

South Plainfield Observer

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FEBRUARY 12, 1999



Brad Martin, playing for the Magic, shoots a basket during a game played last Saturday. Over 420 girls and boys participate in the Recreational Youth Basketball League. They play at the Middle School and the PAL. For scores and standings, see page 8.

PAL Expansion Plans Moving Forward

At the monthly meeting, Recreation Commission members were shown preliminary drawings of the proposed expansion of the PAL building.

The plans for the PAL building include a multi-purpose room with bleachers and seating for 300, a weight room, lockers and showers. The plans also include a new entry area with a lobby and reception desk and a room for the police department to store their equipment and hold community meetings. The finished expansion will nearly double the present size of the facility.

Commissioner Jim Curcio explained that the plans in the drawings include many things that will

have to wait. "The funding isn't available to do the entire expansion at this time. The work on the building will begin and as funds are made available, we will include more items," said Curcio.

After a review of the plans, several suggestions and comments were made to Joe DeAndrea, architect working on the expansion. He will now draw up the finalized plans along with the estimated costs.

Members of the Recreation Commission plan to present the finalized plans to the Borough Council at the Feb. 22 agenda meeting and ask for permission to start filing the necessary applications and begin the expansion.

SPHS Tigers Repeat as Greater Middlesex Tournament Champions *Anderson, Stoeckel, Hunter Claim Titles*

By Robert Hunter

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling team defended their county title last weekend at Piscataway High School, leading the field by 71 points. The Tigers captured their second straight GMCT title scoring 209.5 points to 137.5 points for the runners-up Old Bridge. The Tigers won the tournament with a combination of five wrestlers reaching the

final round, and 10 placing. The pins in the early rounds made the difference.

Entering the quarter final round, the Tigers had registered 11 pins building a 60 point lead going into the semi final round. With nine wrestlers advancing to the final round, the Tigers were going to be tough to catch.

In the semifinal round, Tiger winners were Matt Anderson,

103 pounds, who won a 4-0 decision over Jason LaBella of JP Stevens. In the finals Anderson faced the number one seed Sam Campanella of Middlesex and dominated Campanella before scoring the fall at 4:56 for the first Tiger championship.

Roberto Ramos, 112 pounds, made it to the final round with a decision over Jim Georgallis of JP

Continued on page 7

Borough Notes

Council

- Plans for the Borough to accept credit cards for the payment of fines are just about completed.
- Emergency sewer repairs will begin shortly on Kennedy St. A 150 foot pipe is in need of repair. The estimate for the repairs is \$50,000. The money will come from municipal sewer funds.
- Phase II of the downtown restoration is slated to begin in the spring.
- Robert Bosch, Corp. has

donated \$5,000 towards improvements for Shadyside Park.

• Ray Petronko is asking residents interested in starting a coed softball league to call the recreation office. Several requests have been made recently to form a league and they want to know if residents would be interested in a coed league.

• The mayor reminds residents that it is against the law to feed the Canada Geese in Spring Lake Park.

• The Borough will hold another rabies clinic on April 17 from 9-12 noon.

Public Invited to Meeting On the Helen Street Extension Project

The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) will be conducting a second Public Information Meeting regarding the proposed Helen Street Extension Freight Demonstration Project in South Plainfield. The project objective is to investigate alternatives that will reduce truck traffic along residential streets, separate truck traffic from cars and other small vehicles and improve the movement of goods through the borough.

The Public Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 25, from 4-7 p.m. at in the council chambers in Borough Hall located on Plainfield Ave. Various proposed alternatives will be presented and comments from the public are welcome.

For further information, please contact Mr. John Corica, South Plainfield Borough Administrator at the Borough of South Plainfield Municipal Building, (908) 226-7602.

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Last Friday night Middle School students held the 'Battle of the Classes.' Shown above are the sixth grade winners, The Black Team. For story and more pictures, see page 7.

In My Opinion

Letters

To The Editor:

My name is Daniel Smith and on April 20, I am asking you to vote for me to become a member of the South Plainfield Board of Education.

The challenge before us is considerable. It is projected in the next five years our community, this school district will be faced with having to accommodate an additional 700 to 800 students. While I don't profess to be a soothsayer and know all of what the future holds, I don't believe our knee-jerk reaction should be that we must raise money in any way that would ultimately raise our taxes.

Considering that the funding our district receives on a "per student" basis is merely one third of the Middlesex County average, we must pool our collective influence and demand to receive our fair share. The debate, or discussion if you prefer, would then be how to allocate the surplus. Things along the lines of how much to continue to dedicate to educational funding and how much to give back to the taxpayers of our community.

Are you listening? I believe we can have it both ways.

While I would like to commend the present members of the Board for their dedication and countless hours of hard work, the time for fresh faces and new ideas has come.

As a parent of three young children and a homeowner in town,

my interest in making sure our schools are providing quality education is a very personal one. However, the obligation we all have as members of society to prepare our young people for the challenges of a global economy is one that benefits us all. Simply stated, "a vibrant and viable economy floats everyone's best a little higher."

I am asking for your support.

**DANIEL SMITH
SOUTH PLAINFIELD**

Dear Editor:

I have been complaining and suggesting solutions to the ongoing problem of the crosswalk in front of the post office for years. Mr. McNabb has a great idea, but it has been offered before. The traffic pattern in the area for a light is unsafe because of the railroad crossing, not because of price.

I find that motorists are unaware of the law. I know ignorance of the law is no excuse but it seems to be the excuse. I feel that a police officer should have been placed at the crosswalk when the crosswalk was changed. When a new light is put in, like the one at Maple Ave. and Front St., the light blinks for two weeks to warn motorists of its existence.

If a light cannot be placed at the crosswalk, then a police officer should be there. Like Mr. McNabb said and I quote, "How does one put a price tag on the safety of our citizens?"

Lastly, I do suggest all pedestrians cross at the crosswalk. I have witnessed people still crossing at the driveway and jumping over the flower box. This is unsafe and dangerous. The crosswalk is there and was put into place where motorists could see pedestrians, so use it.

**VERY TRULY
LISA A. SPAHN**

DEADLINE FOR COPY

We invite you to send in your letter or opinion on subjects pertinent to South Plainfield. If you choose to not have your name published let us know, however, you must provide your name and phone number when submitting a letter.

To have your copy included it must be submitted by Friday, 5 p.m. for publication in the following week's edition.

South Plainfield
Observer

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We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in *South Plainfield Observer*:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail or fax it to: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (732) 805-0815 or e-mail us on the web page at spobserver.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

To Submit Photographs:

1. Make sure the photograph is sharp and bright.
2. Black and white pictures are preferred.
3. Type the names of all the photographs, or accurately describe the action in the photograph. Do not write on back of photograph, except with non-reproducing pen or pencil.
4. All unsolicited photographs and stories sent to *South Plainfield Observer* will be considered the property of *South Plainfield Observer* and will not be returned, unless a self-addressed stamped envelope accompanies material.

Police Officer Applications

Deadline Extended for Police Officer Applications

The NJ Department of Personnel has extended the deadline for filing applications for the 1999 Law Enforcement Entrance Level Examination until February 26, 1999. Please note that, notwithstanding this change, the requirements for these positions must be met as of the original closing date of January 29, 1999.

The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Applications may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center.

RESIDENCY: Must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and maintain continuous residency in South Plainfield up to and including the date of appointment.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS: As listed in the application.

STARTING SALARY: \$32,399.00 (1998)

BENEFITS: A listing of job benefits may be obtained with the application.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES: A brief summary of duties & responsibilities may be obtained with the application.

Any questions please contact Lt. Robert Merkler at (908) 226-7674.

The Borough of South Plainfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Business Association Plans Early Morning Meeting to Accommodate Members

The regular meeting of the South Plainfield Business Association planned for Feb. 18 will start at 8 a.m. In order to accommodate its members, meeting times during the next year will be changing. Some meetings will take place early in the morning, some during lunch hour and a few in the evening.

The February meeting will start an hour earlier than usual. Robert Longo, president of the South Plainfield Business Association, said that many people can't make the 9 a.m. meetings because they have to be at their businesses by then. Longo said he is in the process of lining up speakers for the meetings that will be of interest to members.

At the January meeting, 1999 officers were introduced. They are Robert Longo, president; Guy Moretti, vice president; Paul W. Grzenda, treasurer and April Bengivena, secretary.

The Business Association actively participates in many projects in town, including the November Candidates Debate, in-

stallation of the 'Welcome to South Plainfield' signs at the entrances to town; assisting the Historical Society in the railcar restoration (which will ultimately become a museum); the ongoing downtown revitalization and helping businesses establish improved lines of communication with town officials.

Businesses from South Plainfield are welcome to come to the Business Association meetings, held on the third Thursday of the month at Sherban's Diner. Unless otherwise announced, they take place at 9 a.m. If you would like more information on joining the group, call the *Observer* at 732-469-4380.

