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Wisniewski Named Legislator Of The Year

SAYREVILLE—Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski was named legislator of the year by the state's largest veterans group, the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Wisniewski, who serves as Assistant Majority Leader and Chairman of the Assembly Transportation Committee, was presented with the "2002 Assembly Legislator of the Year Award" at the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars Legislative and Voice of Democracy Banquet on Feb. 2 at the Doubtree Hotel, Somerset.

First elected to the Assembly in 1995, Wisniewski



has been a longstanding supporter of veterans and their issues. During the presentation ceremony, he was noted for his

legislative efforts to increase the Veteran's Property Tax deduction and his efforts to help alleviate the nursing shortfall at state veterans' homes.

"Veterans in New Jersey deserve a great deal of attention for the commitments and sacrifices they have made on behalf of our country," said Wisniewski (D-Sayreville). "As a state that has always had an excellent reputation for taking care of its veterans, it is vital that we continue to improve upon state programs that assist and cater to our veteran population."

The award was presented to

Wisniewski by Donald Marshall Jr., NJ-VFW State Commander and Michael Wysong, NJ-VFW Legislative Director.

Wisniewski said he was honored to be this year's recipient of the legislative excellence award and that he looks forward to championing legislation that caters to the needs of veterans.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by an organization as well-respected and vital as the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars," said Wisniewski.

Attorney General To Review Possible Voting Fraud

EDISON—County elections officials found only a handful of questionable ballots in their investigation of a complaint that arose from Edison's Democratic primary.

Of the voters challenged by supporters of defeated mayoral candidate William Stephens, 180 were found to be properly registered, according to Robert Reck, chairman of the county

elections board. The county will forward six questionable ballots to the state Attorney General's Office for possible prosecution of voting fraud, said Reck. The offense carries a penalty of up to a year in jail, but the attorney general's office may review the findings before any charges can be made, Reck added.

Even if all the challenged votes turned out to be fraudulent,

the outcome of the election would not have been affected, Reck said. Mayor George Spadaro and his council slate easily won the primary.

Reck said that the inquiry does make "people recognize the fact that you're not going to get away with it if you're not properly registered."

Stephens said that the outcome shows that there were

some problems in the primary. He said that his campaign could have filed more sweeping complaints about irregularities, but chose not to.

"The point wasn't to turn around the election," Williams said. "It was just to bring out the heavy-handedness that was used throughout the primary."

Eighth Annual Irish Talent Night Set For Mar. 3

PERTH AMBOY—Join Emmaus House, 101 Center Street, Perth Amboy, for an evening of sheer fun on Sunday, March 3. Irish Talent Night features their own Jim Payne & Co. Corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and the show begins at 6 p.m. Donations are \$20 per person (\$15 show only). Make your reservations by Feb. 25 by calling (732) 442-7688.

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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Middlesex County Food Bank Needs Donations

"Our county food pantries and soup kitchens have also told us that because of the rough economic times, they are serving more people and they, in turn, are asking us for additional supplies."

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — ing to look pretty empty," she said. The cupboards are bare at Middlesex County food banks and food pantries, and the organization that supports the distribution centers needs help from county residents to replenish supplies.

"Food donations tend to tail off after the holidays, but hunger doesn't," said Jennifer Apostol, the Middlesex County Improvement Authority coordinator for M.C.F.O.O.D.S. (Middlesex County Food Organization and Out-reach Distribution Services).

"M.C.F.O.O.D.S. collects and distributes about 55 tons of food each year, but most of the donations come during our school food drive in March, the letter carriers' drive in May and in November and December. Right now, our shelves are start-

Items most urgently needed include canned meats and pastas, stews, canned milk, tomato products, cereal, rice, tuna fish, peanut butter and jelly. Personal products such as soap, shampoo, deodorant and toothpaste and diapers and baby wipes are also in short supply.

"Our county food pantries and soup kitchens have also told us that because of the rough economic times, they are serving more people and they, in turn, are asking us for additional supplies," Apostol said.

"Thanks to the cooperation of PNC Bank, Middlesex County College, the county government and the libraries in many of our communities, we are trying to make it as convenient as possible for people to help," she said.

Donations of non-perishable food and personal and baby items can be made at the following locations.

* Throughout the month of February at any Middlesex County administrative office.

* Year-round at the libraries in Dunellen, Edison, Milltown, Monroe, North Brunswick, Plainsboro, South Brunswick, Spotswood and Woodbridge. Green containers are located in the lobby of each library.

In addition, all Middlesex County schools will be asked to participate in M.C.F.O.O.D.S. annual spring food drive, to be conducted this year between Feb. 25-March 8.

For directions to drop-off sites, more information, or to ask about conducting a corporate or community organization food drive, contact M.C.F.O.O.D.S. at (732) 729-0880.

Irish Melodies That Cheer The Soul

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission welcomes, for the eighth years, Mick Moloney to Middlesex County. The Irish Renaissance Man, Mickey Moloney returns on March 5 at East Brunswick Vocational High School. Beginning at 8 p.m., Mick and fellow musicians and dancers create an evening of rousing and soulful music, stories, and spirited dance. East Brunswick Vocational High School is located at 112 Rue Lane, East Brunswick.

Mick Moloney, a charismatic performer, helped ignite a major resurgence of Irish American music, dance, and culture in the United States. His accomplishments as a teacher, producer, performer and scholar include shaping the Irish component of the Smithsonian Bicentennial Festival of American Folklife, co-founding the acclaimed *Greenfields of America* touring group, consulting and performing for the documentary *Out of Ireland* and performing at numerous Irish Festivals across the United States. Moloney is a

recognized tenor banjo player, who also sings and plays mandolin, mandola, bouzouki and guitar.

He has received the prestigious recognition of the National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Folklife Program for New Jersey brings folklife programming to Middlesex County without charge to audiences. However, registration is required. To register, contact the Commission at (732) 745-4489. For those with hearing impairments dial (732) 745-3888 TTY or 711 via the New Jersey Relay Service. Sign language interpreters can be available with a two-week advance request. Materials are available in large-type print and Braille upon request. Funding is provided by Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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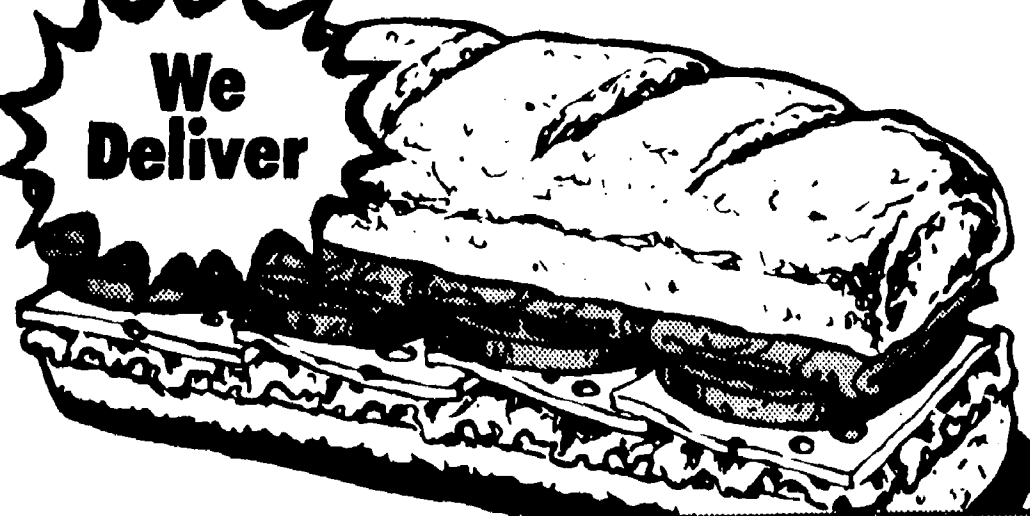
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Free Seminar On Starting A New Business

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—A free public seminar on How to Start a Business will be held on Tuesday, March 19 from 7-9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square (off Ryders Lane), New Brunswick. The seminar is sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the educational and philanthropic arm of the New Jersey State Bar Association. The New Jersey Small Business Development Center, which provides specialized management counseling, training and information services to New Jersey entrepreneurs, is also co-sponsoring the seminar.

Barry Bendes, a partner with the law firm of Vedder

Price Kaufman & Kammholz with offices in New York City, Chicago and Livingston, and Oceanport attorney Lois Shafir will discuss a variety of topics including developing a concept into a real business plan; financing a small business; and business development resources in New Jersey. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required. To register or for more information on Foundation seminars, programs and publications, call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

The Foundation's seminar series is made possible by funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Free Seminar On Consumer Fraud

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—A free public seminar on consumer fraud issues will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 7-9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, New Brunswick. The seminar is sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the educational and philanthropic arm of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Topics for discussion will include the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act; the Truth in Lending Act and consumer borrowing; automobile repair regulations; the New Jersey Lemon Law; home repair fraud and regulations; auto purchase and leasing; and arbitration of consumer disputes. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentations.

Speakers will include Frank E. Catalina, an attorney with

the law firm of Margulies, Wind, Herrington & Knopf in Jersey City and Madeline Houston, a partner with the law firm of Houston & Totaro in Paterson.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Advance registration is required. To register or for more information on Foundation seminars, programs and publications, call 1-800-FREE-LAW. The Foundation's seminar series is made possible by funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Tasteful Antiquing

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—Jewish Family Service of Southern Middlesex County will be holding its Annual Fund Raising Event on Saturday, March 9 from 8-11 p.m. at the Zimmerli Museum in New Brunswick. This year's event, "A Taste for Antiques" will include an appraisal of your favorite antique; antique boutiques selling jewelry, handbags sports memorabilia, pottery, etc.; fresh tropical fruit display, crudites with dipping sauces, assorted cheeses and crackers, wine and champagne, an elaborate dessert buffet; and musical entertainment.

"A Taste for Antiques" will be an evening to have your hopes of treasure realized, to socialize with your friends, and to support an organization that truly follows the highest tenets of charity. For over 32 years, Jewish Family Service of Southern Middlesex County has provided exceptional service to our community. Your support of this event will help to insure that children, individuals and families continue to receive the services they need.

A wonderful committee and staff, chaired by JFS Board members, Dr. Joel Leizer and Jack Goldberg, are working tirelessly to make this evening a great success. With the help of the beautiful ambience of the Zimmerli Museum, delicious food, champagne and wine, antique boutique ven-

dors, and musical entertainment, it is surely an evening not to be missed!

In conjunction with "A Taste for Antiques," the Annual JFK Ad Journal gives everyone the opportunity to support the 32 year tradition,

mission and heritage of JFS to preserve and strengthen the families within our community. Reservations may be made or ads placed in the Journal by calling JFS at (732) 257-4100. The couvert is \$54 per person. Dietary laws observed.

