

The ATOM TABLOID

& Citizen-Gazette

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EMS Awards Presented As Part Of EMS Week In New Jersey

SOUTH AMBOY—A South Amboy nurse was among 36 individuals and organizations recognized for life-saving actions and efforts to provide high-quality emergency medical service in the state, Health and Senior Services Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, M.D., announced last week.

Gov. James E. McGreevey proclaimed May 19-25 as EMS Week in the state. Awards were presented May 20 at the fourth annual EMS Awards Program and Dinner sponsored by the Department of Health and Senior Services Office of Emergency Medical Services, in

conjunction with the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

"This was a year of heroes and heroic actions. It is appropriate that we honor New Jersey's outstanding citizens and organizations and thank them for their selfless service to help those in need," said Dr. Lacy.

The Citizen Star of Life Award was presented to Cathy Housman, a nurse from South Amboy. When her neighbor suddenly collapsed, Housman performed CPR until police arrived. Police then used a defibrillator Housman had donated to the police department

to save the man's life. A defibrillator is a small device used to resuscitate victims of sudden cardiac arrest.

New Jersey Task Force One, the state's urban search and rescue team, was given the EMT Star of Life Award for its work at Ground Zero following the Sept. 11 attacks. Memorial awards were also given to four EMT's and paramedics who died in the line of duty on Sept. 11.

Each year, more than three million New Jersey residents and visitors require emergency medical care for traumatic injuries, poisonings, heart

attacks and other medical emergencies. Trained caregivers, from paramedics and EMT's on the scene to physicians and nurses in the hospitals, are called on daily to respond to these emergencies.

Basic life support services in New Jersey are provided by an estimated 500 to 600 volunteer ambulance squads and about 200 licensed ambulance services, with paramedics delivering advanced life support operating out of 130 mobile intensive care units statewide. There are more than 22,000 licensed EMT's and about 1,600 certified paramedics in the state.

Lack Of Funds Stalls 9/11 Memorial Progress

METUCHEN—Plans for a Sept. 11 memorial at the Metuchen train station have hit a roadblock: lack of funds.

Organizers say that fund-raising slowed after the plan was unveiled in January, leaving the project about \$30,000 short of the expected cost of \$150,000.

"Although our fund-raising has been extremely successful, we still have a ways to go," said William Lovett, Metuchen-

Edison YMCA chief executive officer and member of the Freedom Plaza organizing committee.

Organizers had hoped to see Freedom Plaza completed by the end of May, but construction has not yet begun. The organizing committee now hopes to break ground in June, and would like to dedicate the plaza in September. However, before work can begin, the committee must have nearly

all of the money needed in hand.

The original design for the plaza included a 16-foot-tall clock in front of a rotunda at the Metuchen station on Woodbridge Avenue and Main Street. Two pillars with plaques listing the names of Sept. 11 victims and significant donors were planned.

Although the plaza was originally envisioned as a memorial to Metuchen and Edison residents lost on Sept. 11, the project

drew attention from other parts of the state and there were hopes to include all state residents who were killed. "Funding could determine how that goes or in what form the names are displayed. Everybody's sense still is that if we can do this we should do it," said Lovett.

Anyone interested in donating should send checks to Freedom Plaza, c/o YMCA, 65 High Street, Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Petition To Save Sciortino's Presented

PERTH AMBOY—Owners of Sciortino's Pizzeria have mailed copies of a 500-page petition with over 10,000 signatures to local, state and federal officials in an

effort to keep the city from demolishing their family business.

Copies of the petition, along with a letter, photos depicting the pizzeria's history, t-shirts and

bumper stickers, were mailed to everyone from President George W. Bush and Gov. James E. McGreevey to state Senator Joseph Vitale and Assembly members John Wisniewski and Arline Friscia.

The city plans to raze the pizzeria, along with 17 other businesses and homes along New Brunswick Avenue and Ogden Place, to allow the construction of a public safety complex. The Sciortino's property would be turned into a parking lot.

Sheri Seminski, daughter of pizzeria co-owner Louis Seminski

Sr. said, "We implore the city to consider locating the non-essential components of this project such as the recreation center, Olympic-size pool, library and day care, which comprise nearly half the square footage of the project, to another location."

"If they leave the court, police, fire and EMS headquarters at this proposed location, then the city wins because its complex has an ideal location in a timely fashion, and our pizzeria and its historic oven will not be destroyed," she said.

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS**Cooler Cat Trick Wins \$10,000 In Cool Cash!**

AREA—We've all heard of the neighbor's pooch who fetches the morning paper, but

we rarely recount reports of "cool cats" performing fantastic feline feats. Arm & Hammer® Cat Litter is searching for the coolest cat trick in America as part of the Arm & Hammer® Coolest Cat Trick Contest, a national video contest that kicks off today.

If your cat can shake hands, open the refrigerator door, answer the telephone or perform any other cool trick, their talent could earn you \$10,000 in cool cash! Three finalists and their cats will each earn a chance to strut their stuff on a New York City catwalk as they compete in the national championships of the Arm & Hammer® Coolest Cat Trick Contest.

To enter the Arm &

Hammer® Coolest Cat Trick Contest, make a standard 1/2" VHS videotape showcasing your cat's coolest trick. Tapes must be no longer than 3 minutes in length and must be cued to the beginning of the entry. Then, on a piece of paper, write a 50 word or less description of your cat's trick. Label your video tape with your name, complete address, phone number and cat's name, and print that same information on your written description. Mail your entry to be received by Aug. 31 to: Arm & Hammer® Coolest Cat Trick Contest, PMI Station, P.O. Box 3581, Southbury, CT 06488-3581. Entries will be judged on originality, degree of trick difficulty, general appeal

and written description of the trick. For complete contest rules, log onto www.armhammercatlitter.com.

The top ten semifinalists will be posted on www.armhammercatlitter.com and consumers will get to vote for three national finalists. The ten semifinalists will receive one year of free Arm & Hammer® Crystal Blend™ cat litter as well as a complimentary subscription to a popular cat magazine. The top three finalists will be flown to New York City for a "cool" time on the town and the national competition to vie for the title of "America's Coolest Cat." The grand prize winner will collect \$10,000 and an Arm & Hammer® Cool Cat Trophy.

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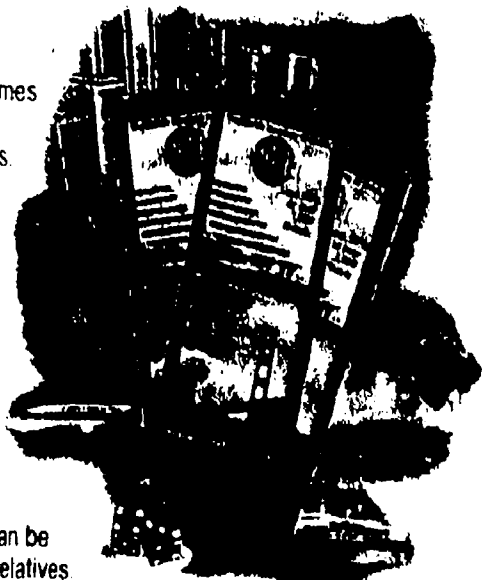
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Support The Arts Program Continues For TSD Enterprises

AREA—If you have missed the previous articles, TSD Enterprises, a new local mail order internet business has been sponsoring a "Support The Arts" promotion that started presently and runs through the end of July. A portion of the membership fees from the purchase of their Discount Hotel & Travel Club memberships will be donated to organizations of the local Arts Community.

TSD is encouraging all businesses, groups, clubs and organizations to join together and gain bonuses for producing multiple sales from their members or customers. In addition to the bonuses announced and described here last week, anyone who purchases a membership received special incentives along with the Club. These include nearly free vacations, free Kodak film, golf discounts, luggage

discounts, airfare discounts and rebates up to \$1,000 and even a "Fun Pack" with \$2,000 in savings at places like Las Vegas, Atlantic City, Orlando and more.

This is a great opportunity for anyone to get 50 percent off hotel rates as well as many other extras for their travel this summer, support the country by getting back to traveling and to support the Arts in the local community. Businesses wishing to participate should contact Gil for a supply of the order forms or for more information and individuals may use the order form shown here or contact TSD Enterprises at (732) 381-9453, e-mail tsd4g@usa.net or by logging on to their website at www.tsdenterprises.com.

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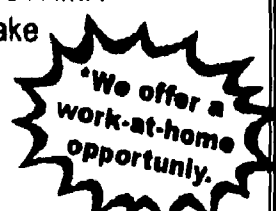
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E. Thomas Allen Appointed CFO At Columbia Bank

AREA—Columbia Bank has announced the appointment of E. Thomas Allen as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Allen joined Columbia in 1994 as Financial Planning and Analysis Manager. He was named Financial Planning Officer in 1995 and was promoted to Treasurer in 1996. He was appointed Vice President and Treasurer in 1998. Prior to joining Columbia, he had served in similar positions with Crestmont Federal Savings Bank and Lincoln Federal Savings Bank.

A well-known figure in banking, business and community affairs, he is a member of the Financial Managers Society and is a Scout Leader with the Boy Scouts of America. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in finance and banking from the University of Missouri and a Masters of Business Administration degree in financial management from Pace University Graduate School of Business. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Scotch Plains. They have four children.

With current assets of more than \$2.6 billion, Columbia Bank is New Jersey's ninth largest banking institution. Columbia operates 33 offices in ten counties statewide.

Corzine Seeks More For Reserves

STATE—United States Senator Jon S. Corzine (D-NJ) has introduced legislation that would reduce the retirement age for members of the National Guard and Reserves from 60 to 55.

The bill would allow 93,000 reservists currently between the ages of 55-59 to retire with full benefits and restore parity between the retirement system for federal civilian employees and reservists who are currently eligible for retirement at 55.

"The United States must act quickly to restore parity between the retirement age for civilian federal employees and their reserve counterparts," said Senator Corzine. "America has never placed greater demands on its ready reserve than it does now, relying on reservists for security at our nation's airports and for air patrols over our major cities. As we demand more work from reservists we should provide them additional benefits."

When the system was first created in 1947, the retirement age for the reserve component was identical to the age for civilian employees. At age sixty, reservists and government employees could hang up their uniforms and retire with full benefits. However, since 1947, the retirement age for civilian retirees has been lowered by five years, while the reserve retirement age has not changed.

Over the past five decades, the nature of the work performed by the reserves has changed substantially. During

that time, serving in the reserves have taken on more of the qualities normally associated with active duty service than ever before, including longer and more frequent deployments. Even before the war on terrorism began, reservists were performing about 13 million man-days each year, more than a ten-fold increase over the one million man-days per year the reserves averaged just ten years ago.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, thousands more reservists have been deployed. Further increases in the number of man-days served are expected as numbers are reported for 2001 and 2002. The bill would restore parity between the reserve retirement system and the civilian retirement system, acknowledge the increased workload of reserve service and provide essential personnel with an incentive to join and stay in the reserves until retirement.