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

Zoning Board of Adjustment
1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:

February 16
March 2, March 16, March 30
April 6, April 20
May 4, May 18
June 1, June 15, June 29
July 6, July 20
August 3, August 17, August 30
September 21
October 5, October 19
Nov. 4 (Thursday), November 16, November 30
December 7, December 21

Site-Plan Sub-Committee Meeting Dates:
Fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27,
June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28

Planning Board
1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:

February 23
March 9, March 23
April 13, April 27
May 11, May 25
June 8, June 22
July 13, July 27
August 10, August 24
September 14, September 28
October 26
November 9, November 23
December 14, December 28

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, Feb. 22 Thursday, Feb. 25
Monday, March 8 Thursday, March 11
Monday, March 22 Thursday, March 25
Monday, Apr. 5 Thursday, Apr. 8
Monday, Apr. 19 Thursday, Apr. 22
Monday, May 10 Thursday, May 13
Monday, May 24 Thursday, May 27

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Logon to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

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New Jersey Truckers Support Matheny Arts

Lyn Sanders (center), Director of the Arts Access at Matheny School and Hospital, accepts a donation of \$4,000 for the program from Art Muglia (left) and Dom Annuzzi (right) of the New Jersey Motor Truck Association. The NJMTA has supported Matheny for more than fourteen years. Muglia founded the Matheny School Fund and organizes annual fundraisers to benefit the facility for young people with physical disabilities.

Historical Society Seeks Rail Car Restoration Volunteers

By William Tuthill

Okay South Plainfielders, are we "Tigers" or Kitty-cats?

The rail car program is getting off to a new start this year. The Vocational School students who have worked on the car in the past cannot help us this year because of a change in their curriculum.

As a result, nothing major was done to the car from September until now. The window panels have been reinstalled and the other two sets of steps are to be installed this week.

What is needed now are people who are interested in donating their time and talents to finish the job,

both inside and out.

There are quite a few jobs that need to be done. Some of the jobs are: the brass baggage racks need to be wire brushed, sanded, dusted and varnished. The mahogany paneling needs hand sanding, dusting, and varnishing. Metal surfaces, inside and out, require machine sanding and scraping and afterward they need to be primed for painting. All safety equipment and power tools will be provided. The electric wiring has to be completed and lights have to be installed. The windows have to be washed and the trim has to be painted.

The car will be painted as soon as the weather is warm enough. This will be a "roller-job" so most people should be able to pitch-in.

Anyone who is interested can choose a job they feel they can handle.

We have set Labor Day as our target date for opening. To volunteer, call Bob Bengivenga, project foreman, at (908) 753-1383 or Bill Tuthill at (908) 756-9654.

Production Seeks HS Alumni

SPHS drama club's spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, celebrates 25 years of theater on the South Plainfield stage. Director Shayne Miller is looking for alumni to help fill the stage and add to the celebration the experience of different decades. If you are a graduate of SPHS, consider reliving a bit of those high school years. Audition for *Little Shop of Horrors* chorus, Feb. 16, at the high school, 7-9 p.m.

Rehearsals for alumni cast in *Little Shop of Horrors* will be minimal but Director Shayne Miller promises fun for all. If you are a graduate or know alumni who might be interested, spread the word about this unique opportunity to experience a blast from the past!

Recreation Commission Meeting Notes

- Pool registration is about to begin. There will be a \$20 savings if you sign up by April 15. Members of the Recreation Commission are working diligently on getting the pool ready for opening. The roof and fence damaged during the Labor Day storm will be fixed, as well as painting and sprucing up the pool area.

- Painting of the PAL interior was brought up. It is in need of a paint job and plans are in the works for a much needed facelift.

- Resident Tom Laskowski complained about the condition of the PAL building. He said the building needs regular maintenance and the employees who are supposed to be cleaning are not doing their jobs. Jim Curico assured him that with Mike English coming on board, employees will be held accountable for the work they are supposed to be doing.

- Resident Debbie Krawiec asked if a co-ed softball league could be formed. She said families could have a fun night together. The idea will be taken under consideration.

Aiello Chiropractic to Hold Workshop

Dr. Patrick Aiello announces a workshop on 'Introduction to Herbs' to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at Aiello Chiropractic Center located at 2201 South Clinton Ave., Suite H promptly at 7 p.m.

As more and more people seek non-traditional healthcare, the question of herbs and natural remedies frequently comes up. In order to keep patients and the community up-to-date, Dr. Aiello will be holding an informative one hour workshop on an introduction to herbs.

Arun Datwani of Roots Health Food Store will be the guest presenter. Mr. Datwani will be holding this one hour workshop.

Please RSVP at (908) 755-2289, by Tues., Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. For info feel free to call Dr. Aiello.

Recreation Offers Discount On Softball Uniform Pants

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is currently holding registration for the 1999 Ponytail Softball season.

The South Plainfield Parents Ponytail Association would like to offer parents of the girls participating in the recreation softball program the opportunity to purchase uniform pants at a 50% dis-

count. A discount coupon can be picked up at the PAL Building at the time of registration. The coupon is redeemable at Sportworld and will be offered only until the expiration date of March 19, 1999.

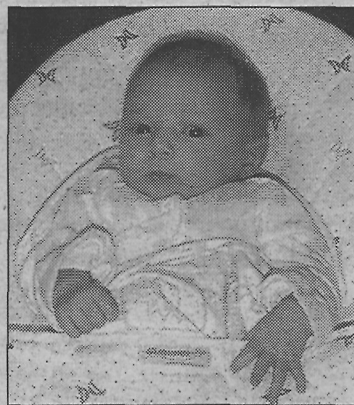
MILESTONES

Births

Dayna Marie Bucey

Rich and Jenny Bucey are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Dayna Marie. Born on Jan. 27, she weighed in at 8 pounds 5 ounces and measured 21 inches long. The Buceys also have a son, Devon, who is one year old.

The proud grandparents are Stanley and Nancy Pauls of South Plainfield. With Dayna's birth, the Pauls now have a total of 20 grandchildren, 10 boys and 10 girls.



Engagement

Heidi Zampella and David Pelech



Heidi Zampella and David Pelech

Mr. and Mrs. L. Zampella of South Plainfield announce the engagement of their daughter, Heidi M. Zampella to David M. Pelech, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pelech of South Plainfield.

Heidi is a graduate of Piscataway VoTech. She is the owner of Heidi's Hair & Nails in South Plainfield.

David graduated from Piscataway VoTech. He is the owner of Ashley's Architectural Woodworking & Design in Plainfield.

A July wedding is planned.

Are you engaged, recently married, just given birth, retiring or just promoted?

Send us your good news, along with a photo (if available), to South Plainfield **Observer**, 530 Union Ave., Suite 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846 and we will publish it in **Milestones**.

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your photos returned.

Camp Ricochet

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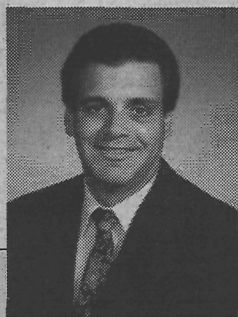
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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Feigley's Holds Open House

Feigley's is inviting the public to visit their open house at either the South Plainfield or Warren locations. Children can tumble on the mats, swing on the bars, jump on the trampoline and learn more about Feigley's programs.

The So. Plainfield open house will take place on Friday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 20 at 11:30 a.m. The Warren open house will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Children ages 1½ and up must be accompanied by an adult. Feigley's is located in South Plainfield at 4475 South Clinton Ave. and in Warren at 149 Mt. Bethel Rd. To reserve a space at either open house, call 908-561-8888.

Blood Drive at High School

The Greater Plainfield Area Chapter of the ARC and New Jersey Blood Services will hold a blood drive on March 8 at SPSHS, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Recreation Dept. Presents "The Wish Machine"

The highly acclaimed Peppermint Puppeteers will perform their delightful production, "The Wish Machine" at the High School on Sunday, Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. in auditorium. This fun-filled show features the Pepper-

mint Puppeteers' ever-popular super hero, Zap Man, along with a beautiful princess, a silly, six-foot tall dragon and lots of audience participation. Admission is free.

For more information call 908-226-7713.

AARP Chapter 4144 to Hold Meeting

The February meeting will be held Feb. 19, at the P.A.L. building on Maple Ave. The Mental Health Association of NJ will present a program designed to bring attention to the many forms of emotional problems which can be helped by their services and how to find help that may be needed.

On March 15, we will be going to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Dinner Theater to see the show *Catch Me if You Can*. The cost is \$45, which includes transportation, dinner, show, taxes and gratuities. Please note the date change to March 15, not March 22 as previously reported.

The bus will leave from South Plainfield. For more information, Call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764 for reservations.

Elks Ladies Auxiliary Plans Event

The Elks Ladies Auxiliary is planning two events. A fashion show sponsored by Dress Barn and Dress Barn Plus will be held on Feb. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. Tickets are \$25. There will be door prizes and raffles. For more

information, call Kris Dziomba 753-0921.

They will also be holding "One Stop Shopping" on March 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Elks Lodge located on New Market Ave. Vendors will include Avon, Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Party Lite and many more. For more information, call Barbara Shuleski 561-1663.

A/C Bus Trip to Cesare's Palace

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 6763 will sponsor a bus trip to Cesare's Palace A/C on Feb. 21. The bus will leave the post on Front Street at 9 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20. (\$20 returned at destination.)

For reservations or more information call (908) 668-9751 and ask for Carol or Joan Jepsen.

Polish Home Sponsoring Trip to AC

The Polish National Home is sponsoring a trip to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Feb. 21. The cost is \$15 and \$19, coin return.

The bus leaves the Polish National Home parking lot on New Market Ave. For reservations, call Ann at 561-6551 or Emily at 757-3428.

To be included in Events Around Town, submit your information to the Observer at 530 Union Ave. Suite 3, Midlesex, NJ 08846 or fax information to 732 805-0815.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

The Library is closed today in observance of Lincoln's Birthday, and on Monday in observance of Presidents' Day. We'll be open as usual on Saturday and Sunday.

