

ANGLERS HOPING TO CATCH DOGFISH AGAIN. F1 T.J.'S PIZZA LOYAL TO ASBURY PARK. A19

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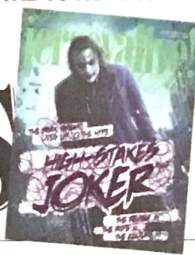


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FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008

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ACCEPTS INVITATION
TO STATEN ISLAND

Mayor will apologize in newsletter for remarks

By FRAIDY REISS
COASTAL MONMOUTH BUREAU

BELMAR — A written mea culpa and a day in Staten Island.

That's how Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle will begin to dispel public outcry against a borough newsletter in which he took aim at "Staten Island girls," "guidos" and blondes.

The apology will appear in the next issue of the weekly newsletter, which is due out today and likely will be the last issue of the Belmar Summer Rental News, Pringle said. It follows six apologies the mayor said he gave to six television stations during the last couple of days.

"I apologized to anyone that I'd offended with my remarks," said Pringle, who has insisted his writing was intended as "tongue in cheek."

Pringle also accepted an invitation from a Staten Island group to spend a day on the island, immersing in its culture. The invite came from SINY, a nonprofit organization that works to develop Staten Island's image — and that was among the countless groups and individuals horrified by Pringle's portrayal of hairspray-wearing, bar-fighting "SI girls" in the July 4 issue of his newsletter.

SINY and Pringle could not im-

See Belmar, Page A4

No drug court for grandfather in theft case

He's accused of using
4-year-old in crime

By KATHLEEN HOPKINS
TOWNS RIVER BUREAU

TOWNS RIVER — The 52-year-old Bergen County man accused of coaching his toddler granddaughter to steal from an arcade worker in Seaside Heights will not be allowed into a program designed to steer drug addicts away from prison and into recovery.

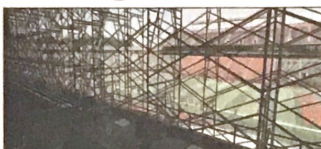
Superior Court Judge Barbara Ann Villano denied Daniel Twomey and his appeal of his rejection from drug court, a form of rigorous probation in lieu of state prison for defendants whose criminal behavior stems from addiction.

In rejecting the Twomey man from the special probationary program, Villano said any drug dependency he may suffer from is

See Drug, Page A2

Rutgers tuition going up 8.5%

Total on-campus cost: \$21,482 a year



Scaffolding covers the stands at Rutgers Stadium on Wednesday as work continues on the addition of luxury boxes and additional seats. The \$102 million project is being completed as tuition is rising another 8.5 percent. (AP PHOTO)

By CHRISTINE SPARTA
GANNETT NEW JERSEY

NEW BRUNSWICK — Tuition will increase 8.5 percent for Rutgers students under a \$1.816 billion budget adopted at Thursday's Board of Governors meeting.

Tuition in the coming academic year will rise from \$8,541 to \$9,268 — up \$727 — for state residents.

Students who lived on the New Brunswick campus paid \$20,168 last year for tuition, fees and room and board. In the coming academic year, they will pay \$21,482 — a 6.5 percent increase overall. Last year, the increase was 6 percent.

For out of state full-time students, the tuition for 2008-2009 will rise to \$19,482

from \$17,709 last year.

"Every area of the university is impacted," said Nancy Winterbauer, vice president for university budgeting at Rutgers. She said Rutgers also faces cuts in services, staff and course offerings.

The board allocated an additional \$2.6 million in additional

See Rutgers, Page A2

IRAQI GIRL HAS HOPE FOR NORMAL LIFE AFTER SURGERY IN LAKEWOOD

TWIN PHYSICIANS KEEP PROMISE: Two brothers, while serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq, were persuaded by a distraught father, later killed in an explosion, to operate on his 10-year-old daughter, born with a bladder outside her body.

DOING THEIR DUTY

By MICHAEL AMSEL
AND ZACH PATBERG
STAFF WRITERS



In her bed at Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood, Zahraa Quasay Abdulkadhim Al-Saadi awaits the operation to place her bladder inside her body. Below, Dr. Vance Moss (left) and his brother, Dr. Vince Moss, perform the surgery on Thursday. (STAFF PHOTOS: PETER KUCHENMAIER, ABOVE; MIKE MULLIGAN, BELOW)

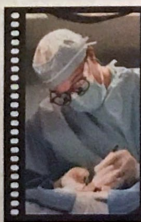
LAKEWOOD — For nearly a decade, Quasay Al-Saadi worked feverishly in his homeland of Iraq to try to get help for his daughter, who was born with her bladder outside of her body. Al-Saadi was able to arrange two operations in Iraq, but both were unsuccessful, so Zahraa Quasay Abdulkadhim Al-Saadi walked around in constant discomfort, unable to participate in activities with other children.

