

The ATOM TABLOID

Incorporating the Atom Tabloid, South Amboy Citizen & Perth Amboy Gazette

& Citizen-Gazette

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Middlesex County Edition

VOL. 121, NO. 33

Friday, August 16, 2002

50¢



South Amboy Receives \$10 Million For Waterfront Redevelopment

SOUTH AMBOY — South Amboy's redevelopment partner, DEVCOR, received a million dollar check from New Jersey's Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA). At a ceremony attended by state and local dignitaries last Friday, the ten million-dollar check was presented to begin the process of acquiring lands along the waterfront and kick-start the redevelopment program.

"This is representative of what can happen when a team

works together and is not deterred from its task," said South Amboy Mayor John T. O'Leary. "We put together a team in South Amboy, worked with the state-wide leaders and now with Governor McGreevey in office we can push this forward to the next level," O'Leary went on.

The ten million-dollar check will be used to acquire land upon which the South Amboy Cogeneration Plant will be built. The Cogen Plant, which will

include a three hundred million-dollar investment from a partner, will be an enormous ratable addition to the city of South Amboy.

"It's all about maintaining stable taxes and providing the services our residents want," said O'Leary.

As part of the redevelopment program, O'Leary has already brought high-speed ferry service to the waterfront and begun a beautiful residential community along the waterfront.

SeaStreak, a commuter ferry

service based in Atlantic Highlands, is playing a key role in the South Amboy redevelopment initiative. The company opened its South Amboy ferry terminal in February and is the only daily commuter ferry service available from Middlesex County into Manhattan.

David Stafford, General Manager of SeaStreak, says, "SeaStreak is pleased to see this important and exciting project move forward. From the beginning, we have had a clear vision

of an upscale and contemporary waterfront in the City of South Amboy. Our longstanding commitment of resources, including road improvements and facilities, is helping to lead the way for this next stage. The renaissance of this new waterfront hub will play an integral role in this exciting project. Equally as important is SeaStreak's ability to provide an affordable and efficient alternative to driving to work on the overcrowded roads in Central Jersey."

Edison Plastic Surgeon Accused Of Fraudulent Billing

EDISON—A local plastic surgeon has been indicted on charges that he defrauded private insurance companies of \$1.2 million for procedures that he didn't do or that he overbilled for.

Dr. Elliot Heller, who owns

and operates Ear, Nose, Throat Group of N.J./Plastic Surgery Associates of N.J., was charged with one count of conspiracy, two counts of theft by deception and one count of attempted theft by deception in the indictment.

Each offense is a second degree charge that could bring five to 10 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine.

The indictment alleges that between April 1996 and April 1998, Heller fraudulently billed insurance companies for \$500,000 for nonelective, cosmetic procedures that he described as medically necessary and for surgery not performed.

The indictment also alleges that Heller billed insurance com-

panies as if an out-of-network doctor actually performed the procedures, netting him a higher fee than he would have otherwise received.

The indictment also alleges that Heller inflated bills by altering or adding diagnosis and service codes.

Heller also faces possible civil insurance fraud fines.

Two other individuals had previously been charged in connection with the investigation of

Heller's office. On June 14, Maria Cacoilo pleaded guilty to falsification of medical records. Cacoilo, an Edison resident, worked as Heller's office manager.

On March 15, Robert Cohen pleaded guilty to conspiracy and theft by deception. Cohen, a Matawan resident employed by Heller's group as a nurse anesthetist, was sentenced to two years of probation and ordered to pay \$9,677 in restitution.

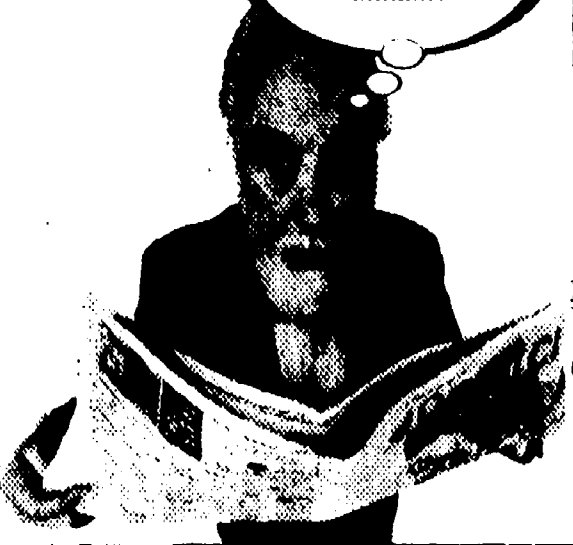
We Want To Know

Here's your chance to tell us what you like and dislike.

Check out our Reader's Survey on page 11.

Don't miss the opportunity to make this paper better than it already is!

You really want to know what I think...?



Dominican Association Hosts Downtown Festival

PERTH AMBOY — On Aug. 16, the Dominican community will be celebrating the 137th anniversary of the restoration of the country's independence. The Dominican Association of Perth Amboy (ADOPA), whose purpose is to promote the unity and foster the cultural enrichment of all Hispanics, will be hosting a colorful two-day festival to commemorate this momentous holiday. In addition to typical Dominican food, music and folkloric dance, the list of planned activities include recitals, raffles,

games, visits from prominent personalities and other surprises.

Taking into consideration the high concentration of Dominicans in the Perth Amboy area, not to mention their vehement sense of patriotism, we expect this festival to be of unparalleled proportions in our area.

We estimate the flow of over 40,000 people through the streets of our festival at any given point during the two days.

In attendance will be several distinguished dignitaries

from throughout the tri-state area, musical groups such as the Classicos del merengue, Safra Negra and several other well known groups. Also present will be the leading Latin television station and Latino Mix the leading radio station of the metropolitan area.

This festival will be held on Smith Street, downtown Perth Amboy, beginning on Saturday, Aug. 17. The festivities will commence at 1 p.m. and conclude at 9 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. on Sunday.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Berkeley College Honors Middlesex County Students Inducted Into National Honor Society

MIDDLESEX recently honored five Middlesex COUNTY—Berkeley College County students who were induct-

ed into the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society.

"Induction into Phi Theta Kappa demonstrates true perseverance and a commitment to academic excellence," said Dr. Rose Mary Healy, Berkeley College Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. "The students we have honored at this induction

ceremony are a credit to the high academic standards of Berkeley College."

The following Middlesex County residents were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa: Star-Twinkle Serrano of East Brunswick; Surim Campos of Fords; Christopher Petricelli of Parlin; Lanette Rivera of Perth

Amboy and Carla Ferreira of Sayreville. The Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society was established in 1918 to honor the academic achievement of students in two-year-colleges.

To qualify, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or better for two consecutive academic quarters. The Berkeley College students were inducted into the Alpha Upsilon Epsilon chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

A leader in business education for more than 70 years, Berkeley College offers Baccalaureate and Associate degrees. Berkeley provides students of all generations with a high-quality education encompassing academic preparation, professional training and hands-on experience. The College maintains campuses in West Paterson and Woodbridge, New Jersey and in New York City and White Plains, New York. The college's website address is www.BerkeleyCollege.edu.



PHI THETA KAPPA MEMBERS—Berkeley College students residing in Middlesex County recently celebrated their induction into the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Stand (L.-R.) are Carla Ferreira of Sayreville, Christopher Petrocelli of Parlin, Lanette Rivera of Perth Amboy, Berkeley College Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Rose Mary Healy, Surim Campos of Fords and Star-Twinkle Serrano of East Brunswick.

Local Students Earn Degrees From Drew University

MADISON—The following local residents have received Bachelor of Arts degrees from Drew University. The University celebrated its 134th Commencement on May 18.

Jennifer Rebecca Micale of Fords; Paramjit Singh Chawla,

Ludmila Ivchenko, Samuel Martin Ortiz, Julio Dionisio Pina, Chandra Prabha, Eugene Rost, Lev S. Simkhayev and Mariavida Tupaz Tecson, all of Perth Amboy.

Founded in 1867, Drew is a selective, independent, coeducational university with a total enrollment of more than 2,400 students in its college of liberal arts, graduate school and theological school. *Kiplinger's* listed the university as one of the top 100 values in private colleges and *US News & World Report* ranks Drew in the top half of the best national liberal arts colleges in the nation.

Local Students on Rensselaer Dean's List

AREA—Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has announced the names of students who made the Institute's dean's list for the spring semester. The dean's list recognizes full-time students who maintain grade-point average of a minimum of 3.0 out of a possible 4.0 and have no grades below "C".

Local students making the dean's list are:

Carlos A. Arauz of Carteret; Justin L. Manatch and Laurence I. Savage of Metuchen; and Bryce J. Remesch of Sewaren.

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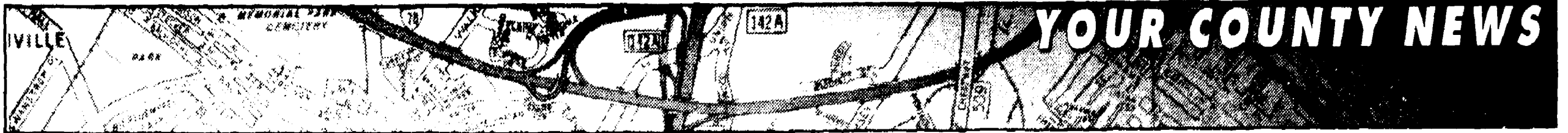
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Plays-In-The-Park Presents Titanic

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Middlesex County's historic summer theater, Plays-In-The-Park announced the third show of their 40th season of musicals, *Titanic* opened Wednesday, Aug. 14 and will play through Saturday, Aug. 24, every night except Sunday, Aug. 18.

Titanic has music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and a dramatic book by Peter ("1776") Stone. The show was a hit on Broadway and tour and is based on the legendary story of the "ship that couldn't sink" but unfortunately did, when it struck an iceberg.

The large casts include a great number of Plays-In-The-Park alumni, including Jackie Neill, Jeff Babey, Tom Straffi, Robert Dumpert, Matt Hagovsky and Kathleen Campbell, as well as many new faces.

Art Neill will direct the show, with choreography by Michele Mossary-Cuevas and

musical direction by Jim Sabo. Vocal direction is by Jonathan Flowers. Gary P. Cohen has designed the set, Roman Klima has created the lighting design and Cindy Capraro has done the costume design.

Admission is only \$3 for adults; children 12 and under are admitted free.

The box office opens at 5:30 p.m. on the day of performances. Audience members must bring a low-back lawn chair, which they may place on the lawn area immediately after purchasing a ticket.

The theater, formerly known as the Roosevelt Park Amphitheater and now called the Stephen J. Capestro theater, is located in Roosevelt Park, Edison just one block south of the Menlo Park Mall on Route 1. Take the Grandview Avenue turn-off and the Park Rangers will guide you to a parking spot.

Middlesex Graduates Sought for Local AmeriCorps Program

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The New Jersey Community Development Corporation (NJCDC) is recruiting recent college graduates from Middlesex County to be part of AmeriCorps, the "domestic Peace Corps." AmeriCorps prepares young men and women for careers in public service and in social services through rigorous community service assignments and an array of educational activities designed to

develop leadership skills.

Individuals who are selected for the program will be expected to work forty hours per week with people in need, such as at-risk children and teenagers and homeless and impoverished families. Work assignments are throughout northern New Jersey. In exchange for a year of service, AmeriCorps members receive a generous living stipend, full health benefits and an educational award of

\$4,725 to pay off student loans or to go on to graduate school.

The next class of the Community Leaders Program will begin in Sept. 2002, and will run through mid-August of 2003. Individuals interested in applying should send a resume and cover letter to: AmeriCorps, PO Box 1811, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. For more information, call the NJCDC at (973) 225-0555 and ask for Julie MacLeod.

Route 18 Improvement Project Receives Funding

EAST BRUNSWICK — Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox recently joined with State Sen. Barbara Buono, East Brunswick Mayor William Neary, and other local officials to announce that the New Jersey Department of Transportation will contribute \$3 million in funding for an improvement project along Route 18 in East Brunswick.

Fox said the improvement project will help alleviate long-standing congestion at several intersections, including Tices Lane. Approximately 58,000 vehicles each weekday use Route

18 through East Brunswick. "Congestion wastes time and money and is outright frustrating. This is a heavily traveled stretch of Route 18 on which the livelihood of many businesses depend on good access," Fox said. "Around the state we are trying to bring these types of projects to construction so that motorists can get to where they are going easily and safely."

I want to thank Senator Buono and Mayor Neary for sharing their concerns with us."

"This Route 18 area traffic improvement is the first in over a

decade. The project which will improve the daily commute for thousands, will more importantly from a local perspective, ease local traffic which at times under current conditions is grid-locked," Mayor Neary said.