We'll hold our regular story-times next week on, respectively, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Each of these programs is for children ages three and over. Tomorrow, we'll hold a special storytime at 11 a.m. for Chinese New Year. And next Friday, we'll have this month's children's craft program at 4 p.m. (The craft program is for children ages six and over and registration is required.) For more information on these or any children's program, call us at 754-7885 and ask for Linda Hansen.

For the rest of the month, our display wall will feature an exhibit provided by Cub Scout Pack 207 and Boy Scout Troop 207. It features photos, books, handouts and an assortment of pinewood derby cars. (Incidentally, if you're interested in putting up a display of your own, call us and check with staff member Mildred Condon.)

Tomorrow is the last day of availability for our present group of Circuit compact discs. If you're interested in one of them, now's the time.

While we're on the subject of audio, here's a word about one collection you may not be aware of: the juvenile audiocassettes. This collection features a variety of selections, including books (like *Bunnicula* and *The Little Prince*), stories (like *Rumpelstiltskin* and *Cinderella*) and music (including favorite children's songs and Disney music). There is also a variety of educational tapes, includ-

ing basic language skills. The cassettes are found in the children's room along the wall under the clock; they may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Sunday marks Valentine's Day. While the library can't provide flowers and chocolates, we do have a good number of materials appropriate for that special day for love and romance. Our video collection includes several romantic movies, including *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Bridges of Madison County*. In both book and audio formats, the works of many romance novelists are available, including Jude Deveraux, LaVyrle Spencer and Danielle Steel. Also, our paperback exchange cart is primarily dominated by paperback romances. All in all, you should find something for the 14th. (Since none of these items feature hyperdrive-equipped spacecraft, the author is unable to provide further information.)

That's about all for this week's column. See you next Friday.

Please note: The Home News Tribune incorrectly reported that the library would be closed on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13 and 14. We will be open during our normal hours on those two days.

Recycling Center Closed President's Day

The South Plainfield Recycling Center will be closed on Feb. 12 for Lincoln's Birthday and Feb. 16 for President's Day.

It will instead be open on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 8-3 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 12-7 p.m.

February/March 1999

Meetings & Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Copy Deadline: Friday, 5 pm Advertising Deadline: Monday, 5 pm	8 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	9 Historical Society HS Library 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	10 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	11 Senior Luncheon PAL 1:30 p.m. Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	12 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	13 Special Storytime Library 11 am
14	15 Land Management Advisory Committee 7:30 pm	16 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	17 Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	18	19 AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	20
21 Peppermint Puppeteers at SPSHS 2 pm	22 Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	23 Friends of the Library 7:30 pm Recycling Comm. 8 pm Planning Board 8 pm	24 Traffic Safety Advisory Comm. 7 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	25	26 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	27
28 Elks Fashion Show at Holiday Inn, Noon-4	MARCH 1 Recreation Comm. Meeting 7 p.m. PAL	2 Board of Adjustment 8 pm	3 Business Advisory Group 5:30 pm Court 9:30 am	4 Taxpayers Advisory Group 7 pm	5 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	6
7	8 Blood Drive SPSHS 8:30-2 p.m. Borough Borough Council Agenda Meeting 8 pm	9 Historical Society HS Library 7:30 pm Planning Board Meeting 8 pm	10 Environmental Comm. 8 pm Court 9:30 am & 7 pm	11 Borough Council Meeting 8 pm	12 Publication of So. Plfd. Observer	13

Want to know what's going on in South Plainfield? Get home delivery of The Observer. Subscribe below.

IN OUR SCHOOLS

Fourth Annual Multi-Cultural Day Celebrated at Roosevelt School



These students portray immigrants on Ellis Island awaiting the doctor's approval that they may stay in the USA.

By Patricia Abbott

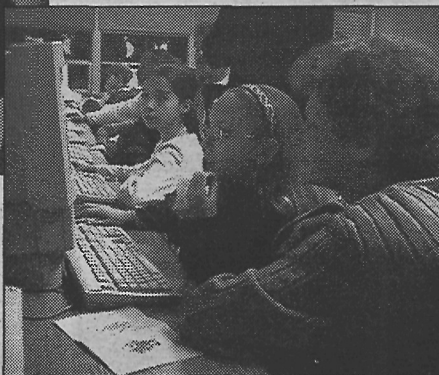
On Jan. 26 Roosevelt School celebrated the 4th annual Multi-Cultural Day. This popular program began in the mind of principal Mario Barbieri. He observed his son's school's geography program detailing different countries. He brought the concept to Roosevelt school and the idea took off. The event has grown over the years from 30 participants to 300. During the day the students shared their research and discoveries with the rest of the school. Each grade chose a continent to research. The classes were given time to present their work to the student body. The day also included songs taught by Music Teacher Mrs.

Perez and artwork was displayed with the help of Art Teacher Mrs. Posey.

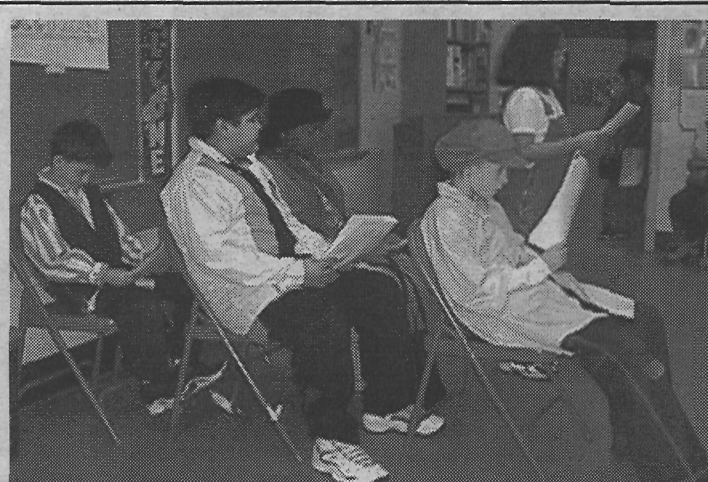
The evening version of Multi-Cultural Day celebration began with bagpipe music by Derek Midgley and continued with Irish step dancing by Margaret, Aileen and Caitlin Monroe. There was plenty of food to sample, along with activities and crafts for everyone. Crafts ranged from 'eyes of God' to jewelry, origami and worry dolls. Computers made available to students and parents detailed instructions on how to access various areas of interest. Impressive displays set up in the gym ranged from African to the New World, focusing on immigrants. Children

proudly displayed origami (Japanese paper folding art) creations and paper fish kites, and many other works of art.

Many teachers returned to school in the evening to host various craft sessions for students, kindergarten through fifth grade and for teachers and parents. From Antarctica to New Zealand, the world was thoroughly covered by Roosevelt School.



Parents and students seek information detailing their heritage online; the 90's are much a part of the multi-cultural event.



The Franklin School fourth grade concluded their two-week K and J Challenge with a play presented to the combined fourth grades by Mrs. Marcus' fourth grade reading class. The group presented *Rosa Parks* and *the Montgomery Bus Boycott*. Mike Nguyen portrayed Rosa Parks. The rest of the cast included Irvin Arego, Harrison Donohue, Robert Gentile, Amanda Makowski, Kim Marlin, Tianna Ward and Sarah Brooks (absent).



Roosevelt first grader Taylor Stefanelli steps out with Irish dancers at Multi-Cultural event.

High School Students to Visit Italy

By Carol Serago
SPHS Student

From March 31 to April 9 thirteen students will be visiting Italy, thanks to Spanish Teacher Susan Goldey.

The students will be visiting such places as Pompeii, Venice, Florence, Rome and Capri. The cost of the trip is the responsibility of the students. No fundraisers will be held.

Chaperones will be Ms. Goldey, Special Education Teach-

er Diana Joffe and Michele Wrubleski.

When Ms. Goldey was asked why she was taking this trip, she explained, "Since this is the last year I will be hosting a trip abroad, I wanted to show the students of South Plainfield how magical Venice is and to experience Italy. The culture touches so many aspects of our lives, such as the music, food, art, etc., and I wanted them to learn this for themselves."

"Also, I hope the students will

personally learn how Italian culture has enriched our lives and realize how accessible traveling abroad is," said Ms. Goldey.

The students planning to go on this trip are seniors Elizabeth Serago and Elaine Ramos, and juniors Amanda Bertrand, Brian Donnelly, Eric Jackson, Elizabeth Keppel, Matthew Kravestky, Rebecca Perez, Jennifer Rayho, Carol Serago, Raymond Sheedy, Robin Stayvas, Bradford Tierney and Nicole Wrubleski.

Governor's Council Releases Survey Results

The New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse recently released the results of its survey on middle schools across the state. In the publication, NJ Blueprint NJGCADA indicates that "students in the sixth grade or below who have talked with their parents about drug use are 57 percent less likely to use marijuana than those whose parents waited until the child was in the seventh or eighth grade to discuss the issue of substance abuse."

The survey reached 3,243 seventh and eighth graders throughout New Jersey. More than half of the seventh and eighth graders thought their parents should have spoken to them earlier about drugs. The survey also indicated that marijuana use was three times

higher in homes where adults spoke to students once or less a week about their daily activities, compared to homes where greater adult/youngster interchange occurred. Also, more than 40 percent of those surveyed believe their parents have a lot of influence on their attitudes toward drugs.

The survey goes on to indicate that students whose parents' opinions were very important to their decision to use drugs or alcohol were seven times less likely to have used marijuana and 55 percent less likely to have used alcohol in the last twelve months, compared to those whose parents' views weren't as important.

The bottom line is that parents of middle and elementary school aged children need to establish

strong, positive lines of communication with their children regarding substance abuse. Taking a realistic interest in your child's every day activities helps build and maintain the communication links.