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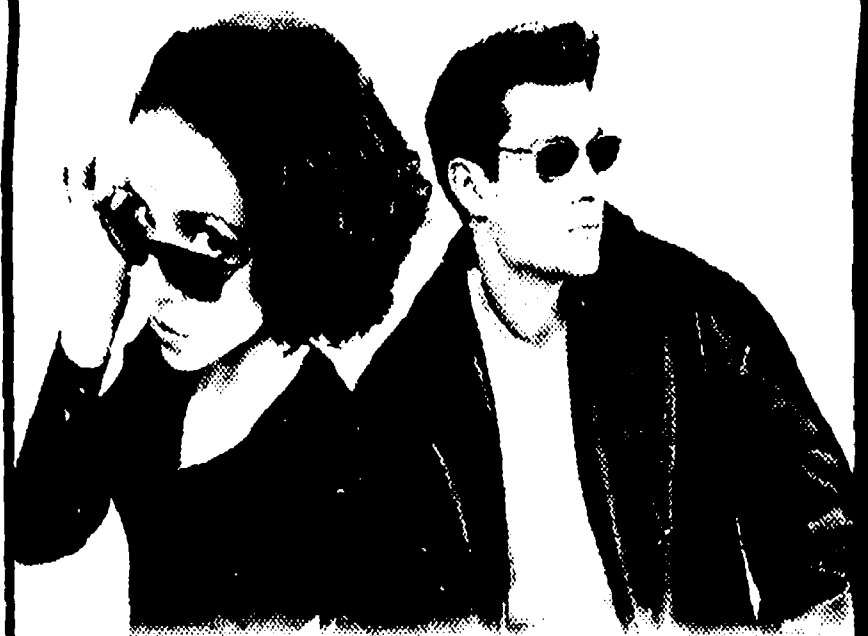
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Perth Amboy Wins Seven Year Legal Battle

PERTH AMBOY The Supreme Court of New Jersey has ruled in favor of the City of Perth Amboy in regard to the ongoing case versus Perth Amboy Police Lieutenant Washington McLelland. The Supreme Court ruled recently to deny Lt. McLelland's Petition for Certification, essentially ending seven years of ongoing legal battles over Lt. McLelland's demotion from captain.

"This is a gratifying victory as it serves to reinforce the position we have held over the last seven years. Our police department is committed to putting the welfare of our residents above all else and we look forward to continuing our concentration on crime reduction and quality of life improvements, while putting

this issue behind us," stated Mayor Joseph Vas.

The case began in November 1995 when the City of Perth Amboy filed disciplinary charges against Lt. McLelland, specifying various acts of neglect of duty, insubordination and conduct subversive of good order and discipline within the department. In April of 1996, a departmental hearing was held and Lt. McLelland was suspended for sixty days and demoted from Captain to Lieutenant.

Lt. McLelland, citing harassment and discrimination, then requested a hearing and the Merit System Board transferred the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for determination as a contested case. An eventual hearing was held and Administrative

Law Judge Fidler issued an Initial Decision in February of 1998 recommending affirmance of the city's disciplinary action. Subsequently, in April of 1998, the Merit System Board issued an order adopting the initial decision of the judge and affirming the disciplinary action.

In April of 1998, a liability and compensatory damages trial was held, which ended with a jury awarding Lt. McLelland \$5,600 in past lost wages and \$72,800 in future lost wages. Subsequently, that month, a punitive damages trial was held and the jury, by a 5-2 verdict awarded McLelland \$700,000. However, during the liability and compensatory trial Judge Messina reserved decision on McLelland's oral motion to dis-

miss based on Res Judicata, which would have closed the matter to any further litigation, and scheduled a hearing for May of 1998.

On May 22, 1998, Judge Messina ordered a new trial on the issue of punitive damages, denied Lt. McLelland's Motion to be Reinstated as captain and denied his motion to dismiss based upon Res Judicata. In June 1998, Judge Messina also ordered a new trial on the issue of compensatory damages because the jury was wrongfully instructed that the award was not taxable.

In 1999, both trials were held and Lt. McLelland was awarded \$436,500 in compensatory damages and \$600,000 in punitive damages. Legal discussion continued as the city filed an appeal with the

State Supreme Court Appellate Division in May 1999. In August 1999, the Appellate Division decided in the city's favor and affirmed the decision of the Merit System Board in all respects, finding that the discipline imposed on Lt. McLelland was fully warranted.

In a last ditch effort, Lt. McLelland took the appeal to the Supreme Court, which has now denied his Petition for Certification, thereby closing the case. Lt. McLelland's demotion now stands and he may be compelled to pay unspecified legal costs to the City of Perth Amboy. The trial phases and the appeals on behalf of the City of Perth Amboy were handled by the law offices of Nolan and Hynes, LLP of Perth Amboy.

Calling All Beanie Baby Collectors

SOUTH AMBOY The Dowdell Library, 100 Harold G. Hoffman Plaza, South Amboy, will have a collection of Beanie Babies on display, courtesy of Deirdre Forrest, for the month of February.

Catch The Right Train When It Arrives At The New Jersey Convention And Expo Center!

EDISON Greenberg's Train Show will roll into town Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3 with lots of just "Train" for the entire family. This wonderful event, taking place at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center, will feature a super hobby market, exciting

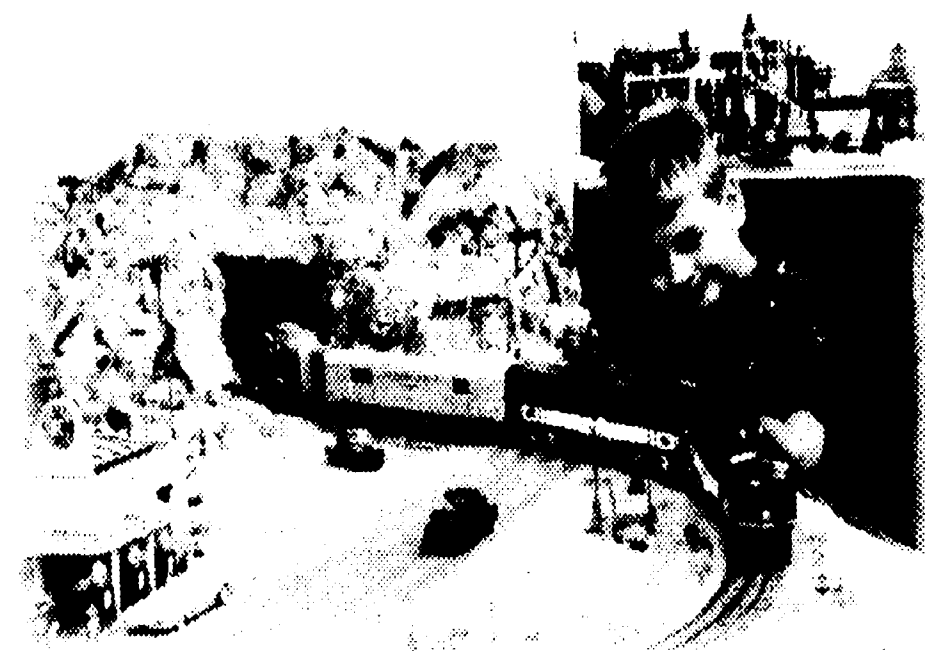
operating layouts from local model railroading clubs, informative how-to hobby clinics and much more.

The huge hobby marketplace offers an outstanding selection of new and used model and toy trains from all the leading manufacturers including Atlas,

Bachmann, LGB, Lionel and M.T.H. Plus shop for everything needed to keep the trains running and for building a layout including train parts, accessories, scenery supplies, hobby tools and how-to hobby publications. A great selection of diecast vehicles will also be available. Members of the Teen Association of Model Railroaders will "man the track" to assist patrons with their locomotive purchases.

The Raritan Valley Hi Railers Club members show off their 32x40 action-packed O gauge layout. Members of the Staten Island Society of Model Railroaders come to town to delight children of all ages with their exceptional 20x28 HO layout. Plus see exciting prototype rail action at the N scale layout from Brooklyn N Trak Club then marvel at the majestic large scale "live" steam engines and rolling stock on display from the New Jersey Live Steamers.

The family fun runs both days from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children ages 6-12 and admission is good for both days. Scouts in uniform or with an ID and children under 6 are admitted free. For directions, call (732) 417-1400 or visit www.greenbergshows.com.



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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Local Entertainment, Mississippi Style

WOODBIDGE—On Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. at the Woodbridge Main Library, Woodbridge, the 'Friends of the Libraries of Woodbridge Township' will present Mississippi Charles Bevel, singer, songwriter, storyteller and actor.

He was nominated for a Tony Award in 1999 for "It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues" and in 2001 for a Helen Hayes Award for best performance at the JFK Center in Wash., DC.

The event is free and open to the public.

A Comfort To The Community

PERTH AMBOY—The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center has received its designation as a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center. This designation makes the "center" the first faith based federally qualified healthcare center in the United States.

The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center, Inc., is dedicated to deliver preventative and primary medical services to the underserved and the uninsured population in a culturally competent environment, in Middlesex County, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Every person who seeks care will be welcomed, comforted and assisted without regard to financial status.

The Center is mindful of their responsibility as a community resource to enhance the quality of life for every member of the community and most importantly they will ensure the continuity of the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center as a community resource.

The "center" is located at 272A Hobart St., Perth Amboy and can be reached by calling (732) 376-9333.

A community block party is planned for late spring to officially celebrate the opening of this much needed facility.

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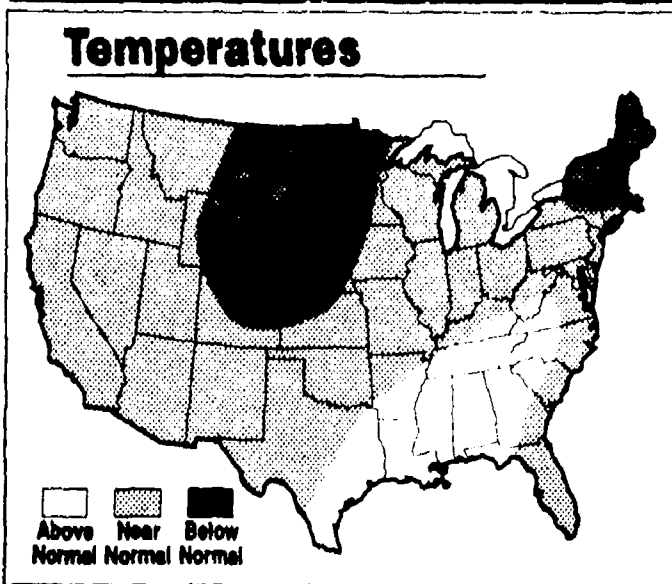
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Mild with partial sun.	Patchy clouds.	Cold; snow and rain early.	Cold with partial sun.	Partial sun and cold.	Mostly cloudy and cold.	Cloudy with snow and rain.	Partly sunny.
43	30	37/30	38/25	37/14	38/33	51/34	39/23

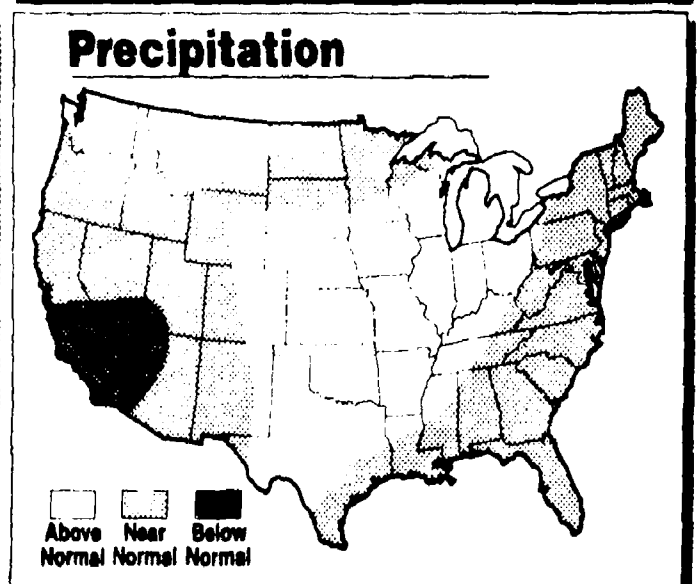
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

The jet stream will guide storms across the Pacific Northwest and into the Plains. South of the jet stream, warm weather is expected across the central and southern Plains. Meanwhile, cold air will chill portions of the Great Lakes, Northeast and Middle Atlantic. Dry weather will cover much of the Southeast and Gulf Coast.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	50 34 pc	54 37 s	50 32 pc	56 32 s
Boston	36 24 c	38 22 c	36 20 sn	32 11 pc
Chicago	36 22 c	30 16 sn	34 24 c	38 28 c
Cleveland	37 23 sf	35 21 c	27 18 c	35 20 c
Denver	46 25 pc	44 24 pc	50 27 pc	49 14 pc
Des Moines	40 20 pc	34 12 c	38 16 pc	38 26 c
Detroit	36 22 sf	32 18 sf	29 16 c	32 19 pc
Houston	66 36 pc	66 40 pc	62 43 s	69 42 pc
Indianapolis	41 25 c	39 22 c	33 20 c	40 28 c
Kansas City	46 28 s	42 18 pc	38 24 c	44 32 pc
Los Angeles	69 45 pc	74 46 pc	73 47 s	71 46 c
Miami	80 60 c	76 60 pc	76 62 pc	77 51 pc
Minn.-St. Paul	28 10 pc	24 8 sn	26 10 sf	30 14 s
New Orleans	62 45 s	64 46 s	60 43 s	66 40 s
New York City	38 32 pc	38 32 c	36 26 c	34 18 pc
Omaha	40 18 pc	34 22 pc	42 20 pc	38 26 pc
Phoenix	72 48 s	70 48 s	74 50 s	75 46 pc
San Francisco	56 43 pc	59 45 pc	63 47 pc	60 43 pc
Seattle	48 38 c	50 38 c	47 30 r	39 25 c
Washington	44 34 sh	44 34 r	42 30 c	46 20 s

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	Sunset
Thu. 7:01 a.m.	5:22 p.m.
Fri. 7:00 a.m.	5:23 p.m.