The Corzine bill mirrors legislation introduced in the House by Representative Jim Saxton (R-NJ), a member of the House Armed Services Committee. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Air Force Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, the Fleet Reserve Association, the Naval Reserve Association and the National Guard Association have endorsed the bill.

McGreevey Holds Town Meeting With Middlesex County Seniors

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—Gov. James E. McGreevey held a town meeting at the Monroe Township Office on Aging in Middlesex County to outline the actions his administration has taken to expand property tax relief and improve healthcare for seniors.

McGreevey said that one of his top priorities as governor has been to protect important programs that are essential to the economic and physical well being of New Jersey seniors.

"My administration is committed to providing our seniors with the quality of life they deserve," said McGreevey. "We have focused on property tax relief, on important healthcare initiatives such as cancer research funding and prescrip-

tion drug assistance and on establishing a special advocate for the elderly in the newly created Department of the Public Advocate."

The governor noted that his administration has extended the filing deadline to June 1 for the Senior Property Tax Reimbursement Program. McGreevey explained this extension is necessary because the tax freeze program is underutilized due to the fact that many seniors are unaware of their eligibility under new, higher income limits--\$38,475 for single persons and \$47,177 for married couples.

"Certainly, extending the tax freeze filing deadline to June 1 will allow eligible seniors the opportunity to take advantage of the property tax

(continued on page...17)

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Rejoice	Aug 31-Sept 1
Country Jam	Sept 7 & 8
Blues, Brews, & BBQ's	Sept 14 & 15

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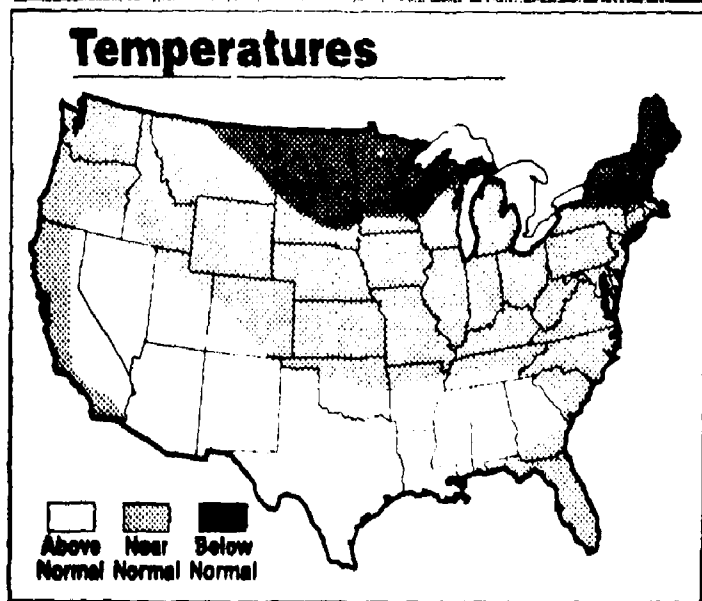
Forecast for Rahway

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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Humid with clouds and sun.	Cloudy; it may shower.	Cloudy; frequent showers.	Windy with clouds and sun.	Plenty of sunshine.	Windy later.	Clouds and sun; a shower.	Partly sunny.
82	61	80/58	76/55	77/49	67/66	82/58	76/65

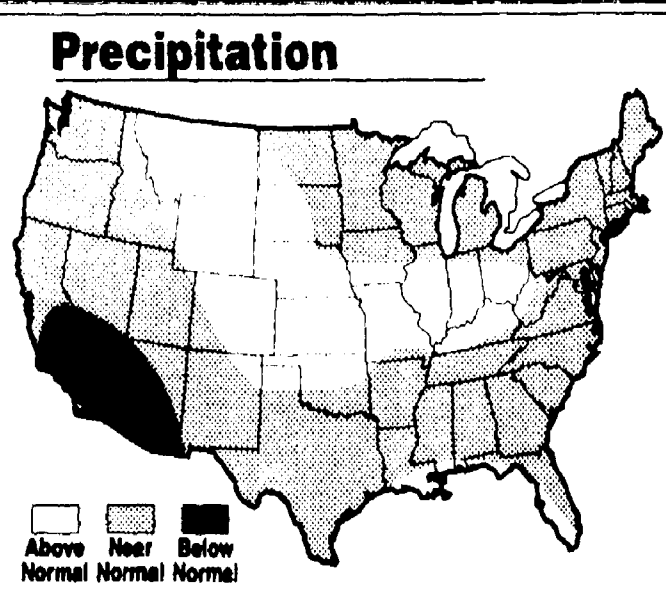
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Warm weather will dominate the Southwest and Rocky Mountains during the period. Temperatures across the regions are expected to average 10 to 20 degrees above normal. Storms will bring rain to the northern Plains, Northwest and central Plains. Cool air will push southward into central and northern New England.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	84 68 pc	86 66 s	88 68 s	88 68 t
Boston	77 56 pc	79 56 c	69 55 pc	70 44 s
Chicago	80 58 r	78 56 s	70 56 pc	72 60 t
Cleveland	78 58 pc	76 52 s	70 54 s	72 54 s
Denver	84 54 s	88 54 s	80 50 pc	76 50 pc
Des Moines	80 62 t	81 62 s	80 60 pc	77 67 t
Detroit	77 60 c	76 53 s	71 55 pc	74 56 s
Houston	88 70 pc	90 70 pc	88 70 pc	88 70 c
Indianapolis	80 63 r	82 59 s	81 59 pc	78 66 t
Kansas City	82 62 pc	90 66 s	88 64 pc	82 70 t
Los Angeles	84 61 s	78 59 pc	78 57 c	79 46 pc
Miami	91 75 pc	90 75 pc	91 77 s	90 76 s
Minn.- St. Paul	80 58 t	78 56 pc	80 56 s	80 60 pc
New Orleans	88 72 pc	88 74 s	90 74 s	92 70 pc
New York City	80 62 pc	80 60 t	76 58 pc	75 51 s
Omaha	84 60 s	86 64 pc	80 62 c	80 68 t
Phoenix	106 78 s	104 76 s	102 74 pc	98 72 s
San Francisco	73 55 pc	69 53 pc	67 53 sh	66 46 c
Seattle	68 52 pc	68 50 pc	68 51 c	67 50 c
Washington	82 64 pc	82 62 c	80 60 pc	80 59 c

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	5:30 a.m.	8:20 p.m.
Fri.	5:29 a.m.	8:21 p.m.
	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	none	9:09 a.m.
Fri.	12:32 a.m.	10:11 a.m.
Moon Phases		
Last	New	First
June 2	June 10	June 17
Weather (W):		
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy,	c-cloudy, sh-showers,	t-thunderstorms, r-rain,
af-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.		

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	62 47 c	67 50 pc	71 59 c	65 44 pc
Berlin	59 53 sh	67 47 pc	67 51 pc	73 59 c
Buenos Aires	59 43 pc	61 47 s	59 45 pc	66 52 c
Cairo	98 60 s	91 59 s	88 62 s	88 63 s
Jerusalem	82 51 s	77 49 s	73 49 s	76 50 s
Johannesburg	72 52 pc	65 53 c	62 47 r	65 44 pc
London	61 48 c	68 54 pc	71 47 c	63 46 s
Madrid	84 52 pc	84 54 pc	77 56 r	76 56 pc
Mexico City	74 55 pc	77 57 pc	68 59 r	70 60 r
Moscow	69 47 pc	68 45 pc	59 44 r	68 47 pc
Paris	63 46 pc	70 52 pc	71 57 r	64 46 pc
Rio de Janeiro	76 63 pc	75 64 pc	75 63 pc	74 62 pc
Rome	75 52 s	76 52 s	74 53 s	75 55 s
San Juan	87 76 c	87 76 c	87 76 pc	86 76 c
Seoul	75 62 pc	76 63 r	79 62 s	81 63 pc
Sydney	62 42 pc	60 39 pc	61 41 pc	64 45 pc
Tokyo	76 62 s	78 65 pc	75 60 pc	66 55 s
Toronto	73 56 pc	70 33 pc	61 38 s	66 41 pc
Winnipeg	78 47 c	76 43 pc	71 45 pc	68 49 sh
Zurich	61 44 pc	70 48 pc	74 55 pc	70 55 r

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 1 at 12 p.m.—The North Edison Support Arthritis Group will be holding a luncheon at Charlie Browns in Edison. If interested, call Anita at (732) 549-2425 or Joan at (732) 549-4550. This will be the last meeting until September. The North Edison Library is located at 777 Grove Avenue, Edison (corner of Grove & Library Place). Family and friends are welcome. For more information, call the Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter at (732) 283-4300.

June 1 and June 2 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—The sixteenth annual Spring Fine Art and Crafts at Nomahegan Park, across from Union County College, will be held. The show features over 120 professional artists, photographers and crafts people displaying and selling their handmade crafted work. The show is free to the public.

June 3 at 7 p.m.—Preservation New Jersey invites the community to a preservation roundtable at Van Horne House, Main Street and Rt. 287, Bridgewater. Call (609) 392-6409 for further information or visit them on the web site at www.preservationnj.org.

June 5 at 11 a.m.—The Perth Amboy YMHA will hold their Line Dancing class with Phyllis McGarry; a free lunch follows and at 12:45 p.m., guest speaker Julie Gottstein of the Middlesex County Health Dept. will discuss "Healthy Bones." Guests are invited at no charge. Call the Y at (732) 442-0365 to make reservations. The Y is located at 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy.

June 5 from 23 p.m.—Sunrise Assisted Living of East Brunswick, 190 Summerhill Rd.) invites seniors and their families at attend a presentation titled, "Spirituality and Aging." Generations Counseling and Care Management, LLC, provides an overview of the role religion and faith on the aging process. Refreshments will be served. RSVP by Monday, June 3 at (732) 613-1355.

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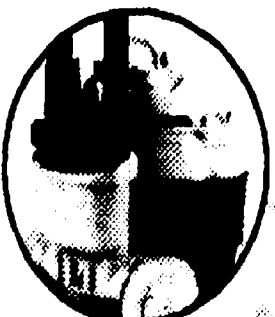
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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Medrow Criticizes Pallone's Nay Vote On Welfare Reform

MIDDLESEX COUNTY
— Ric Medrow, a Republican candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, recently criticized Rep. Frank Pallone for his vote against welfare reform.

The 229-197 vote came Thursday after a House debate over changes needed to the massive 1996 welfare overhaul.

The push to get families off of welfare and back to work began in 1996 when Republicans fought for reform against a reluctant President Bill Clinton. Clinton finally gave into the pressure and signed the bill. Since that time, three million of the five million families who had been on welfare have left the program for work.

