

The ATOM TABLOID

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

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Middlesex County Edition

VOL. 121, NO. 50

Friday, December 13, 2002

50¢



Community Campus To Open Sunday

EDISON—Based on a unique and unprecedented collaboration between the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County and the Edison Branch YMCA, the Community Campus, located at 1775 Oak Tree Road in Edison, is set to open its doors on Sunday. A ribbon cutting ceremony will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m., followed by an open house from 2 - 6 p.m., where the community is invit-

ed to tour the facility. The Campus was established to provide a full-scale community center for the people of Edison and Middlesex County at large. The newly renovated facility features a state of the art fitness center, a five lane swimming pool with locker rooms and sauna, a gymnasium, an accredited pre-school, a child care center, meeting rooms and a multipurpose room for performances and

lectures. Membership will be shared between the JCC and the Y.

The appeal of the collaboration is that each agency will retain its own identity while sharing the belief of building strong community values. The JCC will highlight Jewish culture and traditions through its Jewish oriented pre-school, special programs and holiday festivals; the Edison Branch YMCA will continue offering

its flagship health, fitness and child care programs for youth and adults alike.

The Community Campus is the first known collaboration of two sectarian based organizations in North America. In light of recent world events, the goal of the Campus is to be a model of cooperation between organizations founded on different secular orientations; recognizing that they are stronger working together than

they are operating as separate entities.

Classes for the Community Campus are scheduled to begin in January with a wide variety of programs offered to children, teens, adults, singles and seniors. For more information on class/gym/pool schedule, membership, upcoming special events or for a tour of the facility, call 732-494-3232.

Perth Amboy Awarded Quarter Million For Washington Street Reconstruction

PERTH AMBOY—Mayor Joseph Vas is pleased to announce that the New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded the City of Perth Amboy \$251,000 to fund a complete reconstruction of Washington Street. Perth Amboy was selected from over 885 applicants that applied for funding from the DOT's FY 2003 Transportation Trust Fund Municipal Aid Formula Program.

"We are extremely grateful that the DOT has recognized the importance of resurfacing this highly-trafficked street. The state has played an integral role in our ability to improve the quality of life on many of our transportation arteries in the past. With this funding, we remain committed to our long-

term goal of resurfacing every street throughout the City of Perth Amboy," stated Vas.

The funding will cover the cost of a complete milling and resurfacing of Washington Street from New Brunswick Avenue to High Street. Washington Street is a well-traveled transportation vein, which is sorely in need of rehabilitation due to the high volume of cars that create daily wear and tear on the surfaces. The project is timely because Middlesex County will be opening a brand new Vocational-Technical High School at the corner of Washington and High this year and the city will also be breaking ground on the Landings at Harborside, which will have a bearing on the transportation route as well.

The city expects to send the project out to bid in January and break ground some time during the spring. Perth Amboy has been extremely aggressive in seeking funds to pay for much-needed street repairs. Over the last five years, more than 100 streets have been resurfaced, many of them through state funding. The Transportation Trust Fund continues to be a major source through state funding. The Transportation Trust Fund continues to be a major source of funding for municipalities, enabling them to preserve the existing transportation system without burdening local property taxpayers.

For additional information, contact Mayor Joseph Vas at (732) 826-7121.

Holiday Fundraiser Benefits Fallen Firefighters

SOUTH AMBOY —Firefighter William Leveille has partnered with Santa Claus to raise funds to benefit the families of three firefighters who perished in a July 4 fire at a Gloucester City duplex.

Leveille had Santa Claus, played by an anonymous friend, at his home for two evenings. Visitors were charged \$1 to have their pictures taken with St. Nick in front of a holiday fireplace scene. Firefighter Thomas

Stewart II of the Gloucester City Fire Department, and Chief James Sylvester and Deputy Chief John West of the Ephraim Volunteer Fire Department were trying to rescue three children trapped inside a burning duplex when the building collapsed, killing them and the children.

Last year, Leveille held the Santa fundraiser to benefit families of Staten Island firefighters who died in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center.

Toy Drive

CARTERET—The Carteret Republican Municipal Committee is pleased to announce its third annual toy drive.

New, unwrapped toys will be collected up to Dec. 18. The drop off point will be Sitars Mobil, located on the corner of Cypress

and Washington Ave. Their hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Sundays hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Any questions can be forwarded to Sitars Mobil attn: Fred Gerstler or you can email him at gers01@aol.com

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pages 16-17

YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Plays-In-The-Park At The State Theatre

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Middlesex County's Plays-In-The-Park announced that the eighth edition of their holiday offering *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, which will be performed at the State Theatre, 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick.

The show will play for four performances only: Friday, Dec. 27 at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 28 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 for everyone and there is a reserved seating

policy.

Tickets may be purchased through the State Theatre box office, beginning Nov. 15, either in person or over the phone. For phone orders, call (732) 246-7469. There will be a service charge for credit cards/phone orders.

Michelle Massa will direct and choreograph the show, with musical direction by Mark Baron.

Billy Piscopo and Kathleen Campbell will reprise their roles as "Joseph" and "The Narrator" respectively, and

both Bill Nicolosi and David DeSio return as "Jacob" and "The Pharaoh." The remaining cast is filled with both alumni from past productions and new faces.

The State Theatre is handicapped accessible.

Plays-in-the-Park is sponsored by The Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation, Ralph Albanir, Director and The Middlesex

County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Freeholder Stephen J. "Pete" Dalina, Deputy Director and Department Chairman of the Parks Dept.

For further information or questions, call the theater between the hours of 9:30 a.m. 4 p.m., Monday Friday at (732) 548-2884 or check the information on the Theatre's website www.playsinthepark.com.

com.

Funding has been made possible in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission through a grant provided by the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and by the generous financial support of the Friends of Plays-in-the-Park.

Community Leaders "Serve Time" For Kids

AREA—Many business and civic leaders throughout Woodbridge and Edison areas will be missing for several hours on Thursday, Dec. 19. These notable "Most Wanted" citizens will be "serving time for Jerry Kids."

Our Jailbirds have agreed to "serve" their time between the 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The apprehended will be "arrested" by MDA volunteer deputies and taken to Champs Americana, 418 Menlo Park Mall, Edison. While there, they will have

their mug shots taken and then be placed behind the bars of MDA's mock jail.

Each "jailbird," if they haven't already raised their \$2,500 "bail," will be given approximately one hour to phone family, friends and business associates to help raise their bail. H&H Marketing is donating cellular phones for the "jailbirds" to use.

Funds from the Woodbridge-Edison Area Lock-Up will allow MDA to fund med-

ical research and patient services at local clinics.

The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is a national voluntary health agency dedicated to the cure and treatment of over 43 neuromuscular diseases. For more information about the Woodbridge Area Lock-Up, call the MDA district office at (732) 750-2333.

If you are in the area, you are welcome to drop on in and join in the fundraising efforts.

Local Students Included In The National Dean's List

AREA—A number of students from the Middlesex County area are among the approximately 140,000 students included in the 25th Annual Edition of *The National Dean's List, 2001-02*. *The National Dean's List*, pub-

lished by Educational Communications, Inc., is the largest recognition program and publication in the nation honoring high achieving college students.

Students are selected for his honor by their college deans,

registrars or honor society advisors and must be in the upper 10 percent of their class, on their school's "Dean's List," or have earned a comparable honor. Listed students are eligible to compete for \$50,000 in scholarship awards funded by the publisher, and may also use a referral service for future employment opportunities. More than 1,500 colleges and universities nationwide use the publication to recognize their academically qualified students. To learn more about *The National Dean's List* visit www.honoring.com

Local students from the Middlesex County area selected include:

Carteret: Elvin Colon, Sacred Heart Univ.; Nicole Garra, Univ. of Md. College Park; Nicole Gasparro, Montclair St. Univ.; Bruce R. Kish, Marshall Univ.; Memuna Mehvash, Rutgers St. Univ. New Brunswick; James Mitchell, PA St. Univ. Abington-Ogontz; Walaa Mohamed, Rutgers St. Univ.

(continued on next page)

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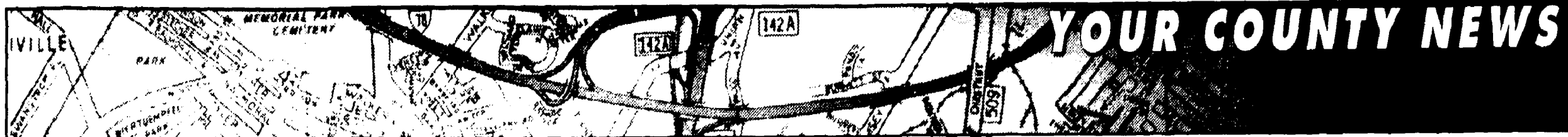
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Golf Outing Proceeds Benefit Diabetes Center

"The donation will be used to help fund an overwhelming need for community outreach and education along with treatment and nutrition counseling services that the Center provides..."

EDISON--The Diabetes Center of New Jersey, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, proudly accepted a \$3,000 donation from the first annual Joel S. Mayer Memorial Golf Outing, recently held at the Metuchen Country Club. This year's donations totaled \$25,000, all of which will benefit diabetes awareness centers around the state.

"The donation will be used to help fund an overwhelming need for community outreach

and education along with treatment and nutrition counseling services that the Center provides," said Grace Swal, director of the Diabetes Center of New Jersey. "The Center's mission is clear—to improve the quality of life of people affected by diabetes in New Jersey and this donation will help us achieve our goal."

The Diabetes Center of New Jersey is a comprehensive center that offers education, nutrition, exercise and

treatment programs for diabetes patients of all ages, including pregnant women with gestational diabetes. The Center has been awarded recognition by the American Diabetes Association in accordance with national standards for diabetes patient education—assuring that patients and their families receive the highest quality of care and treatment.

For more information or to make an appointment for counseling, education or screening services, call the Diabetes Center of New Jersey at (800) 991-6668.