State Attorney General Peter Verniero echoes sentiments about the positive role such communication can play. "The combination of strong law enforcement and community involvement has proven to be an effective tool in the battle to end illicit substance abuse among young people. Parents can continue to help law enforcement fight substance abuse by talking to their children every day about the dangers of illegal drugs."

Open communication with our children will make the difference.

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Sat. Feb. 20th 11:30 am

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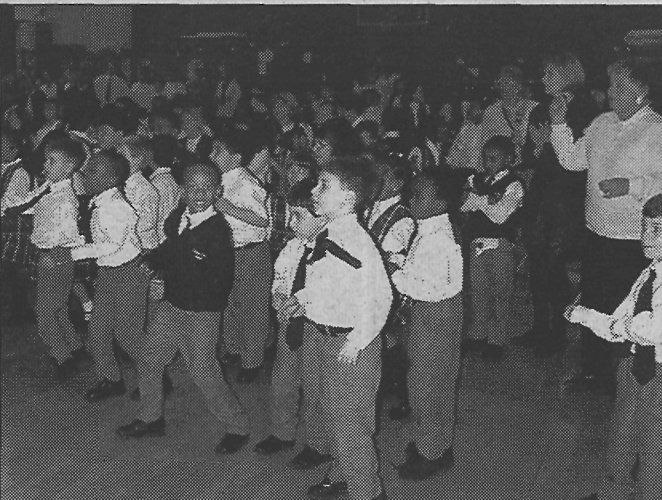
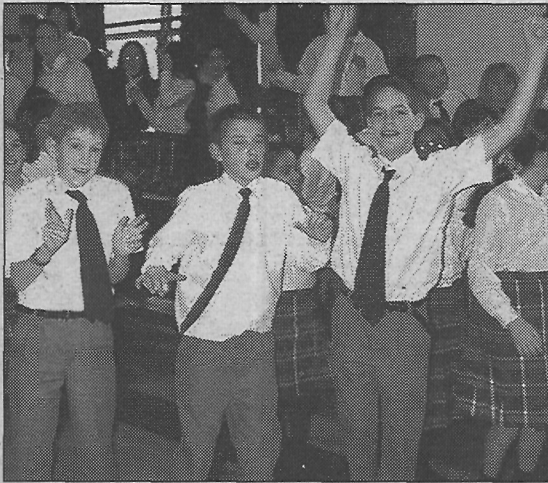
Tue. Feb. 16th 7:00 pm
Fri. Feb. 19th 5:30 am

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Under New Management

IN OUR SCHOOLS



Sacred Heart Marks Catholic Schools Week With Open House, Concert

Sacred Heart School celebrated Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 31 through Feb. 6 with special programs, open houses and a concert.

The week started with a breakfast after the 9 a.m. mass on Jan. 31. Open house was held on Tuesday and Thursday and a PTA meeting was held on Wednesday night.

The highlight for the school children was a concert on Thurs-

day, Feb. 4. The children filled the gym, some sitting on the floor, and listened to the Gladys Bryant Orchestra perform hip-hop, jazz, blues and rock & roll.

The children did not take long to stand up and swing to the music. The teachers and students danced, clapped and sang along with the band.

A hit with the crowd was vocalist Clyde William. He jumped

off the stage and joined the kids, dancing with them as well as with the teachers. The children were an enthusiastic audience, showing their appreciation by bouncing and waving their hands and getting up and dancing.

The week's celebration ended with First Friday Mass followed by a breakfast sponsored by the fifth grade class.

RARE Roughs It A Trip to Project Youth

By Carol Serago
Student at SPHS

Last November, twenty-four members of RARE ventured into the woods of Wildcat Mountain Wilderness Camp in Passaic County to learn to work together.

The trip was funded by SPASA, the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Abuse.

There were no bathrooms, electricity, showers or any other modern conveniences. The students hiked up a mountain, pitched their own tents and made their own meals.

"All in all, the trip was fun and everyone got along well. We got to know each other better and became closer as friends. We bonded. Throughout the whole trip we learned to work together as a team. It was an experience I will never forget," said Junior Monica Vasquez.

When Monica was asked if she would go again she said, "If there are going to be bathrooms!"

The group participated in sharing circles where they got to know everyone better and were able share their goals with each other.

They also participated in activities to build trust and teach problem solving. As their last group activity, they went through an obstacle course.

"The trip was a lot of fun. It helped us learn how to live without the normal things that we use every day," said Sophomore Richie Gebauer.

Mr. Baker is planning another trip in the spring for all those who were unable to attend. This group is going canoeing in Delaware.

Members of RARE who attended are seniors John Blondet, Billy Wilson, Jason Yniguez, Kevin Pitt, Lavon Posey, Judeska Pronker, Sheryll Pronker, and Roxanne Joseph; juniors Diana Algoo, Sandra Marin, Monica Vasquez, Alina Viruet, Jeanette Garcia, Johanna Alzate, Lindsey Alvarez, Leticia Cofer, Latoya Posey, Liz Keppel, Kim Warren and Clinton Robinson; and sophomores Karlo Estonactoc, Richie Gebauer, Ed Echeverry and Paul Gross.

Mr. Baker and Board of Education Member Steven Bone, volunteered their time as chaperones.

Middle School Takes The KJ Challenge

By Melissa Creagh
and Kelly Panuzzo

Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream. Part of his dream was to see all people working together, helping each other and doing what is right. In honor of Dr. King and the beliefs that he died for, students at the South Plainfield Middle School are participating in the 'Do Something Kindness and Justice Challenge' during the two weeks following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Do Something is an organization committed to the mission of inspiring young people to become effective leaders, who strengthen their communities. The KJ Challenge is one of the many activities "Do Something" sponsors to help achieve this goal. Beginning Jan. 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and ending midnight on Jan. 29, the Middle School sixth, seventh and eighth graders participated in the KJ Challenge.

They were encouraged to perform and record all acts of kind-

ness and justice they committed. The students then filled out a KJ Challenge action form on which they recorded a description of the acts, as well as their feelings while and after the acts were committed. Totals for each day were submitted on-line by Mrs. Denise Hogan. Do Something also provided age appropriate mini-lessons for each day of the KJ Challenge. History, geography and social studies teachers presented these activities.

Last year, more than 14,000 schools from across the country participated in the KJ Challenge. Are the students of the South Plainfield Middle School up to the KJ Challenge? If being recognized for helping others and doing the right thing is part of the challenge, we would say that the students here already have a head start. However, even if no records are broken this year, everyone involved can take pride in the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King's dream is one step closer to being realized.

Junior Baseball Club Accepting Nominations for Little Miss Baseball

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss Baseball 1998 from Feb. 15 through Feb. 27. Girls must be between the ages of 8 and 11 years old and be South Plainfield residents.

To nominate someone, you can call 754-2090 and leave her name and phone number on the answer machine. Finalists will be chosen Feb. 28 and will be notified by phone.

Little Miss Baseball will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system.

Boxes (with finalists pictures) will be placed in Ciccio's, Quick Check and B & C Deli starting March 4. They will remain there until March 29. They will then be removed and the money counted for the winner and runner-ups to be determined.

Winner will be notified by March 31. Get out and vote for our 1999 Little Miss Baseball. If you have any questions, call Cindy Eichler at 769-4047.

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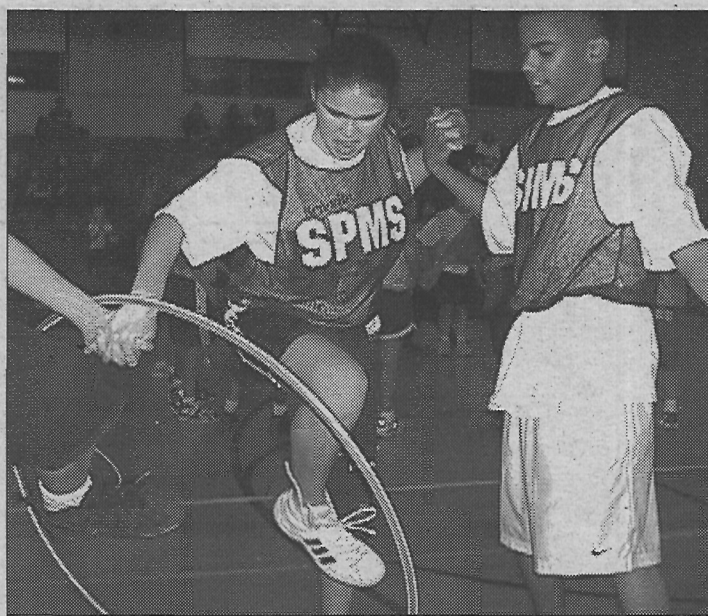
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IN OUR SCHOOLS



Middle School Holds Battle of the Classes During Spirit Week

By Patricia Abbott

February 1-5 was Spirit Week at South Plainfield Middle School. Each grade was divided into two teams. Some of the week's activities included Hat Day and Tie Day - students and faculty alike wore their favorite hats and ties to school. Students paid 50 cents for the privilege. The rest of the week featured favorite sport team colors, school colors, and team colors. The teams earned points for each student who wore the appropriate

item or color to school.

Spirit Week concluded with the Battle of the Classes last Friday evening. A fundraiser for Tiger Gold, the event was a noisy, fun-filled evening. The six teams battle opposing teams in a variety of sporting events. Games included a scooter race, hoop shots, relay race and more.

In a battle of sheer volume, the judges awarded points for the loudest class in each grade. Dennis O'Neil was emcee for the evening. Music played continu-

ously as teammates, along with family and friends, cheered on their favorite team. The final event, the tug-o-war brought deafening cheers from the crowd.

