

The ATOM TABLOID

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

& Citizen-Gazette

Your Neighborhood In Print Since 1882

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Middlesex County Edition

VOL. 121, NO. 45

Friday, November 8, 2002

50¢



Firehouse Plaza Redevelopment Project Receives Approval

PERTH AMBOY—The Perth Amboy Planning Board has approved the site plans the Firehouse Plaza redevelopment project, which will contain a total of 22,800 square feet of commercial and retail

space to serve the community's needs. Firehouse Plaza will be constructed on State Street in the East Area 2 of Perth Amboy's FOCUS 2000 Redevelopment Plan, flanking both sides of the proposed extension of Hall Avenue, which presently terminates at State Street.

On the north side of the proposed Hall Avenue extension Firehouse Plaza will include 17,000 square feet of single story commercial/retail space, which will be constructed on the site of the recently demolished State and James Street Firehouse, as well as on a por-

tion of a park that lies adjacent to this property. On the south side of the Hall Avenue extension, 5,800 square feet of single-story commercial/retail space will be constructed at 606 State Street where a former roofing building was recently demolished.

"Firehouse Plaza will help breathe new life into the State Street/Hall Avenue neighborhoods and also compliment numerous upcoming improvements that are scheduled for the area. This project will also allow us to replace vacant and underutilized properties with new productive uses, while also having a positive impact on the flow of traffic in the area," stated Mayor Joseph Vas.

The former firehouse, which had been used mainly for storage for the last several years, was vacated entirely by the fire department this summer. The city conveyed the property recently to the Perth Amboy Redevelopment Agency, which has since signed a redeveloper agreement with developer Aliland, LLC. Aliland has paid PARA \$133,000 in addition to transferring ownership of the former roofing building.

Firehouse Plaza is one of several projects planned for the area to help revive the local commercial base and improve upon the aesthetic of its surroundings.

The city has received approval to extend Hall

Avenue across State Street and through the Harbortown housing development to connect with High Street and improve traffic flow in the area.

Across the street from the Firehouse Plaza site, Banco Popular recently opened a new, state-of-the-art banking facility and the city also plans to conduct sidewalk improvements along Hall Avenue similar to those performed along Smith Street, State Street and Amboy Avenue. All of these projects will help improve the quality of life in the ailing neighborhood and create new jobs for local residents.

Aliland, LLC, hopes to break ground by early December.

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Elections In Middlesex

Did You Vote?

Middlesex County Freeholders

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ David Crabel (D)* | ☒ Camille Fernicola (D)* |
| ☐ Roger Craig (R) | ☐ Joseph Paone (R) |

Middlesex County Surrogate

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Kevin Hoagland (D)* | ☐ John Krenzel (R) |
|---|---|

Edison - no municipal elections

Metuchen Borough Council

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Jennifer Lacy (R) | ☒ Marion Price (D)* |
| ☐ Lewis Levy (R) | ☒ Thomas Vahalla (D)* |

Perth Amboy - no municipal elections

Sayreville Borough Council

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Dennis Grobelny (D) | ☒ Frank Makransky (R)* |
| ☐ Jeff Pawlowski (D) | ☐ Vincent Zarcaro, Jr (R)* |

South Amboy Mayor

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☒ John T. O'Leary (D)* | ☐ Gene Reagan (I) |
|--|--|

South Amboy City Council

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ Joseph E. Connors (D) | ☐ Vincent Mackiel (I) |
| ☒ Fred A. Henry (D)* | |

(R) signifies Republican, (D) signifies Democrat and (I) signifies Independent. An asterisk (*) signifies incumbents.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE—Wakefern Foods, Inc., boosted Assemblyman John Wisniewski's efforts to make a difference by donating several cases of food to the Assemblyman's Make a Difference Day Food Drive. This donation equaled three tons of food and included cereal, canned vegetables, evaporated milk, and several other types of food. Wisniewski is collecting food for M.C.F.O.O.D.S., Middlesex County's Food Pantry. Tim Vogel of Shoprite (in the truck, left), Jennifer Apostol of M.C.F.O.O.D.S (right), and Sayreville Councilman Thomas Pollando (left) joined Wisniewski (center) for this event.

YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Discover New Jersey's Terra Cotta History

MIDDLESEX COUNTY —Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the Cornelius Low House Middlesex County Museum present a new, five part lecture series held in conjunction with the Museum's current exhibit, *UnCommon Clay: New Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta*.

Industry. Noteworthy historians and architects will discuss New Jersey's terra cotta making industry, including its history, its impact outside of the state, preservation of known artifacts and the actual art of making terra cotta tiles. The Terra Cotta Lecture Series will begin on Sunday, Nov. 10 at

1:30 p.m. All lectures are presented free of charge, thanks in part to a generous grant from the New Jersey Council on the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Susan Tunick, president of The Friends of Terra Cotta, a national organization dedicated to the study and preservation of architectural terra cotta, presents the first lecture on Nov. 10. This slide lecture, *New Jersey Terra Cotta: Its Impact on the New York Skyline*, will examine the beautifully detailed New Jersey-manufactured terra cotta gracing some of New York's most famous buildings.

On Dec. 1, ceramist Abby Hoffman will present a workshop demonstration, *The Art of Tile Making*. Participants to this lecture will learn about tile model and mold making, from raw clay to the finished fired project.

Historian and collector, Helen Henderson will present the third lecture, *New Jersey's Tile Making History*, on Jan. 19, 2003. This lecture will discuss the rich heritage of the

New Jersey tile industry, with a special emphasis on Monmouth and Middlesex counties.

On Feb. 23, 2003, Dr. Richard Viet of Monmouth University will present, *Don't Take it for Granite: New Jersey's Terra Cotta Industry*. This lecture will discuss the birth and rise of the terra cotta industry in New Jersey, local architectural styles and special uses of the medium.

Mark Nonestied of the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission will present the final lecture in this series on March 30, 2003. *Salvaging the Past* will focus on the archaeological recovery efforts undertaken by the MCCHC during the course of preparing the museum exhibition, *UnCommon Clay*. The methodology and importance of properly documenting and excavating vanishing or disturbed sites will be discussed.

Four of the lectures will be held at the East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Road, Piscataway. *The Art of Tile Making* will be held at the Cornelius Low House/

Museum, 1225 River Road, Piscataway. Both sites are accessible. Large print and Braille versions of the material presented will be available. An assistive listening system will be in use and available during programs. Sign-Language interpreters require a two-week advance request.

All lectures are offered free of charge and begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. Advanced registration is required for all lectures. For more information or to register, call the Museum, (732) 745-4177, weekdays between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. or the Commission at (732) 745-4489. Those with hearing disabilities may call (732) 745-3888 (TTY), or 711 via the New Jersey Relay Service.

Funded in part by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, and Colgate Palmolive Global Technologies.

Holiday Deadline Notification

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, we will have the following deadlines...

For our November 29th issue.

Editorial Material

Nov. 15 at 5 p.m.

Space Reservations For Ads

Nov. 19 at 12 Noon

Ad Materials

Nov. 20 at 12 Noon

Classified Ads

Nov. 21 at 5 p.m.

Public Notices

Nov. 25 at 10 a.m.

For our December 6th issue

Editorial Material

Nov. 25 at 5 p.m.

Space Reservations For Ads

Nov. 26 at 3 p.m.

Other Deadlines as Normal

Material for publication should be mailed to:

The Atom Tabloid, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway, NJ 07065

Faxed to: (732) 388-4143 or

E-mailed to: editor@devinmedia.com

All material for consideration must be received at least 10 days prior to publication date. Photos may be picked up at our Rahway office within two weeks of publication.

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MCC Holds Arts High School Exhibit

EDISON—The annual art and creative writing exhibit by the students of Middlesex County

Arts High School and Middle School is being held through Dec. 2 at Middlesex County College. The public is invited to visit the exhibit, held in the Presidential Gallery of Chambers Hall, and to attend the reception for the artists on Sunday, Nov. 24 at noon. The Gallery is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

All the students in the Arts High and Middle Schools have been accepted by audition or by portfolio submission. They

attend schools throughout Middlesex and participate in advanced courses in the literary, performing and visual arts. Auditions are held each fall and are open to all interested county middle and high school students.

The arts and creative writing in this exhibit include visual arts in many media and creative writing in fiction, playwriting, poetry, multigenre and advanced writing.

(continued on page...6)

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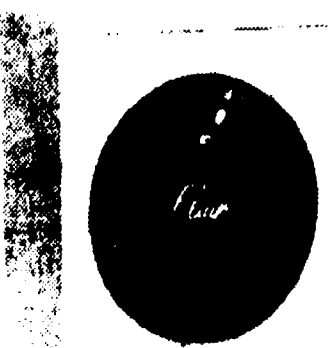
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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Woodbridge Veteran's Day Commemoration

WOODBIDGE Mayor Frank G. Pelzman has announced the Veterans of Woodbridge Township will host their 11th annual Veterans Day commemoration, on Sunday evening, Nov. 10, in the sanctuary of the historic First Presbyterian Church, 600

Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, commencing at 7 p.m..

The program, organized by Robin Goodrich, will honor all of our nation's veterans, living and deceased, who served in war or peacetime and those men and women currently serving in the military.

KidCare At The YMCA At The Woodbridge Community Center

WOODBIDGE—Mutual of Omaha is hosting a Project KidCare Photo ID event on Saturday, Nov. 9 as part of the national effort to provide parents with personal safety ID's of their children. The YMCA welcomes Mutual of Omaha's KidCare program. The YMCA has traditionally made children a priority by proudly touting, "We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities."

Parents can obtain free, standardized, high-quality photographs of their children and KidCare ID booklets at the event. The booklets are used to record and maintain current vital statistics and fingerprints of their children. The event to which the community is invited, will be held at the YMCA at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street, Woodbridge from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The photos and fingerprints will be free of charge.

Project KidCare, developed by the Polaroid Corporation in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), is a program designed to raise awareness of child safety and to provide parents with an effective tool to aid law enforcement authorities in the search for a missing child.