Local Students Included In The National Dean's List

(continued from page...2)

New Brunswick: Olukemi Onafowora, Montclair St. Univ.; and Carleen P. Swinger, Rutgers St. Univ, New Brunswick.

Woodbridge: Adebukunola Ayanfalu, Rutgers St. Univ, New Brunswick; Frank Brojanowski, Berkeley College of Business; Celia Crespo, Kean Univ.; Selina K. Davis-Peterson, VA St. Univ.; Kenchetta Dudley, Rutgers St. Univ., New Brunswick; Saman Effendi, NJ Inst. of Tech.; Kelly Kazlauskas, Georgian Court College; Peter J. Lo Ricco, Wagner College; Kristen O'Brien, Fordham College at Lincoln Ctr.; Virginia O'Donnell, Kean Univ.; Yong Chi Park, Rutgers St. Univ., New Brunswick;

John A. Radzik, Kean Univ.; Tyshawma A. Spell, Hampton Univ. and Eldar Zulic, Kean Univ.

Sayreville: Kanwal Akhter, Rutgers St. Univ., New Brunswick; Moriah D. Amadi, Raritan Valley CC; Douglas Boucher, Montclair St. Univ.; Kelly Brandt, Rutgers St. Univ., New Brunswick; Ryan Charzewski, Monmouth Univ.; Agnieszka Czarnecka, Rutgers St. Univ., New Brunswick; Julie A. Garcia, Monmouth Univ.; Beth M. Holderman, William Paterson Univ.; Claire Kiddiga, Middlesex County College; Jamie Kornaciewicz, Ramapo College of NJ; Christina M. Lugo, Seton Hall Univ. and Eunice Siaw, Middlesex County College.



ACCEPTING THE DONATION—John P. McGee, president and CEO of Solaris Health System, (fourth from L.), accepts a donation from the Joel S. Mayer Memorial Golf Outing. With McGee, (L.-R.) Peter A. Pagony, a member of the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Executive Foundation Board and the Diabetes Center Board; Grace Swal, director of the Diabetes Center; Marc Mayer, D.O.; Mitch Mayer, D.O.; and Michael Kalafer, director of Development at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.



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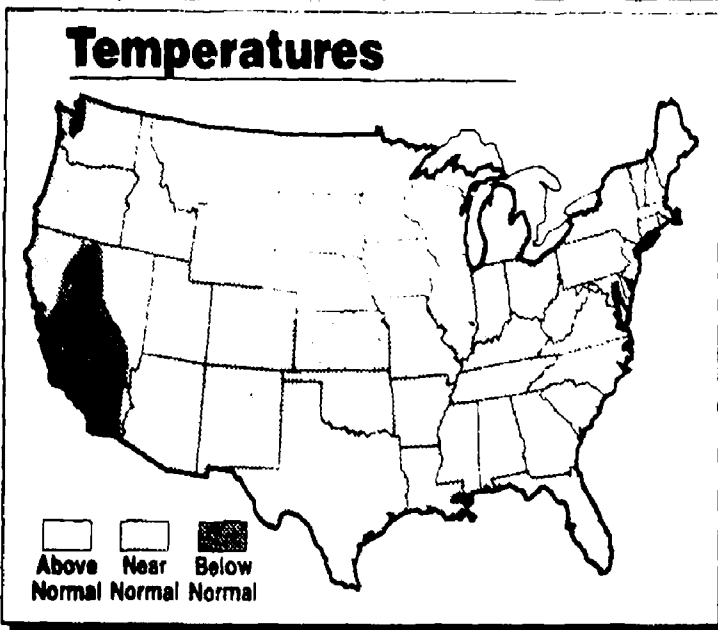
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mainly cloudy.	Clearing.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Cloudy with drizzle.	Cloudy with a shower.	Clouds and sun.	Times of sun and clouds.	Cloudy with rain.
47	31	45/32	44/32	45/30	41/28	45/35	46/36

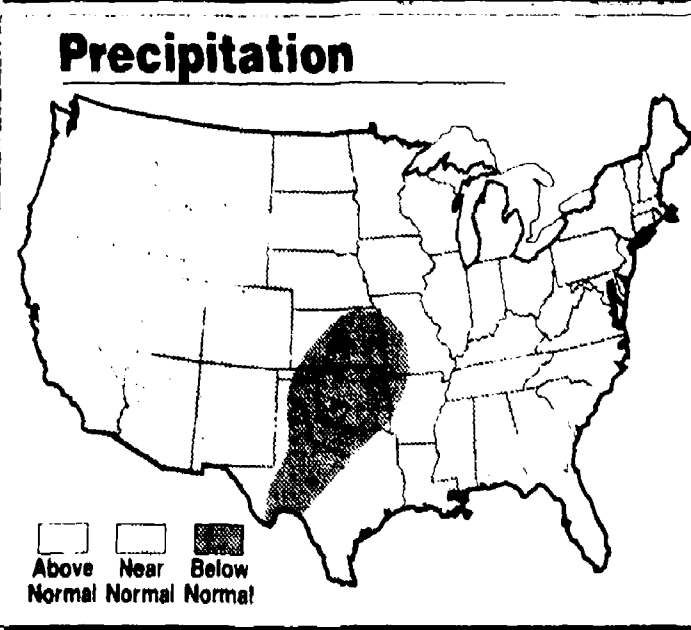
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Mild weather will cover the central and northern Plains during the period. Temperatures across Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas are expected to average 5 to 10 degrees above normal. Storms will bring rain, wind and mountain snow to the Pacific Northwest. A storm may bring precipitation to the Southeast and East Coast.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Atlanta	55 39 pc	53 39 c	55 36 pc	54 34 pc
Boston	42 31 c	47 32 s	47 33 c	43 36 r
Chicago	42 30 pc	38 28 sn	42 32 c	40 30 pc
Cleveland	44 32 pc	44 32 c	42 33 r	40 27 r
Denver	38 24 sf	46 26 pc	48 31 c	45 23 c
Des Moines	44 25 c	40 26 c	39 24 pc	38 27 c
Detroit	42 30 pc	40 28 sn	38 32 sh	41 25 c
Houston	62 42 c	64 42 s	64 44 s	65 53 pc
Indianapolis	43 30 pc	42 34 r	43 32 sn	42 32 c
Kansas City	46 28 c	42 26 c	44 26 pc	44 33 c
Los Angeles	73 42 s	67 43 pc	65 46 r	67 42 pc
Miami	78 68 sh	78 65 sh	78 63 c	77 61 r
Minn.-St. Paul	38 28 c	38 26 c	36 24 pc	33 21 sn
New Orleans	61 47 pc	64 45 c	60 44 s	63 50 s
New York City	46 34 c	46 32 s	44 36 c	46 34 c
Omaha	44 28 c	40 24 c	40 20 pc	39 27 c
Phoenix	66 42 s	68 44 s	68 46 s	66 46 pc
San Francisco	60 48 pc	58 50 c	58 50 r	58 46 sh
Seattle	52 42 r	50 40 r	48 38 r	46 41 r
Washington	48 36 pc	48 34 s	47 36 c	49 29 pc

SUN & MOON

Sunrise	Sunset
Thu. 7:11 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
Fri. 7:12 a.m.	4:30 p.m.
Moonrise	Moonset
Thu. 1:01 p.m.	12:06 a.m.
Fri. 1:22 p.m.	1:05 a.m.
Moon Phases	
First	Full
Dec 11	Dec 19
Dec 26	Jan 2
Weather (W):	
s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy,	
c-cloudy, sh-showers,	
t-thunderstorms, r-rain,	
sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.	

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Amsterdam	35 29 pc	36 27 pc	37 24 pc	32 26 s
Berlin	30 22 pc	26 20 s	29 20 pc	27 22 pc
Buenos Aires	79 63 pc	78 61 pc	79 65 pc	74 59 c
Cairo	64 49 pc	67 48 pc	71 50 pc	69 52 s
Jerusalem	49 33 pc	53 36 pc	55 38 pc	57 41 pc
Johannesburg	75 63 r	77 63 c	80 64 pc	85 63 pc
London	39 38 r	42 35 r	44 30 c	36 28 pc
Madrid	50 36 pc	50 47 r	55 47 pc	50 46 r
Mexico City	66 40 pc	66 42 pc	56 37 c	66 36 pc
Moscow	23 19 sn	20 2 sn	9 8 pc	13 11 pc
Paris	37 36 sn	40 34 r	42 30 c	36 26 pc
Rio de Janeiro	77 73 t	82 72 r	80 71 sh	81 70 c
Rome	52 46 r	56 39 pc	54 51 sh	59 48 r
San Juan	85 73 pc	85 73 pc	85 72 pc	85 72 s
Seoul	28 19 s	35 29 s	41 37 c	50 40 pc
Sydney	76 59 pc	80 61 s	76 61 c	83 67 pc
Tokyo	46 30 pc	41 28 s	44 37 s	53 40 pc
Toronto	40 26 pc	41 30 pc	39 31 sn	32 25 sn
Winnipeg	35 17 pc	32 15 pc	30 13 c	28 10 c
Zurich	36 34 r	38 30 c	37 32 c	38 28 c

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



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Items to appear in the Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 community calendars must be received by Dec. 12. Fax (732) 388-4143 or e-mail carolynnnjean@yahoo.com

December 14 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.-Support Arthritis Group Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held at the Edison's Charlie Brown's, Plainfield Rd. RSVP to: Anita at (732) 549-2425 or Joan at (732) 388-8069.

December 15 at 4 p.m.-Music At St. Mary's Church, 256 Augusta St., South Amboy. A Candlelight Carol Sing and Choral Concert will be held at St. Mary's. Come out and join them for an evening of Advent and Christmas Music, surrounded by the glow of candlelight. The program is free and will feature the choirs of St. Mary's Church. Free will offering.

December 15 at 4 p.m.-St. Andrew's Church, Madison Ave., Avenel, will present their annual Christmas Concert with the adult and children's choirs, under the direction of James Keefe. There will be a free offering. All are invited to come and enjoy. There will be cake and coffee following the concert in the basement of the church.

