

# Senior News

## The dangers of hospital stays

By Matilda Charles  
King Features

Studies show that the longer people stay in hospitals, the more chance they have of being stricken with potentially fatal staph infections. This is especially true for older people whose immune systems may not be strong enough to fight off the contagion.

Long hospital stays can also create depressed mental states, which may retard the recovery rate. And again, older folks are at high risk for developing this type of depression.

The good news is that thanks to improved high-tech procedures, hospital stays have become shorter. There has also been a trend toward treating more people for more conditions on an outpatient basis. For example, chemotherapy

and kidney dialysis treatments, as well as cataract operations and pacemaker implants (such as the one Vice President Dick Cheney recently underwent) once required hospital stays. But now patients can have them done in the morning and be home in time for lunch with their families.

The bad news is that to save money, Congress has ordered a cutback in Medicare outpatient reimbursements for some 1,100 high-tech procedures. But this may well backfire.

As some critics of the cutback have noted, doctors could then order their patients to stay in the hospital for a certain length of time to undergo the same procedures they had as outpatients. This would allow the doctors to qualify for larger reimbursements. However, that, in turn, would

soon result in costs far higher to the federal government than any amount saved by cutting outpatient funding.

Also, the risks that come with longer hospital stays, as noted above, could endanger susceptible seniors and raise the cost of their care even more.

Dr. Michael Karpf, vice provost of the University of California, Los Angeles, and director of the UCLA Medical Center says, "It's the wrong direction to go. Our patients (understand) it is better to go home than to stay in the hospital, and we agree with that."

As always, I welcome your comments.

Write to Matilda Charles in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

### Senior Center Activities

**September 14: "Pizza Day"** 8:15 Early-Bird Breakfast; 9-12 Computer Training; 9:45 Senior Swim; 10:00 Morning Get-Together; 11:00 Stamp Cutting Project; 11:15 PEPPI Weight Training; 12:00 Lunch; 12:15 Bowling at Keystone; 12:45 "Cookie" Bingo; 7:30-10:30 Dance - Rainbow Four Plus Two.

**September 17:** 10:00 Morning Get-Together; 11:00 Tai Chi w/Betsy Chapman, Reflective Moments; 12:00 Lunch; 12:45 Birthday Bingo; 1:00 Senior Swim; 2:00 Line Dancing w/the Heplers.

**September 18:** 10:00 Morning Get-Together; 10:30 PEPPI

Weight Training, Wellness Walking; 11:00 The MFP Crafts; 12:00 Lunch and Organ Melodies; 12:45 Self Defense for Seniors, with speaker Kurt Miller of Master Kim's.

**September 19:** United Way Luncheon, Center Closed. Meals on Wheels Only.

**September 20:** 10:00 Morning Get-Together; 10:30 Walk w/Debbie Trench; 11:00 Let's Speak PA Dutch; 12:00 Lunch; 12:45 "Putting Around the Center, Golf Putt, That Is;" 1-4 Drop-In Bridge.

**Daily Activities:** Pinochle, Quilting, Rummikub, Book Swap, Jigsaw Puzzle, Reading Table, Coffee.

### Senior Center Menu

**September 14:** Blended Juice; Turkey/Cheese Hoagie; Lettuce and Tomato; Cucumber/Onion Salad; Fresh Apple.

**September 17:** Grape Juice; Beef Pepper Steak; Steamed Brown Rice; Oriental Vegetables; Poppysseed Roll/Margarine; Lemon Sherbet.

**September 18:** Baked Ham; Au Gratin Potato; Spinach

w/Diced Turnips; Chunky Applesauce; Multigrain Bread/Margarine; Lemon Sherbet.

**September 19:** Center Closed - United Way Luncheon.

**September 20:** Orange Juice; Chicken a la King; Noodles; Peas and Carrots; Dinner Roll/Margarine; Vanilla Pudding.

### Contract Bridge

By Steve Decker  
King Features

The Rule of Eleven is a handy gadget that can be used to advantage by either side. Here is an unusual case that demonstrates the value of the rule.

West leads the six of spades, dummy following low, and the question is what East should play on this trick. If he plays the ten, which is probably what most players would do, declarer makes the contract by establishing clubs and ultimately gets his ninth trick by leading a spade to dummy's nine.