The project includes widening the intersection of Tices Lane and Route 18 and constructing jughandles. In addition, improvements will be made at the intersection of West Prospect Street and Route 18, and along Tices Lane and the intersection of Tices Lane and Old Bridge Turnpike..

Special Memorial Edition*

Sept. 5th & 6th

Devine Media will be featuring a Special Memorial Edition in all of the Middlesex & Union County publications. Display AD space is available now for anyone interested in placing a Memorial AD. For further information, call Fran Kopas @ 732-574-1200 or email devinemedi1@yahoo.com

Ads start as low as \$50 and up, call for sizes and prices.

Sample size



We will always remember 9-11.
Our thoughts and prayers to all the families who have suffered the loss of a loved one in terrible tragedy.
We will never let our guard down again!

Sample size

Kevin,
We lost you, but you are in our hearts and in our thoughts. We love you and miss you dearly.

Lovingly,
Mom and Dad
Brother Michael

* This is not a fund raising event.

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Forecast for Rahway

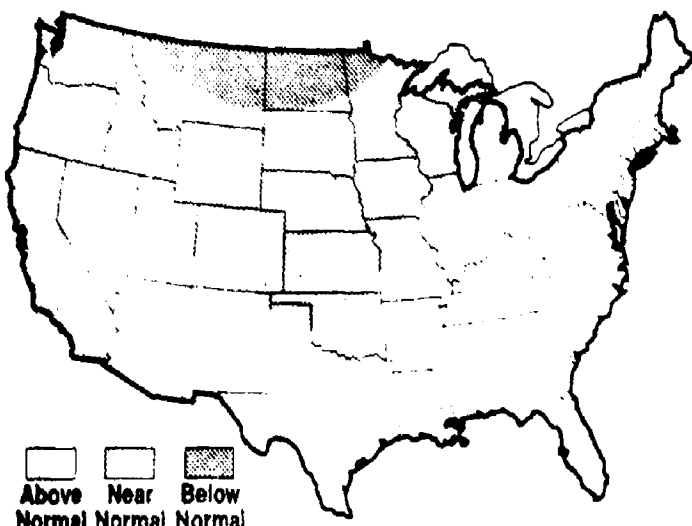
All maps, forecasts and data provided by Weather Source, Inc. ©2002

LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Hot and humid.	Partly cloudy and steamy.	Hot and humid.	Partial sun; hot, humid.	Humid with clouds and sun.	A few t-storms and humid.	Mainly cloudy and warm.	Plenty of clouds.
90	72	90/70	94/71	92/73	87/70	83/68	77/69

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Temperatures



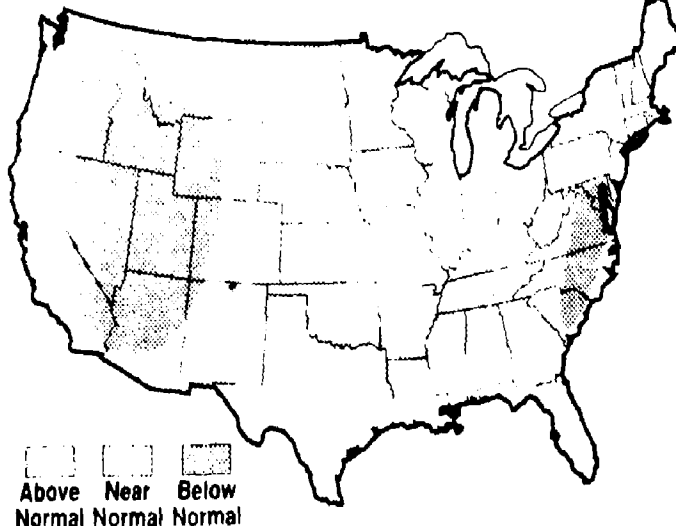
Above Normal
Near Normal
Below Normal

NATIONAL SUMMARY

Hot and dry weather will continue to dominate the West. Temperatures across the Southwest and Great Basin are expected to average 10 to 15 degrees above normal. Storms will bring rain to the Plains and western Midwest. Dry weather will continue to plague the Southeast and the Carolinas.

THE WEEK AHEAD...

Precipitation



Above Normal
Near Normal
Below Normal

U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	88	72	pc	90	74	pc	92	74	pc	92	74	pc
Boston	92	70	pc	90	70	pc	86	68	pc	86	70	pc
Chicago	84	66	s	88	70	pc	92	72	s	92	68	pc
Cleveland	84	68	pc	88	66	pc	82	64	pc	82	66	t
Denver	86	61	s	87	60	pc	83	58	pc	83	58	s
Des Moines	88	66	pc	92	68	pc	94	63	pc	92	61	c
Detroit	84	66	pc	88	68	pc	88	68	pc	86	66	pc
Houston	96	74	pc	96	76	pc	96	74	pc	95	70	pc
Indianapolis	86	66	pc	86	68	pc	86	67	t	92	69	c
Kansas City	88	68	pc	92	70	s	92	70	pc	94	70	pc
Los Angeles	82	61	pc	82	61	pc	82	61	pc	80	63	pc
Miami	91	80	pc	88	81	c	89	80	pc	89	75	pc
Minn.-St. Paul	76	62	pc	76	62	pc	80	60	t	84	54	t
New Orleans	93	76	pc	92	77	pc	92	76	c	92	74	s
New York City	92	76	pc	92	76	s	94	78	s	84	76	pc
Omaha	86	64	pc	90	68	s	92	70	pc	92	61	pc
Phoenix	108	84	s	106	84	pc	106	82	s	104	80	s
San Francisco	68	54	s	66	54	pc	70	55	s	71	52	s
Seattle	78	54	pc	74	54	pc	73	54	s	75	50	s
Washington	96	76	c	96	74	pc	96	76	pc	92	77	pc

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset	
Thu	6:07 a.m.	7:55 p.m.	
Fri	6:08 a.m.	7:54 p.m.	
	Moonrise	Moonset	
Thu	2:06 p.m.	none	
Fri	3:16 p.m.	12:11 a.m.	
Moon Phases			
First	Full	Last	New
			
Aug 15	Aug 30	Aug 6	Aug 22

Weather (W):
s-sunny pc-partly cloudy.
c-cloudy sh-showers.
t-thunderstorms. r-rain.
if-snow flurries. sn-snow i-ice

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s-sunny pc-partly cloudy.
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t-thunderstorms, r-rain.
sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	74	55	pc	70	54	pc	72	61	pc	68	61	t
Berlin	73	65	sh	75	63	c	77	64	t	77	65	c
Buenos Aires	59	48	pc	59	48	c	70	56	t	60	38	c
Cairo	96	69	s	94	68	s	93	68	s	91	68	s
Jerusalem	82	60	s	81	58	s	80	57	s	80	57	s
Johannesburg	71	44	pc	68	54	pc	63	56	r	64	49	r
London	72	54	s	68	56	pc	68	56	c	69	53	r
Madrid	88	65	pc	88	63	c	88	62	c	87	61	pc
Mexico City	74	55	sh	77	54	r	77	56	c	77	56	sh
Moscow	75	46	pc	67	43	s	62	45	pc	70	51	s
Paris	74	51	pc	73	54	pc	73	58	pc	69	57	r
Rio de Janeiro	74	65	sh	72	65	r	72	63	c	73	61	pc
Rome	82	62	s	81	64	pc	82	63	s	81	65	pc
San Juan	89	78	pc	88	78	s	89	77	s	88	78	s
Seoul	80	72	c	77	70	sh	79	68	r	74	72	r
Sydney	59	37	pc	63	39	pc	62	42	r	59	48	r
Tokyo	89	75	pc	89	77	pc	83	76	t	85	75	c
Toronto	82	62	pc	82	60	s	81	67	pc	82	60	t
Winnipeg	68	46	pc	64	48	sh	63	38	sh	61	40	sh
Zurich	81	62	pc	72	59	t	78	58	pc	73	63	t

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To submit items for the Community Calendar, e-mail them to carolynnjean@yahoo.com or fax them to 732-388-4143 attention: Community Calendar. Items must be received at least 10 days before desired publication date.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 17 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

— Edison Street Fair, Amboy Avenue, between Jackson and Waltuma Avenues. (Rain date: Aug. 24). Great food, kiddie bounce, local merchants, pony rides, petting zoo, merchandise vendors, crafts and music. For more information, call (201) 997-9535.

August 17 & 18—A German-American Festival will be held rain or shine, under the big tent, at Schuetzen Park, 3167 Kennedy Blvd., North Bergen. Call (201) 865-0868 for more information.

August 19 from 7-9 p.m.

—Raritan Bay Medical Center's Cardiac Club will meet in Centennial Hall of the Raritan Bay Medical Center, 530 New Brunswick Avenue. Call (732) 324-5178 for further information.

August 28 from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

—Raritan Bay Medical Center's Marion Tanzman Diabetes Center is sponsoring a free *Diabetes Support Group* to be held in Centennial Hall at Raritan Bay Medical Center, 530 New Brunswick Ave. Call to register (800) 624-6555.

Sept. 4 from 7:45 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

—The JFK Medical Center Foundation will host the JFK Annual Golf Classic at the Metuchen Golf and Country Club in Edison. The cost to participate is \$500 per golfer and includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks, as well as a dinner reception, awards ceremony and surprise gifts. Call (732) 632-1540 for more information.

Sept. 9-13 — Connie O'Donnell, experienced tour leader, and Sr. Susan McGrath invite you to beautiful Cape Cod and the Irish Village. Take a boat ride to Martha's Vineyard, tour the Seashore Conservatory, Province Town, the Kennedy Library and Plymouth Rock. Tour Price: \$375.00 per person/double occupancy includes four dinners and four breakfasts. (Price does not include tips). For further information and reservations call (732) 442-7688.

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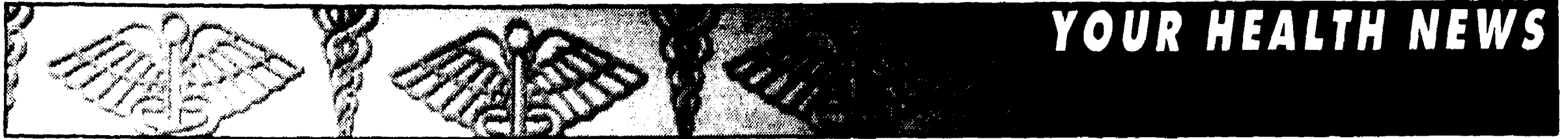
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LEGAL ADVICE when BUYING or SELLING a HOME



Remain Active With Rheumatoid Arthritis: Yoga Guide

AREA — More and more people are performing the age-old practice of Yoga. Yoga can stretch you, it can relax you and now it may help people with arthritis. According to the American Yoga Association (AYA), Yoga may help people with arthritis deal with pain and stiffness, improve range of motion and increase strength for daily activities.

One of the most common forms of arthritis is rheumatoid arthritis (RA), which affects approximately two million Americans, of which more than 75% are women. RA is a chronic, autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks healthy tissue

lining the joints, leading to pain, deformity and disability that may be permanent. Now available is a first-of-its kind online Yoga guide specifically for people with RA, developed by the AYA, in collaboration with the Arthritis Foundation and support from RAacademy.com.

For thousands of years people have used Yoga to build flexibility and strength, improve concentration, relieve stress and increase energy. Today the benefits of Yoga may extend to people with RA. According to a pilot study published in the British Journal of Rheumatology, people with RA who participated in a Yoga

program over a three-month period experienced greater handgrip strength compared to those who did not practice Yoga.

The unique Yoga guide, Remain Active with RA, encompasses traditional Yoga poses including range-of-motion, muscle strengthening, and endurance exercises — the three major forms of exercise typically prescribed for people with RA. Each exercise contains detailed photographs and instructions indicating the proper way to perform each movement, with variation of exercises based on disease severity. It is important for people with RA to speak to

their physician before embarking on any new exercise program.

"With my rheumatoid arthritis, I never thought I would be able to do an exercise like Yoga," said Lynn McKenzie-Collins, Ph.D. "I am now reassured that there is a Yoga guide tailored for people with my disease that may help my pain and stiffness."

The Remain Active with

RA Yoga Guide is offered free exclusively at www.RAacademy.com and can be accessed when visitors to the site register. RAacademy is a disease web site, sponsored by Aventis Pharmaceuticals that provides RA-related news and information to people with the disease and their families. In addition to the Yoga guide, the site features self-care tools and tips for living with RA.