December 15 from 7:30-11:30 p.m.-The Woodbridge Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold a dance/social with a live band and refreshments for only \$8 per person at the Elk's Hall, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Call (732) 297-1775 for more info.

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NEWS YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Trek Fans To Help Children

NEW BRUNSWICK — Looking for a nice way to spend a few hours on the 13-15 of December? Come on out and see "Star Trek Nemesis" at the Sony Loews Theater on Route 1, New Brunswick. And, while you're there, stop by the recruiting station of the U.S.S. *Avenger Chapter of Starfleet*. The International Star Trek Fan Association, Inc. (Starfleet).

Starfleet is an international organization, with over 4,500 members around the world. It has been active since 1974. The *Avenger* is a Central New Jersey chapter, active since 1985. Members of the *Avenger*, and Starfleet, participate in many activities ranging from parties and conventions to museum trips to community service projects which further the idea of a hopeful future portrayed in the Star Trek television and film series.

They share interests in not only Star Trek, but other forms of science fiction, fantasy, real-life science and space exploration and the future of Humanity.

Members of the *Avenger* will be at the Loews Theater throughout the opening weekend of "Star Trek Nemesis," meeting people and inviting interested persons to join the organization. The group will also be working with the United States Marine Corps Reserve on the Toys for Tots project, collecting toys to make the holidays a happier time for underprivileged children. Donations of toys for these children will be gratefully accepted.

For further information, contact Carlos Maldonado, USS *Avenger*, 24 Wilson St., North Brunswick, NJ 08902-2929. Telephone: (732) 448-7914. E-Mail: purple@castle.net

Holiday Revue Comes To Forum Theatre

METUCHEN The Forum Theatre Company, Metuchen, is pleased to present the theatrical premiere of a delightful holiday musical revue, *That Time of the Year*. Performances are Friday, Dec. 20 - Tuesday, Dec. 31.

That Time of the Year is a whimsical compilation of 25 all-original Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's songs, capturing all the warmth and humor of a unique holiday celebration. The show offers a wide variety of material, running the musical gamut from rock and blues to jazz and show tunes. The songs range from funny numbers highlighting the joys and anxieties of the holiday season to beautiful, touching ballads about the meaning behind the holidays.

Opening to critical acclaim in 1996 at the Manhattan cabaret club, Don't Tell Mama, *That Time*

of the Year features a quintet of bright-eyed performers singing such tunes as Angelo Rosenbaum, Underneath the Mistletoe, Mama's Latkes, Country [and Calypso] Christmas, and Holiday Lament (The Fruitcake Song). Also featured are a singing dreidel and a trio of singing / dancing fruitcakes. Performance times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. A special

New Year's Eve performance is scheduled for 7:30. Standard tickets are \$25 (\$45 New Year's Eve only) with senior / student and group rates available. Friday Nights are "Kid's Night" wherein for every adult ticket purchased, a child attends free. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Box Office at 732-548-0582. Visit the Theatre's website at www.forumtheatrecompany.com

Senior And Family Members Invited To A Legal Seminar

PERTH AMBOY — The Perth Amboy YMHA invites seniors and their family to attend a legal seminar sponsored by Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County, being held at the YMHA, 316 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy.

Some of the topics to be discussed are: Planning for Long Term Health Care Needs; Pre-

serving Your Assets; Living Wills & Powers of Attorney; Options for Financing Long Term Care and resources you may be entitled to receive. The program will be held on Monday, Dec. 16 at 1 p.m. and there will be no charge. Reservations must be made to insure sufficient seating and refreshments. Call (732) 442-0365.

Library Hosts "Home Front" Display

SOUTH AMBOY — The Dowdell Library of South Amboy has announced that it will host the display: Home Front USA: New Jersey 1940-1945.

When the United States entered World War II, life as we knew it changed forever. Men went overseas to battle, women assumed new roles in the work force, the seeds of the civil rights and women's movement were sown. Children, as well, played a role in the home front war effort. Along with their parents, they coordinated scrap metal drives, collecting steel, tin, rubber and paper to supplement the raw materials used for defense. Families rationed meat, coffee,

sugar, butter, cheese and shoes and planted Victory Gardens producing at least one-third of all fresh vegetables consumed in the country. The exhibit focuses on how these changes affected New Jersey.

"With the anniversary of America's entry into World War II on December 7, it is felt that the library hosting this exhibit during the month of December is most appropriate," said Library Director, Philip Israel. "Tom Brokaw called the generation that fought in World War II, the Greatest Generation. The Library Board and I hope that by hosting this display, those who view it will come to understand that this label goes beyond those who

fought on the battle field and learn of the sacrifices that were made by all Americans to help ensure victory." Israel went on to say.

The display will be at the Dowdell Library for the entire month of December and can be viewed during normal library hours. For additional information the public can call (732) 721-6060, or go to the library's Internet address, www.dowdell.org.

The exhibit is on loan to the library from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The exhibit is part of the Omnibus Traveling Museum collection.

DEVINE MEDIA ENTERPRISES, Inc.		
week of: 12/01/02 - 12/07/02		
WINNING PICK-3	WINNING PICK-4	JERSEY CASH-5
SUNDAY, Dec. 1		SUNDAY, Dec. 1
Mid-Day 631	 1700	9-14-19-34-35
Evening 588	 8815	MONDAY, Dec. 2
MONDAY, Dec. 2		3-7-13-35-38
Mid-Day 417	 6088	TUESDAY, Dec. 3
Evening 135	 3565	2-3-17-25-26
TUESDAY, Dec. 3		WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4
Mid-Day 849	 2451	11-21-25-30-38
Evening 879	 9244	THURSDAY, Dec. 5
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4		2-7-19-32-35
Mid-Day 857	 7500	FRIDAY, Dec. 6
Evening 185	 6856	7-25-29-32-38
THURSDAY, Dec. 5		SATURDAY, Dec. 7
Mid-Day 857	 1875	18-19-20-30-38
Evening 963	 1063	
FRIDAY, Dec. 6		BIG GAME WINNING Numbers
Mid-Day 342	 7123	TUESDAY, Dec. 3
Evening 789	 9571	1-15-19-40-51/26
SATURDAY, Dec. 7		FRIDAY, Dec. 6
Mid-Day 518	 7011	4-8-30-36-52/48
Evening 562	 2442	
WINNING PICK-6 Numbers		LOTZEE WINNING Numbers
MONDAY, Dec. 2		WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4
3-16-19-21-38-48		31-55-57-71
THURSDAY, Dec. 5		SATURDAY, Dec. 7
2-26-28-29-41-46		36-64-68-73

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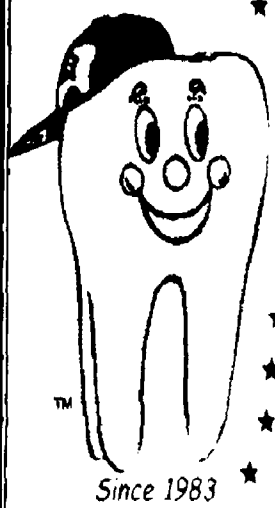
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

NEWS

Wilentz Critical After Car Crash

WOODBIDGE One of New Jersey's most powerful Democratic insiders, attorney Warren Wilentz, was in critical condition last week after being involved in a serious auto accident in Edison.

Police said the accident occurred as Wilentz was driving at about 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 from his home in North Edison to his law firm on Woodbridge Center Drive in Woodbridge.

Lt. John Dauber said Wilentz's car collided with an auto driven by Pushpa Patel, 52, of Edison at the intersection of Plainfield Road and Stephenville Parkway.

Patel did not suffer any injuries and refused medical treatment at the scene, Dauber said.

Wilentz, 78, was the 1966 Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate and a senior partner at Wilentz, Goldman and Spitzer.

Wilentz has been viewed as one of Gov. James E. McGreevey's mentors.

McGreevey and State Supreme Court Justice Barry Albin, a former partner in the Wilentz firm, both visited Wilentz at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Friends said they were told Wilentz might have suffered a severe neck injury or possible damage to his spinal cord.

His father, David T. Wilentz, was the state Attorney General who prosecuted Bruno Hauptmann during the famous Lindbergh baby kidnapping trial, and his brother, Robert Wilentz, was Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

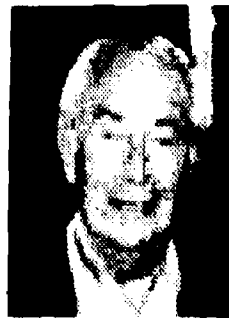
Wilentz is the only living unsuccessful Democratic nominee for U.S. Senator in New Jersey, where Republicans have lost the last ten races. He lost the 1966 Senate race to

Republican Sen. Clifford Case by a 60%-37% margin.

Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, established in 1919 by David T. Wilentz, is one of New Jersey's largest and best known law firms, with 151 attorneys.

A former prosecutor and county attorney in Middlesex County, Wilentz has been very active in community and civic causes. Past chairman of the Woodbridge Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and a trustee of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey, he has served as a trustee and chairman of the Middlesex County Legal Services Corporation and as president of the Middlesex County Bar Association.

Wilentz is also chairman of the Woodbridge Economic Development Association and former general counsel to the New Jersey Highway Authority, which operates the Garden State Parkway.



Warren Wilentz

WOODBIDGE POLICE BLOTTER

November 12 thru November 16, 2002

November 12 • 7:41 a.m. — A report of a burglary and theft at a residence at 55 Randolph Ave., Avenel was taken.

2:12 p.m. — An attempted burglary and criminal mischief was reported at a residence on Thorpe St., Avenel. Incident is under investigation.

4:03 p.m. — A burglary report was taken at Forge Restaurant, Route 9, Woodbridge. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

4:26 p.m. — A report of a burglary and theft at an apartment on Green Street, Iselin was taken. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

5:23 p.m. — Criminal mischief and a burglary report was taken at a residence on Elm Street, Colonia. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

5:56 p.m. — A burglary at 279 Demarest Ave., Avenel report was taken. A neighbor had observed no suspicious activity. No suspects at this time.

