

The ATOM TABLOID

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

& Citizen~Gazette

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Middlesex County Edition

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Friday, October 25, 2002

50¢



Edison Hero Recognized

STATE—On Oct. 17, the General Assembly honored Louis Feliciano, who single-handedly rescued two teenagers erupted at his en team store

in Edison earlier this year. Assembly Majority Whip Peter J. Barnes Jr. and Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Jr., sponsored a resolution saluting the 21-year-old Feliciano

for his bravery in the June 16 incident at the Magic Fountain Ice Cream Stand on Amboy Avenue.

"Every day we hear stories of young people who commit terrible deeds while the stories of young heroes are often ignored," said Barnes (D-Edison). "Feliciano's strong character is best exemplified by his refusal to accept the title of 'hero'."

Feliciano was serving customers in the front of the store when the fire broke out in the back, blocking the only exit. He pushed the owner's two children, 16-year-old Doriana and 13-year-old Nicholas, through the 16-inch-by-16-inch service window. The owner, Frank Durando, had exited the rear of the building but went

back inside looking for his children. Feliciano helped Durando, who had sustained serious burns, out of the service window, and waited for paramedics to arrive. Durando died one month later from his injuries.

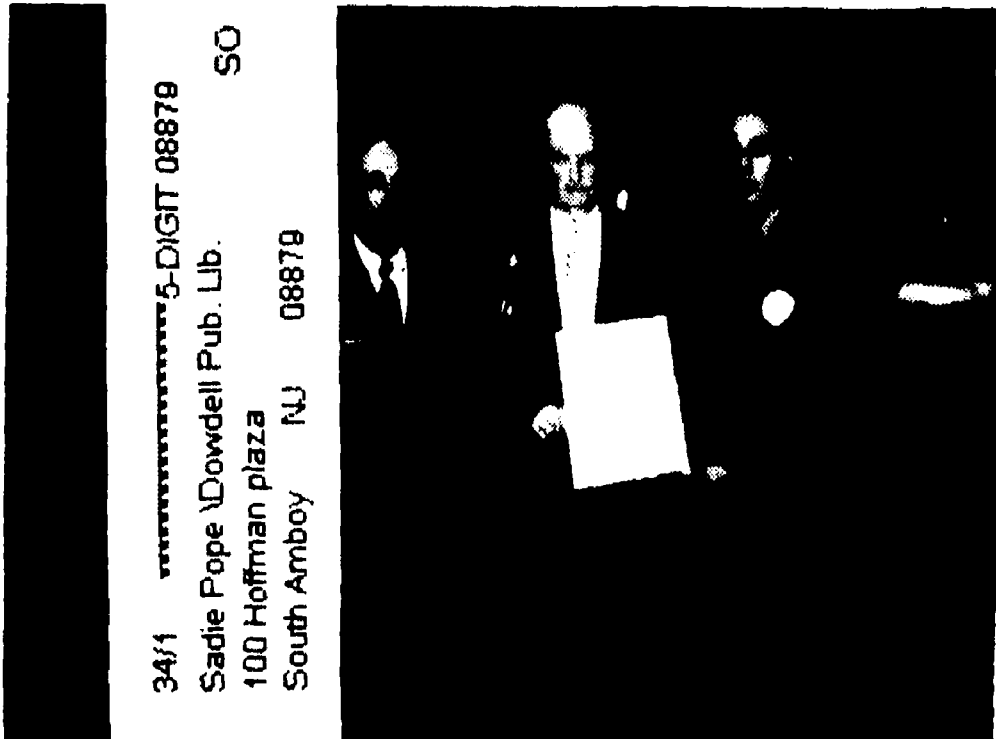
"Mr. Feliciano's exceptional courage in the face of great risk to himself is admirable," said Diegnan (D-South Plainfield). "His fearlessness, determination and unwavering willingness to risk his life to help others in a dangerous situation provides a model of valor and selflessness worthy of emulation."

In addition to the resolution, Barnes and Diegnan have nominated Feliciano to receive the Dana Christmas Scholarship for Heroism. The college schol-

arship fund was established to honor Christmas, the Seton Hall University student who is credited with saving lives and helping many students avoid serious injury during a tragic dormitory fire in January 2001.

"We owe Mr. Feliciano a debt of gratitude, and we can repay that debt by honoring him with the Dana Christmas Scholarship," said Barnes, a former Edison police director and retired F.B.I. agent. "As a true hero, he could ask for just about anything Feliciano just wants to go to college."

Feliciano also received a nomination for the scholarship from Edison Fire Chief G. Robert Campbell, who spoke on behalf of the young man at the Assembly ceremony.



ASSEMBLY FELICIANO—Pictured (L.-R.) are Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Edison Fire Chief G. Robert Campbell and Assembly Majority Whip Peter J. Barnes Jr. and honoree, Louis Feliciano.

Bayshore Insta-Care At South Amboy Welcomes Neighbors

SOUTH AMBOY — Bayshore Insta-Care at South Amboy held an open house to welcome the community and introduce its services. Staff members were introduced and free health screenings and giveaways were available to all participants.

"Professionally, Bayshore Insta-Care is part of Claremont Comprehensive Health Care, L.L.C., a professional corporation

that has adopted a new concept in medical practice based on an integrated delivery system," according to K. George Younan, MD. "In addition to having access to immediate primary care services in the area, patients will have access to a variety of specialized services.

These services will include cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation sleep disorder studies, asthma, cholesterol control, diabetic counseling, teaching and

management, and new strategies in treating and controlling hypertension using recently established national criteria and weight control."

The integrated system of specialists and primary care professionals are teaming up with Bayshore Health Care Management Corporation which will bring to the project the expertise of a hospital based organization. Bayshore Health Care Management

Corporation-affiliated with Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel-will provide management services.

"Our goal is to stress not just quality primary care services, but also to make sure they are available when it is convenient for the public, that is why we will be open evenings and weekends," explains Thomas Goldman, president and CEO of Bayshore Community Health Services.

Bayshore Insta-Care is locat-

ed in the building that was once the emergency room at the former Memorial Medical Center.

When you need quality care but can't wait for an appointment, visit Bayshore Insta-Care at 540 Bordentown Avenue. Appointments are available, and walk-in are welcome. Medicare assignment and most of the major insurance plans are accepted. For more information, call (732) 553-1555.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

OCTOBER 27

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NJ Transit Improves Fencing In Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY — Consistent with its "Back to Basics" approach to managing NJ Transit, the Corporation announced it will install a high-security fence at "Wood" interlocking to replace an existing fence on the North Jersey Coast Line. The

\$500,000 project is aimed at reducing the number of vandalism and trespasser incidents that occur at the location, just north of Hall Avenue.

"I applaud this effort by Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox and Executive Director George Warrington to

(continues on back page)

YOUR COUNTY NEWS

Info Line Awarded Grant To Expand

MIDDLESEX COUNTY —Following a 43% increase in call volume in 2001, Info Line of Middlesex County has been awarded a two-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Info Line is the only toll-free (1-888-908-4636), county-wide, confidential helpline. It is designed to connect callers to a wide variety of community services, including financial assistance, legal guidance, mental health services, substance abuse programs, services for senior citizens, healthcare and much more. United Way of Central Jersey is one of its largest funding sources.

Info Line of Middlesex County also supports the work of community social service professionals by providing them with immediate referrals for their clients.

Executive Director Lisa Zittis says, "The huge increase in our call volume in 2001, compared to the previous year, shows us that there is a growing demand and need for Info Line in Middlesex County."

We are grateful to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the opportunity to expand our reach in the communities that we serve. The grant will enable us to improve our accessibility both on the phone and on-site,

like at WIC programs and food pantries. We'll now be available weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., and around the clock on weekends and holidays."

Funds from this grant will also be utilized to perform outreach in high-need communities, create and distribute a county-wide health and social service directory, and make community needs data available on the Info Line website: www.info-line.org

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, headquartered in Princeton, is the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care.

Free Election Day Transportation To Polls

AREA—Middlesex County's Area Wide Transportation System (AWTS) will provide free transportation to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 5 between 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for seniors (60 and over) and disabled residents of Middlesex County.

For more information or to register for transportation, contact AWTS at 1-800-221-3520 no later than Friday, Oct. 25.

The transportation program is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

B'atzmi At JFVS

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — B'atzmi means "with independence." B'atzmi is a social program for young Jewish adults with developmental challenges. It is offered to the community by Jewish Family & Vocational Service (JFVS).

The purpose of this program is to promote independence and community integration. B'atzmi members meet twice per month. Once with a social activity and the other time with a Jewish educational component.

These programs increase independence, Jewish identity and a sense of belonging to the community. Some trips taken include bowling, the park, and miniature golf. Programs that have a Jewish focus include Jewish Trivia, a tour of a synagogue, and a Passover Seder.

If you would like more information about B'atzmi or would like to sign up, contact Marnie Bershtky at JFVS at (732) 777-1940, ext.121.

Support For World Trade Center Survivors Continues

MIDDLESEX COUNTY — Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County (JFVS) continues to offer an ongoing support group for 9/11 survivors and displaced workers.

Although more than a year has passed, the stress and trauma continue for many. JFVS is able to help you through these difficult times, help you to understand the reasons your usual ways of coping don't seem to be enough and help you to develop new ways to cope. The group offers participants the opportunity to join with others struggling with similar issues.

This support group meets on an ongoing basis on Monday evenings at 8 p.m. at the JFVS Center for Individual and Family Growth, 515 Plainfield Ave., Edison. There is no charge for this group. To register, call Nancy Schley at JFVS at (732) 777-1940.



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Bereavement Group Starting

MIDDLESEX COUNTY —Jewish Family and Vocational Service (JFVS) is holding an open-ended Bereavement Group. The group meets Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the JFVS office. The office is located at 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison. The charge for the group is \$15 for each session. If you are interested in the group, call (732) 777-1940 to confirm your participation.

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NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Collection Launched For Needy Children

WOODBIDGE —The Mayor's Advisory Committee has begun a campaign to collect baby products for needy families in Woodbridge Township, Mayor Frank G. Pelzman has announced.

The effort, called "Teddy Bear's Closet," is in conjunction with Make A Difference Day on Oct. 26. The Advisory Committee is asking for donations of baby food, baby formula, disposable diapers, and baby wipes. The items will be distributed to needy families through the food pantries.

Those who wish to donate any of these items may do so at Woodbridge Town Hall at 1 Main Street.

"These are items that are usually not donated to food pantries, but are needed nonetheless," said Pelzman. "The people of Woodbridge Township have always been generous, and I'm hoping they respond to this campaign."

Mayor's Advisory Committee Chairman Terry Sharkey points out that baby products are among the most expensive in a family's budget.

"We want to help families obtain much-needed items, which they may have a hard time buying themselves," said Sharkey.

Any group that would like to hold collections of baby goods for Teddy Bear's Closet can contact Joanne Bulla at 732-636-3728 to arrange for a pick-up.

The Mayor's Advisory Committee is a group of individuals whose goal is to strive for the good of the community through public service projects.

Parlin Sailor Visits The 'Emerald City'

Story by Cnythia Smith

Parlin's Robert E. Hamilton, aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV 64), spent four days in Seattle where he participated in the 53rd annual Seafair event.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Hamilton, the 27-year-old son of Joyce Nuzzi and brother of Jonathon Hamilton, both of Parlin, is an electronics technician aboard "America's flagship," as the Constellation is known. He maintains, operates and repairs electronic equipment such as radars, radios and computers.

The Constellation pulled into Seattle on Aug. 1. During Hamilton's visit, the people of Seattle treated him with a sense of appreciation and gratitude.

"I have always been supported by the general population. Since Sept. 11th however, that support has turned into thanks and praise.

People now understand why we are here and that comforts them knowing we are here to protect them," said Hamilton, a 1994 graduate of Sayreville War Memorial High School. The Constellation's visit also gave

the people of Seattle a new perspective of the Navy. The ship opened its doors and welcomed the community on board for tours.

"It gives the community a chance to understand what we do in the Navy and the sacrifices we make every day," Hamilton said.

