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& Citizen-Gazette

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Middlesex County Edition

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50¢



Electrolux Could Leave Edison

EDISON—Electrolux Home Products, Edison's second largest employer, said that due to product demand lags, the company may be forced to close the plant next year.

Electrolux, owned by

Electrolux Group based in Sweeden, manufactures room air conditioners. If the Edison plant closes, 1,350 workers will lose their jobs.

Plant spokesman Tony Evans said, "Whatever the

decision is, this factory will operate through the 2003 manufacturing season." The plant's manufacturing season runs from January through July.

Edison Mayor George Spadaro said, "The decision is

far along the way. The good news is it's not final." Spadaro plans to offer the plant incentives to stay in Edison.

Spadaro says that his challenge is to convince the owners of Electrolux that it makes

sense to stay in Edison rather than moving to Brazil or China.

Edison received \$757,000 in property taxes last year from Electrolux, the city's 18th largest taxpayer.

Healthcare Workers Will Be Vaccinated In Sayreville

SAYREVILLE—Smallpox vaccine will be administered to area healthcare workers at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville beginning next month.

Earlier this month, President George W. Bush called for the vaccination of hospital workers and public health officials to pro-

tect the nation from the threat of a smallpox attack by terrorists. Bush's plan called for each acute care hospital in the nation to provide 150 volunteers to be inoculated.

Health care workers from Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union counties will be vaccinated at the academy.

Smallpox is a contagious and sometimes fatal infection disease. There is no specific treatment for the disease, and the only way to prevent it is by vaccination.

The vaccine helps the body to develop immunity against smallpox, but it carries its own risks. In the past, 14 to 52 people per 1

million vaccinated developed potentially life-threatening reactions. One or two people died as a result of those reactions.

People with certain medical conditions - including people with weakened immune systems or certain skin conditions - are more likely to develop reactions and should only be vaccinated if

they are exposed to the disease.

Except for laboratory samples, smallpox has been eliminated by a worldwide vaccination program. The last reported case in America was in 1949.

Wrestling Returns To Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY—

Professional wrestling makes its return to Perth Amboy on Dec. 28 at the Delaney Rec Center on a National Wrestling Superstars card sponsored by the Perth Amboy Housing Authority.

The main event will feature two stars from WCW wrestling, Staten Island's own Big Vito as he takes on 6'9" Malice/The Wall. Also on the card will be The Canadian Connection, Dave Webb, Slayer, and Perth Amboy's own The Enforcer. Special guest manager will be Housing Authority Commissioner "Double D" Dorothy Daniel. Tickets are only \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12 and senior citizens. For information and directions call 732-888-1704.

Wardlaw-Hartridge School Donates Books

EDISON—Although the nameplate in the encyclopedia or the picture book may read "Property of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School", its new home is now on a shelf in Momente, Illinois.

The chain of events that led to this change started when Dr. Liz Mitchell, a trustee of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, read an article on the front page of the NY Times on poverty in Pembroke Township, Illinois. She says it broke her heart. "That conditions described in it can exist in the USA in 2002 shames all of us," she said. She was moved to action.

She contacted the Rev. Jon Dyson from the Chicago suburb mentioned in the article and asked what she could do to help.

He made suggestions; among them was the donation of books for the local school and his church's after school tutoring program. Dyson stressed that they "need everything-maps, books, and supplies."

When Mitchell was cleaning out her adult son's bookshelves at home, "It occurred to me that Wardlaw-Hartridge might also be able to help." She then called Chris Williamson, Head of the independent school in Edison. He, in turn, talked to the school's head librarian Pat

Fielder who, along with Lower School librarian Christine Mozlin, collected duplicate copies of books from their shelves.

"W-H believes in helping other communities," said Williamson, "so it was a logical step for us to do something."

That "something" turned into 11 boxes of books totaling 320 pounds that were shipped from the Edison school to Dyson. Librarian Fielder said reference books, and National Geographics headed the list of donations, but added, "Quite a few picture books for elementary school children were included." For Mitchell, who is

the Dean of Rutgers Honors College in Newark, the donation is one salvo in the war against poverty in America. "The conditions mentioned in the article were haunting," she said. "It's an excruciating, moral embarrassment to us today."

Dyson feels every donation will make a difference. "Increasing their reading and writing ability will open them to other worlds," he said.

For Mitchell, she's hoping that the book donation will not only give the children a glimpse of a better life, but the knowledge that there are others in America who care.