7:59 p.m. — A report of a burglary and theft to a residence at 277 Demarest Ave., Avenel. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

November 13 • 2:55 p.m. — A burglary and theft at a residence on Village Drive, Avenel. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

3:05 p.m. — A report of a possible burglary in progress on Rector Ave., Woodbridge. Victim states she heard a person walking downstairs and when her son checked, the individual ran out the front door. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

November 14 • 8:24 p.m. — A burglary and theft at a residence

on Rodgers St., Avenel report was taken. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

12:43 p.m. — A report of a burglary and theft at a Florida Grove Manor apartment in Keasbey was taken.

7:48 p.m. — A burglary at Taras Drive, Fords was investigated. No suspects at this time. Incident is under investigation.

November 15 • 10:33 a.m. — A report of a foul odor at St. Cecelia's School, Iselin was investigated. Source of foul odor was a clogged drain in the kitchen area and food in the waste dumpsters. No injuries resulting from this incident.

12:17 p.m. — A robbery was reported at the Liberty Tavern, King Georges Rd., Fords. The incident was investigated and no suspects were arrested at this time.

November 16 • 3:59 p.m. — A report of a shoplifter in custody at Mande's at Woodbridge Center Mall. Individual taken to headquarters and processed.

7:30 p.m. — A report of a shoplifter at Lord and Taylor's Department Store, Woodbridge Center Mall in custody. Individual taken to headquarters and processed.

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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Township Stresses Food Safety

WOODBIDGE—The Woodbridge Township Health Department has conducted its annual food safety and sanitation seminar for school district food handlers, Mayor Frank G. Pelzman and Health Director Patrick O. Hanson announced. 42 food employees from all eight of the district's school cafeterias attended, and received further training in such food safety areas as temperature control, cross contamination, sanitizing, and hand washing practices.

"This is part of our ongoing

commitment to the health and well-being of every student who attends our schools," said Pelzman. "This commitment also extends to the eateries throughout the Township."

Upon completion of the seminar, each food employee was given a written test on the material, which each one passed.

By ordinance, all retail food establishments in Woodbridge Township must participate in an annual food safety and sanitation education program.

"Continuing education in the

area of food safety and sanitation will ensure that the food handlers in our schools and restaurants are completely up to date in food safety procedures," said Hanson.

The Woodbridge Township Health Department also provides food safety and sanitation videos and related literature to retail food establishments to administer to their food handling employees. It's part of the Health Department's continuing effort to combat food borne illnesses at all eateries throughout the township.

"I would like to thank the Mayor and the Health Department for their continued support and commitment to the Woodbridge Township School District," said Vincent Smith,

Acting Schools Superintendent. "The inservice was another example of the dedicated partnerships that exist among township organizations which benefit the entire community."

YMCA Names Associate Director

WOODBIDGE—Katie McAdoo has been named to the Associate Director position for the YMCA at the Woodbridge Community Center. The announcement was made by Metuchen-Edison YMCA CEO, William Lovett.

McAdoo started in her new position on Nov. 18. As the new Associate director, McAdoo will be responsible for supervising all the YMCA programs, community development and assisting in the main-

tenance of the facility. She says, "I am thrilled to return to my hometown in this capacity. I think the community center is a major asset to the residents of Woodbridge Township, while allowing the YMCA to provide it's expertise in program delivery. The Y's growth in Woodbridge over the past five years has been awesome! Everyone wins!"

Most recently, McAdoo served as the Preschool Director for the Chabad of Poway, California. She worked for the Metuchen-Edison YMCA as a Senior Child Care Director from April 1992-June 1999 as well as the Director of Centenary Child Care Center from Sept.

1989-April 1992. She has achieved the status of Senior Director, the highest level of training through the National YMCA.

The Branch Director, Sherrill Rudy, states, "It's great to have Katie back with the YMCA organization. She is a longtime resident of Woodbridge and brings a wealth of experience to the table. I feel she will be instrumental in helping the YMCA reach out to the community."

McAdoo earned a bachelor of arts degree in Early Childhood Education and minored in Multi-Cultural Curriculum Development from Wheelock College, Boston, Massachusetts.

Investigators Find No Criminal Negligence In Trooper's Death

CARTERET—Investigators found no evidence of criminal negligence in the death of state trooper Christopher Scales.

Scales was killed last week while conducting routine seat belt checks at Interchange 12 of the New Jersey Turnpike. He was dragged about 40 feet between the rear wheels of a chemical tanker after apparently slipping or accidentally stepping off the toll island, according to authorities.

Gov. James E. McGreevey ordered the American and state flags to be flown at half-staff to honor Scales. "It is a fitting tribute for all public buildings and state offices to fly their flags at half-staff in honor of Trooper Scales, who served the State Police and the citizens of New Jersey for 15 years," McGreevey said.

Scales, 40, was a resident of Hamilton. He is survived by a wife and three daughters.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN

"The Emperor's Club"

May Not Be Exclusive Enough For Some



popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberg

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



Although sweet-souled, high-minded and absorbing, "The Emperor's Club" makes the mistake of retelling a favorite old tale without performing enough of a twist to satisfy those who demand permutation with each variation. The story of that great educator in your life, it also makes the mistake of being warm, fuzzy and nostalgic. So much so, in fact, that while you watch you can practically hear the world's cynics having a field day.

The nerve of them. And here you are having such a nice time remembering how influential and inspiring Mr. Stamelman proved; how amazing it was that Mr. Green managed to bring the whole world into the classroom. They saw something in you. And the only way you could ever pay them back for their special indulgence was to make something of yourself.

Of course you can just imagine your brother-in-law Marty, in that cynical tone of

his, pointing out how director Michael Hoffman's story about a dedicated teacher can hardly stand up to "Goodbye Mr. Chips" (1939), the granddaddy of the genre, as well as a half-dozen or so other films. He'd then proceed to name every movie that ever contained an educational theme, whether he had seen it or not, pointing out that there just isn't enough room on this Earth for another one: "Why you wanna see the same thing again, when it's been done better?"

Oh well. That's your brother-in-law Marty. He made a fortune in the tire retread business. And ever since he's had the conceited notion that it gives him the right to pontificate at will on all subjects. Geez. And to think, before you turned him on to it, he thought "Goodbye Mr. Chips" was about the death of a snack food mogul. Yet here's the rub. Though you hate to admit it, technically he's right. Others have done this many times, and indeed better. But then again, in another way he's wrong. In dismissing "The Emperor's Club" as just another, er, retread, he's really missing the point. And probably missing out. But then, that's Marty

Think about it. How many of your most cherished films are truly representative of great cinema? Yet you welcome them into the den over and over again. Because they speak to you. And while "The Emperor's Club" won't necessarily become one of your favorites, its heart is in the right place. What it lacks in novelty and nuance, it practically makes up for in compassion. Hence viewers who don't believe the wheel must be reinvented with each new film will find Kevin Kline endearing as William Hundert, teacher and defender of Western Civilization at St. Benedict's Academy.

When first we meet the scholar, it is on the eve of a benefit being thrown in his honor. We giggle as the retired professor fumbles with the newfangled phone in his room. Kline sets the tone.

This is a good man...a man steeped in tradition. And the occasion gives him cause to reflect. A flashback follows. It is twenty-five

years ago and a middle-aged William Hundert, already firmly ensconced as an institution within an institution, strolls the campus. It is the first day of school. Kids point him out. The excitement of new beginnings permeates the air. In the classroom, welcoming his new students, the esteemed teacher quotes the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, stating: "A man's character is his fate." And then he apprises them of how the school motto, "The end depends upon the beginning," complements the sage's affirmation.

In any other year, no one would think to challenge St. Benedict's statement of mission or question its self-proclaimed role as a mold of tomorrow's men. But then this is the year that Sedgewick Bell, portrayed with effective lordliness and contempt by Emile Hirsch, comes to school. The son of a U.S. senator, the obnoxious snot is determined to be difficult, to prove that he will not be poked, prodded or shaped beyond his will.

Of course your brother-in-law is snickering at this juncture, satisfied as a Cheshire cat when Professor Hundert predictably adopts the insolent creep as his special project, because he "sees something" in him. And for a while, the plot does take the typical Hollywood route prescribed for devoted teachers and impertinent students. At least for the moment, Mr. Hundert wins Sedgewick's interest by involving him in the school's annual Julius Caesar competition. If your knowledge of the Roman Empire places you among the top three scholars, you get to go to the finals, a festive and well-attended tradition at St. Benedict's. Win that and you are crowned Caesar. Your picture goes up on the wall, laurels and all.

The big night comes, and lo and behold, your brother-in-law Marty is forced to wipe the smirk from his face. Surprise! Things don't go quite the way he thought. Neil Tolkin's nicely etched script, based on Ethan Canin's short story, "The Palace Thief," throws its first of several, albeit mild, curves. The story then reverts back to the present and leads up to yet another unexpected turn of events. And it's here that finally the nagging question that's been in the back of your mind since the get-go---"Why didn't they just do a remake of

"Goodbye Mr. Chips?"--- is answered. As it turns out, "The Emperor's Club" does have its own little slant to prof-fer, and this includes a major life lesson, not for the students at St. Benedict's, but for Mr. Hundert. And while to tell any more of the plot would give too much away, suffice it to note that in addressing some age old questions about the human character, director Hoffman separates the world into two groups. Perhaps you'll recognize them. They're in the news all the time. The two probably go back as far as the Sumerians...maybe all the way to Cain and Abel. These days they call themselves parties.

But regardless of what you call them, there are folks like Mr. Hundert, and then there are people like Marty. Mr. Hundert is an idealist, maybe to a fault. Marty would call himself a pragmatist. Mr. Hundert feels man can be redeemed, even when he does his damndest to prove otherwise. Marty believes you can only trust man to do what he feels is in his own best interests. The Professor Hunderts of the world believe man can rise above the rule of the jungle. That he must. That his survival as a species ultimately depends on it. Marty has resigned himself to the notion that it's a dog-eat-dog world. Hence if you can outsmart your fellow man, you'd be a fool not to do so. There are several other, perhaps less significant, differences between the Professor Hunderts and the Martys. For example, I think the Martys still eat veal. But that about covers it. Granted, as your brother-in-law Marty was so quick to point out, time and again we've been taught the humanistic lessons filmmaker Hoffman's professor of classics imparts. Yet surprisingly enough, the world still seems to be in quite a fix. Thus the thinking here is that a refresher course courtesy of "The Emperor's Club" couldn't hurt. And it sure beats joining Marty's gang.

