of the new "Donate Life" specialty license plate. This specialty plate offered through the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles is available to state vehicle owners and leaseholders interested in supporting the awareness-building initiative.

The "Donate Life" specialty license plates may be purchased

for leased or owned cars and trucks for an initial fee of \$50 or \$100 for personalized plates containing up to five characters. A yearly renewal fee of \$10 will go directly toward organ and tissue donation education programs in New Jersey. Profits from the sale of the plates will go to the Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Fund to educate the public about the urgent need for organ donation and the lifesaving benefits of organ transplants.

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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Avoid Violence In Schools

STATE — Knights of Pythias lodges throughout the Garden State, in conjunction with the Supreme Lodge Knights of Pythias, invite all high school students to participate in a poster contest entitled "Avoid Violence in Schools."

Students in grades 9-12 in public, private and parochial high schools are requested to render their works of art on cardboard

14" by 22" with no collages, paste-on or stencil lettering, etc. allowed.

On the front of the poster near the bottom, in letters not over a quarter inch high, must appear the following: "Sponsored by the fraternal order Knights of Pythias." On the back of the poster must appear the contestant's name, Social Security number, grade,

school, and home address.

Message, originality, neatness, adherence to stated rules and regulations are criteria for judging. While New Jersey accepts computer-aided/electronic medium entries, **only** the freehand drawing first place entry advances to the Supreme Lodge contest.

New Jersey Grand Lodge prizes are \$350 U.S. Savings Bonds each to the first place freehand drawing and electronic medium entry, \$200 Bond for

overall second place and \$100 Bond for overall third place. Local lodges will reward those students who place first, second and third, while all entries **meeting the stated requirements will advance to the Domain's contest.**

Supreme Lodge prizes are in cash: \$1,000 for first, \$500 for second, \$250 for third and \$100 each for places fourth through eighth.

New Jersey resident high

schoolers should submit their entries no later than **April 1** to: Steven A. Pardes, Poster Contest Chairman, 114 Dugan Lane, Toms River, NJ 08753.

For more information about the Pythian Order telephone Grand Lodge Secretary Harold M. Dauber 201-437-7339, Larry Kalb, Public Relations Chairman 732-920-7503 or Joel D. Fierstien, Membership Chairman 973-625-9099 (office) or 973-994-1069 (home).

Union Catholic Honor Students

AREA — The following Union Catholic High School students were named to the honor roll for the second marking period.

FIRST HONOR ROLL

Seniors - Priscilla Abdala, Jennifer Albano, Lisa Augustyn, Nicole Barko, Laura Boes, Dana Boyer, Gladys Caliolio, Amy Cron, Joanna Debowska, Kimberly Drastura, Ann Marie Fedorochko, Jennifer Filo, Chelsea Fuenzalida, Leanne Hade, Stephanie Heil, Jennifer Holland, Laura Hulnik, Leanne Kacsur, Danielle Kavanagh, Kim Kayser, Andrea Keller, Heather Kolar, Andrea Lapinski, Brandon Leonard, Dorian Little, John Losavio, Colleen Macaluso, Katherine Marshall, Mohamed Mekawy, Scott Meurer, Lisa Mortkowitz, Christine Neto, Erin O'Grady, Therese Palencia, Margaret Partyka, Kristen Petela, Jessica Remo, Ashanti Rimes, Megan Rose, Randi Schroeder, Mary Solano, Teaira Staggers, John Varady, Maria Varvara, Nydia Williams.

Juniors - Sean Bennett, John Bialick, Lauren Bowe, Teofilo Caliolio, Nuno Castainca, Tiffany Cates, Lauren Chapnick, Aleetha Clanton, Alison Clark, Elizabeth D'Antuono, Anthony D'Errico, Melissa Dela Torre, Daniel Douress, Mark Fernandes, Jillian-Aileen Flores, Ysabelle Flores, Wilson Guinto, Pietro Hanatzky, Jaleah Hawkins, Sheri Jones, Amanda Kelly, Bridget Koza, Bruno Lanfernini, Cara Latham, Hope Leeffer, Daniel Majeen, Michael Manganiello, Stephanie Massaro, Lisa Mruk, Zharina Opilac, Deborah Oravez, Michael Pazyk, Chad Riddick, Thomas Ritter, Kristen Rizzo, Edwin Ruiz, Adam Rusnock, Katarzyna Sliwa, Folusho Sodeke, Kathleen Walsh, Caitlin Yergalonis.

Sophomores - Kevin Bailey, Amanda Ballate, Lauren Body, Christopher Boyar, Stevens

Bueno, Nathalie Cortes, Evianna Cruz, Richard Esposito, Alexandria Farawell, Jennifer Hand, Lauren Huber, Christina Iafe, Jennifer Kakalettris, Janelle Lloyd, Matthew Lubin, Kristine Manalo, Kyle McPherson, Kristine Mintel, Brian Navoa, Katherine Palitto, Christopher Rodriguez, George Roselle, Kimberly Scutieri, Pamela Seiple, Joseph Torella, James Yeager.

Freshmen - Kenneth Abel, Judy Ann Adan, Denise Aliparo, Jessica Bonafide, Joseph Cichino, Cristin Colucci, Megan Conheeneey, Toni Anne Corsi, Kristin Davie, Brian De Oliveira, Elyssa Di Giovanni, Raquel Dominguez, Kristy Glavasich, Leana Gonsalves, Monica Grabowski, Stephanie Guterl, Ewa Hausbrandt, Richard Hernandez, Vaida Jakimaviciute, Lindsay Keogh, Dana Kinney, Darryl Jon L'asin, Karina Linares, Melissa Malapit, Mark Manuel, Sophia Rose Mavroudas, Elizabeth McGonigle, Laura Mortkowitz, Patricia Niziolek, Beverly Nwanna, Stephanie Pego, Kelly Rapolas, Cheryl Ritter, Gabriel Rojas, Rachel Rota, Megan Stahlberg, Alison Steinbach, Andrew Timmes, Regina Topping, Marybeth Tran, Mark Vislocky, Nichole Zoller.

SECOND HONOR ROLL

Seniors - Kevin Apuzzio, Alyssa Bass, Kevin Bean, Lauren Biddulph, David Biggs, Margot Bordas, Sahmara Brown, Tara Cannon, Robert Detig,

Nicholas Dolan, Marpessa Dominique, Nicholas Falzarano, Stephen Frank, Robert Gegner, Beena Jacob, Kenyail Johnson, Richard Kazanowski, Romona Kersellius, Julia Kocienski, Suzanne LaTourette, Maureen Maggi, Megan Mallon, Kacie Marczak, Jennifer McLoughlin, Michael McLoughlin, Jacqueline Monroy, Jonathan Ortiz, Kathryn Proctor, Taras Puzyk, Meredith Sacripanti, Luke Sangiamo, Rachel Seamon, Justin Shapp, Nick Silva, Adrienne Slaten, Amy Snyder, Damian Stewart, John Stewart, Lisa Tobia, Sean Trener, Rachael Vieni, James Walsh, Yavonia Wise, Jill Wojciechowski, Sandra Zamora.

Juniors - Rebecca Babicz, Jessica Bourne, Beau Brack, Ernesto Cerimele, Yi Chan, Rosavida Cruz, Jonathan Da Silva, Linda Dolansky, Steven Esperon, Matthew Esposito, Brian Frammigen, Romaine Frejuste, Nitin Gajera, Paulisa Garcia, Pedro Gomes, Jacqueline Gray, Stephanie Green, Suzanne Hennessy, Eugene Isidro, Kaitlyn Kavalus, Karol Kiewlak, Daniel Kruse, Jessica Kurylak, Laura McGarvey, Robert McGuire, Katherine Millard, Lindsey Mills, Valerie Mitchell, Margaret Monroe, Matthew Montano, Leslie Montferret, Ashley Morgan, Vincent Passafiume, Grace Rocca, Lori Sobers, Patrick Stahlberg, May Tanudtanud, Drew Terpenning, Alex Vandenberg, Michael Vogt, Jade Williams, Stephanie Williams.

Sophomores - David Ault, Matthew Blaskewicz, Christine Bowman, Robin Brumbaugh, Stephanie Cabrera, Tony Chan, Christina Cunha, Kristina De Jesus, Kevin DelMauro, Elizabeth Deresz, Rachel Diken, Chavone Edwards, Fernando Gallego, Allison Gigantelli, Stacey Hagenbush, Nicole Hauck, Ashley Jefferson, Sean Keane, Alexander Kopec, Diana Leone, Kristina Lopez, Sunday Panzavecchia, Kristy Ries, David Roche, Daniel Sandiford, Kimberly Schurtz, Katherine Seamon, Meghan Seamster, Edward Shields, Tara Sinnott, Bryan Smith, Anna Socha, Leah Spearman, Tiffany Sprague, Nicole Tami, Geraldine Tandoc, Leonard Tate, Edward Thornton, Julianne Tooker, Ashley Whittemore, Andrea Williams.

Freshmen - April Ann Bacunawa, Kara Beaufort, Beth Ann Bodek, Laura Cash, Jenner Cole, Elizabeth Colombo, Katherine Czado, Kevin Davis, Aniello Della Valle, Shreyans Desai,

Jessica Espinosa, Lisa Fedorochko, Kimberly Feil, Jo-Arabelle Flores, Elizabeth Gabriel, Louise Gonzalez, Stephen Grabowski, Christina Hinkle, Oliver Joszt, Natasha Larrinaga, Jasmine Marshall, Priya Mehta, Melissa Mojar, Erin O'Connor, Vitaliy Patsay, Karen Rivera, Merissa Rose, Kyle Schoendorf, Christina Serrano, Tiffany Shaw, Oliver Solano, Scott Steinbrecher, Ashley Styranec, Robert Tandoc, Ann Jaelyn Te, Grace Thomas, Joseph Varvara.

As long as there are tests, there will be prayers in school.

- Anonymous



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Prior to entering the real estate profession in 1996, Marie worked as a paralegal and later as sales and marketing director for an environmental clean up firm.

Marie is a member of The National Association of Realtors and The Middlesex County Board of Realtors. While with the Weichert Edison office, she garnered numerous sales and listing awards. In 2001, Marie earned the New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Dollar Sales Club Bronze Level Award.

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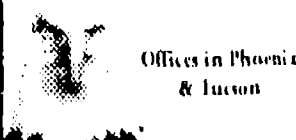
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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

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Going To The Dogs.....Again

By Michael S. Goldberger

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In his sixty-fourth year, my friend has come to know what he likes and what he doesn't like. He loves tuna fish. He hates to take a bath. And while he can still climb the stairs to the second floor with as lively a step as ever, he is now less likely to do it for sport, but more out of necessity. He doesn't do tricks.