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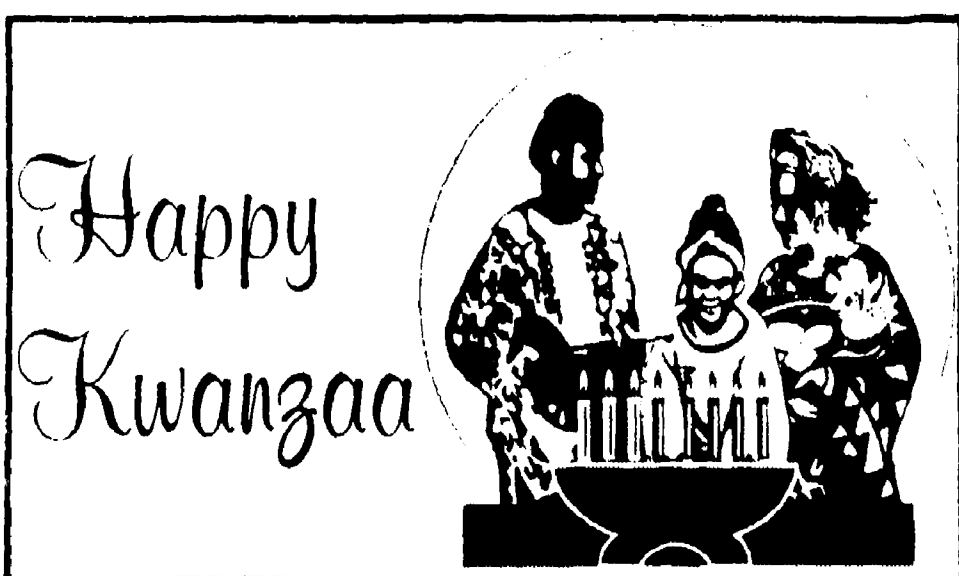
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YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Russian Christmas Celebrated On Jan. 7

AREA On Jan. 7, Russian Orthodox Christians around the world celebrate Christmas. Not only Russians will be celebrating that day, but so will Ukrainians, Serbians, some Greeks and quite a few Americans as well. Why do Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7? The answer is found on the calendar that many Orthodox Christians still use.

At the time when the Christian Church was founded, the calendar in use was known as the Julian Calendar. Over the years, the accuracy of this calendar came into question. Eventually it was determined that several days needed to be added and a few adjustments made to restore its accuracy. The addition of days and adjustments was accepted by Pope Gregory of Rome and the

new calendar became known as the Georgian Calendar. This is the calendar in use today to count the days and months of the year.

But not all the Bishops of the Church accepted the adjustments to the calendar. The Bishops in the East, collectively called the Orthodox Church, rejected the additions to the calendar, holding firm to the original calculations used

at the time of the Apostles and the founding of the Church.

Today, the difference between the Georgian Calendar and the older Julian Calendar is 13 days, so if you subtract 13 days from January 7, you will find yourself on Dec. 25.

Merry Christmas! or as the Orthodox greet one another, "Christ is born! Glorify Him!"

Area churches which cele-

brate Christmas on Jan. 7 include: St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church, Rahway, St. Nicholas and St. George's Serbian Orthodox Church, Elizabeth, St. Demetrius Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Carteret, St. John's Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy and St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Newark.

Give The Earth A Gift: Recycle For The Holidays

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — The Middlesex County Improvement Authority (MCIA) offers the following tips on holiday recycling priorities.

• **Real Christmas Trees** are collected curbside by most Middlesex County municipalities and are then recycled by the MCIA. Because the trees

are processed through wood-chippers, all stands, lights, decorations and tinsel must be removed before the trees are placed at the curb. Information about tree collection schedules is included in the individual towns' 2003 recycling guides or is mailed to residents in December. For more information, contact your municipality's public works office.

• **Artificial Christmas Trees** cannot be recycled and should be disposed of with your regular garbage.

• **Christmas wreaths (real or artificial)** should be disposed of with your regular garbage. Even real wreaths are held together with wire and plastic, so they cannot be safely processed by wood-chippers.

• **Styrofoam and poly-**

styrene packing material and packing "peanuts" (often labeled as #6 plastics within the recycling arrows) will be accepted for recycled at the BASF Corporation offices in South Brunswick between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. everyday from Dec. 26-28 and from Dec. 30-Jan. 2.

BASF is located at 1065 Cranbury-South River Road, South Brunswick.

For more information, call (732) 721-1600 during business hours. If you cannot get to BASF, and after January 2, you must dispose of Styrofoam and plastic peanuts with your regular garbage.

• **Ribbon, tinsel and other package and home decorations** must be disposed of with your regular garbage.

• **Gift boxes** should be flat-

tened and placed in your mixed paper container for recycling.

• **Corrugated cardboard boxes** should be flattened, tied in bundles no more than 24 inches square and placed curbside for recycling.

• **Holiday greeting cards** may be placed in your mixed paper container for recycling.

• **Broken or discarded ornaments and lights** must be placed in recycling containers. Dispose of these items with your regular garbage.

For more information on recycling in Middlesex County, visit the MCIA's award-winning web site, www.mciath.com, e-mail the MCIA Recycling Division at mciarecy@superlink.net, or call 1-800-488-MCIA.

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Texas Duo Arrested On Drug Counts

MIDDLESEX COUNTY—Police arrested a Texas man and woman on Dec. 4, charging them with bringing about \$900,000 worth of heroin north for distribution in the tri-state area.

Police arrested Jimmy Childress, 65 of West Columbia, and Marcine Michell Cameron, 30, of Brazoria, at the Days Inn Motel on Route 1 in Iselin, authorities said.

