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THIS JUST IN...

Cowboys stymie Eagles at the Linc

The Eagles fell 20-16 to the Dallas Cowboys in a defensive battle Sunday night.

Donovan McNabb threw two interceptions and the Eagles couldn't get the ground game going without Brian Westbrook, who was held out of the game due to a concussion suffered earlier in the season against the Redskins.

Tony Romo threw for 307 yards and just one touchdown pass to Miles Austin. But that TD, which came in the fourth quarter, proved to be the game-winner.

The Eagles' lone touchdown was a pass from McNabb to Brent Celek in the third quarter.

NJ poll: Corruption still a big problem

Nearly two-thirds of New Jerseyans believe there is "a lot" of political corruption in the state, according to a new poll.

The Rutgers-Eagleton survey also found 54 percent of respondents believe the Garden State is more corrupt than other states, while 40 percent believe it's about the same as elsewhere.

Respondents, though, were divided over what punishment should be meted out to those only accused of corruption.

Fifty-eight percent say those officials shouldn't have their pay and benefits cut off unless they are convicted, while 36 percent disagree. But half say those officials should be forced to leave office once they're charged, while 42 percent say they should be allowed to stay until found guilty.

The telephone poll of 903 New Jersey adults was conducted between Oct. 15-20 and has a sampling margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Survey: Gas prices up 2.86 cents nationwide

The average price of regular gasoline in the United States has jumped 2.86 cents over a two-week period to \$2.68.

That's according to the national Lundberg Survey of fuel prices released Sunday.

Analyst Trilby Lundberg said the average price for a gallon of mid-grade was \$2.81. Premium was at \$2.93.

Tucson, Ariz., had the lowest average price among cities surveyed at \$2.36 a gallon for regular. Anchorage was the highest at \$3.30.

In California, prices were down slightly. A gallon of regular cost an average of \$2.96.

Newsbreak

Happy birthday to Burlington County Times subscriber Kathleen Murphy.

Also, congratulations to the Rancocas Valley Marching Band and Color Guard, which won the U.S. Scholastic Band Association National Group 3 Open Championships in Annapolis, Md., on Sunday.

How come when you give a dog a bath — no matter how many towels you use — the bather gets as wet as the dog?

Investments I should have made before flu season: hand sanitizer and skin lotion.

Linda Wondoloski
BCT copy editor

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Health care bill has nowhere to go in Senate

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The glow from a health care triumph faded quickly for President Barack Obama on Sunday as Democrats realized the bill they fought so hard to pass in the House has nowhere to go in the Senate.

Speaking from the Rose Garden about 14 hours after the late Saturday vote, Obama urged senators to be like runners on a relay team and "take the baton and bring this effort to the finish line on behalf of the American people."

The problem is that the Senate won't run with it. The government health

insurance plan included in the House bill is unacceptable to a few Democratic moderates who hold the balance of power in the Senate.

If a government plan is part of the deal, "as a matter of conscience, I will not allow this bill to come to a final vote," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Connecticut independent whose vote Democrats need to overcome GOP filibusters.

"The House bill is dead on arrival in the Senate," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said dismissively.

Democrats did not line up to challenge him. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has yet to schedule floor debate and hinted last week that

senators may not be able to finish health care this year.

Nonetheless, the House vote provided an important lesson in how to succeed with less-than-perfect party unity, and one that Senate Democrats may be able to adapt. House Democrats overcame their own divisions and broke an impasse that threatened the bill after liberals grudgingly accepted tougher restrictions on abortion funding, as abortion opponents demanded.

In Senate, the stumbling block is the idea of the government competing with private insurers. Liberals may have to swallow hard and accept a deal without a public plan in order to keep the legislation alive. As in the House, the com-

promise appears to be to the right of the political spectrum.

Republican Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, who voted for a version of the Senate bill in committee, has given the Democrats a possible way out. She's proposing to allow a government plan as a last resort, if after a few years premiums keep escalating and local health insurance markets remain in the grip of a few big companies. This is the "trigger" option.

That approach appeals to moderates such as Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La. "If the private market fails to reform, there would be a fallback position," Landrieu said last week. "It should be triggered

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Brain power



DENNIS McDONALD / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dr. Erol Veznedaroglu (right), director of neurosciences and endovascular/cerebrovascular neurosurgery at Capital Health in Trenton, shows former patient Melanie Lucas of Burlington City her brain aneurysm on the computer screen.

A medical first

A Burlington City woman is the first person in a NJ hospital to undergo a procedure to treat a brain aneurysm.

By Kristen Coppock
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A local woman recently avoided major brain surgery by having glue injected into her cranium.