"According to the U.S. Department of Justice, more than one million children are reported missing in our country each year. We want to help raise awareness and play a role in helping parents safeguard their children," said Brian Carenza, district sales manager of Mutual of Omaha's local division office.

One in seven missing children is found with the help of a standardized, current photo-

graph distributed by NEMEC. A quality, current photograph is the single most important tool in the search for a missing child.

"Everyone has pictures of their children, but most parents don't have a suitable photograph if their child is ever lost or missing," according to NCMEC president Ernest Allen. "It's very important to have a recent, unobstructed head-and-shoulders photograph of the child. This photo and current vital statistics should be stored in a safe place."

KidCare Photo ID events have been hosted in local communities across the country by a variety of organizations, including police departments, health facilities and fraternal organizations.

Mutual of Omaha is a full-service, multi-line organization providing insurance and financial products for individuals, businesses and groups throughout the United States.

The YMCA located at the Woodbridge Community Center provides a wide range of programs available to all ages including swim lessons, youth enrichment, art and crafts, fitness classes and the very popular Family Night Out. If you are interested in any programs, call (732) 596-4170.

The event will begin with a processional, as the walls of the historic "Old White Church" are lined with many flags and banners.

Lineup will begin at 6:30 p.m. and all veterans, civic, service and social organizations are invited and encouraged to bring their flags and participate.

Representatives of local veterans organizations will present several patriotic selections of poetry and narrations and music will play a very important role in this commemoration. Local choirs have been invited to participate in a "Combined Choir," directed by Fred Briegs.

Anyone interested in joining this choir should contact the chairman for more information. Local resident Steve Alach and Glory Brass will perform other musical selec-

tions. Past District 8 VFW Commander George E. Goodrich will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. Other participants include William "Billy" Mack, the NJ State Commander of the American Legion, and Past State VFW Commanders Harry Crane, Bruce Eveland and Charles Duffett.

The Department of NJ VFW State Color Guard, under the direction of Captain Art Poquette, will serve as the rifle squad and present the Service flags during a Salute to the Services. Father William Bleiler, State Chaplain of the VFW, will serve as Chaplain for this event. The program will also include a Memorial Service.

The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, NWS Earle Division, will present the Colors and our Nation's

Historical Flags, and serve as wreath bearers. Petty Officer First Class Amy Updike, Petty Officer Second Class Kyle Courtney and Cadet John Meyers have been chosen to read selections of poetry. In light of the recent events in our Country, the celebration of Veterans Day has taken on additional meaning.

Not only are we assembling to honor those who have served in America's Armed Forces, but additionally we shall honor the brave men and women who have answered the recent call-to-arms and are fighting the war on terrorism.

The evening promises to be a very exciting and patriotic event and the public is cordially invited to attend. Light refreshments will be served in the auditorium of Fellowship Hall at the conclusion of the program.

Missing Someone?

When the family circle has been broken by death, the only things that sparkle this year may be tears. If someone is missing from your family this holiday season and you aren't quite sure what to do with the empty chair, join us for Holiday Help*.

An expert from Accord* bereavement resources, will present strategies that will help you get a handle on the powerful emotions that accompany the holidays.

This session will help you renew your spirit and honor your loved one.

~Please Join Us~

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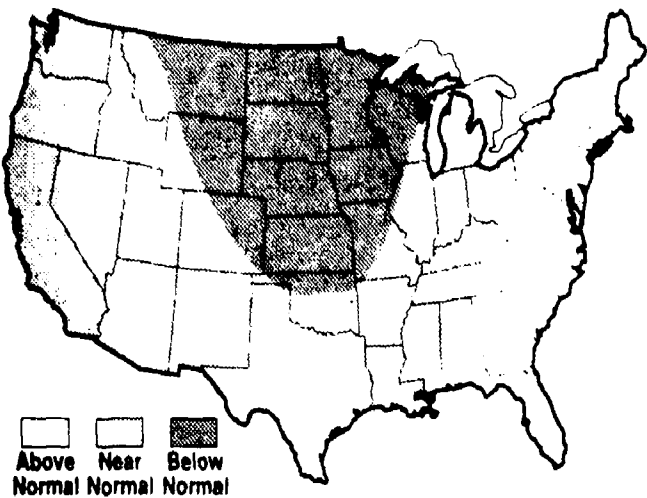
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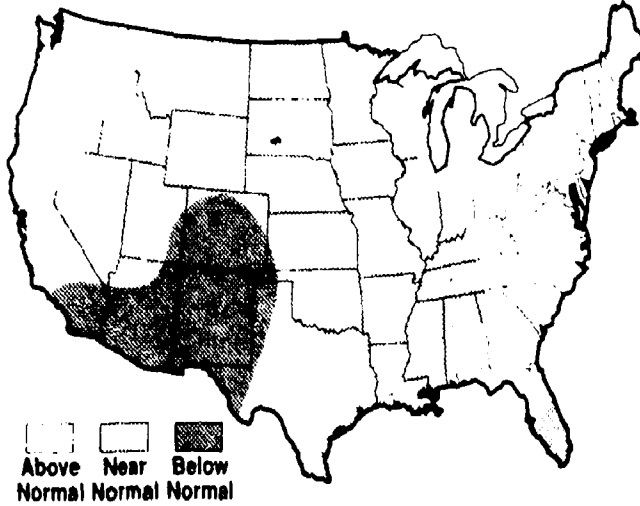
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Partly sunny and windy.	Mostly clear and cold.	Sunny to partly cloudy.	Clouds and sun.	Clouds and sun; a shower.	Cloudy and warm.	Rainy; cloudy and warm.	Clouds and sun.
55	34	48/32	53/39	58/50	65/49	65/49	60/38

THE WEEK AHEAD...**Temperatures****NATIONAL SUMMARY**

The Southeast states will continue to be unsettled with storms spreading some rain and thunderstorms across the area. The Pacific Northwest will turn unsettled with showers from time-to-time. Below-normal temperatures will dominate the northern Plains. Much of the rest of the nation will have near-normal temperatures, except for South Florida where temperatures will be a few degrees above normal.

THE WEEK AHEAD...**Precipitation****U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES**

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	62 43 s	62 47 s	66 49 pc	66 54 c
Boston	49 36 pc	45 33 pc	48 38 pc	53 50 c
Chicago	46 32 pc	48 34 pc	54 40 c	55 44 sh
Cleveland	46 32 pc	47 37 c	51 41 pc	58 46 pc
Denver	64 32 s	60 30 pc	54 33 pc	50 31 pc
Des Moines	56 38 s	60 40 pc	52 34 r	51 42 r
Detroit	46 30 pc	48 34 pc	52 40 pc	52 44 sh
Houston	71 47 s	73 54 s	75 56 pc	73 54 pc
Indianapolis	50 32 pc	56 39 pc	57 41 pc	55 45 r
Kansas City	62 42 s	64 44 pc	56 38 r	55 47 c
Los Angeles	68 54 pc	66 54 c	68 54 pc	72 38 s
Miami	83 69 c	82 71 pc	84 72 c	82 73 c
Minn. - St. Paul	44 26 pc	46 34 c	48 36 r	49 38 c
New Orleans	68 48 s	73 56 s	75 59 pc	77 62 pc
New York City	52 40 pc	54 38 s	50 36 pc	58 46 c
Omaha	58 38 s	60 38 pc	54 34 r	53 42 pc
Phoenix	80 54 s	72 52 pc	69 51 c	73 40 s
San Francisco	64 54 r	62 54 c	61 52 pc	63 42 pc
Seattle	56 46 c	56 47 r	50 43 r	51 48 r
Washington	56 40 s	55 40 s	59 44 pc	62 53 sh

SUN & MOON

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thu.	6:34 a.m.	4:47 p.m.
Fri.	6:35 a.m.	4:46 p.m.

	Moonrise	Moonset
Thu.	9:51 a.m.	7:05 p.m.
Fri.	10:57 a.m.	8:02 p.m.

Moon Phases

	New	First	Full	Last
Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 19	Nov 27	

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

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Amsterdam	44 34 pc	48 47 pc	55 54 r	57 46 r
Berlin	41 33 r	40 36 pc	50 47 r	55 44 r
Buenos Aires	68 55 pc	68 43 pc	65 46 s	69 50 s
Cairo	81 66 c	84 51 pc	76 49 s	70 54 s
Jerusalem	76 57 pc	78 52 pc	73 45 s	63 47 s
Johannesburg	75 48 pc	80 51 pc	82 54 s	85 60 s
London	45 38 pc	54 53 r	60 55 r	59 45 r
Madrid	64 40 pc	65 45 s	68 46 pc	69 50 pc
Mexico City	66 49 c	67 49 r	70 49 pc	70 49 c
Moscow	30 24 pc	33 25 pc	31 30 sn	36 32 sn
Paris	44 32 pc	44 43 pc	53 51 r	58 41 pc
Rio de Janeiro	71 61 pc	73 62 pc	76 66 pc	76 66 r
Rome	54 35 pc	52 37 pc	59 52 c	74 55 s
San Juan	88 75 pc	87 76 s	87 76 s	87 73 s
Seoul	53 25 sh	40 25 pc	42 27 s	52 45 pc
Sydney	73 56 pc	82 66 s	90 62 pc	80 56 s
Tokyo	55 52 pc	65 43 c	50 38 pc	52 44 pc
Toronto	36 15 sf	34 33 sf	41 36 sn	53 40 pc
Winnipeg	25 18 sf	26 18 sn	32 30 sn	40 26 i
Zurich	42 30 pc	36 35 pc	49 48 r	58 44 r

November 9—The Perth Amboy High School Class of 1962 is planning its 40th reunion at the Clarion, Edison. For details or to forward information on class members, contact Karen Degnan, 45 Caswell Ave., Fords, (732) 634-0683.

November 10 at 4 p.m.—Music At St. Mary's Concert series presents John J. Miller, Organist. The concert will be held in the church in South Amboy. There is a suggested donation of \$10.