Authorities said that the Woodbridge police department investigated an anonymous tip and called the prosecutor's office when it checked out.

Childress and Cameron were charged with possession of heroin in excess of five ounces and possession with intent to distribute.



MCC Inducts 30 Students Into Local Chapter Of International Honor Society

EDISON The Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Middlesex County College, the International Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges, inducted 30 new members in ceremonies in November. The students were honored for their academic achievement, leadership abilities and service to their community and their college.

Among these inducted was Jaclyn Camporeale of Sayreville.

"We are very pleased to recognize the accomplishments of this distinguished group of students," said Professor Yvonne

Sisko of the English department, one of the three faculty Chapter advisors. "Membership in Phi Theta Kappa may entitle these students to apply for more than \$33 million in scholarship money awarded for four-year institutions throughout the United States, scholarship money that is specifically reserved for Phi Theta Kappa students who have graduated from two-year colleges."

The Middlesex County College chapter is recognized regionally and internationally. The regional convention, with chapters throughout New Jer-

sey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, awarded Middlesex the Five Star status and Champion Chapter for outstanding participation in Phi Theta Kappa scholarship initiatives for the fourth consecutive year. It is also designated as a "Chapter of Recognition" for outstanding achievement in all Phi Theta Kappa hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, fellowship and community service.

At the most recent International conference, the Middlesex Chapter was named one of the top 100 chapters among the more than 1,300

Phi Theta Kappa chapters worldwide, and is among the top 30 in fellowship hallmark awards. This is the third consecutive year that Middlesex has earned this honor.

Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is open to students who have earned at least 12 but not more than 42 degree credits

and have a grade point average of at least 3.5. "There are limitless opportunities for our students who earn membership in this honor society," Professor Sisko said. "Phi Theta Kappa membership is the reward for academic achievement and service."

County Expands Watershed Education

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Did you know there is a ridge running from Perth Amboy west to Edison, north to West Orange, and east into Newark, that creates one large watershed, or water drainage basin? Did you know this watershed directly affects the quality of your drinking water, your fishing, swimming and property value? And did you know the largest source of pollution in the watershed, known as "non-point source pollution," comes from the average person, not factories and industry?

Sixth grade students throughout Union, Middlesex, Essex and Hudson counties, designated Watershed Management Area #7, will have a unique opportunity to learn about watersheds and non-point source pollution through a special 45-minute hands-on presentation sponsored by the Union

County Department of Parks and Recreation.

"This educational program is funded through a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection grant," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "It is important because it offers practical information about water quality and ways to prevent non-point source pollution."

The watershed presentation is being coordinated by the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, and instructed by Mercedes Fol-Okamoto of Westfield and Aimee Petkus of Linden. Fol-Okamoto returns from a successful spring 2002 session; Petkus joins the Westfield Team as a New Jersey Watershed AmeriCorp ambassador. The New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program is a com-

munity-oriented environmental AmeriCorp program designed to raise awareness about watershed issues in the Garden State.

Teachers who schedule the free, 45-minute, in-class presentation, will receive a resource packet that includes additional resources, activities and vocabulary lists to supplement the lesson.

The instructors use a three-dimensional relief model to illustrate how different land use activities and practices impact our local watersheds. The program is fun, informative, and offers many opportunities to extend the learning experiences to other disciplines.

Teachers interested in scheduling a watershed education presentation for their sixth graders, should call (908) 527-4032.

After School Support Program For Teens

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Jewish Family and Vocational Service (JFVS) of Middlesex County began two new groups as part of its After-School SPOT Program (Support Program of Teens). The first new group will be for children 10-11 years of age and the second new group is for children 12-14 years of age.

The younger group is for children trying to cope with the many changes they are experiencing and find themselves having some difficulty with friends, family members and/or peers.

This group began on Dec. 9 and enrollment is ongoing. The older group is appropriate for those students feeling anxious, sad or having difficulty with

school work or following rules. The After-School SPOT Program is a comprehensive counseling program for teens and their families provided by JFVS and partially funded by United Way for over twenty years. This program includes groups for high school teams, family and individual counseling and parenting education programs. The new groups will be funded by a new grant from SI Savings and Loan. The group will meet on Mondays, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the JFVS office, 515 Plainfield Avenue, Suite 201, Edison.

For more information, call Nancy Schley or Stephanie DiPiano at JFVS (732) 777-1940.

Kosher Meals On Wheels Now Available

EDISON — Jewish Family and Vocational Service have openings in its Kosher Meals on Wheels program. One hot and one cold nutritious meal can be delivered five days a week. A weekend option is available. This non-sectarian program for homebound seniors over 60 is available in Edison, Metuchen, Fords, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge and Highland Park areas.

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

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To submit items for the Community Calendar e-mail them to carolynnjean@yahoo.com or fax them to 732-388-4143 attention: Community Calendar. Items to appear in the Jan. 10 Calendar must be received by Jan. 3.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Woodbridge Sanitation HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

Trash and commingled normally collected on Wednesday will be collected on Tuesday, December 24.