But let's suppose that East is a devout disciple of the Rule of Eleven and understands its workings perfectly. In that event, after West leads the six of spades and dummy follows with the three, East plays the five!

The effect of this startling play is that South goes down one. Declarer wins and attacks clubs, whereupon West takes the ace and leads another low spade. If the queen is played from dummy, East quickly defeats the contract by playing the king followed by the ten; if the nine is played from dummy, East wins with the ten, cashes the king and returns the queen of diamonds, leaving South with only eight tricks.

In applying the Rule of Eleven (which assumes that the lead is

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ Q 9 3  
♥ A 7 5  
♦ A 9 3  
♣ J 8 4

**WEST**  
♠ J 8 7 6 2  
♥ Q 8 4  
♦ 5 2  
♣ A 7 2

**EAST**  
♠ K 10 5  
♥ J 9 6 3  
♦ Q J 10 8  
♣ 6 3

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 4  
♥ K 10 2  
♦ K 7 6 4  
♣ K 10 9 5

The bidding:  
North 1♣ East Pass South 2NT West 3NT  
Opening lead — six of spades.

fourth-best), East deducts the number of the card led from 11, which in this case tells him that there are five cards higher than the six in the North, East and South hands.

East sees two of them in dummy and two of them in his own hand, so he knows that South has only one spade higher than the six. Given South's two-notrump bid, this card is most likely to be the ace, which means East can safely play the five. Even if South's spade honor is the jack, the play of the five can do no worse than break even, since South is assured of a spade trick no matter what East plays.

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### Visiting Nurses

September Happenings

**September 14:** 1-3 p.m. blood pressures at the Coventry Mall, rts. 724 and 100, Pottstown.

**September 17:** 11-12 noon blood pressures at the Colonnade, 300 Perkiomen Ave., Schwenksville; 12-1 p.m. blood pressures at New Hanover Church, Gilbertsville.

**September 18:** 10-11 a.m. blood pressures at Robert Smith Towers, 501 High Street, Pottstown; 6:30 p.m. Bereavement support group at the VNA Building, 1963 E. High Street, Pottstown.

**September 19:** 2 p.m. blood pressures at the Flaghouse, 250 N. Main Street, Spring City.

### Volunteers needed at Multi-Service

Boyertown Area Multi-Service is in need of volunteers to transport individuals to medical appointments. When a request for transportation is received, our receptionist will contact you. If it is convenient for you, she will give you the assignment. Mileage reimbursement is available. For more information, please call 610-367-6957.

### Boyertown Area Multi-Service

**Friday, September 14:** GPU 8:30-12:30; OVR 12-4; BCIU 8:30-4:30.

**Monday, September 17:** GPU 8:30-12:30; BCIU 8:30-4:30.

**Tuesday, September 18:** GPU 8:30-4:30; BCIU 8:30-4:30; Dr. Ivison 6-9 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 19:** PCS 8:30-12:30; BCIU 8:30-4:30; JPO 2-4; Dr. Ivison 6-9 p.m.

**Thursday, September 20:** GPU 8:30-12:30; WIC 8-4; Dr. Ivison 6-9 p.m.

**Meals on Wheels Drivers/Helpers Needed:** If you can volunteer approximately 1 1/2 hours twice each month, Meals on Wheels needs you. We need both drivers and deliverers. Every attempt will be made to accommodate volunteers' personal schedules. If you can help, please call Mary Jo Zukoski at 610-367-6957.

Charles J. Adams Jr.

So when they can't afford the operation, I just touch up the x-rays.

## Your Guide to Entertainment

### Restaurants, Travel & More!

**BOYERTOWN ORIOLES**  
4th & Washington St.

• WE CATER TO  
Wedding Receptions,  
Banquets, Class Reunions,  
Private Parties, etc.  
CALL 610-367-2212