November 12—The Edison Council will meet. Work session meetings begin at 6 p.m. and regular meeting begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the Council Chambers at the Edison Municipal Complex.

November 12 at 7:30 p.m.—The Carteret Historical Committee announces their meetings to be held at the Deverin Community Center, 100 Cooke Ave., 2nd floor. All are welcome.

November 13 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—The Edison Chamber of Commerce will host "Emerging Economic and Business Issues at the Clarion Hotel, Rt. 27, Edison. This seminar includes breakfast. Ticket range from \$75-\$125. Advance registration is encouraged. Call (732) 738-9482 or e-mail to www.edison-chamber.com.

November 13 at 7:30 p.m.—The History of Woodbridge Township will be presented by Mid-Jersey Branch AAUW (Am. Assoc. of University Women) at Centenary United Methodist Church, 200 Hillside Ave., (off Grove Ave.), Metuchen. For reservations, call (732) 225-4027 or 819-8540.

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Prevent Child Abuse Annual Dinner

NEW BRUNSWICK—Aavo Reinfeldt, Senior Vice President of Business Banking of PNC Bank will be honored with the Donna J. Stone Award for Initiative at the 8th Annual Prevent Child Abuse - New

Jersey (PCA-NJ) Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Marriott Conference Hotel at Lafayette Yard in Trenton.

Reinfeldt has worked extensively in facilitating partnerships with community organi-

zations and individuals to extend credit products and services to women, minorities, and veterans. He is very active in community affairs, working closely with New Community Corporation of Newark, the

Delaware Raritan Girl Scout Council, the South Brunswick Education Association, and Habitat for Humanity, among others. He is a newly appointed trustee for Rutgers Graduate School of Business Advisory Council. He often lectures and provides seminars to civic and community groups as well as to national audiences for the American Bankers Association.

The event will also honor Gwendolyn Harris, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Human Services and Turner Construction as the outstanding corporation for its support of children's well-being.

PCA-NJ is part of a nation-

wide network dedicated to eliminating child abuse in all its forms. By establishing local partnerships, PCA-NJ builds communities, strengthens families, and empowers parents through parenting and education programs, training, advocacy efforts and awareness activities. Programs are conducted at over 120 sites in 21 counties in New Jersey.

The Nov. 7 event will include a spectacular silent auction supplemented by additional attractive packages in a live auction. Tickets for the dinner and other information may be obtained by contacting Event Headquarters, Hollyrock/Miller, at 609-919-9292.

Hadassah Makes Donation

AREA — The Southern New Jersey of Hadassah donated the beautiful centerpieces from their annual "Fulfillers of the Dream" dinner dance to the Jewish Family and Children's Service in Asbury Park. The centerpieces were filled with gifts for the elderly.

Barbara Fleischer (Little Silver) and Marcy Brahin (Freehold) chaired the very successful event which raised funds to benefit a new \$28 million center for emergency medicine and a two-story addition to the Mother and Child Pavilion, both at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical

Center, Ein Karem, Jerusalem. The Hadassah Medical Organization treats all the people of Israel without regard to race or religion.

Locally, Hadassah has more than 13,000 members. For more information about the organization, call the Region office at (732) 643-1100.



From (L.-R.) are Jo Aimee Ostrov, President of Southern N.J. Region of Hadassah; Marcy Brahin, Co-Chair Fulfillers of the Dream Gala and Mel Cohen, Executive Director of Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Monmouth County; Ruth Merves, Administrative Director of S.N.J. Hadassah; Barbara Fleischer, Chair Fulfillers Gala; Susan Diamond, Volunteer Coordinator, Jewish Family and Children's Service; Audrey Kemelov, Fund Raising Vice President at S.N.J. Hadassah



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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

East Orange Catholic High School All-Class Reunion

AREA The East Orange Catholic High School Alumnae Association will hold its fifth All-Class Reunion on Sunday, Nov. 10 at Bishop Francis Essex Catholic High School, the building ECH once occupied at 135 Glenwood Avenue, East Orange.

The reunion is a brunch and begins at 12 noon. The cost is \$28 in advance and \$30 at the door. For reservations or more information call Maureen Farrell Stella, '66 (H) (973) 361-1263 or mostella@aol.com or visit the EOCA/AA website at www.eoch.org.

EOCH, a high school for girls in the Archdiocese of Newark, was founded in 1958 and was closed by the Archdiocese in June, 1980. Later that year, Essex Catholic High School, the Archdiocesan school for boys, was moved from its former location on Broad Street in Newark to the ECH building on Glenwood Avenue.

Panel Approves Measure Establishing Defibrillator Grant Program

STATE On Oct. 3, the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee released legislation sponsored by Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski that would establish a grant program for fire departments to acquire automated external defibrillators or AEDs.

"Since heart attacks are the number one cause of death at fire scenes, equipping fire departments with defibrillators

makes perfect sense," said Wisniewski (D-Middlesex). "If the technology is available to save people's lives, we should do everything within our power to get these devices into the hands of those who can use them properly."

According to the American Heart Association (AHA), each year approximately 250,000 Americans die of sudden cardiac arrest—abnormal electrical activity of the heart that causes uncontrollable quivering.

The AHA also estimates that for every minute a person in cardiac arrest waits to be defibrillated, the chance of survival decreases by 10 percent. After 10 minutes, the chance of survival is less than 10 percent, according to the AHA.

The Wisniewski measure (A-392) would establish a matching grant program in the state Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety, through which fire departments could receive assistance to offset the purchase price of an AED or to cover the cost of a device already purchased.

AEDs, which administer an electrical shock to the heart to correct abnormal rhythms, cost approximately \$3,000 per device.

"Firefighters are often the first emergency personnel on the scene, and it is appropriate that they are equipped with all of the tools necessary to save lives," said Wisniewski. "Used by properly trained individuals, AEDs can save cardiac arrest victims, thus improving the lives of the patients and their families."

The measure was released 6-0 and now goes to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

MCC Holds Arts High School Exhibit continued

(continued from page...2)

"We feel that these sophisticated artworks exemplify the high level of creative thought and expression that all the students of Arts High exhibit," said Donna Andeskie, teaching artist of visual arts.

"There is no program like Arts High in New Jersey," said Joe Weill, teaching artist of fiction and poetry. "These students don't need to be motivated—they arrive eager and excited to work. They are engaged with wonder and are fully and thoughtfully alive."

The Arts and Education Center of Greater Middlesex County, sponsor of these arts schools, is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt community-based organization. The program is made possible in part by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of N.Y., Inc.

Participating students, their disciplines and high schools:

Visual Arts: Adrian Coleman-Highland Park HS; Allison Doatch-Edison HS; Kristen Lepore-South Brunswick HS; Adrian Lazaro-South Amboy HS; Jennifer Lee-J.P. Stevens HS; Phyllis Ma-Churchill JHS; Rebecca Melega-Cardinal McCarrick HS; Justine Mertz-Middlesex HS; Elizabeth Santana-Perth Amboy HS; and Lauren Westenhiser-South Brunswick HS.

Art Photography: Mariana Duran-Sayreville War Memorial HS; Jillian Hoban-Old Bridge East HS; Stephanie Myers-South Amboy HS; Janine Toro-Edison HS and Heather Walker-North Brunswick HS.

Creative Writing: Hannah Ehrlich-South Brunswick HS; Jessica Farris-Metuchen HS; Steven Higashide-JFK HS; Bethany Housman-Woodbridge HS; Amanda Muench-Woodbridge HS; Melissa Nevid-East Brunswick HS; Becki Nisson-East Brunswick HS; Srivani Rachakonda-Edgar MS; Kathryn Retkwa-JFK HS and Jenny Tsay-East Brunswick HS

**AMERICA'S MILITARY VETERANS!**

Veterans Day, November 11, is the time to say 'thank you' to those who have worn a military uniform and to those who today are keeping strong the unbroken bond of service.

America is a nation at war. Just as generations before, the men and women of today's armed forces put their lives on the line to combat our enemies and preserve our freedom.

The American Legion's 2.8 million members share a common bond of service that transcends generations. Today, we join all Americans in saluting our veterans past and present.



A Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military — and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands great sacrifice.

Visit www.legion.org to learn more about the Blue Star Service Banner.

To each and everyone who serves, we say thank you.



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Make Your Paycheck Go Further With Flexible Spending Accounts

AREA—Do you have high medical bills or dependent care expenses? You may be able to save hundreds of dollars each year by participating in Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), reports the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA).

A health care flexible spending account is an employer-sponsored benefit that allows you to set aside a predetermined amount of money from each paycheck for eligible medical and dental expenses. If you pay someone to care for a dependent, you also can establish a dependent care FSA. In addition, some employers allow you to use a similar method for mass transit and parking expenses necessitated by your job.

An FSA saves money by reducing income and Social security taxes. That's because the money you choose to contribute to your FSA is deducted from your paycheck before taxes. The salary reduction contributions are therefore not included in your W-2 as taxable wages.

How FSA Works

Once a year, typically in the fall, employers hold an open enrollment period for FSAs. If you decide to participate, you'll need to determine in advance how much money you want

deducted from your paycheck and deposited into your FSA during 2003.

The amount you select is deducted in equal installments from each paycheck and set aside in an account. Upon submission of proper documentation verifying the expense, you are reimbursed from your FSA. This is true even if the amount exceeds your contribution to date.

For example, if you designate \$2,400 for the year, and have \$2,000 in expenses the first month, your employer must reimburse the full amount, even though only \$200 had been credited to your FSA.

By law, the maximum amount of salary you can contribute to a dependent-care FSA is \$5,000. There is no legal limit on health care FSA contributions, but most companies establish their own limits.