"The Emperor's Club," rated PG-13, is a Universal Picture's release directed by Michael Hoffman and stars Kevin Kline, Emile Hirsch and Joel Gretsch. Running time: 109 minutes

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YOUR HEALTH NEWS

Heart Devices, Transplants Have Similar Costs; What Will We Pay?

AREA—Implanting lifesaving heart pumps in people with severe congestive heart failure (CHF) costs about the same as heart, liver, and other transplants, according to research reported recently at the American Heart Association's 75th annual Scientific Sessions.

December Is Drunk And Drugged Driving (3-D) Preventive Month

AREA—The holiday season offers an excellent opportunity for parents to communicate with their children about drinking, says the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc.

"Children who live in homes where alcohol is not the focus of holiday get-togethers may be less likely to grow up thinking that drinking is the key ingredient to having a good time," observes Steven Liga, executive director. "Parents should keep in mind that children are very observant and may be more influenced by adult behavior than what parents actually tell them about drinking."

Recent research even suggests that holidays may be one environmental factor that can increase risk or confer protection from alcoholism within families. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, alcoholism may become more harmful to family functioning and more

likely to be passed to the next generation if drinking interferes with such activities as dinner times, holidays, vacations and other family rituals.

Successful holiday celebrations should offer plenty of alternatives to drinking so that guests will not be tempted to drink excessively and so that non-drinking guests will not feel left out.

Non-alcoholic beverages, food and activities other than drinking will help to ensure a safer, more inclusive party. Instead of bringing a bottle of alcohol to a holiday party, guests should consider giving a gift that everyone can enjoy, such as a dessert or a holiday decoration.

For other holiday party tips and non-alcoholic beverage recipes, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to NCADD of Middlesex County, 385 Route 18, Suite D, East Brunswick, NJ 0816 or visit their website at www.ncadd-middlesex.com and click on What's New.

alternative to the heart," says lead author Mehmet C. Oz, M.D., director of the Cardiovascular Institute and vice chairman of surgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City.

Mechanical heart pumps, known as left-ventricular assist devices (LVADs), can significantly improve survival and the quality of life of patients with end-stage CHF—a weakening of the heart muscle that keeps the heart from pumping enough blood for the body's needs.

The new finding poses public policy questions about paying for expensive new devices in light of rising concerns about healthcare costs. "The LVAD has clearly been shown to save lives," Oz says. "But are we, as a society, willing to pay the costs to save these lives?"

The investigators analyzed the medical and cost records of 68 patients who received LVADs during a study called REMATCH. The Randomized Evaluation of Mechanical

Assistance for the Treatment of Congestive Heart Failure was a multicenter trial sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and Thoratec Corporation. They divided the LVAD patients into four groups, or quartiles, according to the cost each person incurred while hospitalized. They didn't include the cost of the LVAD, which is about \$65,000.

The average cost for LVAD treatment was \$196,699.

The major contributors to hospital costs were time spent in the intensive care unit or a regular hospital bed (39 percent), pharmacy expenses (15 percent), supplies (14 percent) and diagnostic procedures (11 percent).

The time LVAD or organ transplant patients in the middle two quartiles spent in the hospital ranged from 16–55 days. These patients represent the type of person likely to receive an LVAD in the future, say the researchers. Several factors predicted how long patients would

stay in the hospital. For example, patients who developed general or device-related infections tended to have longer hospital stays. The infection rate can be reduced, Oz says, which would lower the procedure's cost.

"The major implication of this study is that we have a life-saving technology that is going to be expensive to deliver," he says. "The question we have to address as a society is whether it is worth the expense to put these devices in patients. Our study tells us that these costs are comparable to heart transplantation and liver transplantation (\$205,000 and \$250,000), which society is already willing to pay for."

"The costs, from my perspective, are less than many would have expected at such an early stage with a device like this," Oz says. "Improving management of these critically ill patients will substantially reduce the costs of this evolving technology."

Directory Of Smokefree Restaurants And Bars Published

AREA — New Jersey GASP, Group Against Smoking Pollution, has released *100% Smokefree Dining in New Jersey, 2003* for holiday dining and to help new nonsmokers following the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout.

The new directory lists more than 2,200 individual smokefree restaurants—an increase of 10 percent in the last year plus restaurant

chains with smokefree policies. For the first time, the directory specifies which restaurants have alcoholic beverage service (there are 84), including 44 restaurants with 100 percent smokefree bars.

Another new feature in the new edition is a map showing

New Jersey counties and selected cities (the directory is organized by county).

The directory is available, free, from the New Jersey GASP, 105 Mountain Avenue, Summit, N.J. 07091 or call (908) 273-9368 or e-mail to: www.njgasp.org.



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EDITORIAL



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOHN WISNIEWSKI'S
Report
From
Trenton

Modern medicine is indeed a miracle. Our lives are longer, infant mortality is down, severed limbs can be reattached, and organs are routinely transplanted. Cures for what were incurable diseases are being found. New technology allows doctors to see inside the human body with a clarity and accuracy not even imagined in science fiction. It is truly a wonderful time to be alive if you need medical care - if you can get it.

Of course, if you need emergency care you can walk into any emergency room in this state and get care. But will you be able to get that care if there are no doctors there to give the care you need?

According to one trade organization, New Jersey is one of twelve states experiencing a medical crisis because of sky-rocketing malpractice premiums. And what, you may ask, does medical malpractice insurance have to do with finding that the doctor is "out," permanently? In New Jersey doctors are required to have medical malpractice insurance in order to offer their professional services in their office or in a hospital. Sky-rocketing insurance premiums mean that some doctors may not be able to afford to continue to practice medicine in New Jersey. If they can't practice here, it is possible that you may one day go to a physician's office only to find that the doctor is "out" permanently.

The New Jersey Legislature is at work trying to make sure that the doctor stays "in." To be introduced soon is the "Patient's First" plan. It offers both short and long-term solutions to this crisis and will ensure the availability and quality of health care in New Jersey.

The comprehensive ten-point plan would provide greater oversight of medical malpractice insurers, restructure insurance underwriting policies, give judges more

leeway in reviewing exorbitant jury awards and reduce situations where a conflict of interest could arise involving directors of insurance companies.

The Plan would also provide a searchable database containing information regarding malpractice awards or settlements against a physician. This database would be available to all citizens to research a physician over the Internet or by telephone. It would enable citizens to take a pro active role in deciding on a doctor in whom they can trust. The Plan would also require expert witnesses in malpractice litigation have identical credentials as the defending doctor and be actively practicing or teaching in the same field as the doctor.

This Plan is the result of several hearings on the medical malpractice issue that have been held by members of the New Jersey General Assembly. This Omnibus legislation will be introduced shortly and will be the subject of further hearings before legislative committees.

The increasing cost of medical malpractice insurance is a problem. To be sure, the problem is not solely created by litigation. Insurance companies have made bad decisions in their investments. They too, like all of us, have been adversely affected by the fall in values in the equities markets. But regardless of the cause, sky-rocketing premiums threaten to reduce the number of doctors practicing in New Jersey. That reduction will be even more severe in certain specialties. If we want to make sure health care consumers have the widest possible choice, we need to act now.

Our medical technology is unsurpassed and even miraculous. But that technology is useless unless people can go to a doctor to access it. Without reform now, new Jersey's health care consumers will be like the swimmer just out of reach of the life saving rope. So close, yet so far. Through the Patients First plan, we can make sure that the doctor is "in" for everyone that needs one.

SnigLe't's

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

Defending Capitalism

I knew it. The corporate scandals have given the left a convenient excuse to rip capitalism. Not that they need an excuse that's what they typically do anyway. But the misdeeds of a bunch of CEO's have provided an opening and a platform for socialist drive! Capitalism is now under full attack. It's not criminal behavior or unethical individuals, no it's "the system" that's to blame.

The brilliant economic guru Al Gore takes his complaints to the op-ed pages of *The New York Times*, in an incoherent squeal against Bush tax cuts, energy legislation and "Republican governance," vaguely tying this Administration to corporate misconduct. Gore then informs us how vitally important is "the need to recognize that what has been put at risk is nothing less than the future of democratic capitalism."

Here we go. Said democratic capitalism "cannot be rejuvenated unless the people and the politicians focus on the question: What is good for the whole?"

And what does Al Gore believe is the greatest threat to "The whole?" The Bush Administration's \$1.6 trillion in tax giveaways for the few while pretending they were for the many. Naturally, Gore wants to "make sure that political power is used for the benefit of the many, rather than the few."

Whenever you hear this kind of claptrap about "the many" and "the few" hold onto your wallet. Al Gore's liberal stew is almost identical to the language U.N. Secretary General Cup-Kofi Annan uses. Annan explains in *The Washington Post* that the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg "hopes to bring home the uncomfortable truth that the model of development that has prevailed for so long has been fruitful for the few but flawed for the many." Translation: The rest of the world wants the

"fruits" of American capitalism, while spitting on it.

Here's further translations. The few: the prosperous; the producers; the achievers. The many: the moochers; the unproductive; liberal constituency groups.

Annan goes on: "For more than two centuries of advances in living standards such as the world had never seen or even imagined, economic development has rested in no small part on some irresponsible activities and assumptions. We have filled the atmosphere with emissions that now threaten havoc in our lifetime in the form of global climate change. We have felled forests, depleted fisheries, and poisoned soil and water alike. And, while as consumption and production continued at a fever pitch, too many people in fact, the majority of humankind have been left behind in poverty, squalor and despair."

What do you mean, "we?" Speak for yourself! Especially when it comes to filling the atmosphere with emissions. Although you are writing in an American newspaper, Annan, and purport to address Americans, not a single one of your statements actually applies to America. Indeed, not a single one of your statements is true.

