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South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

DECEMBER 3, 1999



Sal Severini Honored for 30 Years of Volunteerism

By Patricia Abbott

Volunteering as a coach for a youth sports organization or any youth group for that matter is a commendable act. Volunteering for 30 years is just plain amazing. Sal Severini Sr. known as "Bubby" in the Pop Warner circle has done just that. For the past 30 years Bubby has coached all age groups in Pop Warner football.

He became a volunteer coach for Pop Warner when his son, Sal Jr. wanted to switch from baseball to football. He recalled that one of the coaches was sick and so he took over and stayed for 30 years! The younger Sal only played for a few years, and his brother Stephen also played. But Bubby, as he was dubbed long ago, stayed on and work with hundreds of boys years after his own children were grown. He has coached all age brackets, from the Mighty Mites to the Midgits.

Bubby played football when he served in the Army. About coaching, Sal said, "We are there to teach the kids. It's a matter of knowing the game and the rules." He never coached his sons, but this year, he got the opportunity



Pop Warner Football Commission Gary Prendergast presents Sal Severini with a plaque of appreciation.

to coach his grandson's team. Thirty great years were enough for Bubby. He says he enjoyed all the people he has worked with. He saw a second generation of kids join Pop Warner, children of the children from his earlier years. Grandson Guy Severini, an eighth grade student, has been promoted out of Pop Warner and granddaughter Gina Severini is a cheerleader. He has an eight-year-old grandson, Rocco, who is playing football, so while he may not be out on the field, Sal "Bubby" Severini will be in the stands for a long time to come.

Coach Joe Debiase has known Bubby for over 10 years. "Sal is a great guy. He is always there for the kids, everything for the kids," he said.

Everyone who knows Bubby has a favorite story. Coach Ron Ranger has coached with Bubby for the past five years and has known him most of his life. Ron said "Bubby has a favorite coffee shop picked out in every town we play. Before the game we have coffee, talk football, then go hit the field."

Ron explained that back at home at the Sal's Spirit Shoppe, the topics get a little more diverse, such as what local restaurant has the best Italian food or the fine points of homemade red wine and of course, football. Ron says, "Everyone who knows Bubby, loves him."

On Nov. 20, Pop Warner parents and staff held their third annual dinner dance at the Italian American Club. Bubby was presented with a frame by the cheerleading coaches. Later in the evening he was presented with a gift of a watch and a plaque.

Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences Postponed at Middle and High Schools

After receiving a letter from Louis Mrutz, President of the SPEA, Guy Ferri announced that both the High School and Middle School evening conferences, scheduled for Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, have been postponed. The Dec. 9 afternoon Parent/Teacher conferences at the Middle School are not affected. The conferences will be rescheduled after the Board has the opportunity to discuss available options at its Dec. 14 meeting.

Mrutz's letter stated that, "Since the Association and the Board of Education have not reached a settlement as of this date, the Association will be postponing participation in the high school conferences on Dec. 2, 1999, and the evening middle school conferences on Dec. 9, 1999, until an agreement is reached."

Borough News

Council Notes

- More than 30 South Plainfield Police Officers attended last month's council meeting to witness the council's approval of their new labor bargaining agreement.
- Councilwoman Darlene Pinto announced that another business owner has applied for funding with the Downtown Facade Program.
- In-line hockey will be starting on Dec. 6. If you call Recreation, you may still be able to sign-up. The rink is located behind Borough Hall. A new scoreboard was donated by the Police Athletic League.

Planning Board

- Coppola Farming Co. was granted preliminary approval to build 355 units, made up of condos and townhouses. Plans call for 11 three-story condominiums, holding 24 units per building, for a total of 252 units and 15 two-story townhouses, totalling 103 units. The townhouses will have both driveways and garages. The development will not have any rental units. Coppola Farms is located on New Durham Ave.

Ribbon Cutting Marks Opening of Community Policing Building

Months of hard work transformed a run-down, boarded up gas station into South Plainfield's new Community Policing office. The work began in July by Community Policing officers Allen Lamonda and Joe Papa. Along with a host of volunteers who worked steadily through the summer and into the fall, work was completed in early November. It was officially opened on Tuesday, Nov. 23 with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Mayor Dan Gallagher and several Council members as well as a number of police and fire officials. A reception followed the ceremony.

The new office contains a wall of flyers and booklets on safety, crime prevention and videotapes which you can loan, on a wide range of subjects from fraud protection and gun safety to security, domestic violence, drugs and alcohol. To borrow a tape, pick up literature or speak to an officer call 226-7717. More pictures on page 6.



In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

I would like to share with your readers information about a local foundation which provides financial support to the students of South Plainfield. The South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. was founded on Oct. 4, 1994. It has 15 trustees, nine of whom are business representatives, five are educators and one represents the PTA/PTO's. In addition to providing scholarships for South Plainfield students and selecting recipients, the Foundation also provides additional funds for scholastic and civic incentive programs.

Foundations objectives are to:

1. Provide financial support for incentive programs which encourage both good citizenship and academic achievement.
2. Provide annual scholarships.
3. Provide internships and cooperative work opportunities.
4. Provide opportunities for inventive industry/school partnerships.
5. Provide endowment funds for scholarships.