Moonrise	Moonset
Thu. 3:40 a.m.	1:07 p.m.
Fri. 4:39 a.m.	1:56 p.m.

Moon Phases

Last	New	First	Full
Feb 4	Feb 12	Feb 20	Feb 27

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

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	44 41 c	42 39 pc	44 37 c	45 44 c
Berlin	41 33 pc	41 40 pc	43 33 r	39 36 sn
Buenos Aires	81 66 pc	81 66 pc	82 63 pc	80 66 pc
Cairo	78 53 s	78 55 s	61 46 r	63 50 pc
Jerusalem	68 46 pc	68 46 s	51 40 r	54 41 pc
Johannesburg	88 56 pc	78 56 pc	79 58 pc	82 60 pc
London	49 41 pc	42 41 r	46 39 c	49 45 r
Madrid	56 47 pc	55 40 pc	51 33 c	57 37 pc
Mexico City	69 44 pc	69 45 pc	61 40 sh	63 44 c
Moscow	39 32 c	39 30 c	38 28 c	37 26 sn
Paris	43 42 sh	43 37 sh	40 31 sn	42 41 sn
Rio de Janeiro	77 67 pc	81 74 c	77 70 r	79 73 r
Rome	57 36 pc	56 47 pc	59 42 pc	54 36 pc
San Juan	85 73 pc	85 71 s	84 71 s	83 73 pc
Seoul	46 36 pc	43 15 c	31 21 pc	38 28 pc
Sydney	74 60 r	81 52 s	77 58 pc	79 59 s
Tokyo	52 36 pc	50 39 s	55 35 pc	46 37 c
Toronto	24 7 c	15 12 sn	14 0 sn	22 6 pc
Winnipeg	9 -9 pc	11 -5 pc	16 7 sn	13 3 sn
Zurich	40 39 pc	42 36 sh	39 34 sn	38 37 sn

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5008-WEATHER

YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS**IRS Offers Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Days During February**

AREA — Three important tax credits can reduce the federal income taxes of working parents. The Child Tax Credit can shrink tax bills up to \$600 per child. The refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit can put extra money in parents' pockets.

Working parents with incomes under \$32,121 can generally claim the EITC with tax breaks up to \$2,428 for one qualifying child and up to \$4,008 for two or more qualifying children. The primary EITC requirements include: the taxpayer must file a federal

income tax return; must have earnings from wages or self-employment; and must provide a valid Social Security number for each qualifying child listed on Schedule EIC.

Taxpayers without qualifying children, who are at least 25 years of age and under age 65, and whose 2001 earnings were less than \$10,710, may qualify for an EITC of up to \$364.

The Child Tax Credit reduces tax liability dollar for dollar. Parents can claim a credit of \$600 for each child who, on Dec. 31, 2001, was under age 17. You must

provide the name and identification number, usually a social security number, on your tax return for each qualifying child.

This credit phases out for each \$1,000 of modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$110,000 for taxpayers filing jointly, \$75,000 for single taxpayers or heads of households, and \$55,000 for married taxpayers filing separately. Taxpayers with zero tax liability do not qualify for the credit, but may qualify for the Additional Child Tax Credit.

The Additional Child Tax Credit can give refunds to some

taxpayers with qualifying children, even if no tax is owed. Form 8812, Additional Child Tax Credit, must be completed to claim the credit.

Parents qualifying for the EITC and Additional Child Tax Credit can get help preparing their returns during special EITC Awareness Days at one of the New Jersey IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers on Saturdays in February. Semanick reminds taxpayers that they must bring in the appropriate documents such as their tax records and Social Security cards, including their

children's, in order to complete the tax returns. Taxpayers also are required to provide photo identification to visit the Field Assistance Centers.

The IRS website at www.irs.gov and tax instruction booklets contain more information on these credits.

Locally, the available hours, dates and locations for the upcoming EITC Awareness Days are as follows:

970 Broad St., Newark - 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on 2/16 & 2/23.

100 Dey Pl., Edison, - 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on 2/16 & 2/23.

Marriage Or Divorce — Check Your Social Security Number

AREA — The IRS reminds newlyweds and the recently divorced to make sure names on their tax returns match those registered with the Social Security Agency (SSA). A mismatch between a name on the tax return and a Social Security number (SSN) could unexpectedly increase a tax bill and

reduce the size of any refund.

For newlyweds, the tax scenario can begin when the bride says "I do" and takes her husband's surname, but doesn't tell the SSA about the name change. If the couple files a joint tax return with her new name, the IRS computers will not be able to match the new name with the

SSN.

Similarly, after a divorce, a woman who had taken her husband's name and had made that change known to the SSA should contact the SSA if she reassumes her maiden name.

It's easy to inform the SSA of a name change by filing Form SS-5 at a local SSA office. It

usually takes two weeks to have the change verified. The form is available on the agency's Web site, www.ssa.gov, by calling toll free 1-800-772-1213 and at local offices. The SSA Web site provides the addresses of local offices.

Generally, taxpayers must provide SSNs for each depend-

ent claimed on the tax return. For adopted children without SSNs, the parents can apply for an adoption taxpayer identification number, or ATIN, by filing Form W-7A with the IRS. The ATIN is used in place of the SSN on the tax return. The form is available on the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, or by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

Charitable Donations To Victims Of Terrorist Attacks

AREA — If you made a charitable donation to a qualified organization providing disaster relief to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, include the amount with your other contributions listed on Schedule A of Form 1040.

According to the IRS, for each contribution of \$250 or more, you must obtain a written

statement from the charity acknowledging the contribution amount and stating whether or not the charity provided you with goods or services in return for your contribution.

For contributions of less than \$250, cancelled checks or credit card receipts are the best evidence.

To determine if an organiza-

tion is a qualified charity for which donations are tax deductible, search the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov for listings.

More information on deduction of charitable donations is available in Publication 526, "Charitable Contributions," in the "Forms & Pubs" section of the www.irs.gov Web site.

What Is Your Filing Status?

AREA — Your filing status on your federal tax return is a category that identifies you based on your marital and family situation, according to the IRS. It is an important factor in determining whether you must file a return, the amount of your standard deduction and your correct amount of tax. If more than one filing status applies to you, you may choose the one that gives you the lowest tax obligation.

There are five possible filing statuses: Single, Married Filing Jointly, Married Filing Separately, Head of Household and Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child. Your marital status on the last day of the year determines your status for the entire year.

Generally, if you are unmarried, divorced or legally separated according to your state law, your filing status is Single.

If you are married, you and your spouse may file either a joint return or separate returns. If your spouse died during the year and you have not remarried, you may still file a joint return with that spouse for the year of death.

Generally, to qualify for Head of Household status, you must be unmarried and have provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home that was the main home for yourself and a qualifying relative for more than half the

year. You may also qualify if you are married but did not live with your spouse at any time during the last six months of the tax year and you provided more than half the cost of keeping up a home for you and your dependent child for more than half the year.

If your spouse died during 1999 or 2000, you may be able to file as a Qualifying Widow or Widower. To do this you must meet all four of the following tests:

1. You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse in the year of death,
2. You did not remarry before the end of 2001,
3. You have a child, stepchild, adopted child or foster child who qualifies as your dependent for the year, and
4. You paid more than half the cost of keeping up your home, which was the main home of that child, for the whole year.

You can find more detailed information on each filing status in Publication 501, "Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information," or by using the interactive "Tax Trails" feature on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. You may download forms and publications from this site or order them by calling toll free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

 DEVINE MEDIA ENTERPRISES, Inc. week of: 2/01/02 - 2/07/02				
PICK 3				
PICK-IT DATE	#	STRAIGHT PAY OFF	BOX	PAIR
FRIDAY, Feb. 1				
Mid-Day	865	\$229.00	\$38.00	\$22.50
Evening	453	\$268.00	\$44.50	\$26.50
<i>It Pays To Advertise</i>				
SATURDAY, Feb. 2				
Mid-Day	355	\$307.50	\$102.50	\$30.50
Evening	315	\$191.50	\$31.50	\$19.00
<i>Read our ATOM TABLOID</i>				
SUNDAY, Feb. 3				
Mid-Day	878	\$324.50	\$108.00	\$32.00
Evening	282	\$273.00	\$91.00	\$27.00
<i>Subscribe Now</i>				
MONDAY, Feb. 4				
Mid-Day	798	\$310.00	\$51.50	\$31.00
Evening	223	\$269.00	\$89.50	\$26.50
<i>Read our NEWS RECORD</i>				
TUESDAY, Feb. 5				
Mid-Day	625	\$210.00	\$35.00	\$21.00
Evening	093	\$278.00	\$46.00	\$27.50
<i>Read our CLARK PATRIOT</i>				
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 6				
Mid-Day	925	\$277.00	\$46.00	\$27.50
Evening	822	\$261.50	\$87.00	\$26.00
<i>Don't Miss A Single Issue</i>				
THURSDAY, Feb. 7				
Mid-Day	300	\$288.50	\$96.00	\$28.50
Evening	443	\$312.00	\$104.00	\$31.00

PICK 4

	Number	Straight	Box
FRIDAY • Feb. 1 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	9477	\$2,909.50	\$242.00
Evening	8180	\$2,222.50	\$185.00
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 5-11-22-31-36			
BIG GAME ... 4-15-17-23-33/29			
SATURDAY • Feb. 2 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	0884	\$2,854.00	\$237.50
Evening	3090	\$3,450.50	\$287.00
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 4-13-14-26-29			
LOTZEE ... 5-8-20-74			
SUNDAY • Feb. 3 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	3417	\$2,350.50	\$97.50
Evening	3169	\$2,016.50	\$84.00
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 3-10-27-30-35			
MONDAY • Feb. 4 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	2600	\$2,698.00	\$224.50
Evening	6527	\$2,993.50	\$124.50
PICK SIX ... 1-5-13-18-25-31			
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 9-13-16-25-28			
TUESDAY • Feb. 5 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	5838	\$1,782.50	\$148.50
Evening	2523	\$2,142.00	\$178.50
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 5-11-30-33-43/12			
BIG GAME ... 3-11-23-37-38			
WEDNESDAY • Feb. 6 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	6985	\$3,382.00	\$140.50
Evening	9009	\$2,744.50	\$457.00
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 3-7-8-17-34			
THURSDAY • Feb. 7 • Devine Media			
Mid-Day	1972	\$1,998.50	\$83.00
Evening	0131	\$1,509.00	\$125.50
PICK SIX ... 6-16-18-45-46-47			
JERSEY CASH 5 ... 2-10-15-21-38			

YOUR HEALTH NEWS**DHSS Announces Public Regulations On Body Art Procedures**

STATE — The NJ Public Health Council has approved the state's first-ever regulations that will increase the licensing and governing of facilities that offer body art procedures, including tattoos, permanent lip or eyebrow coloring and body piercing, making these procedures safer for the public.