The fact is, there is no better system for "the many" than free market capitalism. In America, there is a vast middle class, ordinary citizens who

have achieved the "unimaginable" living standards you reference. This is a first in human history; until America came along; most nations of the world were divided into rulers and peasants; indeed, most nations of the world still are! If you would just take the blinders off, you'd see that "the majority of humankind-left behind in poverty, squalor and despair" has been left there by despots and elites who eschew capitalism and freedom! It's our freedom, Mr. Annan, that allows us to pursue the natural yearnings of the human spirit and that allows us to achieve excellence, where it is suppressed elsewhere.

The cacophony of complaints at the World Summit on Sustainable Development has basically been, "You're trying to force your way of life on us; you're trying to dominate everything." Frankly the rest of the world should be so lucky as to have the opportunity to live the way we do. But the elite representatives at the Summit don't want the American way of life. They want the fruits of American labor in their back pockets.

This whole Summit-like every U.N. gathering, I don't care whether it's a UNICFF meeting or an environmental meeting or a convention on women's rights-is nothing more than a disguised attempt by the leaders of poor nations to get handouts from the United States on the basis of guilt.



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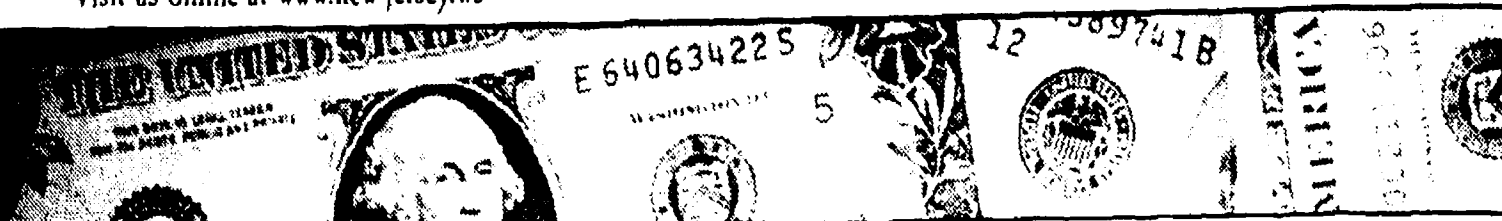
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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS



Controlling the Demands of Holiday Giving

by Brenda Crawford-Clark,
LMHC, LMFT

As we get ever closer to the time of holiday gifts, parents across the nation are slowly being worn down with requests for toys their children "just can't live without." And while every parent would like to make their child's dreams come true, unfortunately many parents often misinterpret those requests for expensive toys as being what their children really want.

But stop for a minute and think of your own fondest memories of your childhood and the holidays. Are your most positive memories really of some expensive toy, or are they of the laughter and love and warmth of the holidays and the holiday spirit?

Children won't say no to the toys, but what they really want is the feeling of closeness they get on the special day when the family is together. Turning down the buying fervor of the holiday season doesn't mean just saying "no" to your children's toy requests, but instead channeling energies into activities that will produce warm, lasting memories.

The bombardment of ads directed toward influencing your children is well underway. The requests, demands and whining that you've been hearing for that "special" toy are the result. And while you can just give in and say yes to every-

thing, it's much more sensible to look at holiday giving as a great opportunity to help your children learn boundaries, how to accept disappointment and redefine what is important. Here are some approaches to try:

- * Create a realistic budget - base it upon what you can afford to buy in cash. When you're reaching for the credit card, you really can't afford the gift.

- * Stop making Christmas a time to splurge - Your children learn and base their expectations on what you say and do. Talk to your child about setting a gift budget and share how you save for Christmas. Help your child see that buying anything is about choices; spending more money at Christmas means less movies in November. Help your child create his or her own budget for giving.

- * Make the holiday more personal - Set a holiday tradition by writing a letter or poem for your child as a way to encourage your child to look beyond the expensive toys. These are the things that touch your child's heart and get privately hidden away. Your child may not show his or her emotions, but they are usually deeply touched. Write about your first Christmas together, or how proud you are of the person your child has become. A letter filled with positives is far more valuable than a trendy toy. Suggest to your child that you'd

also enjoy something personal.

- * Avoid toy store temptations - Unless shopping for another child, stay out of toy stores when shopping with your child. When you do enter a toy department, firmly state "we're focusing on giving to another person today," and make it stick. If your child begins manipulating or whining about the toys he or she wants, make it clear you'll leave the store if it continues, and then follow up on your promise the first time it begins again. Don't make a scene or give a lecture, just leave and tell your child he or she made the choice.

- * Let your child to develop a wish list - But make clear that you may or may not stick with it because part of the joy in giving is selecting something you think is special. By fourth grade, children should also be encouraged to write down the price of each item on the list. If they don't know, they're old enough to research it. This will help them to begin connecting a price tag with their wants.

- * Make helping the less fortunate a holiday tradition - Local social agencies can offer many ways for your family to volunteer or provide help to those in need. Such activities can be a great source of positive holiday feelings.

It can be tempting to try and be a super parent during the holiday season. Don't. It's better to downsize everyone's activities. Encourage your children to help with decorating and cooking. Schedule enough rest time for everyone. Help your family see the value of the holidays is in more than just buying gifts.

Brenda Crawford-Clark is a Tampa, Florida therapist and speaker; the author of Body Sense: Balancing Your Weight and Emotions, and host of the website ForgetAboutDiets.com which features articles on parenting, weight and relationships.

Unity Bank Wins Awards

AREA - Unity Bank has been awarded the prestigious Gold Award from the Small Business Administration's (SBA) New Jersey Office. The award is based on the volume of SBA loans made during the SBA's 2002 fiscal year.

For excellence in the administration of the SBA program, Unity Bank also received the SBA Distinguished Lender Award as the #1 Lender in the Mid-Sized Bank Category in the State of New Jersey. This is the

second year in a row that this accolade goes to Unity Bank, the second largest SBA lender in the state.

These honors reflect Unity's dedication and commitment to providing financing to the small business community. On a national level, Unity Bank ranked 26th out of the top 500 lenders for 2002, closing almost \$77 million in loans. This represents a 30% increase over the prior year.

Social Security Tests New Internet Service To Speed Birth And Death Verifications

AREA—Social Security is testing a new Internet service that could make it easier and quicker for people to apply for Social Security benefits.

The project is called eVital and is part of President Bush's E-Government initiative to make government services more responsive to the needs of the American people.

The Social Security eVital

project will provide immediate online verification of birth and death information, speeding up the process of applying for benefits or requesting a Social Security card. The eVital project is starting in Colorado and is scheduled to expand to seven additional states in coming weeks—Iowa, Hawaii, Missouri, Mississippi, Minnesota, New Hampshire and California.

Social Security Announces New Efforts To Help People With Disabilities Find Work

AREA—Social Security is making new efforts to help people with disabilities return to work.

Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne Barnhart, speaking at the New Freedom Initiative celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, said a new contact person will be available to help people with disabilities find work. The new contract will be called a "disability program Navigator," a position that is being created jointly with the Department of Labor.

The "Navigators" will be located in the Department of Labor's One-Stop Career Centers. Their jobs will be to link people with disabilities who visit the centers with employers and other help organizations. The Navigators also will provide information on Social Security's work incentives, employment networks and the Ticket to Work program.

"Under President Bush's New Freedom Initiative, the Social Security Administration

is providing greater opportunities for people with disabilities to stay connected to the workforces," said Commissioner Barnhart. "SSA is committed to making positive changes in the lives of millions of Americans."

As of Nov. 1, the Ticket to Work program is operating in 33 states and the District of Columbia. The Ticket to Work program was launched in February 2002 and will be available nationwide by January 2004.

The program provides Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability beneficiaries with more choices to help them go to work. Upon receiving a ticket from SSA, people may give it to an employment network to get free vocational rehabilitation, job training and other support services.

People can visit www.ssa.gov to learn more about Social Security's many programs designed to help Americans with disabilities return to work.

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SEASONAL HOLIDAY IDEAS

Tips on Toys

Seeking The Season's Hottest Toys: Sanity-Saving Shopping Tips

(NAPSA)-As parents begin to unpack the holiday decorations, stock up on wrapping paper and create budgets for the upcoming season of gift-giving, schoolyards are already abuzz about the latest and greatest "must have" toys of the season.

Bionicles, Kinderbots, Lightsabers and more-navigating the wonderful world of the season's hottest holiday toys can be daunting for any parent, especially when working on a tight budget.

"Every holiday season arrives with a slew of toys children will add to their wish lists," said Gary Severson, senior vice president and general merchandise manager for Wal-Mart Stores. "When purchasing any gift for a child, a variety of things should be considered-age-appropriateness, price, popularity-and parents often need guidance when shopping for toys during the holiday season."

This is why Severson is providing the following sanity-saving shopping tips for customers shopping for the season's hottest toys:

Hot Holiday Toys:

•Friends, popular television shows, and movies usually motivate children to want a certain toy. This year, Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones, Spider-Man, and Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets will be popular, so expect related merchandise to be hot as well.

•Video games and gaming systems will continue to be popular this year, so it's important to look for age-appropriate video games such as: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

and Metroid Prime.

•Don't dismiss toys popular from decades past-the classics are back in a big way. A few ideas include: Mr. Potato Head, Magna Doodle, and even Care Bears.

•For those seeking toys that do more than entertain, look for learning toys like LeapPad which offer choices ideal for a range of age groups.

•DVDs will be popular for older kids and some of the new releases that will be popular include: Spider-Man, Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones, Men in Black II, and even Beauty and the Beast.

Shopping Tips:

•When shopping for toys, follow the recommended age on products.

•Consider looking toward a trusted retailer's Web site for a listing of age-appropriate toys. For example, Kasey the Kinderbot and Chicken Dance Elmo are popular for preschoolers, and Bratz Dolls and Hot Wheels are popular for young girls and boys.