Physician Awarded \$150,000 Grant

EDISON — Dizziness is among the top ten most common reasons patients seek help from a physician. Many drugs are used to treat dizziness, as well as motion sickness, but how these medications actually work remain a mystery. Phillip D. Kramer, M.D., Director of the Vestibular Laboratory at the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute at JFK Medical Center, has been awarded a three-year,

\$150,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how certain medications work to prevent motion sickness.

Participants in Dr. Kramer's study will wear a sophisticated device in the inner ear that was developed at JFK Medical Center in collaboration with NSAS. This tiny apparatus will induce motion sickness and monitor patients' subsequent responses to medica-

tions. Then, participants will be monitored to determine the effect of the drugs on their balance and level of resistance to motion sickness.

Dr. Kramer and the faculty of the New Jersey Neuroscience Institute noticed that different drugs worked better for different people and became interested studying this issue after treating thousands of patients in their Dizziness and Balance Disorders Clinic.

Get Wise To Media Health Care

HOLMDEL — Have you ever wondered about the validity of the health information seen on television and in the news? Bruce Bonanno, MD, emergency physician at Bayshore Community Hospital questioned it all so often that when he was offered an opportunity by News12 New Jersey to have his own television show about current health issues he accepted jubilantly!

"People tend to believe everything they hear on television simply because they heard it on television," Bonanno explained. "Television is a wonderful way to communicate information to the masses. My advantage to being on this show is that I can broadcast correct medical information and explain the whole store about healthcare issues — not sensationalize it to make it

news worthy." Recently elected to the board of the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Dr. Bonanno is a full time emergency department physician at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. The nature of his position in an emergency care setting, enables him to experience everything from sore throats to heart attacks and enables him to have a wide angle view of

health care in the community. This has helped to broaden his viewpoint and adds to the variety of issues discussed on the show.

Dr. Bonanno's weekly health care program, *12 To Your Health* is broadcast on News12 New Jersey on Channel 12 weekends at 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. In the words of Dr. Bonanno, "Be wise, be strong, be healthy."

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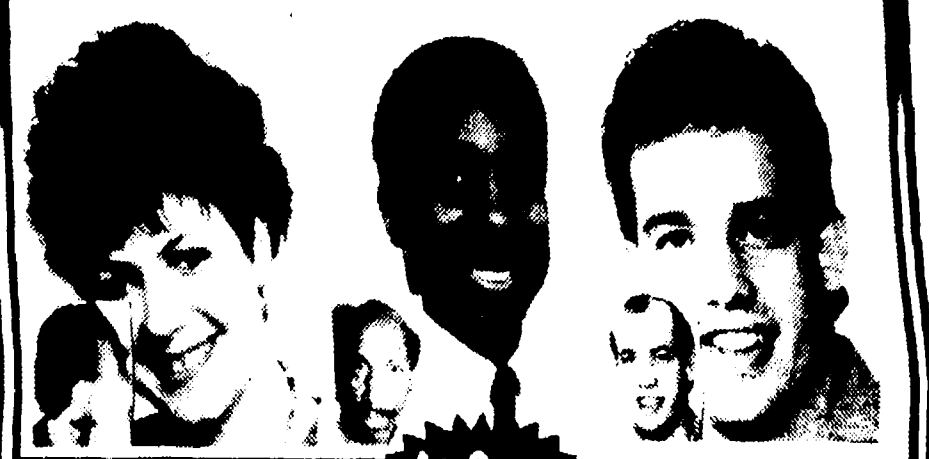
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Back to School



The Economics Of School Supplies

Parents Can Use Back-To-School Shopping To Teach Budgeting Skills

AREA—As summer draws to a close, parents and teens alike will be hitting the stores for back-to-school shopping. From paper and pens to notebooks and backpacks, there's no shortage of items to spend money on.

This annual rite of fall is the perfect opportunity for parents to teach their kids about the fundamentals of budgeting. "With teens making budgeting and purchasing decisions alongside their parents, the act of back-to-school shopping helps build openness with money issues," says Diana Don, Director of Financial Education at Capital One.

According to Capital One's second annual back-to-school supply survey, parents will spend an average of \$97 on school supplies this year -- down from \$118 last year. Although teens plan to contribute an additional \$45 to the

overall budget, 44 percent of parents still feel pressure to spend in excess of the family's back-to-school budget.

Luckily for parents, 77 percent of teens in the survey say they just buy the basic things they need for school; however, 16 percent say they want to be trendsetters, having all the newest, coolest items. Most in demand this year are frosted three-ring binders, gel roller pens, "The Osbournes" backpacks, neon "Dr. Grip" pens, jelly pens and sparkle pencils.

"Building the budget together offers an opportunity for parents to encourage their teen to contribute their own money to help fill the gap between the 'I needs' and the 'I wants,'" says Dara Duguay, executive director of the JumpStart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, a nonprofit group dedicated to raising financial literacy among young adults.

Nearly all teenagers in the survey (93 percent) said they learn about money management from their family at home. While more than half the teens surveyed have a savings account, only about one in nine have a checking account. Only a small number of teens indicated that they have ever taken a complete course in economics or money management.

"The average high-school graduate lacks basic skills in personal finance management, from managing a budget to balancing a checkbook," says Duguay. "It is important for parents to encourage their teens to enroll in Personal Finance courses offered at school as well as supplement their teen's curriculum with day-to-day lessons in saving, budgeting and spending, to ensure their financial success."

In an effort to help teens and parents empower themselves with the knowledge they need to develop sound financial practices, Capital One offers consumer education resources. The company provides easy-to-follow fact sheets that address issues such as budgeting and saving. All materials are available free online at www.capitalone.com/credit101. For additional online resources, parents and teens can visit the JumpStart Coalition's Web site at www.jumpstart.org.

Make Your Locker Your Home Away From Home

AREA—Go to school prepared and you will be as confident as ever—ready to tackle new subjects, make new friends and explore new interests. Your locker is your personal space at school so be sure to take the time to individualize it. You can make the grade when it comes to locker savvy. A little planning is an automatic confidence booster and gives you the tools to succeed. "Your locker is your only personal space at school so why not give it some of your own personality and style?" says Karen Bokram, Publisher of Girls' Life magazine. Follow these tips to showcase your style and keep you prepared for the unexpected!

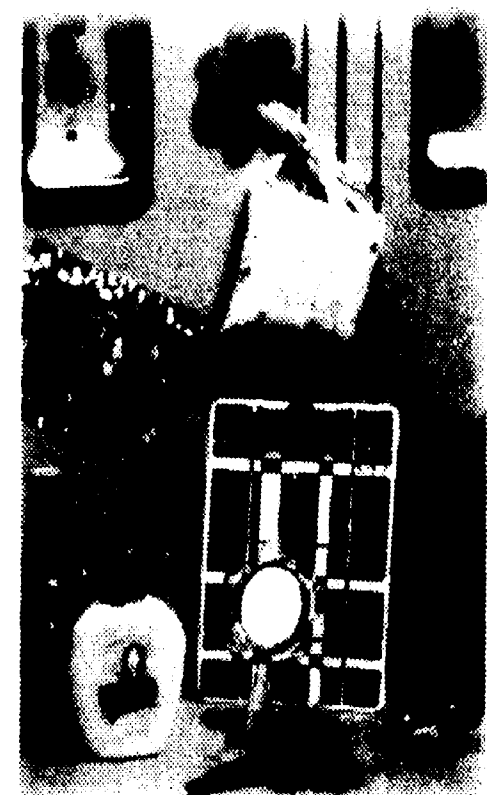
Show your personal style and school spirit when you decorate your locker!

- Post some of your favorite photos with friends and family or your pet, if you have one. You can put them in magnetic frames or simply make a cardboard or construction paper frame that you decorate yourself. Or, make a collage.

- Put up postcards of places where you have been and places you'd like to go. This is a great way to stay motivated on Monday mornings!

- Hang up pictures of people you admire whether relatives, world leaders, politicians, athletes, or celebrities as a reminder of your potential as a leader!

- Make a mini copy of your school schedule and decorate it with stickers, markers or a com-



puter design and post it where you can see it whenever you open your locker.

- Place a fragranced door hanger to keep your locker smelling fresh. After all, you do not want your locker to smell like a locker room!

- Incorporate your school colors and team name to show your school spirit.

- Display small trinkets from your collection at home.

- If your school does not provide a lock, make sure you have one and memorize the combination. Keep the combination private.

For personal shine and self-confidence, fill a resealable bag with a few essentials.

- Small mirror
- Brush, comb and other hair essentials

- Small bottle of lotion.
- Small bottle of skin freshener.

- Powder puff

Other necessities

- Small clipboard or message board with attached pen for important notes and reminders.

- Extra pens, pencils, notebook and other frequently used school supplies.

- Keep a calendar in your locker to remind you of important dates—exams, paper deadlines, club meetings, after school activities, and of course, social events!

Be sure to make your locker necessities list when you make your school supplies list. Girls' Life magazine Publisher Karen Bokram says, "Stock your locker with all the essentials and you'll always know you're ready for anything!" Build your confidence and let yourself shine!

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Back to School

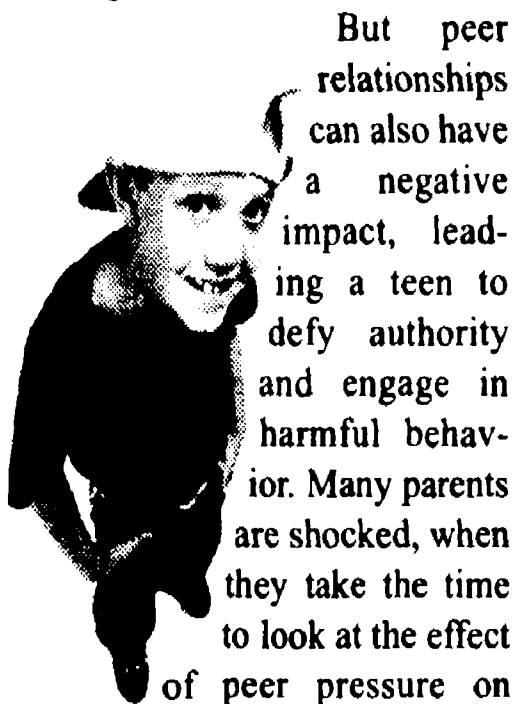


Helping Your Teen Handle Peer Pressure

by Dr. Pam Cook,
Ph.D., LPC

Peer pressure may be a normal part of teenage life, but at times, the effects of peer pressure on a teenager may seem anything but normal.

Peer pressure can affect a variety of aspects of a teen's life, from hairstyles to clothing, choices to musical tastes. And sometimes peer pressure has a decidedly positive effect, keeping a teen participating in after-school clubs, attending religious activities or playing on sports teams.



But peer relationships can also have a negative impact, leading a teen to defy authority and engage in harmful behavior. Many parents are shocked, when they take the time to look at the effect of peer pressure on

their son or daughter, to learn their teen is already heading down a dangerous path.

While most parents want to encourage relationships that are bringing positive results, the difficult question is what you can do if your teenager is already yielding to negative peer pressure. In most cases, it isn't too late to help him or her establish positive peer relationships, but it will take a committed effort to intervene.

One reason many teens submit to negative peer pressure is because they lack self-confidence and a positive self-concept. As a parent you can help build the self-confidence your teen needs to avoid the negative pressure of a peer group. Encourage your teen to make independent decisions whenever possible and offer praise for making a good choice. Take notice of accomplishments and offer compliments on a job well-done.

Other things you can do to combat the influence of nega-

tive peer relationships include:

- Be interested. Don't just ask the common "who, what, where?" questions. Encourage your teen to share more about his or her life with you. Show a real interest in what is being shared. Respect and accept what he or she is thinking, even if you hold an opposing point-of-view. It may take time to feel that you're reaching your teen, but persistence is the key to making positive changes.

- Confront problems. If your child spends time with friends involved in unacceptable activities, confront the issue directly. Express your concerns, but also try to understand your teen's need for being with such people.

- Set boundaries. If some of your teen's friends truly worry you, rather than prohibiting all contact with them, restrict time



with them to supervise settings.

- Set rules. Limits and rules are an essential part of the safety and development of your teen. No segment of society can properly function without clearly defined rules. Families must have a set of rules based on personal values that create a positive environment.

- Handle the conflicts. Even with a clear set of rules, conflicts can and will occur. But even conflicts can serve as a means to form a stronger relationship with your teen. Consistently

resolving small issues and creating preventive rules is the best way to prevent larger and more devastating issues from developing. Insisting that homework be completed, chores accomplished and curfews obeyed are small but important ways to strengthen a positive family relationship. When you and your teen can work together and feel in control when setting rules, boundaries and limits, a teenager learns decision-making and develops a better sense of responsibility.