Calculating Your Health Care FSA Contribution

To estimate how much you should set aside in a health care FSA for 2003, add up the anticipated costs for routine medical and dental checkups and major expenses, such as braces, for you and your family members. Any expense the IRS considers deductible that is not paid through your health insurance is eligible for reimbursement from your FSA. Most employ-

ers provide a list of reimbursable expenses. Some of the more common reimbursable expenses are annual deductibles, co-payments, contact lenses and glasses, hearing aids, and prescription drugs. Expenses not recognized by the IRS—and, therefore, not reimbursable—include the cost of cosmetic surgery, nonprescription drugs and health club dues for general health purposes.

Establishing A Dependent Care FSA

Eligible expenses for dependent care reimbursement include the cost of care for a child under 13 who qualifies as your tax dependent. You also can claim a person of any age who cannot care for him/herself because of physical or mental inability.

With a dependent care FSA, you pay expenses as you normally would, then submit proof of payment to be reimbursed from your account. The maximum tax-free reimbursement is \$5,000.

Keep in mind that any FSA reimbursement reduces the amount you can take from a dependent care credit. That credit decreases your taxes dollar for dollar based on expenses used to care for a dependent while you are gainfully employed.

Use It Or Lose It

PIANJ Urges Renters To Get Insurance

STATE—If you rent a condominium or an apartment, your landlord's insurance should cover damages to the building—meaning the structure itself—but not what's inside. It's important to have renters insurance to cover your valuable personal belongings. Your landlord's insurance does not cover you, warns Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey, Inc. This is a common mistake among renters and it is untrue in most all situations. Another common misconception is that if your roommate has insurance, you don't need it. Not true, advises PIANJ, unless you are specifically listed on your roommate's policy.

According to David Madara, CPCU, AAI, president of PIANJ, your landlord may be able to fix your clogged drains, but he can't

insure your belongings under his homeowners policy.

"Like homeowners insurance, renters insurance will protect your personal possessions from loss," says Madara. "Renters insurance is very affordable, and it also provides personal liability coverage for policyholders, protecting you if someone is accidentally injured in your home or if you damage another person's property."

In addition to covering the contents of your home and providing personal liability coverage, renters insurance pays for additional living expenses if an event occurs that leaves your home unfit for living.

"It's important to take inventory of your belongings, noting the description and value of each piece and keep this list outside of the home—a

safety deposit box is a good idea," Madara recommends. "This list will be extremely important if you need to file a claim at a later date."

Also, be sure to inquire about theft limits on your policy. Some things, such as jewelry, firearms and silverware, are, subject to a per-category theft limit. Make sure your valuables don't exceed this limit, or ask about a "floater" policy for extra coverage.

Contact your professional insurance agent to find out how you can get covered immediately. It's important to be prepared with the proper coverage, suggests PIANJ.

PIANJ is a trade association representing professional, independent insurance agencies, brokerages and their employees throughout the state.

You'll want to estimate your FSA expenses as accurately as possible. If there is a balance left in your account at the end

of the year, you forfeit it. (You may request reimbursement for expenses incurred during the

(continued on page...8)

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Carpal Tunnel Syndrome Hotline Reveals What Sufferers Must Know Before Talking To Any Doctor

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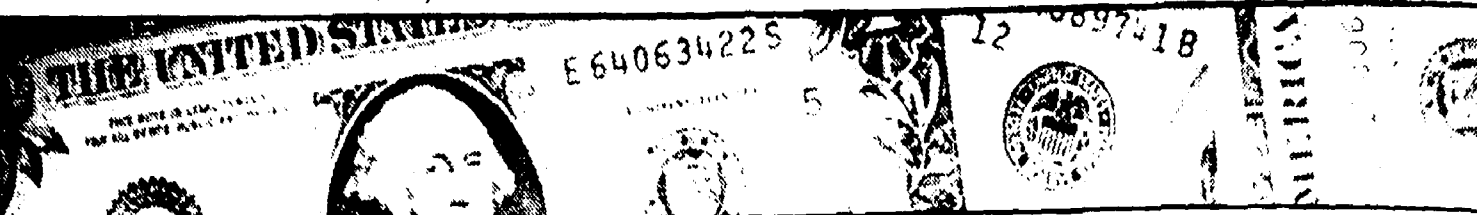
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YOUR FINANCIAL NEWS



Common Credit Errors

Many people spend a high percentage of their income for payments on credit cards or pay more for borrowed money than they have to. Below is a description of ten common credit card errors:

1. **Using credit to pay for nondurable items.** Make this error and you may still be paying for an item (such as food or gasoline) long after it is gone or no longer usable.
2. **Waiting until the last**

minute to pay your bill. Try to send in your payment as soon as your bill arrives if you aren't paying the bill in full. Paying early will reduce your average daily balance, which, in turn, will reduce the total amount of finance charges that you will pay.

3. **Paying a higher interest rate than necessary.** Call the customer service number listed on your credit card statement. Tell them that you have been a satisfied customer, but you have seen several offers for cards with lower interest rates and or no annual fee. Ask existing creditors to waive your annual fee and lower your interest rate. If you have a good record of making payments, even if it is only the minimum payment, they will often agree. If you don't ask, you won't know.

4. **Paying only the minimum payment each month.** If you have a credit card with 18.5 percent interest, it will take you more than 11 years to pay off a debt of \$2,000 if you pay only the minimum balance due each month. You will also pay interest charges of \$1,934, almost doubling the cost of your purchase.

5. **Paying the bill late or not paying even the minimum some months.** Paying a major credit card on time over several years is the best credit reference you can have and is a major factor that can increase your credit score.

6. **Forgetting to keep track of your credit card spending and not knowing**

your credit card limit. Each billing cycle that you exceed your limit, you can be charged up to a \$35 over-the-limit fee.

7. **Paying less than the full balance owed on your credit card.** Depending upon the amount owed, this practice can cost you hundreds of dollars a year in extra interest.

8. **Juggling too many cards.** Most people who have their credit under control find that they are able to function quite well with only two or three major credit cards. This makes keeping track of purchases and spending limits much easier. In addition, the more cards you have, the less eager creditors are to give you additional credit.

9. **Paying a high interest rate on a credit card for a large purchase when you could have borrowed the same amount from a bank or credit union at a lower rate of interest.** Some examples of lower-cost alternatives are home equity lines of credit and secured or unsecured personal loans.

10. **Paying for unnecessary services.** A common example is high annual fees on credit cards that provide some type of "perk" or payback when a monthly balance is carried. The fees that are paid generally exceed the payback.

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Unity Bank Named Among Top 30 SBA Lenders in Nation

AREA — Unity Bank was ranked the 26th largest SBA lender in the United States for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2002, according to the Coleman Report issued Oct. 15.

At the same time, Unity was ranked the number two SBA lender in New Jersey by the SBA Newark District Office.

Unity's total loan volume for the SBA's fiscal year ending on Sept. 30, 2002 totaled \$77 million, a 30% increase over the prior year. "For a bank our size, this is especially gratifying since it positions us with the major lenders," said Tony Feraro, President & Chief Executive Officer. "Our people are exceptional in assessing the needs of small businesses and providing customized service with this extraordinary lending program." Unity Bank's SBA department is under the direction of Michael Downes, Executive Vice President.

Downes noted, "Unity Bank has been given "Preferred Lender" status by the Small Business Administration in New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware as well as New Jersey. Only the most active and expert lenders receive this authority. This enables us to provide quicker processing and approval times."

Unity Bank has also been active in the SBA Express program, an initiative to assist small businesses seeking start-up and expansion loans. SBA Express allows approved

(continued on page...12)

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week of 10/27/02 11/02/02		
WINNING PICK-3	WINNING PICK-4	JERSEY CASH-5
SUNDAY, Oct. 27		SUNDAY, Oct. 27
Mid-Day 731	1492	8-11-15-34-35
Evening 395	3698	MONDAY, Oct. 28
MONDAY, Oct. 28		15-17-26-27-35
Mid-Day 008	0512	TUESDAY, Oct. 29
Evening 535	5282	1-8-22-24-35
TUESDAY, Oct. 29		WEDNESDAY, Oct. 30
Mid-Day 865	2485	10-15-19-26-30
Evening 201	4064	THURSDAY, Oct. 31
WEDNESDAY, Oct. 30		8-15-25-26-34
Mid-Day 596	3006	FRIDAY, Nov. 1
Evening 340	3372	2-5-20-24-33
THURSDAY, Oct. 31		SATURDAY, Nov. 2
Mid-Day 166	0808	2-11-17-18-32
Evening 778	0102	
FRIDAY, Nov. 1		BIG GAME WINNING Numbers
Mid-Day 367	4084	TUESDAY, Oct. 29
Evening 386	0187	9-10-14-41-49/35
SATURDAY, Nov. 2		FRIDAY, Nov. 1
Mid-Day 387	1087	5-10-22-23-43/37
Evening 979	3314	
WINNING PICK-6 Numbers		LOTZEE WINNING Numbers
MONDAY, Oct. 28		WEDNESDAY, Oct. 30
10-13-16-21-26-28		35-38-41-54
THURSDAY, Oct. 31		SATURDAY, Nov. 2
1-12-36-37-41-43		5-11-21-68



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Make Your Paycheck Go Further continued

(continued from page 7)

year within a specified period after year-end without forfeit). Federal law doesn't permit employers to refund money or carry it over to the next year. What's more, you aren't

allowed to adjust the amount or drop out of the plan unless you experience a change in family status such as a divorce or the birth of a child.