Not that he can't, mind you. He could be a regular Houdini if he wanted. It's just that, well, he's a bit of a snob. And, quite plainly, a gentleman of his culture and breeding simply doesn't go into show biz. How would it look? Of course there are those unsubstantiated rumors of his infatuation years ago with a rather fluffy thing from the circus, but if it's true, the devout bachelor has kept it to himself.

He still likes long walks. But aside from a hearty meal, what he loves most is having his belly rubbed. I am happy to oblige, because he is a good boy. And if you haven't guessed it yet, I've been talking about Muffin, my Yorkshire Terrier. So that's sixty-four in dog years. He will be ten in human years on March 27, three days after the 74th Oscars are awarded. All of which leads to what has become a rather sore subject.

You see, Muffin has an uncanny knack for predicting the Academy Award winners. Last year he divined eight of the ten major cate-

gories. Problem is, of late he hasn't been comfortable with the rather odd gift. And it's caused friction in our relationship.

Oh, in case you don't know, Muffin can talk. I don't mean like my first dog, Prince, who would bark if you said "speak" or howl if you said "sing." No, Muffin has a beautiful speaking voice, and if he spoke in your presence, you'd say he sounds just like Leslie Howard with a touch of Ronald Colman and a dash of David Niven. Problem is, he won't speak in your presence. Not even on a bet.

He began speaking in his tenth month, on the very same day that he proved he was at long last housebroken. I congratulated him on the momentous occasion. And after commemorating the event with a proud kick of dirt, he looked up and said "Thank you."

At first I thought nothing of it, and figured maybe this was just a characteristic of the breed. But I was wrong. And it eventually led to some embarrassing moments. Like when I took him to the neighborhood tavern and told the bartender he could talk. Maybe you've heard about it? Several jokes have emanated from the episode.

When he was about two (in human years), on a stormy night when the thunderclaps made him feel particularly vulnerable, Muffin finally confided in me.

Feeling the need to have his head scratched and his ears shmooshed while the rain poured down and the lightning brightened the windows in a menacing staccato of million-watt flashbulbs, he poured out his heart.

"I want to have a regular dog's life," he said. "I don't want to be a freak attraction. Do you really think we'd be better off if they gave us a sitcom, like 'Mr. Ed'? They could call it 'Mr. Muffin, the Talking Yorkie and his Idiotic Master.' But then what would happen to your film critiquing career? What kind of credibility would you have? You see, I'm doing this for you, too, Mike. Sure, there'd be money, but do you really want to be known as the lunatic who swears his dog can talk? If so, tell me. I'm man's best friend...your best friend, more specifically, and I'd do it if you asked. But I'd much rather spend my days fetching the paper and bringing you your slippers."

I couldn't fault his reasoning. After all, whose life was it anyway? So I acceded to his request, and promised not to pursue the matter. We shook hands, er, paws and hands, on it. And then as a gesture of good will, he made an offer. "I'll tell you what I will do for you. I'll make your annual Oscar predictions this year. I've been looking over your past picks, and aside from 1977 (when 'Annie Hall' won Best Picture) and a few other years, you have been lame."

He picked them for me that year. I asked him if I could use him as a literary device, sort of kid readers by maintaining that said Oscar predictions were the handiwork of my pet Yorkshire Terrier,

but never letting on that it was actually true? "Sure," he said. "Who's going to believe you?" We've done well ever since.

But in recent years, Muffin has grown tired of the process, viewing it more as drudgery than an opportunity to show off his filmic acumen. And so when I asked him this go-round, he gave me a bit of a hard time: "Look, every year it's the same thing. If we do really well, you take all the credit: 'What? Talking dog? You don't believe that tale, do you?' But if we don't do so well, you get to be pretty convincing with that, 'Hey, whudda yuh want from me? It's that talking dog I got, y'know? I really shouldn't let him make the picks anymore. But I feel bad, y'know, he really looks forward to it, the little guy. Ya, he still doesn't talk in front of other people, but he makes the Oscar picks. Yep, definitely he still makes 'em.'"

Dog biscuit box in hand last week, I chased around the house and beseeched: "Just this last time, Muff."

He scooted under the bed in a gesture of defiance and said, "No. I'm really through this time." "Please Muff. Just once more. Then we'll get a nice talking cat to predict them from now on."

With that, Muffin emerged from under the bed, so that he could look me in the eye. "You're not going to try to scare me with that cat thing again, are you?" he asked. "Because I'm not buying it."

In a last ditch effort, and although a bit ashamed of myself, I appealed to his loyalty. "Then, what ever happened to that man's best friend thing? I mean, I've been waiting ten years for that paper and

those slippers." It was the mention of newspaper and slippers. That did it.

Though trying to hide it, Muffin was experiencing a pang of guilt, like the feeling you get when you dream that you've forgotten to go to math class all semester. He looked up at me and asked for a certain assurance. "No cat?"

"Nah, no cat. Never really cared for 'em."

"Me neither. Get the nominations. We've got work to do."

So I retrieved the paper with the nominations myself, fetched my own slippers and, relaxed in my favorite chair, scratched Muffin's head and shmooshed his ears while he made the following Oscar predictions (Psst. If they're wrong, remember, he picked them):

Picture: "A Beautiful Mind"; Actor: Russell Crowe, "A Beautiful Mind"; Actress: Sissy Spacek, "In The Bedroom"; Supporting Actor: Ethan Hawke, "Training Day"; Supporting Actress: Helen Mirren, "Gosford Park"; Director: Ron Howard, "A Beautiful Mind"; Animated Film: "Shrek"; Foreign Film: "Amelie"; Adapted Screenplay: Rob Festinger and Todd Field, "In The Bedroom"; Original Screenplay: Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson, "The Royal Tenenbaums"; Art Direction: "The Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of The Ring"; Cinematography: "The Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of The Ring"; Sound: "The Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of The Rings"; Sound Editing: "Pearl Harbor"; Original Score: "A Beautiful Mind," James Horner; Original Song: "If I Didn't Have You," from "Monsters, Inc.," Randy Newman; Costumes: "Gosford Park"; Documentary Feature: "Murder on a Sunday Morning"; Documentary Short Subject: "Artists and Orphans: A True Drama"; Film Editing: "Memento"; Makeup: "A Beautiful Mind"; Animated Short Film: "For The Birds"; Live-Action Short Film: "Gregor's Greatest Invention"; Visual Effects: "The Lord of The Rings: The Fellowship of The Ring."

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

EXIT 13 Magazine Publishes New Issue

UNION COUNTY—The new issue of *EXIT 13* Magazine, an annual publication described as "The Crossroads of the Poetry World," is now available from area resident, editor and publisher Tom Plante.

Issue Number Ten of their unique independent journal of poetry includes the work of 39 poets from near and far, including twelve New Jersey writers, and an interview with the late "Beat" poet, Gregory Corso.

Local contributors to this new issue of *EXIT 13* include Adele Kenny of Fanwood, John McDermott of Cranford, Alex Pinto of Clark, a priest who teaches at Mother Seton High School, Kerry Plante of Fanwood, and David Heinlein of Piscataway.

Joining them on their poetic journey are Garden State residents, Mary Grow of Morristown, Linda Arntzenius of Princeton, Hadara Bar-Nadav of Fair Lawn, Nancy Scott of Lawrenceville, Jim

Whelden of Southampton and Carole Felix of Wrightstown.

A special feature of this issue is an interview with Gregory Corso, the "Beat Era" protege of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs. The interview with Corso, who passed away last year, was conducted by Tom Plante in 1977.

EXIT 13 Magazine takes special pride in being open to poets of all ages and degrees of experience.

It's a meeting place for wordsmiths in transit, with a focus on geography, travel and human experience in different locations. The famous and infamous take their places in its pages alongside newcomers to the field and old friends who have quietly worked the fertile ground of the imagination for decades.

Among the far-flung correspondents to *EXIT 13*, Number Ten, who have carved their names on the contemporary poetry landscape, are Hugh Fox

of Lansing, Michigan; Lyn Lifshin of Vienna, Virginia; John Oliver Simon of Berkeley, California; Errol Miller of Monroe, Louisiana; and New Jersey expatriates Simon Perchik of East Hampton, New York and Miriam Sagan of Sante Fe, New Mexico.

EXIT 13 Magazine, named after the Elizabeth exit on the New Jersey Turnpike, has been published in Fanwood since 1988, the year that Plante and his wife moved out of the Elmora section of Elizabeth.

The journal has featured snapshots of Exit 13 road signs ever since, including photographs contributed by correspondents from around the United States and overseas. The editor is happy to send each shutterbug a copy of the magazine if a photo is published.

EXIT 13 Magazine, No. 10, is available for \$7 at select local stores, or from Exit 13 Publications, P.O. Box 423, Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

State Theatre In New Brunswick Presents B.B. King

NEW BRUNSWICK—On Wednesday, April 3 at 8 p.m., the State Theatre is proud to welcome to New Brunswick the legendary guitarist B.B. King for a rocking evening of great blues music. Among the many fan-favorites King will perform are classics such as "Payin' the Cost To Be the Boss," "The Thrill Is Gone," "How Blue Can You Get," "Everyday I Have the Blues," and "Why I Sing the Blues."

Since his first break in 1948 when he performed on Sonny Boy Williamson's radio program out of West Memphis, Tennessee, "Blues Boy" King, born Riley B. King, has gone on to become the most renowned blues musician of the past 40 years and developed one of the world's most identifiable guitar styles. Soon after his first number one hit, B.B. King began touring nationally and continues to tour extensively, averaging over 250 concerts per year

around the world. The multi-Grammy Award winner has had two number one R&B hits, "Three O'clock Blues" (1951) and "You Don't Know Me" (1952); and four number two R&B hits.

King's most popular crossover hit, "The Thrill Is Gone" (1970), went to number fifteen on the pop charts and was later installed in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1998.

Though in his late 70's, King's spirits remain young, thanks to his ceaseless devotion to his music and his fans.

Tickets for this performance are on sale now. The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick. For telephone ticket orders or information, call (732) 246-7469 or toll free (877) STATE 11, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Wednesday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.