The 1999 Battle of the Classes marks the fifth year of celebrating the school and good-natured competition between fellow students. The Tiger Gold program, which received the proceeds from the week long celebration, is an incentive program that rewards students for good deeds witnessed by faculty.

High School Leadership Club Creates Role Models

By Dina Diaz, SPHS Student

Seniors are usually the ones that other students in the school look up to. They have to set a good example for other students in terms of not doing things that they should not be doing, such as starting fights or smoking in the bathrooms.

Principal Anthony Massaro recently came up with the idea of a senior leadership club to restore senior pride, privilege and responsibility to the high school. Student Assistant Coordinator and Substance Abuse Coordinator Tom Baker heads up the club.

Baker said, "Seniors have to earn respect, but at the same time, they should have privileges that only seniors can have. Basically, this club allows them to leave this school knowing that they have done something to make it a better place."

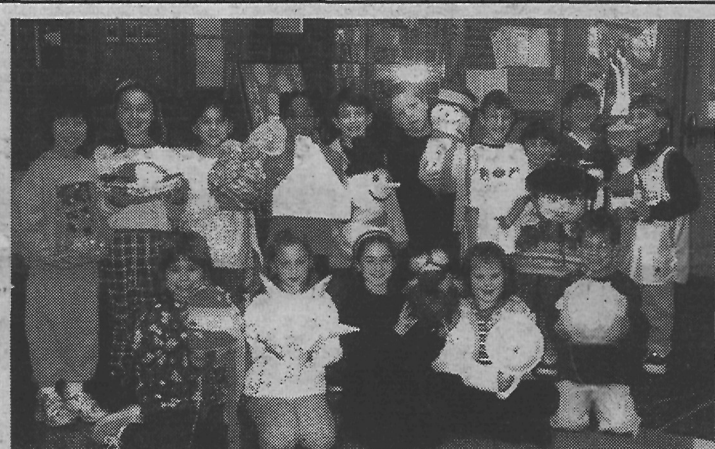
"I think that seniors really deserve more privileges because it seems like the underclassmen are taking all of the senior privileges

away from us," commented senior Dana Curcio.

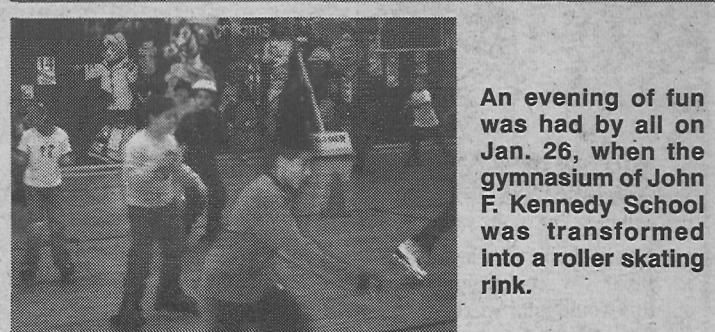
Club members have and will attend a training course at the Administration Building. SPHS Staff Developer Mary Ellen Marko, who helps new teachers in training, will head up the training for this group of 19 seniors.

In order to participate in the club, seniors have to be nominated by teachers and chosen by a selection committee. In future years, the selection committee will consist of Senior Leadership Club members from the previous year.

Senior Leadership Members include Erik Anderson, Chris Atchunas, Chris Cioffi, Dana Curcio, Chiemeka Ejiochi, Leticia Ferrere, Athena Jobers, Roxanne Joseph, Kevin Krystopik, Kristen Linczyk, Marjorie Miszczenski, Brianne Morrison, Ashlee Perhach, Judeska Pronker, Shereel Pronker, Mohamed Shiliwala, Jason Walden, Matt Wojcik and Wayne Whittsitt.



After reading the story *Fiesta!* by June Behrens, Mrs. Block's second grade reading class from John F. Kennedy School eagerly designed and created individual pinatas.



An evening of fun was had by all on Jan. 26, when the gymnasium of John F. Kennedy School was transformed into a roller skating rink.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Dear Valetine,
You make my heart soar
and my
feet warm.
Love,
Socks

This Valentine is to tell
you, that I
truly love you.
Now, always and
forever,
Your Pumpkin

To Justin,
Roses and red, violets are
blue, sweetie is stinky
and so are you...
Love, Mom

My Johnnie Angel;
Your my Sweetheart!
Mom loves you up to
Baby Jesus and past!
Love, Mom

Dear Snickers,
Don't eat all the
chocolate!!
The Dieter

Antonio & Christian,
Happy Valentine's Day
to our two little
sweethearts.
We love you!
Love, Grandma &
Grandpa
Arrigan

Kristi & Jimmy,
Happy Valentine's Day
to our little sweethearts!!
We love you!!
Mommy & Daddy
OXOXO

Taylor & Troy
Violets are blue,
Roses are pink
Your feet are big and
they really stink.
Love
Mom and Dad

Woody,
It always has and
continues to be a wonder-
land for you and me.
Yours forever,
Friend II

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Junior Baseball Tryouts on March 6 at PAL Building

SPORTS

High School Basketball

Tiger Girls Sweep Monroe Township

By Brian Cochrane

Last Thursday night the South Plainfield Tiger girls basketball team squared off against Monroe Township once again and duplicated last month's victory in a 53-36 win and a season sweep of Monroe. Three point specialist Kelly Ritchey had the hot hand from South Plainfield, scoring a team high 12 with two three-pointers. Sheryl Cwickalo (11)

and Shereel Pronker (10) helped the Tigers sustain a consistent and aggressive offensive attack that never let Monroe into the game. The result ... an important conference victory for South Plainfield.

The night before the Tigers met up with Edison and lost a tough one at 55-47. South Plainfield went to halftime only down by one point, but the Edison girls

came out of the locker room on fire, doubling the Tigers third quarter output and taking the win. Junior Kim Wilcox was high with 13, Cheryl Cwickalo netted 11 along with Kelly "tre" Ritchey adding 11 with three 3-pointers. Next up on the schedule is the final home game against East Brunswick on the 16th with the conference tournament starting on Feb. 18.

Tigers Beat Metuchen in Overtime

By Brian Cochrane

The Tiger Boys Basketball team returned from their road trip on a high note and avenged a previous loss to South River by crushing to a 71-48 victory. Dominique Pender poured in 21 with three 3-pointers and Justin Benford with 11 led the mauling.

Previously on their away trip, the Tigers traveled to Metuchen last Tuesday and won a thriller 64-56 in overtime. South Plainfield entered the final quarter down by four and valiantly fought their way back to tie it. Although Dominique Pender was high with

19, it was Vernon Sheppard (10) who hit a key baskets down the stretch as the Tigers held Metuchen to just one basket in the overtime period.

Next they traveled to Monroe and suffered a 68-56 loss last Thursday. Dominique Pender again led with 17 points and Josh English added 10 as South Plainfield poured in eight three-pointers in the defeat.

A Saturday matinee awaited the

Tigers in the always tough gym at Highland Park. South Plainfield got off to a slow start going down by nine at the half and eventually losing 61-51 to a very good Highland Park (14-1) squad.

Dominique Pender put on a show scoring a season high 26 points, which was half the team total. The season finale was Wednesday against New Brunswick. The conference tournament swill be starting on Feb. 17th.

Junior Baseball Club

Opening Day Slated for Saturday, April 17

By Frank Hanley

With spring just around the corner, the Junior Baseball Club is gearing up for the start of its 45th season. Mark your calendar... Opening Day is Saturday, April 17.

Registrations were held in November and January. Players that still wish to sign up should contact the club as soon as possible as most leagues are almost full.

Tryouts will be held on Saturday, March 6 at the PAL building. All players who have registered will receive notification by mail. All players are urged to attend the tryout and remember to wear sneakers and bring your gloves!!

Four trustees were recently elected to two year terms: Tony Cassano, Kevin Lykes, Dave Spayder, and Dan Wasnick.

The final "Coaches Clinic" will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The session will focus on pitch-

ing, catching and balks. The January session was "standing room only" with Mike Garlati of the Colorado Rockies as the speaker. The club extends a special thanks to Mike for his time.

The 1999 league directors were announced at the February meeting: Small Fry C-Frank Hanley; Small Fry B-Chet Czaplinski; Small Fry A-Dan Wasnick; Pony-TBA.

Once again this year, the club is offering the "Sign Sponsor" program which provides advertising space to local businesses. Businesses interested in participating should contact Tony Cassano.

The Woman's Auxiliary has added a mock turtleneck shirt to the clothing being offered for sale. Available in black or gray, the mocks have a baseball and SPJBC initials embroidered on the collar.

Contact the SPJBC Clubhouse at 908-754-2090 or email spjbc99@aol.com.

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- Donald Perry

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Recreation Basketball

Submitted by South
Plainfield Recreation

The South Plainfield Recreation Youth Basketball Program consists of 50 teams - 420 girls and boys ages seven to 14 years. Games are played at the Middle School and the PAL.

A LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGES 13-14

So. Carolina	8	0
Tennessee	6	2
Texas	6	2
Georgia	5	3
Maryland	4	4
L.S.U.	3	5
North Carolina	2	6
Kentucky	2	6
Florida	0	8

A LEAGUE RESULTS-FEB. 6

Texas 60
Maryland 17
High scorers—Texas: Francisco Guevara-14, Kyle Prendergast-12, Justin Toth-10; Dan Melick-9, Chris Sanchez-9; Maryland: Dan Pollin-6 and Rich Muglia-6
Florida 17
South Carolina 64
High scorers—Florida: Alex Ferraris-8, Amit Kalia-3; SC: Mike Alloco-24, Steve Janiszak-18, Jeff McKnight-8, Chris Addvensky-8.
L.S.U. 21
Tennessee 66
High scorers—LSU: Mike Espin-10, James Ales-7, Kevin Joshi-4; Tennessee: Marcellus Abrams-30, Christine Strani-16, Ryan Mack-9, Tom Cupido-5.
North Carolina 34
Kentucky 40
High scorers—NC: Mike Jaghab-19, Nick Green-8, Tom Haus-4; Kentucky: Tom Toolan-14, Joe Smalley-9, Mike Chrysant-5, Steve Sobel-4.
Georgia: Bye

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 11-12

Illinois	9	0
Michigan	9	0
Ohio State	6	3
Kansas	6	3
Arizona	5	3
Notre Dame	4	3
Syracuse	4	4
Pittsburgh	4	4
Georgetown	3	5
Rutgers	2	6
U.C.L.A.	1	6
Seton Hall	1	8
Kentucky	0	8

B LEAGUE Results-FEB. 6

Seton Hall 19
Syracuse 48
High scorers—Seton Hall: Daniel LaVerne-6, Andrew Miller-5, Kevin Graham-4; Syracuse: Andrew Cupido-21, Steve Mincevich-9, Jonathan Donahue-6, Kyle Kazimir-6, Paul Ritchey-4.
Pittsburgh 17
Michigan 44
High scorers—Pittsburgh: Chris Horn-11, Melissa Hansen-4; Michigan: Chris Bakazan-23, Jason Cosma-6, David Acevedo-5, Daniel Piwowar-4, Nick Jefferys-4.
Kentucky 12
Arizona 21
High scorers—Kentucky: Jasen Ortiz-6; Arizona: Danny Sierzega-4, Ryan Decker-4, Billy Weaver-4, Thomas Whalen-4, Brian Acrin-3.
Georgetown 21
Kansas 23
High scorers—Georgetown: Thomas Holowka-12, Terry Paschall-7; Kansas: William Merkeler-6, Eddie Kania-5, Vincent Velez-4, Lisa Sniscak-4.
Illinois 38
Ohio State 32
High scorers—Illinois: Danielle Arndt-14, Andre Scott-13, Ankit Patel-8; Ohio State: Michael Downes-11, James Charneco-11, Phu Huynh-4, Robert Yuill-4.
Rutgers: Bye

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 9-10

Kings	8	1
Grizzlies	8	1
Warriors	7	2
Mavricks	6	3
Nuggets	6	3
Trail Blazers	5	4
Spurs	5	4
Rockets	5	4
Cavaliers	4	5
Suns	3	6
Hawks	3	6
Supersonics	1	8

Wizards	1	8
Bucks	1	8

C LEAGUE RESULTS-FEB. 6

Wizards 13
Grizzlies 22
High scorers—Wizards: Zack Familia-5, Timothy Williams-4; Grizzlies: Kyle Lendach-18, Stephen Dvorak-4.
Hawks 18
Mavricks 20
High scorers—Hawks: Michael Mocerino-6, Nicole Cortese, Jonathan O'Connor; Mavricks: Mike Piazza-10, Jonathan Guirguis-4.
Kings 30
Suns 20
High scorers—Kings: Danny McCreesh-12, Charlie George-6, Chris Stallone-6, Michael Stallone-4; Suns: Morgan Walter-4, Ramit Kalia-4, Travis Noll-4, Alexandria Ramos-4.
Trail Blazers 21
Cavaliers 16
High scorers—Trail Blazers: Anthony Cassano-6, Matthew Fabino-6, Andrew Roibal-4, Erika Blaszkak-4; Cavaliers: Robert Strani-7, Ryan Smith-5.
Supersonics 33
Bucks 9
High scorers—Supersonics: Scott Hartje-14, Samuel Martin-11, Kelly Downs-8; Bucks: Keith Dezmin-9.
Nuggets 26
Rockets 25
High scorers—Nuggets: Kevin Siedenburgh-19, Nicholas Desiome-5; Rockets: Harshel Patel-11, Zachary Gray-8, Charles Loiacono-6.
Spurs 20
Warriors 21
High scorers—Spurs: Justin Basilone-10, Ryan Curtis-6; Warriors: Chris Pollin-13, Brett Morris.

D LEAGUE STANDINGS

AGE 7-8

Raptors	9	0
Bulls	7	2
Nets	6	3
Clippers	5	3
Knicks	5	4
Celtics	5	4
Magic	5	4
76ers	4	5
Jazz	4	5
Pistons	3	5
Timber Wolves	3	6
Lakers	2	7
Hornets	2	7
Heat	2	7

D LEAGUE RESULTS-FEB. 6

Pistons 25
Lakers 31
High scorers—Pistons: David Alston-17, Steve Wieczorek-4, Bobby Stilo-4; Lakers: Brendan O'Shea-17, Chris Deolivera-14.
Heat 10
Clippers 24
High scorers—Heat: Troy Russell-6; Clippers: Brian Fabino-8, Ryan Bunting-6, Peter Adoma-6.
Knicks 8
Magic 16
High scorers—Knicks: Aaron Wright-4; Magic: Brad Martin-7, Taylor Curtis-5, Keith Heckel-4.
Nets 21
Hornets 15
High scorers—Nets: Sean Tomzoke-9, Bobby Harrington-4, Joey Grenier-4, Brandon Ullom-4; Hornets: Jalil Williams-9, John Christ-4.
Celtics 16
76ers 25
High scorers—Celtics: Kyle Darr-6, Rocco Petriello-4, Kyle McMahon-4; 76ers: Andrew Gray-17, Jeff Paqdensolan-4.
Bulls 18
Timberwolves 16
High scorers—Bulls: Greg Watts-14; Timberwolves: Justin Cantor-6, Vinnie Padula-6.
Jazz 12
Raptors 32
High scorers—Jazz: Matthew Sieder-12; Raptors: Robbie Hoffman-10, Danny Espin-10.

Recreation Wrestling

Strong Showing for Pee Wee and Bantam Wrestlers at Kenilworth Tournament

Wylam & Wagner Claim Titles

By Bob Hunter

Nine Pee Wee and Bantam wrestlers traveled to Kenilworth for the first annual Kenilworth Kids Bantam Wrestling Tournament this past weekend. The tournament was designed to provide younger, inexperienced wrestlers with the opportunity to enhance their skills against equal competition.

In the Pee Wee division, the Tigers had five wrestlers competing. In the 43 pound weight class Nelson Duarte won his opening round match over Kyle Hourahan of Sayerville 9-6. He lost his next match by decision and lost his

consolation round match 5-1 for a fourth place medal.

Corey Hay, 50 pounds, lost his opening round match by decision 5-2 but came back to defeat team mate Kyle Hughes 11-7 in the wrestle back round.

Kyle Hughes, also wrestling at 50 pounds, lost a close 3-1 decision before losing to Hay in the wrestle back round.

John Wylam claimed the first Tiger title in the 55 pound weight class. In the opening round Wylam defeated Tim West of Westfield by fall at 0:15. In the semifinals Wylam wasted little time with Jeff Bohn of Jefferson pinning him at 0:23. In the finals Wylam scored the early takedown and got three back points en route to a 5-1 decision over Rob Benner

of Roselle Park to claim the title.

In the 65 pound weight class, Mike Wagner claimed the second championship of the day with a seven second fall over Ryan Calloway of Union. In the finals Wagner found himself down by the score of 12-4 before getting a reversal and then locking up the cradle and pinning Neil Cook of Cranford at the 1:40 mark of the second period.

In the Bantam Division Nick Pauls, 47 pounds, lost his opening round match by decision, but came on strong in the wrestle back round to defeat Dan Gary of North Plainfield by fall at 0:21.

In the 50 pound weight class, Nick Heilmann won his opening round match by fall over John Skibews of North Plainfield at 0:45. Heilmann lost his semifinal match and lost a close 2-1 decision in the consolation round for a fourth place finish.

In the 57 pound weight class, Elizabeth (Busy) Martin lost her first match but came back in the wrestle back round and defeated Jeff Crouch of Franklin by a technical fall, 18-2.

In the 80 pound weight class Ryan Szumski lost his opening round match by decision. In the wrestle back round Szumski took early control before pinning Sean McDonnal of Garwood at the 1:30 mark.



Patrick Hunter, on top, controls Kevin Kistor in route to a 18-2 victory.

Tigers Maul Voorhees 52-18, Man Handle Vikings

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team posted their seventh consecutive victory, defeating a powerful Voorhees team at a packed house at the PAL.

Robert Gentile, 50 pounds, got the Tigers off to a fast start with a fall over Ben Hafke at 0:51 of the first period. Next up for the Tigers at 53 pounds, Patrick Hunter went right on the attack scoring eleven unanswered points before scoring a technical fall over Kevin Kusior 18-2 at 2:59.

In the 60 pound match, Jimmy Conroy continued the assault taking an early 6-0 lead before getting the pin over Chris Mazurck at 2:56.

Billy Ashnault, 63 pounds, continued with a 8-0 major decision over Brian Krocjta.

Danny Bayak followed in the 67 pound class and took early command of Kyle Mazurck before scoring a 9-0 major decision. In the 70 pound weight class, Billy Padula came on strong in the third period to decision Jamie Toke 6-2.

Sam Martin got the early takedown in the 80 pound match and went on to win a 3-0 decision over Chris Duryea.

Brad Martin followed in the 86 pound weight class and wasted little time scoring the fall over Mike Hoffman at 0:49.