Hamilton, a six-year Navy veteran, will have many opportunities to visit foreign countries all around the world. However, he doesn't always get a chance to visit different cities in the United States. Since the Navy's primary focus is protecting our interests overseas through forward presence around the globe, stateside port visits, such as this trip to Seattle, are a rare treat.

The Seafair provided Hamilton and the community of Seattle a chance to better understand each other. It also gave the "Emerald City" a chance to experience a slice of Navy life for themselves.

Smith is a Navy journalist assigned to the Navy Public Affairs Center at Naval Station, San Diego

Spadaro Swears In New Firemen And Promotes Others

EDISON—Mayor George A. Spadaro was joined by the Municipal Council, Fire Chief Robert Campbell and other Edison officials for the swearing in of four new hires to the Fire Department and the promotion of three firemen in a ceremony in the Council chambers. The new hires bring the total fire personnel in Edison to 134. The ceremony took place on Oct. 7.

"Keeping our public safety personnel adequately staffed with highly qualified individuals is a hallmark of my administration," the Mayor stated. "The challenges faced by these brave individuals are more complicated than ever before."

Captain Ralph Ambrosio Jr. was promoted to Deputy Chief. Ambrosio is a 32-year veteran of the Edison Division of Fire. He was hired as a fire-

fighter in 1970, promoted to lieutenant in 1985 and captain in 1988.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. Ambrosio resides in Edison with his wife Yvonne. He has three grown children and one grandchild. His son Anthony is an Edison Firefighter.

Lieutenant Robert Sofield was promoted to captain.

Sofield was hired as a firefighter in 1978 and promoted to lieutenant in 1995. He resides in Edison and is the father of two. His son Scott is an Edison police officer.

Firefighter Frank Imbriacco was promoted to lieutenant.

Imbriacco was hired as a firefighter in 1987. He and his wife Jennifer have one child and reside in Edison.

The four new hires were John Luminello, Jr., William

Doherty, Brian Stauder and Salvatore Dattilo.

Luminello is a graduate of Edison High School. He is newly married. He and his wife, Dawn reside in Edison. He was a volunteer with Raritan Engine Company #1. His father, John, Sr., is a lieutenant with the Edison Police.

Doherty is a graduate of St. Joseph's High School. He resides in Edison and was a volunteer with Raritan Engine Company #2.

Stauder is a graduate of J.P. Stevens High School. He resides in Edison and was a member of the Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Company.

Dattilo is a graduate of J. P. Stevens High School. He resides in Edison and was a member of the Oak Tree Volunteer Fire Company.

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by Allen Bunn, R.Ph.

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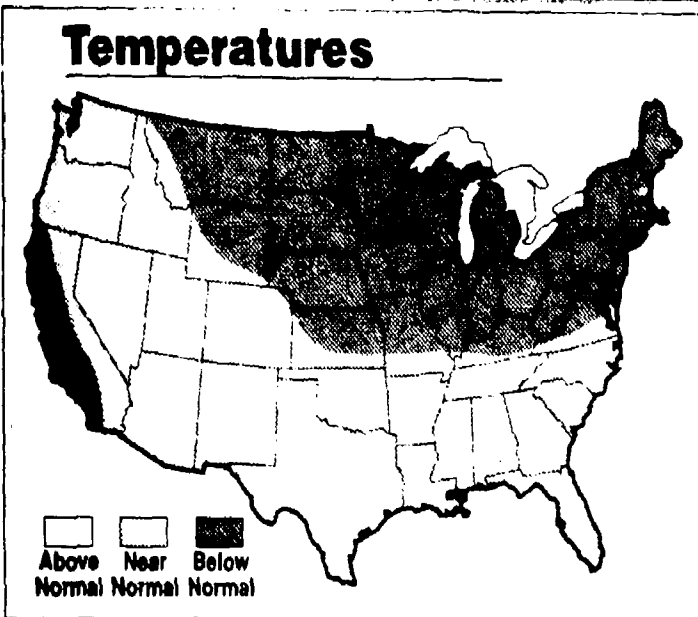
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LOCAL 7-DAY FORECAST

Thursday	Thu. night	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
							
Mostly sunny and cool.	Cold with patchy clouds.	Rather cloudy.	Cloudy with rain.	Sunshine.	A few clouds.	Rather cloudy with rain.	Lots of sun.
57	39	55/42	57/42	58/38	56/46	62/46	61/43

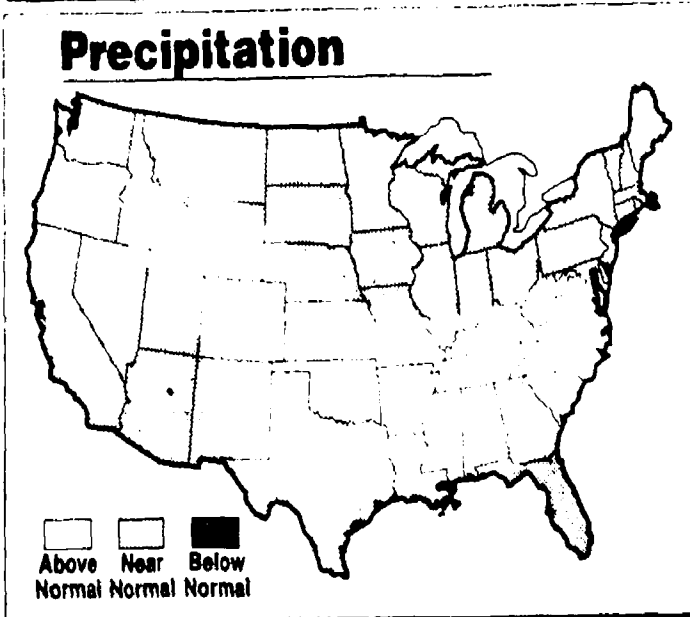
THE WEEK AHEAD...



NATIONAL SUMMARY

Cold Canadian air will continue to spill into the nation east of the Rockies through the period. Temperatures will average 10-20 degrees below normal in the northern Plains. Storms will track across the northern third of the country bringing snow to the Great Lakes. Under high pressure, the nation's midsection will be dry.

THE WEEK AHEAD...



U.S. TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	67	52	c	65	53	c	65	50	c	63	54	pc
Boston	52	38	s	50	40	s	54	44	r	56	32	s
Chicago	48	36	sh	50	34	c	51	35	pc	49	38	c
Cleveland	48	38	c	52	42	c	51	39	pc	54	33	pc
Denver	46	28	pc	50	30	pc	53	35	c	55	30	c
Des Moines	42	33	c	47	30	pc	48	34	pc	58	42	pc
Detroit	50	36	pc	52	36	c	52	37	pc	51	33	pc
Houston	75	62	c	74	57	c	73	56	pc	71	60	c
Indianapolis	52	38	c	56	39	sh	55	37	s	59	43	pc
Kansas City	50	38	c	54	38	pc	54	38	pc	54	46	c
Los Angeles	70	60	pc	68	60	pc	66	60	pc	77	46	s
Miami	85	74	pc	86	75	pc	88	75	pc	87	74	pc
Minn.- St. Paul	42	26	c	46	28	pc	42	30	c	49	41	r
New Orleans	77	65	c	79	62	c	77	60	c	74	66	c
New York City	54	44	pc	54	46	c	56	44	r	58	42	s
Omaha	42	32	c	46	32	pc	50	38	pc	51	45	sh
Phoenix	82	58	s	82	58	s	78	57	s	77	46	s
San Francisco	64	52	pc	61	52	c	64	52	pc	67	48	pc
Seattle	60	44	pc	56	46	c	56	44	pc	55	43	r
Washington	61	48	pc	59	48	c	61	48	r	61	42	s

SUN & MOON

Sunrise		Sunset	
Thu.	7:18 a.m.	6:04 p.m.	
Fri.	7:19 a.m.	6:03 p.m.	
Moonrise		Moonset	
Thu.	8:03 p.m.	10:24 a.m.	
Fri.	8:43 p.m.	11:26 a.m.	
Moon Phases			
Full	Last	New	First
Oct 21	Oct 29	Nov 4	Nov 11
Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.			

WORLD TRAVELER'S CITIES

City	Thursday			Friday			Saturday			Sunday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	48	47	pc	50	47	pc	49	41	t	46	37	sh
Berlin	44	41	pc	52	50	pc	51	41	r	46	35	r
Buenos Aires	73	57	pc	71	51	t	62	39	s	61	42	pc
Cairo	86	61	s	88	62	s	84	62	s	84	61	s
Jerusalem	80	55	s	80	53	s	78	53	s	78	54	s
Johannesburg	70	60	pc	87	57	pc	88	61	s	85	56	pc
London	51	46	sh	50	45	r	53	39	pc	51	42	pc
Madrid	58	49	pc	61	54	pc	62	56	r	66	53	r
Mexico City	70	50	pc	71	49	c	70	54	c	70	51	r
Moscow	41	37	c	41	38	sh	46	41	r	46	38	r
Paris	46	45	pc	50	40	pc	50	40	sh	48	38	c
Rio de Janeiro	75	68	c	83	72	c	85	74	c	79	68	t
Rome	67	46	pc	66	57	pc	73	56	pc	70	48	s
San Juan	87	76	r	87	76	c	87	77	c	87	75	t
Seoul	56	39	r	49	33	c	48	32	c	50	34	s
Sydney	68	45	s	73	55	s	77	55	pc	63	52	r
Tokyo	63	54	pc	65	59	r	62	47	pc	58	44	pc
Toronto	41	31	c	42	30	c	42	23	c	42	27	pc
Winnipeg	26	17	c	30	17	pc	36	14	c	41	30	pc
Zurich	48	43	pc	52	51	pc	52	39	r	45	36	r

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Items must be received at least
10 days before desired
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 26 -St. Mary's High School, Perth Amboy, class of 1957 will hold their reunion at the Victorian Manor, Edison. For more info., call (908) 387-0001.

October 26 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.-Raritan Bay Medical Center's Jacqueline M. & Robert N. Wilentz Cancer Center is sponsoring a free Cancer Screening, Education and Awareness Day to be held at RBMC, 4th floor, 530 New Brunswick Ave., Perth Amboy. Call (732) 324-5079 for more information.

October 26 from 7-11 p.m.-The Barron Arts Center is sponsoring a coffeehouse fundraiser featuring acoustic jazz quartet Framework at the Trinity Church Hall, 650 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge. Tickets are \$25 per person. Call the Barron Arts Center at (732) 634-0413 for tickets.

October 17-The Jewish Renaissance Foundation will be hosting a free comprehensive health fair at the William C. McGinnis School, 271 State Street, Perth Amboy. Call (732) 324-2114 for more info.

October 27 at 7 p.m.-The Am. Association of University Women is sponsoring a concert at Centenary United Methodist Church, 200 Hillside Ave. (off Grove Ave.), Metuchen. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. Call (732) 225-4027 or 819-8540 for reservations. Refreshments will be provided by members.

Oct. 28 from 7-8:30 p.m.-Wills, Probate and Edler Law will be sponsored by the Edison Board of Education. The program will feature Kenneth Vercammen, Esq. and the cost of registration is \$25 per person (Edison seniors free). To register, call (732) 452-4574 or go to the Edison Board of Education office at 312 Pierson Ave., Edison or fax to (732) 452-4576. The seminar will be held at the Edison High School, 50 Blvd. of Eagles, Edison.

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Most Workers Can Count On Social Security If They Become Disabled

by Dennis Mass

Social Security Manager

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. Many Americans without disabilities may think this can change in the blink of an eye, and we never know what may lie ahead. I see this every day when people come into our office to file for disability benefits.

Studies show, in fact, that a young person has a one-in-five chance of becoming disabled before age 65. But it's something we tend not to think about...until it happens. If you should become disabled, would you have income to see you and your family through a long-term disability? Would you have the contacts and resources to retain for a new career if you wanted to try going back to work?

The truth is that most workers do not have private disability insurance....but nearly all have Social Security.

And here's what we provide:

Cash: The Social Security disability program pays about \$815 a month to an average wage earner who becomes disabled. An average wage earner with a spouse and two children who becomes disabled would receive about \$1,360 a month from Social Security.