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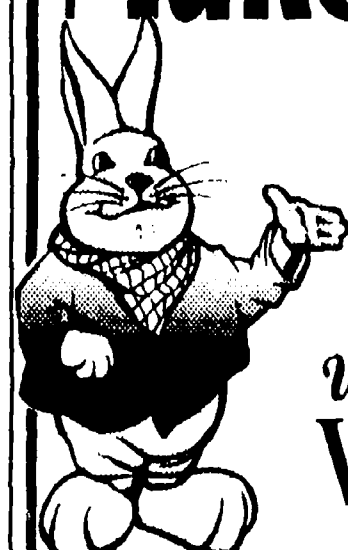
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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS**New Jersey CPAs Identify Ten Common Tax Filing Mistakes**

AREA — The New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA) advises taxpayers to avoid the following "10 most common mistakes" made each year on federal and state tax returns. These avoidable errors can affect tax bills, delay the processing of returns and draw the attention of tax collection agencies.

1. Making math mistakes - Review your returns to make sure your math is correct. If you find a mistake, remember to revise all calculations affected by the error.

2. Forgetting to sign and date your returns - Make sure you've signed and dated your returns.

3. Omitting needed Social Security numbers - Be sure you've entered the name and Social Security number for yourself, your spouse, each dependent, and each qualifying child for earned income credit, exactly as it appears on the individual's Social Security card.

4. Withholding too much - If you regularly get large federal

tax refunds, you're having too much withheld. This is not an error, but it has the effect of giving the government an interest-free loan. Changing the number of allowances you claim on your W-4 will reduce the federal tax refund you get and increase your take-home pay.

5. Forgetting to keep sufficient documentation - Make copies of everything you send when you mail your returns.

6. Overpaying your Social Security taxes - If you worked for more than one employer in 1999, you may have overpaid your federal Social Security taxes. The instructions that come with your Form 1040 will tell you how to claim a credit.

7. Leaving off attachments - Make sure you've completed and attached all required schedules and forms to your returns.

8. Failing to document charitable donations - For charitable donations of \$250 or more, written acknowledgement from the charity at the time of the donation is required. A cancelled check is no longer sufficient. If

your gift was property rather than cash, the acknowledgement must describe the property.

9. Forgetting about carry-forwards from prior years - Be sure to check your returns from previous years to see if there are any items to be carried forward to this year, such as capital losses or charitable deductions that exceeded the amount you were able to deduct in prior years.

10. Unnecessarily declaring your state tax refund as income - If you received a state tax refund or a refund of interest on a mortgage in an earlier year, be sure you have not included too much of your refund in your income. The refunds may not be taxable if you did not get a tax benefit from deducting them. If, for example, you used the standard deduction in the year in which the taxes or interest were paid, you do not have to include the refund in income this year.

And one more mistake many people make:

Relying too much on tax software or part-time tax assistants -

While the answers and results you get will probably be correct, you may miss out on significant benefits and the guidance, assis-

tance, and preparation skills that full-time tax professionals such as Certified Public Accountants may be able to provide.

Tips And Taxes

AREA — Do you work at a hair salon, barber shop, casino, golf course, hotel or restaurant or drive a taxicab? The tip income you receive as an employee from those services is taxable income, advises the IRS.

As taxable income, these tips are subject to federal income, Social Security and Medicare taxes, and may be subject to state income tax as well.

You must keep a running daily log of all your tip income. You can use IRS Publication 1244, "Employee's Daily Record of Tips and Report of Tips to Employer," to record your tip income. For a free copy of Publication 1244, call the IRS toll free at 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you receive \$20 or more in

tips in any one month, you should report all your tips to your employer. Your employer is required to withhold federal income, Social Security and Medicare taxes and to report the correct amount of your earnings to the Social Security Administration (which affects your benefits when you retire or if you become disabled, or your family's benefits if you die).

For more information, check out IRS Publication 531, "Reporting Tip Income," or Publication 3148, "Tips on Tips." They are available by calling 1-800-829-3676 or by going to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. For recorded tax information on tips, call the toll free TeleTax number, 1-800-829-4477, and select topic 402.

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Rate Reduction Credit And Rebate

AREA — The IRS says there's a new line on the federal income tax form this year, but many people won't have to use it. This line - line 47 on the Form 1040, line 30 on the 1040A and line 7 on the 1040 EZ - is for the Rate Reduction Credit.

Use this line to claim any additional amount you qualify for if you did not receive last summer's Advance Payment (sometimes called the "rebate") in the maximum amount for your filing status. The maximum amounts are:

- \$300 for a single person or a married person filing separately
- \$500 for a head of household
- \$600 for a married couple filing jointly or a qualifying widow(er)

You should also use this line if you never received your Advance Payment because it was returned as undeliverable, or it was lost or

stolen, and the Treasury did not issue you a replacement by the end of December 2001.

If your Advance Payment was reduced or entirely offset by outstanding government debts, such as back taxes or a student loan, do not claim the Rate Reduction Credit for any amount so withheld - you already received the benefit of the Advance Payment when it was used to pay your debts.

If you already received the maximum amount of Advance Payment for your filing status, just skip the Rate Reduction Credit line on your tax form. If you are not due a Rate Reduction Credit but you enter an amount on the line instead of leaving it blank, this will cause a delay in processing your return.

The IRS mailed each taxpayer a notice with the advance payment amount before sending the check.

If you are unsure how much your advance payment was and you cannot locate that notice, call the IRS TeleTax system toll-free at 1-800-829-4477 to check on the amount.

The credit and the Advance Payments are how the new tax law gives one of its main benefits for 2001 - a 10% tax rate. Instead of having people wait until they filed their tax returns to get a larger refund, the law provided for Advance Payments to be made last year, based on a person's 2000 tax return. If the 2001 income and filing status would give a larger benefit than the Advance Payment, the taxpayer may claim the difference as a Rate Reduction Credit on the 2001 return.

Dependents were not eligible for Advance Payments or the Rate Reduction Credits, but they may get the benefit of the lower tax rate by completing the "Tax Computation Worksheet for Certain Dependents" in the tax instructions.

If you made an error related to this credit on your return, wait to see if the IRS catches it during processing. If the IRS does not contact you by the time you receive your refund, file an amended return to correct the error.

Kenneth Vercammen, Esq.

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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

Coverdell Education Savings Accounts Can Make Education Costs Less Taxing

AREA — The Coverdell Education Savings Account is an incentive to help parents and students save for education. Up to \$2,000 may be contributed to a child's Coverdell ESA each year, starting in 2002; the limit was \$500 before this year. Earnings on contributions will be distributed tax free, provided that they are used to pay the beneficiary's elementary or secondary school or college education expenses.

Any individual who meets adjusted gross income (AGI)

requirements can make a non-deductible contribution on behalf of a child under the age of 18. The AGI requirements are \$95,000 for single taxpayers and \$190,000 for married taxpayers. The \$2,000 annual contribution limit is phased out for single taxpayers with AGI of \$95,000 to \$110,000 and for joint filers with AGI of \$190,000 to \$220,000.

While a child may be the beneficiary of any number of Coverdell ESAs, the total contributions for the child during any

tax year cannot exceed \$2,000.

Starting with the 2002 tax year, contributions to a Coverdell ESA may be made until the due date of the contributor's return, without extensions. Note that this does not apply to contributions for 2001, which must have been made by last December 31.

Distributions are tax-free as long as they are used for qualified education expenses, such as tuition, books, fees, room and board, etc. This income exclusion is not available for any

expenses for which the Hope credit or the lifetime learning credit is claimed for that student. If the distribution exceeds education expenses, a portion will be taxable to the beneficiary and will be subject to a 10% tax penalty. Exceptions to the penalty include death, disability or if the beneficiary receives a qualified scholarship.

If there is a balance in the Coverdell ESA at the time the beneficiary reaches 30 years old, it must be distributed within 30 days.

A portion representing earnings on the account will be taxable and subject to a 10% penalty. The beneficiary may avoid this tax and penalty by rolling over the full balance to another Coverdell ESA for another family member.

For more information, check out IRS Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Higher Education." It's available on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov through the "Forms and Publications Finder," or by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Tax Assistance For Individuals With Disabilities And The Hearing-Impaired

AREA — Are you unable to complete your federal income tax return because of a physical disability or hearing impairment? Get help from the IRS through its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, or through a special TDD phone number available in both English and Spanish.

The VITA program has IRS-trained volunteers who provide free tax assistance at neighborhood locations such as churches,

schools, libraries and community centers. VITA is aimed at those who may find it difficult to pay for tax assistance. These may include people with low or fixed incomes, non-English-speaking people, people with disabilities or special needs, and the elderly.

The TCE program is designed primarily for people 60 years of age or older — particularly those individuals confined to their homes or retirement communities. Again, IRS-trained volunteers from local non-profit organ-

izations provide free tax counseling and basic income tax return preparation to senior citizens. Volunteers may travel to your home if you are unable to get to a local TCE site.

Telephone help using TDD equipment is available to you in both English and Spanish if you

have impaired hearing. The toll-free number is 1-800-829-4059. If you do not have TDD equipment, you may be able to get assistance through local agencies for the hearing-impaired.

To find a VITA or TCE site close to you, call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040. For informa-

tion on areas of tax law that may affect persons with disabilities, get the free IRS Publication 907, "Information for Persons with Disabilities." You may download publications from the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov, or order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Unemployment Benefits Manual Available

AREA — Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), which coordinates the Legal Services system of non-profit, no-fee legal aid providers in the state, has announced the publication of "Your Right to Unemployment Benefits in New Jersey." The 71-page booklet contains information on eligibility for unemployment benefits, application procedures, the calculation of weekly benefits, and the appeals process. The booklet is available to low-income people free of charge from LSNJ and local

Legal Services programs across the state, and may also be purchased by others at a price of \$15 per copy.

Those interested in obtaining a copy of "Your Right to Unemployment Benefits in New Jersey" should contact their local Legal Services office, write to LSNJ at 100 Metroplex Drive, Suite 402, Edison, New Jersey 08818-1357, or call LSNJ at 732-572-9100. An order form for the publication is also available on the LSNJ web site, www.lsnj.org.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Don't Overlook Home Mortgage Points

AREA — Did you buy or build a new home in 2001? Many new homeowners don't know that they can deduct points paid on home mortgage loans. The IRS reminds homeowners that this can really pay off because some home mortgage points are fully deductible in the year they are paid.

To fully deduct mortgage points in the year paid, the following requirements must be met:

1. Your main home secures your loan.
2. Paying points is an established business practice in your area.
3. The points paid were not more than the amount generally charged in that area.
4. You use the cash method of accounting. This means you report income in the year you receive it and deduct expenses in the year you pay them.
5. The points were not paid for

items that usually are separately stated on the settlement sheet, such as appraisal fees, inspection fees, title fees, attorney fees, and property taxes.