- Take a proactive approach to a potentially serious problem and involve your teen. Help him or her become more

aware of negative situations and how to make better decisions when forming relationships.

One way to do this is to help your teenager evaluate each friendship. Get your teen to answer some basic questions about whether the friendship is reciprocal, safe, one that will help meet your teen's needs, and one that will help your teen be a better person. The answers to these questions are a good indication of the types of peers surrounding your teenager—and they can help your teen decide which friendships should be kept.

As parents, remember that peer pressure can be positive. Although peers have the potential to encourage problem behavior, more times than not peers reinforce positive values and provide a supportive environment necessary for your child to move through this difficult stage of adolescence. Your goal is to help your teen identify peers who provide real friendship and benefits.

Dr. Cook is the director of family services for Three Springs Inc.'s New Beginnings facility in Owens Crossroads, Alabama. She has more than 20 years experience working with adolescents. Additional information is available at www.threesprings.com.

Tips To Encourage Your Child To Become A Better Reader

RAHWAY—According to the U.S. Department of Education, approximately 40 percent of students across the nation cannot read at a basic level. However, research shows that children who begin reading at an early age are far more successful in later years. The American Library Association provides some helpful tips to assist families in raising a reader.

1. Begin reading when your child is a baby.

2. Take advantage of "waiting" times to share books-on trips, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store, during an oil change.

3. Start your own "Book of the Week" club!

4. Read with expression.

5. Have your children select books to read.

6. Give books as gifts.

7. Put notes for your children to read in their lunchboxes.

8. Take turns reading aloud.

As a partner with the American Library Association, McDonald's recognizes the value of reading at a young age and the need for family members to not only promote, but also set an example when it comes to reading. As a result,

McDonald's created the "Check It Out" Summer Reading Program. Hundreds of families, schools and libraries throughout the Tri-State area have adopted the McDonald's "Check It Out" Summer Reading Program, which offers an added incentive, a free Happy Meal, as their summer reading program of choice.

Students in grades K-4 can participate by picking up a McDonald's "Check It Out" booklet from local libraries. Students can receive their free Happy Meal at participating McDonald's restaurants by asking their parent or librarian to help them fill in the

McDonald's "Check It Out" Score Card coupon with the names of the five books they have read. To redeem the coupon, students must be accompanied by an adult when bringing in the signed Score Card to participating local McDonald's from June 30 through September 30, 2002.

To request a booklet, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: McDonald's "Check It Out Summer" Reading Program c/o MWW; One Meadowlands Plaza, 6th floor East Rutherford, NJ 07073. Limit two booklets per household.

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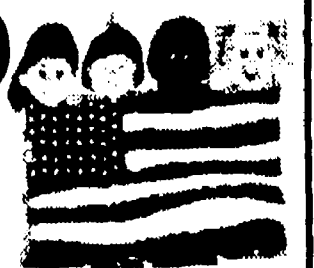
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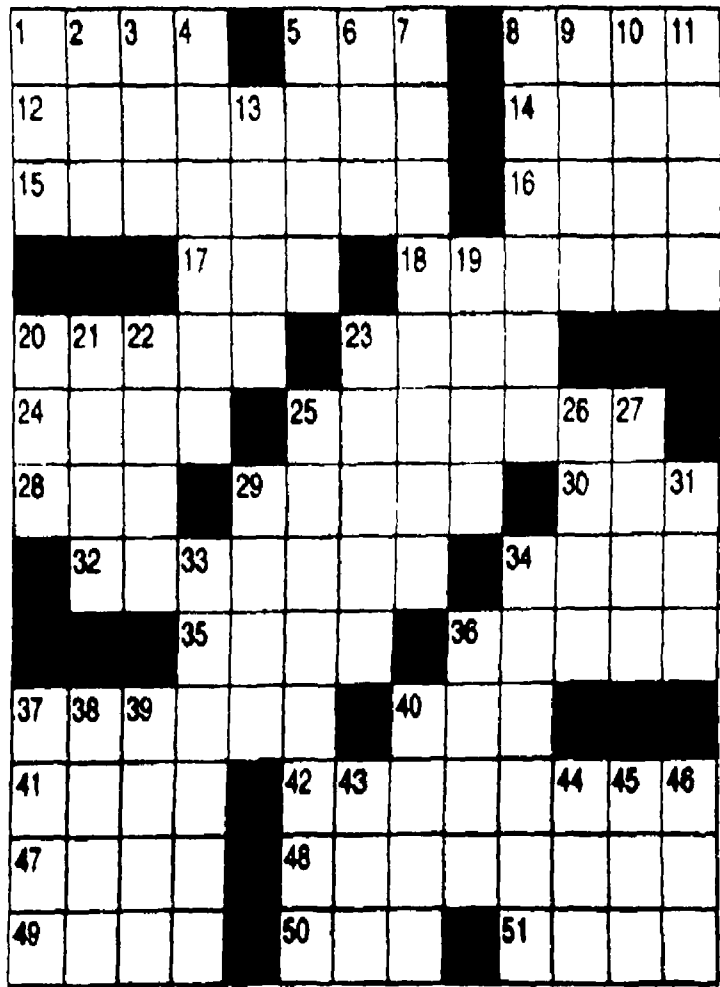
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43 CEO's degree
44 Afternoon
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45 "That's
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46 Impresario
Hurok

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The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

Brooke agreed to move into Wildwind with Edmund. Meanwhile, "Maria" arrived in the nearby park and was unsettled at seeing Wildwind in the distance.

Tad reached out to J.R., who blamed him for Dixie's death. Aidan and Kendall were trapped in the Enchantment offices during a power outage. Leo thought he heard Trey's voice in the penthouse while a Richard Fields movie was playing on television. *Wait to See: David realizes "Maria" is in Pine Valley.*

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Margo's family rallied around a most unwilling patient. Alison discovered that her actions had serious consequences. Molly was upset by Mike's statement. Bonnie mulled over what Marshall had to say. *Wait to See: Lily learns where Rose might be. Alison and her family seek counseling.*

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Amber told Taylor that Lance agreed to tell her everything in the morning.

Meanwhile, Sheila vowed to make Lance pay for trying to blackmail her, and aware that he was deathly allergic to bee venom, she set a trap for him. Later, Sheila smiled when Ziggy reported Lance's "accidental" death. Sally agreed to help Bridget throw a surprise birthday party for C.J. Massimo was upset when Stephanie said her priority was to help Brooke. *Wait to See: Erica moves in on Rick.*

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

John and Tony continued to gather clues about the mysterious blue cobalt key. Later Tony and Bart tried to connect photos of an island with the key. Lexie realized Stefano was behind the baby switch and rushed to ask Abe for another chance. A private moment between Colin and Nicole was caught on film. Shawn and Belle learned more about the twins. Billie complicated Bo's life. *Wait to See: Sparks fly between Kate and Roman.*

GENERAL HOSPITAL

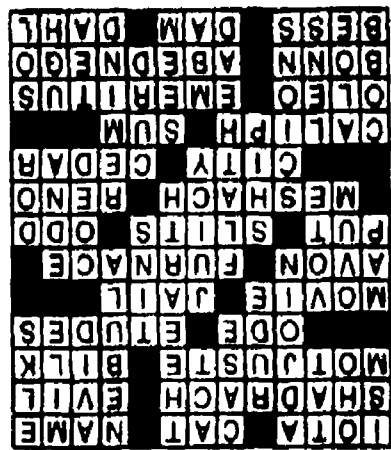
Roy realized Alcazar set up the explosion that killed Kristina. Alcazar, meanwhile, targeted Jax as his next victim. After telling Scott about a camera she recalled being in the attic, Laura was later surprised to find him rooting around up there. Meanwhile, Luke and Lucky looked at the film in the camera Luke uncovered and were startled to find a photo of a bloody Scott. Luke then reeled in shock when another photo showed up. *Wait to See: Lucky's luck may be running out.*

GUIDING LIGHT

Harley found and grabbed Gus' mystery woman. Carmen had hard-to-refute evidence for Michelle. Mel was moved by Ed's sacrifice. Marah was unable to stand Tony's touch. *Wait to See: Ed recalls the past with Holly. Phillip thinks about Eden's story. Blake and Ross share a romantic get-away.*

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

to Puzzle



Cristian told Sam and Jennifer that Natalie couldn't have started the fire in Jen's room. Todd kissed Tia. Renee came to Rae's rescue when Shawna and Mollie humiliated her. Ben realized Niki had taken over Viki. Later, Allison pulled a gun on Niki and, after a struggle, "killed" her and brought Niki's "lifeless" body down to the basement where Roxy was being held hostage. *Wait to See: Rae turns the tables on Asa. Todd is obsessed with memories of Tia.*

PASSIONS

Antonio protected Theresa when Julian balked at her orders to stay away from her baby. Miguel held Sam and the others at gunpoint to keep them from pulling the plug on Charity. As Timmy slipped away, Tabitha began her vow to wreak havoc on Harmony. And as Charity "passed over," she was reunited with her mother. Meanwhile, the Angel Girl took Timmy on a journey, where he realized how he could save Charity. *Wait to See: Sheridan makes a decision about Luis and Antonio.*

PORT CHARLES

Chris teased Jack about his growing feelings for Alison. Meanwhile, Alison heard the Avatar reject Rafe's demands that he leave Port Charles. After the Avatar revealed his identity to Chris, Chris gave a TV interview in which he praised Lancelot, and was confronted by Ian to prove he knows Lancelot. Livvie later warned the Avatar of Rafe and Ian's plan to destroy him. Ricky learned Marissa is Casey's sister. *Wait to See: Lucy tells Rafe a shocking truth.*

THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Brad was upset to see Victor and Ashley in a friendly embrace. Meanwhile, Max overheard Nikki warn Lorie to stay away from Victor. Colleen was furious with Billy when he ordered J.T. to stay out of her life. Serena brought a drunk and shaking Neil to her apartment when he refused to go to the hospital. Diane rubbed salt in Phyllis' wounds. Sharon's obsession with Diego grew stronger. *Wait to See: Billy faces a difficult decision.*

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

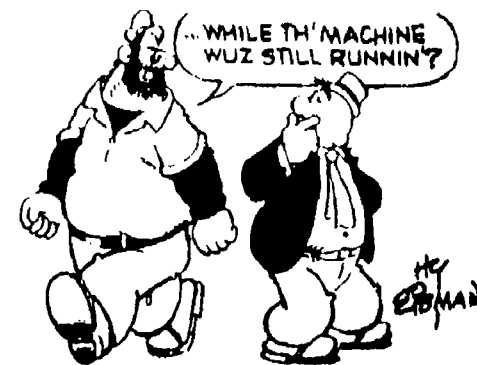
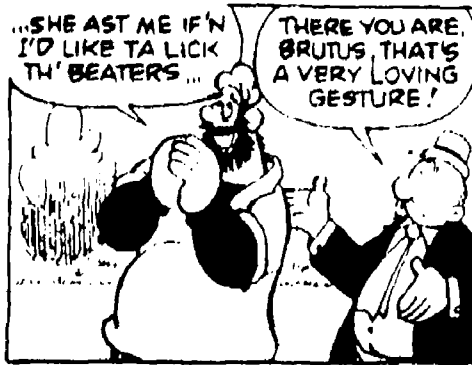
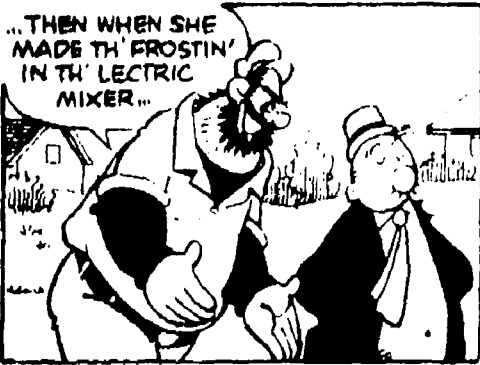
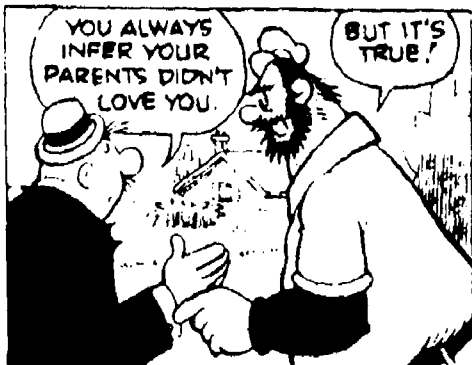
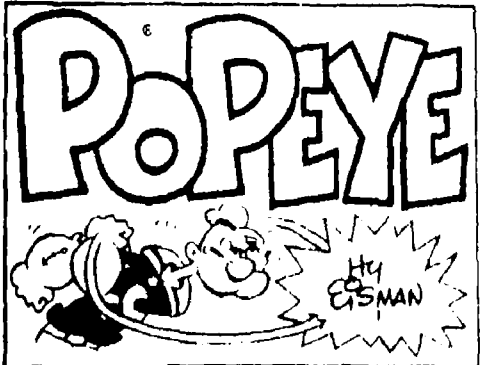


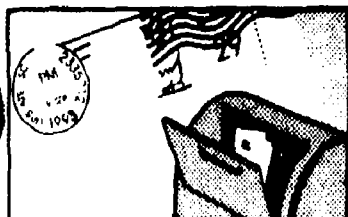
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Button has been added. 2. Plant is different. 3. Diploma is missing. 4. File cabinet has third drawer. 5. Patient's nose is smaller. 6. Drape is wider.