"We knew we had a mission to accomplish... We just could not fail."

— Dr. Vance Moss

On July 25, 2007, while walking with his family in Baghdad, Quasay Al-Saadi was killed in a roadside bombing. Shortly before his death, he contacted two U.S. Army officers — twin brothers, Dr. Vince Moss and Dr. Vance Moss, pleading with them to help his ailing daughter and allow her to live a normal life. Yesterday, the brothers delivered on their promise and completed a six-hour surgery at Kimball Medical Center, successfully correcting the malformation. In the process, they were also able to remove a piece of shrapnel in the 10-year-old's right leg, which had lodged there on the night

See Iraqi, Page A4



THE REEL DEAL!

ON THE WEB: Visit our Web site, www.app.com, and click on this story to view an audio slideshow of the surgical procedure and to learn the latest developments. Also, join in the on-line conversation about this topic in Story Chat.



N.J. guardsman who lost leg in Iraq is diving to inspire others

By JOSHUA RILEY
STAFF WRITER

Although he lived in Sea Bright for five years, Dean Schwartz now lives in the town of Wise, and his license plate says "Virginia." It also says he has earned a Purple Heart.

And although his truck dis-

plays a handicapped tag, the 25-year-old's life has only sped up since he lost his leg in Iraq three years ago. A scuba suit with one leg rolled up and tied off is testament to that.

Fueled by a desire to help encourage other disabled veterans, Schwartz recently met Stewart Snyder, a scuba instructor for those with disa-

bilities who gives lessons at ContraState Medical Center in Freehold Township. Schwartz visited New Jersey from Abingdon, Va., with his fiancée, Emily Phipps, and now both are certified to scuba dive on their honeymoon. Their wedding is

See Guardsman, Page A4



Stewart Snyder, an instructor who gives scuba lessons to the disabled at ContraState Medical Center, helps Dean Schwartz prepare for a dive. (STAFF PHOTO: JOSHUA RILEY)

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LOTS MORE ON THE WEB

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SPIRITUAL VISIT See the video of the Dalai Lama's visit to Philadelphia and his speech at the Kimball Center this week under Photos/Videos.

CONFLICTING OPINIONS Join readers in forums discussing the state of our health care in Who Needs National Health Care under Hot Topics.

ON THE TOWN Staff writer Don Wilho explores the tavern and restaurant scene in his column, The Watery Hole, under Opinion/Columnists.

MONEY AND MARKETS Review a list of prices, price changes and volume of stocks under Business and Stocks of Local Interest.

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Plenty of sun
WEATHER: A2

TEMPERATURES
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BUSINESS A19
CLASSIFIED D10
COMICS/PUZZLES G7
DATEBOOK A17
EDITORIALS A16
MOVIES JERRY A14
OBITUARIES A12
TV HIGHLIGHTS G4



Panel to probe health insurance cancellations

BLOOMBERG NEWS SERVICE

A congressional committee will investigate the health insurance industry's practice of revoking benefits when policyholders develop costly illnesses.

The practice, known as "post-claims underwriting," can leave families without coverage and facing substantial medical bills, witnesses told the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Thursday. Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., said he plans to request documents from health insurers.

The cancellations occur in policies purchased by individuals, not in employer-sponsored group plans. The issue has become part of a debate over how much the U.S. should rely on individual coverage. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, wants to use tax incentives to help Americans buy individual policies. Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, his Democratic opponent, backs greater reliance on plans sponsored by employers and the government.

"Post-claims underwriting is a sanitized name for an exceptionally offensive practice, retroactively denying health insurance to people who get sick and when they get sick," Waxman said at the hearing. "Insurers are using technicalities or trumped-up misrepresentations to rescind policies after individuals get sick and accumulate hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills."

Insurers have defended the revocations as necessary when they discover that members committed fraud or misrepresented their health in applying for coverage. Abuses by customers skew the assessment of how risky and expensive it will be to cover someone, according to the insurers.

Only 0.2 percent of the policies bought by individuals and families directly from health plans are canceled by insurers each year, said Stephanie Kanwit, representing the Washington-based trade group America's Health Insurance Plans. She told the panel that 18 million Americans are covered by policies purchased this way.

The cancellations protect insurers and other ratepayers from higher premiums, Kanwit told the committee. Still, she said AHIP wants to extend consumer protections.

"We know that rescissions are exceedingly rare," she said. "We want to make them extinct."

The 1,300-member organization's board proposed new policies on cancellations in December, part of a broader plan promoting a public-private effort to make coverage available to all. Asked by Waxman, Kanwit couldn't say how many AHIP member companies now comply with the standards.



Dr. Vance Moss works on Zahraa Qusay Abdulkadhim Al-Sandi's exposed bladder. Assisting is Scrub Nurse Marie Pendleton. (STAFF PHOTOS, PETER ACKERMAN)

Iraqi

FROM PAGE A1

her father was killed.