6. You used your loan to buy or build your main home.

7. The points were computed as a percentage of the principal amount of the mortgage.

8. The amount is clearly shown on your settlement statement.

9. The funds you provided at or before closing, plus any points the seller paid, were at least as much as the points charged. You

cannot have borrowed the funds from your lender or mortgage broker.

More information on buying, owning or selling a home is available from the IRS. Call the toll-free IRS customer service line at 1-800-829-1040, or look for more information on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. Publication 530, "Tax Information for First-Time Homeowners," and Publication 936, "Home Mortgage Interest Deduction," are available on the Web site through the "Forms and Publications Finder."

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week of: 3/10/02 - 3/16/02		
WINNING PICK-3	WINNING PICK-4	JERSEY CASH-5
SUNDAY, Mar. 10		SUNDAY, Mar. 10
Mid-Day 757	5536	8-11-18-24-34
Evening 327	7505	MONDAY, Mar. 11
MONDAY, Mar. 11		2-8-13-24-36
Mid-Day 427	7387	TUESDAY, Mar. 12
Evening 915	5323	1-25-27-30-37
TUESDAY, Mar. 12		WEDNESDAY, Mar. 13
Mid-Day 615	3494	23-32-33-35-37
Evening 580	2898	THURSDAY, Mar. 14
WEDNESDAY, Mar. 13		8-12-20-24-34
Mid-Day 126	7918	FRIDAY, Mar. 15
Evening 247	7908	6-7-10-13-24
THURSDAY, Mar. 14		SATURDAY, Mar. 16
Mid-Day 640	5182	4-20-31-33-36
Evening 610	5000	
FRIDAY, Mar. 15		BIG GAME WINNING Numbers
Mid-Day 887	4308	TUESDAY, Mar. 12
Evening 108	5759	4-8-20-29-47/5
SATURDAY, Mar. 16		FRIDAY, Mar. 15
Mid-Day 068	5267	5-10-22-34-45/2
Evening 718	1928	
WINNING PICK-6 Numbers		LOTZEE WINNING Numbers
MONDAY, Mar. 11		WEDNESDAY, Mar. 13
13-26-30-31-33-36		10-25-58-70
THURSDAY, Mar. 14		SATURDAY, Mar. 16
9-14-25-32-33-35		8-13-42-60

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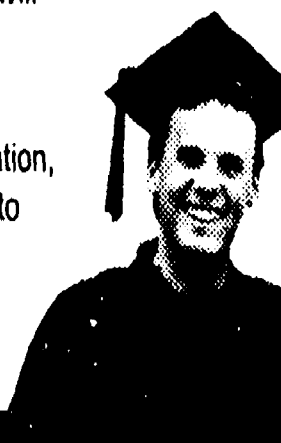
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EDITORIAL



Readers Commentary...

Dear Editor,

It is just not right.

Military retirees with service connected disabilities continue to have their Defense Department retired pay reduced by the amount of disability compensation that they receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

If these half-million veterans left the military after they incurred their service-connected disabilities, and retired from any other federal agency except a branch of the U.S. armed forces, they would receive both retired pay and disability compensation in full. Service-connected military retirees make a sacrifice that no other service-con-

nected federal retiree makes.

It is a circumstance brought about by a century-old law. Congress came as close as ever to changing that law in the defense budget.

A House-Senate conference committee, on December 11, voted in principle to end pay cuts for service-disabled military retirees. But it failed to appropriate the funds to do so.

In so doing, conferees passed the buck on this issue to the administration and undermined the will of the majority in Congress that co-sponsored "concurrent receipt" legislation.

The original "concurrent receipt" legislation, introduced by Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and Representative Mike Bilirakis of Florida, fit the practical definition of bipartisan - with 75 Senate co-sponsors and 378 House co-sponsors - and it should have breezed

through Congress, not compromised by the conference committee. The case is not closed. The American Legion will continue to fight for service-disabled military retirees by encouraging Congress to fund "concurrent receipt" provisions in the 2003 fiscal year's budget.

I invite concerned veterans to make their voices heard with their congressional delegations. It is high time, indeed long overdue, for veterans who earned both retired pay and disability compensation to receive their full and just benefits.

Gene Buser

Vice Chairman,

The American Legion

Department (State) of NJ

Public Relations.



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

Can you imagine every year on March 17th, celebrating St. Maewyn's Day? Of course not, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day. But did you know that St. Patrick was not named Patrick nor was he from Ireland. He was born Maewyn Succat and was born in Scotland. Around the age of sixteen, he was kidnaped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland where he spent six years tending sheep. Maewyn, or St. Patrick is known for converting Ireland from Druidism to Christianity and for his explanation of the Holy Trinity using a shamrock. But he is probably best known for the legend that tells he drove all the snakes in Ireland to the sea where they

drowned. St. Patrick's Day is a great way to celebrate Irish culture and heritage even for those who aren't Irish.

But the history of the Irish is not all parades and corned beef. Like many before and many after, the story of the Irish is one that is also riddled with suffering and loss.

Around the beginning of the 1800s, Britain was at war with France and relied on Ireland for foodstuffs. At the time there was a baby boom in Ireland as well as an agricultural boom. Potatoes became the primary source of sustenance for Ireland. But things had changed by 1815 because Britain and France were no longer at war so Britain no longer needed Ireland to provide food for them. The situation only got worse. A fungus began to attack and destroy the potato crops throughout all of Ireland. It has

been said that every crop in Ireland was infected. 20% of Ireland's population—1.5 million people—died of starvation.

These hardships left many Irish people with no choice but to emigrate to America. The people who could not afford the expensive tickets made the 6-8 day journey in the lower, over-crowded decks. The conditions were unsanitary. There was often no food and illnesses were spread.

Some Irish leaving poor and destitute conditions for a better life in America didn't always find it better in America. Many Irish lived on the street or in the slums of the cities. The Irish were faced with prejudice and bigotry. There was a time when it was acceptable for classified ads to read: "Irish need not apply". But even the most poor and destitute worked hard and sacrificed so that their sons and daughters knew a better

life than they did. While many of the Irish who came were poor and unskilled, there were also those who were educated and often became very successful in America. It became common for Irish men to be police officers or work on the railroad. Eventually, the prejudice following the Irish faded and many Irish-Americans became well-known and contributed greatly to our society.

Our libraries are filled with the literary masterpieces of great Irish-American authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald, Flannery O'Connor, and Frank McCourt. The stages and big screens were graced with the presence of many actors including James Cagney, Gregory Peck, Grace Kelly, Eugene O'Neill, and Gene Kelly, to name just a few. Sandra Day O'Connor, Irish-American, was the first woman to sit on the

Supreme Court. The presidency has been filled by Irish-Americans twice in the history of our country: Andrew Jackson, our 7th President, and John F. Kennedy, our 35th president. The presidency is not the only realm of politics Irish-Americans have made their mark. Our own Governor and former Woodbridge Mayor James E. McGreevey is a proud Irish-American. Also most of the Kennedy klan has been involved in politics, particularly Joseph, Bobby, and Edward. Eugene McCarthy was a Congressman from Minnesota and the presidential candidate in 1968.

We know all of these Irish-Americans who made great contributions to our country. We can add to them the millions of nameless Irish-Americans who work every day to make our towns and our country a better place.

A Tale of Two Dollars

By Jon Shure

In the midst of a budget crisis like the one New Jersey faces now every dollar counts. But when it comes to the impact a dollar can have on the economy and the overall wellbeing of the public, the truth is that some dollars count more than others.

Let's examine, then, a tale of two dollars. The first dollar is one that the state can save by cutting a program. The second dollar is one that the state can raise by increasing a tax on the wealthiest residents. Forget for a moment, the political implications of this exercise. After all, it goes without saying that while there are more people struggling to support their families than there are folks making more than, say \$200,000 a year, the ones with the money tend to have more influence over the political system.

What happens when the state cuts a dollar from the budget? The person or family who would have gotten that buck now has one dollar less to spend. And what happens when the state raises taxes by a dollar? The person whose taxes went up also has one dollar less to spend.

But there the similarities end. A recent report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities by Peter Orszag and Joseph Stiglitz points out that the adverse impact on a state's economy from a tax increase is less than it is from budget cuts-provided that the "right" people are taxed. Lower-income families are more likely than wealthier families to

spend every dollar they get (the exception apparently being Enron's Kenneth Lay and his family). This isn't because lower-income folks are irresponsible. It's because just paying for the basics of life spreads the family budget too thin to allow for saving. Keep in mind that while the minimum wage in New Jersey is \$5.15 an hour, same as the federal minimum, the "living wage" needed to become self-sufficient is more like \$8.50.

When you tax a high-income family the picture is different. Some portion of that dollar is likely to come out of their savings. As the Congressional Budget Office found in a report last month, the higher a household's income the lower proportion of that income is spent.

Not only do lower-income people spend a greater share of each dollar they get, but they tend to spend it closer to home. People buying refrigerators or school supplies are more likely to make those purchases in New Jersey than those spending on vacations. So budget cuts can dampen the state's economy more than tax increases would.

The point here isn't that tax increases stimulate the economy. Indeed, spending cuts and tax hikes are both what economists call "contractionary;" they take money out of the system. But cutting programs that provide income support or essential services to lower-income people is more contractionary than raising taxes on the wealthiest people. And of course in a time of recession it isn't just the state that is hurting for money. People are too. So demand for programs like unemployment insurance, food stamps and Medicaid goes up. Cutting those programs gives people less to spend and reduces consumption even more. It's a downward spiral, which is why the best stimulus package might be to resist

massive budget cuts and to support consumer spending by putting dollars into those households most likely to spend them the fastest.

Some states are catching on. Colorado, Nebraska and Ohio are exempting programs like Medicaid from budget cuts. Hawaii lowered the number of hours that part-timer workers have to be employed in order to get public assistance. Florida and Virginia are delaying tax cuts that had been scheduled for this year. Virginia also is increasing unemployment insurance benefits, as is California. Alabama, North Carolina and Ohio are raising taxes to help balance their budgets. In North Carolina the tax increase affected only married couples making more than \$200,000 and singles over \$120,000, while California is considering a new, temporary tax bracket for income over \$260,000.

This is a nationwide problem, to be sure. According to the National Governors Association, total state budget shortfalls in the current fiscal year will surpass \$40 billion, with New Jersey among a handful of states where the gap is expected to exceed \$1 billion. That's not chickenfeed. And dealing with the problem isn't a job for the chicken-hearted. As memories of the boom of the 1990s fade and New Jersey faces up to the sobering task ahead, we would be wise to steer clear of seemingly easy answers like across-the-board budget cuts or "read my lips" pledges against tax hikes. What's shaping up as the worst budget crisis in 20 years demands a more reasoned approach.