New Years Day

Wednesday, January 1

Mixed paper recyclables normally collected on Wednesday will be collected on Tuesday, December 31.

Christmas Tree Collection

Wednesday, January 8, & Wednesday, January 15, 2003

Visit us online at www.new-jersey.ws

Because our offices will be closed for the holidays, we will not be able to accept new additions for the Jan. 3 Community Calendar.



December 28—Pro-Wrestling will be sponsored by The Housing Authority of the City of Perth Amboy at the Delaney Rec. Center, Chamberlain Ave. (off Convery Blvd.) The Main Event will feature Big Vito vs. The Wall and special appearance by "The Enforcer." Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$8 for children under 12 and senior citizens. Free gifts to the first 150 kids. For ticket info., call (732) 888-1704.

December 30—Raritan Bay Medical Center's Immunology and Infectious Diseases Dept. is sponsoring an HIV support group meeting held at Raritan Bay Medical Center, 530 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. For more info., call (732) 324-5022.



January 5 from noon-4 p.m.—The Piscataway Chapter of Women's American ORT will hold its 19th Annual ORT Summer Camp Fair at the

Freehold Gardens Hotel and Conference Center, Rt. 537 and Gibson Place, Freehold. The Gardens is located around the corner from The Freehold Raceway Mall is open to the public, admission is free.

January 8 from 7:30-9:30 a.m.—Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Business Over Breakfast, hosted by Bill Brauner of Dale Carnegie at the Cameo of Woodbridge.

January 8—The PoetsWednesday presents "Dutch" at the Barron Arts Center, 582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge. Student readings start at 6:30 p.m.; adult readings start at 8 p.m. Call (732) 634-0413 for more info.

January 9 from 6-8 p.m.—The Health Center for Women at St. Peter's University Hospital is offering a three-week program called "Stop Smoking A program designed for the Special Needs of Women," in the CARES Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 240 Easton Ave., New Brunswick. The fee for the program is \$60 with registration deadline by Dec. 27. For more info., call (732) 937-6003.

January 9 at 7:30 p.m.—A free community lecture by Matthew J. Speesler, M.D. at Borders Books, Midstate Mall, East Brunswick. This event is sponsored by the Wellness Education Foundation. Seats are limited, to

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register, call (732) 238-2944.

January 11, 2003 from 2-3 p.m.—An "Escape School" at St. Peter's University Hospital will be presented in the Conference room 1, at 254 Easton Ave., New Brunswick. The program is free, but registration is required and limited to the first 75 registrants. The program is designed for children ages 5-15. Each child must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call (732) 745-8579.

January 11 at 7 p.m.—The North Jersey Region of Hadassah presents New Shanghai Circus at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC), Newark. Tickets cost \$18 for children up to 12 and \$25 for adults. For tickets or information, call the Region office at (973) 472-1401.

January 12 from noon-4 p.m.—The Piscataway Chapter of Women's American ORT will hold its 19th Annual ORT Summer Camp Fair at the Sheraton in Edison. The Sheraton is located on Rt. 514 at the edge of Raritan Center is open to the public, admission is free.

January 14 at 4:30 p.m.—The Edison Township Public Library Board of Trustees will hold their meeting at the Main Library, 340 Plainfield Avenue. Meetings are open to the public.

January 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.—The Woodbridge Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "After Hours" at the YMCA, Woodbridge Community Center. January 17-19—The 36th N.J. Trailer & Camper Show will be held at the N.J. Convention & Expo Center, Edison. Times: 1/17-from 1-10 p.m.; 1/18-from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and 1/19-from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission is: Adults-\$9; Children (12-17)-\$7; Children (under 12)-Free and Seniors (Friday Only)-\$7.

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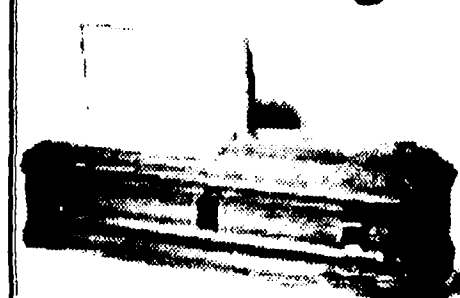
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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Woodbridge Resident Named Transit Police Chief

WOODBIDGE A 29-year career law enforcement veteran was appointed Chief of Police of the NJ TRANSIT Police Department at a special swearing-in ceremony during the Corporation's Board of Directors meeting last fall. Joseph Bober was appointed Chief of Police and will oversee approximately 200 men and women who serve within the police department.

Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski (D-19) presided over the special ceremony, which was attended by local and state dignitaries and Chief Bober's family. The Woodbridge resident has come up through the ranks and

virtually served in every unit, division and bureau within NJ TRANSIT's Police Department.

"Chief Bober has displayed extraordinary professionalism, customer sensitivity and responsiveness, all of which are qualities that are essential in the leadership of our police force," said NJ TRANSIT Executive Director George Warrington. "In this new age of safety and security, Chief Bober will play a vital role in ensuring that the NJ TRANSIT Police Department continues to respond to the Corporation's mission of delivering a safe, reliable and efficient transportation throughout the

State." "It is truly an honor and privilege to be selected to serve as Chief of Police for NJ TRANSIT," Bober said. "The NJ TRANSIT Police Department is made up of some of the finest men and women in law enforcement today.