Medrow said that while the welfare reform bill of 1996 has been incredibly successful—5.4 million people and 2.8 million children have escaped poverty as a result—many people remain stuck in the cycle of dependency for a number of reasons. Medrow backed provisions in the bill that would allow people attempting to get off of welfare to get education, job training or addiction treatment necessary to become pro-

"There are many good Democrats in this country who want to work with the president for America's future. Frank Pallone just doesn't happen to be one of them."

ductive. "In my job as a college professor in Brooklyn, I see it all the time.

The biggest critics of people on welfare are my students. They frequently have a great deal of contempt for people on welfare," said Medrow, who teaches ancient and medieval women's history at Kingsborough Community College. "I remind them that they ought to be more compassionate like President Bush. My students are doing everything they can to make certain that they will never be stuck on welfare. They know that the way in life is through hard work, education and living a life without drugs. If the president's plan passes the Senate, more people will have access to the keys to success in life."

Medrow was optimistic about the chances of passage in the Senate. He noted that any number of House moderates voted for the bill and was

hopeful that a majority could be cobbled together to pass welfare reform in the Senate.

"We saw that good people who happened to be Democrats like Ralph Hall of Texas and Ken Lucas of Kentucky joined the president to do what's right for America and our young people," Medrow said. "There are many good Democrats in this country who want to work with the president for America's future. Frank Pallone just doesn't happen to be one of them."

Medrow said that the vote further brings home what he's been saying about Pallone.

"When Frank Pallone was first elected to Congress, he may have voted with Lucas and Hall," Medrow said. "But he has drifted into the extreme wing of the Democratic Party, the wing that does everything it can to block and obstruct any progress in Washington."



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR—Pictured are: Nancy Ostin, President of the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce in South Brunswick and East Brunswick resident Ed Satran, owner of Clearwater Associates. Satran received the Fleet Bank Volunteer of the Year Award at the Chamber's 48th Annual Business Resource Expo. The event, which attracted more than 1,000 people with a job fair, Work Life Forum, and seminars, was held in Raritan Center in Edison on May 14, 2002. Fleet Bank also honored four area business owners with its Business Leaders of the Year Awards.

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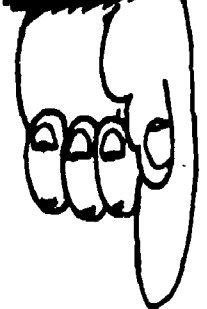
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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS

College Offers Courses In Real Estate As Market Remains Solid

CRANFORD — The Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at Union County College is once again offering courses for those in the Real Estate industry. All courses will be held on the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. For those interested in learning about the many aspects of the Real Estate industry, "Principles of Real Estate" is being offered. Topics covered in this course include property interests,

mortgages, deeds, title closing, liens, real estate law and ethics, agency relationships and real estate calculations. This course meets the Real Estate Commission requirements for the New Jersey Sales Licensing Examination. It will be offered during summer 2002 with two different sections beginning on Monday, June 3.

The New Jersey State Board of Real Estate Appraisers has approved Union County College

to offer the following courses to satisfy the requirements for licensed, residential and general appraisers. "Introduction to Real Estate Appraisal", covers Appraisal Profession, Real Estate and its Appraisal, The Real Estate Marketplace, The Appraisal Process, Building Construction, Data Collection, Site Valuation, and the Cost Approach, Part 1. This course begins on June 4, and upon completion, students must pass a final examination.

"Preparing a Uniform Residential Appraisal Report (URAR)," covers Subject, Neighborhood, PUD, Site Data, Description of Improvements, Comments, The Cost Approach, Direct Sales Comparable Approach, The Income Approach, and Final Reconciliation. Students will fill out a sample form and must complete a final examination. This course begins on July 2.

"Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice",

covers the Background of the Uniform Standards, the Financial Institutions Reform Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA), Preamble and Rules, Standard One, Two, Three, and Four to Ten, also the Statements on Standards. Students must also pass a final examination in this course and it begins on August 6. For more information or to register, call the Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at (908) 709-7600.

IRS Accepting Grant Applications For Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics In New Jersey

AREA — Organizations providing low-cost or no-cost representation to people involved in tax disputes can apply for grants worth up to \$100,000 for the calendar year 2003 grant period, the Internal Revenue Service announced recently. Grants are also available for programs that inform taxpayers for whom English is a second language of their tax rights and responsibilities.

"The IRS matching grant program encourages the creation and growth of low-income tax clinics across the nation," said Gregg Semanick, IRS spokesperson in New Jersey. "These clinics are an important resource for taxpayers who may have nowhere else to turn."

For calendar year 2002, the

IRS awarded \$235,000 in Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic grants to 5 New Jersey Groups. Grants were awarded to the following New Jersey organizations:

- Rutgers University Law School-Newark
- Accountants for the Public Interest-Hightstown
- Passaic County Legal Aid Society, Inc.-Paterson
- Camden Regional Legal Services, Inc.-Camden
- Cape-Atlantic Legal Services-Atlantic City

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) grant program, now in its fifth year, continues to expand. In 1999, the IRS awarded \$1.5 million in Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic grants to 34 groups across the nation. In 2002, \$7 million was awarded

to 127 organizations.

Applications for Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic grants must be received by July 1, 2002. The grants will be awarded by November 1 for the period commencing in January 2003. The application package (Publication 3319) is available on the IRS web site at www.irs.gov. From the home page, click on "The Newsroom" and then click again on "What's Hot." Publication 3319 is also available by mail by calling toll-free 1-800-829-3676.

Qualifying clinics may be run by law, business or accounting schools - whose students represent taxpayers in tax disputes with the IRS or Tax Court - or by tax-exempt organizations. These groups can represent taxpayers in tax-related matters, refer taxpay-

ers to qualified representatives and provide non-English-speaking taxpayers information about their tax rights and responsibilities. Clinics may charge a small fee for legal help.

The program allows the IRS to award organizations matching grants of up to \$100,000 a year to develop, expand or continue low-income taxpayer clinics. The grant application process considers a variety of factors, including the clinic program's quality of service, the number of low-income taxpayers served and how

many people in the clinic's service area use English as a second language.

Potential applicants with questions should contact Beverly Smith, LITC Program, at 317-226-6771 (not a toll-free number).

The IRS has been helping low-income taxpayers for years through such programs as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE). More information about those programs is available by calling the IRS's toll-free help line at 1-800-829-1040.

Take Your "Best" Shot In Checking Benefit Eligibility

by Dennis Mass
Social Sec. Mngr.,
Elizabeth

Have you ever wondered if you might now be eligible for monthly Social Security benefits or if you qualify for Medicare health insurance? Sometimes it's hard to know where to begin when you are looking for information about large government programs.

But now Social Security has introduced a new online service that can provide some real help for you. It's called the Benefit Eligibility Screening Tool (BEST). If you would like to know what benefits you may be eligible for, just long onto best.ssa.gov. It's available in both English and Spanish.

You will need to answer questions about your age and marital status. And there will be some questions about your personal finances. These questions will help determine if you may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, or if you can qualify for help with your Medicare premium.

BEST is not an application for benefits. After you complete the questions and see the results, you then decide if you should apply for benefits.

You can file for retirement, spouse and disability benefits online at <http://www.ssa.gov/>

applyforbenefits/. You also can file a retirement, spouse, survivor's, disability or SSI application by calling Social Security's toll free-number at 1-800-772-1213 or visiting your local Social Security office.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones" The Stuff Continues



By Michael S. Goldberger

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

Following a viewing of "Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones," the latest installment of the quasi-campy, completely folklore-filled sci-fi phenomenon from George Lucas, I think I finally have this all straight now.

You see, this second prequel is actually the sequel to the first prequel. That's right. This is all the stuff that happened before all the other stuff, but not before all the stuff in the first prequel. "Star Wars: Episode I-The Phantom Menace" (1999). And there's going to be even more stuff that happened before the other stuff, meaning before episodes IV, V and VI, before they started all this prequel stuff. But it happens after this stuff. So it'll be a sequel to this prequel, and released in 2005; currently it's only referred to as Star Wars: Episode III. Don't worry.

They'll add more stuff to the title.

Bottom line: like it or not, it sure is a lot of stuff. And with this jaunt around the galaxy you get a full two hours and twenty minutes of it.

Young minds with sponge-like capabilities who simply can't get enough of this, er, stuff, will sop it all up and have a blast piecing together all the lore and lineage. Because in solving Mr. Lucas's mythological jigsaw puzzle, doubtless there comes a certain serenity, a sort of affirmation that all is well with the world, even if it is a phony world: "Wow, Ryan. That's the grandfather of the guy who later becomes the evil dude in 'Episode Whatever.' Insane!"

Older non-fans and others among the great unwashed may want to double up on the Ginkgo Biloba before trying to assimilate the names, places, and legends that make the "Star Wars" series the modern operatic hit it is. And if you haven't saved one of the handy-dandy librettos supplied by the Sunday supplements, it is suggested you enlist the aid of a young relative. By now they've seen it seven times. And for the chance of seeing it an eighth

time, he or she will more than likely be willing to guide you through the voluminous tall tale.

I for one have enough trouble navigating my own heritage and the multifarious doctrines and mores that form its ethos without having to learn a synthetic civilization. Let's see...Shmuel begat Jedediah, who knew Lotte Lenya, and they begat Benny, or something like that. And the main rule is you shouldn't look back or you'll turn to salt. That, and be good to your parents. Oh, and if you're in college, do your best to make it out in four years so the folks don't have to postpone their retirement just so you can goof-off for another year. I'm a little shaky on the dietary rules, but I think they forbid the eating of any confections made out of Rice Krispies.

Of course there are cultural parallels that can be found in the galaxy according to Mr. Lucas. Otherwise it wouldn't be science fiction. That's the whole point of it. For some psychological reason or another, it is often easier to learn precepts when they come cloaked in a protective literary coating. And among the big rules highlighted in this latest coming of "Star Wars," which could borrow a title from the Andy Hardy series and be dubbed "Love Finds Anakin Skywalker," is the dictum: "A Jedi Shall Not Know Anger. Nor Hatred. Nor Love."

Hence it's a bit of a sticky

wicket when handsome Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker, Jedi knight in training, pulls guard duty and heartthrob Senator Padme Amidala (Natalie Portman) is the prize to be protected.

Apparently, with the passage of time, heroes and religious leaders have not been immune to merger and acquisitions fever. Thus a Jedi is ostensibly part Knight Templar, part Confucian, and part Buddhist priest. And as tough luck would have it for Anakin and the comely Amidala, the ban on dating someone from the office has survived the ages. Call it Romeo and Juliet in Space.