Jon Shure is president of New Jersey Policy Perspective, a Trenton-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that conducts research on state issues.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Chamber Of Commerce Lists Events For 2002

PERTH AMBOY—The Perth Amboy Chamber of Commerce has listed the upcoming events for 2002:

April 29—Bizmania 2002 Networking Expo. (Royal Albert Palace, Fords at 4:30 p.m.); May 23–27—Sidewalk Sale (Thursday–Monday); June

20–23—Sidewalk Sale (Thursday–Sunday); July 13 and 14—Waterfront Festival (rain date, July 20 and 21); July 18–21—Sidewalk Sale (Thursday–Sunday); Aug. 15–18—Sidewalk Sale (Thursday–Sunday); Sept. 12—Golf Outing, at the Battleground

Country Club, 10 a.m.; Sept. 19–22—Sidewalk Sale (Thursday–Sunday); Oct. 17—Business Leader/Heroism of the Year Dinner; Dec. 7—Christmas Parade at 1 p.m.; and Dec. 13—Holiday Decorating Contest at 6 p.m.

The Story Of New Jersey's Railroads

EDISON—The Metuchen-E Edison Historical Society continues its Sunday Series with a program on the history of railroads in New Jersey. This informative slide show/lecture will be presented by Mitch Dakelman, who last year spoke before the Society on the history of the Lincoln Highway.

Beginning in the 1830s, railroads changed the landscape of

New Jersey. Lines such as the Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley and the Reading all connected Metuchen to a growing nation with a ribbon of steel. These old railroads are mostly just a memory today.

The Railroad program will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. in the Community Room of the Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Avenue (Route

27). The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the reading.

If you are interested in railroads, or if you remember riding the rails during the golden age of railroads, this program will be of interest to you.

For more information, contact Carol Bertrand at (732) 549-8405.

Perth Amboy Breaks Ground On Sidewalk Project

PERTH AMBOY—Mayor Joseph Vas held a groundbreaking ceremony for the ambitious, million-dollar Sidewalk Improvement Project along Amboy Avenue— one of the main transportation arteries in Perth Amboy. Drawing on the success of the Smith Street and State Street Sidewalk Improvement Projects, which provided a total aesthetic facelift to the downtown business district, the city decided to conduct a complete overhaul of the Amboy Avenue area.

"Amboy Avenue provides direct access to our city from neighboring Woodbridge and Route 440. When this project is completed, we will have successfully created a welcoming

route into our city from every avenue. This project is also another 'win-win' situation for our residents because it provides a complete aesthetic boost to the neighborhood at no cost to our taxpayers," stated Mayor Vas.

The \$1,000,000 project is being funded entirely by the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) Assistance Fund, which allows the city to redirect the 3 percent sales tax collected by participating businesses to pay for capital improvements. In addition, the project will create eight temporary, full-time jobs.

The project will focus on the heart of Amboy Avenue's business district, which runs from New Brunswick Avenue to

Meredith Street. Amboy Avenue plays an integral role in providing a direct route into and out of the city. At its northern most end, it connects to Route 440 and the Outerbridge Crossing and also leads directly into neighboring Woodbridge.

The project is being constructed by Jenicar Builders of Kearny, the same company that was responsible for the State Street improvements. The project has been designed by the Aybar Partnership of Ridgefield, the same company that oversaw the Smith Street and State Street phases. The city expects to have the entire project completed within 180 days, as specified in the contractor's bid.

The Leisure Club

AREA—If you are a resident of Sayreville, South River, South Amboy or Perth Amboy, you are invited to join The Leisure Club.

This small, friendly senior (62+) club meets the first Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Sayreville

Senior Center. There are short meetings where a lite lunch is provided and bingo games proceed the meeting. The dues are \$5 per year.

For information, call Mary Dennis at (732) 257-7044 or Bob Rolzhausen at (732) 721-0262.

Local Student Creates Children's Calendar

EDISON—For Rider University junior Nancy Capasso of Edison, a picture is worth more than a thousands words.

The French major photographed several Jamaican children while on a trip to the island in January 2001 with a group of Rider students. Taking part in the University's international service learning program, the students worked with and learned much from the youngsters, many of whom resided at Pringle Home, an orphanage in St. Mary's Parish.

The annual trip is coordinated each year by the Rev. Nancy Schluter, Rider's Protestant Chaplain and Don Brown, director of Rider's Center for Multicultural Affairs and Community Service.

During the past year, instead of writing a paper about her experience Capasso opted to design and produce a calendar featuring the children in action. Using the catchy island phrase, "Jamaica Me Crazy" as the calendar's theme, Capasso created a colorful design

concept and collaborated with Rider's Center for Multicultural Affairs and Community Service and Campus Ministry to set the calendar project in motion. The calendars were first presented to the Pringle Home and various Jamaican organizations this past January.

With suggested donations at \$6 a calendar for current Rider students and \$10 a calendar for alumni, faculty, staff and the public, proceeds will benefit The Brian Putman Foundation. The late Brian Putman '99 was one of the Rider students who took the trip two years before Capasso's visit. After he died in an auto accident in May of 2000, his family established the foundation during the summer of that year to aid the children of Pringle Home.

To place calendar orders, call the Rev. Nancy Schluter at Gill Chapel at ext. 5180 or Don Brown at the Center for Multicultural Affairs and Community Service at ext. 5781.



TEACHER AWARDED GRANT—Richard Nicoletti (C.) a teacher at Perth Amboy High School, was awarded a Joan Lavine Keats Social Justice Teaching Grant by the Julius and Dorothy Koppleman Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center at Rider University in Lawrenceville in recognition and support of his efforts in advanced Holocaust/Genocide education and reducing hatred and bigotry. Congratulating him on the award are co-directors Dr. Harvey Kornberg (L.), associate professor of political science and Dr. Marvin Goldstein (R.), associate professor of psychology. The grant will be used to provide materials for Genocide/Prejudice reduction education.

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

SWF-49, affectionate and honest. Enjoys fun times, dancing, movies, walking, sight seeing, music. Would like to meet a SWM, 45-56 who is an honest and caring man. ID# 1081

SWF-42, 5'8" in great shape, attractive, Irish, great cook, college educated. Loves dancing, dining in or out, traveling. Seeks SWM, 5'9" to 6' tall, handsome, successful and who is seeking a great friend. Must send recent photo. ID# 1080

SWF-60's, petite, seeking professional, (in 60-80yr range) who is an honest man, for marriage. ID# 1077

Recent Widow-Sad and blue, would like to meet a man like you! I am 58, 5'3" 118lbs. Financially secure, kind & generous and pretty also. Love cooking, games, prefer WWOM 60 yrs + with a sense of humor. Let's start anew in 2002 ID# 1063

WWF-My New Years resolution is to find a gentle man who is in his early 60's, family oriented, a big heart and needs someone like me. Can you help me out? ID# 1061

DWF 43, -5'3" N/S brown hair, brown eyes and mom to one child. Positive, outgoing, passionate, ISO F/S mate for steady relationship. ID# 1060

WWF 57, -slim, attractive, full of life, creative, caring, multi-interests. Looking for a man 50-65 with similar characteristics. ID# 1054

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

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

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

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

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

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

SWM, 44, 6'2", eyes of blue, NM, NS. I am seeking a SF, for a meaningful relationship (35-44) leading to marriage. My interests include movies, dining out, dancing, sporting events and taking walks. Please respond with a note and phone number, thank you. ID# 1079

SWM, 37, 6' 210 lbs, brown hair, green eyes, very sports oriented. In search of an attractive woman in the 40's, non smoker, social drinker or non-drinker to have some fun. Pool, dinners, movies etc. ID# 1075

Marriage minded, 50 yr old WWOM, F/S, no kids, 6' 180 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, smoker. Enjoys candle-lit dinners, long drives, antiquing, reading novels, and being romantic. Looking for a lady with similar interests, 40-55 ID# 1076

SWM, 41, 6', 145lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, N/S, likes to hike, sight-see. I am an old fashioned gentleman who is looking for my lady with whom I wish to share a lifetime of happiness and togetherness with ID# 1072

DWM, 45, N/S, no children, ISO female who like me, enjoys quiet times, hugs.

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

kisses and cuddling. For long-term relationship, possible commitment. ID# 1071

DWCM, ISO short female, 40's-50's, sensitive, kind, down to earth; togetherness, LTR. I'm 5'8", strong 175, young 54, hair, educated, homeowner, F/S, no bad habits, retired. Enjoy nature, shore, dining out, animals, homelife. Include phone #, message. ID# 1068

Single Black male, seeks single attractive passionate, 30-40 yrs, hispanic female non-smoking, physical and nice appearance. Let's talk. ID# 1068

Single Male 42, of mixed descent, seeks a nice lady. If you like riding the train, CD101.9 radio, watching Jeopardy on TV, or are just curious, send me a letter. Let's talk over a drink. ID# 1067

SWM 46, 6'2, 230 lbs seeking SDWWIA 30-50 female, who enjoys movies, New York, Vids, music, travel and walks on the beach. ID# 1065

SWM, never-married, 44, 5'9". Seeks black woman 25-50 for dating and relationship. Possible marriage in the future, must be affectionate and love to be cuddled. ID# 1066

Union County Gentleman, starting over. Mid-50's, easy going, secure w/no vices. I'm not looking for the impossible! ISO caring, honest, F/S, affectionate slim lady that appreciates TLC. ID# 1064

DWM 53, 5'10", N/S, no pets, salt & pepper hair, hazel eyes, stocky build, 190lbs. Seeking SWF or DWF to share with me all the fun and excitement Atlantic City casinos have to offer. Movies, ball room dancing, languages are my hobbies. Hispanics, Orientals ok. You won't be sorry ID# 1062

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Hi, I am a 34 year old Jewish male, 5'7", who is a college grad and N/S. I'm looking for a single Jewish female, 25-37, for a serious relationship. I'm a big sports fan & have additional interests such as dining out & going to the movies. Give me a try, you'll never know what you'll get! ID# 1058

SWM 48, Athletic build, blue eyes, good looking, N/S, enjoys music (rock, "big hair bands") movies, walking and good times together. Like to meet cute WF who can cook. Teach me! ID# 1059

SWM 45, never married, 5'10", 150 lbs. Kind, considerate, honest, open-minded. Enjoys art, music, movies, reading, traveling and bicycling. Seeks vivacious SWF 30-45 to share life with. ID# 1056

SWM 45, 5'10" 170 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Enjoys cooking, dining out, good conversation, movies and fun with kids. Looking for a SWW, 40-46, honest, pretty for a LTR & friendship. Good shape and fun loving. ID# 1055

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

Old Fashioned, Christian man seeking marriage minded christian woman, 35-60. I enjoy bible study, nature, zoos, NYC, water falls, fire places and hugs. Write and include phone number. ID# 1049

SWM, 44, N/S, 6'2", eyes of blue, seeks N/S female for a very special relationship. Physical features are not as important as in having a heart of gold. I enjoy movies, dining out, sporting events and taking walks. ID# 1051

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

Hi, I am a SWM, 49, 6'1" and 185lbs I am

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

looking to meet a woman for love and LT relationship. I'm sensitive, easy going, sensuous, very secure and honest. Give me a try-nothing to lose. ID# 1039

DWM, 55, 5'10", NS, no children 185lbs. Seeking SWF 45-65, totally childless, not too thin, NS. Loves homelife, movies, music, quiet times and travelling, for friendship first. ID# 1057

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

FRIENDS

VERY, very old, very erudite gentleman. Have been all things to many, many people. Now a widower. Self taught artist, b/w photographer, currently a writer. Write letters first, then maybe face to face. I will answer all ladies and gentlemen. ID# 1074

SWF 53 -Hi, I enjoy drives to the country, dining out, dancing and traveling. Prefer a man to be between 55-60 years of age. ID# 1053

ALTERNATIVE

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

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

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

See The "Tribute In Light"

SOUTH AMBOY—New Jerseyans who want to see the "Tribute in Light" Exhibition where the World Trade Center once stood will be able to get an excellent view of the display.