The needs-based Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program which is administered by Social Security but which is paid from general revenues,

pays about \$545 a month to eligible people who are disabled.

Medical Insurance: After two years of receiving disability payments, beneficiaries can qualify for Medicare coverage. Most people with disabilities who work will continue to receive a little more than seven years of hospital and medical insurance under Medicare, with no premium for the hospital insurance. After premium-free Medicare coverage ends due to work, some people can buy continued Medicare coverage, as long as they remain medically disabled.

For SSI beneficiaries, Medicaid coverage can continue even if their earnings become too high to get an SSI cash payment. And some states may provide Medicaid to workers who lose that coverage due to medical improvement, but who still have a severe impairment.

Vocational Rehabilitation: The National Organization on Disability estimates that about three-fourths of people with disabilities would rather work given the opportunity. But less than 1 percent of people who receive disability benefits actually return to work. In an age of expanding opportunities for people with disabilities, more needs to be done.

One goal of Disability Employment Awareness Month in October of each year is to make people with disabilities more aware of the employ-

ment support opportunities open to them. New Social Security disability programs and policies let people with disabilities try to return to work at their own pace, knowing that a failed attempt does mean loss of benefits.

In particular, our "Ticket to Work" program helps beneficiaries find training, rehabilitation services, job referrals and other employment support from a "provider" of their choice. This program is being gradually put into effect nationwide, and the first 13 states began participating in the program in February. As of November, the Ticket to Work program will be available in an additional 20 states and the District of Columbia, and it will be available in all states by the end of 2003.

Social Security also has a special website for people with disabilities, which includes special information for employers at www.ssa.gov/work. Anyone who would like more information on these work incentive programs, including information on special tax breaks for employers, should check it out. And anyone who wants basic information about the Social Security or SSI disability programs should visit the website at www.ssa.gov or call the toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

A Tax Break Small Businesses Don't Have To Labor For: The Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit

AREA — Small business owners shouldn't overlook the Welfare-to-Work (WTW) tax credit, according to the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA). The WTW program provides employers with incentives to hire and retain long-term welfare recipients by offering valuable income tax credits as much as \$8,500 per new hire. The program is available to businesses in a variety of industries and particularly to companies that hire entry-level people.

Established by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, and extended earlier this year by President Bush, the tax credit applies to new hires who begin work after December 31, 1997 and before January 1, 2004. The business need not be located in an empowerment zone of enterprise renewal community to be eligible.

Establishing Eligibility

To qualify for the WTW tax credit, the employer must hire a long-term welfare recipient. Long-term welfare recipients are defined as (1) members of a family who received aid from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or from Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) for at least 18 consecutive months before the date of hire; (2) members of a family who received TANF or AFDC for at least 18 months and are hired within two years after the end of the

most recent 18-month period; (3) members of a family who are no longer eligible for assistance after August 5, 1997 and are hired within two years after their eligibility expired.

To qualify for the first- and second-year tax credits, the company must employ the individual for a minimum of 400 hours or 180 days each year. If the employee does not work out, there is no risk to the employer. The company can separate the individual from employment, just as it would any other employee.

Applying For The Tax Credit

Employers must pre-screen applicants for tax credit eligibility prior to the job offer. This can be as simple as incorporating IRS Form 8850, *Pre-screening Notice and Certification Request for the Work Opportunities Tax Credit (WOTC) and Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit*, into your standard application process. Form 8850 can be downloaded from <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs->

(continues on page...12)

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YOUR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

POPCORN™

"White Oleander"
Presents A Bouquet of Thorny Issues

popcorns

By Michael S. Goldberg



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

If looks could kill, this review of director Peter Kosminsky's "White Oleander" would not be possible. For surely I would have been smitten at the Bijou. Slain by the cold, icy stare that Michelle Pfeiffer's Ingrid Magnussen issues as instinctively as a cat's hiss. She does it to display her displeasure. And since Ingrid is the iconoclastic artist personified, she is displeased quite often...especially when her daughter's current foster care arrangements don't jibe with her philosophy of life.

Actually, it is quite surprising that Ingrid Magnussen waited until the beginning of this movie to become a murderer. We can only assume that the often perturbed and more often indignant artist heretofore either controlled her temper or was simply able to evade scrutiny from the authorities for her transgressions. Maybe because she is so beautiful. But when first we meet her, in addition to her general anger and intolerance, she has just recently become a woman scorned. The mixture proves lethal. And now, after meting out punishment to her betrayer, she's paying for it the maximum security way.

This leaves her teen-aged daughter, Astrid, exquisitely portrayed by Alison Lohman, a ward of the state and subject to the wiles thereof. Detailed by

screenwriter Mary Donoghue's fine adaptation of Janet Fitch's novel, what then follows is rather Dickensian. But as Astrid gets bounced from pillar to post, her plight might also remind you of Anna Sewall's cherished children's classic, "Black Beauty" (1877). Only this time, instead of a 19th Century horse's fate at stake, it's a contemporary teenager's lot that's being bungled by a society either unable or unwilling to provide the humanitarian care necessary to a healthy upbringing.

There is a darkly humorous side to Astrid's sad spook house ride from one less than propitious living situation to the next. Providing the opportunity for some fine supporting performances, the motley cast of pinch hit parents dramatically highlights the inherent foibles of the foster care system. Fitting under the category of opportunists, the first square the protagonist lands on is the California mountainside home presided over by Starr Thomas. Played with stunning precariousness by Robin Wright Penn, Starr makes ends meet by supplementing income from her live-in boyfriend (Cole Hauser) with state funds received for taking in homeless kids. Whilst on a shopping spree meant to make Astrid more like herself, the tackily attired Starr vociferously explains how finding reli-

gion saved her from a life of cocaine, booze and topless dancing. And although the professedly saved gal's own daughter embarrassedly rolls her eyes at mom's pontificating, Astrid, in search of something to align with, is initially receptive. But just wait until visiting day when Natural Mom gets wind of said proselytization. Spotting the change, an outraged Ingrid informs that she didn't raise her child to become the spiritual experiment of "Bible-thumping trailer trash."

But no matter. Astrid's brush with organized faith turns out to be academic. For her sojourn with Starr and company soon ends, and quite drastically at that. And if we didn't know any better, we might be inclined to believe that it was the bad vibes sent out by Astrid's mother that caused the young lady's stay there to be so short-lived. However, we have little doubt of the influence Ingrid wields as concern's the teenager's next stopover.

All looks just hunky-dory when Astrid first washes ashore at the Pacific Ocean manse of movie director Mark Richards (Noah Wyle) and his would-be actress wife, Claire, effectively portrayed by Renee Zellweger.

The couple, unable to have children, have been contemplating adoption. Providing care for Astrid is seen as a way station to that goal. And because Mr. Richards is so often away on location, a very lonely Claire seems to flourish with the new responsibility. But then Ingrid wants to meet Claire. What follows is eerie.

It is at this point in filmmaking Kosminsky's well-crafted



effort that "White Oleander" sprouts another shoot of interest in addition to its muckraking assessment of the foster care system. In exploring Ingrid Magnussen's motivation, which she contends is solely to make Astrid strong, the concept of evil creeps its way up to center stage. Asserting that wickedness lurks in everything, the convicted murderer declares that only the free and independent thinking minds of artists can defend against it. We begin to question just who's who and what's what. In the meantime, prior to her next stop, Astrid makes a brief return to a youth facility she had previously visited between foster homes. It is there that she reconnects with Paul (Patrick Fugit), a kindred spirit who prefers the institution to the helter-skelter of the foster home roulette wheel. A budding artist, he informs that he was born with a heroin addiction. "What was that like?" asks Astrid.

"I don't know. I was six months old when I got out of rehab," he replies. The two dreamily discuss what they'll do after they are emancipated. But then it's time for Astrid's next adventure.

This go-round, her sponsor is Rena (Svetlana Efremova), a Fagin-like Russian emigre who utilizes her state-supplied mop-pets to run a second-hand clothes racket. Extolling her love for the capitalist system, to Rena money is everything. She couldn't care less about religion, love, power or the nature of evil. And Astrid finds the simplicity of Rena's obsession refreshing. But it isn't long before things once again become complicated. With her appeals trial approaching, Ingrid wants Astrid to testify on her behalf...to lie that is. And in return, from resources Mom has at her disposal, Astrid will be assured funds for her college education. Only thing is, the teenager wants something else for her testimony. And the question is, can Mom deliver?

Granted, the film has its troubles. Once too often director Kosminsky injects a mystical note amidst the harsh realities without satisfactorily reconciling it. Plus his movie occasionally has that overly bleached, Southwest look that made portions of "Traffic" (2000) so distracting. And while its purpose is to suggest tension, an all too self-conscious background score is at best unnecessary; a more musical accompaniment may have made for a better package. But then these are minor annoyances. Ultimately, solid direction, good writing and superb performances, especially by Mesdames Pfeiffer and Lohman, rule the day. And thus the sociologically instructive "White Oleander" blossoms into a very absorbing entertainment.

"White Oleander," rated PG-13, is a Warner Bros. release directed by Peter Kosminsky and stars Alison Lohman, Michelle Pfeiffer and Robin Wright Penn. Running time: 149 minutes

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WINNING PICK-3

SUNDAY, Oct. 13

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Evening 914 1227

MONDAY, Oct. 14

Mid-Day 404 2805

Evening 480 9172

TUESDAY, Oct. 15

Mid-Day 590 2536

Evening 872 7191

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 16

Mid-Day 603 7439

Evening 048 2982

THURSDAY, Oct. 17

Mid-Day 007 9312

Evening 250 5973

FRIDAY, Oct. 18

Mid-Day 144 6297

Evening 909 0017

SATURDAY, Oct. 19

Mid-Day 177 1228

Evening 935 2010

WINNING PICK-6 Numbers

MONDAY, Oct. 14

20-21-22-30-39-45

THURSDAY, Oct. 17

7-8-11-26-42-47

JERSEY CASH-5

SUNDAY, Oct. 13

10-18-22-30-36

MONDAY, Oct. 14

2-5-21-29-38

TUESDAY, Oct. 15

3-10-19-22-35

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 16

22-29-30-31-35

THURSDAY, Oct. 17

1-14-17-20-31

FRIDAY, Oct. 18

16-17-18-21-28

SATURDAY, Oct. 19

8-17-25-26-32

BIG GAME WINNING Numbers

TUESDAY, Oct. 15

6-20-27-34-51/22

FRIDAY, Oct. 18

10-31-40-48-51/38

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29-47-59-74

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37-45-48-69

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Get A Flu Shot This Fall, Flu Guru Advises

AREA—Just call her the guru of flu. And Sandra Van Sant has a short but important message for you: influenza ("the flu") is serious. "Almost 20,000 Americans die each year from the flu, but people continue to think of it as a minor illness," Van Sant says. "It's important to protect yourself against the flu."

As manager of public health for visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey, Van Sant brings that message to the public each year, in the form of flu shots at supermarkets, pharmacies, churches and businesses.

Lots of shots—more than 13,000 last year, and a total of more than 150,000 since 1993, when the VNA first spearheaded the national Visiting Nurses Influenza Campaign in the central New

Jersey region. "It's important to remember that a lot of minor winter ailments that people call 'flu' aren't really flu," says Van Sant.

When flu strikes, it's serious and can lead to complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, sinus infections, and lung infections. You need a shot every year, because each year the strains of flu are different, Van Sant notes.

"Remember that flu shots are made from killed virus and cannot give you the flu," she adds.

Shots are especially important for those at highest risk for serious illness with the flu: adults, over 65; adults with long-term heart or lung problems; people of any age being treated for kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, anemia or severe asthma; people with

cancer or a severe disorder of the immune system; health care workers; and caregivers of those at high risk.

The agency will be giving flu shots throughout October and November to allow time for people to develop immunity in advance of the height of flu season: January and February. The charge for shots is \$15 or Medicare Part B.

VNA of Central Jersey's flu clinics are listed on its website: www.vnacj.org. The organization's fight against the flu is part of its 90-year tradition of bringing health care to the community.

VNA of Central Jersey nurses now provide public health services for many municipalities, working collaboratively with municipal and regional health officers.