CPAs Cite Added Benefit Of FSAs

According to CPAs, FSAs

provide another way to save tax dollars, particularly for middle and upper-middle income workers. The eligibility requirements for many of the tax breaks in the 2001 Tax Act are based on adjusted gross income (AGI). Sheltering tax dollars in an FSA can lower your AGI and enable you to qualify for additional tax breaks.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberger
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Moore doesn't have a monopoly on denouncing his surroundings. There are plenty great thinkers in academia spinning out cloth-bound volumes of social

Hence we can't help but agonize along with Mr. Moore as he desperately tries to make sense of the horrible facts. America suffers over 11,000 gun-related deaths annually as compared to Germany's 385 and England's 68. Gosh...how would we feel about either of those countries if the figures were reversed? And to think that some of us are afraid of traveling abroad. Statistics would show that skedaddling from these shores is the safer bet. And even if the figures are skewed a thousand or two, who in their right mind could still say we don't have a problem? Putting it plainly, we're killing each other. On the way to making these shocking disclosures, Moore searches for answers among the populace, both scholarly and otherwise. Returning to his hometown of Flint, Michigan, and its environs, the filmmaker proudly, almost affectionately, discusses his roots. Obviously, the love-hate

Thus when we aren't all agape in astonishment and frustration, we're snickering with incredulity. And that's a good thing. Because if we felt the situation were com-

"Bowling for Columbine," rated R, is a United Artists release directed by Michael Moore and stars Michael Moore, Chris Rock and Marilyn Manson. Running time: 120 minutes

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EDITORIAL



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

The Dangers Of Carbon Monoxide

The news recently hasn't been good. Carbon monoxide has taken the lives of several area residents.

Carbon monoxide is a gas. It is odorless. It has no taste. You can't see it. But it can kill you.

Carbon monoxide is a product of combustion. When you turn on your gas stove, or light up your gas or oil water heater or turn on your gas or oil furnace, carbon monoxide is produced. In properly installed or maintained stoves, heaters and furnaces, carbon monoxide is vented outside and is no problem.

When your stove, heater or furnace is not properly installed or maintained, disaster looms. Carbon monoxide is a poison to the human body. More poisoning deaths can be attributed to this silent killer than to any other substance.

Carbon monoxide poisoning isn't just something that can quickly kill you. It is something that can slowly debilitate and then kill you. 25-40% of people died from acute carbon monoxide poisoning. And 15-40% of the survivors of carbon monoxide poisoning suffered immediate or delayed neuropsychological deficit. Some people may not even be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning. An emerging body of evidence suggests that long term exposure to even low levels of carbon monoxide is capable of producing a myriad of debilitating effects.

This doesn't have to be. With today's technology, no one has to become a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide detectors are easily available and reasonably priced. Just as many people wouldn't think of going to sleep without checking their smoke detector, we need to get into the same mind set with carbon monoxide detectors.

While smoke detectors are widely required under current

law, carbon monoxide detectors are only required under limited circumstances. I am drafting a bill which would require carbon monoxide detectors be a mandatory part of the Uniform Construction Code and the Fire Safety Code. Under the same safety principle that requires smoke detectors, we need to require carbon monoxide detectors in order to prevent tragedies like the ones that have recently occurred in our community from happening again.

I will make every effort to see that this bill moves expeditiously through the Legislature. Until it becomes law, there are steps you can take to avoid the deadly consequences of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Have your fuel burning appliances B including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves B inspected by a professional at the beginning of every heating season. Make sure that flues and chimneys are connected, in good condition, and not blocked.

- Choose appliances that vent their fumes to the outside whenever possible.

- Do not sleep in a room with unvented gas or kerosene space heater.

- Do not ignore symptoms, like headaches, dizziness, nausea, convulsions, or unconsciousness, especially if more than one person is feeling them.

And most importantly, install a carbon monoxide detector in your home. While this is not meant to replace regular maintenance of your fuel burning appliances, this minor purchase and simple effort can save the lives of your entire family.

If you would like more information on Carbon Monoxide Poisoning you can visit www.epa.gov/iaq, and for more information on Carbon Monoxide Detectors you can contact the U.S. consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Information and Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20207 or call my district office at 732-316-1885.

Readers Commentary

Veterans' Day

Dear Editor,

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in the year 1981, World War I ended and an armistice was declared. In 1938 Congressional action made Nov. 11 an official national holiday "dedicated to the cause of world peace" and to honor those who fought in 'the war to end all wars' and called it Armistice Day. But, peace was not to last and with the advent of WW II and the Korean Conflict various veterans organizations urged Congress in 1954 to change the name of Armistice Day to Veterans Day and give homage to all veterans who served in all conflicts.

President Dwight D.



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.

Letters to the editor must be in our office by noon Friday for consideration for publication the following week.

Keep us informed of your feelings and concerns so we can keep you better informed of the events that are affecting your life.

We also welcome guest columns that cover timely topics of interest to all of our readers. Columns should be no more than 500-750 words and should be typed.

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.

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

Eisenhower stated, "let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom...."

This November 2002, America is once again involved in military conflict and once again our brave men and women are fighting and dying on foreign soil to preserve the cause of freedom and national security. Unlike other world conflicts this battle is often fought with an unseen enemy who is determined to undermine America's way of life. It will be a long battle, not fought in glorious grand battles; it is a conflict where the enemy has no compunction to killing innocent civilians, as well as battling those in our military, to further their cause. But, it is a battle that must be won. Let the words from the past ring in our ears again and again to give us the courage to withstand this new onslaught to our liberties. It is, therefore, appropriate to heed the words of Winston Churchill, "victory in spite of terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival." Despite what some people may think, military personnel are not war-mongers and they do constantly hope

for peace. This is reflected in the words of General Douglas MacArthur after WW II, "It is my earnest hope-indeed the hope of mankind-that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world found upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice." His words were unheeded and again we are threatened by those who seek world domination. If those factions throughout the world continue to see war and bloodshed as a means to an end they might consider the words of Albert Einstein, "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

So this Veterans Day let us remember those veterans who have sacrificed so we can enjoy the freedoms we take for granted today. Let us never forget, however, those men and women who are serving in the military today and making their own sacrifices to protect America-for they are the veterans of tomorrow.

Carl J. Asszony
Middlesex County
Veterans Services
Coordinator



NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Jazz Lovers Take Note

MUSIC NOTES

METUCHEN—Take "note!" You don't have to be a jazz lover to enjoy the delightful music of The James L. Dean Big Band with "A Tribute to Ellington, Basie and Buddy Rich" featuring vocalist Keaton Douglas at Jazz Fest '02 sponsored by the Metuchen Cultural Arts Commission on Friday evening, Nov. 15 at Metuchen High School.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. with ticket prices at \$8 students and seniors are \$7. Refreshments will be served.

James L. Dean (tenor sax and clarinet) will lead the band in a wide-ranging jazz program which will showcase the talents that have earned them the privilege of performing with such notables as Marlene Ver Planet, Billy Buckstei, Pepper Adams, The Ritz Brothers, Shirley Bassey—just to name a few. Joining Dean will be on trumpets, Vincent Borcelli, Mike Ponello, William Ash and Frederick Maxwell; on saxes, Sal Granto, "Jumping " Jeff Zelwick and Benjamin

Williams and rhythm, Ron Oslawski; piano, Kevin MacCarthy, bass; and Wayne Dunston on drums. Keaton Douglas, vocalist for the evening, is best known for her work as a Big Band soloist at some of the premiere swing and jazz clubs in New York and New Jersey. She has also been featured at the Newark Jazz Festival.

Tickets will be sold at the door. Metuchen High School is located on Grove Avenue, Metuchen, just off of Route 27. For further information, contact Nancy Goldberg, Metuchen Recreation at (732) 632-8502.



NEVER TOO YOUNG—Never too young to be fluent on the laptop computer, third-graders from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison get a lesson in the Lower School's Alexander Kroll Science Room. The third week in October was designated as COW week, which stands for Cart(of laptops) On Wheels. This independent school, serving Pre-K through 12th grade, has been recognized nationally for its wireless computer program especially in the Upper School. Photo Credit: Susan Dougherty.

Parents Urged To Get Their Children Screened For Lead Poisoning

PERTH AMBOY—As part of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, parents were urged to have their children, especially those between one and two years old, screened for the disease. The call to action was presented by AMERIGROUP Medical Director William Pawluk, MD at the James J. Flynn Elementary School. Pawluk was joined by Senator Joseph Vitale (D-19) and Assemblywoman Arline Friscia (D-19).

Lead poisoning is the leading environmental health risk posed to children, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). It has been shown to cause learning disabilities, hyperactivity and even brain damage in children who inhale

dust or eat chips from deteriorating paint. New Jersey banned the use of lead paint in homes in 1971, and a national ban followed seven years later. Still, traces of the dangerous metal remain in underlying coats of paint in thousands of homes across the state.

"The children that we are most concerned about are those who are less than six years old, particularly children between six months old and their third birthday," said Pawluk. "Scientists have found that lead can disrupt the normal growth and development of a child's brain and central nervous system."

According to a report from the NJ State Department of Health and Senior Services,

only 32% of all children between one and two-years old have been screened for lead poisoning. Lead can be found in the soil, in water on the clothes of adults who work in an industry that uses lead and in common hobbies such as stained glass and pottery making. Pawluk provided tips for families to help prevent their children from getting lead poisoning.

"There are a lot of simple, low cost things that parents can do to keep children from being exposed to lead," he remarked. "Their children should wash their hands frequently, wash their toys and be given a diet high in iron and calcium and low in fat. Iron and calcium block lead from getting into red blood cells and being carried

around the body." The national goal of the CDC is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the United States by 2010.

The goal of National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is to raise awareness about this serious health issue and to increase screening of at-risk children at ages 1 and 2 years and children

between 36 and 72 months who have not been previously screened. Free screening is available through local health departments and state law requires every health insurance plan covering a group of 50 or more persons to cover the cost of lead screening without any deductible.



Students at the Thomas J. Flynn Elementary School learned about the importance of screening for lead poisoning from representatives of AMERIGROUP NJ.

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

JILL JACKSON'S HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD ... Charlize Theron is possibly one of the most beautiful femmes in film today. She is also an excellent actress. That talent will be taxed in her next role — "Monsters." This is the true story of Aileen Wuornos, supposedly the nation's first female serial killer. Filming gets under way in January in Florida. ... Charlize herself has a most interesting background. She was born in Benoni, South Africa. Her father was French, her mother German. Theron's first language was Afrikaans. She learned English by watching TV.

For those of you who have asked "Whatever happened to Debra Winger?", here's your

answer. She's just signed to co-star with Alfre Woodard, Ed Harris and Cuba Gooding Jr. in a drama titled "Radio," about a high-school football coach and his influence on the life of a mentally retarded boy nicknamed Radio. Winger plays the coach's wife.