SeaStreak, which is based in Atlantic Highlands and runs daily commuter ferry service to Manhattan, has been overwhelmed with requests from the public to see the new exhibit, which opened last week.

David Stafford, General Manager of SeaStreak USA, says, "In order to accommodate the many demands we have received from the public, SeaStreak has arranged to provide discounted service for people who want to ride the ferry specifically to see the exhibit. For those people who will stay on board our vessel and see this outstanding display, we are offering a special \$10 fare. So many people in New Jersey were

impacted by the horrific events of September 11th that we want to help them to get a look at the "Tribute In Light." We think it's an important part of the healing process."

A SeaStreak vessel will depart the Highlands terminal weekdays at 7:15 p.m. and return at 9:33 p.m. On weekends, the vessel will leave the Highlands at 6:40 p.m. and return at 8:45 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

The "Tribute In Light" Exhibition will be a fixture in the New York Skyline from dusk until 11:00 p.m. every night through April 13, 2002.

SeaStreak, based in Atlantic Highlands, also offers commuter ferry service to New York from the new redeveloped South Amboy waterfront to Pier 11 (Wall Street) and East 34th Street.

For more information, visit www.seastreakusa.com

Remembering The Past

SOUTH AMBOY—The Dowdell Library on South Amboy will have a collection of Titanic memorabilia on display for the month of March courtesy of Brittany Biesiada. All are welcome to visit the library to view this wonderful collection.

For A Good Meal

FORDS - Knight of Columbus Council 9199 once again is sponsoring a Linguini Dinner every Friday during Lent except Good Friday in the Our Lady of Peace Annex in Fords.

Dinners will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and will include either marinara or white clam sauce over linguini, salad, dessert, soda, coffee and the world's best garlic bread.

Admission to this dinner is just \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens, \$2 for kids ages five to 16. Anyone under 5 is admitted free.

The council is also offering a special family price of \$15 that covers two parents and all children under the age of 16.

Children's Activities At Carteret Library

CARTERET—The Carteret Public Library announces Children's Activities for April. Registration is March 25 and 26 from 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Call (732) 541-3830.

The following is the schedule for April:

April 2-Babysitting Part I from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For children ages 10-12. Limit 25.

April 3-Craft Day: 5-7 years old, 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 8-10 years old, 1:30-2:30 p.m.; and 11-13 years old, 3-4 p.m. Limit 20 per each session.

April 4-Babysitting Part II from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

April 5-"I Like Me" for ages 4-8 from 11-11:45 a.m. Limit 25.

April 9-Story Time for ages 4-5 from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

April 11-Story Time for ages 4-5 from 1:30-2:15 p.m.

April 16-Makeup Make Over girls for 7th and 8th grade at 3:30 p.m. Limit 25.

April 18-Beyond the Stars (Astronomy). Everyone is welcome at 7:15 p.m.

April 23-Storytime for ages 4-5 from 10:30-11:15 a.m.

April 25-Storytime for ages 4-5 from 1:30-2:15 p.m.

Fiesta Dinner-Theatre

PERTH AMBOY—The YMHA Senior Club and friends will visit the Fiesta Dinner Theatre in Wood-Ridge on Tuesday, May 14. The program is, "Grandpa Stole My Girlfriend," an original comedy where Grandpa and Grandson wind up with each other's blind dates. A happy ending for all takes place.

Guests, friends and members are invited to join us for the

special price of \$50 which includes transportation via coach bus and a selection of your main course.

Call (732) 442-0365 for information. If you are interested your \$25 deposit would be required now and full payment due on April 26.

The Y is located at 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy.

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SOUTH AMBOY-MANHATTAN FERRY SCHEDULE

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11:00am	4:30pm	4:15pm
3:10pm	6:45pm	6:30pm
5:25pm		

Tickets can be purchased at our South Amboy Ferry Landing, 135 Lower Main St., So. Amboy (site of the Reliant Energy Building) Mon.-Fri.: 5:30am-4:00pm; Sat. & Sun.: 10:00am-2:00pm, or by calling 1-800-BOATRIDE

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

High And Dry: Drought Restrictions Imposed

STATE - New Jersey residents and restaurants cannot serve cannot wash their cars or boats water unless customers ask for it

under drought restrictions imposed Monday. In hardest hit areas, residents will not be allowed to water their lawns this spring, said state Environmental Protection Commissioner

Bradley M. Campbell.

Only residents in central New Jersey and the northern coastal areas, where the drought is not as severe, will be allowed to water lawns, he said.

Much of the East Coast is suffering through an extraordinarily dry winter.

Only 5.32 inches of rain fell in New Jersey over the past three months — about half the normal amount. Last month was the driest February on record in the state.

Gov. James E. McGreevey signed an executive order declaring a water emergency in the state last week giving Campbell the authority to impose mandatory water restrictions and conservation measures, tailored to

the needs of each region of the state.

"The continued lack of precipitation has left our reservoirs and surface waters at record low levels," added Campbell. Campbell said reservoirs throughout the State are below normal, with northeast reservoirs the lowest at 45 percent below normal levels. Stream flow levels also are declining, and many are at record lows.

The DEP had issued a drought warning on Jan. 24. However, voluntary efforts to curtail water use have not succeeded in maintaining adequate water levels.

The state last declared water supply emergencies in 1999 and 1995.



Commissioner Bradley Campbell imposed restrictions on water use in response to the impact the state's dry winter has had on area reservoirs.

Tips For Saving Water

The state Department of Environmental Protection released these tips for saving water as it imposed new water use restrictions in response to the latest drought.

Repair leaky toilets. A leaky toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. A toilet leak can be detected by adding a few drops of food coloring to the water in the toilet tank. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

Repair leaky pipes and faucets. A slow steady drip can waste 350 gallons of water per month. Not only does this waste water it increases your sewer bill and can increase your energy costs if it is hot water.

Turn off faucets when not in use. Do not let the faucet run when shaving, use rinse water in the sink. Do not let the faucet run when brushing your teeth, use a glass of water to rinse. Do not let the faucet run until the water is cold enough to drink, refrigerate a pitcher of water. Do not let the faucet run when rinsing vegetables, use a pan of water or the sink instead. Defrost foods in the refrigerator or microwave rather than under running water. Install water conserving faucet aerators and showerheads.

If you do not have a low flow toilet, place a weighted plastic bottle in the tank to displace a portion of the water, taking care to keep the bottle clear of any moving parts.

Take shorter showers or a

shower instead of a bath.

Run washing machines only when full and on the proper load size selection.

Run dishwashers only when full, using the water saver feature if available. If pre-rinsing dishes use the sink and do not let the faucet run.

Turn off icemakers and use trays instead.

Use paper or recyclable plates and cups to cut down on dishwashing.

Use a broom or blower instead of the hose to clean off sidewalks and driveways.

Use water from the dehumidifier to water household plants.

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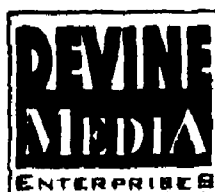
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HOLIDAY RECIPES

Matzah And More

From American Dairy Association And Dairy Council, Inc. and www.aish.com

Passover: this important Jewish holiday is the eight-day observance celebrating the freedom of Jewish slaves from Egypt. Over the years, elaborate customs have developed in preparation for the holiday.

A special dinner, or Seder, is the focal point of the Passover celebration. As is Jewish tradition the day begins at sundown the night before, making

Wednesday, March 27 the first night of Passover. Here, the story of the Exodus is read from the Haggadah, and liberation story is recalled with ritual song and food.

During Passover, only unleavened bread or *matzah* is permissible. The usual flours are replaced with matzah meal, matzah cake flour (finely ground matzah meal) and potato flour.

Celebrate Spring With an Easter Feast

Easter, it's the unofficial start to spring, a time to color eggs at the kitchen table and a time to watch children gleefully run across the fresh damp lawn in their new brightly colored Easter outfits. It's a time of blooming tulips, crocuses and daffodils, the beginning of spring cleanup and, of course, family gatherings.

Discover tempting new ways to add zest to your favorite meals; cooking wines provide the touch of flavor that makes everyday meals special, because they are especially selected for cooking.

Using bottled lemon juice from concentrate is a great way to add a citrusy zing to any dish.

With no slicing or squeezing required, and consistent taste from bottle to bottle, busy cooks will appreciate how easy it is to use.



Lemon-Herb Roast Chicken

Servings: 4

1 2 1/2- to 3-pound whole roasting chicken

Basting Sauce

1/3 cup ReaLemon Lemon Juice from Concentrate

1/4 cup Holland House Vermouth

Cooking Wine

1/4 cup oil

1/2 teaspoon rosemary

1/2 teaspoon thyme

1 clove garlic, minced

1. Remove giblets and rinse chicken; pat dry. In large nonmetal bowl, combine all basting sauce ingredients; mix well. Add chicken, turning to coat all sides. Cover; refrigerate 1 to 2 hours, turning several times. 2. Heat oven to 375°F. Remove chicken from basting sauce; reserve basting sauce. Place chicken, breast side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Brush with basting sauce. Roast at 375°F for 1 hour, or until chicken is tender and juices run clear, brushing with basting sauce halfway through roasting. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes before carving.