This is a statement I make with the utmost sincerity.

I want to thank George Warrington for having the faith and trust in me to do this job, one that I will serve with honor, pride and integrity."

Bober has a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration and is currently enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University studying

for his Masters Degree in Public Administration, which he will complete in December.

He is also a graduate of

Babson College New England Institute of Law Enforcement and the prestigious F.B.I. National Academy.

New Officers Elected

ISELIN—The Iselin Fire Company #1 elected a new line of Truck and House officers this year. The line is in this order starting with Truck Officers.

Truck Officers: Edward R. Mullen-Chief; Glen A. Sheaffer-1st Deputy Chief; Brian T. Bennett-2nd Deputy Chief; Francis W. Barber-1st

Captain; Phil P. Ruiz-2nd Captain and Kevin C. Hawley, Jr.-1st Lieutenant.

House Officers: William F. Kenney, Jr.-President; David J. McGlynn-Vice President; Carl S. Christensen-Treasurer and Gary S. Stevenson-Secretary.



PEARL HARBOR DAY CELEBRATION—Participants gather at the Sewaren Boat Launch for the annual Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies in Woodbridge Township.



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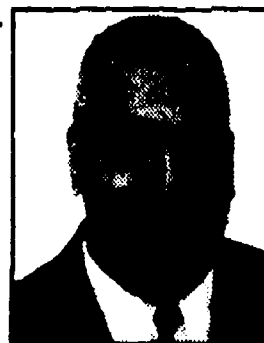
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EDITORIAL



ASSEMBLYMAN
JOHN WISNIEWSKI'S
Report
From
Trenton

Be Safe During The Holidays

Happy Holidays! This is the time of year when we get together with those we love and celebrate the coming of the New Year. It is a festive time of food, fun, and holiday cheer.

As we raise our glasses in celebration and toast to good health in the New Year, I urge all people in the district and throughout the state take the first step in staying healthy and safe by drinking responsibly.

December is "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D)", and it couldn't come at a more relevant time. First celebrated as a week long event in 1982, National 3D Month aims to increase awareness of the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Founded in 1991, the National 3D Prevention Month Coalition is a national public/private coalition devoted to preventing impaired driving. Among their members is the highly effective and widely supported Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD.

In New Jersey, nearly 40 percent of driving fatalities occur when a driver is impaired as the result of alcohol or drug use. We have made great strides in curbing unsafe driving due to impaired drivers thorough feder-

al and state statutes as well as stiffer criminal penalties. Law enforcement has removed countless numbers of impaired drivers from the roads through the use of roadblocks and DUI checkpoints. But we must do more.

Last year, there were 747 driving fatalities in the state of New Jersey. Nearly 300 of those were the direct result of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. And many of these casualties occurred during the holiday season.

Driving under the influence is not only irresponsible, it's illegal. Individuals caught driving under the influence can lose their driving privileges up to a year, face a 30-day imprisonment, and be fined \$400. Not to mention court costs and legal fees. And if there is an accident involved, the penalties become even more severe.

The holidays are a special time to spend with friends and family. Too much celebrating, however, when paired with getting behind the wheel, can be tragic. If you plan to drink, do it responsibly. Use a designated driver or take a cab.

You can find out more information about "National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month" by visiting their website at www.ncadd.com/3dmonth. This site also contains links to other coalition members, including MADD. You can also call my district office at 732-316-1885.

To all the people in the 19th District, I wish you a safe and happy New Year.

Highly Recommended

Dear Editor,

I appreciated reading in your paper about a bad business experience one of your readers had. It is important to know your local businesses and to learn about their workmanship.

May I add some information on three businesses, we contacted for services lately. They are advertisers in the Atom Tabloid and can be highly recommended:

Wunder Electric of Colonia. Lochiatto Paving & Masonry of Edison, and last but not least, Palmieri Movers of Bridgewater. Wunder Electric performed excellent work. Lochiatto Paving installed a new driveway in a very professional way. They added little touches to make the driveway nicer - in other words, they did a marvelous job. As to the Palmieri Movers, we thank them also for a wonderful job moving our piano. Sometimes one thinks about movers being unreliable, etc. - not with this one. They are professionals and we can only recommend them.

I am glad we were able to find professionals in the advertising section of the Atom Tabloid we are proud to recommend anytime.