Time was when a Mercedes, a Lexus, a Rolls or a BMW was THE status symbol in Tinseltown. However, the Mini-Cooper is fast becoming a big hit. Madonna was spotted tootling about town in a bright blue number, and Sting was sighted in a black one. AND at any given stoplight, the Minis are more than numerous.

FAVORITE FILMS:

Physical therapist Gregory Lewis of Los Angeles lists his: "The Learning Tree," "The Women," "The Matrix," "All About Eve," "The Color Purple," "The Letter," "The Green Mile," "The Sixth Sense," "Funny Girl" and "Moulin Rouge."

Jeff Bridges recently spent a great deal of time at Santa Anita Racetrack, but not to bet the horses. He's playing the owner of Seabiscuit in a film about the racing legend, and he wanted to know all there is to know and more about horses and horseracing. Talk about researching a role. He DID!

Most people think of Nancy Reagan as the wife of a former president and a former first lady. However, out here she still participates in many events as Nancy Davis, actress. One of

those is the Screen Smart Set. She was chosen recently to present an award to Merv Griffin. Looking somewhat frail, accompanied by her Secret Service bodyguards, she could not have been more gracious. She made a lovely speech, traded a few funnies with old friend Merv and charmed everyone in the audience.

Jennifer Aniston could be getting hotter than hubby Brad Pitt, what with all her recent awards and publicity. Multitudinous offers for big-screen projects are pouring in, among them to co-star with Ben Stiller and Debra Messing in an as-yet-unnamed project. She also stars in "Bruce Almighty" with Jim Carrey, and of course, there's always "Friends." Now, if they really wanted to make a splash, the

Pitts should co-star in a film. Their two names alone could create a box-office smash.

BITS 'N' PIECES: *Friends* Chelsea Clinton and Madonna are trying to help Gwyneth Paltrow pick up the pieces after her father's untimely death. Gwyneth is devastated. ... *Lara Flynn Boyle* showed a softer side when she exited a Hollywood restaurant to find a homeless man outside asking for food. She trotted back in, had a dinner packed for him and, along with some "long green," presented it to the surprised streetperson. ... **AND there are rumblings about bickering in the Moder mansion. Let's hope things go smoothly for Julia — for a while anyway.**

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Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your honesty continues to impress everyone who needs reassurance about a project. But be careful you don't lose patience with those who are still not ready to act.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Pushing others too hard to do things your way could cause resentment and raise more doubts. Instead, take more time to explain why your methods will work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be more considerate of those close to you before making a decision that could have a serious effect on their lives. Explain your intentions and ask for their advice.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might have to defend a workplace decision you plan to

make. Colleagues might back you up on this, but it's the facts that will ultimately win the day for you. Good luck.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat's co-workers might not be doing enough to help get that project finished. Your roars might stir things up, but gentle purr-suasion will prove to be more effective.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Someone you care for needs help with a problem. Give it lovingly and without judging the situation. Whatever you feel you should know will be revealed later.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) While you're to be admired for how you handled recent workplace problems, be careful not to react the same way to a new situation until all

the facts are in.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Rely on your keen instincts as well as the facts at hand when dealing with a troubling situation. Be patient. Take things one step at a time as you work through it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your curiosity leads you to ask questions. However, the answers might not be what you hoped to hear. Don't reject them without checking them out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to tackle a problem without sufficient facts. Even sure-footed Goats need to know where they'll land before leaping off a mountain path.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Appearances can be deceiving. You need to do more investigating before investing your time, let alone your money, in something that might have some hidden flaws.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your recent stand on an issue could make you the focus of more attention than you would like. But you'll regain your privacy, as well as more time with loved ones by week's end.

BORN THIS WEEK: You're a good friend and a trusted confidante. You would be a wonderful teacher and a respected member of the clergy.

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Unity Bank Named Among Top 30 SBA Lenders in Nation continued

(continued from page...8)

lenders to use their own forms and procedures for making loans in order to reduce paperwork and expedite processing.

Downes added, "SBA and small business lending represents a significant part of our overall business plan. We are pleased to assist so many small businesses in starting or growing their enterprises. These entrepreneurs represent the

lifeblood of the local and national economy. We are proud to be able to assist them and, at the same time, help our local communities prosper."

Founded in 1953, the SBA stimulates economic growth by providing lenders with partial guarantees for small business loans, including loans for real estate, fixtures, machinery and equipment, working capital and many other business needs.

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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Letters About Literature Contest Announced

NEW BRUNSWICK — New Jersey children will compose letters to their favorite authors living or dead—as part of a contest sponsored by the New Jersey Center for the Book, which is based at Rutgers' School of Communication, Information and Library Studies.

As part of a national reading and writing contest to be conducted by the national Center for the Book at the Library of Congress and by Weekly Reader Corp., "Letters About Literature" will ask children to

write about how an author's work changed their view of the world or themselves. The deadline for submission is Dec 7.

Language arts teachers and libraries are encouraged to organize group submissions, but individual entries are welcome. Submissions should be sent to: "Letters About Literature," (Note Level I, II or III), Post Office Box 609, Dallas, PA 18612.

Children in three different categories from grades four through twelve will select a

book, short story, poem or speech (no song lyrics) to write about. Renee Swartz, chair and coordinator of the New Jersey Center for the Book, said the letters should make a connection between the reader and the literary work, answering such questions as: How did the book mirror your life? What questions did the author force you to ask yourself or others? What surprised you about yourself when you read the book?

Children in grades four through six will write 100–

125 words; those in grades seven and eight; 250–500 words; and contestants in grades nine through twelve, 500–750 words.

The contest will be judged by a statewide panel of educators, authors and literacy experts. The top winner in each of the three categories will receive a cash prize of \$250 and the three runners-up will each receive \$100, to be presented at a reception at Drumthwacket, the governor's mansion, in May 2003. Each winner's school will have a

ceremony and each entrant will receive a memento from the New Jersey Center for the Book.

Three first-place winners from each participating state will advance for judging at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., where national winners will be announced for each age category.

For information, contact Swartz at (732) 842-3046, or send an e-mail to rswartz@shore.co.monmouth.nj.us or go to www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook.

Ford Teams With College To Expand Auto Education Program

EDISON—The automotive technology program at Middlesex County College has just doubled the amount of students it accepts, thanks to the latest collaboration between the College, Middlesex County Vocational and Technical Schools and the Ford Motor Company of Dearborn, Michigan.

The ASSET (Automotive Student Service Educational Training) program will now admit 24 students each September rather than every other year, making it better able to fill the needs for qualified automotive technicians of participating Ford and Lincoln Mercury dealers.

"We are expanding the program at the request of the Ford Motor Company and their dealers who employ our graduates," said Jack Waintraub, chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering Technology, which offers the automotive technology program. "The demand for well-trained and -educated technicians is high, in order to replace those who retire each year. We agreed to begin a new class every September, thereby doubling the number of student we could educate, if dealerships would provide us with cooperative work experiences for students. It is a win-win situation."

This year there were more than double the applicants than this highly competitive program could admit, Waintraub explained. Because ASSET is regional, students are accepted

from a wide geographic area. These students usually have participating dealerships in their home areas where they can work during the rotating cycles of the program. (A dealership must sponsor each student before he or she can participate in the program.)

ASSET is an intensive full-time program that includes 60 weeks spent in college classes and 30 weeks spent working in dealerships. Upon completion, successful participants will have earned an associate degree in Automotive Technology and, in all likelihood, will have landed a lucrative job at a Ford or Lincoln Mercury dealership. The program takes a full two years to complete. Now in its 11th year, Professor Waintraub related that ASSET graduates have been very successful and are in great demand for their high-tech skills.

For further information on the ASSET program, contact the admissions office at Middlesex County College at 1-888-YOU-4-MCC (1-888-968-4622) and visit the website at www.fordasset.com.

"Girls Going Places" Scholarship Program

CRANFORD—Northeast Planning Corporation of Cranford, in conjunction with Guardian Life Insurance Company is proud to announce their participation in the 2002-2003 Girls Going Places College Scholarship Program.

Girls Going Places is a national competition that recognizes girls between the ages of 12 and 16 who are taking the first steps towards financial independence.

Guardian and Girls Going Places will award 15 girls a total of \$30,000 to be used toward their college education. Three top prizes of \$10,000,

\$5,000, and \$3,000 and 12 finalist prizes of \$1,000 each will be granted. Adults are asked to nominate girls-who could be their daughter, niece, neighbor, or student-by submitting a 1,000-word essay on why the nominee deserves a Girls Going Places award. A panel of judges will review the essays and pick finalists that:

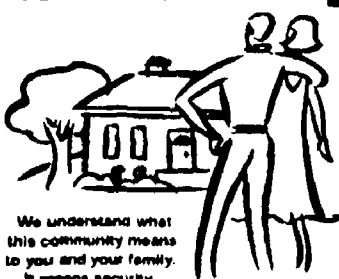
- Demonstrate entrepreneurship and/or financial acumen
- Have taken the first steps towards financial independence.
- Make a difference in their school, community or in other people's lives

- Show potential for future success

The nomination period begins in September and entries will be accepted through February 28, 2003. Scholarships will be presented to each winner within their respective communities, among their peers. During the 2001-2002 campaign, Guardian received more than 2,000 nominations.

For more information regarding this program, please call Brian Millinger at Northeast Planning Corporation. He can be reached at (908) 709-0020 X 169.