But that's only a mere angstrom of the plot. There are veritable parsecs and parsecs (a "Star Wars" measurement, doubtless much, much larger than a light year) of other story details and nuances. Problem is, non-fans should avoid like the plague any discussion of the gibberish-stuffed story. And "Star Wars" freaks could only view as impudent any story description and/or analysis this heretical trespasser might have to offer. Yet a graduation oath sworn before my mentors at Olde Ivy Film Criticism College decrees that a basic plot outline be present in every movie review. (In varying shapes and forms, I guess we all aspire to some degree of Jedi knighthood.) So here goes:

The bad guys want to take over the world. That's about it.

Oh, of course, there are variations on the theme. For example, practically everyone's name sounds like it's been created by a Moog synthesizer: i.e.-- there's turncoat Count Dooku (Christopher Lee), Jedi master Mace Windu (Samuel L. Jackson) and Anakin Skywalker's Jedi teacher, Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor). Doesn't anyone get named Susan or Helen anymore?

In any case, there are random borrowings from "The Iliad," "The Odyssey" and "The Bible," which makes you wonder how popular these subjects might be with school kids if each teacher had the \$100 million budget George Lucas has to get his point across. Then there's also smatterings of the sci-fi serials of the 1930s, all re-worked in an overwhelming splash of computer generated special effects. And finally, making it what it is, "Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones" is dabbed with the catalytic genius of impresario George Lucas. But not enough of it. Or maybe it's just getting a little old, regardless of whether you call it a prequel or a sequel.

Fact is, there's hardly enough of the force left to lift this episode above its redundancy. Sure, diehard fans can once again gleefully immerse themselves in all the stuff that "Attack of The Clones" provides. But those of us without "Star Wars" pajamas, bed sheets, drinking cups and wallpaper are more likely to call it "Star Snores" and, at the risk of not finding out who will beget who in which episode, avail ourselves of a rather expensive snooze.

"Star Wars: Episode II-Attack of the Clones," rated PG, is a 20th Century Fox and Lucas Films release directed by George Lucas and stars Natalie Portman, Hayden Christensen, and Ewan McGregor. Running time: 142 minutes

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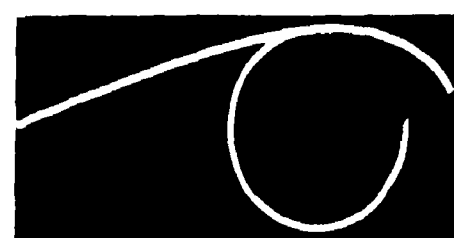
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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

'Eloy Fiesta' Grapples At CAMP IWF Pro Wrestling Training Centre

AREA—Each week, fans of the Independent Wrestling Federation are amused by the outrageous antics of North Brunswick's 'Eloy Fiesta' as he struts his stuff in the ring. So where does it all begin for these pro wrestling superstars like Eloy Fiesta?

The place to be if you are an aspiring grappler is the CAMP IWF Pro Wrestling Training Centre in West Paterson. Established in 1999, CAMP IWF has trained over 85 students ranging in age from 14-36. These dedicated prospects commute from three states (New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) and attend classes three times a week.

Local resident Eloy Roman, 27, of North Brunswick, has been training at CAMP IWF since November 2000 and competes under the ring name

'Eloy Fiesta'. He is a 1993 graduate of Passaic County Vo-Tech High School.

At CAMP IWF, Fiesta is taught by active professionals who teach sessions covering every aspect of the business, from scientific holds to mat basics. Heading up instruction is Kevin Knight of Nutley and Biggie Biggs of Eatontown, both six-year pros.

The learning process consists of more than hitting the mat. Each member is provided a comprehensive gym training and nutrition program. The final training stages include development of each student's wrestling character and personality. The pieces come together at bi-weekly student shows, where trainees showcase their talent in front of family and friends.

Individuals interested in training are asked to call CAMP IWF at (973) 345-7745. Manager, valet and referee training are also offered.

Open house tours are held Sundays at 1 p.m. For information, visit the IWF web site at WrestlingIWF.com.

CAMP IWF has been heralded by major New York-New Jersey media outlets as the premiere pro wrestling training facility in the tri-state area. The IWF also produces live professional wrestling events year-round throughout New Jersey, many of which serve as fundraiser for charitable organizations.

A Touch Of Hungary In Downtown New Brunswick

NEW BRUNSWICK — Stroll through the Hungarian market place, hear the joyous sounds of Hungarian music and clap along with vivacious folk dancers. Enjoy a sample of Hungary in Downtown New Brunswick. The 27th Annual Hungarian Festival on Somerset Street, New Brunswick, will whisk you across the world to another place and time. The day long June 1 event will provide free fun for the whole family. The Hungarian Civic Association, composed of ten organizations and four churches, produce the festival.

The festivities begin at 11 a.m. with opening ceremonies on Somerset Street at High Street. The street is blocked off so you can stroll the area easily.

After the opening ceremonies walk along the boulevard stopping at the churches, Hungarian Scouts or Hungarian American Athletic Club to taste incredible Hungarian traditional fare. They have all transformed spaces into great bistros.

Stroll the booths of exhibitors and vendors. Purchase Hungarian made clothing, artifacts, books, folk art and more. The Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble will perform throughout the day. Traditional music fills the air at the band shell. In the streets the Hungarian American Athletic Club will present a fencing demonstration. The Hungarian Scouts will also be conducting demonstrations. Specific folk art demonstrations by numerous artisans include

egg decorating, ceramics, embroidery, furniture painting and felt applique. Children of all ages can play games.

There will also be a twilight concert featuring a leading Hungarian folk band. They will fill the Courtyard at the Hungarian Heritage Center in New Brunswick with the power and passion of traditional Hungarian music. The concert begins at 6 p.m. and there is a \$5 donation.

Visit Hungary on Saturday, June 1 with a jaunt to Somerset Street, New Brunswick. Come to the 27th Annual Hungarian Festival between Division and Bethany Streets. For more details, call (732) 846-5777.

Gear Up For The Holiday Season In Williamsburg, VA

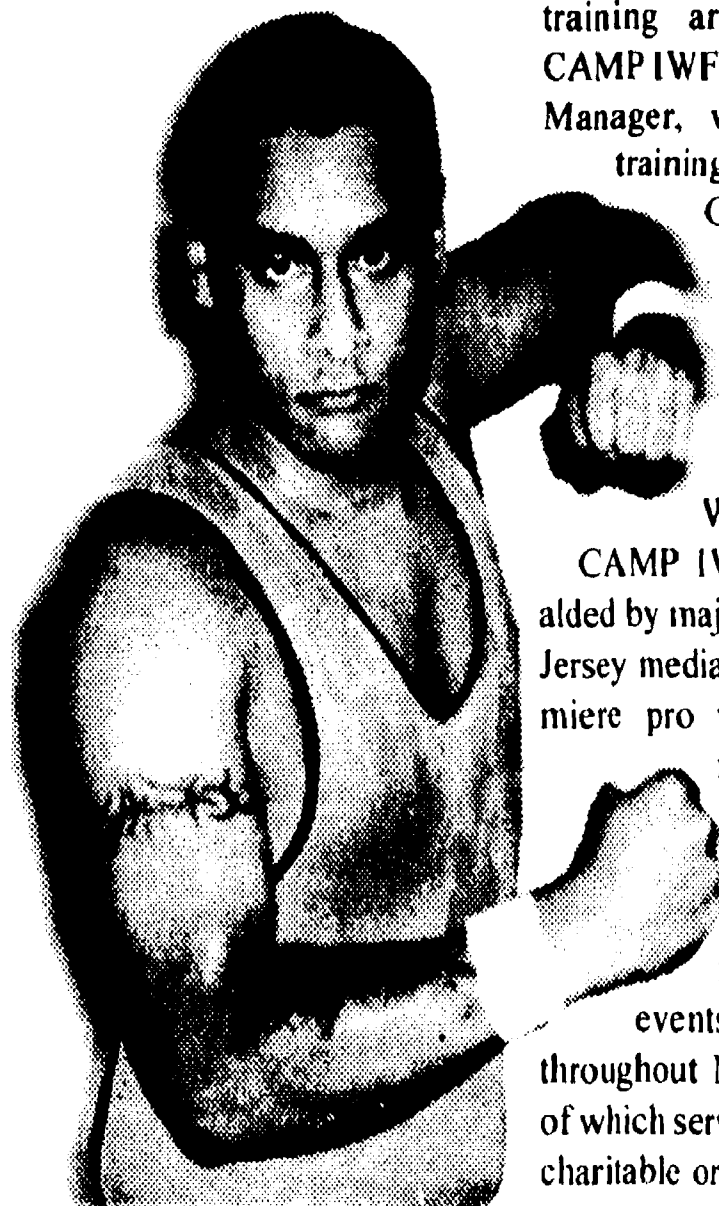
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Karen Haber is organizing a "Christmas Holiday in Williamsburg," Dec. 13-15. This trip includes Roundtrip Coach Transportation to Historic Williamsburg, Virginia, 2 nights lodging at the Patrick Henry Inn, continental breakfast daily, an 18th Century Dinner with bal-ladeer, Colonial Williamsburg Freedom tickets, dinner at the Patrick Henry Inn followed by a music theatre performance. Baggage handling as well as all taxes and gratuities are included.

The cost is \$299 per person, based on double occupancy. \$75 non-refundable deposit is needed to hold your space. Checks should be made out to Park Travel and mailed to "Williamsburg

Holiday," C/O Karen Haber at 375 N. Stiles Street, Linden, N.J. Major credit cards are also accepted.

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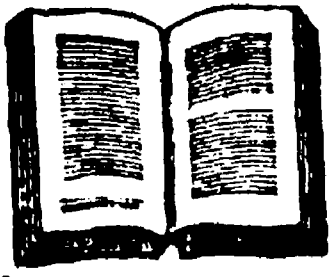
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EDITORIAL**By The Book**

by Peter Book

Goodbye, Ed

by Peter Book

Judge Edward H. Swanko, retired Judge of Miami-Dade County, Florida, well known musician and aviation enthusiast, passed away recently. Services were held in Lake City, Florida. Memorial Services were held at Bank of America Building, Miami, Florida on March 14, 2002.

Ed was a native of Perth Amboy. He graduated Perth Amboy High School in 1941. He is a member of its Hall of Fame since 1993. We grew up in the same neighborhood. His father, Jack Swanko, was a World War I veteran and a founder and charter member of the local Sgt. John B. Egan Post 663, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Except for occasional visits to Perth Amboy, Ed spent the longest time with his family in the summer of 1947. That was the most momentous period in our lives. During the late morning and early afternoon we basked in the sun at the State Street Beach.

Besides Ed and I, we were joined by Frank Patala and Alexander "Zeke" Lekulitch. Frank was in his senior year at the seminary. The following year he became a Roman Catholic priest. He served with distinction and wrote books

until his death a few years ago. Between dips in the water we discussed religion and theology. Such weighty matters to occupy us in spite of the nubile maidens prancing around!