Local sites for Middlesex County include:

The Jewish Ctr. of Middlesex, 1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison, Nov. 5 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Super Foodtown, 510 Inman Ave., Colonia, Nov. 6 from 5-7 p.m.; Texas Road Pharmacy, 475 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd., Monroe Twp., Nov. 6 from 9-11 a.m.; Monroe Park Pharmacy, 357 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd., Monroe Twp., Nov. 9 from 1-3 p.m.; St. Cecelia's Church, 45 Willus Way, Iselin, Nov. 10 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; Texas Rd. Pharmacy, 475 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd., Monroe Twp., Nov. 16 from 1-3 p.m. and Monroe Park Pharmacy, 375 Spotswood-Englishtown Rd., Monroe Twp., Nov. 23 from 1-3 p.m.

Passport Health Helps Travelers Stay Healthy

EAST BRUNSWICK—A newly opened East Brunswick company is trying to save the world...or at least Central New Jersey. Passport Health, a travel health specialist, was the first responder to the Anthrax scare and now is poised to fight the annual influenza crisis.

Passport Health of New Jersey is a franchisee of the Baltimore-based national company known as #1 in preventive travel medicine. It made headlines recently as the first responder to the Anthrax crisis, asked by federal agents to oversee the administration of Cipro and provide round-the-clock treatment and advice to exposed postal workers.

Its primary business is a new type of travel medicine and its mission to prepare travelers for safe and healthy excursions. Services include vaccinations (e.g., Typhoid, Yellow Fever), medications to prevent/treat travel-related illnesses (e.g., Montezuma's Revenge, Malaria, Dengue Fever) and a wide assortment of travel-related safety products (e.g., motion sickness bands).

For those planning international trips, Passport Health provides country-specific counseling and prepares personalized, comprehensive health and travel information packets about medical and geopolitical concerns. It offers

intelligence on disease outbreaks, weather conditions and events affecting travel. Aware of political unrest in the world, it also provides international travel insurance, as well as health insurance that picks up where normal health insurance ends.

For corporate or individual travelers, it all adds up to peace of mind and awareness.

Passport Health is committed to bringing customers up-to-date travel health information at a reasonable cost. It receives the latest precautions from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Passport Health is the preferred resource for referrals from area physicians, as well as the State Department and local health departments.

The company also specializes in routine and preventive immunizations for diseases contractible right on U.S. soil, including Pneumonia, Smallpox, Tetanus, Rabies and Rubella. Their staff has swiftly responded to recent outbreaks

of Hepatitis A and other food and water-borne viruses. Meningitis, a growing epidemic for college students today, is also easily preventable with a vaccine from Passport Health.

The company also offers solutions to local health issues such as insect-borne West Nile Virus. Survivor kits, as well as insect repellents, are among the arsenal available to consumers for this disease. And one of the most timely, widespread illnesses Passport Health hopes to conquer now is Influenza.

Influenza is a serious disease, causing approximately 20,000 U.S. deaths each year, 114,000 hospitalizations, 70 million lost workdays and misery to the millions afflicted. Comparing these figures to the 31 U.S. deaths from West Nile Virus last year, it is easy to see how critical flu prevention really is. Caused by a virus and highly contagious, it is largely avoidable through inoculation.

The vaccine is updated each year to fight the constantly

Newly opened East Brunswick company is trying to save the world...or at least

Central New Jersey

changing virus. Therefore, protection on an annual basis is recommended for people 50 years or older; those with long-term health problems or weakened immune systems; pregnant women; those who come in contact with those at risk; health-care workers and anyone else wanting to prevent the disease.

Passport Health is located in www.passporthealthusa.com.

East Brunswick, off Route 18 and the Brunswick Square Mall. It offers its services to anyone living or working in Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Hunterdon, Somerset, Union, Morris and Ocean Counties. For more information about Passport Health, call visit its website at

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

Thompson Introduces Measure To Crack Down On Internet Child Pornography

STATE Assemblyman Samuel D. Thompson has introduced legislation that would require internet service providers to disable access to images that depict a child engaged in a sexual act.

Thompson said the measure, A-2863, is designed to protect children being exploited by internet pornography and prevent child predators from gaining access to young victims.

"Child Predators prey on unsuspecting children and those pictured on internet sites are the most vulnerable of all," said Thompson, R-Middlesex, Monmouth. "These children need to be protected from the individuals seeking them out the most."

"I am confident that disabling access to these documents and images is the best way to offer that protection," Thompson said.

An internet service provider

that violates the provisions of this measure would be guilty of a fourth degree crime, punishable by a term of imprisonment up to 18 months, a fine of up to \$10,000 or both.

"Child predators must be denied any access to vulnerable children and adolescents," said Thompson. "Removing these images sends a clear message that New Jersey will not tolerate exploiting children."

Senator Ronald Rice And Assemblyman Gerald Green Receive Honors At Governor's Housing Conference

STATE — Senator Ronald Rice and Assemblyman Gerald Green were honored at the Governor James E. McGreevey Conference on Housing and Community Development for their contributions to building a strong future for New Jersey's neighborhoods.

Senator Rice and Assemblyman Green received the Governor's Excellence Award in recognition of their advocacy efforts and success in establishing policies that improve the quality of life for the State's families and communities.

Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Susan Bass Levin presented the awards to Senator Rice and Assemblyman Green at the

reception in their honor.

"Senator Rice and Assemblyman Green are committed to making a real difference for New Jersey residents. With their guidance, the State has established policies that expand housing opportunities, preserve urban open space and eliminate the dangers of abandoned sites within our neighborhoods," said Commissioner Levin. "New Jersey is proud of their dedication and service to the citizens of our State. It is my honor to celebrate their accomplishments."

Senator Rice, 28th District, is the Co-Chair of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee. His list of accomplishments includes the creation of bills that helped demolish

abandoned buildings, provided financial assistance to urban and rural communities and assessed penalties to owners of abandoned buildings for violations.

Assemblyman Green is serving on his sixth term in the 22nd Legislative District. He is Chairman of the Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee.

During his ten years of service, Assemblyman Green created bills that increased the supply of affordable rental housing and supported issues of sprawl and open space preservation in New Jersey's urban areas. In 2002, the Senate released his bill that would prevent landlords from inflating rents for displaced, natural disaster victims.

Cohen Assails Insurance Industry

STATE — Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee Chairman Neil M. Cohen recently assailed New Jersey's medical malpractice insurance providers of being "more interested in skirting accountability than achieving reform" after industry representatives refused to testify at a joint committee hearing on the so-called "med-mal crisis."

The joint hearing by the Assembly Health and Human Services Committee and the Assembly Banking and Insurance Committee had been scheduled, but was cancelled after medical malpractice underwriters turned down requests to provide testimony.

"The head-in-the-sand posture of medical malpractice insurers forces me to conclude that they are content to be the root of the problem rather than part of any solution," said Cohen (D-Union), the Assembly's Deputy Minority Leader.

Cohen said any credibility

medical malpractice insurers had has now vanished. "Refusing to appear before the legislative committees is a stinging slap in the face to physicians and patient alike," Cohen said.

Cohen, who would have presided over the hearing with Assembly Health and Human Services Committee Chairwoman Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), said today's hearing was supposed to examine the medical malpractice insurance business in an effort to determine how underwriters set their rates. He said the hearing would have given insurers a chance to give their side of the story.

Cohen said lawmakers were interested in finding ways to bring more medical malpractice insurance underwriters into New Jersey. He also said committee members had questions about what recently triggered enormous spikes in medical malpractice insurance rates, although underwriters had previously

given testimony that they were satisfied with the premium structure for that sector of insurance.

"The unwillingness of insurers to take part in this process leads me to believe that the cause of availability and cost problems encountered by doctors and other health-care providers centers on the questionable business activities and poor planning of the medical malpractice carriers, most notably the MIIX Insurance Co.," said Cohen. "MIIX is especially suspect because the company told its participants in April of this year that it was financially sound. But four to six weeks later, a crisis arose."

"Now we can't ascertain whether the crisis was real or a manufactured excuse. You can't help but ask: How are we supposed to address the medical malpractice insurance issue if insurers don't want to be part of the equation in finding a solution?"

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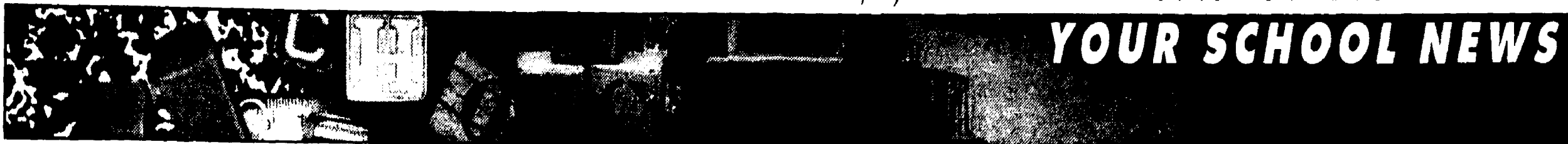
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YOUR SCHOOL NEWS

Foundation To Address The Needs Of Special Education Students

AREA—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will address the needs of students with disabilities and their parents when it presents a free public seminar dealing with special education on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 7–9 p.m. at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square (off Ryders Lane) in New Brunswick.

Titled, "Everything You Always Wanted to Ask About Special Education: Parents & Schools' Rights and Responsibilities," this seminar will take a personalized view of special education with dialogue between the panel, comprised of three experienced special edu-

cation law attorneys. Topics that will be covered in the seminar include identification and referral for special education; evaluation by school districts and independent evaluators; the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and the provision of a free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE); what constitutes a Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and the concept of inclusion; discipline for students in special education; transition to the adult world, and mediation and due process, which deals with ways of solving conflicts between parents and school districts.

Speakers for the seminar will include Rebecca K. Spar, an attorney with the Hackensack law firm of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard; Ruth Lowenkron, senior attorney for Education Law Center; and Michalene Loughlin, a founding partner in the Hackensack law firm of Loughlin & Latimer.

Spar concentrates her practice in education and disabilities rights law. She is a former chair of the NJSBA Children's Rights Committee and is a former chair of the Bar Association's School Law Committee.

Lowenkron litigates in the area of special education law

and works with special education advocacy taskforces. The Education Law Center, a non-profit, Newark-based law office with a statewide practice, is dedicated to helping New Jersey children receive a thorough, efficient and appropriate education. The Education Law Center concentrates its work in low-income urban and rural districts.

Loughlin began practicing in the area of special education law in 1979 as a staff attorney with Bergen County Legal Services. After a decade-long career as a clinical professor at Seton Hall University School of Law, she resumed practicing special education law and

currently handles special education cases in the Office of Administrative Law, the United States District Court and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

The seminar is free and open to the public, however, advance registration is required. To register or for more information on Foundation seminars, programs, and publications, visit the Foundation online at www.njsbf.org or call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

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

Finding Career-Advancing Courses In A Mouse Click Away

NEW BRUNSWICK — Whether they are looking for courses to enhance their current skills or getting ready for a complete career change, individuals of all ages can now quickly assess their career options and the Rutgers non-credit courses and programs that can help them reach their goals.

Rutgers' Office of Continuous Education and Outreach offers a free program at <http://rutgers.ce.com> that lets users create a personal career profile of skills and interests. The profile is then matched to courses at more than 30 departments at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. The online system indicates which classes can help advance career goals or provide new skills necessary for a career change.

The system can send the user e-mail alerts of courses that meet specific interests. For individuals who are just entering the workforce or are considering a career change, there is a section with position summaries and learning recommendations for more than 900 career profiles. There are also resources to assist with a job search as well as tools to browse jobs in New Jersey.

"It has never been more important for workers to continue their education and

upgrade their skills," said Richard J. Novak, executive director, Office of Continuous Education and Outreach. "The features at rutgers.ce.com let people at any job stage easily find the courses they need to reach their career goals. This is a terrific, free service to people of our state."

The Rutgers Office of Continuous Education and Outreach is one of the state's primary providers of lifelong learning opportunities and coordinates the efforts of Rutgers' continuing education departments. The department handles more than 75,000 annual enrollments in an extensive selection of courses in a variety of academic and professional areas. The office is dedicated to helping state residents attain their lifelong learning and professional education goals.