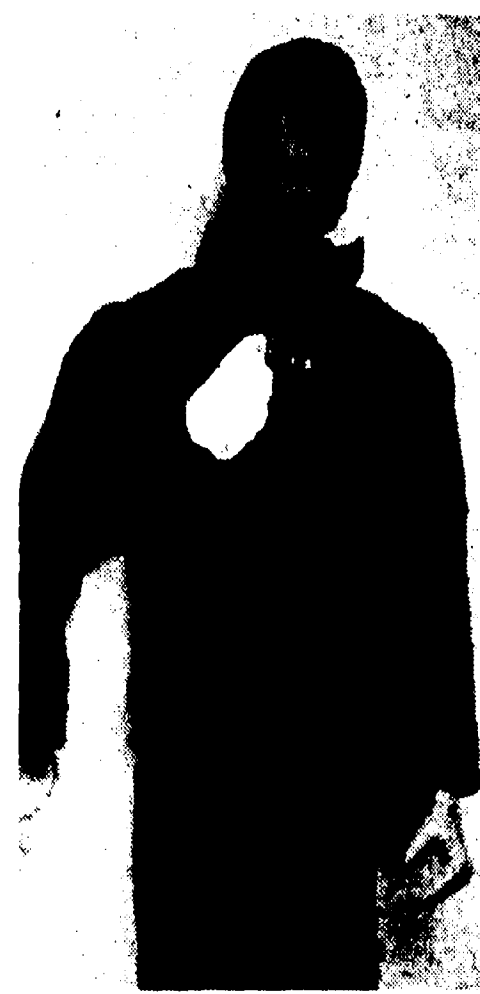
Gisela Ristau

SnigLe'ts

LINT FOR THE BRAIN BY HENRY DAMEN

G.I. Joe Under Arrest

Those wily airport security screeners saved us again. Ryan Scott, nine years old, attempted to carry a rifle and several pistols on board a flight at Newark International Airport, but security grabbed the weapons before they could be used, by, uh, G.I. Joe. That's right! They took Joe's four-inch-long rubber rifle and his evil miniature plastic pistols. The Transportation Security Administration lists "toy weapons" among its "items prohibited in aircraft cabins." Despite vigorous questioning, Joe wasn't offering anything beyond his name, rank and serial number.

**Editorial Policy**

The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette wants to hear from you. Letters to the editor will be published weekly on the editorial page, as space allows.

All letters should be typed and must include a daytime telephone number at which the writer may be reached for verification. Letters should be as concise as possible.

Keep us informed of your feelings and concerns so we can keep you better informed of the events

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The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters and guest columns for grammar, spelling, length and questionable content.

Letters and columns may be mailed to: *The Atom Tabloid & Citizen ~ Gazette*, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065. They also may be faxed to (732) 388-4143, Attn: Editor, or reach us via e-mail at editor@devinemedia.com.

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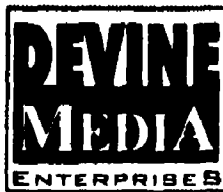
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NEWS YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Perth Amboy Receives \$100,000 To Continue Neighborhood Preservation Program

PERTH AMBOY—The NJ Department of Community Affairs has awarded Perth Amboy an additional \$100,000 grant through its Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP). The city first received a \$125,000 NPP grant in July of 1997 to help address home and infrastructure needs in the aging neighborhood bordered by Smith, Market, Elm and Herbert Streets.

The city was also promised an additional \$100,000 for each of the next four years, based on its performance and the administration of its programs. Given the success of the program, the state has extended the city's funding with this latest grant installment, which represents the seventh year of funding that the city has received to continue these vital programs in the targeted neighborhood.

The NPP's work will also augment the ongoing improvements that the city is conducting in other areas of the Dublin neighborhood. Two years ago, the city successfully completed the construction of an industrial bypass road that removed over 400 trucks per day from the area's residential streets. Recently, the city reconstructed the battered streets in the area by replacing the sidewalks and curbing, adding new trees and completely milling and resurfacing all of the side streets south of Market Street.

Since its inception, Perth Amboy's NPP has administered funding to help eligible residents conduct repairs and home improvements, remediate lead-based paint conditions and remove underground oil tanks. The NPP has also sponsored programs to help first-time buyers purchase homes, provide senior citizens with free home repairs, train teens for entrepreneurial fields and train residents to conduct their own repairs.

City Celebrates Transformation Of School Into Senior Housing

PERTH AMBOY Mayor Joseph Vas hosted a ceremony on Dec. 10 to celebrate the official grand opening of Cortlandt Apartments, a public-private partnership that has transformed the vacant #5 School into attractive and affordable apartments for adults age 55 and older. The ceremony celebrated the revitalization of the building, which had stood vacant for nearly eight years and will now answer the growing need for quality housing for aging adults.

"It's rewarding to witness a building, which had no paid taxes in nearly a century and had stood idle for nearly a decade, become a productive, aesthetic presence in a neighborhood currently undergoing a revitalization. This is a prime example of a public-private partnership hard at work for the benefit of Perth Amboy and its residents," said Vas.

The idle three-story-structure has been transformed by Cortlandt Apartments, LLC (a subsidiary of ETC Enterprises of Perth Amboy) into a four-story building with 46 one-bedroom apartments and 14 studio apartments. The building, which is located at the corner of Cortlandt and Wayne Streets, also features a community room with televisions, couch and tables, as well as a laundry room and 24 new

parking spaces. Cortlandt Apartments, LLC also invested in all new plumbing, electricity, elevators and sprinkler systems.