Ed, Zeke and I worked the 3-11 shift at the Welin, Davit Boat Works on outer Market Street. During the frequent rest periods from bucking rivets on life boats we had lengthy conversations. We were all concerned with our futures. Bucking rivets on life boats in a factory was no future.

Ed was also a first class musician. Music was his first love. He taught himself to play the saxophone. He played with Jack Teagarden's Swing Band and toured the entire country of ours. He would go with Zeke, who was a guitar player with country western bands, to New York's 52nd Swing Street to visit and hob-nob with his friends and music colleagues of the big bands.

Me? I could not carry a tune unless I had a few beers in me. Or so I thought. Zeke and I continued at Rutgers under the GI Bill. Ed went to the University of Miami. While a student he continued with his music forming a band called Ed Swanko with Sax Appeal. He played at college functions and Miami's popular clubs.

In the year 1952, Ed earned his Law Degree to go along

with his other degree and married Marcella Bailey. He started his family and a law practice. When I visited him annually during refresher airline training during the '50s and '60s, there was usually an addition to his family. Surviving him are Kathy Poppe, Dorothy Buenacasa, Mary Ann King, Debbie Hendricks, Bernadette Hereth, Martiele Swanko, Mark Swanko, John Swanko and Ed Swanko, Jr.

Ed was also a friend and counselor to my Airlift International Airways fellow crew members. He ventured into the field of aviation with all his love and energy and enthusiasm. He owned two airplanes, a Cessna 152 and a Cherokee 180. He kept flying until he retired in 1998 and later moved to Lake City, Florida, where he died.

He distinguished himself as a "judge's judge," as said by Herman Russomanno, past president of the Florida Bar, "He possessed the virtues a judge should have: integrity, honesty and open-mindedness!"

As we mourn the passing of a great man let us celebrate his wonderful life of a modern day renaissance man. In Shakespeare's words, "His life was gentle, and the elements so mix'd in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man!" Farewell, Judge Ed, we all love, respect and admire you. Rest in peace!



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

May was National Bike Month. Timed to coincide with the onset of warmer temperatures, National Bike Month reminds us that bicycling is a great way to exercise, relax, or commute. According to a national sample by the Bicycling and Pedestrian Association, one in four adults has rode a bike in the last thirty days. Of that twenty-five percent, fifty-four percent rode for recreation, thirty-five percent for exercise, and seven percent rode for commuting.

My family and I are avid bikers. We choose to center many of our vacations and day trips around bicycling. Luckily, we live in a great state that hosts a number of bike trails and paths which provide a wealth of opportunities to get out in the fresh air and enjoy the beauty of the state on a bike.

Cheesequake State Park is a great location for a biking outing. Bike paths in Cheesequake State Park can be accessed from Route 35, Route 34, or Route 9 in Old Bridge and from Edinburg Road in West Windsor. Bike trails in Cheesequake Park span two and a half miles. The dirt trails are very rocky in areas and make for a bumpy ride, so mountain bikes are recommended for this course. For non-bikers the park also has a hiking trail, swimming, boating, fishing, picnic areas, and a concession stand. For more information on Cheesequake State Park and

official directions call 732-566-2161.

Another park which offers quality bike trails is Johnson Park in Piscataway. Johnson Park also has two and a half miles of track, all of which is paved. It can be found just off Route 27 and River Road. The park also offers a picnic area, tennis courts, and a zoo. For more information call 732-745-3900.

There are numerous other areas for biking in New Jersey. If you would like more information on any bike trails in the state you can look on the Department of Transportation Web Site line at www.state.nj.us/njcommuter/biking or you can contact my legislative office at 732-316-1885.

Part of encouraging bicycling in New Jersey is creating safe areas for people to cycle both off-road and on. While the state has a number of off-road options for cycling, there is a need to create more bike lanes on our existing roads. This is a good policy for a number of reasons. For example, if it were easier and safer to commute via bicycle, many more people might opt for the bicycle as their primary mode of transportation. This would decrease both traffic and pollution while simultaneously encouraging better health.

Commuting to work daily on a bicycle may not be practical for most. But you can take time out this May to consider dusting off your bike and taking a spin just for the fun of it. Your body will appreciate the exercise, your car could use a break, and the environment will thank you.

Readers Commentary**Auto Insurance Tips**

Dear Editor,

As a professional insurance agent, I'd like to provide some tips to car owners about avoiding auto insurance premiums that are unnecessarily high. One factor that can make people ineligible for lower-cost auto insurance is letting their policy lapse. Pay close attention to premium bills and pay them before the date to avoid coverage lapses.

Letting your insurance cancel could require you to get your insurance through the higher-cost Personal Automobile

Insurance Plan (PAIP). Even if the lapse lasts only a short time and you remain eligible for coverage outside the PAIP, many insurance companies will charge higher rates to drivers who have let their coverage expire.

Should your insurance ever lapse, be careful to retain a copy of the cancellation notice. Lacking a copy of your previous insurer's notice could make it difficult or impossible to get coverage even through the PAIP.

Consulting with your professional agent about the various coverage and deductible choices available to you is another way

to avoid paying more than you need to. But, preventing coverage lapses can be your biggest cost-saver of all.

Louis Beckerman,
CIC, CPCU
Secretary, PIA
New Jersey

Black Bear Survival

Dear Editor,

Although New Jersey's black bears have been protected for the past several decades, there is now an effort underway that may result in a hunt on this fragile population.

In responded to citizen outcry, the Black Bear Management Response Program was designed to address human-bear conflicts through public education, law enforcement training, and non-lethal methods. This was a first of its kind program and is serving as a model nationwide to solve problems without killing bears as the first option. This groundbreaking program is still in its fledgling stages, and is still in need of funding.

Unfortunately, the Governor's office is considering dropping the funding for this innovative program due to necessary budget cuts. As a result, a hunt may be seen as

the only alternative to non-lethal control. The continued funding for this program must remain a budget priority. It is a matter of life and death for New Jersey's bears.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) asks your readers to contact Governor McGreevey today and urge him to continue to fund the Black Bear Management Response program. Tell him that a humane, non-lethal program is an important part of the budget to you, and that this funding is vital to the survival of New Jersey's black bears.

Barbara Dyer
Program Coordinator

Jewish Family & Vocational Service Installs Officers

EDISON—"Volunteers Through The Years" was the theme of Jewish Family & Vocational Service of Middlesex County's 2002 Volunteer Recognition Evening and Annual Meetin, which took place on May 21 at Temple Emanu-El in Edison.

The Keynote Speaker was Senator Barbara Buono, who represents the 18th Legislative District.

Incoming President Linda

Erdreich succeeds Edward Markman. Members of the Board of Trustees include: Ellen Clarkson and Marc Bressler, Vice Presidents, Jeff Ackerman, Treasurer, Margaret Ingate-Simen, Co-Treasurer, Rhoda Rosenblatt, Recording Secretary and Nina Wortzel-Hoffman, Corresponding/Membership Secretary.

According to Irene Stolzenberg, Executive Director of JFVS, "Ed Markman and the

outgoing board have done an outstanding job of moving our agency forward, especially during the unspeakable tragedies that our country suffered on September 11th. Immediately following the terrorist attacks, JFVS developed and implemented a variety of programs and services to help the victims and families affected by the tragedy.

We look forward to continuing our ongoing programs and working with Linda and her team

to serve Central Jersey with our innovative programs."

Stolzenberg also credits the agency's 300 volunteers for playing an integral role in its success. "The genuine dedication and caring of our volunteers is really what the fabric of JFVS is all about. Their enthusiasm and loyalty is essential to our programs and services."

JFVS, which is non-sectarian and funded in part through the

United Way of Central Jersey, was founded in 1979. It is a multi-service agency dedicated to meeting the needs of Middlesex County residents. The agency provides individual, family and group counseling, education, information and referral, vocational services, advocacy, outreach, geriatric, refugee and immigration services.

For more information, call (732) 777-1940.

Final Simpson Dance

PERTH AMBOY — Following a six-year tradition, the last dance of the season at Simpson United Methodist Church on Friday, May 31 will see all of its proceeds donated to the Disabled American veterans.

A short musical program in honor of all veterans and the Memorial Day holiday will be

presented by the Epps family of Perth Amboy, sponsors of the dance. Several public officials have been invited to speak briefly about the importance of remembering Memorial Day.

Admission for this event will be \$3 at the door and doors open at 6 p.m. The event runs from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Donations of

baked goods and beverages are gratefully accepted and deeply appreciated.

The church dances take a summer hiatus, often moving to the air-conditioned Olive Street Senior Center for July and August, where proceeds are usually slated for Concerts by the Bay.

Capital Improvements Underway Throughout Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY—Work has begun on three different capital improvement projects throughout the City of Perth Amboy totaling \$641,086. Each project, in its own way, will accommodate the need for infrastructure improvements while also providing aesthetic benefits.

"In a city, such as Perth Amboy, which is over 300 years old, the need for infrastructure upkeep is constant. I am pleased that we can maintain this upkeep while answering the needs of our residents and improving the quality of life," stated Mayor Joseph Vas.

The city plans to address the increased need for parking along the waterfront by expanding the existing city-owned parking lot at the southern end of Front Street. The city will take advantage of the underutilized portion of the lot's western end, which will be redesigned while the entire lot will be milled, resurfaced and re-striped. This project will also include the re-contouring of the Harborwalk so that it connects with the Harborwalk on Water Street, rather than terminating at the southerly end of Front Street.

Further south along the city's shoreline, the Harborwalk, from the Yacht Club to Lewis Street will be reconstructed at a level

grade to combat the uneven settling of bricks over the years. The level grade will provide a safer recreational path while bollard lighting will be added to provide increased security during the evening hours. All of these projects should be completed by mid-summer.

In addition, the city also plans to construct other improvements to the existing Harborwalk system in order to make it more durable for withstanding weathering and erosion. The present "fish-hook" design of the Harborwalk, which juts out into the bay at the most vulnerable point of the city's shoreline, will be re-aligned along Water Street. The existing edging, brick pavers, benches, lighting and railing will be removed and

realigned so as to straighten the Harborwalk and eliminate the increased potential for erosion during storms.

This portion of the project is scheduled to begin later this summer. However, all three projects will be constructed by Marvec Construction Corporation of Verona, at a cost of \$345,771.50.

Also, the city will begin focusing on High Street, from City Hall Circle to Sadowski Parkway by resurfacing that portion of the street and adding new curbing and antique acorn lighting. This \$362,586 project is being constructed by Jenicar Builders of Kearny, the same company that handled the State Street and Amboy Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Projects.



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The Patriot Line

AREA—An American flag has been carried, relay style, across the nation in a demonstration of unity and patriotism.

The flag, donated by Portland fire station #25, left Portland, Oregon on New Year's Day. It traveled 28-35 miles per day, carried mainly by local firefighters, law enforcement officers and military personnel.