"The operation was an amazing success," said Vance Moss. "She is dry now, she has a normal anatomy, she has everything that a young child would need. We knew we had a mission to accomplish and we went about it with a relentless pursuit of perfection. We just could not fail, especially in a situation like this, when the mother and the child traveled 15 days through the desert to get here."

The young girl and her mother, Zaennab Mohammed Hasham Kharabah, have been staying at the home of Gigi Ghanem in Monroe since July 5, preparing for the operation and completing the necessary paperwork. The operation was made possible by the work of the New Jersey chapter of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, a nonprofit organization that arranges free medical care for sick and injured children from the Middle East.

With Ghanem serving as an interpreter, Kharabah talked about the operation.

"I wanted this surgery because it's a new beginning for my daughter," she said. "They did what they could do in Iraq with limited technology and medical abilities. But they really weren't successful and she has to wear a diaper around the bladder. . . . Hopefully, now she will be able to lead a normal life like a young girl should and be able to do things like swimming."

Arlene Mikkelsen, a member of the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund, said the young girl's situation was really compromised in Iraq because the doctors there were being killed and others were threatened.

"Many of the doctors fled the country, and one of them was Zahraa's doctor," said Mikkelsen. "Her latest doctor got in touch with us about a year ago and asked if we could do something to help her. We worked hard to put this (operation) together and hopefully everything turns out well for this child. She is an absolute angel."



In her hospital bed, Zahraa smiles as she awaits her surgery at Kimball Medical center in Lakewood.

Risky surgery

Prior to the surgery, Dr. Vance Moss detailed the young girl's condition and explained what they hoped to accomplish.

"Right now she is wet, walking around, leaking everywhere," Vance Moss said. "Our main goal is to make her dry and bring in all her abdominal muscles that did not form correctly because of this entity. The idea is to internalize the bladder and make sure she has a mechanism to stay dry. If she does not, we will produce a Mitrofanoff valve in which we will take a piece of the cecum and appendix and attach it to whatever bladder she has and that will basically serve as a channel which will come right outside her belly button."

As he prepared to step into the operation room, Vance Moss admitted that this was "an incredibly emotional period" for him, and he really hadn't been sleeping well lately.

"This is a very risky procedure that should have been done a long time ago," Vance Moss said. "My brother and I would be lying if we said we weren't nervous. It's almost like the father is up in heaven looking at us, making sure this goes correctly."

By 2 p.m., Zahraa was under anesthesia as Vance Moss performed a biopsy on her bladder. Although there is scarring from past botched surgeries, no cancer cells had formed, and an important hurdle was cleared.

Two hours later, reconstruction of Zahraa's vagina was complete. All her reproductive organs were functioning.

She can have children someday.

"That will be great news for her family," Vance said.

Meticulously following procedure, Vance stands over the 53-pound girl, pulling gauze from the opening just below her stomach, where an inside-out bladder has been exposed, leaking urine for the past 10 years.

"It is hard to believe no infection has occurred over that period of time," said Vance, a touch of surprise in his voice.

Working in tandem, the brothers spend the next 45 minutes carefully attaching the appendix to the bladder and connecting it

BEHIND THE NEWS

● Twin brothers Vince and Vance Moss, both U.S. Army officers, are staff physicians at Kimball Medical Center in Lakewood.

● The Moss brothers operated on a 10-year girl from Iraq yesterday and corrected a malformation where the child was born with her bladder outside of her body. One in 500 children are born with this malfunction, Vance Moss said.

● The brothers are 37 years old. Dr. Vance Moss lives in Freehold and Dr. Vance Moss lives in Long Branch.

● The U.S. military allowed the Moss brothers to be assigned to a nonprofit medical group.

● With Afghan army escorts, they traveled throughout central Afghanistan treating civilians in 2005 and 2007.

● Earlier this year, they did philanthropic medical work in Iraq.

to a small hole — a "second belly button" — through her skin. The opening is sewn shut.

Zahraa will learn to catheterize herself through the new hole to drain her bladder.

Tired, but relieved

The doctors walked out of the operating room at 9 p.m., weary and visibly relieved.

Mission accomplished.

"To see the mother crying tears of joy when we were finished was just such an incredible feeling," Vance Moss said. "The father was with us today, too. Every time I reached up to see the light in the operating room, you could almost see his face, peering down on us. The best feeling now is knowing he can finally rest in peace."

Zahraa will spend the next four days at the hospital in recovery. Then, she will return to Ghanem's house until she is healthy enough to return to Iraq. She yearns to see her brother and sister.

Zahraa turns 11 years old Aug. 2. It is sure to be a day marked by joy, relief and gratitude, to two doctors who delivered on their promise to dad.

"Now, I think we can get her in the swimming pool," said Ghanem, beaming. "That might be the best birthday present in the world."

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