The rents, which range from as low as \$450 for studios to a maximum of \$575 for one-bedroom apartments, were made possible by government grant subsidizations. The \$3.4 million project received \$1.27 million in RCA (Regional Contribution Agreement) funds distributed by the NJ Department of Community Affairs and \$680,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME program, both of which were administered by Perth Amboy's Office of Economic and Community Development.

In addition to affordable rent, the building offers other obvious benefits to tenants, such as wall-to-wall carpeting, a video security system, on-sight maintenance personnel, no fee hook-ups for all utilities and a one-block walk to the nearest bus stop. Proof of the quality and attractiveness of the building is evident in the fact that each unit has been rented prior to the official grand opening.

Prospective tenants or anyone seeking additional information, should contact (732) 324-0300.

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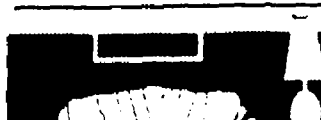
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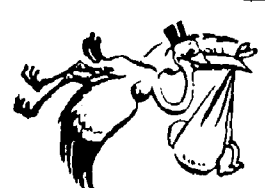
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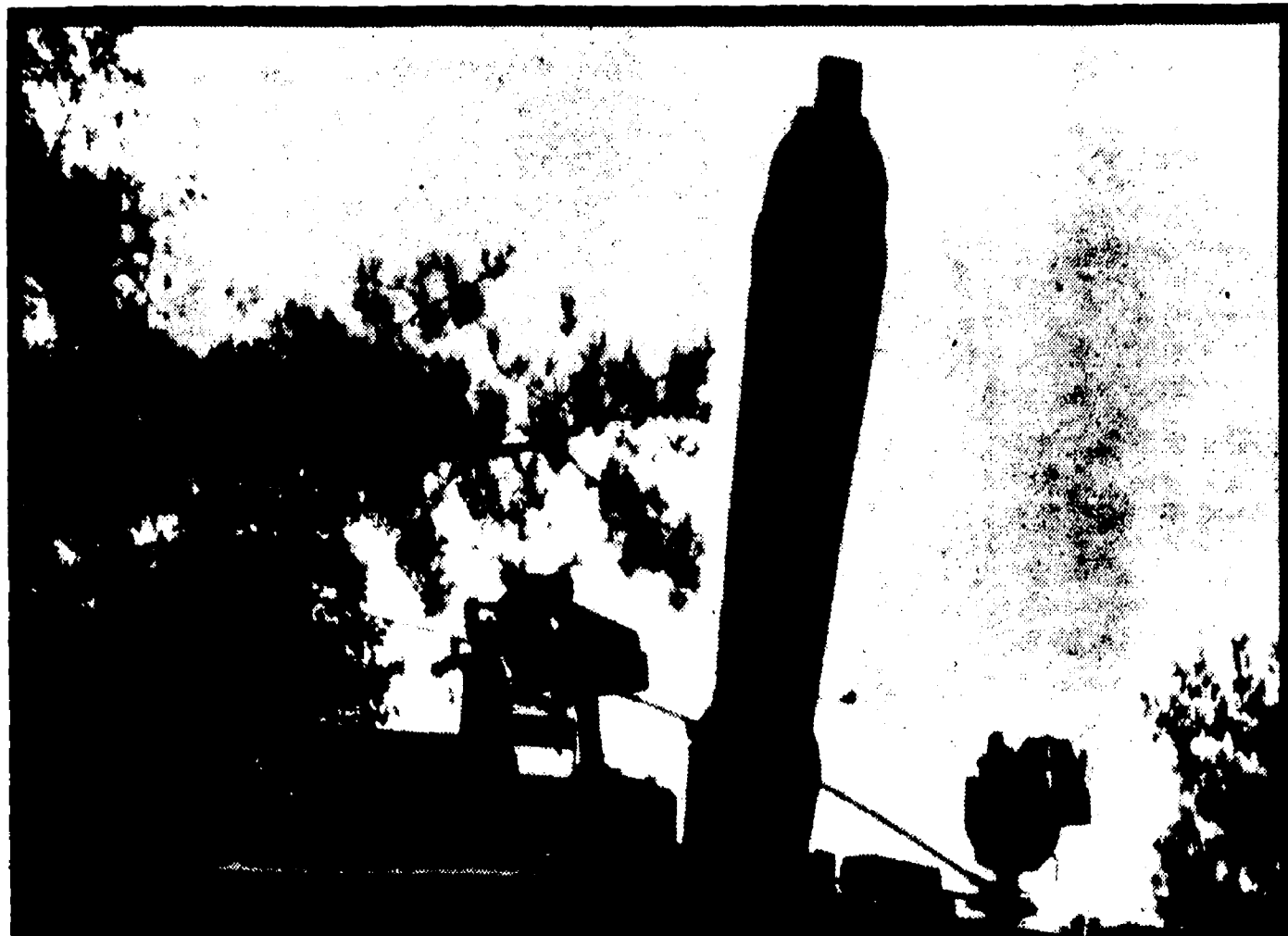
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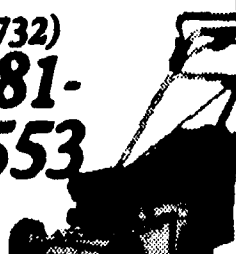
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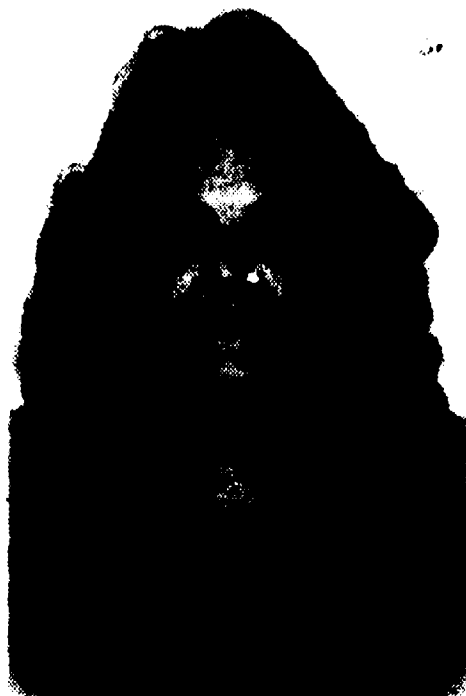
YOUR LOCAL NEWS