The regulations, approved by the Public Health Council as part of the State Sanitary Code on a unanimous (7-0) vote, will go into effect upon their publication in the New Jersey Regis-

ter. The rule is expected to be included in the publication's Feb. 19 edition.

To comply with the new body art procedures, individuals wishing to locate or construct facilities that will provide permanent cosmetics, tattooing or ear or body piercing to the public must now obtain prior written approval from local health departments. In addition, all body art facilities will be required to adhere to strict health and safety standards, including sterilization and disinfection

procedures of re-usable instruments when performing body art procedures.

"With the passing of these regulations, NJ residents can be confident that body art facilities will now be held to proper safety and health standards," said Assistant Commissioner and State Epidemiologist Eddy Bresnitz, MD.

The regulations will also require body art establishments to obtain the written consent of a parent or legal guardian for all individuals under the age of 18

prior to receiving any body art procedure. In addition to the written consent of a parent or legal guardian for minors, all individuals are required to provide photo identification prior to receiving a body art procedure. In addition to the written consent of a parent or legal guardian for minors, all individuals are required to provide photo identification prior to receiving a body art procedure.

Additionally, the body art regulations establish uniform standards for the training and licensing requirements of body art owners, operators and apprentices. The DHSS included this provision because prior to implementing the body art regulations, no standard existed for the public or the body art industry to determine whether individuals who owned or operated body art facilities had received adequate training.

Before the passage of these regulations, there were no such statewide rules to address the public's concern regarding body

piercing, tattooing and permanent cosmetics. The regulations were proposed as a result of concerns raised by parents of minor children, who wanted them to protect the health and safety of minors with regards to body art procedures.

In crafting the rules, the DHSS sought and received input from body art providers and from the local agencies that will enforce its provisions. The results of this consensus building process are sound reasonable rules that will protect public health, said Dr. Bresnitz.

The Public Health Council is responsible for the State Sanitary Code and advises the NJ Commissioner of Health and Senior Services on matters related to the preservation and improvement of public health.

Additional information about the new Body Art Procedures may be obtained by calling the Department's Consumer and Environmental Health Services at (609) 588-3124 or by visiting the website at www.state.nj/health.

It's Not Too Late To Get A Flu Shot

AREA — At the midway mark in the current flu season, Acting Commissioner Clifton R. Lacy, M.D. of the Department of Health and Senior Services is reminding all state residents, particularly seniors and people with certain chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, HIV, and kidney disease, that it is not too late to get a flu shot.

"While flu season in the Northeast runs from November through April, we are just now entering the peak months," said Dr. Lacy, who noted that a flu shot taken today will reach full effectiveness within two weeks.

"Just because it is flu season doesn't mean you have to catch the flu," said Dr. Lacy. "A flu shot is a safe, effective and low-cost way to stay healthier this winter."

To date, flu activity in New Jersey has been sporadic, with schools, nursing homes and hospital emergency departments reporting illness rates that mirror activity at this time last year. In 2001, the peak period of flu-like illness activity occurred between the last week in January and the first week in March. Weekly flu activity updates are posted on the Department of Health and Senior Services' website at www.state.nj.us/fluinfo.

"Influenza is a serious public health threat that annually claims the lives of approximately 20,000 Americans," said Dr. Lacy. "In most cases, the flu is a preventable illness so state residents, particularly seniors and people with chronic conditions that place them at high risk, should take steps now to protect themselves." Dr. Lacy noted that vaccine manufacturers produced more total doses of flu vaccine for use this season than in recent years and vaccine availability should not be a problem. He urged individuals to call their doctors now and make an appointment to get a flu shot.

Free Health Screenings Offered To Public

AREA — Union Hospital will offer free blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings to the public on Thurs., Feb. 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at its Center for Kids

and Family, located at 973-A Stuyvesant Ave. in Union. (A four-hour fast is required for those desiring the glucose screening.) Screenings are by appointment only.

Please call 908-810-9523 to make a reservation.

The Center for Kids and Family at Union Hospital offers valuable services to Union County residents, including health education, a variety of support groups and wellness screenings.

Union Hospital is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System.

Flower Of Hope Blooms

AREA — The American Cancer Society is offering daffodils — the Spring flower of hope — as special gifts for friends, family, co-workers and designated cancer care facilities. Donations will support lifesaving cancer research, as well as cancer education, prevention, treatment and programs for patients and their families in this community. Items include:

Fresh Cut Bunches of 10 — \$7, Vases — \$8, Potted Flowers — \$8, Gift of Hope — fresh bunch with vase — \$15 — delivered to a health care facility designated by the

American Cancer Society.

Advance orders will be taken until March 15th. Daffodils will be available for pick-up during the week of April 1st, at one of two locations:

American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Fords, or Princeton Flower Shop, 231 Bakers Basin Rd., Lawrenceville.

Delivery is available for orders of \$75 or more. To order or to volunteer in your community call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

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Singles Lingo: F/S=financially secure, N/S=non smoker, S/D=social drinker, D=divorced, S=single, M=male, F=female, A=asian, W=white or widowed, B=black, H=hispanic, J=jewish, LT=long term, G=gay, Bi=bi-sexual, ISO=in search of, P=professional, C=christian, TLC=tender loving care

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

Female-5'0", not very attractive, ISO dark handsome big man for fun & possible relationship ID# 1070

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

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

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

SHF, 45 years old, 120lbs. I am studying English, I'm from Peru. I like to read, listen to music, dance, talk, cook and go for walks. I'm sensitive, kind, honest and enjoy family. I am Catholic. No smokers/drinkers please ID# 1036

Hi, I am a white single lady and I am looking for a very nice man between 66-75. I have red hair, brown eyes and weigh 125lbs. Like to dance, dine out - travel etc. please write ID# 1034

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

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

DWM, 45, N/S, no children, ISO female who like me, enjoys quiet times, hugs, kisses and cuddling. For long-term relationship, possible commitment ID# 1071

DWCM, ISO short female, 40's-50's, sensitive, kind, down to earth, togetherness, LTR. I'm 5'8", strong 175, young 54, hair, educated, homeowner, F/S, no bad

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

habits, retired. Enjoy nature, shore, dining out, animals, homelife. Include phone #, message ID# 1069

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

Hi, I am a **WWM**, 49, 6'1" and 185lbs. I am looking to meet a woman for love and LT relationship. I'm sensitive, easy going, sensuous, very secure and honest. Give me a try-nothing to lose ID# 1039

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

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

FRIENDS

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

ALTERNATIVE

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

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

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Dr. William L. Librera Confirmed As New Commissioner Of Education

STATE — Dr. William L. Librera has been confirmed as the new Commissioner of Education by the State Senate. The 55-year-old Librera brings with him more than 30 years of experience in public education as a New Jersey teacher, principal and superintendent.

"We must be prepared to face the challenge of providing our children with the highest quality education possible," said Dr. Librera.

"I am honored to serve a Governor who is committed to making educational excellence the cornerstone of his adminis-

tration. I look forward to spearheading the Governor's initiatives to guarantee that every child is able to read by the third grade, to create greater opportunities for our school children and to instill accountability in our classrooms.

"This administration is also committed to ensuring quality early childhood education so that the state's children will reach kindergarten ready to learn."

Dr. Librera has most recently served as an Associate Professor in the Educational Leadership Department at New Jersey City

University and President of Educational Nexus, a consulting firm in which he has advised school districts on a number of issues including early childhood education and special education.

Dr. Librera also served as the Superintendent of Schools in Montclair, Bernardsville and in Allamuchy Township. In Montclair, Dr. Librera developed policy guidelines for racial and gender composition in classrooms, worked with community groups and the Board of Education to respond to a growth in enrollment and he created a community based Early Child-

hood Program.

In Allamuchy, Dr. Librera developed alternatives to existing early childhood education programs, improved technology usage, implemented block scheduling, and worked to provide students with school choice.

Librera earned his Ed.D. in 1982 and his Ed.M. in 1977, both from Rutgers. He also earned a Master of Arts in History and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Vermont where he graduated in 1968.



Winter Open House

AREA — The Office of University Admissions of New Jersey Institute of Technology invites you to attend their Winter Open House for high school students on Sun., Feb. 24. Come and meet faculty and students, tour the campus, attend a workshop, and discover the opportunities awaiting you at NJIT. Please register

online at <http://www.njit.edu/Home/openhouse.html>.

The day officially begins at 12 noon with registration, but you can arrive at 11:30 a.m. for an "Early Bird" campus tour and have more time to participate in other events.

Faculty will be available for informal discussions regarding curriculum and careers; and

student services staff can answer questions about athletics, student life, campus safety, computers and more. The President's Welcome will be closed-circuit broadcast to several campus locations at 1 p.m.

There will be a variety of workshops, exhibits, demonstrations and presentations for you to attend. The topics include everything from financial aid to computer simulations to chemistry experiments.

You will have many choices, and many opportunities to explore every facet of NJIT.

Visitors requiring overnight accommodations should contact the Office of University Admissions for recommendations.

If you have questions or need further information, contact: Office of University Admissions, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102-

1982, or phone either 973-596-3300 or toll-free 800-925-NJIT. Fax: 973-596-3461. E-mail: admissions@njit.edu. Internet: <http://www.njit.edu>.

NJIT does not discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, handicap, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin or age in the administration of student programs. Campus facilities are accessible to the disabled.

Area Residents Begin Studies

AREA—Robert Bruder of Colonia and Andy Muentes of Carteret are among newly enrolled students in the network systems professional program at the Cittone Institute in Edison. Also enrolled is Brian R. Lipp, a former resident of Clark.

Bruder will begin his stud-

ies in April in the evening session. A graduate of St. Joseph High School, Metuchen, he holds an Associate in Arts degree from Middlesex County College and also attended Kean University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruder of Colonia.

Muentes has begun his studies in the day session. He was graduated from Snyder High School, Jersey City and attended St. Peter's College. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Felix Muentes Jr. of Carteret.

Lipp has begun his studies as an evening student. He is married and living in Scotch Plains. A graduate of Saucon Valley

High School, Hellertown, Pa., he attended East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University and Kean University.

The Edison school, located at 1687 Oak Tree Rd., is one of 23 facilities operated nationally by Lincoln Educational services, which has been providing career education for more than a half century. John

Willie, executive director, has announced that the school also offers programs for help desk analyst, PC support technician, computer programming with web technology and software applications specialist. The Cittone Institute is accredited by the Accrediting Council of Independent Colleges and Schools.

Deadline Approaches To File For School Board Candidacy

AREA — Potential school board candidates should continue to adhere to the Feb. 25th deadline for submitting nominating petitions, even though the state might delay this year's Annual School Election, the New Jersey School Boards Association advised.

At present, the deadline for filing for local school board candidacy in the 2002 Annual School Election is 4 p.m., Mon., Feb. 25. The election is currently scheduled to take place on Tue., April 16. However, those dates could change.

"On Monday, a bill began moving through the Legislature

that would give the commissioner of education the authority to delay this year's Annual School Election. State law ties the deadline for filing nominating petitions for school board candidacy directly to the date of the school election," explained Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president. "But until that bill is signed into law and the commissioner designates a new election date, potential candidates should adhere to the Feb. 25th deadline for filing nominating petitions."

School Board Service Pawling strongly urged citizens concerned about the education of their communities' children to

consider school board membership.