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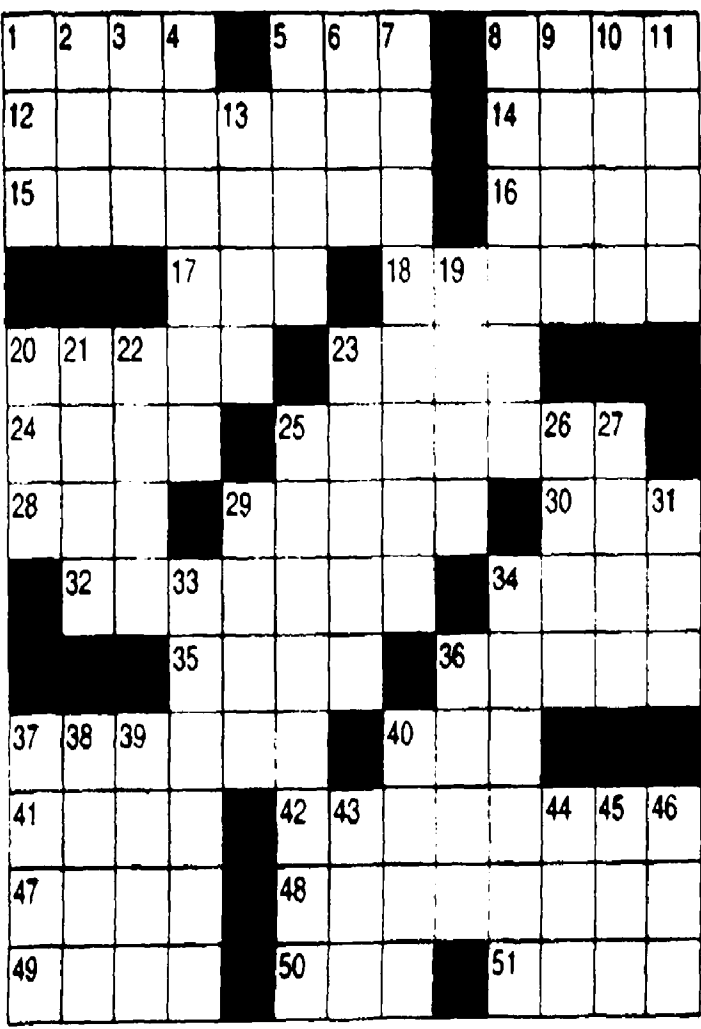
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ACROSS

- 1 Calf-length dress
- 5 Symbol of intrigue
- 8 Put together
- 12 New York lake or county
- 14 Shake-speare's river
- 15 Tile game
- 16 Kachina worshipper
- 17 Last (Abbr.)
- 18 Turned the soil
- 20 Not together
- 23 Stead
- 24 Long-beloved TV star
- 25 Of the liver
- 28 Parisian pal
- 29 Done on a loom
- 30 Prompt
- 32 Looks up to
- 34 Titanic troublemaker
- 35 Basilica area
- 36 Wild West show
- 37 Giggler's comment
- 40 Court
- 41 Drag a load
- 42 Variety of hardwood
- 47 Farm fraction
- 48 Test taker
- 49 Adventurer Heyerdahl

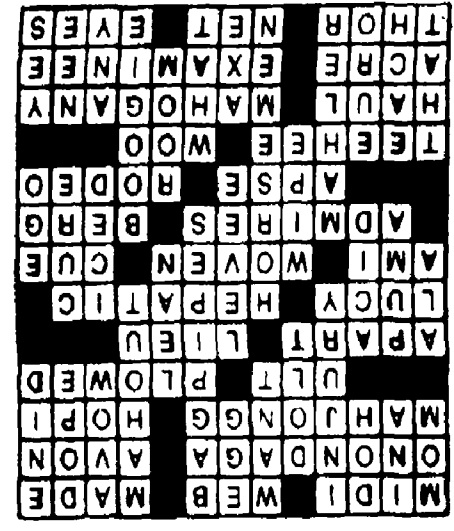


- 50 Bottom line
- 51 Sight-seers?
- 11 Oklahoma city composer
- 13 Nitwit
- 19 Fat-free
- 20 Carte lead-in floor
- 21 Cougar kin
- 22 Sharp
- 23 Where to wait for the Robert E. Lee
- 25 Apocalypse quartet
- 26 On the rocks
- 27 Remedy
- 29 Use a paper towel
- 31 "I" strain
- 33 "Das Lied von der Erde"
- 34 Get down on the dance
- 36 Leeway
- 37 Just one of those things
- 38 Apiece
- 39 New money overseas
- 40 "Come again?"
- 43 Downsize
- 44 Whatever number
- 45 Born
- 46 "Absolutely!"

DOWN

- 1 Off-tattooed word
- 2 - pickle
- 3 Homer's expletive
- 4 Harm
- 5 Desire
- 6 Silly Putty container
- 7 Highlander's musicmaker
- 8 Howdah driver
- 9 Swear
- 10 Info

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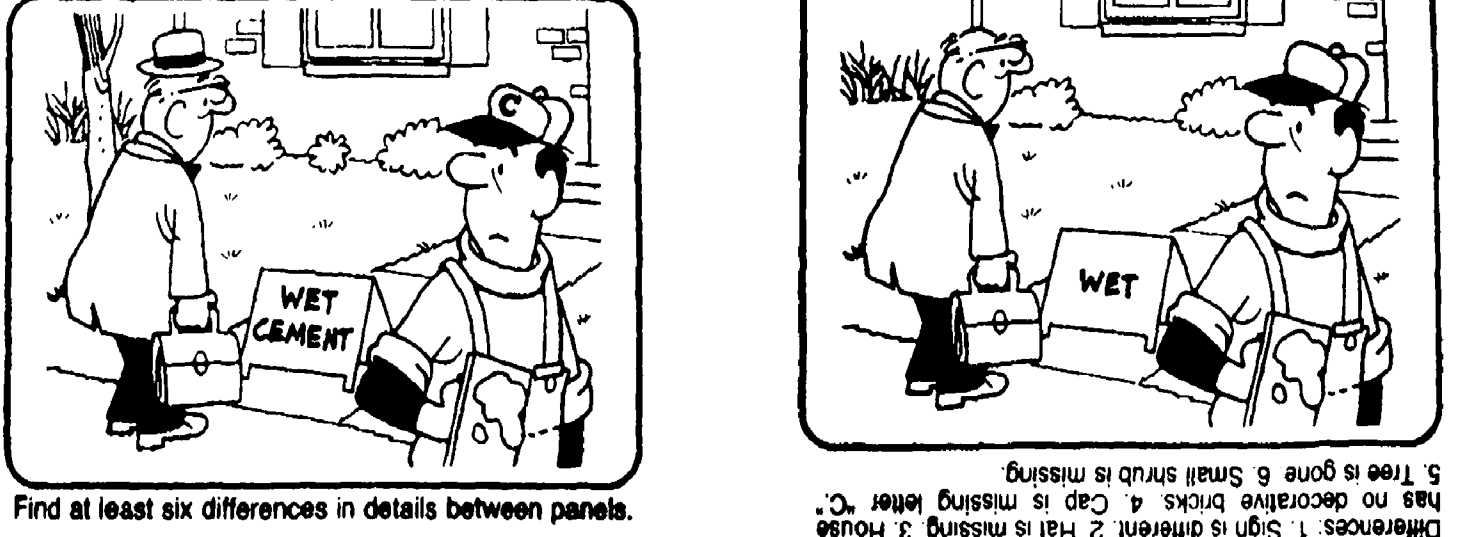


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OBITUARIES
Samuel W. Garaffa
of Perth Amboy

Mr. Samuel William Garaffa of Florida (formerly of Perth Amboy) died Oct. 7 at home in Sanford, Fla. He was 80.

Born and raised in Perth Amboy, he moved to Florida in 1992.

He was regarded as one of the area's top amateur boxers in the late 1930s and early 1940s. During his ring days, he captured the AAU State Championship and the New Jersey Golden Gloves award.

Mr. Garaffa served in the Army during World War II.

He became a successful self-employed hairdresser, and also worked at Unisex at Menlo Park Mall, in addition to running his own hairdressing business. He was a volunteer barber at Roosevelt Hospital in Menlo Park.

Two brothers, John, died in 2000 and Faust Garaffa, died in 1998.

Surviving are his son, William of Florida and their two children; his former wife, Jenny of Florida; three brothers, Angelo of Hazlet, Joseph of Union Beach and Fred of Manalapan; six sisters, Eleanor Dougherty and Rosemarie Mandy, both of East Brunswick, Alma Ballschneider of Staten Island, N.Y., Arlene Bellotti of Princeton Junction, Colette DeFilippo of Casselberry, Fla., and Jayne Blamer of Longwood, Fla.

Joseph Naar, 74
of Perth Amboy

Mr. Joseph Naar of Perth Amboy died October 16 at his home. He was 74.

Born in Hungary, he came to the United States in 1958. He resided in Perth Amboy for the past 44 years.

He was a carpenter by trade, and was employed by Carpenters Union Local 65 in Perth Amboy for many years before retiring in 1992.

Mr. Naar was a communicant of Our Lady of Hungary R.C. Church in Perth Amboy.

Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Anna Vince Naar; a daughter, Mary Naar of Perth Amboy; two grandchildren, Heather Naar and Richard Velez Jr.; his brother-in-law, Michael Vince of Woodbridge, and several nieces and nephews.

Emil E. Gregowicz
of Perth Amboy

Mr. Emil E. Gregowicz of Perth Amboy, died October 12 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division. He was 80.

Born in Perth Amboy, he was a lifelong resident.

He was a 1940 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

Mr. Gregowicz was employed as a foreman for Syncro Machine Co. in Perth Amboy for 28 years before retiring in 1974.

He was an Air Force veteran of World War II, serving with the 7th Airdrome Squadron in the Bismark, Archipelago and New Guinea campaigns. He was a member of American Legion Post 45 in Perth Amboy.

Mr. Gregowicz was a member of St. Michael's Byzantine Catholic Church in Perth Amboy. He was also a member of the Holy Name Society and Senior Citizens Club of the church.

His parents, Stanley and Helen (Gasier) Gregowicz; a sister, Walterine Bujalkowski and three brothers, Adam, Carl and Leon, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 47 years, Irene O. Dohanyos Gregowicz; a sister, Ann Kardos of Buffalo, N.Y.; a brother, Edward Gregowicz, of Fords; his sister-in-law, Betty Pellegrino; a brother-in-law, Zoltan Dohanyos; three godchildren, Lisa, Cathy and Lauren, and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and a great-nephew.