In the 95 pound match, Kyle Bostick took a 5-0 lead before pinning Sean Hinson at 1:43.

Rob Maistickle got the early takedown and scored the fall at 0:46 over Jason Unger in the 110 pound weight class.

Rocco Petriello, wrestling at heavy weight, came through with a big OT victory. Trailing 2-0, Petriello came back to tie the score at 4-4. In overtime Petriello got the takedown and turned Rick Gaydick to his back to get the 8-4 victory.

Also wrestling for the Tigers where Nick Vallone, Nick Dorey, Peter DeAndrea, Frank Stefanelli and Kevin Crilley.



Tigers Handle Del-Val 58-18

By Robert Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team is now 10-1 after dominating Del-Val 58-19 in a Central Jersey League showdown.

Robert Gentile, 50 pounds, got the Tigers off to a quick start when he got the takedown then went on to score a technical fall 17-0 over Kevin Mesce.

Patrick Hunter, 53 pounds, wasted little time scoring the takedown and getting the pin at 0:59 over Todd Stietken.

In the 60 pound match Jimmy Conroy went right to work scoring 14 unanswered points on Kevin Inglin before getting the pin at

1:59.

Billy Ashnault, 63 pounds, went right to work handing PJ Steinbeiser a lesson by scoring a technical fall 20-1.

In the 65 pound match up, Danny Bayak came from behind to beat Ryan Foor 6-2. Billy Padula followed with a 12-0 major decision over Sal Santanbello in the 70 pound match.

The 73 pound match was a battle with Nick Dorey outlasting Dan Barlow taking the decision 8-5. Peter DeAndrea got the early lead and late reversal points to decision Jim Wene 4-0 in the 77 pound match.

Sam Martin, wrestling at 80 pounds, went right on the attack and scored a major decision over Rick Sandor 14-0.

Brad Martin followed at 85 pounds, with the score tied going into the final period, Martin used a reversal and back points to win a 8-4 decision over Mike Gunether.

Kyle Bostick, 96 pounds, scored 10 unanswered points before scoring a major decision over Chuck Stiefken 14-0. Kevin Crilley 102 pounds went right on the attack and scored the fall over Chris Ricardo at 1:59.

Rob Maistickle, 110 pounds, was not to be denied. He pinned Mike Slaughter in 59 seconds.

Also wrestling for the Tigers were Nick Vallone 57 pounds, Frank Stefanelli 90 pounds and Rocco Petriello at heavyweight.

Camp Ricochet Taking Applications

Ricochet Health & Racquet Club is presently taking applications for Camp Ricochet.

Open to children entering grades 1 through 6 next fall, the camp offers a wide variety of supervised sports programs including basketball, soccer, volleyball, baseball, hockey and swimming. They are also planning trips, special events and an arts and crafts program.

Ricochet Health & Racquet Club is located on Nicholas Ave. This popular program sells out quickly. For more information or an application, call 980-753-2300.

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Obituaries

William H. Harrah, 69

William H. Harrah died Monday, Feb. 8 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Brackus, West Virginia and was a former resident of Carteret before moving to South Plainfield 40 years ago.

Mr. Harrah was a truck driver for Dinna Trucking in East Brunswick for 10 years before retiring in 1995. Prior to that he owned and operated William H. Harrah Trucking in South Plainfield for 35 years.

He served in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 in South Plainfield.

Mr. Harrah was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and a member of the B.P.O. Elks 2298 in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his wife, Josephine O'Neill Harrah, who died in 1993 and his son, William H. Harrah, who died in 1969.

He is survived by two sons, Robert M. Harrah of Piscataway and Joseph A. Harrah of South Plainfield; three sisters, Dorothy Smith of Avenel, Louise Brooks of Beckley, West Virginia and Geneva Coleman of Charleston, West Virginia and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

moving to South Plainfield two years ago.

He had owned and operated, along with his wife, the Centre Deli in South Plainfield for the past two years.

Surviving are his wife, Sun Won Kim, and two sons; Justin Kim of South Plainfield and Julio Kim of Hicksville, NY.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

George M. Painton, Jr., 78

George M. Painton, Jr. died Friday, Feb. 5 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Philadelphia, Pa. and was a former resident of Union before moving to South Plainfield 45 years ago.

Mr. Painton was a Systems Analyst for the Amerace-Esna Inc. in Union for 44 years before retiring in 1985.

He was a corporal in the United States Army during WWII, serving in the anti-aircraft automatic weapons battalion.

He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Montesi Painton; two sons, James M. Painton and George M. Painton III, both of South Plainfield; a daughter, Nancy L. Belardo of South Plainfield; a sister, Ellen Bartolick of Cranford and seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory maybe made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield NJ 07080.

Do Kyung Kim, 71

Do Kyung Kim died on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mr. Kim was born in Korea and had resided in New York before

Tigers Win GMCT Tournament

Continued from page one

Stevens by a score of 10-7. In the finals Ramos was faced with a tough situation having to face Tom Noto the 1998, 103-pound state champion. Ramos wrestled him tough but came up short, dropping a 21-9 major decision for second place.

Billy Wilson, one of three senior wrestlers, had the toughest weight class in the tournament. Wilson won his preliminary round match, but dropped his quarter final round match to Anthony Rendina from Edison. Wilson came back strong in the wrestle backs to claim a fifth place medal.

David Stoeckel, 125 pounds, faced and defeated Kevin Fox of South Brunswick 4-2. In the finals Stoeckel faced Andy Reina from JP Stevens. Reina defeated Stoeckel 12-10 in an earlier dual meet. Stoeckel who was not to be denied, took the early lead and went on to pin Reina at 4:36 to claim the second Tiger championship.

Scott Doerr, a freshman wrestling at 140 pounds, won his first two matches then faced Bryan Changaris from Piscataway in the semifinal round. He dropped a close 3-1 OT decision. But in the consolation round Doerr came back to beat Jason Bone from JFK 5-2, for a third place finish.

John Foscolo, 160 pounds, won his first two matches, but dropped his semifinal match to Ricky Santos from South River. Foscolo came back strong to hold off Gael Marchal from East Brunswick and take a 4-3 decision for third place.

Chris Francis, 171 pounds, won his first two matches and defeated Keith Ferreri from JP Stevens by technical fall 20-4 at 6:00, to reach the final. In the finals Francis took the lead going into the final period and with four seconds left, Tom Corio of East Brunswick got the late takedown and pulled out a 9-8

win. Francis finished in second place.

Dan Kunst, the Tiger 189 pounder, won his first two matches but lost his semifinal round match to tournament champion Pete Esposito from Old Bridge 18-6. In the consolation round Kunst dropped a close 3-1 decision to Danny DeJesus from Perth Amboy for a fourth place finish.

Chris Cioffi, 215 pounds, won two opening round matches to reach the semi finals, but failed in his bid for a title when he dropped a 9-6 decision to Joe Liquori of Woodbridge, the eventual 215 pound champion. In the consolation round Cioffi came back to win a 7-4 decision over Pete Gibb from South Brunswick for a third place finish.

In the heavyweight division Colin Hunter, the defending heavyweight champion and this year's number one seed, won his opening match by a fall over Rajon Torres from Woodbridge at 1:41. In the quarter final round Hunter pinned Jamel Ives of Monroe at

1:28. Hunter then faced Joe Williams from Piscataway in the semi-finals and scored the fall at 4:29. In the finals Hunter faced Chris Sloniko from Bishop Ahr. After taking the early lead, Hunter went on to win by major decision 11-3, and won his second consecutive title.

Also winning matches for the Tigers but not placing were Jon Blondet, 130 pounds; Dave Buttrico, 135 pounds; Mike Buteus 145 pounds and Frank Crincoli, 152 pounds.

"This was a total team effort. I thought it was going to be a lot closer," said Tiger head coach Bill Pavlak. We had two starters out of the tournament but Buttrico and Butues stepped in and did a nice job for us. It was the early lead that was the key and the kids were more relaxed then last year knowing it was going to be hard for anyone to catch them.

Summer Drama Dates Set

After many successful seasons, the regulars—both cast and loyal audience are eager to hear what the theater group will present this summer. Summer Drama Workshop 1999 is up and running. Production and audition dates have been set. The 1999 SDW will be presented August 5-8 with three evening performances and a matinee on Sunday the 8th.

The selection committee has narrowed down the choices to six musicals. The 15-member committee is currently researching the final choices to determine the best show for the 27-year-old youth theater group. Auditions for 1999 SDW will be held on July 7 and 8. The parents meeting is scheduled for June 28. More details will be published as soon as they are available.

TALENT WANTED

South Plainfield High School Project Graduation Committee and Chorus are hosting a talent show on Friday, March 12, and are looking for interested participants. Auditions will be held on Wed., Feb. 24, and Fri., Feb. 26, from 6-9 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the South Plainfield High School Chorus, and Project Graduation, an alcohol-drug free celebration held each year on graduation night for the SPHS senior class. For more information, contact Mr. Murray, chorus director, at (908) 754-4620.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS!!

If you have news about South Plainfield people or events, send us a note or give us a call (732) 469-4380.

We would like to include your story in the paper.



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POLICE REPORT

• A Garibaldi Ave. resident reported a one-foot-high fence surrounding bushes on his property was removed and tossed elsewhere on property.

• A Fred Allen Drive resident reported to police headquarters that her boyfriends ex-girlfriend had been calling and hanging up for two days.

• A Hamilton Blvd. resident reported the theft of a snowplow and frame from a vehicle parked in the driveway. The were valued at \$1200.