"Schools today face unprecedented change, ranging from new technology to higher academic standards," said Pawling. "Our communities need dedicated leaders on their boards of education to guide the schools through this time of change."

"The local school board provides the community's voice in setting educational goals. It makes important policy decisions that affect curriculum, budgeting and personnel," she explained. "More than \$16 billion a year in local, state and federal funds are dedicated to

the education of New Jersey's children. Local school boards have an important say in how that money is spent."

NJSBA has developed a "School Board Candidate Kit" for citizens interested in board of education membership. The kit offers information about the candidacy process, campaign procedures and deadlines, and the role and responsibilities of

the local board of education.

The School Board Candidate Kit is available at local school board offices or by calling the New Jersey School Boards Association at (609) 278-5202. Information on school board candidacy can also be obtained at the NJSBA Web site, by clicking *Board Membership*.

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EDITORIAL

Guest Editorial

Time For Property Tax Reform

by Mayor

George A. Spadaro

New Jersey's property taxes are totally out of control. They are one of the single biggest impediments to residents, both young and old to enjoying a better quality of life. Property taxes are regressive in nature and simply put, treat the residents of New Jersey unfairly.

Consider the following:

Mrs. North is a lovely 80-year-old widow who lives in a modest home in the Clara Barton section of Edison Township. It's a comfortable home where she has lived for her entire adult life. The municipality assesses her house and land at \$163,000. She resides alone, doesn't have any children, and lives frugally on her late husband's pension and social security checks. The two checks provide her a yearly income of just \$21,000. Despite her age and physical condition, she works as much as she can around the house trying to keep it from falling into disrepair. However, she still must hire a landscaper and other professionals to lend her a hand. All in all, she keeps an upbeat attitude and never complains that her property taxes keep increasing. This year her property taxes will cost her \$4,727.

Three doors down from Mrs. North are Mr. and Mrs. East. They are a young professional couple in their late twenties. He is an accountant with one of the big five accounting firms and she is a lawyer with a prestigious law firm in North Jersey.

They have no children and together, their yearly income is \$132,000. Their house is exactly the same as Mrs. North's, which they recently purchased as a starter home. Their house and land are also assessed at \$163,000. They too pay \$4,727 a year in property taxes and complain to their friends about the modest increases they sometimes

face. Both of them enjoy outdoor work like mowing the lawn and pruning flowers, and are constantly doing things around their home to improve its markability. Mr. East is extremely handy and never spends a penny on landscaping or home improvements.

Two Edison families. Both living on the same quiet street, in similar homes. Both paying the same amount of property taxes. Life in this nice suburban community, with its wonderful neighborhoods, its many activities, its municipal services and property taxes, truly seems fair. Or is it?

Although the names in the example above are fictitious, the scenario is very real. It exemplifies the inequities in New Jersey's tax structure and its chronic reliance on the property tax as a major source of funding.

In Mrs. North's case, over 22 percent of her gross yearly income is being used to pay her property taxes. In the case of the East's, under 4 percent of their gross yearly income is being used. Because of their income, they can afford their property tax bill; Mrs. North cannot.

The point is further illustrated

by the fact that Mrs. North is being treated differently than her friends in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick. Because Edison is classified differently by the State, it receives far less funding for education than each of those towns. As such Mrs. North, although on a very limited income, is in effect, subsidizing her friends in each of those cities.

Fair? Not in New Jersey when it comes to property taxes. But it needs to be.

Mrs. North should be using her limited income not to pay outrageous property taxes, but to pay for medication, food, clothing, or her electric, heating and other bills.

Mrs. North, even in her golden years, should still have the luxury like Mr. and Mrs. East, to dine out occasionally with a friend. Mrs. North, and those in similar financial positions throughout our state, should never have to choose between paying her property taxes and purchasing the latest arthritis medication.

Unfortunately, all too often, they do.

Property taxes affect every aspect of life here in New Jersey. They impact the quality of our schools, our public safety programs and our municipal services designed to assist the young and aged alike. At the corporate level, CEO's struggle with the issue of property taxes in deciding whether or not to site a new facility or expand an existing one. And of course, mayors like myself must con-

stantly deal with the issue of property taxes. When officials in Trenton beat their chests about cutting back on the costs of state government, the burden almost always then shifts to the local taxpayer. However, where a governor has many revenue streams to consider in the event of a shortfall, such as the corporate, sales, and income taxes, a mayor is restricted solely to the State's unfair and regressive property tax.

With the new changes in Trenton, Governor McGreevey and our legislators need to make true property tax reform their top priority. They need to collectively muster the courage to address this issue in a comprehensive manner so that the residents of New Jersey receive the tax relief they truly deserve.

New Jersey is at a financial crossroads. It is time for Governor McGreevey and the legislature to make real and significant changes to New Jersey's tax structure no matter how radical those changes may at first appear.

The first place they can start is by calling for a Constitutional Convention limited to the issue of property tax reform.

The way in which the state currently collects taxes and redistributes them is costly and inefficient. The New Jersey Saver and Homestead Rebate programs, although well intentioned, cost millions to administer, do little to address the real issue of property tax relief or provide a permanent viable solution to this critical issue.

A Constitutional Convention on Property Taxes is the only way in which the Governor and legislature can strategically focus their attention toward reform. A Constitutional Convention will allow the leadership of our state to begin to manage this crisis by building a consensus among themselves and more importantly the residents of New Jersey.

The state's leadership should define the problem. Explain it to the people. And, offer solutions such as having the state take over the full cost of public education. The state partially funds the cost of education; it may be time for the state to have the courage to pay for it all. Our leaders in Trenton should consider freezing property taxes for those residents 70 and older. They should discuss increasing the income tax on individuals like myself who are better able to afford it. They may want to consider eliminating property taxes on individuals 80 years or older or at the very least, eliminate their portion that goes toward education. And, they should consider increasing the gasoline tax and using a portion of it to fund education, just to name a few.

The time for real reform is now and our leaders in Trenton need to take a more serious and aggressive approach to dealing with this critical issue.

Anything else is unacceptable.



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

In the aftermath of September 11th there are many things Americans should be proud of. The countless heroes who risked and too often lost their lives to help others; the enlivened sense of patriotism all Americans feel and the renewed sense of volunteerism that has swept the Country. Few actions illustrated our commitment to help our fellow citizens better than the long lines at hospitals and area blood banks where ordinary Americans lined up to donate blood. I am reminded of those countless, self-

less donations once again because February is National Blood Donor Month. The theme for this year's campaign, "Give Blood...The Gift of Life," highlights the importance of giving the gift of life through blood donation.

Every three seconds in the United States someone needs blood. That translates into more than 4 million Americans needing blood transfusions each year. In New Jersey alone, area hospitals and Medical Centers need 1,800 units of blood products per day. Yet only 5% of healthy Americans eligible to donate blood actually donate each year. While blood donations are needed all year round, they are needed most during the holidays and winter months. It's during these times that the number of donations

decline while the demand continues or even increases. Don't underestimate how much good a donated unit of blood can do. Typically, each unit of blood is separated into multiple components, such as Red Blood Cells, Plasma and Platelets. Each component is generally transfused to a different individual, that means that each pint of donated blood can save up to three lives. Nearly all blood used for transfusions in the United States is drawn from volunteers. While nearly 8 million people donate blood each year, many more donors are needed. The people of the United States have a long and spirited tradition of blood donation. Americans rolled up their sleeves and answered the call in response to the September 11th attack.

However, that only relieved the need for blood for a short period since blood has a limited shelf life -- 42 days. The fact is that blood is needed on an ongoing basis, each day patients across the country receive more than 32,000 units of blood.

To be eligible to donate blood, a person must be at least 17 years of age, be in good health, and must weight at least 110 pounds. All donors must pass the physical and health history examinations given prior to donating. All health history interviews are private and confidential. Blood donations are perfectly safe. Your body will replace the plasma (liquid part) in hours and the red blood cells in a few weeks. Contrary to popular belief taking a prescription medication does not immediately dis-

qualify you from donating. If you are 65 years old or older you should check with your family doctor before you donate. Many area hospitals and blood centers in New Jersey are reporting critical shortages in donations of blood. To combat this dangerous trend I would ask all eligible adults to take a little bit of time and donate. Donating blood is fast, simple and safe. Most importantly by all of us doing our part, we can all save lives-- one pint at a time.

Anyone who is interested in donating blood can contact the American Red Cross at (800) GIVE LIFE or contact my district office at (732) 316-1885 for a list of blood drives in our area.

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Blood Drive

WOODBIDGE—Congregation Adath Israel, 424 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge, will sponsor a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 2-7:30 p.m.

The need for blood is always

critical. Donors need only be at least 17 years of age and weigh 110 pounds or more. Call Lila Nass at Congregation Adath Israel for further information and to schedule your time to donate at (732) 634-9601.

February Fun At The Library

EDISON—Come visit the Children's Room at the Edison Public Library in February. The librarians have planned some exciting programs including:

Fun for 4's and 5's: A program for children 4-5 years of age. Registration will begin in person or by phone on Feb. 19. Join the four week series of children's stories, crafts, films and fingerplays on a variety of topics. The library branches, dates and times are as follows: Main Library, Tuesdays, March 5-26 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Clara Barton Branch, Wednesdays, Feb. 27-March 20 at 1:30 p.m. and North Edison branch, Tuesdays, March 5-26 at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, Feb. 27-March 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Black History Month Film Festival: In honor of Black History Month in February, children from 2 years of age through grade 6 may register to see some wonderful films based on stories from the African cultures. Films will include *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter*, *Follow the Drinking Gourd* and *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock*. Registration began by phone or in person on Feb. 11. The times and places are: Clara Barton Branch, Monday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.; Edison Main Branch,

Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 pm. and North Edison Branch, Thursday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Library Lovers Month Event: February is a month long celebration of school, public and private libraries of all kinds. This is a time for everyone to recognize the value of libraries, librarians and the support staff who assist you at your local library. Find your own way of expressing your thanks through letters, a special colored picture or card or just a simple thanks to your favorite library worker. During the month of February Edison Public Library's children's department would like to express its thanks to our patrons by allowing children preschool through grade 6 and their parents to enter into a drawing for special "Love my Library" prizes that will be displayed. With each visit to the library during this month you may be entered to win one of the lovely prizes available.

Locations of the Edison Public Libraries are: Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue, (732) 287-2351, ext. 3; North Edison Branch, 777 Grove Avenue, (732) 548-4759, ext. 228 and Clara Barton Library, 141 Hoover Avenue, (732) 738-0748.

Area Resident Among Graduates

CARTERET—Three hundred and ninety-seven students were graduated during commencement ceremonies recently at Tusculum College. Among those graduating

was Timothy S. Coughlin of Carteret who earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. Tusculum College is the oldest college in Tennessee, the

twenty-eighth oldest in the nation and the oldest coeducational institution affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It dates its beginning to 1794.

Local Residents Named To Dean's List

COLONIA — Jared L. Duchin and Richard S. Gora, both of Colonia have been named to Quinnipiac University's dean's

list for the Fall 2001 semester. Quinnipiac consistently ranks among the top northern regional universities in U.S. News and

World Report's America's Best Colleges.

For more information, visit www.quinnipiac.edu.

Military Briefs..

Moore Arrives For Duty In Germany

SOUTH AMBOY—Army Spec. Thomas I. Moore has arrived for duty at the Vilseck-Grafenwoehr Military Community, Germany.

Moore is a medical specialist assigned to the 2nd Infantry Battalion. He is the son of Alfred L. Moore of Bronx, N.Y. and Gwendolyn D. Outlaw of

South Amboy. The specialist is a 1999 graduate of Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics High School, Manhattan, N.Y.

Lopez Graduates Basic Combat Training

PARLIN—Army Pvt. Faoyan A. Lopez has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

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 values, principles and traditions.