EDITORIAL



ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN WISNIEWSKI'S *Report From Trenton*

Does anyone look forward to getting a shot? No, not that kind - the kind you get at a doctor's office. From early childhood through our adult years we all wince when we see the needle coming.

So while nobody likes shots, they turn out to be a necessary evil of modern medicine. Go to the dentist without that shot of novocaine? I don't think so. Or go to school without immunization? No way.

The National Partnership for Immunization has designated August as National Immunization Awareness Month. It was established to remind parents, adults, care givers, health care providers and others that immunizations improve the health and quality of life for persons of all ages. National Immunization Month is timed to coincide with the month when parents are preparing to send their children back to school and to coincide with the impending flu season.

Immunization is one of the most important public health achievements of the twentieth century. Vaccines have eradicated smallpox, eliminated the wild polio virus in the United States and significantly reduced the number of cases of measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis and other diseases. But despite these efforts, today thousands of people in the United States still die from these and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Diseases like polio and smallpox had devastating effects on our earlier generations. Thanks to vaccination, we rarely see occurrences of these diseases today. But this does not mean

they are gone for good. Immunization is our prime weapon in the fight against disease. We need to encourage every citizen to use vaccinations to ensure the health of themselves, their families and the entire community. Recommended vaccinations begin soon after birth and continue through life. Being aware of the vaccines that are recommended for infants, children, adolescents, adults, and seniors and making sure these vaccines are received are critical to protecting ourselves and our communities from diseases.

New Jersey has made great strides in encouraging our residents to participate in the eradication of contagious diseases through vaccination. Vaccination records are now required to enroll in schools and day care. And just last year the State Legislature passed a bill to include Hepatitis B vaccines as part of the prescribed immunization schedule required for public school entrance. But with that, only 75% of the children in our state who need vaccinations get them. We need to do more.

Legislation I have introduced, A-375, would require health insurers extend their coverage of childhood immunizations. Currently, the law requires insurers to cover only some immunizations. The effect is that some children don't get all the immunization's that they need. My bill would change that and give every child the opportunity to get all the immunizations they need. It will increase the number of children who receive immunizations. It will give children of our state the healthy start that they deserve.

For more information on vaccinations and immunization schedules please contact my district office at 732-316-1885 for a free brochure.

Guest Editorial

Embargo or Not, Expect No Reforms in Cuba

By Roger E. Hernandez

Shouldn't Americans be free to travel anywhere without the government telling them they can't?

That's the argument supposedly at the heart of the recent House vote to relax restrictions on U.S. citizen visits to Cuba. As things stand now, official permission is given to Americans visiting relatives and to journalists, academics, government officials and humanitarian workers. Most others face fines of up to \$8,000 for visiting the communist island.

Actually, the whole thing is a farce. Nearly 200,000 U.S. citizens traveled to Cuba last year, an estimated 60,000 of whom were just tourists looking for a good time who made their way there illegally from other countries. Almost nobody got in trouble.

What's actually behind the House vote is a broader move to end the embargo altogether, piece by piece. It is backed by an alliance of conservative Republicans from farm states who want to sell food to Cuba, and liberal Democrats who say the United States has no right to tell Castro to improve its appalling human-rights record.

For now, they won't have their way. President Bush, who understands you can't treat Castro as if he were the prime minister of Belgium, is almost certain to veto any legislation that eases the embargo — including this one to relax travel restrictions.

But put aside for a minute the greed and hypocrisy. Assume for now that everyone is pure of heart, that they all really mean it when they say they support lifting the embargo because it will help bring democracy to Cuba.

Well, what would happen if the embargo was lifted? If a flood of American tourists spread the word about the wonders of democracy? If the availability of American goods spread the word about the wonders of capitalism?

Nothing. Actually, worse than nothing: Castro would stay in absolute power, but with the backing of the United States and all the diplomatic and political prestige that comes with American acceptance of his totalitarian system.

This is so self-evident that it's hard to believe anyone thinks otherwise.

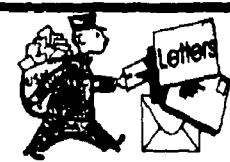
For one thing, Cuba already receives many tourists — 1.8 million of them in 2000. What could Americans possibly do to spread democracy that was beyond the reach of all those Canadian, French and Brazilian tourists tanning themselves on Cuban beaches?

Cuba can also trade with other nations. Yet most Cubans have no access to olive oil from Spain or cars from Japan, which are sold in special stores open only to government fat cats, tourists and their guests; American goods, of course, would be rationed the same way. How would that help anybody other than foreigners and bureaucrats?

And then there is the Castro regime's recent "referendum" in which 99 percent of Cubans supposedly voted to make the totalitarian system that now governs the island "untouchable" for ever and ever. It was one more sign that Fidel Castro intends no reform whatsoever — with the embargo, or without it.

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Readers Commentary



Parks Like A Weekend At Beach

Dear Editor,

Our county parks are stressed as never before. A health conscious public utilizes these sanctuaries while walking and jogging, engaging in team sports, playing tennis and when swimming and picnicking.

Each year we see new trees and shrubbery being planted, paths upgraded and freshly built playgrounds. The acreage, however, has usually remained the same meaning increased people density. One example of this is the Roosevelt Park in Edison. Several years back, the lake and dam were restored making the infrastructure stronger, deeper and cleaner especially with the updated aeration system that was

put in. Railings and benches were added.

Now another construction project has begun with a sign declaring "Sorry for any inconvenience during construction" followed by "Level Playing Fields and Skating Facility." It lists the names of the Middlesex County Board of Freeholders.

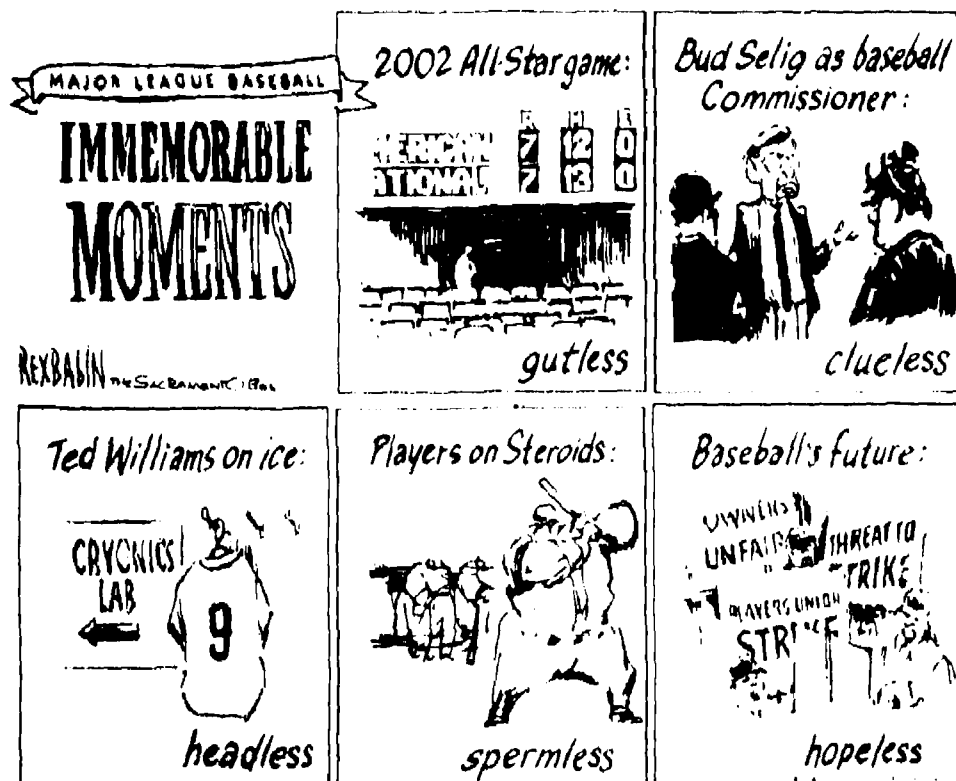
Who can have anything against giving society, especially young people, a recreational place to go? But the baseball and soccer moms and dads and anyone else so choosing to assemble at this soon-to-be-renovated area may find it will be like going to the beach on a hot summer weekend there's no place to park!

This problem already exists at

Roosevelt Park on the Lakeview School side of the lake. Faculty and visitors appear to have little room adjacent to the school. Their only alternative is to use the lake's most scenic parking location.

Hopefully, those Board of Chosen Freeholders whom proudly display their names on the side of the lake where the ball fields and skating rink will someday come to fruition have had the foresight to provide for adequate parking. Otherwise it will be just like another day at the beach.

Pete Wagner
Colonla



YOUR LOCAL NEWS**NEWS****Donations Sought For Rosh Hashanah Food Baskets**

EDISON—Jewish Family & Vocational Services of Middlesex County (JFVS) in cooperation with the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)-Edison will be coordinating a community effort to provide Rosh Hashanah food packages for families in need of assistance in Northern Middlesex County. It is our hope that all those who are experiencing difficulties at this time will be able to celebrate the Rosh Hashanah holiday.

Donations of non-perishable food are being sought by JFVS. Specific items needed include: coffee, borsht, horseradish,

grape juice, honey, chicken soup, applesauce, fine noodles, tea bags, Shabbot candles, and Yahrzeit glasses. Donations of money are especially appreciated to augment the food collection. Tax deductible checks may be made out to JFVS Rosh Hashanah Food Fund and mailed to JFVS, 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison, NJ 08817.

Volunteers are needed to package and deliver food baskets on Sunday, Aug. 25 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Congregation Beth-El of Edison. Drop off any of these donations at Congregation Beth-El of Edison on Aug. 25 between 9-11 a.m.

Johnson & Johnson Grant to Expand Nursing Program

EDISON—Johnson & Johnson has awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) that will add 20 new students in the spring of 2003 to the Nursing program operated jointly by Middlesex County College and UMDNJ.

"New Jersey's nursing shortage, which is serious and getting worse, is a reflection of the acute national nursing shortage," said Middlesex President Dr. John Bakum. "We are grateful to Johnson & Johnson for addressing this issue with a notable commitment."

Nationally, there are 126,000 nursing vacancies and experts estimate that by 2020, that number will grow to more than 400,000. New Jersey

alone is expected to have almost 14,000 fewer nurses than needed by 2006, an 18 percent shortfall.

The grant would increase the number of students in the program to as many as 110.

This is the second time within this year the Middlesex County College—UMDNJ program has received financial assistance to expand. In April, a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation added 20 new students to the evening and weekend program. They will start this fall.

The Johnson & Johnson grant will allow the Nursing program to begin accepting new students in the spring semester for the first time.

"These grants give us a big advantage because they will allow us to start every semester instead of every year," said

Dr. Reginald K. Luke, dean of the Division of Science, Mathematics and Health Technologies at Middlesex. "For years, nursing directors in the area told us they'd like to see our program expanded, to make use of the qualified people we have been unable accept because of lack of space."

In the Middlesex/UMDNJ program, all courses are held at the Middlesex campus. General education courses are taught by Middlesex faculty; nursing courses are taught by the faculty of UMDNJ.

The program has long been noted for quality. In fact, the class of 2001 was honored this spring for its 100 percent passing rate on the national board examination, the highest ranking in the United States.

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AXA ADVISORS
Building Futures

Mayor Vas To Be Honored At Kiddie Keep Well Camp Gala

PERTH AMBOY — The John E. Toolan Kiddie Keep Well Camp will hold a gala celebration to raise funds to support the camp programs on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. on board the Cornucopia Princess.

The camp will honor Mayor Joseph Vas with the camp's first Civic Leader of Distinction Award. The mayor was selected to receive this award because of his long term commitment to the camp and because of his vision in meeting quality of life needs for the citizens of Perth Amboy and Middlesex County. Kenneth Gonzalez, Chair for the event said, "We hope this event will bring people together to recognize Mayor Vas for his achievements and also to recognize

the camp's programs for their value to the children of Middlesex County."