Treated for a brain aneurysm, Melanie Lucas is New Jersey's first patient to undergo a procedure using the artificial material. The Burlington City resident was treated in September with Onyx Liquid Embolic System, which fills an aneurysm, blocks blood flow to it and prevents the malformation from getting bigger or rupturing.

Less than two months later, Lucas said she "feels fine."

The procedure was performed at Capital Health in Trenton by Dr. Erol Veznedaroglu, director of neurosciences



DENNIS McDONALD / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Melanie Lucas of Burlington City discusses the procedure she underwent in September using Onyx Liquid Embolic System to treat a brain aneurysm.

and endovascular/cerebrovascular neurosurgery. Known to patients and staff as Dr. Vez, he is one of only three doctors nationwide initially chosen to use the Onyx system when it was first unveiled. The product was approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration in 2005 for the treatment of arteriovenous malformations, a brain vascular disorder. The malformations are blood vessel networks that abnormally connect arteries to veins.

Lucas, who operates her own cleaning business, said her aneurysm as well as a smaller, second malformation were discovered through a series of tests that started with Lyme disease. Brain scans were ordered after she reported memory losses. The tissue was fine, and the 47-year-old Lucas has since tested negative for Lyme disease. However, the news about her brain aneurysms was not surprising to Lucas. She said her mother suffered two strokes and her grandmother had an aneurysm.

According to Capital Health, Veznedaroglu is the only physician in New Jersey and Philadelphia to have used Onyx on aneurysms, which he likens to a blister. They are weakened spots that bulge or bal-

See **BRAIN**, Page **A6**

Fielding a bond ordinance in Delanco

A proposal would fund the construction of soccer fields in Pennington Park.

By Ed Moorhouse
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DELANCO — The Township Committee will vote on a bond ordinance tonight that would fund the construction of a soccer field on a portion of Pennington Park off Creek Road.

The township owns nearly 22

acres of the 140-acre park, which was created in 2006. The remaining 118 acres, owned by the county, include hiking trails and picnic areas.

The project would be funded by a \$300,000 loan from the state Green Acres program, which is part of the Department of Environmental Protection.

The loan would be repaid at a 2 percent interest rate through Delanco's dedicated open space tax fund, so the project would have no impact on the local purpose tax, township officials said. The annual loan payment

would be about \$20,000. The township collects \$100,000 per year in open space taxes.

To obtain the loan, Green Acres requires the town to authorize an ordinance to certify that it has the capacity to bond for \$300,000.

According to a summary of the project posted on Delanco's Web site, the township and county agreed to an open space land exchange that gave Delanco ownership of a portion of Pennington Park. The agreement was finalized earlier this year.

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BCT FILE PHOTO
Delanco officials will decide tonight on a bond ordinance that would fund construction of a soccer field in Pennington Park.

Proposed zoning change raises ire

By Mark Zimmaro
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PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP — The Township Council moved forward on a proposal to rezone the northern end of town, which could open the door for a major senior housing development.

The council introduced seven zoning ordinances Wednesday that included the creation of an active senior housing cluster overlay district, which could be constructed on the Greenberg dairy farm on North Pemberton Road.

The zoning changes are recommended in the township's master plan, which was amended in July for the first time in 37 years.

The changes created the possibility of developing areas along North Pemberton, Birmingham and Arney's Mount roads.

The northern area is among a small percentage of the municipality not located in the environmentally sensitive Pinelands.

Six of the seven zoning proposals were approved by the council and will be up for adoption at its Dec. 16 meeting. A seventh ordinance involving a tree management and removal plan was tabled and will be revisited at the Dec. 2 meeting.

Several residents from the northern part of town strongly oppose developing their area, which is mostly agricultural. Proposed zoning changes would allow public water and sewer extensions that could accommodate higher-density residential development.

"I don't like what's happening," said Bob Cushman, a member of a grassroots organization called Pemberton First, which opposes the development of farmland. "If it was for the good of the township . . . that would be one thing. As soon as those sewers are put in, we will have crowded roads and the need for more services. Taxes are going to go up, not down."

Township officials have acknowledged that a 55-and-older development could be one of the projects on

See **ZONING**, Page **A3**

AROUND THE WORLD

Government: 91 dead in flooding

VERAPAZ, EL SALVADOR

Torrents of mud and boulders choked the streets of Verapaz on Sunday, part of massive wave of rain-fueled flooding that authorities

said killed 91 people throughout El Salvador and left about five dozen missing.

Almost 7,000 people saw their homes damaged, destroyed or cut off by floods and mudslides across this Central American nation.