Lopez is the son of Irma C. Lopez of Parlin.

The soldier graduated from Old Bridge High School in 2001.

Matias Completes AC Course

PERTH AMBOY—Marine Corps Pvt. Jerson Matias, Jr., son of Mary and Jerson Matias of Perth Amboy, recently completed the Administrative Clerk Course at Personnel Administration School, Marine Corps Service

Support School, Camp LeJeune, N.C.

During the eight-week course, Matias learned basic skills and knowledge in personnel management and administration procedures.

With his newly acquired knowledge, Matias is ready to prepare personnel evaluations and reports, leave authorizations, military identification cards and official orders for Marines changing duty stations.

Gibson Graduates From Unit Supply Course

WOODBIDGE—Army Pvt. Camelia T. Gibson has graduated from the unit supply specialist advanced individual training course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, Va.

store, inventory, issue, deliver and turn-in of organizational and installation supplies and equipment, maintain automated supply systems for accountability with use of unit computers; issue and receipt of small arms, and secure and con-

trol weapons and ammunition supplies.

She is the daughter of Jandette W. Gibson of Woodbridge and granddaughter of Amelia M. Gibson of Trenton.

The private is a 2000 graduate of Woodbridge High School.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**Anne Murray In Concert**

AREA—*Canada's Songbird*, Anne Murray will perform in the opulent setting of the State Theatre in New Brunswick on Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. The concert will include many favorites and will be announced from the stage that evening. Anne Murray's performance is part of her Symphony Tour throughout the United States and will be accompanied by a 37-piece ensemble.

She is a proud recipient of four Grammy Awards, 31 Juno Awards (which includes the induction into the Juno Hall of Fame in 1993), a star at Hollywood and Vine in Los Angeles and another on Nashville's Walkway of Stars, as well as the Companion of the Order of Canada. Murray also has the distinction of being the first Canadian solo female artist to receive a gold record in the United States (*Snowbird*, 1970). In 1997, Anne Murray was inducted into the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' Hall of Fame.

In 1999, Murray released her 31st CD (*What a Wonderful World*) a double album of inspirational songs that include a

duet with her 21-year-old daughter, Dawn. In 2000, the album sold Platinum in Canada and is now approaching the same status in the U.S. In 2001, EMI Sparrow Records released *Anne Murray: What a Wonderful Christmas* the ultimate collection of Christmas classics. The two CD package was on the Top 10 Country Billboard chart throughout the holiday season.

Tickets for this performance are on sale now for \$50 (Premium Orchestra-Loge), \$45 (Orchestra-Front Balcony), \$35 (Rear Orchestra Balcony), or \$20 (Gallery). The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For telephone ticket orders or information, call (732) 246-7469 or toll free (877) STATE 11. Patrons may order tickets online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org. The State Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for patrons who are hard of hearing and the main floor is wheelchair accessible. Program notes are available in large print or audiotape format for this event.

Stories Of Hope And Freedom

AREA -- The Morris Museum offers families the chance to learn, have fun and be creative during February Break. On Monday, Feb. 18, in celebration of Black History Month, storyteller Christine Campbell journeys back in time to a period of slavery. Her stories of hope and triumph allow participants to imagine the escape from slavery into freedom.

Christine Campbell is featured in the films *Crossing Delancey* and Spike Lee's *Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads*. She is a BFA graduate of New York University's School of the Arts Graduate Acting Program. Campbell delights area children as a premiere storyteller and is

one of the artistic directors of the Titans Theatre Company, 'Only Love!'

The Morris Museum is located at 6 Normandy Heights Road (at the corner of Columbia Turnpike) in Morristown and is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children, students and senior citizens. Admission is always free for Museum members and is free to the public every Thursday between 1-8 p.m. For more information, call (973) 971-3700, or visit www.morrimuseum.org.

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Celebrate The Wearing Of The Green With Performer Bobby Byrne

AREA-- Irish eyes won't be the only ones smiling at "Irish Afternoon," Sunday, Feb. 24 at 1:30-5 p.m. in the Casino building on campus at Georgian Court College, Lakewood. Guests will enjoy Shamrock and Thistle Bagpipers and can sing along with the Irish crooner Bobby Byrne. Admission is \$13 for adults and \$10 for children. Food and beverages will be available for

purchase, along with door prizes and raffles. Call (732) 364-2200, ext. 236 for reservations and information.

"Irish Afternoon," the Irish heritage fair, celebrates all things wonderful from the Emerald Isle: traditional bagpipes, Irish soda bread, and popular Irish ballads like "O Danny Boy" soulfully rendered by performer Bobby Byrne. Byrne is an entertain-

er's entertainer, who has played Carnegie Hall, The Garden State Arts Center, and has sung on the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral in celebration of that church's centennial.

The doors will open at 1 p.m. and the Bobby Byrne show will begin shortly after. Kick off your St. Paddy's Day at Irish Afternoon at Georgian Court College.

New Jersey Storm Promotional Schedule

AREA—The New Jersey Storm continues its Inaugural 2001-02 Season. The Storm is an expansion entry in the indoor National Lacrosse League that will play eight home games at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford.

"It's going to be like you went to a party and a lacrosse game broke out," said Jayson Williams, New Jersey Storm Owner and former NBA All-Star. "Our team is going to be competitive and the event will have a fun family atmosphere."

On Feb. 15, the Storm takes on the Washington Power at 7:30 p.m. The first 3,000 fans (14 and under) will receive First Shot Lacrosse Sticks from *Shamrock Lacrosse*. As spring approaches, the team will give 3,000 Storm Visors away at the Saturday, March

16 home game vs. Ottawa. Saturday, March 23 vs. Ottawa is Fan Appreciation Night and the team will give away Inaugural Season logo pins to the first 3,000 fans and numerous high-end premium items including a new Harley Davidson motorcycle courtesy of *Williams Harley Davidson*.

New Jersey Storm tickets

are available at the Continental Airlines Arena box office from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. or at any Ticketmaster outlets, via www.Ticketmaster.com, or by calling (201) 507-8900 or (212) 307-7171. For information on Storm group or season tickets call 1-866-NJ-STORM or log onto www.njstorm.



Storm owner Jayson Williams (Copyright David Saffran).



Head Coach Jim Hinkson and Storm players. (Copyright David Saffran).

Eyes On The Land

RAHWAY -- The Arts Guild of Rahway will present "Eyes On The Land" an exhibit of Landscape Photography by Marvin Cline, Chip Forelli, Mark Obenzinger and Nancy Ori from Feb. 17-March 15. There will be a reception with the artists on Sunday, Feb. 17 from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free.

This exhibit has been curated by Berkeley Heights Photographer, Nancy J. Ori, who has become a distinct presence and often exhibited artist in New Jersey and

Local Photographer Chronicles Local Landscaping

UNION COUNTY -- Photographer and instructor Nancy Ori's latest exhibit, entitled, "Olmsted in Union County," at Reeves-Reed Arboretum records the work of Frederick Law Olmsted in local parks and gardens.

Olmsted is best known as the landscaper who worked with Calvert Vaux to create the sweeping "greensward" look of Central Park. He also landscaped the Union County Park System. "I feel that these images can make a difference in our community by opening the eyes of residents to the many wonderful natural resources we have in Union County," Ori said. "The county fathers had such foresight to fight and establish the Union County Park System in the 1920's."

The powerful photos on display are a showcase for the county's accomplishments in historic and natural preservation. They allow the viewer to explore significant park sites and learn about the rich history of environmental design in the community.

"Olmsted in Union County" was made possible in part by a HEART Grant (History, Education and Arts, Reaching Thousands, in 1998 from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The show is on exhibit now through May 13 in Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum. Wisner House is open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be an artist's reception on Sunday, April 7 from 1-4 p.m.

around the country, is also respected internationally for over 25 years as an industrial photographer and video producer.

Photographing in the West Coast tradition of her long-time mentor, Ansel Adams, Ori expresses her own interpretation of landscape and architecture. Her photographs reveal a love of light, shadow and form in natural and man-made settings.

NY photographer Mark Obenzinger sees himself as part of a small group who examine the beauty and power of the land's ability to inspire and amaze us. He utilizes black and white negatives and silver gelatin prints to emphasize form and light. His monochromatic approach allows him to bring out the drama he finds in landscape and natural forms.

Warren, New Jersey artist Marvin Cline received a BS in Physics with a minor in math-

ematics from San Diego State University where he also took as many computer courses as he could. While he has worked in the computer field ever since, Cline says that, "without realizing it I was also preparing myself for the photography of the 21st Century." What began some years ago as an effort to improve his basic photographic skills became a journey of exploration of his artistic vision through that medium. Much of Cline's recent work has included abstract images taken with strong shapes, lines and color.

NYC artist Chip Forelli crafts beautiful, enigmatic black and white landscape prints where man's mysterious presence frequently hovers. Forelli photographs for prestigious advertising and corporate clients as well as leading publications. Numerous NY galleries showcase his work which is in many private and corporate collections.

Don't Miss The Russian American Kids Circus

AREA—Welcome to a circus unlike any other. The Russian American Kids Circus on Stage is a breathtaking spectacle performed entirely by boys and girls ages 6-16. Veterans of the famous Moscow Circus have trained these accomplished young performers in the heart of Brooklyn, New York. They have helped bring their show to the State Theatre in New Brunswick, on Feb. 24 for two showings at 1 and 4 p.m.

Filling the air with a blur of spangles, the Russian American Kids Circus will dazzle you with flying acrobatics, cycling, juggling and other exciting acts—blending Old World artistry with state-of-the-art techniques.

In Russia, where circus performers are as revered as Olympic athletes, training for the big top starts at an early age. Alex Berenchtein was a young man himself, as a star acrobat and juggler in the Moscow Circus, when he came to the United States to fulfill a dream. With energy and optimism, he created a circus school and performing troupe for American children based on Russian circus traditions. In 1994, with his

wife, Regina, and her mother, Olga Partigul, he opened a not-for-profit academy, the New Way Circus Center, Inc. There, kids learn not only circus arts, but also the joys of athleticism, creativity and self-discipline.

Tickets for this performance are on sale now for \$18. The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick. For telephone ticket orders or information call (732) 246-7469 or toll free (877) STATE 11 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Wednesday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Patrons may order tickets online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org. The State Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for patrons who are hard of hearing and the main floor is wheelchair accessible. Program notes are available in large print or audio-tape format for this event.

Programs at the State Theatre are made possible in part through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Theatre Alliance Hosts 16th Annual Statewide Job Fair

AREA—The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the consortium of New Jersey's professional, not-for-profit theatres, will hold its 16th Annual Job Fair on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The State Theatre, 19 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick.

Over fifteen of the state's professional theatre companies will be in attendance to interview candidates for dozens of administrative, technical and production jobs. Theatres will be seeking qualified applicants to fill internship, entry-level jobs and staff positions for full and part-time, seasonal and year-round schedules. Please note: acting jobs are not available through the New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Annual Job Fair.

Upon arrival at the Job Fair, applicants will receive a comprehensive listing of positions for which the theatres will be interviewing throughout the day. Applicants then schedule appointments for interviews that day with as many theatres as they choose. Advance registrants with an e-mail address will be sent listings at least one day prior to the Job Fair.

When In Rome...

AREA—For the summer of 2002 the Rome Festival Orchestra, Ltd., an American charity (fully recognized by the IRS) needs volunteers to help with the Rome Festival in Rome, Italy. The Rome Festival presents fully staged operas and classical ballet, symphony concerts, chamber music concerts, and theater.

Volunteers are needed from all performing arts areas, including choral singers, back stage helpers, set designers,

theatre professionals who are unable to attend the Job Fair or who want to multiply their exposure to potential employers will be interested in the New Jersey Theatre Alliance's Annual Job Bank. This service keeps resumes in circulation for one year and can be joined at any time during the year. Job Bank participants receive up-to-the-minute listings of openings for performing arts organizations and academic institutions in the state via e-mail. Registrants are encouraged to submit updated resumes at any time with no additional service charge.