On May 26, the flag passed

through our area, traveling through Metuchen, Woodbridge, Rahway, Linden and Elizabeth.

It arrived at the Statue of Liberty in New York City on Memorial Day.

The general public was invited to show their support by coming out to walk with their local firefighters and law enforcement officers.



THE PATRIOT LINE—New York City firefighters (L-R) Tom Venditto, John Fila, Joe Maresco and Bob Stiehl, salute after they pass an American flag to US Coast Guard Master Chief John Donovan in New York on Monday, marking the final leg of the flag's six month journey from Portland, Ore., to the Statue of Liberty. Volunteers relayed the flag along a cross-country route which they called The Patriot Line to promote unity after the Sept. 11 attacks.

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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS**NJIT Seeks Students For Pre-College Summer Institute**

AREA — New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) will once again offer its successful summer programs for elementary and high school students. The summer programs help students excel in science, technology and math. "We see ourselves as educating tomorrow's professionals at the Center for Pre-College Program," says Rosa Cano, associate director of the program.

The center, which enters its 24th summer session this coming July, typically attracts academically motivated and talented students and prepares them for success in engineering and technological fields.

This summer, more than 275 students from areas within commuting distance of NJIT are expected to enroll in the seven programs. The students range in age from those who completed fourth to eleventh grades by June of 2002. Fees for tuition range from \$200 to \$700. Scholarship programs are available for students with financial needs. Classes are

held on the NJIT campus from July 1 to August 2. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

The following programs will be offered this summer.

- The Women in Engineering and Technology Initiative is available to female students completing fourth to eighth grades.

- The Experimental Math, Science and Communication Program is open to students completing seventh grade.

- The Introduction to Chemical Industry for Minorities in Engineering program is open to students completing seventh or eighth grade who are black, hispanic, native American or native Alaskan.

- The Urban/Civil Engineering Summer Institute seeks students completing ninth or tenth grade.

- The Engineering Prep-Physics program is available to students completing tenth or eleventh grade who have not taken physics.

- The Algebra Prep program readies students completing seventh or eighth grade to

enroll in algebra I.

- The Pre-Engineering Program seeks students completing sixth grade.

For information and applications call (973) 596-3550 or visit the website <http://www.njit.edu/precollege>.

NJIT is a public scientific, technological research university enrolling over 8,800 students. The university offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees to students in 80 degree programs throughout its six colleges: Newark College of Engineering, New Jersey School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, School of Management, Albert Dorman Honors College and College of Computing Sciences. The Division of Continuing Professional Education offers a range of classes for non-degree students. Expertise and research initiatives include architecture and building science, applied mathematics, biomedical engineering, environmental engineering and science, information technology, manufactur-

ing, materials, microelectronics, multimedia, telecommunications, transportation, and solar astrophysics. Yahoo! In-

ternet Life magazine cites NJIT as a "perennially most wired" university.

Enroll Now For Shoestring's Summer Acting Workshop

NEW BRUNSWICK — When school is out, the fun begins with Shoestring! The Shoestring Players, a professional non-profit theater company for young audiences, will be offering a week-long Acting Workshop from Monday, June 24–Friday, June 28 from 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. The class is for students who will be enrolled in the 4th–8th grade in the Fall. The program will take place on the Douglass College Campus of Rutgers University, New Brunswick and the cost of the class is \$200 per child. Registration ends June 19. Space is limited, so register now! Call (732) 932-9772.

In the five day workshop, students will learn theater games and acting exercises designed to strengthen their skills, boost self confidence, and build teamwork. Students will apply their new found skills as they rehearse a one-act play to be performed on the last day of class.

The Shoestring Players is a not-for-profit professional touring children's theater company in residence at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. For more information on Shoestring's workshops, assembly programs, and public performances, call (732) 932-9772.

PUBLIC NOTICE**PUBLIC NOTICE****CARTERET BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING SCHEDULE - APRIL 2002 - MARCH 2003**

April 24th	7:00 P.M.	Reorganization/Agenda/Regular Meeting
May 14th (Tuesday)	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
May 22nd (rescheduled to May 20th)	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
June 19th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
June 26th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
July 31st	7:00 P.M.	Agenda/Regular Meeting
August 28th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda/Regular Meeting
September 18th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
September 25th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
October 22nd (Tuesday)	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
October 30th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
November 19th (Tuesday)	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
November 27th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
December 18th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda/Regular Meeting
January 22nd	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
January 29th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
February 19th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
February 26th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting
March 19th	7:00 P.M.	Agenda Meeting
March 26th	7:00 P.M.	Regular Meeting

All Board of Education Agenda Meetings will be held at the Carteret Administration Building, 599 Roosevelt Avenue, beginning 7:00 P.M. All Board of Education Regular Meetings will be held at the Carteret Middle School, 300 Carteret Avenue beginning 7:00 P.M.

All Agenda/Regular Meetings held on the same night will be at the Carteret Administration Building, 599 Roosevelt Avenue, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

FORMAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN AT ANY MEETING

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**CLASS
REUNIONS**

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

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

**St. Thomas Aquinas
Class Of 1977 Holds 25-Year Reunion**

EDISON — St. Thomas Aquinas High School (aka Bishop Ahr) will hold their 25th year reunion on Saturday, July 20 from 7–11 p.m. at the Edison Elks Lodge/Edison Community Pool.

The cost will be \$20 per person and tickets must be purchased prior to July 13. Make checks payable to: Edison Elks and mail checks to Maria Paterniti Tomaro, 4 Waverly Dr. East, Edison, N.J. 08817. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets will be mailed back.

Beef and Brew tickets are also available to be purchased directly at the Edison Elks Lodge, 375 Old Post Rd., Edison or call (732) 985-2487.

No tickets will be available at the door or after July 13 since steaks need to be purchased prior to dinner. No children are permitted by state law since alcohol will be served. Casual dress.

For additional details log onto classmates.com or www.njlaws.com. Please send your e-mail address to KenV@njlaws.com.

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1st & 5th Sunday: 9:30 am
Wed. Bible Study: Noon & 7:00 pm

<http://community.nj.com/cc/nhbc>

Local Residents Named To Dean's List

AREA—Caldwell College recently named 193 students to the fall 2001 Dean's List, according to Paul Douillard,

Ph.D., of Randolph, vice president and dean of academic affairs. In order to achieve this honor, students must maintain a

cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and complete at least 12 credits during the semester. There were 76 seniors, 37 juniors, 44 sophomores, 36 freshmen named to the Dean's List.

The following Middlesex County residents were named to the Dean's List: Seniors Kristin Blahuta and Nicole LaMorte and junior Eden Woredek of Edison, Junior Courtney Edgington and freshman Melanie Smyth of Iselin, seniors Lora Bucior of Perth Amboy and Barbara Stilwell of Woodbridge

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OBITUARIES**Olga Galvin, 64
of Carteret**

Mrs. Olga "Ducky" (Betsos) Galvin of the Homestead section of Columbus (formerly of Carteret) died May 17 at home. She was 64.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived in Jersey City and in Carteret before moving to Homestead almost seven years ago.

She retired in 1994 as a store manager from the McCrory's store in Carteret.

Prior to that, she worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in New York City.

She was the co-chairperson for the Bicentennial Committee for 12 years, and was also a former den mother for Carteret Cub Scout Pack 88, all in Carteret.

Mrs. Galvin was a member of St. Clare's R.C. Church in Florence.

Surviving are her husband, James Galvin; a son Michael a Galvin of Sayreville; two grandchildren, Michael and Nicole Galvin; a sister, Helen Alamia of West Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.; a brother, Peter of Stamford, Conn.; her very dear friends, Jim and Lila Brown of Columbus, and many nieces and nephews.

**Lydia Violante, 84
of Carteret**

Mrs. Lydia Diana (Scarlattelli) Violante of Carteret died May 18 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. She was 84.

Born in Jersey City and lived there for most of her life. She moved to Carteret six years ago.

She was retired from Two Guys in Jersey City, where she was a cashier for 15 years.

Mrs. Violante was a communicant of St. Joseph's R.C. Church in Carteret, a member of the Servants of Mary, and a member of both the Carteret Day and Night seniors clubs.

Her husband, Daniel, died in 1990, and by a sister, Catherine Pietrapinto and three brothers, Carmine, Robert and Roland, are also deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Carol Failace and her husband, Mayor James Faiace, of Carteret and Mary DiFiore of Clifton; three sons, Joseph Violante and his wife, Diana, of Lakewood, Daniel Violante of Edison, Robert Violante of Virginia; two sisters, Tina Quartarolo and Flora Folio; three brothers, Joseph, Eugene and Michael, and 12 grandchildren.

**Mary Korodan, 74
of Perth Amboy**

Mrs. Mary (Kuzmjak) Korodan of Perth Amboy died May 13 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 74.

Born in Ogdensburg, she lived in Perth Amboy most of her life.

Mrs. Korodan was a communicant of St. Anthony's R.C. Church, Port Reading.

Her husband, John, died in 1994.

Surviving are three sons, John Korodan of Port Reading, Thomas Korodan of Monmouth Junction and Robert Korodan of Hawaii; a daughter, Patricia Dadon of Port Reading; four sisters, Helen Troccoli of Old Bridge, Ann Hrabar of Avenel, Ruth Taylor of Hopelawn and Dorothy Coley of North Carolina; a brother, John Kuzmjak of England; and 11 grandchildren, Timothy, Lauren, Jennifer, Jessica, James, Allison, Christian, Brian, Chelsea, Rabeka and Kiyom.

**Helen Figel, 83
of Perth Amboy**

Mrs. Helen Figel of Perth Amboy died May 16 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division. She was 83.

Her first husband, Alex DiLeo, died in 1960; and her second husband, Steve Figel, died in 1967.

Surviving are two daughters, Emily Steele and Barbara Gordon; a son, Francis Figel; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Bronislaw Hetmanski
of Carteret**

Mr. Bronislaw "Benny" Hetmanski died May 17 at home in Carteret. He was 77.

Born in Poland, and lived in Carteret for the past 47 years.

He retired as an inspector from U.S. Metal Refining Co. in Carteret, where he worked for 35 years.

Mr. Hetmanski was a parishioner of Holy Family R.C. Church in Carteret.

He served as a paratrooper with the Polish forces under British command from 1944 to 1947.

Surviving by his wife, Katherine (Rudawska) Hetmanski, two daughters, Elizabeth Remeika of Avenel; Christine, Pisano of Little Egg Harbor; two sons, Frederick Hetmanski of Carteret and John Peter Hetmanski of Carteret; and five grandchildren, Erick, Elisa, John III, Sarah and Donald.

**Elizabeth J. Stevens
of Metuchen**

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Stevens of Jackson (formerly of Metuchen) died May 13 at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold. She was 47.

