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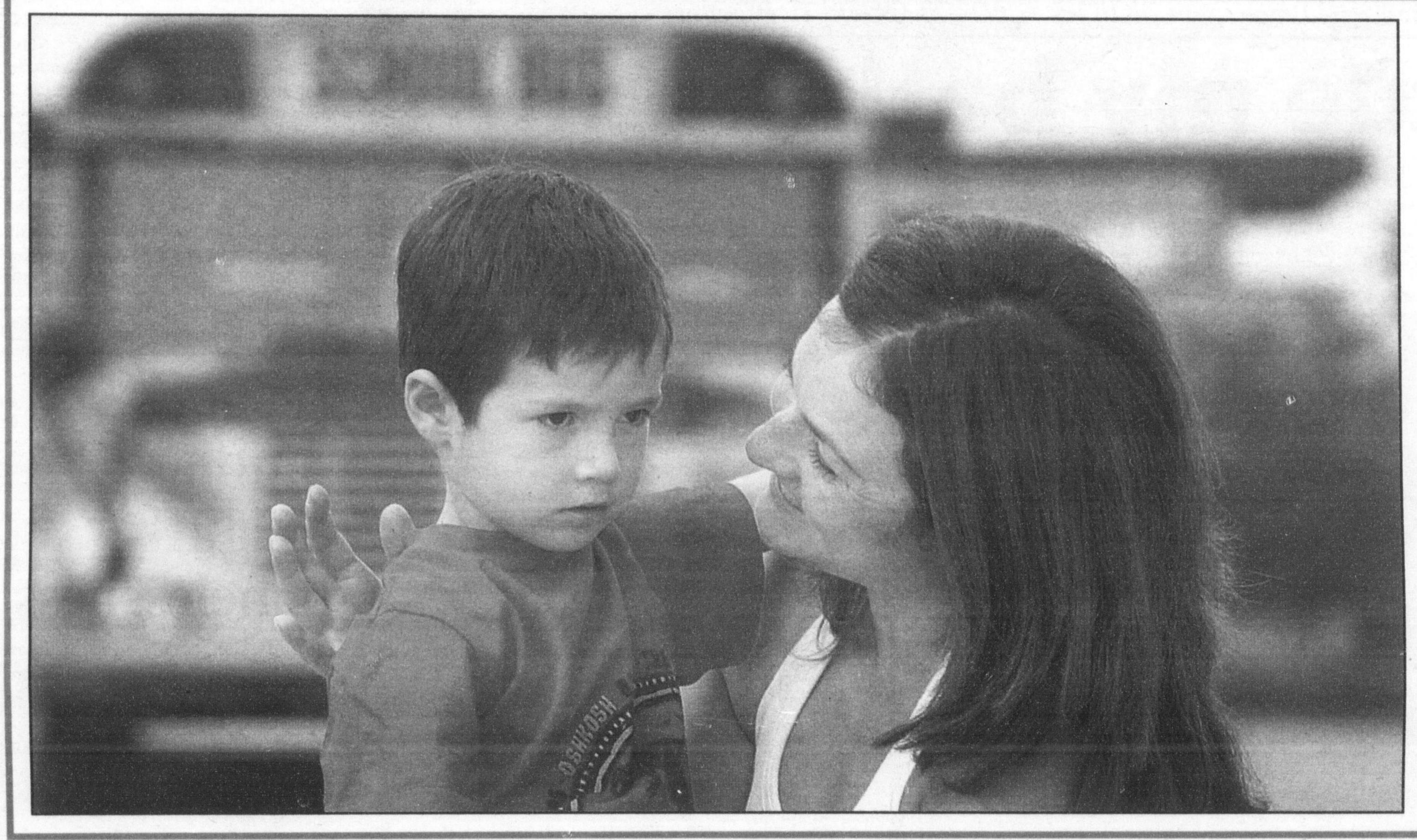
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36 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



# First day school

Bessie Mom Correa tries to alleviate the first-day fears of four-yearold son Justin, who's off to school - junior kindergarten — for the first time today.

> Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Flood damages stores at local plaza Inside

### By MELANIE HENNESSEY

The Champion

A mysterious flood last week put a serious damper on business at Carriage Square plaza, causing thousands of dollars in damage and forcing some stores to close their doors temporarily.

According to business people in the plaza at the corner of Martin and Main streets, the flood happened overnight Tuesday, giving about half a dozen of them a soggy surprise when they went to open their stores Wednesday morning.

For Carolyn Anstey of Main St. Yarns, it wasn't quite the grand opening she'd been hoping for.

When she arrived at the store for her second day of business, she wasn't greeted with a long line of

customers — just a sopping wet floor.

"Everything was nice. I had a beautiful laminate floor," Ms Anstey said sadly as she sat in front of her store, knitting.

Behind her, fan-like devices used to dry water out of walls were scattered around the store. The laminate floor, which soaked up much of the water, had been torn up. The strong smell of a disinfectant spray used by the clean-up crew filled the

"It's not the atmosphere I was after," she joked. While Ms Anstey said she tried to keep her store open for business during the clean up, she eventually shut down and will reopen tomorrow.

"It's a loss of business before I even get going," she said.

Down the way from Main St. Yarns, Herbal

Magic manager Stephanie Norrie was also trying to get things back in order.

The lower part of the walls in her store had been torn off, drywall scattered across the floor. Fans were also being used to help dry things up.

"It was a swamp," she said, noting that the floor was covered with about two and a half inches of water when she came in to open the store Wednesday.

The first thing Ms Norrie said she did was borrow a client's cell phone to call the owner, since the outlet where the phone was plugged in was submerged in water.

"I spent the rest of the day calling people, saying 'Don't come in," she said.

Ms Norrie said the estimated damage to the store • see PROPERTY on page 3

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