Early registration is recommended in order to receive important information, directions to the State Theatre and lower registration fees. The Job Fair Pre-Registration fee (before March 14) is \$15 (\$20 at the door). The pre-registration fee (before March 14) for both the Job Fair and Job Bank is \$20 (\$25 at the door). The cost of registration for the Job Bank only is \$10.

For a registration form, contact the New Jersey Theatre Alliance at (973) 593-0189 or send e-mail to njtg@nj.com.

artists, plus many more. For general information visit the web page at <http://www.geocities.com/romefestival>.

To inquire about specific positions, email romefestival@yahoo.com (specify area of interest and career status or age) or telephone 1-800-811-3841 during morning hours specifying volunteer. Volunteers serve in Rome for two or more weeks and expenses may qualify as a charitable contribution.

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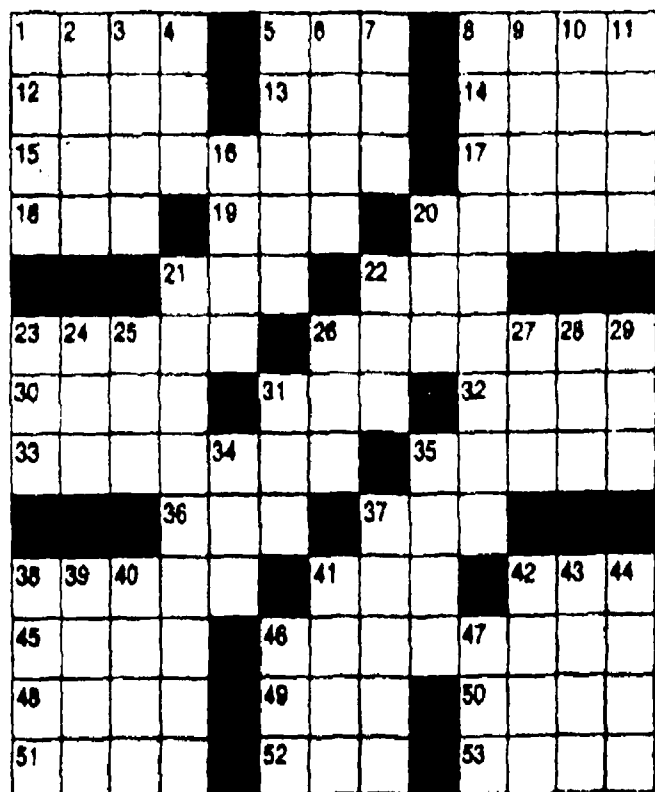
• AT&T



Comics & Puzzles

ACROSS

- 1 Makes a decision
5 Moreover
8 A little lower?
12 Radial, e.g.
13 Anserine formation
14 Ellipse
15 Summertime treat
17 Rickey flavoring
18 Firmament
19 Botch up
20 Extra
21 Crucial
22 Sch. org.
23 Actor
26 Kitchen appliance



- 30 Miners' sch.
31 Sparkler of a sort
32 Hawkeye's home
33 Appeased
35 Small bit of hardware
36 Tin Woodman's need
37 The woman
38 Use money
41 "Caught ya!"
42 Try the Tokay
45 Hirsch sitcom
46 Unemotional one's blood?
48 Grand scale
49 Raw rock
- 50 Golden, to
51 Partner
52 Bottom line
53 Jet forth
- DOWN
- 1 Elevator name
2 Choose
3 Deuce
4 Champagne adjective
5 Animator Tex
6 Approach
7 Rep.'s rival
8 1977
9 Eager
- 10 Glistening fabric
11 Took off
16 Film unit
20 - distance
21 Reserved
22 Lapdog, for short
23 Greek consonants
24 Jurist Lance
25 Prism maker
26 Bill's co-adventurer
27 Anderson's "High -"
28 Dolly the clone, e.g.
29 Uncooked
- 31 Solidify
34 Concealed
35 "Pygmalion" playwright
37 Pane
38 Branch
39 Hemingway sobriquet
40 Egress
41 Film unit
42 Period
43 "Able was - ..."
44 Airplane's nose
46 Physicist's particle
47 Classifieds

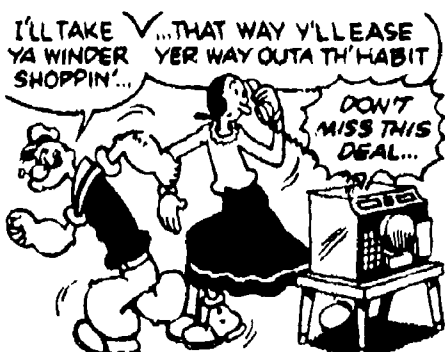
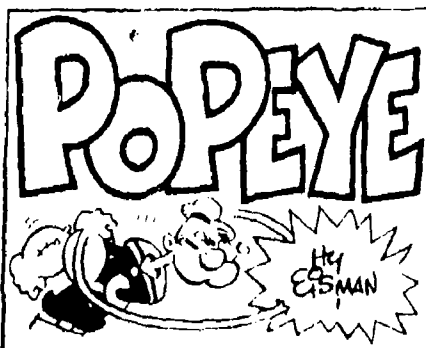
THE SPATS



ASK A STUPID QUESTION, GET A STUPID ANSWER!!

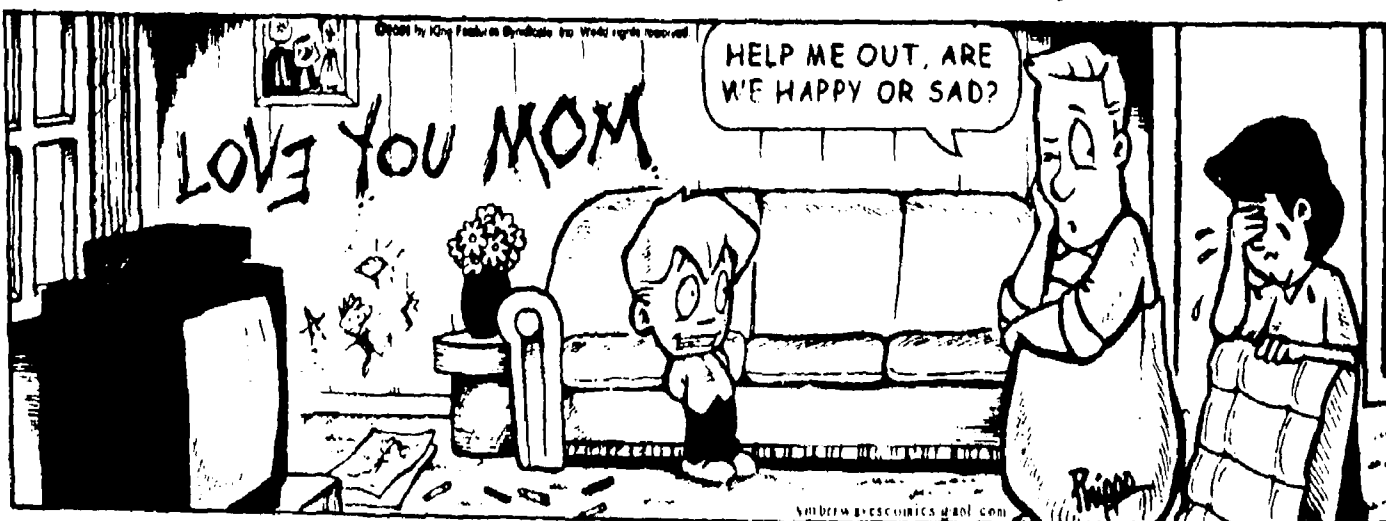


by JEFF PICKERING



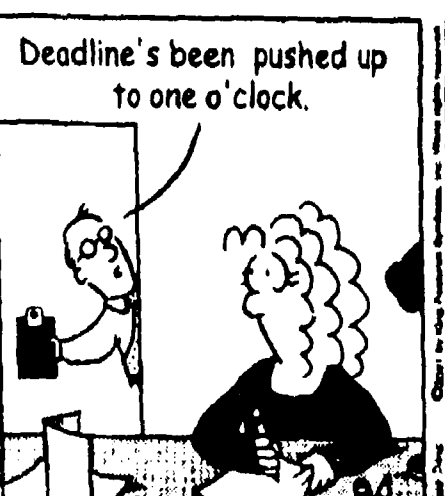
AMBER WAVES

by DAVE T. PHIPPS



GOT A LIFE

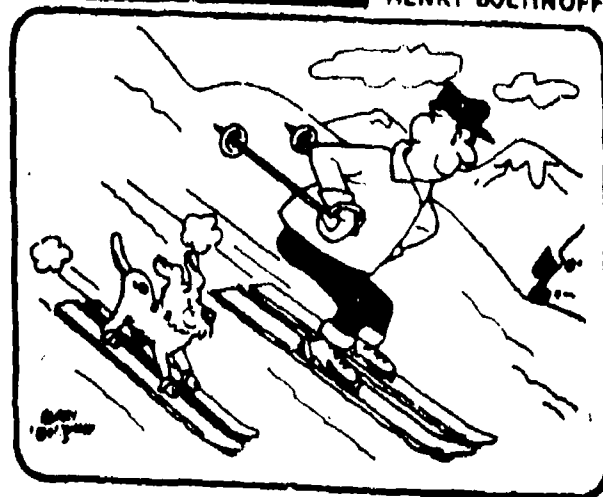
by TERRI DAVIS



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. Man has sunglasses. 3. One ski pole is missing. 4. Dog has more spots. 5. Cloud has been added. 6. Dog's skin are shorter.

MAGIC MAZE • TOWNS

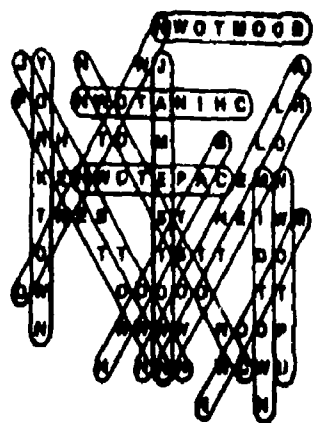
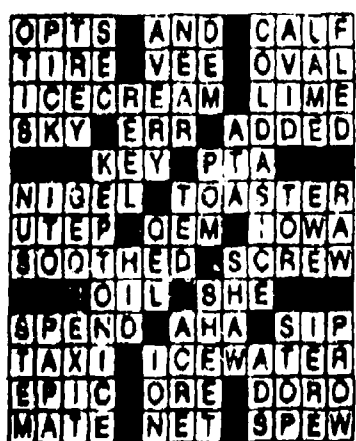
E Y W U R P N N W O T M O O B
J Y L N J H W I F D B Z X V A
F O T N W O T A N I H C R L H
Q R H O T O M M K I B H L O F
D K E N W O T E P A C E M N B
Z T W E S Y W S Y V N E I W M
T O R Q I T O T S T T N D O L
D W K I H O O O O F D T T C
A N Z X W W W W V R O O P U
S R Q O N N N N N M W C W U K
N W O T T S O H G N J I N H F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Atlantown Chinatown Hometown Motown
Baytown Crosstown Jamestown Uptown
Boontown Downtown Johnstown Yorktown
Capetown Freetown Midtown

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to Puzzles



OBITUARIES**Virgil Williams Jr.
of Edison**

Mr. Virgil Williams, Jr. of Edison died January 30 at Carriage House Manor Nursing Home, Sayreville. He was 74.

Born in Perth Amboy, he resided in Edison since 1972.

He was a paid fireman with the City of Perth Amboy for 29 years before retiring in 1983.