Born in Queens, N.Y., she resided in Metuchen before moving to Jackson 20 years ago.

Her mother, Jean Elizabeth Ricigliano, died in 1993.

Surviving are her father, Wendell of Springhill, Fla.; two brothers, John of Metuchen and Christopher of Edison, and three nieces, Danielle, Carey and Megan.

Dominick Gasparro of Parlin

Mr. Dominick John Gasparro of Jackson (formerly of Parlin) died May 13 at Kimball Medical Center, Lakewood. He was 74.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Parlin before moving to Jackson two years ago.

He was employed by Revlon, Inc., Edison, as a supervisor in the packaging-coordination department for 36 years, retiring in 1993.

Mr. Gasparro was a Navy veteran of World War II and was awarded the World War II Victory Medal.

He attended Rutgers University Evening School. He was the founding and charter member of The Steel Fabricators of New Jersey Branch 73 (Supreme Anchor C of America, another section of The Knights of Columbus) and served as supreme director and state secretary.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Star of The Sea Council 371, Bayonne, where he took all three degrees. He then transferred to Our Lady of Victory Council 2061, then to South Amboy Council 462,

where he held all chairs. He became grand knight in 1970. He later joined Monsignor John F. Brady Assembly in 1964. He served as an aide to the masters of the 2nd New Jersey District. He later joined the Archbishop Theodore McCarrick 3rd Degree teams.

Mr. Gasparro was a communicant of St. Aloysius R.C. Church, Jackson and was a former communicant of St. Bernadette's R.C. Church, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 5478.

In addition, he was a member of the St. Bernadette's Senior Citizens, the Jackson Seniors and the Bocci Club at Westlake, Jackson.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Madeline Dachille Gasparro; a daughter, Dorothy Gasparro of Clarksburg; three sons, Joseph Gasparro of Carteret, Donato Gasparro of Clarksburg and Frank Gasparro of Millstone; a sister, Esta Kelly of Parlin; and nine grandchildren, Nicole, Stephanie, Joseph, Ashley, Alex, Mikaela, Dominick, Gregory and Vincent.

Betsy Hobbs, 100 of Avenel

Mrs. Betsy (Edmond) Hobbs of RiverWoods Nursing Home, Lewisburg, Pa. (formerly of Avenel) died May 1 in Pennsylvania. She was 100.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she lived there before moving to Avenel.

She was a member of the New Dover United Methodist Church, Edison. She served as a kindergarten Sunday school teacher.

Mrs. Hobbs was also a secretary/chaplain of the Avenel

Senior Citizens.

Her husband of 47 years, Elmer Charles Hobbs, died in 1970; a son, Elmer Edmond Hobbs, died in 1994. Three sisters, Annabella Axon, Mary Thompson and Lucy Edmond and a brother, Alfred Edmond, are all deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Lucy E. Bergmueller of New Columbia, Pa.; a sister, Edith Piatrowski; a brother, John Edmond; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



**MID-DAY
"HOUR OF
POWER"**

**The Cathedral
Second Baptist Church**

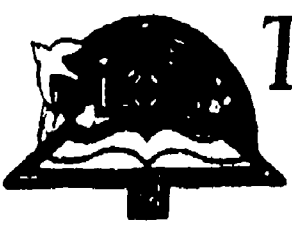
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12:05 NOON**

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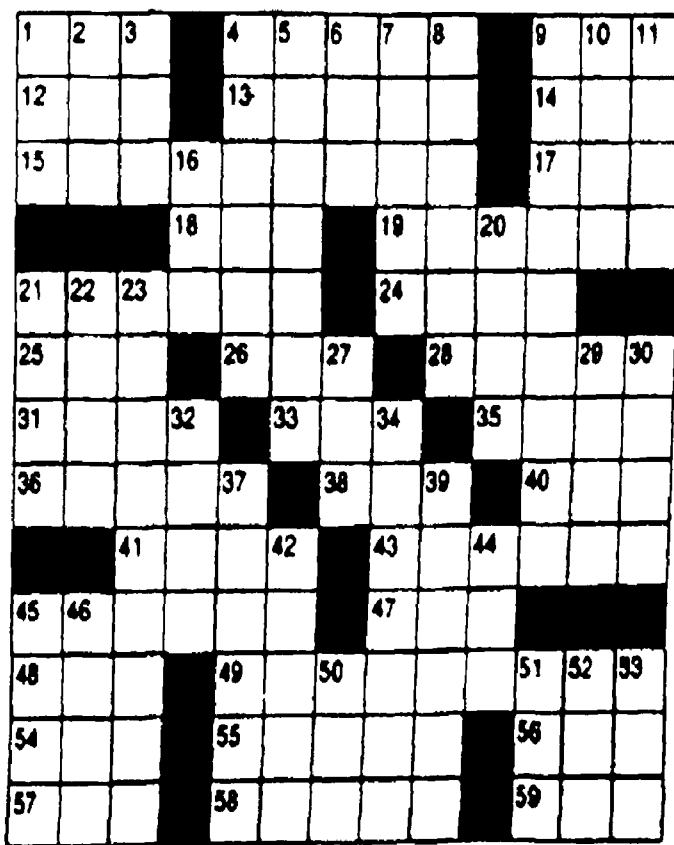
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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

- 1 "Kilroy - here"
 4 Cons
 9 Behar of "The View"
 12 Make inquiries
 13 Apartment house sign
 14 Pres. nickname
 15 German quaff
 17 Sanders' title (Abbr.)
 18 "Got a Secret"
 19 Pear variety
 21 Composer Gustav
 24 Speedy steed
 25 Get - for effort
 26 Fresh
 28 Mr. Marner
 31 B&Bs
 33 Grumpy companion?
 35 Local theater, slangily
 36 Computer-system acronym
 38 Kvetch
 40 Cold War spy org.
 41 Auctioneer's cry
 43 Missile
 45 Lottery participant
 47 French pronoun
 48 Khan title
 49 Ben & Jerry's flavor
 54 "Brady Bunch" sib



- 55 Author Zola
 56 Commil perjury
 57 Toss into the mix
 58 Fought the clock
 59 Swampy area
 DOWN
 1 1940s headline word
 2 Hardwood tree
 3 Tackle moguls
 4 Director Spielberg
 5 Cringed in fear
 6 "The

- Greatest"
 7 High-IQ group
 8 Takes the helm
 9 "Shallow Hal" star
 10 Reed instrument
 11 Holler
 16 Zilch
 20 First felon
 21 Injure severely
 22 Jillian and Reinking
 23 Gymnastic feat
 27 Triumphed
 29 Rose's mate
 30 Membership

- 32 Santa's laundry woe
 34 Essayist Thomas
 37 Not so quick
 39 Over-charged
 42 O'Neill forte
 44 Round (Abbr.)
 45 North American peninsula, familiarly
 46 "Holy smoke!"
 50 Crooner Damone
 51 TV extra-terrestrial
 52 Compete
 53 Longing

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The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

Maggie noticed fresh wounds on Trey. Later, after telling Kendall there was evidence that she started the fire that burned down Erica's house, Trey got more information about her from Ryan and Jackson to use in his scheme. Stuart was concerned about Adam's mysterious behavior. After comforting Tad, who grieved over Dixie, Brooke tried to reach Edmund but he had disappeared. Greenlee inadvertently upset Simone with her news. Wait to See: Mary reconnects with Roger.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

A joyous Emily was reunited with her loved ones. Katie and Simon's apparently well-calculated plan blew up. Barbara found herself left high and dry and facing an uncertain future. Carly confronted Rosanna with some piercing questions. Wait to See: Molly receives Jake's ashes. Barbara and Rosanna form an alliance.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Rick and Ridge argued over Amber's apparent health problems. Eric was upset that Massimo would attend Brooke and Whip's wedding. Meanwhile, Sally and Clarke wondered why Brooke would want to marry Whip. Erica was upset that her mother was coming to Los Angeles. Amber worried that her behavior would give the Forresters one more reason to look down on her. Massimo and Eric competed for Stephanie's affections. Wait to See: Erica faces a difficult decision.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Bo and Hope learned shocking information about the identity of her baby's father. Meanwhile, Rolf came up with a plan to help Lexie get Isaac back. Jack joined with Sami in a plot to break up Jennifer and Brandon. John had another nightmare of danger looming around the DiMeras. Brady celebrated his 21st birthday. Jan tried to get closer to Shawn. Wait to See: Mimi gets information about the night of Jan's accident. Bo and Hope wait for a potentially life-changing phone call.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gia felt increasing pressure coming from Taggart. Sonny prepared to make an uncharacteristic apology. AJ developed a "theory." Skye looked forward to a romantic evening. Wait to See: Because of storyline confidentiality, the soap would not provide upcoming copy alerts for the week of May 27-31.

GUIDING LIGHT

Romeo maneuvered Marah into a life-threatening situation. Frank began digging into Gus' past. Meanwhile, Blake tried to deal with the emerging details of Tory's shady past. Edmund had important news for Danny. Wait to See: Rick and Mel prepare for a trip.

Carmen vows to tell Tony nothing. Phillip exposes Gus' secret.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

(The series continues to maintain a blackout on story lines through this week.)

PASSIONS

Whitney tried to figure out if Theresa was covering for someone. Brian realized "Diana" (Sheridan) could be in danger when Nick warned him that he intended to collect the money he lost when Brian ruined one of his scams. Pilar saw a horrific sight in her teacup. Later, Pilar burst into Theresa's bail hearing and ordered her to admit she didn't kill Julian. As Zombie Charity began to make love to Miguel, she struggled to stop her true demonic form from taking control. Wait to See: Reese gets closer to exposing Tabitha as a witch.

PORT CHARLES

Livvie continued to manipulate Rafe's affections with more lies about their presumably shared past. Meanwhile, Alison asked Jamal to help her stop Jack from investigating Kevin's disappearance on his own. Later, Lucy provided Alison and Jack with news involving her discovery about Kevin. Rafe uncovered a clue to his past when he visited the barn. Wait to See: Kevin meets Rebecca.

THE YOUNG

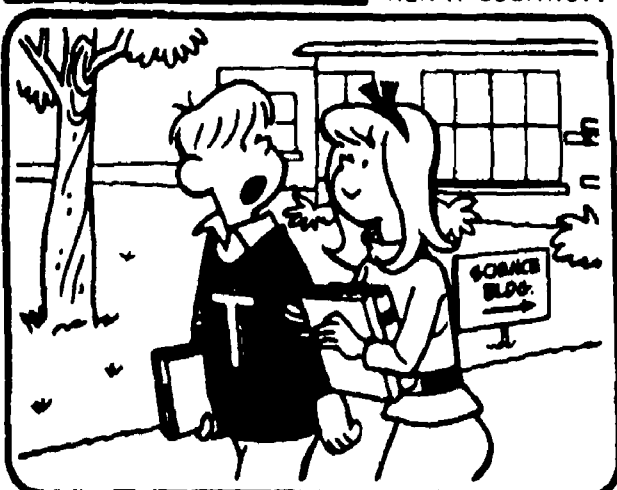
AND THE RESTLESS

Diego planned to leave after learning of Sharon and Nick's imminent return from their Caribbean second honeymoon. Meanwhile, Nikki encouraged Victor to go on his mysterious trip despite Neil's sudden decision to quit his job. Ashley told a shocked Brad about the new lump she found in her breast. Paul admitted to Isabella that he still had feelings for Chris. Phyllis was against Jack's idea to have Diane and Kyle stay with them so he could be close to his son. Amanda sidestepped Warton's comment about Mac believing she saw Ralph in town. Wait to See: Chris makes an "interesting" discovery.