On behalf of students of South Plainfield and the Trustees of Vision 2001, we extend our deepest appreciation to all of the businesses and individuals who have provided financial support or who have donated their time or in-kind services to our Annual Art Auction, Annual Golf Outing and Gold Card Program.

We also thank those people who have participated in our Business/Education Forum, donated computer and other school equipment or purchased a 50-50 ticket. We cannot achieve our goals without your help, but with your continued support, Vision 2001 will continue to assist in preparing our students to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

**EMIL LEPORINO,
PRESIDENT SOUTH
PLAINFIELD VISION 2001
EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

To The Editor:

On behalf of the Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield, we would like to acknowledge the following local busi-

nesses for their generous contributions toward prizes awarded to the winners of our Beautiful Baby Contest.

Our thanks go to Bruno's Pizza Factory, Heidi's Hair & Nails, Here's The Scoop, 1-800 Flowers, Learning Express, One Call Electricians, One Hour Photo & Video and Services Plus. Also, a note of appreciation to Betty Klostrich, Aggie Knapik, Tammy MacGregor and for the A & P Food Store and WalMart for allowing us to set up our ballot boxes and pictures in their places of business.

Thank you all again for making our contest a great success.

THE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday Nov. 16 we lost our father and husband. We wish to send our sincere thanks and great appreciation to Robert Hunter of Conroy Funeral Home for the kind, compassionate and excellent help that he provided during our time of need.

We would also at this time like to thank Louis DeFillippo for his kindness to our family and his excellent service to our family and personal attention to all of us, as he was like family. We would also like to thank Father John from Sacred Heart Church for his excellent prayers, both at the funeral home and the Mass at Church, comparing our father to "Pvt. Ryan" for serving his country during the time of war, his deeds and extraordinary acts for his country.

We would also like to thank the American Legion of South Plainfield for attending the funeral and for their prayers and services. Dad was a member for 51 years.

We would also like to thank the South Plainfield Police for taking their time to pay their respects to our family and to say a final good-bye to our father.

Special Thanks to Sgt. George Albertocki for always being there for us and the kindness and respect he showed to our family, both personally and professionally.

A special warm thanks to Officer David Franchak, for being a good friend and being next to me as a brother during my time of need. I would also like to thank the United States Army and the United States Air Force for coming and giving dad a Military Funeral, which he would have been very proud of, especially the flag folding ceremony at the cemetery and the presentation of the flag to my mother.

**SINCERELY,
TONY, DONNA AND
CARMELLA PISANIELLO**

Dear Fellow Residents,
Whether you have school age

children or not, the Dec. 14 Bond Referendum is an issue that all residents need to take action on. Our small borough has been continually growing over the years and will continue to grow. The majority of new homeowners have children. I urge all residents to talk to Board of Education members and get the facts about this referendum. The bottom line is we can take a passive view and do nothing or we can take a proactive view and vote YES.

By next spring we will have an influx of new students. As new housing is completed, student enrollment will increase. If the referendum is voted down, we will eventually have overcrowded schools, possibly lose good teachers and eventually the quality of student learning may be jeopardized.

This referendum is important to all residents. If we have a poor school system our real estate values will go down and we will not attract the middle to high-income homeowners. Another factor to consider is that if the State decides we need new schools built, they will mandate the construction. If we wait another year or two we will end up paying millions more to upgrade our schools.

I realize there are still concerns that residents would like the Board of Education to address, and we can continue to have an open dialogue on these issues. For now we need to insure that we have enough classrooms to accommodate all the new students.

I urge everyone to vote YES on Tuesday, Dec. 14. Help insure that our borough stays strong. Thank you.

DONNA MACKEY

Dear Editor,

Did anyone ever hear the expression, "That's more than I needed to know?" Well, South Plainfield Board of Education members, you can now fit your latest newsletter into that category. I've lived here for almost ten years and many of my neighbors have been lifelong residents; we've never seen anything like it before.

The whole concept of negotiation is that one party puts forth a request and the other party offers a response. Through sincere conversation the two come to an agreement that both can live with. Negotiations are supposed to produce a "win/win" result. That kind of result will never come about when one side takes advantage of its power and control to put the other party on the defensive. It is a "parent/child" confrontation, set up by the one in power, when an "equal to equal" relationship would benefit the whole school community. As a taxpayer and parent, I would like the Board to tell us how much it costs to have that newsletter written, printed and mailed. I am sure the cost is in the thousands of dollars. We would all be better off if the money had been put toward settling the negotiations, than wasting it on one sided, totally needless charts and diagrams which were far more than

anybody needed to know.

JUDY KLEINMAN

To The Observer:

It's contract time again for the teachers in South Plainfield. I am the husband of a third grade teacher at Riley School. Our two children attend SPHS. As contract time draws near, it appears to open the season of "teacher-bashing." Each day seems to hold a new story, slur, accusation, or malicious deed toward the teachers who work in this town. Although these deeds do not represent the majority of the residents' views, they do manage to come to the surface time and time again because of a few very bitter people.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to teach in the same town in which you live? Try going into a supermarket and having someone look into your food basket and state, "We must be paying you good if you can afford that!" It's happened to my wife. Does your neighbor get to see your salary listed in the paper each year? Does your neighbor get to vote on a budget that directly affects your salary? In our case we have had people look at our home and actually believe that our house, our cars and all we own are due solely to my wife's teaching salary!