NEWS

Print-Tech Promotes Two To Management Team

MOUNTAINSIDE Print-Tech, LLC, a full-service quick commercial printing company with offices in Metuchen, Westfield and Mountainside has recently promoted Jacqueline E. Yagla of Woodbridge to Retail Sales Manager of its Metuchen and Westfield locations and Craig A. Gonzalez of Scotch Plains to Assistant Store Manager in Metuchen.

Jacqueline Yagla, formerly Print-Tech's Metuchen Store Manager, has relocated her office to Westfield. Her new responsibilities include overseeing all functions of both the Metuchen and Westfield Locations, which include setting and achieving monthly and annual sales goals, supervising a staff of eight and maintaining efficient operations for all functions such as customer



Jacqueline E. Yagla

service, training, inventory, and equipment maintenance, scheduling, production of customer orders, sales transactions and quality control, among others. Previously, Yagla served as Store Manager of Budget Print Center, Metuchen, which was acquired by Print-Tech in 1999.



Craig Gonzalez

Craig Gonzalez, formerly an inside sales representative at Print-Tech's Metuchen location, will take over the day-to-day responsibilities of managing the Metuchen store, including the supervision of its employees, maintaining efficient operations and the store's appearance, retention and

expansion of the location's existing customer base, customer service, training, inventory and equipment maintenance, scheduling, sales transaction and quality control, among others. Prior to joining Print-Tech, Gonzalez held various technical positions with Lucent Technologies, Somerset and Apria HealthCare, Lincoln Park. He has also been employed as a freelance computer consultant.

"We congratulate both Jackie and Craig on their new responsibilities with Print-Tech," said Christian J. Baker, Print-Tech's Business Development Director. "We are confident that they both will continue to provide Print-Tech customers with the excellent customer service that has come to be expected from us."

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Edison Artist Exhibits At DHS Art Show

EDISON—A colorful frog peering into the petals of a flower, entitled "Look Inside," was one of three paintings exhibited by Edison's Allison Doatch, 19, for a special art show in the lobby of the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) building in Trenton in October. Artists whose backgrounds range from Vietnam Vet, art student, gospel singer/guitarist and grandmother, contributed works done in acrylic, charcoal, watercolors, ceramic, clay and collage for the exhibit.

Doatch was one of the artists able to attend DHS Commissioner Gwendolyn L. Harris' reception for this free public exhibit, where she received a certificate of appreciation. She also offered her watercolor, "Impressionistic Garden," and painting of a girl meditating, "Lost in Thought," for the exhibit.

What this diverse group of artists, from Long Branch, Whippany, Flemington, Manahawkin, Guttenberg, and North Caldwell, have in common is that they all create beautiful works of art, despite the fact or because of the fact that they are all artists with disabilities.



Edison artist Allison Doatch stands next to her painting "Look Inside"

Doatch graduated from Edison High School this past June, where she received the medal for Outstanding Visual Arts Student for the Class of 2002. She received the VSA arts of New Jersey Arts Excellence Award and the Governor's Award in Arts Education in 2001. One of her drawings has been recreated as an Earth Day poster distributed by the Department of Defense to be displayed at all military commissary stores throughout the United States and all over the world.

In 2001, she also received an Award of Excellence from VSA arts of NJ for represent-

ing New Jersey in the Children Beyond Borders International Exhibition at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. She plans to complete her Fine Arts major at Middlesex County College, and beyond.

Sponsor VSA arts of New Jersey worked with DHS's Division of Disability Services to set up the exhibit, in observance of National Disabilities Awareness Month.

It was the first of its kind in the state to showcase so many special artists in one place and to create a new marketplace for their work.