**Perkiomen Tours**

#### GREAT VACATIONS

- HISTORIC BOSTON October 2-4 .....\$450
- KITCHENER'S THANKSGIVING & OKTOBERFEST October 5-10.....\$734
- SMOKY MOUNTAIN SPLENDOR October 8-14.....\$820
- GRAND OLE NASHVILLE October 9-14.....\$678
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER FOLIAGE CRUISE October 11-18.....\$1045
- OHIO'S AMISH COUNTRY October 15-19.....\$480
- NEW ORLEANS - DEEP SOUTH October 15-24.....\$1195
- COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG October 18-21.....\$378
- PLANES, TRAINS & TERRAIN October 20-21.....\$249
- MORE THAN DISNEY October 20-28.....\$874
- HILTON HEAD SOUTH CAROLINA October 22-27.....\$696
- NATURALLY FLORIDA October 27-November 4...\$1191
- GOLDEN ISLES OF GEORGIA November 3-9.....\$915

1-800-222-4434  
(215) 679-4434

ALL SEATS \$1.50

THE MOVIES

SHOW TIMES  
Friday & Saturday 7 P.M. & 9 P.M.  
Sun.-Thurs. 7 P.M. Only

Jurassic Park III  
RUNNING TIME 1 HOUR, 34 MINUTES  
RATED PG

SHREK  
1 HOUR, 24 MINUTES  
RATED PG

STATE THEATRE  
BOYERTOWN N. READING AVENUE & 5TH STREET (610) 367-4737

## Heemet Fescht

A great learning and fun experience

September 15-16, 2001

The Heemet Fescht is presented by the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University. Agricultural demonstrations, PA German crafts by 20 skilled artisans, genealogical information and even tours through authentic PA German farm buildings and a one room school-house help to educate you in the ways of the early German immigrants.

In addition, we have entertainment for young and old alike. Delicious PA German food at the Weibslait Eck, horse team wagon rides, music, storytelling and talks on PA German life and lore are continuous through the entire weekend.

Donation: \$3 per person

For more information (610) 683-1330  
www.kutztownfestival.com/heemet

### More Entertainment on page 22



**Keystone Fire Co.**  
240 N. Walnut St.  
Boyertown

**Next Bingo Will Be On September 13**

Doors Open 5 p.m.  
Starts 6:30 p.m.

guaranteed weekly jackpot

### LUNCHEONS SERVED

Mon. thru Fri.  
From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**OPEN BOWLING**  
2 HALLS AVAILABLE FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS

"BUMPER BOWLING"  
- Call For Details -

**KEYSTONE FIRE CO.**  
240 Walnut St.  
- Boyertown, Pa. -  
610-367-2200

### 55th Annual OLEY VALLEY COMMUNITY FAIR

Located on the Oley Fire Company Fairgrounds  
Routes 73 & 662, Oley, PA



BIGGUNS



THE FABULOUS GREASEBAND



JOHN BRESSLER

#### THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 20th

- 8AM - Judging of Exhibits
- 11AM - 2:45PM - PA Dutch Program
- 1PM - 1:45PM - Tigger & Trixann
- 4:30PM - Children's Pedal Tractor Contest
- 6PM - Farm Youth Vocational Agriculture Livestock Judging
- 6:30PM - Big Guns
- 7:30PM - Presentation of Commercial Exhibit Awards
- 8:30PM - Big Guns

#### FRIDAY - SEPTEMBER 21st

- 10AM - Farm Youth Vo-Ag Dairy Judging Contest - Judging of Sheep - Tractor Pulling Contest - Lamb Trimming & Blocking Contest
- 1PM - Oley Valley High School Band
- 1:30PM - Youth Pedal Tractor Pulling Contest
- 4:30PM - Big Wheel Contest
- 6PM - Country Keys featuring Terry Hertzog & Linette Mertz
- 7:30PM - The Fabulous Greaseband
- 9:30PM - The Fabulous Greaseband

#### SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 22nd

- 10AM - Garden Tractor & ATV Pull & Safe Tractor Driving Contest
- 11AM - Bale Throwing Contest
- 11AM - 3PM - Mid-Day Car Cruise
- Noon - Country Keys featuring Terry Hertzog & Linette Mertz
- 1PM - 3PM - Ringgold Band
- 1:30PM - Adult Pedal Tractor Pulling Contest
- 3PM - 6PM - Happy Dutchmen Strolling Band
- 3:30PM - Pie Eating Contest
- 6:30PM - Presentation of Department Trophies
- 7PM & 9PM - John Bressler
- 9:30PM - Auction of Fair Exhibits