• A Baker Ave. resident reported that his brother has been using his name, ID, and other personal documents for a number of months. Several summons had been issued in other towns with the false ID. An investigation is in

progress.

• A Home Depot manager reported a check collection manager has been committing theft. The employee allegedly contacted customers who had bounced checks. He took payments from customers for the bad checks and kept the money. A customer in New York alerted the hardware chain of the questionable employee's tactics.

• A Kane resident report the theft of boys' bike stolen from the side of the house. The bike, valued at \$250 was unlocked at the time of the theft.

• A South 11th St. resident reported that two cars parked in the driveway had been ransacked. A cell phone was reported missing from one vehicle, the second had

nothing removed.

• Dunellen resident Tarquino R. Altamirano was arrested for shoplifting a hat valued at \$7.99 from Bradlees.

• Police responded to a burglar alarm at Fosa Computer, 120 Corporate Ct. The front door had been smashed in, activating the alarm. Upon arrival officers found that the interior door had been pried or smashed and an attempt at a third door was unsuccessful. The company was able to provide police with VCR surveillance tapes of actions inside the building.

• Officers responded to an alarm at Suckno Bros. Co. on 15 Harmich Rd. A window was found smashed but nothing was reported missing.

Weekly Horoscope

By Cyrus N. Moon

ARIES — days for you to watch 18th-20th moon enters Aries. You will be full of energy. Also this is a favorable time to handle private transactions.

TAURUS — believe in the workplace, you will make new friends and will be surprised at how much you will have in common.

GEMINI — are you going on an excursion? Be ready to meet people, a variety of people, some of which may be from overseas, learn from them.

CANCER — if you've been thinking about getting a pet, as a life time companion, now would be the time. Visit your bank, a temporary loan could help money problems.

LEO — your mind wants intimacy with the one you love ... get away just the two of you to experience how much closer you can become.

VIRGO — you are on top of the situation, not much will get by you this week and what people think will not matter.

LIBRA — if you have an unfamiliar visitor this week ... think back ... you just may have met this person ... somewhere ... some-time ... can you say "deja vu"?

SCORPIO — hey you make that date you have been holding off on. With the sun entering Pisces its hard for them to say no to you.

SAGITTARIUS — now is the time to get across any information. Your communication skills are at a peek now. Key word "achievement."

CAPRICORN — your home is your castle, and you might feel compelled to make some

improvements. And how about having some friends over.

AQUARIUS — take a twenty minute hot bath in the oils of your choice. I recommend lavender, then think how much money you can make for the future.

PISCES — key word, inspiration. As the sun enters your natal sign you should have a clear understanding of where you are going this year. Let the magic work.

INFO - hey **AQUARIUS**, your planet ruler is Uranus. He was the ancient Greek Sky God, ruler of the universe. It's the planet of change and the unexpected invention and modern science. Your color is "electric blue." My quote for you is "close your eyes and see the colors."

Cyrus Moon is a local resident who would like to write a horoscope column regularly for the Observer. We will be running this column for the next few weeks and would like your opinion.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

February 3, 1999

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of South Plainfield at its meeting held on February 2, 1999.

The appointment of THP, Inc. as Planner for the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

CASE No. 2-98/S—Oak Tree Associates—Block 253; Lot 1.02; Oak Tree Rd. and Park Ave.—Applicant's request for a modification to the use variance, with final site plan is hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

CASE No. 1-99/S—Robert Bosch Corporation—Block 528; Lot 46.19; 121 Corporate Blvd.—Applicant's request for a limited use variance to permit 1,107 s.f. retail space for a regional retail service center, with preliminary and final site plan approval, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

CASE No. 27-98/S—Ramada Limited, d/b/a Madison Inn, LLC—Block 535; Lot 1.02; 2989 Hamilton Blvd.—Applicant's request for a use variance to construct a 4,590 s.f. addition containing a buffet room and variances is hereby GRANTED.

Janice Muccilli
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment
15.60 11-2/12

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by James and Sharon Moore requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the construction of a 2 story addition: where lot lacks required 100 ft. lot width, 60 ft. existing. Addition would lack required 30 ft. front set back, 24.9 ft. existing setback. Lot lacks required 10,000 sq.ft. 9898.2 existing. Site plan approval also. Said property being located on Block 193, Lot 12 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purpose of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 2, 1999.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

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3 line minimum—\$10, \$1 per each additional line. To place a classified send your check to the Observer, c/o G & G Graphics, 530 Union Ave., Ste. 3, Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Deadline for next issue is Mon, Feb. 15.

INTERACTIVE COMPUTER CORNER

Yesterday morning my brother took his oldest daughter to JFK Airport for a flight to Los Angeles. This was the first leg of a long trip to Australia where she is spending her spring semester from college on an exchange program. All day long and through the night, he was able to track her flight in real time (it's a father thing) via the Internet. Check out <http://flight.the trip.com> to see the graphical depiction of any flight. The graphic shows the aircraft's heading, airspeed and altitude, as well as its position over land (a map is shown too). It really is pretty cool, even for an uncle!

I mentioned to my niece before she left, that whenever she takes pictures during her visit, she can have the photo-processor (not all can do this yet) post her pictures to a website which she can access from anywhere anytime. There, she can edit the pictures, frame them, assemble a photo-journal or album, and then send it electronically to anyone and everyone, complete with captions and narrative. She doesn't need a digital camera since the developer can do it all for her. She can even order picture prints and have them delivered back to her at home on Long Island. She saves a trip back to the camera/film store to pick up prints she doesn't need now, and still gets her album assembled and shown. Now, this is progress! (Check into www.photo net.com).

In our last column, I was gushing about how happy I am to finally be getting "high speed-cable access" to the Internet. I have taken a few calls already from other interested persons and for anyone else

By Briggs Longbothum

waiting for high speed Internet access, the time is now. Call me and I will see to it that you get signed up too! Call anytime (908-753-4700) and leave your name, address (most important) and telephone number. The Comcast Online people have promised to expedite all orders that I pass on to them.

Also, in our last column I mentioned the websites for our town and for our newspaper. But, shame on me for neglecting our schools website too! All three websites are repeated here and apologies and credits go to Matthew Wojec and Joseph Monahan for the terrific job they've done in creating and maintaining the website for our schools and Board of Education. Visit all three websites and offer feedback that you think can help them. For our schools and Board of Ed. check out www.spnet.k12.nj.us. For the newspaper, go to: www.spobserver.com, and for our town, visit: www.southplainfieldnj.com. By the way Matt, you raised a good question: Who's going to run the website when you graduate this year?

I am planning to meet with Matthew, Joseph, and Fred Oberkehr, who is their advisor, to write a narrative about the introduction of technology in our schools. By the looks of what these young people have done so far, they can probably help me out too!

TIP: If you are thinking of registering a domain name for yourself or your business, be sure that your "due diligence" is thorough. Check out [\[info/nic-rev03.html\]\(http://info/nic-rev03.html\) for the most recent "domain name dispute policy." This could save you hours, days, money and aggravation should your choice of domain name pose a threat or conflict to established trademarks or service-marks. This can be very knotty stuff, so make sure you do your homework well!](http://rs.internic.net/domain-</p>
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I'm still waiting for someone to write in and tell us how they are using the Internet for their purposes. I would very much like to hear from anyone involved in streaming media or webcasting their own material. This is very useful technology, and if anyone has any experience here, please get in touch with me. My address is still Bruggo@earthlink.net. Yes, with a cable modem, my address will change, but I'll let everyone know in plenty of time. And that brings me to my last point for the day.

While everyone does get an email address with their Internet connection, people do tend to move around and change providers. That means your Email address is likely to change too! The best thing to do is to get an "Email for life" address. They are usually free and are available from numerous sources. This is the one you should have, and give out to the public. Now, you can change your ISP (internet service provider) and still keep your Email address. To make matters even simpler, you can have your Email redirected to your current ISP. It is just like having a permanent post office box, and having the postmaster forward your mail to wherever you are living at the time. You'll be getting my permanent Email address soon. See you.



Dominic Spinelli (Santa Claus) holding Linda DiSabato & unknown clown holding Joanne D'Alessio.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We thought our readers would enjoy these pictures of residents from years past. If you can identify the clown, let us know. We thank Joanne Otlowski for sending them to us.



Clown (unknown), Pete Kamowicz, Anthony DiSabato and Dominic Spinelli (Santa Claus)



Christmas Party held at the Park Theater in 1952.

Wanted:

50 Volunteers For a Fitness Study

We need 50 volunteers to participate in a 30 day Fitlinxx Fitness improvement study.

Volunteer requirements:

- Age 25 to 59 (study Group AA) **OR** Age 60 & up (study Group BB)
- Do not currently exercise on a regular basis.
- Will follow a supervised 30 day training program with moderate exercise 45 minutes twice a week AND will participate in a minimum of 4 group fitness classes (aerobics, body pump, Pace, or aquatic classes) during the 30 day period.
- Will take a supervised fitness evaluation at the start and at the end of the 30-day study.

There is NO COST to participate in the study. A FULLY 100% REFUNDABLE commitment fee is required and will be returned when you complete the study. The fitness study is being sponsored by Ricochet Health & Racquet Club to determine the measurable results the Fitlinxx Interactive Network combined with cardiovascular exercise has on a structured exercise program for those who have not exercised or do not currently exercise on a regular basis and to introduce Ricochet's advanced facilities, equipment and programs to you. All study participants will receive full membership privileges during the 30 day study.

If you meet the above requirements and would like to participate, call the "Research Director" at Ricochet Health & Racquet Club (908) 753-2300

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