At least 23 people were killed in San Vicente province, where Verapaz is located, and at least 60 people were unaccounted for in the city located about 25 miles east of the capital, San Salvador.

Provincial Gov. Manuel Castellanos said workers were struggling to clear roadways and power and water service had been knocked out.

In San Salvador, authorities reported 61 dead.

Iraq electoral law passes, sets up vote

BAGHDAD

Iraq's parliament ended weeks of debate Sunday and passed a long-

delayed law paving the way for the planned January election to go forward, sidestepping a crisis that could have delayed the U.S. troop withdrawal.

The decision appeared to resolve a key sticking point — who will be allowed to vote in the disputed, oil-rich city of Kirkuk. The issue had threatened to delay Iraq's key parliamentary elections, which in turn would affect how quickly American combat forces could leave the country.

The U.S. ambassador, speaking to reporters after the vote, said the American troop drawdown will proceed as scheduled.

Afghan: No place for corrupt officials

KABUL

The embattled Afghan president pledged Sunday that there would be no place for corrupt officials in his new administration — a demand

made by Washington and its international partners as they ponder sending more troops to confront the Taliban and shore up his government.

Also Sunday, NATO reported three more coalition soldiers, one American and two Britons, died in combat with the Taliban in western and southern areas. The latest losses pushed Britain's combat death toll in the eight-year Afghan war to 201.

From The Associated Press

Brain

Continued from Page A1

loon out from the side of an artery.

"I'm very careful about who I use it on," he said. "It's not for everybody."

Lucas was an ideal candidate for the glue, Veznedaroglu said, because she is young and her aneurysm was considered to be "wide-necked." A more commonly used procedure that relies on a coil and a permanent stent to close off an aneurysm would have been more difficult in her case and the rate of recurrence might have been higher. Although the rates of aneurysm recurrence with Onyx have not yet been determined because its use is so new, Veznedaroglu said he is optimistic that Lucas' chances of recurrence are slimmer than what they would have been with the coil approach.

Both procedures require access to the aneurysm through the groin. A catheter is threaded through the vascular system to the aneurysm. After delivering the Onyx, the foamy glue hardens in the aneurysm, preventing a rupture that would send blood into the brain tissue.

"The benefit of using the treatment is the glue's ability to better fill all of the aneurysm, including all of the small spaces that may not be filled using other options. Additionally, using the Onyx treatment eliminates the need for a stent, which would stay in the blood vessel for life," Veznedaroglu said.

Traditionally, treatment for brain aneurysms required an open craniology.

"That's highly invasive and a pretty big surgery," said Veznedaroglu, who previously used Onyx as director of neurovascular surgery and endovascular neurosurgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospitals in Philadelphia.

Lucas said she is amazed that she didn't have to have her head opened for surgery, and she had no reservations about being the state's first patient to be treated with Onyx. Her concerns were more about anesthesia and the alternatives to not being treated.

"As a parent you don't want to be a burden," she said, adding that she would like her three children to get tested in the future for similar problems.

After the procedure Lucas remained in the intensive care unit for more than two days before being discharged into the care of her daughter, Kathy Camarda, 25. At home Lucas rested and was prohibited from driving for about a week. She has slowly returned to many of her other activities.

On a recent afternoon mother and daughter returned to Capital Health to talk about Lucas' experience. She marveled at images taken of the aneurysm before and after the procedure. She also got the opportunity to thank many of her caregivers in person again after previously delivering homemade breads to the staff.

"I thank God I was sent (here)," Lucas said. "Once I met with Dr. Vez, I felt completely confident in him and his recommendation to use the glue. He just put my mind at ease. Throughout this entire process, I felt safe."

Capital Health opened its Stroke and Cerebrovascular Center of New Jersey earlier this year. According to Veznedaroglu, many patients in need of the center's services used to have to travel to Philadelphia or New York City.

"This care did not exist in this state. That's no longer the case," he said. "We can deliver a level of care that goes beyond what was previously available in the area."