Tickets for the event will be \$100. The festivities will include dinner and a murder mystery show while at sea.

"The camp is a non-profit corporation which provides a residential camping experience; which focuses on health and wellness for children ages 6-13 yrs. from Middlesex County," said Gonzalez. The camp also runs a program for senior citizens as well as a winter weekend program for both children and seniors. All services are provided at no cost to the families.

For more information and tickets call the camp at (732) 548-6542. Seating is limited, so you are encouraged to make your reservations early.

Tall Tales and Legends of America

EDISON—The Children's Dept. of the Edison Public Library will hold registration in person or by phone on 8/13 for children kindergarten age through 6th grade for "Tall Tales and Legends of America", a program that will feature the stories and legends that shaped our country. Registration is limited and open to Edison residents only. Programs are as follows:

North Edison, Mon. 8/19 at 7:00 pm, 732-548-4759 Ext. 3, 777 Grove Ave.

Main Library, Tues. 8/20 at 10:30 am, 732-287-2351 Ext. 3, 340 Plainfield Ave.

Clara Barton, Wed. 8/21 at 1:30 pm, 732-738-0748, 141 Hoover Ave.

YMHA Senior Club Announces Meetings

PERTH AMBOY — Join the YMHA Senior Club and enjoy the New Jewish Family and Vocational Service program, which is available to people of all religions and colors. This program is now held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at no extra cost. It's a special program featuring a social worker, a nurse, exercises and a differ-

ent subject each week.

Membership dues in the club is \$35 a year. All parties and entertainment during the year are free and lunch served on Mondays is \$1.75. Monday afternoons usually feature games.

After the summer, Wednesday programs start with exercise, then a light, free

lunch usually followed by a speaker of special interest to our members.

Call for further information at (732) 442-0365. The Y is located at 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy. Van service is available to non-drivers in many areas including Sayreville and Old Bridge.

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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Library Hosts Storyteller

SOUTH AMBOY—Come help the Dowdell Library close its summer reading program with storytelling by Julie Pasqual on Aug. 21 at 1:30 p.m. Pasqual's energetic performance will feature various folktales for children of all ages.

This program will be followed by an awards ceremony for all participants of the "2002 in the Ocean Blue" summer reading club. Winners of the spin art contest will also be announced, along with prizes issued for first, second, third place and honorable mention categories for each age group.

Registration is not required for this event; seating will begin ten minutes prior to the start of the program.

For more information, call (732) 721-6060 or e-mail children@dowdell.org.

Perth Amboy Holds Annual Farmer's Market

PERTH AMBOY—The NJ Farmer's Market opened in Perth Amboy on July 31. Given the growing popularity of the program over the last two years, the city is pleased to expand the program for additional days this year in order to increase the availability of fresh, affordable produce to the public. The market, which is held in the parking lot of the Olive Street Community Center, will take place from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays, Aug. 21 and 28.

The program is co-sponsored by the Middlesex County Office on Aging to encourage healthy eating habits, particularly among senior citizens, by promoting the consumption of New Jersey-grown produce. The market is open to the public; however, the Middlesex County Office on Aging will be donating vouchers to help senior citizens

purchase produce. As a co-sponsor, the Perth Amboy Municipal Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse will also be providing vouchers for seniors.

"This is an excellent way to promote a healthier lifestyle for our residents. Accessibility and cost are two factors that often prevent us from following a healthier diet. We hope everyone will come out to enjoy the best that the Garden State has to offer," said Mayor Joseph Vas.

VonThun's Market, Dayton, will be on hand selling fresh fruits and vegetables. Among the produce available will be sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cauliflower, broccoli, squash, okra, beans, peas, strawberries, raspberries and cantaloupe. The program will also offer free tips on how to prepare and preserve the produce.

Suits Filed Against Spectrum for Living

EDISON--Spectrum for Living, one of New Jersey's largest group home operators, has three separate lawsuits filed against it over its care of disabled adults at a supervised condominium in Edison.

All three complaints center on neglect by staff members to clothe, bathe and feed residents 24 hours a day and drive them to and from doctor's appointments and day programs. Advocates for the disabled say staffing shortages at the state's group homes have caused problems with medications, physical therapy and nutrition.

The first complaint was that a disabled woman from Carteret who cannot speak or feed herself was severely burned when a health aide spilled scalding tea on her face and neck at a Christmas Eve dinner. Another complaint against the agency that runs the Edison group condominium says a disabled North Brunswick man fell from his

wheelchair, breaking his leg because the driver did not belt the chair down properly. In the third complaint, relatives of a 41-year-old disabled woman claim that staffing at the facility off of New Durham Road is so poor that the woman's belongings were stolen, she was sent to a day program without lunch and she was not driven to dental appointments.

Spectrum for Living's executive director, Richard Bonelli, said that the parent-driven agency has had an excellent reputation since its opening in 1978. The homes provide round-the-clock medical care, giving peace of mind to aging parents of disabled adults who can no longer care for their children.

At Spectrum's wheelchair accessible condo in Edison, 11 residents live with 24 hour staffing for feedings and hygiene, plus regular nursing and psychological services.

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1. Name _____

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4. What is your favorite part of the paper? _____

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6. What new features would you like to see added to the Atom Tabloid? _____

7. Please rank the sections of the Atom Tabloid in order of their importance to you (1 is most important, 16 is least important).

☐ Area & State News ☐ Arts & Entertainment News ☐ Automotive News ☐ Classifieds ☐ Comics & Puzzles

☐ Community Calendar ☐ County News ☐ Financial News ☐ Health News ☐ Home Improvement Tips

☐ Local News ☐ Military News ☐ Obituaries ☐ Reader's Commentary ☐ Recipes ☐ Service Directory

8. How do you feel about the regular columns that we run in the Patriot?

Popcorn (page 13) ☐ Like Very Much ☐ It's OK ☐ I Don't Really Care ☐ Hate It ☐ Don't Read It

Terri's Dating Trips ☐ Like Very Much ☐ It's OK ☐ I Don't Really Care ☐ Hate It ☐ Don't Read It

Snigletts (page 9) ☐ Like Very Much ☐ It's OK ☐ I Don't Really Care ☐ Hate It ☐ Don't Read It

Soaps (page 8) ☐ Like Very Much ☐ It's OK ☐ I Don't Really Care ☐ Hate It ☐ Don't Read It



YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS**Amber Alert System Will Be Implemented By End Of Summer**

STATE—Gov. James E. McGreevey announced that for months, the Office of the Attorney General and the State Police have been working on designing an Amber Alert system for New Jersey and that it will be implemented by the end of September.

At the State Police Headquarters in West Trenton, the governor said he has instructed Attorney General David Samson and State

Police Superintendent Joseph Santiago to expedite the implementation of the State's Amber Alert system, which will utilize media alerts to help locate missing children within hours after they are abducted.

"The Amber Alert system is about finding missing children and catching their abductors within the most critical time period—the first three hours after

the kidnapping," said McGreevey. "Ultimately, the Amber Plan is about saving lives. I have requested that the Attorney General's Office and the State Police continue to work cooperatively with the broadcast community towards the goal of having an Amber Alert system completely operational by the end of September."

The Amber Alert system is named after a 9-year-old Texas

girl named Amber Hagerman, who was abducted and killed in 1996. To date, the Amber Plan has been credited with recovering 21 children across the nation.

Under the Administration's plan, the Amber Alert system would involve television and radio stations transmitting an emergency alert to inform the public that a child has been abducted. The alert would include

a description of the missing child and the suspected abductor, contact information for the public and any other details the state police determine to be appropriate. The alert would be broadcast every 15 minutes during the first three hours immediately after the state police issue a "notice of an abduction" and every half hour for the next three hours. The alert plan would be voluntary.

NJ Transit Relaxes Off-Peak Ticket Hours

STATE—NJ Transit has relaxed off-peak round-trip ticket hours in response to customer requests. The Corporation also lifted the travel restrictions placed on senior citizens 65 and over and people with disabilities to allow them to travel all day at a reduced price.

"This rollback will allow seniors and people with disabilities to travel all day at more than half off the regular fare, and will trim peak hours so more people can utilize off-peak discounts," said NJ Transit Board Chairman and State Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox. "This new policy reflects the McGreevey Administration's commitment to

improve travel options for New Jersey residents."

"This is about listening to our riders and about giving our customers more travel flexibility throughout the day," said NJ Transit Executive Director George D. Warrington. "The adjustment to the off-peak round-trip ticket hours will give our customers 32 more trains to choose from, and lifting fare restrictions for seniors and people with disabilities gives them more choices when traveling on NJ Transit."

Off-Peak Ticketing:

- Under the new schedule, customers are able to use off-peak round-trip tickets all hours except weekday mornings between

6:30–9:30 a.m. and evenings between 4–7 p.m., based on New York arrival and departure times. Customers who arrive and depart from Hoboken or Newark should consult public timetables for specific train restrictions.

Senior Citizens 65+ and People with Disabilities:

- Persons aged 65 and older and passengers with disabilities are able to travel on NJ Transit trains at reduced fares at any time.
- A NJ Transit reduced fare ID or Medicare Card will still be required in order to receive the reduced fare.
- It is important to note that the restrictions on seniors ages 62–64 have not changed. Those seniors

continue to be eligible for the reduced fare on weekdays, and all day Saturdays, Sundays and State holidays, except for peak period trains shaded in NJ Transit rail timetables.

For further information, riders in North Jersey can call NJ Transit between 6 a.m.–midnight at 1-800-772-2222 or at (973) 762-5100 from out of state. In South Jersey, riders may call NJ Transit between 6 a.m.–10 p.m. at 1-800-582-5946 or at (215) 569-3752 from Pennsylvania. For persons with hearing impairments, the number is 1-800-772-2287. Information is also available on the Internet at www.njtransit.com.

NJ Region ORT Installs Officers for 2002-03

AREA—The New Jersey Region of Women's American ORT announced that it recently installed its new officers for 2002-03. The installation dinner

was held at Steak n' Ale in Metuchen and presided over by Joan Wendroff, of Princeton Junction, Co-Chair of the Region Nominating Committee. The dis-

charging and installing of officers was done by Barbara Rubin of Piscataway, Co-Chair of the Region Nominating Committee and immediate past president of the New Jersey Region.

Installed as Coordinators were: Lenore Friedman, Mildred Greenberg and Francine Glass of Monroe Township; Evett Weiner of Marlboro; Sarita Gross of Wayne. Ruth Mazzocchi of Verona was installed as treasurer and Ann Gold of Monroe Township was installed as secretary.

The New Jersey Region of Women's American ORT is a chapter-based organization with chapters stretching from Fort Lee to Lakewood. A new chapter is currently being formed in the Westlake Adult Community in Jackson. Women's American ORT builds and supports vocational and technical schools in the United States and around the world. Individuals interested in finding out more information about WAO may contact the region office at 1-888-675-2678.

NJ Transit To Rail Customers: How Are We Doing?

STATE — NJ Transit recently launched the recruitment phase of its Internet-based Rail Customer Satisfaction survey (e-Panel), the most ambitious market-research endeavor in its 23-year history.

The Corporation plans to register nearly 15,000 of its 110,500 daily rail customers this month for the campaign that will begin in early September. NJ Transit has hired an independent research firm to handle recruitment and data collection to ensure confidentiality. Patrons can expect to see recruiters registering customers at rail stations and onboard trains this month.

Recruited customers will be asked to fill out a brief survey on line four times—once every quarter for a 12-month period. When taking subsequent surveys, participants will be given their responses from the previous survey. Quarterly surveys will allow NJ Transit to track trends, changes and improvements in satisfaction throughout the year.

Valuing customers feedback is part of the Corporation's back-to-basics approach, which focuses on safety, reliability and state-of-good-repair. In addition to having their collective voices heard, survey participants will receive periodic reports revealing what other rail customers think about NJ Transit's service. To register for the online survey, patrons can go to www.surveycake.com/epanel to get started.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"Signs"

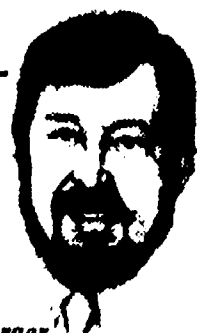
Gets Its Signals Crossed



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberg

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



Can you buy into Mel Gibson as timid and vacillating? I can't. Especially since "Braveheart" (1995). Anything less than a full-blast action hero seems unconvincing, underutilized, sort of like a Ferrari doing 55 on the Autobahn.