These restrictions have encouraged creative thinking among Jewish cooks throughout the ages. Family favorites such as French toast can be prepared using sponge cake from the previous night's Seder. Soaking matzah in milk, then crumbling and frying in butter produces matzah brie, a traditional breakfast treat. For further options this holiday season, ADADC provides the following recipes, courtesy of www.aish.com.

Unless otherwise noted, the following recipes are reprinted with permission from www.aish.com, an award-winning website that features Jewish wisdom on spirituality, family, Jewish holidays, plus a 24-hour live camera from the Western Wall. All recipes created by Emuna Braverman.

Berry-Topped Blintz Bake

Yield: 6 to 8 servings

Blintz: 4 ounces cream cheese, softened

1 container (8 ozs.) small curd cottage cheese

3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk, divided

1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided

1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon "Kosher for Passover"

potato starch, divided

3/4 teaspoon vanilla

3/4 cup dairy sour cream or sour half-and-half

1/4 cup milk

1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted

1 teaspoon grated lemon peel

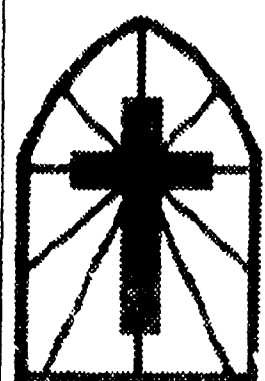
1 teaspoon "Kosher for Passover" baking powder

Topping:

1 cup fresh or frozen, thawed, mixed berries

3/4 cup blackberry or blueberry syrup

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8-inch square baking dish with 2-inch high sides. For blintz, place cream cheese, cottage cheese, egg yolk, 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 tablespoon flour and vanilla in blender container. Blend on low speed until smooth, stopping and scraping down sides of container once. Transfer cheese mixture to bowl; set aside. Do not wash blender. Place 3 eggs, the sour cream, milk, butter and lemon peel in blender container. Blend on medium speed until smooth. Add combined 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 cup sugar and baking powder. Blend on high speed until smooth. Pour half of batter into baking dish. Drop small spoonfuls of cheese mixture in evenly spaced rows on top of batter. Pour remaining batter on top. Bake until puffy and edges begin to turn golden, about 45 minutes. For topping, combine berries and syrup in small saucepan. Heat over low heat until warm, stirring occasionally. Cool blintz on wire rack 5 minutes. To serve, cut into squares; top with berries.



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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

ACROSS

1 Census data

5 Cretan mountain

8 Skewer

12 Horseback game

13 Scratch

14 - Major

15 Harrow rival

16 Bar snack

18 Religion of Japan

20 Mistreats

21 Elvers' elders

23 Tackle moguls

24 Team VIPs

28 Run in neutral

31 Farming (Abbr.)

32 "The 39 -"

34 Author Fleming

35 Pop singer Lisa

37 Some noble realms

39 Larry's pal

41 Costly

42 Superdome squad

45 Talisman

49 Came before

51 Soap actress Linda

52 Shrek, for one

53 First lady

54 Cheshire countenance

DOWN

1 "Planet of the -"

2 Barbarian

3 "The Time Machine", tribe

4 14-line verse

5 Rude

6 Historic org.

7 Vicinity

8 Violin method

9 Garrisoned fort

10 Man, for one

11 Cold War news agency

17 TV superstation

19 Afternoon socials

22 Golf Hall-of-Famer

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25 Past

26 Opening night

27 Butter knife

29 Felon's flight

30 Type units

33 Bridge coup

36 Joined

38 Menial worker

40 Hellene's H

42 Dalmatian's mark

43 Golden Fleece ship

44 Internalize anger

46 Fal

47 Oklahoma city

48 Stage award

50 Zsa Zsa's sister

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The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

Anna and David tapped into their deep feelings for each other as they exchanged wedding vows. Maggie told Bianca the truth about Frankie's murder. Zeke asked Vanessa to let her "Proteus" alter ego speak to him. Liza's behavior began to worry Ryan and Adam. Wait to See: Leo questions Vanessa's doctor. Liza disappears.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

John gave Hal his reluctant assurance that he'll help him. Julia sent Jack a "special delivery." A "changed" Rose returned to Oakdale. Hal began to recall a woman's name. Wait to See: Lisa has upsetting news for Isaac. Paul's words hit their target.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

(March 15 and 16 were pre-empted for NCAA Basketball.) Bridget was intrigued by Whip saying he knew things about Brooke that would shock her. While consoling Eric over Stephanie's departure, Rick suddenly realized why Massimo had trained him to be an effective Forrester executive. Later, Eric called Stephanie and begged her to come home. After Brooke

rejected his pass at her, Whip challenged her to prove she's over Deacon. Brooke later called Deacon and insisted he make Bridget his priority. Wait to See: Stephanie gets unsettling news.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Shawn asked Jan to move into his home. Kate told Nicole they should team up to stop Sami's wedding to Austin. Meanwhile, Austin and Sami tiffed over their future living arrangements. Jennifer's plan to seduce Jack took an unexpected turn. Despite making up with Philip, Chloe was tempted to look at the tape of Cynthia's making out with him. Marlena and Brady reached out to Belle, who was distraught over losing Shawn to Jan. Wait to See: Austin and Nicole grow closer. John confronts Shawn over Jan's pregnancy.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Lulu shocked Scott with the news that Laura won't marry him. Sarah told Lucky she planned to end the unhealthy relationship between him and Elizabeth. Later, Lucky unwittingly saw Sarah strip off her rain-soaked clothes and felt an immediate attraction to her. Taggart's suspicions were aroused when Courtney suddenly lashed out at Gia for causing the accident that hurt Elizabeth. Helena gave Nikolas a riddle about the sun and the dark of the moon and told him to figure it out. Wait to See: Nikolas turns to Luke for help.

GUIDING LIGHT

Gus resolved to finally put the past away and concentrate on the present. Frank decided Marina should be taught a severe lesson. Reva and Olivia had it out with each other. Richard faced an important decision. Wait to See: Ross finds his lies catching up with him. Marah confronts Catalina.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Cristian was devastated by the rumor of Jen and Al's imminent marriage. Seth put the deposit envelope in the bank, unaware that Al had taken money from it. Troy managed to free himself and saved Sam's life as the fun-house went up in flames.

Meanwhile, as Nora and Lindsay fought over possession of the confession tape, they realized the trash compactor was close to crushing them. A remark by Blair caused Viki to have a visit from Niki. Wait to See: Troy and Sam have a confrontation over Nora.

PASSIONS

Grace hoped to learn that the DNA tests would prove John is her son. Meanwhile, Ivy hoped her mysterious plan would get Eve to change the DNA test results. As Theresa watched Gwen and Ethan together, she thought more about Julian's plan. Meanwhile, Zombie Charity predicted Harmony would never be the same after tonight. Theresa declared herself Julian's widow and ordered Ivy and Rebecca to leave the Crane mansion. Tabitha unwittingly put Timmy in danger when he tried to help his beloved Charity. Brian wondered how "Diane" (Sheridan) learned a special tango step his mother taught him. Wait to See: Faith (Charity's mother) appears to Timmy with a plea for her daughter.

PORT CHARLES

Ed told Amy she may have unintentionally fallen in love with Ian, on whom she had planned to take vengeance for her father's death. Meanwhile, Paige remained vague when Kevin asked about other angels in Port Charles. Rafe realized he had only dreamed that Alison would die and take her place in the fifth chair. Later, he and Alison exchanged "wedding vows," and the two celebrated their "special" marriage by making love. Casey turned to Frank for help in dealing with Ricky's serious health condition. Wait to See: Jack confronts Jamal with the truth.

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Jack asked Phyllis to present a united front with him at Kyle's custody hearing. Meanwhile, Isabella told a troubled Diane to be careful around Michael. After Nikki canceled their nautical dinner, Victor looked at the engagement ring he bought for Nikki and suddenly recalled when Hope left Genoa City with Victor Jr. After Mac confirmed she'd broken off with Billy, Danielle began flirting with him. Ashley got the results of her mammogram. Wait to See: Victor makes an important decision.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Snowman's hat is bigger 2. Man's coat has a zipper 3. Toddler is wearing boots 4. Utility pole is missing 5. Window curtain is longer 6. Shovel handle is shorter

POPEYE

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HE HAS A VERY NICE VIEW OF THE BAY...

HE HAS SOME INTERESTING VIDEOTAPES...

...AND I LIKE THE NAUTICAL ATMOSPHERE...

...IT'S JUST THAT HIS FOOD LEAVES A LOT TO BE DESIRED...

to Puzzle

AGES	IDA	SPIT
POLO	MAR	URSA
EYON	PRETZELS	
SHINTO	ABUSES	
EELS	SKI	
CAPTAINS	IDLE	
AGR	STEPS	IAN
LOEB	EARLDOMS	
MOE	DEAR	
SAINTS	AMULET	
PREDATED	OANO	
OGRE	EVE	GAIN
TOED	WAR	EDDY

OBITUARIES**Anna M. Zielny, 83
of Fords**

Mrs. Anna M. Zielny of Fords died March 1 at home. She was 83.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Wallington before moving to Fords nine years ago. She was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace R.C. Church, Fords.

She was a member of the Wallington Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Zielny was a former member of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Church, Wallington and had been a member of the Rosary Con Fraternity at the church.

Surviving are a son, Paul Zielny of Fords; and two grandchildren, Michael Zielny and Kristy Zielny.

**Ramzy S. Eldeiry
of Port Reading**

Mr. Ramzy S. Eldeiry of Port Reading died March 2 in Holiday Care Center, Toms River. He was 79.

Born in Faiume, Egypt, he lived in New York City and Queens, N.Y., before moving to Port Reading in 1973. He was an electrical engineer with the New York Transit Authority for 25 years before retiring in 1992.

He graduated from Cairo University in Egypt in 1947. He was the co-founder and treasurer of St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church.

Surviving are son, Justin; a daughter, Nancy Coburger; a brother, Aziz; a sister, Noelle Alfonse; and two grandchildren.

**Raymond Tharaldsen
of Iselin**

Mr. Raymond H. "Uncle Ray" Tharaldsen of Iselin died March 2 at Rahway Hospital. He was 74.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Rahway for 40 years before moving to Iselin 16 years ago.

He was a chemical operator for ADM Corp., Elizabeth, for 32 years, retiring in 1990.

He was a World War II and Korean War Navy veteran.

Mr. Tharaldsen volunteered for the Rahway First Aid Squad and Rahway Special Police.

His wife, Margarette (nee Moore) died in 1992.