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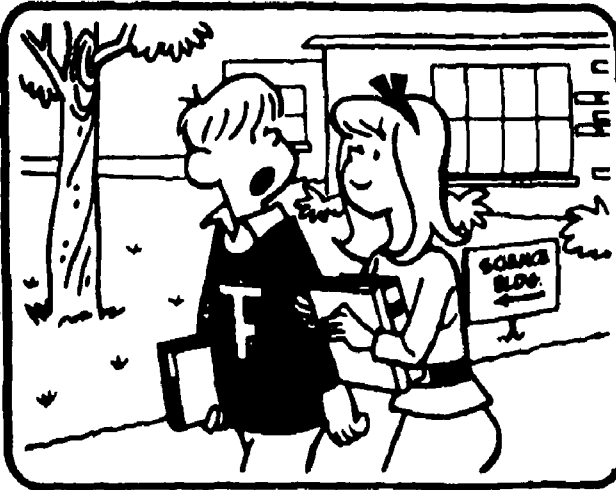
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

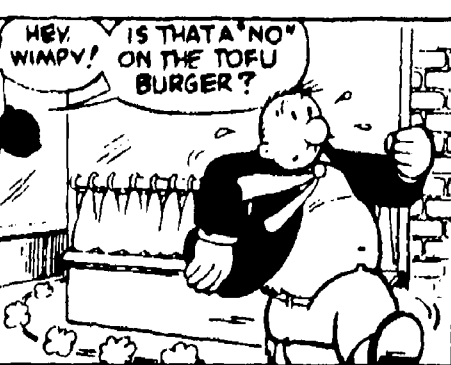
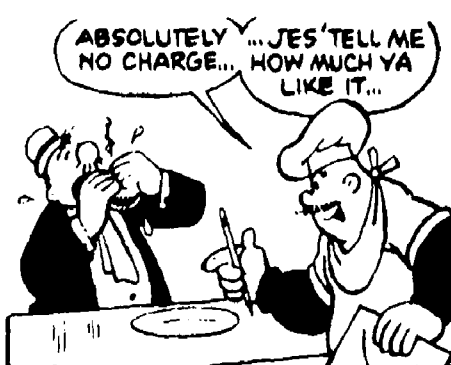
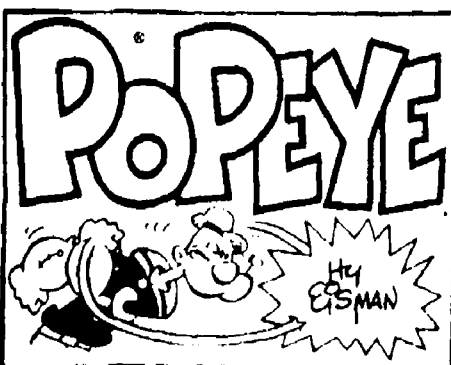


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Letter is different. 2. Arrow direction has changed. 3. Girl's collar is different. 4. Window is missing. 5. Bricks added to building. 6. More tufts of grass by tree.



to Puzzle



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McGreevey Holds Town Meeting With Middlesex County Seniors continued...

"We have focused on property tax relief, on important healthcare initiatives such as cancer research funding and prescription drug assistance and on establishing a special advocate for the elderly in the newly created Department of the Public Advocate."

(continued from page...3)

relief they are entitled to," said McGreevey. "The new income limits will allow more of New Jersey's seniors to participate and obtain tax relief for the first time this year."

Despite a \$5.3 billion shortfall, McGreevey said his FY 2003 budget has increased funding for direct property tax relief programs that benefit seniors by \$48.8 million.

This increase includes an additional \$13.7 million for Homestead Rebates, which will allow the maximum benefit to rise to \$775.

The Property Tax Reimbursement Program is also increasing by \$7.4 million, allowing more than twice as many people to take advantage of the program. McGreevey is also increasing funding for the Veterans Tax Exemption by \$16.7 million and the Senior Income Tax Deduction by \$11 million.

Citing the need to improve healthcare for seniors, McGreevey said that his administration has focused largely on cancer research. He said an allocation of \$28 million to The Cancer Institute of New Jersey demonstrates his determination to make New Jersey the national leader in the war against cancer.

"The new funds will invigorate the Cancer Institute's efforts to combat cancer in New Jersey, where the disease strikes over 40,000 new vic-

tims and results in 18,000 deaths each year," said McGreevey.

The governor also informed the attendees that he has asked the New Jersey Congressional delegation to support a regulatory change for Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) that would provide more equity and more federal dollars to New Jersey. Currently, other states receive federal funding for pharmaceutical assistance through Medicaid waivers, and if the regulatory change is made, New Jersey would qualify for \$150 million.

McGreevey also said that currently, Middlesex County has more than 20 seniors who are on the Assisted Living Waiver waiting list. The Assisted Living Waiver program allows New Jersey to use federal funds intended for nursing home care to be used instead for financially and physically eligible individuals in an assisted living setting. The Governor said that he has asked the federal government to approve 375 more assisted living slots and has proposed \$2.9 million in his budget to pay for the State's share of the cost of the waivers, if granted.

The number of persons over age 60 in Middlesex County is 120,000 or 16 percent of the county's total population.

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St. Jude Novena

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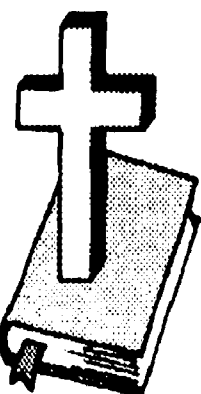
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**Retiring Worn Flags**

SOUTH AMBOY - Sacred Heart School, South Amboy, will be collecting American flags which can no longer be displayed. Any American flag which is torn or faded should not be flown. The flags will be disposed of properly and respectfully by a Veterans group based at Sacred Heart Church.

There will be three collection centers located throughout the Sacred Heart School campus.

Sacred Heart School (through June 21)-Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 229 Cedar Street, South Amboy; Sacred Heart Parish Center-Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 224 North Feltus Street, South Amboy; and Sacred Heart Church-Saturdays from 4-6 p.m.; Sundays from 7 a.m.-12 Noon, 531 Washington Avenue, South Amboy.

Call (732) 721-0834 with any questions.

Arrests Made At Adult Theater

SAYREVILLE - Last Tuesday, police arrested 13 patrons at the adult movie theater on Route 9, charging them with lewdness and criminal sexual contact. Three patrons were arrested last Sunday, charged with acts of lewdness.

The theater, Cinema 9, had lost its business license earlier this month. Owners are challenging this decision in Superior Court. The theater remains open while the owners make their appeal.

The council voted not to renew the license because it says the adult theater is located too close to homes and has been the site of many arrests.

Councilman Tom Marcinczyk said, "We have had numerous complaints and problems (with the theater.) There are houses there within 200 or 250 feet. I wouldn't want it in my back yard."

Code Enforcement Official Bill Nemeth recommended that the council not renew the theater's license because state law bans sexually oriented businesses within 1,000 feet of homes.

Prosecutor Robert Blanda presented more than 60 complaints against patrons who had been arrested, many of them for lewd acts.

South Amboy School Taxes Stable After Budget Cuts

SOUTH AMBOY - The City Council and Board of Education have agreed to make sufficient cuts to the district's defeated school budget to keep school taxes stable.

Last week, the council voted to cut \$283,538 from various salary accounts for teachers and recommended that \$82,040 in surplus funds and miscellaneous revenue be applied to the budget to reduce tax impact.

The proposed \$13.7 million school budget would have raised

school taxes by \$114 for the city's average homeowner with a home assessed at \$65,000. The budget was defeated in the April 16 election.

During that election, voters also defeated two special questions. One called for spending \$100,000 to purchase 52 computers for the district. The other called for \$250,000 to renovate restrooms at the elementary school. The council did not restore funding for either item.

Couple Received Doctorate Degrees

EDISON - A married couple received doctorate degrees in physics from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) during its May 28 commencement exercises at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark.

The couple, Hee Chuan Lim and Yew Fong Hor, of Edison, was born in Malaysia but came to America 8 years ago to study science. They were married in 1995. After graduation Hee will pursue postdoctoral work at NJIT while also doing research at Princeton University.

They said they came to America individually because of his strong tradition in science.

Both of them, while at NJIT, worked on groundbreaking research. Hor worked on building a small, hand-held device that could detect pollutants in both air and water.

Lim worked on burn applications and diagnostics - soft tissue research that could determine the depth of a skin burn - that guides doctors doing skin grafts on patients. The advisor on the research project, Professor John Federici, has a patent on the process.

Hor's entire family is a "physics family." Her brother is working on a doctorate at Rutgers; her



young just received a master's in physics and will pursue a doctorate; and her younger brother will come to America in the fall to pursue a graduate degree in physics.

Laboratory Excellence Acknowledged In Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY - Raritan Bay Medical Center's Perth Amboy Division Laboratory has been awarded a prestigious two-year accreditation from the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation on the College of American Pathologists (CAP). The accreditation was based on the results of a recent on-site inspection by a team of seven examiners.

"Raritan Bay Medical Center is one of a select group of laboratories that has been evaluated

and found to be in compliance with CAP accreditation standards-rigorous laboratory standards designed to help ensure quality patient care," said William B. Hamlin, M.D., Chair of the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation.

The CAP Laboratory Accreditation Program, begun in the early 1960s, is recognized by the both the federal government and the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) as being

equal to or more stringent than their own inspection programs. The College of American Pathologists is the most respected laboratory accreditation program in the world, and is widely considered the "gold standard" of excellence for clinical laboratories.

Raritan Bay Medical Center's Old Bridge and Perth Amboy Division laboratories performed more than 800,000 test procedures in 2001.



SERVICE RECOGNIZED—Alexis Rivera (C.) of Perth Amboy Vocational-Technical High School, receives her Caring Award from Marie Zebro Lake (L) and Shirlee Camp, chairpersons of the annual Caring Awards held at Middlesex County College in April. The event, sponsored by the Middlesex County Guidance Council, recognizes high school students for outstanding service to their communities and those in need.

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