•Ask a sales associate what the coolest toys are of the season. They usually have a good idea of what the kids have been ogling at in the aisles.

•Consider shopping in the early morning or late evening to avoid the high traffic rush.

•No matter how well retailers' shelves are stocked, it's always a good idea to shop early in the season for best sellers.

For more information on the season's hottest toys, to shop by age-appropriateness or to compare and contrast prices, shoppers can visit www.walmart.com.

Chocolate Plum Thumbprint Cookies Get Two Thumbs Up

(NAPSA)-Thumbprint cookies have been a favorite of cooks for generations, and for good reason. They're easy to make, look great and can have a variety of tasty fillings. According to Betty Crocker's Cookie Book, these popular cookies were once called "Thimble Cookies" because a thimble was used to make the indentation.

The baking experts at Sunsweet have created a new and delicious filling for thumbprint cookies. Based on the decadent French Kiss, a chocolate-covered dried plum confection sold in the Sunsweet Growers Store, these thumbprint cookies have a creamy melted chocolate and dried plum filling. Taste-tested with cookie experts of all ages, including school-age children, teenagers and grandparents, Chocolate Dried Plum Thumbprints received two thumbs up from everyone! For a real treat, try making Chocolate Dried Plum Thumbprints with Cherry or Orange Essence Dried Plums.

California plums are sun-ripened, harvested and dried to capture the essence of their fresh fruit flavor. Dried plums are a convenient, versatile, healthy snack easily eaten right out of the packages as well as a flavorful ingredient. Add chopped dried plums to hot cereal, grain side dishes, fruit and green sal-

ads, and desserts. To make chopping easier, lightly spray your knife with vegetable cooking spray or run it under hot water. Store dried plums in the refrigerator after opening for optimum freshness.

Remember, one cup equals about 22 dried plums. Dried plums are a good source of vitamin A, antioxidants, and contain potassium and fiber.

For more recipes, visit the Sunsweet Web site at www.sunsweet.com or call 1-800-417-2253. For information regarding products available for sale through the Sunsweet Growers' Store, call 1-800-447-5218.



In medium saucepan combine dried plums, sugar and 1/2 cup water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in walnuts and chocolate morsels. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350°F. In large mixing bowl, heat butter and brown sugar with electric mixer on medium speed, until smooth. With mixer on low speed, gradually add flour, soda and salt, beating until well combined. Stir in milk and oats; mix well. Shape mixture into 1 1/4-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Press down in center of each with thumb. Bake for 10 minutes; remove from oven. Spoon about 1 teaspoon dried plum mixture into center of each cookie. Bake for 2 to 3 minutes more. Let stand on cookie sheet 1 minute before removing to wire racks. Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

Chocolate Dried Plum Thumbprints

1 cup chopped
Sunsweet Dried Plums
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup chopped
walnuts, toasted
1/2 cup semi-sweet
chocolate morsels
1 cup butter or margarine,
softened
1 1/2 cups brown sugar, packed
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup milk
2 cups quick-cooking oats

Finding Great Videos

(NAPSA)-Don't give up: A video may be the right gift for that hard-to-shop-for person. Whatever your friend or loved one's interests-history, old movies, science fiction, fitness, education, health care-there's likely to be a video that he or she will enjoy watching time and again.

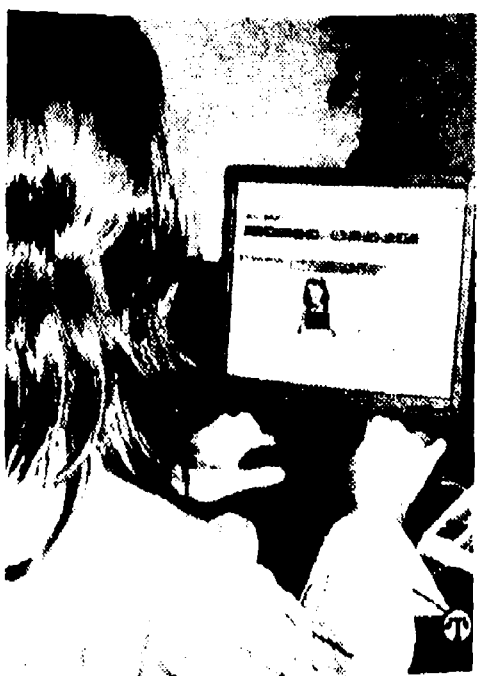
While VHS format videos are getting harder to find in local stores, they're readily available along with the best in new DVDs at a unique one-stop shopping service for hard-to-find titles and formats. Called VideoFinders, the company

specializes in public television-related VHS and DVD programs, as well as thousands of "in-print" feature film videos that are either fun, obscure or both.

Shopping for a favorite teacher? You can choose from

dozens of videos on educational and historical topics.

Proceeds from the company's sales go to the public television station that operates VideoFinders, KCET-Hollywood. To check out what's available, call 1-800-343-4727.



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OBITUARIES

John F. Stanley, Sr. of Carteret

Mr. John F. Stanley Sr., of Carteret died Dec. 3 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison. He was 68.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Carteret for 24 years.

He retired as a supervisor for the Jersey City post office where he worked for 34 years.

He was a Marine and Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Star Landing Post 2314 in Carteret. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Father Carey Council 1280, Carteret.

He was a parishioner of St. Joseph's R.C. Church, Carteret.

Surviving are his wife, Jean Harris Stanley; three daughters, Linda and her husband, George Kimball Jr., of Carteret, Geraldine Hassell, of Rahway, and Jacqueline Stanley of Carteret; four sons, Thomas Stanley, of Pennsylvania Ribert Stanley, of Avenel, and William Stanley, of Carteret; one sister, Margaret Mathews of Carlstadt; nine grandchildren, Michael and Genevieve Kimball, Robert and Katlyn Stanley, Jordyn, Taylor, and Madison Stanley, Zachary Leshner and Kailee Stanley.

Clementine DeHanes of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Clementine Paloti DeHanes of Perth Amboy, died Dec. 2 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 62.

She was a lifelong resident of Perth Amboy.

Mrs. DeHanes was a homemaker.

She was a 1958 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

Mrs. DeHanes was a member of Our Lady of Hungary Church and also Grace Lutheran Church in Perth Amboy.

She ran the Perth Amboy High School Alumni Association Scholarship Fund committee.

She was also a former Cub Scout leader for Pack 56 of Perth Amboy for five years and former commissioner of the city of Perth Amboy Parking Authority.

Surviving are her husband of 40 years, Robert DeHanes; one daughter, Randi Malinousky of Perth Amboy; two sons, Robert DeHanes Jr. of Perth Amboy and Richard Paul DeHanes of Holmdel; one brother, Paul Paloti of Atlantic Beach, Fla.; and two grandchildren, Danielle DeHanes and Nicholas Malinousky.

Leo Schumann, 56 of Woodbridge

Mr. Leo Schumann died Nov. 29 at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold. He was 56.

Born in New York City, he resided in Woodbridge since 1962.

Mr. Schumann was employed as a driver with Checker Cab Company in Woodbridge for many years.

He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and was a member of American Legion Post 87 in Woodbridge.

Mr. Schumann is survived by two sisters, Debra Gabor of East Windsor and Loretta Schumann of Raritan, and his cousin, Edna Baily of Woodbridge.

Bernice Slavin, 64 of Avenel

Mrs. Bernice Holcli Slavin of Avenel died Dec. 1 at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown. She was 64.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Carteret and Westfield before moving to Avenel 21 years ago.

Mrs. Slavin was employed as a legal secretary for various law firms for 25 years before retiring in 1981.

She was a communicant of St. Andrew's R.C. Church in Avenel and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Avenel Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7164.

Her husband, Edward Slavin, died in 1996, and her parents, Stephen and Matilda Burkis Holcli, are also deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Candy McKiernan of Middlesex; a son, Jeffrey Inhat of Scranton, Pa., and two grandchildren, Sean and Courtney McKiernan.

Frank J. Falcone, 85 of Woodbridge

Mr. Frank J. Falcone of Woodbridge died Dec. 2 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. He was 85.

Born in Newark, he resided there before moving to Woodbridge in 1984.

Mr. Falcone was employed as an engineer with Western Electric in Kearny for many years before retiring in 1981.

He was a communicant of St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church in Port Reading.

He served in the Army as a sergeant during World War II.

Mr. Falcone was predeceased by his wife, Louise Pietrocola Falcone, in 1999.

Joseph Yuhas, 86 of Edison

Mr. Joseph Yuhas of Edison died Nov. 30 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. He was 86.

Born in Fords, he lived there before moving to Edison 50 years ago.

He was a caster with Richmond Radiator Co. for 30 years, retiring in 1979.

He was a corporal and an air traffic contractor in the Army Air Corps during World War II and a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. Yuhas was a member of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Edison.

He was a member of American Legion Clara Barton Post 324 and the Clara Barton Senior Citizens in Edison. He was a life member of the Clara Barton First Aid Squad.

His two sisters, Anna and Margaret, and four brothers, John, Michael, Frank and Steve.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Michaeline (Zelis) Yuhas of Edison; a daughter, Pauline Mariano of Mount Laurel; two brothers, Julius Yuhas of Edison and Alex Yuhas, also of New Jersey; a sister, Elizabeth Dankovich of Edison, and two grandchildren, Melissa Mariano and Joseph Mariano.

George Ludeking of Port Reading

Mr. George Alfred Ludeking of Port Reading died Dec. 3 at his home. He was 69.

Born in Long Branch, he lived in Kearny and Colonia before moving to Port Reading 36 years ago.

He retired in 1988 from AT&T in Newark, where he was a service manager for 40 years.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, the former Caroline Sparacello Ludeking; three sons, Steven Ludeking of Spring Lake Heights, Richard and David Ludeking of Port Reading; his mother, Henrietta Glesner of Colonia; a brother, William, and his wife Mary Ludeking of Florida; a sister, Judy, of Colonia; two grandchildren, David and Ashton.

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OBITUARIES
Sophie Paul, 84
 of Carteret

Mrs. Sophie "Sally" (Malinowski) Paul of Carteret died Dec. 1 at Delaire Nursing Home in Linden. She was 84.