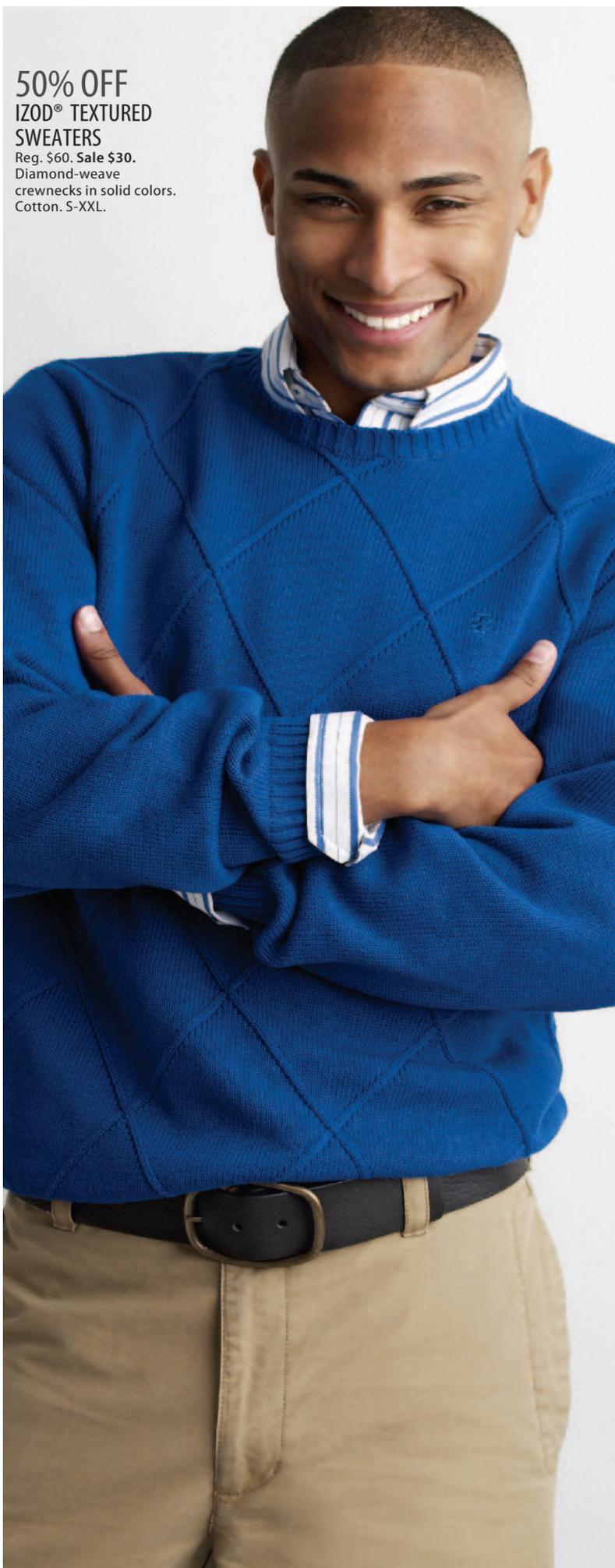
Veznedaroglu and Kenneth Liebman, two of fewer than 60 dual-trained neurosurgeons nationwide, are new to the Capital Health staff. Joining the physicians are medical team members experienced in caring for patients with cerebrovascular disease. Veznedaroglu said many of the people he works with at Capital Health came with him from Jefferson, where the group had formed a cohesive working relationship.

In addition to working with glue, Veznedaroglu advises other doctors on its use and has co-authored a research article published in the medical journal *Neurosurgery*.

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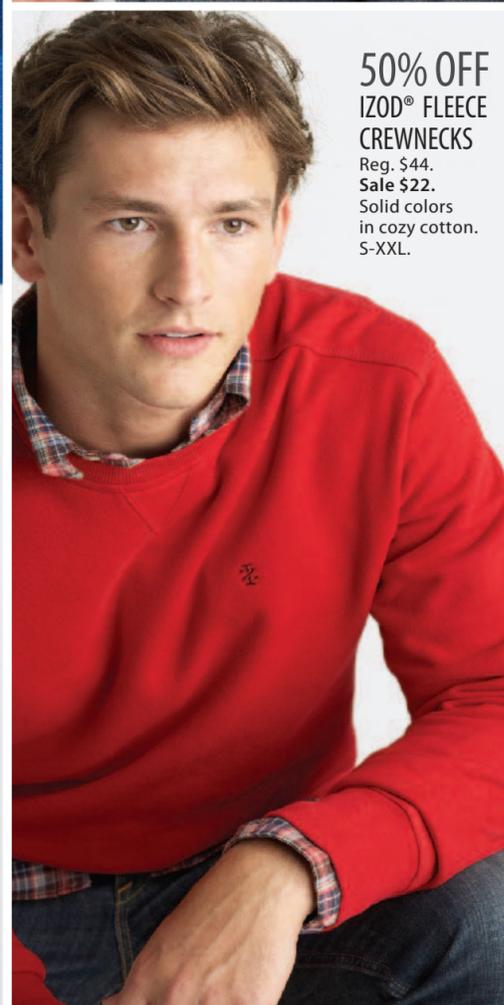
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