For additional information, visit the Office of Continuous Education Web site at <http://cell766.rutgers.edu/>.

Finally Ready To Get Your GED? Go To Union County College To Prepare

CRANFORD —The Union County College Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education is offering courses beginning on Nov. 4 that will help prepare you for the GED exam. Called the "GED Preparation Program," it will help boost your skills and develop a reliable study program in the five areas required to get your GED and will help maximize one's chances for success.

The course is being offered on the College's Cranford campus beginning on Nov. 4, the Elizabeth campus beginning on Nov. 5 and in Roselle Park beginning on Oct. 29. Each section of the course costs \$99.

In addition, if you need assistance only in the basic math or the basic grammar sections of the GED, UCC will be offering courses specific to those areas. "Basic Math Refresher" will have sections being held on the three campuses beginning on Nov. 4.

This course is good for those who are planning to go back to school, take a basic skills test or a GED test, or just for practice with basic mathematics. Each session will review and/or practice basic mathematical functions with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and some algebra. Each section costs \$65.

The "Basic Grammar Refresher" course will review punctuation, sentence and paragraph structure, agreement

and topic sentences. It is a good review course for those planning to go back to school, take a basic skills test or a GED test, or just for practice with basic grammar. This course has sections being offered on all three campuses beginning on Oct. 31. Each section costs \$65.

For more information or to register, contact the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at (908) 709-7600.

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

Halloween Safety Tips

For a kid, Halloween is one of the greatest days of the year, second only to Christmas. Children are rewarded with candy and treats for merely knocking on doors while in costume! What could be better?

While our little witches and goblins are out having fun, we as parents need to beware. Along with costumes and candy, safety needs to be another important element of Halloween. Let's make this Halloween a safe one!

This can be accomplished through the implementation of a few safety tips in three categories: costume safety, fire safety, and safety measures for trick-or-treating.

Costume Safety:

Halloween costumes should be light in color so your children will be visible to motorists. If the costume is not light in color, parents can add reflective tape that will glow in a car's headlights.

Avoid costumes with a low hem or baggy sleeves. Costumes which drape on the ground can cause a child to trip and fall. Fixing a hem can prevent a fall. Baggy sleeves can come into contact with candles or other flames. They can also get caught and cause injuries.

Avoid masks which impede your child's ability to see. Children can't avoid dangers they can't see. Make sure that all masks fit securely and have large holes for sight and breathing.

Be sure their costume accessories are made out of soft, flexible material so as to avoid injuries.

Fire Safety:

Not just at Halloween, but at all times, be sure to keep children away from candles, cigarettes, stoves, or other

open flames. At Halloween their costumes add just another risk of catching fire.

Children should never carry candles or pumpkins with candles in them to light their way.

Leaves, corn stalks, and hay bales are dry materials which will burn when ignited. Keep all these holiday decorations away from candles and other open flames.

Trick-or-Treating:

Never allow children to go out alone after dark.

Smaller children should be accompanied by an adult. If this is not possible, an older, responsible child should accompany smaller children.

Have a route plan so that you know the homes your child is going to and where your child will be.

Children should have the ability to call home if they need to contact you. Either give them enough change to call home or let them carry your cell phone.

If you are driving on Halloween, take special care to watch out for trick-or-treaters who are too busy to watch out for you.

If you are planning to have trick-or-treaters come to your house, remove any garden hoses, lawn ornaments, or other obstacles that could pose a hazard to those walking to your door. Keep your porch light on so that those who approach your door will be able to see.

The most important Halloween Safety Tips are the most basic ones. Instruct your children to stay on the sidewalk. Let them know that they should never go inside a stranger's home. And tell them that you need to check their candy before it gets eaten to make sure it hasn't been tampered with.

If you would like more information on Halloween Safety Tips, a free informational brochure is available from my office. Please call 732-316-1885 to have one mailed to you.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

Readers Commentary

A Tale Of Two Headlines

Dear Editor,

Two headlines in the news on Oct. 11 puts the lie to the often voiced opinion that "there is no difference between the two parties"

One headline gives permission to Pres. Bush to wage the war he is so eager to get into to "kill

the guy who tried to kill my daddy" (his words).

The second headline notes the awarding of the Nobel Peace prize to Pres. Carter.

Yes, world, there is a BIG difference!

**Philip M. Peck
Woodbridge**

Veterans Urge You To Vote

Dear Editor,

Voting is the most powerful way for each citizen to make a difference. Veterans who fought preserved that right for you, and I urge all citizens to acknowledge their gift by going to the polls on Election

Day, Nov. 5, and casting their ballot for the candidate of their choice.

Many people around the world still do not have the freedom to make a difference in their government. So, no matter what issue or candidate

you cast your ballot for on Election Day — vote. Do not throw away your most basic right.

**Donald Patterson
Commander
VFW Post No. 4699
Sayreville**

Shamrocks Need A Home

Dear Editor,

I have been a resident of Edison for 37 years. I have witnessed many controversial issues and projects that were discussed in this town. There has never been a project discussed more in the newspapers or at the council meetings than the field for the Shamrocks.

It surprises me to hear residents of the community say they were not aware of this project. The township purchased this property with the stipulation it would be dedicated for Green Acres and the home of the Shamrocks. Green Acres property is accessible to all members of the community, just like the all other athletic fields in the township. The developer named the street Shamrock Way and displayed the field on the project site. There has never been a hidden

agenda or closed-door deal made with anyone. It would be hard to be a resident in Edison for the past seven years and not be aware of this project.

The positive effect that the organization has on the young children of the North Edison community should be applauded. The multicultural and diverse environment of the Shamrocks is an example of many different people working together for a common goal. It is a great learning experience for the children to experience and grow by. The members of the community should visit the Shamrock organization to see first hand what they are accomplishing.

Members of the community have been attacking the council members for following through on a project that was initiated many years ago. I

commend the council for working long and hard toward this project. They did extensive research on the feasibility and financial impact of the project. This project is no different than any of the athletic programs in the township. It benefits the children of the community who are the future of society.

It would be a travesty if this project were not completed. During a fight such as this it is always the children who suffer. Let's not use the children of the North Edison community and put them in the middle. Let them get what they have been waiting for many years.

**Andrew Petrucci
Board of Education
President
Edison**

We Want To Know!

Do you support the proposed ban on using hand-held cell phones while driving?

Take our poll at
www.new-jersey.ws
or email us: editor@devinmedia.com



NEWS

YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Chamber Offers Seminar For Business Community

EDISON—As part of an ongoing commitment to the business community of Edison and surrounding municipalities, the Edison Chamber of Commerce is organizing a half-day seminar titled "Emerging Economic and Business Issues."

The event, which is open to the public and features five guest speakers, is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Clarion Hotel, 2055 Route 27

South in Edison. It will run from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and includes breakfast. Tickets range from \$75-\$125.00. Advance registration is encouraged; walk-ins are welcome. Call (732) 738-9482 or visit their website, www.edisonchamber.com.

"The purpose of this seminar is to educate organizations on emerging economic and business issues," said Gloria Dittman, president of the

Edison Chamber of Commerce. "We feel this will be an important forum to bring the Edison business community and surrounding areas together in a way that can financially benefit everyone."

The speakers are:

George Taber, Founder and President of NJBIZ, New Jersey's weekly business newspaper, will discuss Business Issues Affecting New Jersey.

William Nagle, CPA, a partner and director of tax services with the Edison accounting firm Lipman, Selznick & Witkowski, will present information on the impact of New Jersey's tax laws.

Gail Eagle, Assistant Regional Director of the Mercer/Middlesex office of the SBDC/SBA Association, will cover the topic of small business development.

Arnold Lubin, President of Majestic Financial Services, will provide information on financing a small business.

Michael Vesuvio, President of Emerald Financial Resources, will cover Succession Planning.

Sponsors of the seminar are the Clarion Hotels & Towers, Etienne Aigner, Sir Speedy Printers and United Parcel Service.

Entertainment Books Now Available

EDISON—The Friends of the Edison Public Library are selling the 2003 Entertainment Book for \$30 each. They are available at the Adult Circulation desks of all three branches and the

Bookmobile. Cash or checks are acceptable. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the Edison Public Library. For further questions, call (732) 287-2298, ext. 2.

Old Ship Of Zion Musical Program

METUCHEN—The Willing Workers and the Senior Choir of New Hope Baptist Church will present a musical play, 'The Old Ship of Zion,' on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 5 p.m. It will be held at the church, 45 Hampton Street, Metuchen.

The public is invited to come out and enjoy an evening of tra-

ditional gospel music, spirituals and hymns. Members of New Hope's choirs, as well as members of the church and community, will perform the play.

There is no charge, but a free will offering will be collected. Call the church office at (732) 549-8941 for further information or directions to the church.

Entertainment Books Sold At YMHA

PERTH AMBOY—The Entertainment Books are here and can be used immediately.

The book features fine restaurants such as Shadowbrook and Royce Brook Golf Club; fast food restaurants such as Burger King; bagel shops, florists, various activity centers and hundreds of other tickets, most at a 2-or-1 price of large percentages off many. many services too numerous to

mention. But, if you call the "Y" we'll try to tell you about more tickets in the book, including hotels, car rentals, cruise lines, etc.

The book is only \$30 and can be used until Nov. 1, 2003. Call Harold Rudman at the Perth Amboy YMHA, 316 Madison Ave., Perth Amboy at (732) 442-0365 to order your book.

Join The YMHA Seniors

PERTH AMBOY — The Seniors of Perth Amboy YMHA invite you to join their Senior Club and enjoy programs, trips and parties for your health, education and enjoyment.

Good meals are served every Monday for \$1.75 and a free, light lunch is served every Wednesday. When there is a party there is no charge for members.

Dues are only \$35 a year. Programs are held every Monday at 10:30 a.m., led by the Jewish Family and

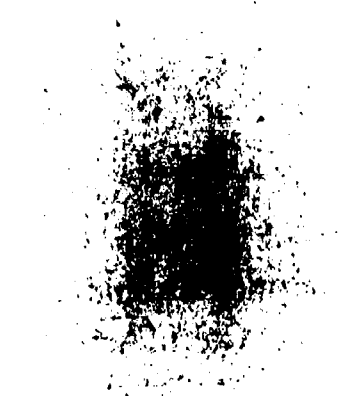
Vocational Services COACH program, (Caring for Older Adults' Complete Health), featuring current events, interesting discussions and exercise with a Social Worker and Nurse to speak to. Wednesdays offer programs of special interest to seniors.

The Y is open to people of all colors and religions. Call (732) 442-0365 for more information. The meetings are held at the YMHA, 316 Madison Avenue, Perth Amboy. You may make reservations to "try us out."

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YOUR AREA & STATE NEWS

A Tax Break Small Businesses Don't Have To Labor For: The Welfare-To-Work Tax Credit

(continued from page...5)
pdf/8850.pdf.

The form requires the job applicant's name, address and answers to four simple questions. If the applicant responds "yes" to any of the four questions, the employer should complete the reverse side of the form and mail it within 21 days to the State Employment Security Agency (SESA). The SESA is responsible for verifying that the new hire has met eligibility requirements.

If the job applicant has been referred by a participating agency (or by a SESA), the employer also must complete and send within 21 days of the new hire's start date, the one-page Department of Labor ETA Form 9061, *Individual Characteristics Form*. This form is available at <http://workforcesecurity.doleta.gov/employ/pdf/eta9061.pdf>.

Calculating the Tax Credit

The Welfare-to-Work Tax Credit is 35 percent of the first \$10,000 in wages earned by the new hire during the first year of employment, for a maximum tax credit of \$3,500. It also provides a credit of 50 percent of the first

\$10,000 in wages earned during the second year, for a maximum tax credit of \$5,000. Thus, the maximum tax credit is \$8,500 over a two-year period. The WTW and the WOTC cannot be claimed for the same individual in the same tax year. (The WOTC pertains to a similar program that encourages employers to hire from eight targeted groups. For more information on the WOTC, visit <http://ows.doleta.gov/employ/wotcdata.asp>).