Agostinho Afonso, 37
of Iselin

Mr. Agostinho C. Afonso of Iselin died October 13 in University Hospital, Newark, after injuries suffered in an automobile accident. He was 37.

Born in Portugal, he lived in Newark before moving to Iselin 13 years ago.

He was a electrician and firefighter at the Schering Plough Corp. in Kenilworth for 11 years.

Surviving are two sons, Nicholas and Agostino; his father, Agostinho Afonso; two sisters, Maria Dos-Santo and Fatima Miller, and his grandmother in Portugal.

Eleanor L. Hayes
of Edison

Mrs. Eleanor L. (Quintillian) Hayes died October 12 at Deborah Heart & Lung Center in Browns Mills. She was 74.

Born in Manhattan in New York City, she lived in Queens, N.Y., before moving to Edison in 1965.

She worked in the checking department of Perth Amboy Savings Bank, which became Bankers Savings (now Sovereign Bank) for 15 years before retiring in 1993.

Mrs. Hayes was a communicant of St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen.

Surviving are her husband, Francis X. Hayes of Edison; two sons, Francis X. Hayes Jr. of Edison, and Joseph T. Hayes Sr. of Brick; two sisters, Helena Spiegel of Westchester County, N.Y., and Lucille Wiseman of Long Island, N.Y., and a grandson, Joseph T. Hayes Jr. of Edison.

Catherine Crosby
of Colonia

Mrs. Catherine Engel Crosby of Colonia died October 16 at Rahway Hospital. She was 85.

Born in Jersey City, she moved to Colonia in 1969.

She was employed as an assembly worker for Western Electric in Kearny for many years before retiring.

Mrs. Crosby was a communicant of The Church of the Holy Comforter, Rahway.

Her husband, Herbert Crosby, died in 2000.

Surviving are a daughter, Loretta McCabe of Piscataway, and two granddaughters, Maureen McCabe of Dunellen and Meredith Badolato.

Marjorie Peterson
of Colonia

Mrs. Marjorie Peterson of Colonia died October 15 in Father Hudson House, Elizabeth. She was 78.

Born in Elizabeth, she moved to Colonia many years ago.

Mrs. Peterson worked as a medical transcriber for Roosevelt Hospital, Edison, for 12 years before retiring many years ago.

She was a member of the choir at Holy Comforter Church in Rahway.

Mrs. Peterson is survived by a sister, Doris Curtis.

Frank Brown, 83
of Edison

Mr. Frank B. "Butch" Brown of Edison died Nov. 2 at New Jersey Veterans Home in Menlo Park. He was 83.

Born in New Brunswick, he lived there and in North Brunswick before moving to Edison 48 years ago.

Mr. Brown was employed as an ironworker with Local 373 in Perth Amboy for 41 years before retiring in 1979. He also owned and operated Frank B. Brown Nursery in Edison for 40 years.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church in Metuchen, and was a life member of American Legion Father & Son Post 435 and VFW Post 3117, both of Edison. He was also a life member and past master of Raritan Americus F&AM Lodge 61 in Carteret. He was a former member of the Crescent Temple of Shriners in Trenton, where he was a 32nd degree mason.

A grandson, David Wilson, died in June of this year.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Dorothy A. (Manning) Brown; two sons, Paul B. of Roebbing and Phillip B. of Edison; two daughters, Patricia M. Brown of Lanoka Harbor and Pamela A. Craig of Edison; eight grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Joseph Genovese, 82
of Woodbridge

Mr. Joseph Genovese of Woodbridge died Nov. 2. He was 83.

Born in New York City, he was a lifelong Woodbridge resident.

He was a member of and employed by Heavy and General Laborers Union in Newark as an operating engineer for 20 years before retiring in 1985.

Previously, he was employed by Middlesex Concrete in Sewaren for 30 years.

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

He was a communicant of St. James R.C. Church in Woodbridge and a former member of the Holy Name Society of St. James.

He was a lifelong member of Woodbridge Elks Lodge 2116. He played football with the Golden Bears football team of Woodbridge during the 1950s, and was an avid bowler and member of the AARP.

His brother, Louis Genovese, and a sister, Anna Kaldon, are both deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years; three daughters, Joann Trakimowicz of Whiting, Denise Callanan of Middlesex and Dorothy Higgins of Warren; a sister, Frances Lisi of Woodbridge; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



The Cathedral-Second Baptist Church

277 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy
Bishop Donald Hilliard Jr., D.Min., Senior Pastor

732-826-5293

SUNDAY • Worship Services 6:30am, 8:30am, 11:00am • Sunday Christian Education 8:15 & 9:15am • Children's Church, Junior Church and Teen Church - 2nd & 4th Sun 11:00am • Holy Communion - 1st Sunday Each Worship Service (and as announced) • Water Baptism - 3rd Sunday 11:00am (and as announced) • Baby and Child Dedications 2nd Sunday	MONDAY • Man to Man Bible Class 6:30pm • Sister to Sister Bible Class 6:30pm TUESDAY • Cathedral Bible Institute 6:30pm-10:00pm WEDNESDAY • Mid-Day "Hour of Power" 12:00 Noon THURSDAY • Pastoral Teaching Service 6:30pm
--	--

Monday through Friday ~ Sunrise Prayer 6:00 am

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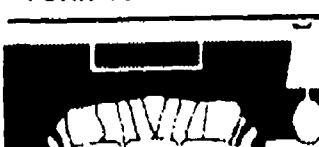
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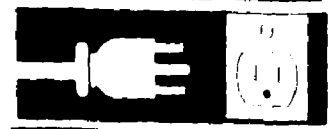
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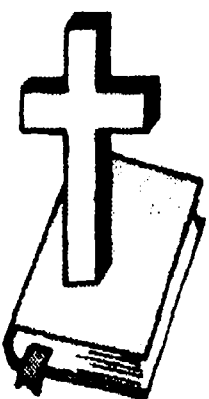
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7.	89.25	119.00	148.75
8.	102.00	136.00	170.00

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Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Initials at end of prayer _____
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS

NEWS

ATM Surcharge Funds Help Kids Fight Fire

SOUTH AMBOY This quarter, Raritan Bay used their ATM Surcharge Funds to help educate local schoolchildren on the importance of Fire Prevention.

A significant contribution has been made to the South Amboy Fire Department which was used to sponsor a Drawing Contest for local

schoolchildren, held during Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, 2002. The winners comprised of students from St. Mary's and Sacred Heart schools, whom all received movie tickets to Multiplex Cinemas.

Winners also got the chance of a lifetime to ride in a real fire truck. Protection Engine,

to Raritan Bay FCU to have their picture taken with Fire Chief Mark Herdman, Fire Official Ed Satski, and Raritan Bay FCU's CEO Thomas J. O'Shea and Marketing Coordinator Laura-Ilene Harding. All who helped coordinate this special event.

In wake of the first anniversary of September 11, Raritan

Bay FCU found it even more noteworthy to make a contribution to local heroes. CEO and President of Raritan Bay FCU, Thomas J. O'Shea adds, "It's important that we continue to support our local volunteers, people who put their lives in danger to save ours. They are an important and integral part of our community." Funds for charitable dona-

tions are collected from the ATM surcharges of non-member transactions at Raritan Bay FCU's three ATMs located in Sayreville, South River and South Amboy. If you know of a local non-profit or charitable organization that would like to be considered for the Surcharge Program, please contact Laura-Ilene Harding at (732) 727-3500, ext. 115.

Spaghetti Dinner At Sacred Heart

SOUTH AMBOY—The annual Spaghetti Dinner at Sacred Heart School in South Amboy, will be held on Saturday, Nov. 16 in the school cafeteria from 4-7 p.m. The Home School Association volunteers will be serving Spaghetti Dinners with home-made meatballs for \$5 or Chicken Parmigiana for \$7. Meatball or chick parm sandwiches will also be available. Children can have a kiddie-size meal of spaghetti and take-outs are always available.

All dinners include salad, Italian bread, dessert and a beverage. Advance tickets are available in the school office on Cedar St. between the hours of 7:30-8:30 a.m. or in the Sacred Heart Parish Office on Feltus St. between the hours of 9 a.m.-3 p.m. You may call (732) 727-0182 for additional information.

Sacred Heart School is a Middle-States certified pre-K through 8th grade. Call (732) 727-0834 for information on any of their programs.

Imani Park Project Break's Ground

EDISON—On Oct. 21, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin attended the groundbreaking ceremony at Imani Park, a transitional housing program dedicated to homeless individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. This is the first transitional housing program in Middlesex County to date that offers a full spectrum of support services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

"The creation of Imani Park marks a significant change in the way we view transitional housing," Commissioner Levin said "This type of housing fills a different need for residents by providing them with not only a safe place to call home, but also the support services and healthcare that they need."

Imani Park consists of 16-units priced around \$157 per month. The plan calls for one,

two and three-bedroom apartments, several meeting rooms and classrooms, a group therapy and medical treatment room, and two common laundry areas. Additional services include job counseling, health screening and after-school programs.

The Department of Community Affairs, under its Balanced Housing Program, along with the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency contributed \$1,245,000 in subsidies and loans toward the completion of Imani Park. The total project costs \$2,683,550.

Middlesex Interfaith Partners With The Homeless is a local organization founded in 1987. Created in response to the rising numbers of homeless individuals throughout Middlesex County, MIPH has successfully operated a transitional housing program in Edison for the last ten years.

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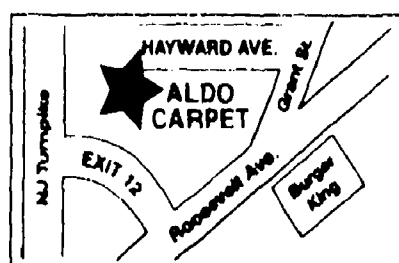
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