Of course if you disagree then you're halfway to accepting "Signs," M. Night Shyamalan's most recent scare tactic, as your next moviegoing entertainment. The other half to enjoying this sci-fi allegory about a minister in New Hope, Pa., who throws in his collar when his wife dies in a car accident is a three-parter. First, you have to possess a modicum of belief in predestination. Second, you should be open-minded when it comes to aliens from outer space...as in they might visit one day. And thirdly---and this is the really tough part---you ultimately must believe that all these plot elements can credibly combine to teach us a big fat lesson about faith, fate and the improbability of coincidence.

Mr. Shyamalan ("The Sixth Sense") approaches this cinematic hat trick via an emotional texture reminiscent of horror film moralist Stephen King with an occasional detour through "Blair Witch Project" (1999) territory. That is, in addition to the spiritual undertones, he shoots for an all natural, back-to-basics, organic scariness. Special effects are relegated to a supporting role.

When things first start going bump in the night, Father Graham Hess, portrayed by Mr. Gibson, peers up the cellar steps at what he thinks is a passing shadow. We hold our breath while a doorknob is turned from the other side. Long pauses are supplied. Our own imaginations conjure unthinkable demons far worse than any the filmmaker could produce. Gosh knows what gurgles off screen.

Previously, crop signs were discovered in the cornfields. Is it a hoax, or directions? The former reverend's family huddles in fear, even before receiving any real proof of an invasion, further fomenting the nervous

energy that escalates their terror. And all the while, Mr. Shyamalan weaves the various possibilities of awfulness in and out of the story, skillfully allowing the tension to build with each new divulgence.

Establishing this debate between real and imagined danger is a notable achievement. And regardless of whether the peril is legitimate or not, we are certainly placed at seat's edge. Yet like the rest of the director's exhibit of well-executed movie moments, there is no credible melding between this and the various other elements of the film.

To this cataclysmic backdrop, Gibson's Graham Hess has the estimable task of comforting a family still in the throes of their own personal tragedy. And he has to do it with his faith destroyed, shattered by the loss of his dear departed wife (Patricia Kalember). Intermittent flashbacks throughout the overlong proceedings relate the sad specifics of Mrs. Hess's death. Take heed. It's morbid, but there are clues that'll make sense at the big wrap-up, especially if you're the sort of hairpin who believes there's a good reason for every occurrence.

And admittedly, even if you don't believe that there's a reason for everything that happens, there is nevertheless something

comforting about seeing overwhelming chaos reduced to a means rather than an end. We like the idea of a grand plan. That something, somewhere, cares about us, even if it sends hideous monsters to remind us of that fact. The implication of a divine hand is always heartening.

Understandably, you couldn't convince Mel Gibson's ex-holy man that there's any rhyme or reason to the scary things that have begun to occur around his Bucks County farm. But while the ensuing events are certainly trying for Mr. Hess and family, they prove good for Gibson the actor. Because once push comes to shove and the docile character's adrenaline is ordered to flow, believability is once again his.

This is supplemented by decent but typically precocious portrayals by Rory Culkin as Graham's son Morgan and Abigail Breslin as his sweet but troubled little daughter. But the film's only standout performance comes from Joaquin Phoenix as Merrill, Graham's younger brother. A former minor league ballplayer, Merrill came to keep his sibling company following the car accident. An interesting counterpoint to his learned brother, in many ways the jock is a dolt. Yet he is a likable fellow, has a native intelligence, and exudes a form of sympathy different yet complimentary to his older brother's. The combination of traits is complicated. Thus it is to Mr. Phoenix's thespic credit and the film's advantage that he breathes credible life into the persona.

Still, it would take more than one exceptional portrayal to compensate for the strained connections proffered in Mr. Shyamalan's movie. And it certainly isn't helped by the fact that fans of his "Sixth Sense" will always be on the lookout for an ending to equal the one in that 1999 thriller. It is a testament to the director that while Americans will think nothing of telling you that your spouse is cheating on you or that you really should do something about your ill-fitting toupee, not one

human being in this country gave away the ending to that film. "Signs" doesn't come close to earning such reverence. But what's the sense of trying to decide whether or not to put it on your moviegoing list? Don't worry. If you're destined to see it, you will.

"Signs," rated PG-13, is a Touchstone Pictures release directed by M. Night Shyamalan and stars Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix and Abigail Breslin. Running time: 106 minutes

Do You Have A Chicken Soup For The Soul Story?

AREA—Chicken Soup for the Soul is cooking up another great book and offering people from everywhere the opportunity to be a contributor. They are currently collecting stories for *Chicken Soup For The Christian Teen Soul*.

The stories must be true 1200 words or less, inspirational and one that opens the heart and rekindles the spirit. Chicken Soup stories are personal and often filled with emotion and drama, so that they are filled with vivid images created using the five senses. They have heart, but also something extra, that element that makes us all feel more hopeful, more connected, more thankful, closer in our relationship to God and better about life in general.

While a Chicken Soup for the Soul Story can cover just about

anything, some of the messages in this book will cover: Love, Friendship, Forgiveness, Making a Difference, Death and Dying, Courage, Dating, Relationships, Tough Stuff, Learning Through Pain and Going for Your Dreams.

The deadline for collecting stories is Aug. 31. If you have a great story you would like to share please fax it to 805-563-2945 or e-mail to: paubery@chickensoupforthesoul.com or send it by regular mail to: Chicken Soup for the Soul, Attn: Christian Teens, PO Box 30880, Santa Barbara, CA 93130.

All contributors whose stories are chosen to be in the book will receive a one-time payment of \$300 for the serial publication right to their story and a short bio in the book as well.

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WINNING PICK-4

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MONDAY, Aug. 5

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Evening 301 4282

TUESDAY, Aug. 6

Mid-Day 695 6542

Evening 655 2899

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 7

Mid-Day 799 8210

Evening 291 2585

THURSDAY, Aug. 8

Mid-Day 871 8066

Evening 895 9546

FRIDAY, Aug. 9

Mid-Day 455 9185

Evening 409 4229

SATURDAY, Aug. 10

Mid-Day 297 0727

Evening 890 7184

WINNING PICK-6 Numbers

MONDAY, Aug. 5

5-19-20-39-40-48

THURSDAY, Aug. 8

1-9-32-36-38-44

SUNDAY, Aug. 4

14-16-20-27-28

MONDAY, Aug. 5

13-14-22-24-28

TUESDAY, Aug. 6

1-2-10-23-28

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 7

6-10-22-33-38

THURSDAY, Aug. 8

11-23-28-30-38

FRIDAY, Aug. 9

1-5-23-27-36

SATURDAY, Aug. 10

1-2-10-18-20

BIG GAME WINNING Numbers

TUESDAY, Aug. 6

2-6-38-40-50/14

FRIDAY, Aug. 9

7-17-23-43-44/26

LOTZEE WINNING Numbers

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 7

1-35-39-57

SATURDAY, Aug. 10

23-48-52-73

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YOUR MILITARY NEWS

Claudio Completes Basic Marine Training

WOODBIDGE—Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. Jan W. Claudio, son of Angelita B. Claudio of Woodbridge and Ignacio R. Claudio, Jr. of Fords, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Claudio successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, he spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

He also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Claudio is a 1994 graduate of Bishop George Ahr High School, Edison and a 1998 graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a B.S. degree.

Katora Visits Greece

ISELIN—Navy Seaman Kathleen Katora, granddaughter of Frederick Katora of Iselin, recently visited Crete, Greece, while assigned to the aircraft carrier USS George Washington, home ported in Norfolk, Va.

Katora is one of more than 10,000 Atlantic Fleet Sailors and Marines aboard the ships of the USS George Washington Carrier Battle Group and USS Nassau Amphibious Ready Group, which will soon participate in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Carriers like USS George Washington, are deployed throughout the world to maintain U.S. presence and provide rapid response in times of crisis. They serve as a highly visible deterrent to would-be aggressors and are equipped with the most versatile and powerful weapons and aircraft available.

Katora is a 2001 graduate of South Brunswick High School of Monmouth Junction and joined the Navy in August, 2001.

DeDomenico Graduates Basic Combat Training

HOPELAWN—Army Pvt. Peter DeDomenico has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and practice in drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, military justice system, physical fitness, basic first aid, and Army history, tradition and core values and special training in human relations.

He is the son of Patricia DeDomenico of Hopelawn.

DeDomenico is a 1989 graduate of Middlesex County Vocational-Technical High School, Woodbridge.

Son Completes Officer Indoctrination Course

EDISON—Navy Reserve Ensign Julie Y. Son, a resident of Edison, recently completed the Officer Indoctrination Course.

During the course at Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I., students are prepared for duty in the naval staff field corresponding to their civilian profession.

The first five weeks of studies include naval history and traditions, personnel administration, military law, close-order drill and other general military subjects.

During the final weeks, studies concentrate on the application of civilian professions within the Navy.

Noll Completes Basic Training

AVENEL—Marine Corps Pvt. Michael T. Noll, son of Jaime Noll of Avenel and Lawrence Noll of Avenel, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Noll successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, he spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training.

He also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Noll is a 1999 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Gomez-Sanchez Completes Course

PERTH AMBOY—Marine Corps Pvt. Ricardo Gomez-Sanchez, son of Claudia and Jose T. Gomez of Perth Amboy, recently completed the Personnel Clerk Course at Personnel Administration and Legal Services School, Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

During the seven week course he received instruction on the preparation and maintenance of officer and enlisted service records. Gomez-Sanchez also learned to prepare all personnel documents, including identification cards, promotion certificates, individual evaluating reports and leave authorizations.

As a Marine Corps personnel clerk, Gomez-Sanchez will be responsible for providing enlisted personnel with information and counseling about Marine Corps jobs, opportunities for general education and training, promotion requirements, rights, and benefits. Gomez-Sanchez also will keep records up to date, prepare reports, type letters and maintain files.

Gomez-Sanchez is a 2001 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ADDITION & GARAGE

The Woodbridge Housing Authority will receive sealed bids to CONSTRUCT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ADDITION & GARAGE at the existing Public Housing Developments listed below:

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
20 BUNNS LANE, WOODBRIDGE

Sealed bids for this work will be received by the Authority at the Authority offices located at 20 Bunns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey, until 10:00 AM prevailing time, on August 26, 2002 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A preBid meeting will be held on August 21, 2002 at 10:00a.m. located at 20 Bunns Lane, Woodbridge. (Administration Building).

The Instructions to Bidders, Bid Form, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Division I, Drawings, Specifications, and other Contract Documents will be on file during the business day from 9:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Housing Authority Offices located at 20 Bunns Lane, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095. Copies thereof may be obtained upon paying a non-refundable deposit of (\$75.00) for each complete set. Deposit checks shall be made payable to the Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge.

All required bids, certifications and other forms required to be submitted by bidders are to be prepared on the proposal forms found in the Contract Documents. The bid bond, or a certified check in the amount of 5% of the total bid amounts is a requirement.

All bonds used to satisfy the bid surety requirement must be issued by surety firms licensed to issue such bonds in the State of New Jersey and be listed in the US Treasury Circular No. 570 (T-listed surety) and regardless of the method the bidder proposes to meet the bid surety requirement, it must also produce with the Bid a Consent of Surety written by a T-listed surety. Registry in the US Treasury Circular No. 570 as a reinsurance company does not satisfy the foregoing requirements that the surety company be listed as approved as surety.

The successful bidder will also be required to produce 100% payment and performance bond written by a T-listed surety, prior to the Authorities issuance of a notice to proceed.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in the bids received and to accept any bid which is deemed to be in the best interest of the Authority. The Authority may also award one or more contracts to one or more bidders.

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicapped status in the employment or procurement of services.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 Chapter 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) Affirmative Action; P.L. 1977 Chapter 38 (Disclosure); and, The Davis Bacon Act as to the minimum wage to be paid under the contract.

Bids will remain in force for a period of sixty (60) days after the date of the opening thereof. If you have any questions please call Ash Marathe at 732 634-2750.

By Order of
Donna Brightman,
Executive Director

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OBITUARIES
**Doris M. Harrington
of Carteret**

Mrs. Doris M. (Scally) Harrington of Silver Ridge Park Westerly section of Berkeley Township (formerly of Carteret) died August 3 at J.F.K. Medical Center in Edison. She was 82.

Born in Carteret, she was a lifelong resident before moving to Berkeley Township in 1982.

She was a legal secretary for the law offices of Kaplan, Feingold, and Kaplan in Carteret, retiring in 1982.

Mrs. Harrington was a communicant of St. Maximilian Kolbe R.C. Church and was a member of the Altar Rosary Society.