Public-Private Effort Provides Win-Win Benefits

By actively recruiting welfare recipients not only can you earn valuable tax credits but you help move long-term assistance recipients into private sector jobs and economic self-sufficiency. If you have questions concerning the WTW tax credit, consult with a CPA who can show you how your business can save valuable tax dollars.

If you would like to receive more information on various financial matters, subscribe to E-CPA, the NJSCPA's free, monthly e-mail newsletter. To subscribe, visit www.njsepa.org/finances.

Measure Making Racial Profiling A Crime Advances

STATE —Delivering on a promise by Assembly Democratic Leadership, the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee today released a committee substitute for legislation that would outlaw racial profiling.

The measure (A-1308/342/2140) sponsored by Assemblyman William D. Payne, Wilfredo Caraballo and Gordon M. Johnson would criminalize racial profiling, making it a third degree crime punishable by up to 5 years in prison and \$15,000 in fines.

The legislation is one of four bills the committee released to curtail discriminatory police practices in the state.

"The time has come to finally put a stop to the heinous, humiliating and degrading practice of racial profiling," said Payne (D-Essex). "Until this legislation is enacted, minority motorists will not feel safe traveling state roads."

Payne said the bill also will encourage minorities to become part of the State Police, making the elite force more representative of the state's population. He says with a more diversified force, racial profiling cases would dissipate on their own.

Racial profiling is the act of initiating an investigative traffic stop based on the driver or passenger's color, race, ethnicity or age.

The legislation stems from recommendations made in 1999 by the New Jersey Legislative Black and Latino Caucus in "A Report on Discriminatory Practices within the New Jersey State Police." The report sought to correct, remedy and prevent civil rights violations and employment discrimination in the State Police.

"We must confront this form of bigotry, hate and bias that constitutes a pox upon our society," said Caraballo (D-Essex). "Our proposal reforms will make the State Police a more responsive and responsible public agency."

Additionally under the measure, police officers who violate an individual's civil rights based on race, color or national origin would face criminal charges.

The problem of racial profiling came to the forefront after the 1998 State Police shooting of three minority men on the New Jersey Turnpike. The troopers involved pleaded guilty to official misconduct and giving false statements.

"While racial profiling may not be as prevalent as it once was, it is still a problem that erodes the minority community's confidence in our state's law enforcement system," said Johnson (D-Bergen), an undersheriff in the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. "By officially outlawing the

practice, we send a message that we will no longer tolerate such inexcusable behavior."

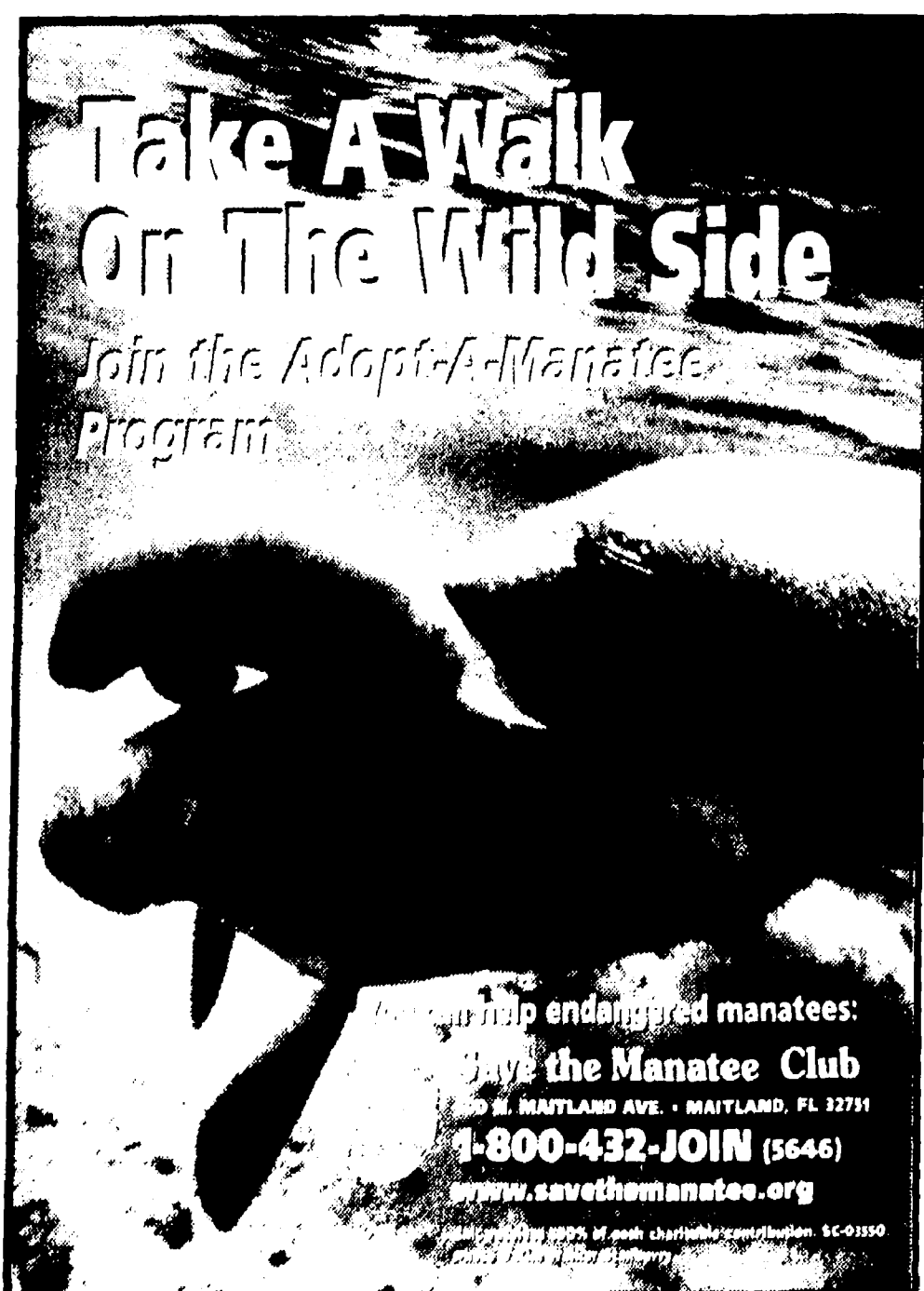
According to an analysis of State Police traffic stop data compiled between November 2001 and April 2002, African-Americans were involved in 23.1 percent of Turnpike's traffic stops although they constitute only 12.5 percent of the motorists using that highway.

The Assembly Law and Public Safety committee released the committee substitute 4-0-1. The measure is scheduled for a floor vote in the Assembly on Oct. 17.

The committee also released the following bills dealing with racial profiling:

- A-1305 (Payne/Johnson) —would require quarterly studies of every State Police motor vehicle stop (4-2)
- A-1307 (Payne/Watson Coleman)—would create an Independent Prosecutor to investigate State Police misconduct (4-2)
- A-2399 (Johnson/Steele) —would require State Police to maintain and make available certain records for at least seven years (6-0)

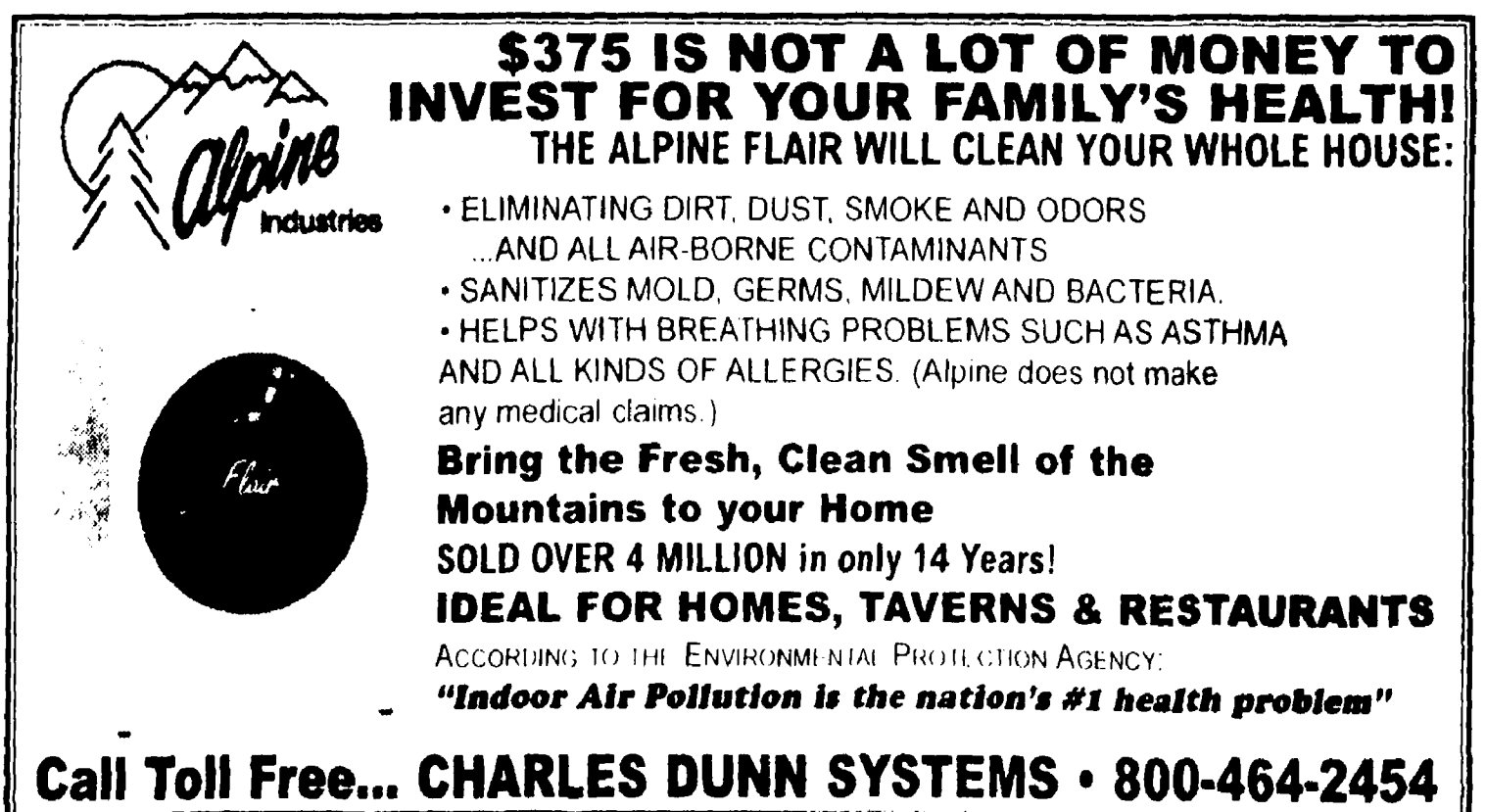
The measure now heads to the Assembly Speaker, who decides whether to post them for floor votes.