Surviving are two sons, Raymond H. Jr. of New Mexico and William of Linden; four daughters, Rosanna H. of Iselin, Beverly Caruth of New Mexico, Patricia Tharaldsen of California and Christina Tharaldsen of Pennsylvania; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Joseph Millhiser
of Colonia**

Mr. Joseph A. Millhiser of Colonia died March 1 in Port Orange, Fla., while vacationing with his fiancée. He was 79.

Born in Elizabeth, he resided in Colonia for the past 48 years.

He was a street supervisor for Elizabethtown Gas Co., for 42 years before retiring in 1985. He was a member of the Elizabethtown Gas Company Retirees Club.

Mr. Millhiser was an Army veteran of World War II. He served with the 328th Troop Carrier Squadron and was a long-time member of the China-Burma-India Hump Pilots Association, Inc. in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

He was a member of the American Association of Retired Persons, Woodbridge Chapter #3869, Elks Lodge 2116, Woodbridge and the Woodbridge Chapter of Widows & Widowers (WOWs).

Mr. Millhiser was a member of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Union.

His wife of 42 years, Ruth A. (Powell) Millhiser and his parents, Joseph and Albertine (Dietz) Millhiser, are all deceased.

**Edward E. Wirta, 90
of Colonia**

Mr. Edward E. Wirta of Colonia died March 3 at home. He was 90.

Born in Unity, N.H., he lived in East Orange before moving to Colonia 50 years ago.

He worked as a machinist for several small companies throughout New Jersey for over 50 years before retiring in 1976.

His wife, Mabel Wirta, died in 1985.

Surviving are a daughter, Joan Ruetsch of Edison; a son Wayne of Ortley Beach; a dear friend, Janet Corson of Roselle Park; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Elizabeth Huszar
of Carteret**

Mrs. Elizabeth (Tuska) Huszar of Carteret died March 3 at Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 75.

Born in Hungary, she was a resident of Carteret for the past 48 years.

She was a member of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Carteret.

Her husband, Erwin Huszar Sr., died in 1991.

Surviving are two sons, Edwin Huszar Jr. of Spotswood and Attila Huszar of Creedmoor, N.C.; a sister, Marie of Germany; four grandchildren, Gregory Huszar, Karianne Milsap, Daniel Huszar and Nicole Loprete; and a great-grandson, Nicholas Milsap.

**Joseph Wackar
of Carteret**

Mr. Joseph C. Wackar of Carteret died March 4 at home. He was 79.

Born in Port Monmouth, he resided in Carteret for the past 57 years.

He was an electrical supervisor for American Cyanamid Company, Linden for 40 years before his retirement and formerly owned and operated D & J Electric Co., Carteret.

Mr. Wackar was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Star Landing Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2314, Carteret.

He was a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus R.C. Church, Carteret and had been a member of the church choir.

Mr. Wackar was also a member of the Carteret Senior Citizens Afternoon Group.

He has been named to the Middletown Township Football Hall of Fame.

A daughter, Christine Wackar, died in 1992.

Surviving are his wife, Dorothy (Lisak) Wackar; two daughters, Dorothy Wackar-Braun of Watchung and Lisa Wackar-Farkas of California; four grandchildren, Kimberly Allen, Joseph C. Braun, Richard M. Braun and Jennifer Braun; three great-grandchildren, Donald Allen IV, Trevor Allen and Katie Allen; a sister, Janet Czugh of Port Monmouth; and a brother, Richard Wackar of Pitman.

**Gennaro DeJohn
of Edison**

Mr. Gennaro DeJohn of Edison died March 1 at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York. He was 52.

Born in Newark, he resided in Edison for the past 26 years.

He was a warehouseman for C&S, formerly Supermarkets General for 34 years.

Mr. DeJohn was a graduate of JFK High School. He served on the Board of Directors and was vice president for Midtown Little League. He was also an avid bowler with South Plainfield Industrial league. He played a role in the film, "Keeping the Faith."

His parents, Gennaro and Lucy DeJohn, are both deceased.

Surviving are his former wife, Kathy DeJohn; two sons, Brett Gennaro DeJohn of Salisbury, Md. and Patrick William DeJohn of Perth Amboy; two brothers, Joseph DeJohn of Carteret. Gary DeJohn of Clark; two sisters, Patricia Bayak of South Plainfield and Joanne Gauppo of Woodbridge; 13 nieces and nephews and many aunts and uncles.

**Mary Leitner, 85
of Perth Amboy**

Mrs. Mary (Thomas) Leitner of San Diego, Calif., (formerly of Perth Amboy) died March 2 at her home in San Diego, Calif. She was 85.

She was a communicant of St. John's Greek Catholic Church, Perth Amboy.

Her husband, Stephen Leitner and a son, Gary Leitner, are both deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Janice Leitner; a brother, Michael Thomas; two sisters, Rose Marie Fodor and Pauline Beres; and four grandchildren.

**Erasmus Arocho, 59
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Erasmus Arocho of Perth Amboy died March 3 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 59.

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

He worked in the maintenance department for Perth Amboy Board of Education for many years before retiring.

His father, Felix Roman, died in 1955; a sister, Josefina Gabriel, died in 1992 and a brother, Luis Arocho, died in 1994.

Surviving are his wife, Gloria (Selberg) Arocho; his mother, Petra (Aquino) Arocho of Perth Amboy; four sisters, Angelina Figueroa, Minerva Rios and Milagros Rosa, all of Perth Amboy; Aidee Bielowski of Parlin; and two brothers, Anastasio "Marty" Arocho of Parlin and William Arocho of Perth Amboy.

**Joseph P. Sirignano
of Perth Amboy**

Mr. Joseph P. Sirignano of Perth Amboy died March 3 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 60.

Born and raised in Staten Island, N.Y., he resided in Perth Amboy for the past 10 years.

He was a retired carpenter with Local 20 in Staten Island. He was the owner of J and L Collectibles, Perth Amboy.

Surviving is his wife, Elisa Calicchio of Perth Amboy.

Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.

- Doug Larson

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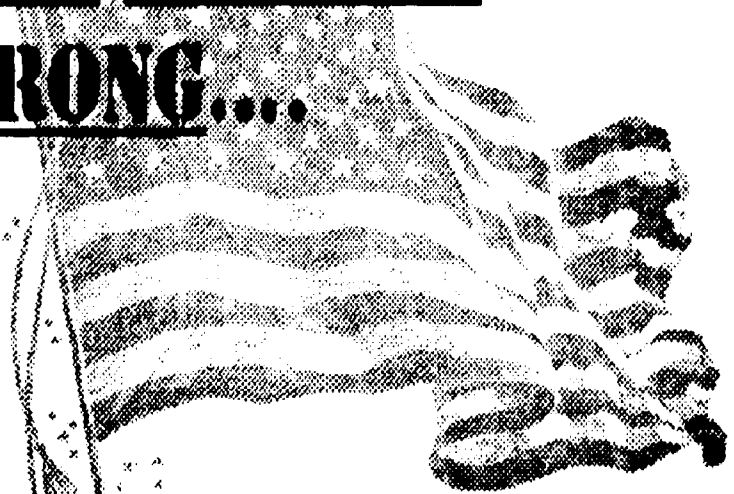
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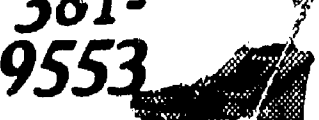
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**Councilman Named RVSA Vice-Chairman**

WOODBIDGE—The fifth term as 5th Ward Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) recently announced the election of Charles P. Lombardo of Garwood as Chairman and Robert G. Luban of Woodbridge as Vice Chairman of the 11-person board.

Lombardo, currently a Master Scheduler at New Brunswick Scientific in Edison, was appointed to the RVSA in 1995.

Luban, currently serving his

term as 5th Ward Councilman in Woodbridge Township, was appointed to the RVSA in 1996.

He has served as both President and Vice President of the Woodbridge Township Council, served on the Woodbridge Township Planning Board and is currently a member of the Governor's Council on Affordable Housing. Luban had a 16-year-career at AT&T in the areas of data processing, market-

ing, operational and computer auditing. Located in Rahway, the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority was formed 51 years ago to treat the wastewater from surrounding municipalities that currently include Clark, Cranford, Garwood, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Westfield, and Woodbridge. Each community nominates a Commissioner who serves a five-year term on the RVSA Board.

Price & Vahalla Seek Re-election In Metuchen

METUCHEN: Hoping to maintain the Democrats' lock on the six-member governing body, incumbents Marion Price and Thomas Vahalla will seek re-election to the borough council, according to Democratic Chairwoman Beverly Passatino.

GOP Municipal Chairman David Saks said Republicans have not yet chosen candidates.

Ann Sardone, the last Republican to serve on the council, was defeated in last November's election.

Price, the council president, said she is seeking her second three-year term with an agenda of promoting economic development and keeping taxes down.

Vahalla is running for a fourth term on the council.

Immigrant Children Get Creative

EDISON—Jewish Family and Vocational Service and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) are pleased to announce that HIAS is now accepting submissions for the 2002 HIAS Poster Contest for Immigrant Youth.

HIAS is asking children to create a work of art on the theme "My America," giving them a chance to creatively express their feelings about their new country. This year, the contest is open to first-generation immigrants aged 4-15. The winning entries will be included in the 2003 HIAS Calendar. Entry deadline is May 31.

In the past, Jewish Family and Vocational Services has found this to be a meaningful and rewarding project for all the children who participate. For your

convenience, English and Russian-language entry forms are available from Jewish Family and Vocational Service in Edison. Call Shirley Izenberg, Immigration Specialist at (732) 777-1940, if you have any questions or would like an entry form.

Jewish Family and Vocational Service has been assisting Russian families since 1988 and continues to actively support this community through Russian Leadership Training, ESL Education and distributing holiday food packages to the elderly needy.

For information about those and other related programs, contact Debby Alter, Immigration and Refugee Services Coordinator or Shirley Izenberg, Immigration Specialist at (732) 777-1940.



Pictured with proud and smiling faces are John "Jack" Patrick McGreevey, Governor James E. McGreevey's father, (R.) who was recently honored as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Woodbridge and his daughter, Sharon McGreevey (L.) Photo submitted by Francis Tomczuk.



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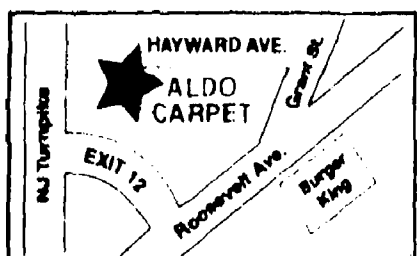
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