Born in Carteret, she lived there all her life.

She was a retired co-owner of Cypress Gardens Beauty Salon in Carteret.

She was a beautician for 50 years. She was a parishioner of Holy Family R.C. Church in Carteret.

Her parents were the late Konstanty and Susie Malinowski, are deceased.

Her husband, Martin Paul, is deceased; two brothers, Walter and Joseph Malinowski, and a sister, Helen Wagner, are also deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Rose, and her husband, Bill Ward, of Carteret; a grandson, Daren Ward of Carteret; two sisters, Theresa Rudyk of Carteret and Irene Kopin of Barnegat, and a brother, Al Malinowski of Binghamton, N.Y.

Virginia Marsicano
 of Woodbridge

Mrs. Virginia C. Marsicano of Woodbridge died Nov. 23 at Christ Hospital in Jersey City. She was 66.

Born in New Brunswick, Mrs. Marsicano lived in Woodbridge for the past 36 years.

She was a communicant of St. James R.C. Church in Woodbridge.

She was employed by the Arthritis Foundation in Iselin as a secretary for two years. Previously, she was employed by Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals in Kenilworth as a secretary for 30 years, retiring in 2001.

Her husband, Salvatore F. Marsicano Jr., died in 2000; her father, William Johnson, died in 1977, and her sister, Joanne Kogut, is also deceased.

Surviving are two sons, John Marsicano of Woodbridge and Salvatore F. Marsicano III of South Carolina; her mother, Catherine Getsey Johnson of Metuchen; a brother, William Johnson of Franklin; a sister, Catherine Dudas of East Windsor, and three grandchildren.

Paul Tagliarino, 83
 of Carteret

Mr. Paul Tagliarino of Carteret died December 2 at the Veterans Administration New Jersey Healthcare System, East Orange. He was 83.

Born in Jersey City, he resided in Carteret for the past 15 years.

He was a courier for Security Couriers of Hackensack for four years before retiring in 1989.

He was an Army veteran during World War II, serving in North Africa with the 1st Armed Division, and he received a Purple Heart.

He was a former member of the Knights of Columbus Carey Council, Carteret.

His wife, Mildred Louise (nee Barbi), died in 1992.

Surviving are three sons, Sal, Dave and Mike and his wife, Betty Ann, all of Carteret; three daughters, Judie and her husband, George Lambides of Carteret, Pauline and her husband, Jerry Walker of Kentucky, and Debrann of Jersey City. Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Grace E. Castellano
 of Sayreville

Mrs. Grace E. Griffin Castellano of Sayreville died Dec. 1 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division. She was 87.

Born in Jersey City, she resided in the Morgan section of Sayreville before moving to Parlin 10 years ago.

She was a former member of the Sacred Heart Mom and Dad's Club.

Her husband, Frank P. Castellano, died in 1979.

Surviving are her sons, Frank P. and his wife, Mary Ann, of Spotswood, Joseph and his wife, Maureen, of Parlin and Robert and his wife, Kristine, of Lakewood; her daughter, Sally, and her husband, William Maher, with whom she lived; eight grandchildren, Mark, David, Brian, Frank III, Joseph Jr., Robert Jr., Denise and Dawn; five great-grandchildren, Christopher, Ryan, Sean, Tyler and Jonathan, and many nieces and nephews.

Claire Kugel
 of Edison

Mrs. Claire Kugel of Edison died Nov. 24 at home.

Born in Newark, she moved to Edison 43 years ago.

She worked in the human resources department at First Union Bank, Edison, for many years before retiring in 1992.

Surviving are her husband, Robert J.; two sons, Robert and William; two sisters, Martha Jarusik and Catherine Strahale, and three grandchildren.

Ann M. Roche, 89
 of Edison

Mrs. Ann M. (Ivan) Roche of Edison died Nov. 24 at JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates in Edison. She was 89.

Born in Perth Amboy, she resided in Edison for over 40 years.

She was an accounting clerk for Lockheed Martin.

Her husband, John W. Roche, died in 1998.

Surviving are two sisters, Priscilla Tariska and Clara Yaremezak, both of Edison, and several nieces and nephews.

Stephen M. Ondisko
 of Fords

Mr. Stephen M. Ondisko of Fords died Nov. 24 at his home. He was 79.

Born in Perth Amboy, he lived in Fords for the past 48 years.

He was employed by the U.S. government at Fort Monmouth as a printing press operator for 42 years before his retirement in 1985.

Mr. Ondisko was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace R.C. Church in Fords.

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Irene Terebush Ondisko; two daughters, Donna Meehan of Disputana, Va., and Marie McSweeney of Brick; his sister, Lucille Tylor of Perth Amboy, and four grandchildren.

Thelma V. Chomiak
 of Avenel

Mrs. Thelma V. Chomiak of Avenel died Nov. 22 in Rahway Hospital. She was 80.

Born in Detroit, she moved to Avenel 52 years ago.

She was a former Sunday school superintendent at the First Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Chomiak was also a member of the Avenel Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary.

Surviving are Paul, her husband of 57 years; a son, Rev. Gary Carl, and a grandchild.

Emily Chambers, 82
 of Sayreville

Mrs. Emily Deptula Chambers of Sayreville died Dec. 1 at her home. She was 82.

Born in Naugatuck, Conn., she resided in Sayreville for the past 51 years.

Before her retirement, she was employed at Raritan Arsenal in Edison as a supervisor, where she worked for 20 years.

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

Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Arthur Chambers; her daughters, Dorothy Ruge of Monroe, Doris Novello of Keansburg and Theresa Force of Browns Mills; her sons, Steven Wands of Colonia and Robert Chambers of Howell; 14 grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Dorothy J. Timari
 of Edison

Mrs. Dorothy J. Peersen Timari of Edison died Dec. 1, in Edison. She was 70.

Surviving are her son, Jeff, and his wife, Cecile; and two grandchildren.

M. Stempinski, 77
 of Parlin

Mrs. Margaret Stempinski of Parlin died Nov. 22 at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel. She was 77.

Born in Perth Amboy, she lived there prior to moving to Parlin 20 years ago.

Her husband, Joseph Stempinski, died in 1993; five brothers, Thomas, Harold, Edward, Andrew and Richard Dunham, and sisters, Ellen Udvary, Isabelle Dougherty, Jennie Dunham and Anna Prokopiak, are all deceased and her parents, Andrew and Isabelle Flynn Dunham.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Stanley and Krystyna Stempinski of Sayreville, and a brother, Joseph Dunham of Brick.

Anna S. Rac, 88
 of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Anna Smeriga Rac of Perth Amboy died Nov. 12, 2002, at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. She was 88. Born in Perth Amboy, she was a lifelong city resident.

Mrs. Rac was a communicant of St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church in Perth Amboy. Her husband, John Rac, died in 1977. Surviving are two daughters, Alice Dornish, of Bethlehem, Pa., and Jean Rac-Wuensch of Montclair; a son, Ronald J. Rac of Rumson; her grandchildren, Bradley and Ryan Dornish, Whitney McOmish, and Reagan Wuensch; her great-grandchildren, Amanda, Brandon and Colin Dornish; and her sister, Mary Heveri of Rahway.

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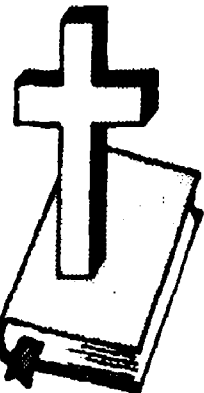
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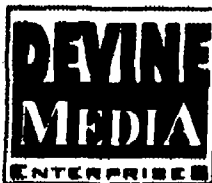
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**NEWS****College Campus Police Honored For Work By MADD**

EDISON The Middlesex Union County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recently honored the Middlesex County College Police department for its contribution in stopping drunk driving, supporting victims of this violent crime and preventing underage drinking.

The department was honored for its presen-

tation at classes for those convicted of drunk driving. It was also honored for the work of Captain Robert Smilek, who accepted the award. He is the Middlesex County Traffic Officers' Association representative to MADD and has made numerous talks about drunk driving at schools and conferences.



Middlesex County College Police Captain Robert Smilek (L.) with Police Director George Bandics.

Seniors Are Welcome

PERTH AMBOY The Perth Amboy YMHA Senior Club meets every Monday and Wednesday at the "Y."

The Monday program features Jewish Family Service's COACH program at 10:30 a.m. This program presents discussions on health subjects, current events and special events and exercises.

It is led by a Social Worker and registered Nurse. All members are welcome. On

Mondays, a full lunch is served for \$1.75 with advance reservations and on Wednesdays a free light lunch is served.

Games are played on Mondays and an interesting speaker always comes on a Wednesday. Membership dues are \$35 a year. The group meets at the Y, 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy. Call the "Y" at (732) 442-0365 for more information.

St. John Vianney Hosts The New Jersey Christmas Classic Competition

HOLMDEL—St. John Vianney High School, Holmdel, has been chosen as the site for the *New Jersey Christmas Classic a Cheer Ltd. CANAM 2003 Qualifier* to be hosted by the St. John Vianney High School cheerleaders. The event is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15. Cheerleading and dance teams from across the state are invited to compete for a bid to the *CANAM 2003 International Cheer and Dance Championship* in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on March 21-23, 2003.

Jane Shalkowski will coordinate the regional event, which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Sunday. Nationally-certified judges will score the teams competing in fifty-five divisions from pee wee through high

school varsity and including all-stars.

Individual cheerleaders, dancers and partner stunt teams may also choose to compete for a bid to the *2003 International Cheerleader Championships*, *2003 International Dancer Championships* and the *2003 International Partner Stunt Championships*, held in conjunction with the *CANAM 2003 International Cheer and Dance Championships*.

Teams and/or individuals wishing to compete may call Cheer Ltd., Inc., headquarters to register for the *New Jersey Christmas Classic*, competition at 1-800-477-8868. For further information on this event, contact Cheer, Ltd., Inc. at 1-800-477-8868.

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