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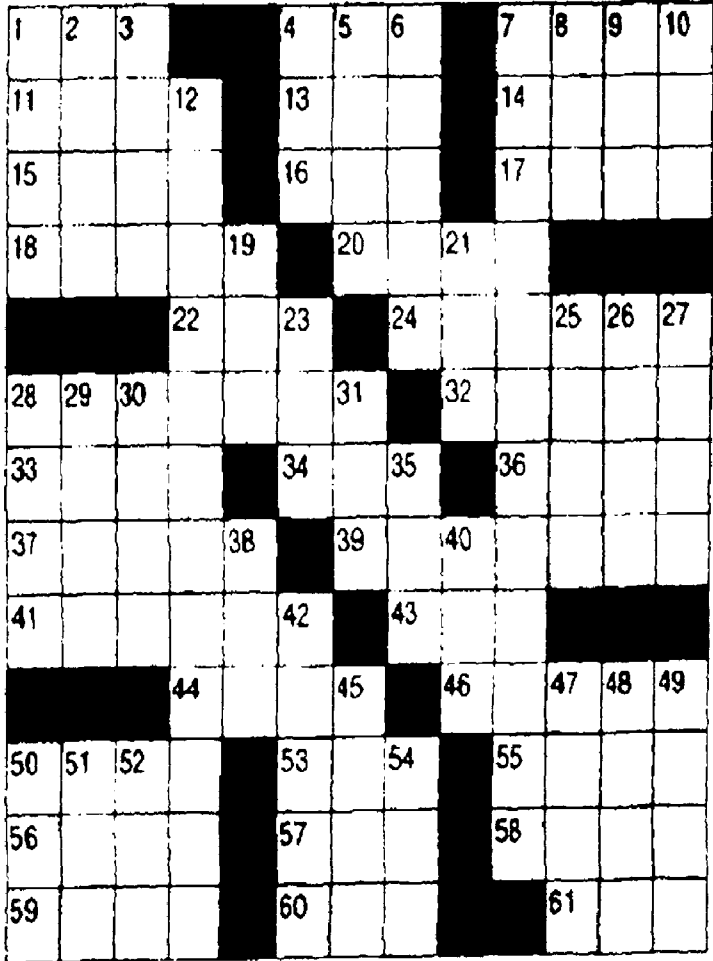
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50 Suitable
51 Born
52 Place-kicker's pride
54 Practice diligently

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The SOAPS

ALL MY CHILDREN

As Leo fought with Vanessa at the cliff's edge, Trey overcame his vertigo and rescued Greenlee. Adam accepted Liza's offer to help him be a better father to JR. Maria saved Sam from choking. Afterward, she had a brief flash of David burying something on the beach. Meanwhile, Brooke wondered if Tad was involved with Maria's memory loss. Wait to See: Greenlee is unable to accept reality. David is moved by Anna's compassion.

AS THE WORLD TURNS

Carly and Craig made a deal in exchange for Rosana's silence. Jessica rethought her decision. Aaron wound up in jail. Katie and Simon burst Henry's bubble. Wait to See: Bonnie learns the truth. Barbara gets an unwelcome blast from the past.

THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

After rejecting Erica's seduction attempts, Rick was stunned when Ridge revealed her true identity. Erica then admitted Sheila was holding Amber in her apartment. Meanwhile, Amber distracted Sheila long enough for Massimo to break down the door. Amber later thanked

Taylor for standing by her and headed home to Rick. With Brooke's arrival at Taylor's home, Sheila pulled the trigger and both Brooke and Taylor were seriously wounded, with Taylor later undergoing hopefully life-saving surgery. Wait to See: Ridge faces a terrible truth.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

After getting good news from her doctor, Chloe made a decision about her future. Nicole vowed to avenge herself on Sami and Kate. Bo told Shawn the upsetting news about Hope's failure to arrive in Salem as expected. Rex and Cassie, the Gemini Twins, began adjusting to life in the DiMera mansion. A shocked Belle learned what Philip did to Brady in Dry Creek. Meanwhile, Isabella urged Brady to act on his feelings for Chloe. Wait to See: Hope learns the identity of her kidnapper.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Sonny told Carly that Brenda doesn't pose a threat to their marriage and that he feels obligated to make her remaining time as easy as possible. The paralyzed Jax refused to be a burden to Skye and said he wanted a divorce. Lucky and Nikolas discovered Scott's damning information about Alexis but failed to reach her before the debate. But both Bobbie and Carly were able to discredit Scott. Later, Carly told Sonny he's the real father of Alexis' baby. Courtney urged Jason to go to Elizabeth, but he insisted she's better off without him. Lucky received a copy of Luke's will in the mail. Wait to See: Jason and Brenda reveal shocking news.

GUIDING LIGHT

Eden risked her life for Gus. Reva and her family prepared for the worst. A startled Lizzie walked in on Beth and Bill. During their confrontation, Alan didn't realize that Alexandra had an ace up her sleeve. Danny went off on a mission. Frank said no to Ben's request. Wait to See: Marah expresses her feelings to Reva.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE

Viki reassured Natalie of her love, even if Jessica also turned

out to be her real daughter. Troy (erroneously) believed Lindsay didn't know about Joanna, or about Lindsay's plans to shatter his world. With his own suspicions about Jen's due date, Cristian was startled to learn Al also wanted to know when the baby will be born. Bo arrived with Jessica's DNA results. Wait to See: Viki asks an unlikely person for answers. Starr helps Todd to see Jack.

PASSIONS

As Theresa cradled the unconscious Ethan on the elevator top, the plummeting car suddenly stopped, sparing her, Ethan, Julian and Whitney from certain death. Tabitha was moved when Charity thanked her for giving her Timmy's heart. Sam was in shock over Grace's declaration of love for David. As Tabitha prepared to avenge Timmy's death, she and Cracked Connie waited eagerly to hear Miguel tell Charity about Kay. Beth's mother lashed out at her for her wicked actions. Wait to See: Julian confesses his love to Eve.

PORT CHARLES

When Frank and Karen revived Livvie in the hospital, Tess also regained consciousness in the woods. Jamal was suspicious of Joshua, who offered Marissa and Ricky a briefcase full of money and a contract for their song. Back in the woods, as Tess searched for her "baby" (her rag doll) she hummed a Stephen Clay tune, "Naked Eyes." Rafe told Alison that her father died months ago and that Elizabeth was suspected in his death. Wait to See: Livvie and Tess come face to face.

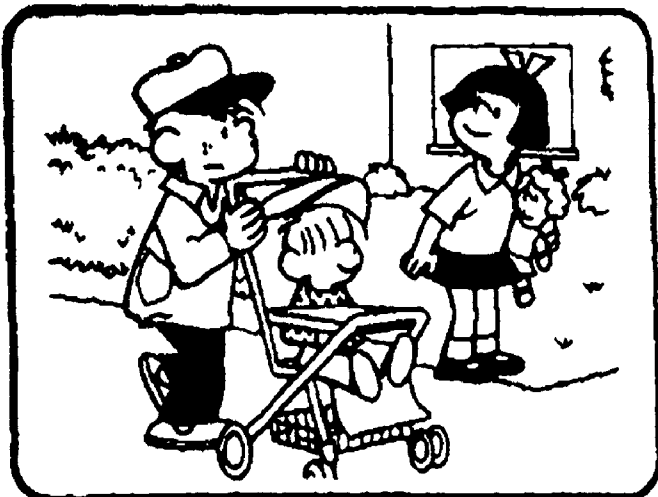
THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS

Nick was upset that Victor knew about Sharon's affair with Diego and that Victoria wanted to reconnect with Diego. Meanwhile, Nikki told Sharon of Grace's reappearance in Nick's life. Isabella's father, Ricardo, turned down Paul's invitation to surprise Isabella by coming to Ricky's baptism. Michael ordered Lynn and Mary arrested when they were caught going through his files. Olivia felt guilty about watching Ashley's tape and learning that Victor is Abby's biological father. Meanwhile, Ashley turned down Victor's offer to tell Brad that she's sorry her illness caused her to be unpleasant to him. Wait to See: Olivia decides to talk to Ashley.

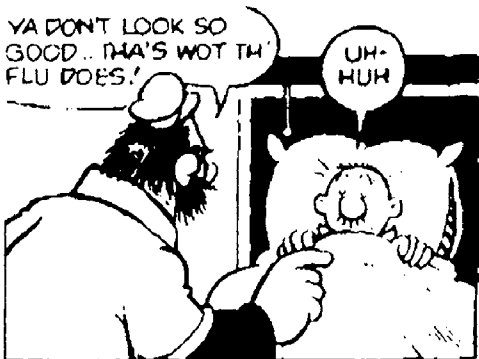
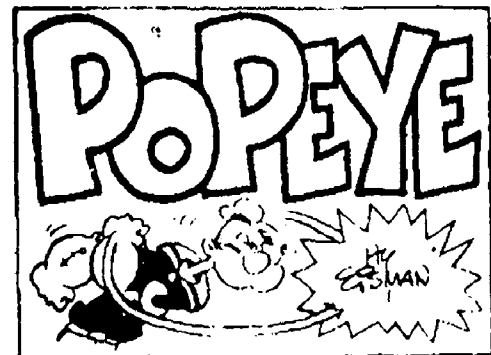
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



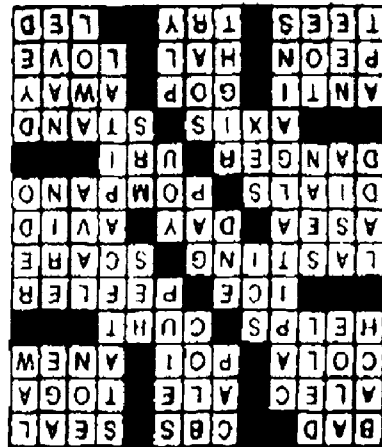
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Skirt is black 2. Doll has bow in hair 3. Vase is black 4. Tree is missing 5. Pocket added on jacket 6. Patches is missing



Key to Puzzle



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OBITUARIES
Tillie E. Zanzalari
of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Tillie E. Monti Zanzalari of Perth Amboy died October 12 at her home. She was 92.

Born in Florence, Italy, she lived in Perth Amboy for the past 90 years.

She was employed by the City of Perth Amboy as a book-keeper/telephone operator for 15 years, retiring in 1976.

She was a former First Ward Democratic Committeewoman in Perth Amboy.

Mrs. Zanzalari was a communicant of Most Holy Rosary R.C. Church in Perth Amboy and a member of the church's senior citizens group.

She was introduced to bowling in 1929 by her lifelong friend, Alma Pucci Komeski, and continued to bowl for 64 years. Besides bowling in various leagues and tournaments, she also participated in the WIBC Nationals Tournament for 28 years. She instructed the children of the Perth Amboy Children's Bowling League at Majestic Lanes for 20 years.

Her husband, Peter Zanzalari, died in 1966; a grandson, Guy Madi, died in 1971, and a brother, Albert Monti, is also deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Loretta Madi of Long Valley and Claire Bialecki of Perth Amboy; a son, Gerald Peter Zanzalari of Newtown, Pa.; four grandchildren, Marc Madi, Dr. Timothy Bialecki, Peter Bialecki and Victoria Zanzalari, and five great-grandchildren, Matthew, Rachael and Danielle Bialecki, Kyle Madi and Marc Madi Jr.

Leona L. Porter, 79
of Carteret

Mrs. Leona L. Porter of Carteret died October 12 at Perth Amboy Nursing Home. She was 79.

Born in New York City, she lived in Carteret all her life.

She was a member of First Baptist Church of Carteret and was a former organist for Sunday school at the church.

She was a member of the Carteret Senior Citizens.

Surviving are a son, Richard Porter of Chicago, Ill.; her sister, Mrs. Evelyn Stevens of Carteret; a niece, Cheryl Davis of Franklin, and two grandchildren.

Albert E. Bell, 93
of Edison

Mr. Albert E. Bell of Edison died October 12 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. He was 93.

Born in Highland Park, Mich., he resided in Union and Mountainside before moving to Edison 21 years ago.

He was a 1931 graduate of New York University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Mr. Bell retired in 1974 as vice president of Purolator Products, Rahway, where he had worked for over 40 years.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

His two brothers, Robert and Harold Bell and his sister, Myrtle Murray, are all deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Edythe (Tomboy) Gerow Bell; two sisters-in-law, Mildred Bell of Manchester, Conn., and Elsa Bell of Bricktown; two nieces and two nephews, three grandchildren, five grandnephews, and numerous great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

Sam Colombrito
of Sayreville

Mr. Sam "Vit" Colombrito of Forked River (formerly of Sayreville) died October 15 at Community Medical Center in Toms River. He was 81.

Born in Newark, he lived in Sayreville before moving to the Forked River section of Lacey Township in 1988.

Mr. Colombrito retired in 1988 as director of engineering with the Buddy L. Corp. in New York City.

He was a parishioner of St. Pius X R.C. Church and a member of the Lacey Township Elks, both in Forked River.

His first wife, Anne Fiorentino, died in 1981.

Surviving are his wife, Rose Marie Colombrito; a daughter and Judith Sbarra of Parlin; a stepdaughter, Judith Feeney of Long Branch; a brother, Thomas Carter; a grandson, Vincent Sbarra; a granddaughter, Audra Sbarra, and two great-grandchildren, Alyssa and Austin Sbarra.