She was a member of the Silver Ridge Park Westerly Singles' Club, Women's Club, The Catholic Daughters, and the Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians. She was also a volunteer for the Silver Ridge Park Westerly Assistance to Neighbors' Program since its inception, and at Crystal Lakes Health Care and Rehab Center in Bayville.

Her husband John, died in 1989.

Surviving are her son, John of Richmond, Va.; a daughter and Marilyn Leahy of Edison, and eight grandchildren. Brian, James, and Michael Leahy, Catherine Sharp, Sean, Kevin, Cristin, and Meghan Harrington.

Joseph Lombardi, 85 of Port Reading

Mr. Joseph Lombardi of Port Reading died August 1 at home. He was 85.

Born in Port Reading, he lived there all his life.

Mr. Lombardi was employed with the Woodbridge Township Department of Parks and Recreation and the Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation before retiring. Earlier, he had been a chemical operator at the FMC Corp., Carteret, for many years.

He was a former fire commissioner with Port Reading Fire District 2. He belonged to the Sewaren-Port Reading Elite Association of Democrats (S.P.R.E.A.D.), a Democratic club and was also a member of the Port Reading

**John F. Degillio, 95
of Edison**

Mr. John F. Degillio died August 2 at Muhlenberg Hospital in Plainfield. He was 95.

Born in Pittstown, Pa., he lived in Jersey City before moving to Iselin 50 years ago.

He was a 1931 graduate of Rider College, receiving a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Mr. Degillio was a Army veteran of World War II, serving in France and the Rhineland.

He was an accountant for the U.S. Defense Contract Audit Agency at I.T.T. Corporation in Nutley, retiring in 1970 after 25 years.

Mr. Degillio was a member of the Federal Government Accountants Association.

His stepdaughter, Charmayne Brodnax, and 10 brothers and sisters, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Ruth (Dowling) Degillio; his stepson, Allyn Powell of Gloucester, N.C.; his daughter, Marie Schaeffer of Plainfield; a brother, Fred Degillio of Gareden City, Mich.; a sister, Eleanor DeLia of Exeter, Pa.; a cousin, Rose Zdzichowski of Iselin; his grandchildren, Charmayne, Janice, Lorraine, Aaron, Thomas and Charles, and one great-grandchild.

Senior Citizens. Mr. Lombardi was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church, Port Reading and was a member of the church's Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus Don Bosco Council 5809 and the Port Reading Senior Citizens.

Surviving are four daughters, Ann Eak and Barbara Ryan, both of Port Reading Kathryn and Karen Galesky, both of Hillsborough; a brother, Alfred Lombardi of Edison; a sister, Anna Mayorek of Port Reading and six grandchildren, Donald and Joseph Eak, Shawn and Scott Ryan and George and Melissa Galesky, and six great-grandchildren.

**Helena R. Jaken, 95
of Edison**

Mrs. Helena R. (Whalen) Jaken of Edison died August 2 at St. Joseph's Senior Home in Woodbridge. She was 95.

Born and raised in New Brunswick, she then moved to Edison in 1990.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Jaken was a communicant of St. Peter's R.C. Church and St. Ladislaus R.C. Church, both in New Brunswick.

She was also a member of the New Brunswick Senior Citizens Club and a volunteer with the senior citizens club's Nutrition Program.

Her husband, Charles F. Jaken, died in 1996, and her parents, James T. and Elizabeth M. (Sullivan) Whalen, are also deceased.

Surviving are a son, Frank C. Jaken of Bordentown; three daughters, Rita J. Diehl of Gettysburg, Pa., Nancy J. Brokaw of Asbury and Patricia J. Baldwin of St. Petersburg, Fla.; three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**John Nakonechni
of Avenel**

Mr. John "Mike" Nakonechni of Avenel died August 1 at home. He was 50.

Born in Long Island City, N.Y., he lived in Perth Amboy before moving to Avenel four years ago.

He was a forklift mechanic at United Rental Company in Piscataway and belonged to Operating Engineers Local 825 in Springfield.

Mr. Nakonech was a member of St. John's Orthodox Church in Perth Amboy.

His wife, Anne Marie Zaktansky Nakonechni, died in 1999, and his mother, Helen Ruddy Nakonechni, is also deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Kristin Stocking; and a son, Jason Nakonechni, both of Salt Lake City, Utah; his father, Stanley of Carbondale, Pa.; two brothers, Stanley of Waynesburg, Pa., Michael of Reno, Nev., and a granddaughter.

**Harold T. Buickerood
of Woodbridge**

Mr. Harold T. Buickerood died August 7 at Southern Ocean County Hospital in Manahawkin. He was 79.

Born and raised in Woodbridge, he lived in Marlboro, Mass. and Cheesequake before moving to Manahawkin two years ago.

He worked for NL Industries in Sayreville for 26 years before retiring.

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

He was a member of Raritan Americas Masonic Lodge 83 in Perth Amboy, and was past patron of the Order of Eastern Star in both New Jersey and Massachusetts. He held the title of "past grand tall" of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon in Perth Amboy.

He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Massachusetts.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Ann (Peterson) Buickerood of Manahawkin; a son, Kurt A. Buickerood of Barnegat; two brothers, Walter Buickerood of Pennsylvania and Lester Buickerood of Perth Amboy, and two granddaughters, Leigh Stacy Buickerood and Hope Beth Buickerood.

**Alice Dittrich
of Colonia**

Mrs. Alice Dittrich of Colonia died August 6 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Rochester, N.Y., she moved to Colonia 13 years ago.

Surviving are her husband, Walter Dittrich, and two sons, Bronis deSupinski and Mark deSupinski.

**Maryann Stary, 81
of Edison**

Mrs. MaryAnn (Both) Stary of Edison August 3 at JFK Haven Hospice in Edison. She was 81.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived in Edison for the past 45 years.

She was employed as an office worker at Revlon in Edison until her retirement.

She was previously employed as a secretary by General Cable during World War II, and was a candy striper for Perth Amboy General Hospital.

Mrs. Stary was an active volunteer for Clara Barton BSA Troop 73.

She was a 1937 graduate of Perth Amboy High School and former PTA president at Clara Barton School.

Her husband, Chester A. Stary, died in 1998; a sister, Elizabeth Both, and both her parents, Vendel and Helen Both of Perth Amboy, are all deceased.

Surviving are her two sons, Craig Stary of Cranbury, and Richard D. Stary of Edison; a brother, Joseph R. Both of Edison, and four grandchildren, Stephanie, Noelle, Courtney, and Jeffrey.

**Theresa Dolinskas
of Colonia**

Mrs. Theresa Dolinskas of Colonia died August 6 in the JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 74.

Born in Newark, she lived in Dunellen before moving to Colonia. Surviving are Thomas, her husband of 39 years; a daughter, Annmarie Dolinskas-Shallo, and two grandchildren.

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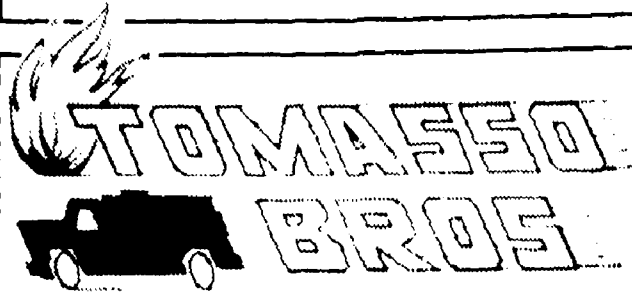
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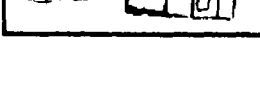
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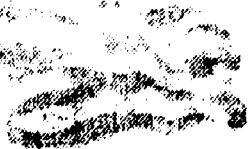
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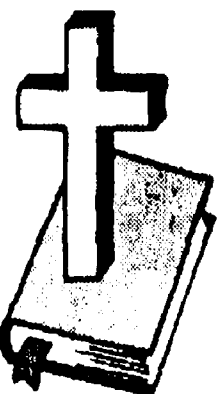
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

NEWS

Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults

SOUTH AMBOY Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Are you interested in finding out more about Jesus and the Catholic "way of life"? If you feel that God is nudging you to inquire about the Faith, this process is for you. Come and check us out!

The Rite of Christian Initiation process is designed especially for people who have never been baptized, but it is also for those who may have been baptized Catholic or another denomination and never received Holy Communion/Eucharist or were never Confirmed. It is also for people of other denominations who may have been coming to Mass with a spouse, a child or friend, sometimes for many years, but who are not Catholic, though in their heart may have considered themselves Catholic, and want to make it official. If you have any questions or would like to talk about this process or want to register, call Fran Beshada, at (732) 721-2828.

Paczkowski Earns Degree

SOUTH AMBOY --- Catherine Paczkowski, a South Amboy resident, earned a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Arts and Science at Northeastern University on Saturday, June 15 at the Fleet Center, Boston. The ceremony, which marked Northeastern's 100th commencement, drew a crowd of more than 12,000 friends and family of the graduates and honored some 3,700 students who received associates, bachelor's, Master's and doctoral degrees from the century-old institution.

Northeastern University, a private research institution located in Boston, Massachusetts, is a world leader in practice-oriented education. Building on its flagship cooperative education program, Northeastern links classroom learning with workplace experience, and integrates professional preparation with study in the liberal arts and sciences. For more information, visit www.northeastern.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Lauren Dougherty, a graduate of Edison High School, recently received a full tuition scholarship to study computer programming at the Cittone Institute in Edison.

Santa & Bikers Visit Vets

EDISON—It was Christmas in July when Santa came down from the North Pole a little early this year to spread holiday cheer at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home on July 21.

He traded his sleigh for a motorcycle as he brought his bag of gifts and led a dozen bikers on a fund-raising run to the Music Box Nightclub in South Amboy.

Santa, also known as Edward Bigham of Lincroft, and area motorcycle enthusiasts, some from the New Jersey chapter of Leathernecks Motorcycle Club International, enjoyed singing carols with the veterans.

Music Box owner Mel Meszaros, a Marine who served in Vietnam, raised \$2,000 for the home. The money will be used to help pay for items needed at the home.

Dean's List Announced at Lafayette College

AREA—The names of 802 Lafayette College students who have been named to the 2002 spring semester Dean's List were recently announced by Gladstone A. Hutchinson, dean of studies. Each of the students has achieved at least a 3.45 semester grade point average out of a possible 4.0.

Local students making the Dean's List are:

Douglas Schiz, Joseph Bentley, Rory Hart, and Lauren Elkinson of Edison; Lauren Bowers of Metuchen; and Holly Feret of Parlin.

Founded in 1826, Lafayette College is a highly selective, co-educational college in Easton, Pa. It offers its 2,000 students undergraduate education in the arts, sciences, engineering and computer science.

Six New Police Recruits Sworn In

PERTH AMBOY—Mayor Joseph Vas held a ceremony on July 23 at City Hall to swear in six new police recruits to the Perth Amboy Police Department. Before an audience in the Council Chambers of City Hall, the new recruits received their Oath of Office in order to begin the required 22-week training course at the Union County Police Academy.

"It is assuring to see such a bright, enthusiastic group of recruits joining the Perth Amboy Police Department. I am confident that they will serve the residents of Perth Amboy to the best of their ability and do their part to create a safer, quieter, cleaner community for everyone," stated Vas.

Each recruit is a Perth Amboy resident and brings with them a considerable amount of prior law enforcement experience. Liza Capo, age 35, is currently employed as a Legal Stenographer with the Perth Amboy Police

Department. She has also served as the Perth Amboy Municipal Court Liaison. Robert Lamond, age 30, has been employed for the last seven years as a Public School Law Enforcement Officer for the Perth Amboy Board of Education.

Jesus Martinez, age 34, has been employed for the last three years as a Juvenile Justice Commission Academy Instructor in Sea Girt. He is also a member of the United States Marine Corps. Ralph Piniero, Jr., age 29, is currently employed as an EMT for the Perth Amboy Police Department. He has also served as a police department report taker/dispatcher and he is a sergeant for the Perth Amboy Auxiliary Police.

Lisa Strait, age 31, is currently employed as a Middlesex County Park Ranger. She was also employed for ten years by the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office and has served as the Deputy Administrator for the Milltown Municipal Court. John Wonski, age 22, is currently employed as a corrections officer for the NJ Department of Corrections. He has also served as a member of the Perth Amboy Auxiliary Police since June of 2000.

"We welcome the addition of these six new recruits to the Perth Amboy Police Department. This is a clear demonstration of the commitment by the Mayor and the City Council to provide the police with the necessary manpower to protect the citizens of Perth Amboy and improve their quality of life," stated Police Detective Thomas Cetnar.

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