Mr. Williams served in the Navy with the Seabees in Gaum during World War II.

He was a member of the International Association of Fire Fighters in Perth Amboy, the New Jersey State Retired Police and Firemen's Association and the Exempt Firemen's Association.

Mr. Williams was an institutional representative for Boy Scout Troop 14 of Perth Amboy and was awarded the District Chairman's Award in 1969 for his work in the Boy Scouts.

His wife, Bernice Beck Williams, died in 1999.

Surviving are three daughters, Diane E. Williams and Nancy L. Williams, both of Edison and Christine A. Sorenson of Stewartville; a son, Robert V. Williams of Iselin; two brothers, James Williams of Sayreville and Oliver Williams of California; and two grandchildren, Casie and Robert Williams.

**Sr. Mary Leona
of Metuchen**

Sister Mary Leona (PVM) formerly of Metuchen died January 29 at the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate convent in Monroe, N.Y. She was 88.

Born as Florence Markano, she lived in Metuchen.

She graduated from Metuchen High School and joined the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate in 1948.

Her parents, Mary (Abate) and James C. Markano, are deceased.

Surviving are a brother, James Markano of Edison; five nieces, eight nephews, and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

**Leonard R. Slavin
of Sayreville**

Mr. Leonard R. Slavin of Sayreville died January 27 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 78.

Born in Bristol, Conn., he had resided in Sayreville for the past 45 years.

Before his retirement in 1990, he was a maintenance worker for 21 years for the Borough of Sayreville's Parks Department.

Mr. Slavin served in the Marine Corps during World War II and was a member of the Sayreville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4699, Sayreville American Legion Post 211 and the John Basilone Marine Corps League.

He was a communicant of Our Lady of Victories R.C. Church, Sayreville.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, the former Helen Guoba; four daughters, Helen L. Havens of Hightstown, Theresa A. Gycsek of Roselle, Dolores Ujobagy of Sayreville and Christina M. Slavin of Irvington; two sons, Leonard Slavin of Church Creek, Md. and Vincent C. Slavin of Hughesville, Md.; a sister, Francis Haydick of Rumson; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Alex J. Nycz, 81
of South Amboy**

Mr. Alex J. Nycz of South Amboy died January 29 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 81.

Born in South Amboy, he lived there all his life.

He was employed by National Lead Co., Sayreville, for 39 years as a mechanic before retiring in 1982.

Mr. Nycz served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. He was a member of the Koscius (Polish) Foundation in New York.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, South Amboy.

Three brothers, Michael, Stanley and John Nycz and a sister, Mary Zadlock, are all deceased.

Surviving are a sister, Stella Piechocinski of Sayreville; a cousin, Zofia Nycz of South Amboy and four nieces and nephews.

**Nikolaos Papageorgiou
of Woodbridge**

Mr. Nikolaos Papageorgiou of Woodbridge died February 4 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 70.

Born in Artmesion, Greece, he emigrated to the United States in 1967, residing in Perth Amboy before moving to Woodbridge where he spent the rest of his life.

He owned and operated the Premium Diner on Routs 1 & 9, Avenel, with his brother, Demostenes "Jim" from 1974-98.

His parents, Haralambos and Evyenia Papageorgiou, a sister, Sophia Rokas and a brother, George Papageorgiou, are all deceased.

He served in the Greek Army from 1952-55.

Surviving are his wife, of 40 years, Georgia Papageorgiou; a daughter, Evyenia Luck of Lamoine, Maine; a son, Bob Papageorgiou of Brick; a grandson, Madison Alexander Luck and a granddaughter, Samantha Nicole Luck, both of Lamoine, Maine; a brother, Demostenes Papageorgiou of Avenel and a sister, Lily Lyrakis of Athens, Greece.

James J. Dowds, 79 of Perth Amboy

Mr. James Dowds of Perth Amboy died February 4 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 79.

Born in Scotland, he lived in Perth Amboy for many years.

He formerly worked as a security guard for McRoberts

**Edith Elek, 80
of Fords**

Mrs. Edith Miljes Elek of Freehold (formerly of Fords) died January 20 in CentraState Medical Center, Freehold. She was 80.

Born in Fords, she lived there for 70 years. She then lived in Lakewood for 10 years before moving to Freehold last year.

She was employed as an executive secretary to the superintendent of Woodbridge public schools for 30 years before retiring in 1984.

Mrs. Elek was a member of the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church, where she was an elder and a member of the Presbyterian Women's Club.

She was a former member of the First Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge.

Her husband, Lt. Bernard M. Christensen, died while serving in World War II in 1944.

Surviving are two sons, Bernard M. Christensen Jr. of Australia and Jeffrey L. Elek of East Windsor, Conn.; a daughter, Leta E. Jacobson of Plainsboro; a sister, Audrey Crane of Point Pleasant; six grandchildren, Allison, Brooke, Melissa, Kimberley, Kristen and Gregory and a great-granddaughter, Amelia.

**Brian
Pusillo, 37
formerly of Carteret**

Mr. Brian Keith Pusillo of Belfast, Maine (formerly of Carteret) died January 29 in Belfast, Maine. He was 37.

Born in Carteret, he moved to Belfast in 1985.

He was co-creator of the "Lobsterman Comic Book."

His paternal and maternal grandparents are all deceased.

Surviving are his parents, Albert P. and Irene C. (Wheeler) Pusillo; a sister, Jacqueline Whitmore of Ellsworth, Maine; two nephews, Kyle and Kacie Whitmore and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

**M. Saratella, 56
of Carteret**

Mrs. Margaret Ann Saratella of Carteret died January 31 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. She was 56.

Born in Elizabeth, she resided in Carteret for most of her life.

Her husband, James Saratella, is deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Noella Pysniak of Carteret and Kimberly Saratella of Carteret; her father and mother, Rolph and Marie Rosenkranz of Philadelphia; two sisters, Kris and Annette and a brother, Albert.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the Township of Woodbridge (WHA) pursuant to the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 has prepared its Five Year Plan and an Annual Plan. The Five Year Plan describes the mission of the WHA and the WHA's long range goals and objectives for achieving its mission over the next five years. The Annual Plan provides details about the WHA's immediate operations, program participants, programs, services, and the WHA's strategy for handling operational concerns, residents' concerns and needs, and programs and services for the upcoming fiscal year.

The plan is available for a 45-day comment period beginning February 20th, 2002 through April 5th, 2002 at the Woodbridge Housing Authority office located at Twenty Bunnys Lane, Woodbridge, NJ, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

A public hearing will be held on Friday, April 5th, 2002 at 2:30 PM at the Charles Molnar Community Center, 19 Bunnys Lane, Woodbridge, NJ.

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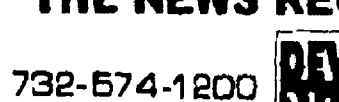
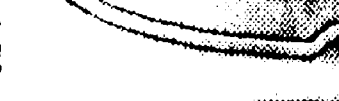
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• All applicants must successfully complete two personal interviews, thorough medical and psychological examinations, a polygraph interview, and extensive background investigation. (Processing generally takes between 4-6 months.)

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Applications can be picked up statewide at Public Libraries, N.J. Employment Service offices, County Welfare Boards and locally at the Rahway Police Dept. Headquarters. Information regarding the Law Enforcement Series announcements is also available on the Dept. of Personnel's website at www.state.nj.us/personnel & the automated telephone system at 609-292-8668.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Borough Hall Set To Move

METUCHEN—Borough officials are in the process of relocating their offices to temporary locations, since the 77-year old borough hall is slated for demolition.

According to Borough Administrator William Boerth, bids will be due by Feb. 19 for the demolition of the current borough hall.

He said that most municipal offices should be out of the

building by the beginning of next month, though moving the police department may take longer.

The new temporary quarters will be in the Gulton Industries building, but a tower needs to be built for police communications antennas.

Boerth says that demolition should proceed quickly if the bids are acceptable. The project will be paid for by a \$7.2 million

bond ordinance. The actual construction costs for the new borough hall on the old site are estimated at \$5.8 million, according to Mayor Ed O'Brien. The ordinance also includes legal and other "soft costs" and a \$350,000 down payment, he added.

The council needs approval from the state Local Finance Board before completing action on the bond because the down

payment normally comes from the operating budget.

The \$12,000 a month rental fee for the temporary space will come from funds remaining from the sale of the borough-owned Franklin School property, according to O'Brien.

The council also introduced an \$11.4 million operating budget for 2002 at last week's council meeting. Officials cautioned, however, that it will be five months or more before it is finalized.

O'Brien said, "We really cannot strike a budget until we

know what the school and county rates are, because they affect our reserve for uncollected taxes."

O'Brien said that as presented, the budget's \$5.8 million tax levy would mean about a 4-cent hike in the municipal tax rate. However, that could change when the final budget is approved.

"Last year, we introduced a 4.5-cent increase, but we came in at zero when the budget was approved," said Council President Marion Price.

Woodbridge Crime Drops

WOODBIDGE—Violent and non-violent crimes decreased in Woodbridge Township last year, according to crime statistics in the New Jersey State Police Uniform Crime Report.

"This is a testament to our police department that our numbers reflect a decrease in robberies, burglaries, thefts, and arson crimes," said Mayor Frank G. Pelzman. "The men and women of our police force are committed and dedicated to serving and protecting our ten municipalities," said Pelzman.

A department of 200, this is

the start of the 4th consecutive year that Woodbridge Police Department has been accredited. "We go through a thorough review and audit by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), that requires us to pass an inspection by this commission to meet approximately 436 nationally recognized standards," said William Trenery, Chief of the Department. "The tenacity, intensity and dedication of our police officers has also been critical to our success," said Deputy Chief, Phil DiNicola.

Blood Drive

SOUTH AMBOY—The shortage of blood is again critical. If you can, please take a little time to donate! Where? At Sacred Heart in South Amboy or call the New Jersey Blood Services at (732) 220-7000 for a location nearest you.

The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women will be hosting a "blood drive" on Sunday, Feb. 17 between 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in

the Sacred Heart School Cafeteria, located on Walnut Street and Washington Road, South Amboy. Be sure to have some I.D. with you and you must be at least 18 years of age. To make an appointment or for more information, call (732) 721-4208.

A cake sale will be held in conjunction with the blood drive.

Learn Meditation

EDISON—Free Falun Dafa Seminar Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) is a self-improvement practice rooted in ancient Chinese culture, and was first introduced to the public in 1992 by Mr. Li Hongzhi. It has very profound principles and powerful effects on health improvement, stress, relief, building inner peace and creating harmony. It is suitable for all ages. No registration required.

The seminar will be at the Woodbridge Public Library, George Frederick Plaza, on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 1:30-3 p.m.

A Fine Balance

EDISON—A new "Book Discussion Group" has started at the Edison Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue. They are looking for people who like to read and enjoy good conversation with nice people in a casual setting. The group meets once a month. The next meeting will be on Saturday morning, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. The book to be discussed is *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry. Call the library at (732) 287-2298, ext. 2, if you need a copy of the book. For more information, you may call Shirley at (732) 985-7085.



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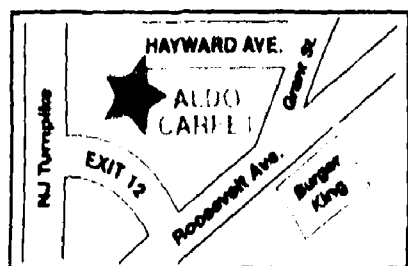
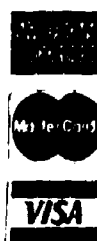
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 (888) 265-2536 Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 12. After you pay the toll, proceed to the light. Make a left hand turn onto Roosevelt Avenue. Go approximately 3 blocks and at the Burger King, make a left onto Grant Avenue. Go one block and make a left onto Hayward. We are the last building on the left hand side.
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