Elizabeth Gileta, 80
of Carteret

Mrs. Elizabeth Gileta, 80, of Carteret died October 12 at Roosevelt Care Center in Edison. She was 80.

Born in Paisley, Scotland, she resided in Carteret most of her life.

She was an Army veteran of World War II, having served in the Army as a sergeant.

Mrs. Gileta was employed as a counter person for Super X Drugs in Carteret and The Cookie Jar Bakery in Woodbridge for many years.

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

Mrs. Gileta was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6061 in Colonia.

Her husband, William Gileta, died in 1985; a son, Daniel Gileta, died in 1997; a sister, Margaret Elliassen, died in 2001, and two brothers, James "Scotty" McDade, died in 2001, and Walter McDade, who died in 1997.

Surviving are three daughters, Eileen Gileta of Perth Amboy, Elizabeth Callanan of Edison and Helen Higgins her husband, Robert of Pleasant Garden, N.C.; a daughter-in-law, Sandy Gileta of Toms River; seven grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Frank S. Grabowski
of Sayreville

Mr. Frank S. Grabowski of Sayreville, died October 16 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. He was 77.

He was a lifelong resident of Sayreville.

Mr. Grabowski worked in the stock room at Hercules Inc. in Parlin for 40 years before retiring as supervisor 16 years ago. He was a member of the Hercules 10-Year Club and 25-Year Club.

Surviving are a son, Stephen; three daughters, Betty Jane Marcinko, Susan Fortunato and Nancy Rainsford; a brother, John; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John P. Guinane, 80
of Metuchen

Mr. John P. Guinane, of Metuchen died October 16 in the JFK Medical Center, Edison. He was 80.

Born in New York City, he moved to Metuchen 51 years ago.

He worked for Bristol-Myers Squibb, New Brunswick, for 43 years before retiring in 1985.

He was an Army Air Force veteran of World War II and served in the Pacific Theater with the 418th Night Fighter Squadron.

Mr. Guinane was past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus Council 3272 at St. Francis Cathedral, as well as past faithful navigator of its Fourth Degree Holy Innocents Assembly. He was also an usher at the church.

Surviving are Agnes, his wife of 55 years; two daughters, Joann Morin and Virginia Markgraf; three sons, Joseph, James and Frank; 12 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Maple Lee Rice, 42
of Perth Amboy

Mrs. Maple Lee Rice of Perth Amboy died October 11 at Broadway House in Newark. She was 42.

Born in Warrenton, N.C., she resided in New Brunswick from 1962 until one year ago, when she moved to Perth Amboy.

Her parents, Dozier and Mary Lee Rice, are deceased.

Surviving are three daughters, Shamoina, Shanieka and Shelreece Rice, all of Perth Amboy; a son, Charles Benson of Perth Amboy; a sister, Marie R.H. Faines of Warrenton.

Robert J. Dalton, 53
of Metuchen

Mr. Robert J. Dalton, 53, of Bunker Hill (formerly of Metuchen) died October 15 in the Department of Veterans Affairs West Virginia Health Care Center at Martinsburg. He was 53.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Metuchen before moving to Bunker Hill more than 10 years ago.

He was a freight conductor with Conrail in Harrisburg, Pa., for 10 years before retiring four years ago. Previously, he worked for Conrail in New Jersey.

Mr. Dalton was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War who served from 1968 to 1970 and fought in the Tet Offensive. He was a member of the American Legion, Metuchen, N.J., and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Edison.

Surviving are his wife, Sherry; a son, Shaun; a daughter, Tara; brothers, Thomas, Paul and Bryan, and sisters, Dianna Taran and Donna Herrera.

Yaritza Lopez
of Perth Amboy

Yaritza Lopez, newborn daughter of Yaritza Miranda and Jose Lopez of Perth Amboy, died October 10 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her grandfather, Julio Miranda of Puerto Rico.

MID-DAY

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12:05 NOON

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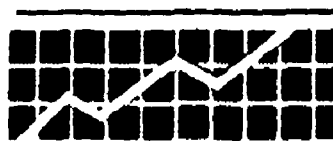


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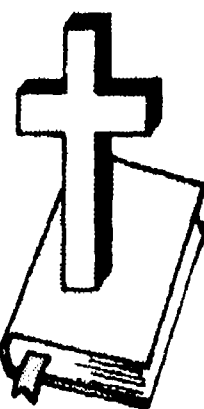
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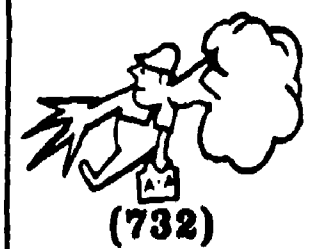
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YOUR LOCAL NEWS**NEWS****Colon Graduates Infantry Training**

PERTH AMBOY—Army Pvt. Edwin Colon, Jr. has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga.

During the eight weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core-values and traditions.

Additional training includ-

ed development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewmembers.

He is the son of Leslie Dominguez-Rodriguez of Perth Amboy and Edwin Colon of Lakeland, Fla.

Colon is a 1999 graduate of Perth Amboy High School.

Salgado Graduates Hospital Corps School

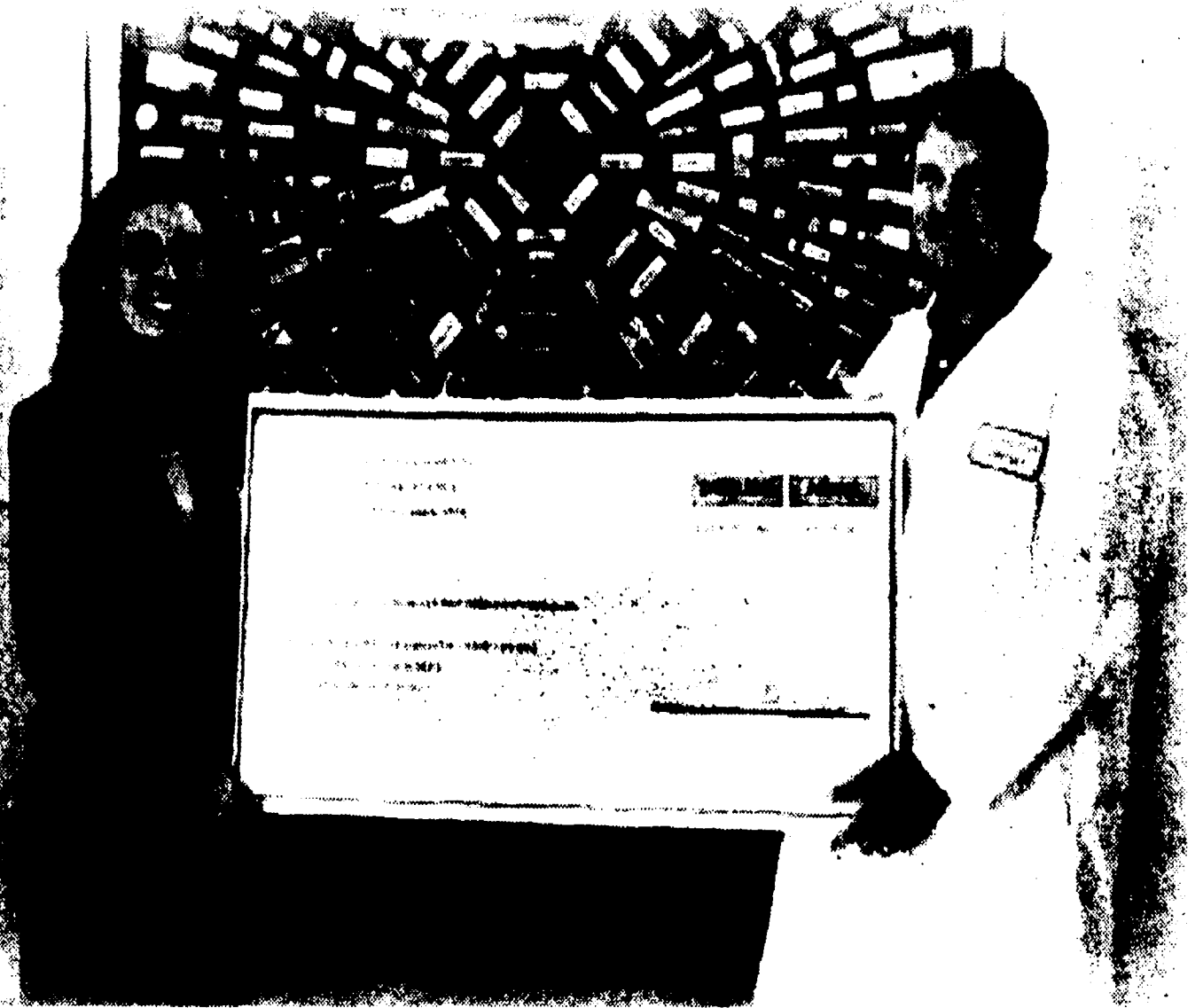
PERTH AMBOY—Navy Seaman Apprentice Marilyn Salgado, a 1994 graduate of Perth Amboy High School,

recently graduated from the Basic Hospital Corps School at Naval Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the 14-week course, Salgado learned a wide range of medical procedures used to provide first aid and assist Navy doctors and nurses. Salgado also received an introductory instruction for service in a variety of medical environments, from fleet hospitals and shipboard medical depart-

ments to fleet Marine forces and medical administration offices.

Graduates' newly acquired skills and knowledge will enable them to help provide quality health care to Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families. Salgado's first assignment after school will involve direct patient care, but with her training, Salgado can work in several areas, including first aid and assisting with minor surgery, pharmacy and laboratory analysis, patient transportation and food service inspections.



LOCAL COMPANY MAKES DONATION TO UNITED WAY—Elisse Glennon, Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Union County, accepts a generous \$1,750 donation from Rich Krema, Vice President of Finance of L.A. Dreyfus. The Edison-based company's donation will help United Way power services that support local children and youth, seniors, people with disabilities and families in crisis. For more information or to make a donation to United Way of Greater Union County, please call (908) 353-7171 or visit www.uwguc.org. L.A. Dreyfus is the world's leading manufacturer of chewing gum base.

Local Student Enrolls At Earlham College

RICHMOND, IND.—Julie Ferreira, daughter of Octavio and Maria Ferreira of Perth Amboy, has enrolled as a first-year student at Earlham College.

Ferreira is a graduate of Bishop George Ahr High School.

Earlham is a selective, liberal arts college in Richmond, Indiana. Engaging students with a changing world, Earlham is dedicated to the development of effective ways to integrate international perspectives in education. The College offers 31 majors in the

sciences, humanities and social sciences. More than 60 percent of Earlham's graduates pursue postgraduate study; many will go on to earn doctoral degrees. Earlham is a National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III school.

NJ Transit Improves Fencing In Perth Amboy

(continued from front)

go 'back to basics' by repairing or installing fencing along NJ Transit rights-of-way," said State Assembly Transportation Committee Chairman John S. Wisniewski (D-Sayreville). "In so doing, they are promoting the public's safety," Wisniewski said.

"One of NJ Transit's main missions is to operate a safe and secure railroad," said NJ Transit Executive Director Warrington. "Today's announcement reinforces that commitment to deter people from crossing the tracks except at designated pedestrian crossings and to protect our basic infrastructure."

NJ Transit will install four thousand feet of eight-foot-tall high-security fence to help

deter vandalism and trespassers from crossing or walking along the tracks at this location. A standard chain link fence already exists today at this location on the North Jersey Coast Line—installed by a predecessor railroad—but has not proven to be an effective deterrent to trespassers attempting to illegally cross the railroad right-of-way to access residential areas, ball fields or a nearby school.

NJ Transit will continue to monitor this location to determine the effectiveness of the new fence and its potential application at other locations where frequent vandalism and trespassing incidents may occur—based on funding availability.

Lages Graduates Military Training

PERTH AMBOY—Air Force Airman Laura J. Lages has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and customs; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training and special training in human relations. In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

She is the daughter of Donna Lages of Perth Amboy.

Lages is a 2000 graduate of Central Regional High School, Bayville.

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