Why am I writing a letter now? I'm writing in support of my wife Margie and all her teaching colleagues. The other day I came home from work and found her very upset. She handed me an anonymous letter that had been distributed to all the Riley teachers. It was a typical teacher-bashing letter written by a person lacking the integrity to sign a real name to the nastiness. The letter went on to say how teachers are only part time workers, are all over paid, and well...you know the rest of the story. I sincerely hope the cowardly malcontent, self-identified as the misspelled "anonymous but concerned", is reading my letter.

My wife, after working in this school system for seven years, earns slightly more than \$40,000 a year. Her much discussed paid medical benefit carries such a high deductible and so many exemptions it does not come close to the basic coverage offered to other professionals.

We each hold bachelor degrees and get roughly the same amount of paid holidays a year. The difference in our work schedules is that teachers are off during the summer. However, I get four weeks PAID vacation. Teachers are off during July and August WITHOUT pay. You see, teachers are hired to work, and are paid for ten months not twelve. In time I can earn as much as six weeks paid vacation from my employer. That is common in most companies who employ college-educated professionals.

The argument is often raised that teachers should receive less pay because they work fewer days. Well, a teacher's salary is dramatically less than other professions requiring a four-year college degree. The average starting salary in my company is around \$40,000. That's for

Continued on page 12

IMPORTANT BOROUGH MEETING NOTES

Board of Education Meetings 1999/2000

The following dates have been scheduled for Committee of the Whole and Regular Meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education. All meetings are to be held on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Administration Building, Cromwell Place, unless otherwise designated.

Committee of the Whole Meetings 1999:

December 14

2000: January 11, February 8, March 7, April 4

Regular Monthly Meetings

1999: December 21

2000: January 18, February 15, March 14, April 11, 2000

Zoning Board of Adjustment 1999 Meeting Dates

First, third and fifth Tuesday of the month as follows:
December 7, December 21

Planning Board 1999 Meeting Dates

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month as follows:
December 14 December 28

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS PUBLIC MEETINGS

Monday, Dec. 6 Thursday, Dec. 9

* Date has been changed from Monday, Nov 15

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.

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda.

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.

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2. Mail, fax or drop it at: Editorial Department
South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave. or Twice Is Nice, Front St. or fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

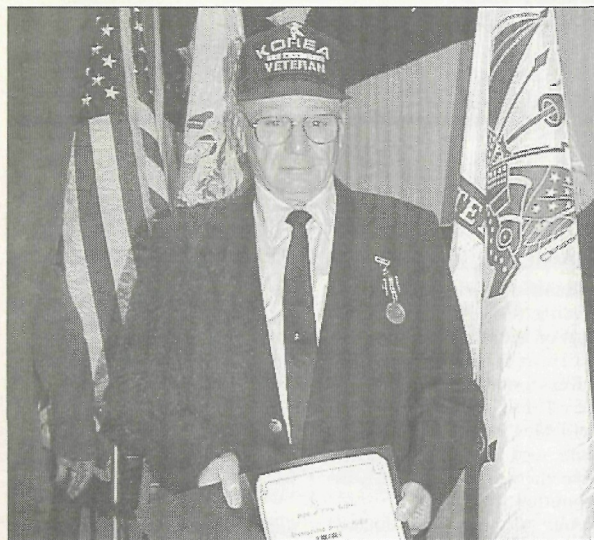
Submit letters to the editor to:

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Letters may be submitted by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819.

We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length.

MILESTONES



John Donnelly

Awards

John Donnelly Awarded Distinguished Service Medal

South Plainfield resident John Donnelly recently received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. Requests for this medal must be approved by Governor Christine Todd Whittman.

The award was presented by

Major General Paul Glazer, Adjutant General of New Jersey in a ceremony held at the National Guard Armory in Somerset.

Mr. Donnelly served in Korea from 1950-1953.

Promotion

Robert Boyle Named Roma Food VP

On Nov. 17 Robert Boyle was named Vice President at Roma Food. Roma Food is a nationwide food service company catering to Italian pizza shops and restaurants. Roma Food corporate headquarters is located in Piscataway and has six other distribution centers throughout the United States.

Bob has been employed with

Roma Food for the past 23 years. He has been involved in the operations department and for the past 10 years he has done the purchasing for the company.

Bob resides in South Plainfield with his wife and three children. He is also the player-coach of the two-time champion Roma Food South Plainfield Men's "A" softball team.

Tessie Micali Nominated For Street Naming

The South Plainfield Elks together with the Ladies Auxiliary of the Elks mourn the deep loss of Tessie Micali. Tessie was well known throughout our town as an essential and vibrant individual who continuously and unselfishly gave of herself in service to our town. Her many years of service to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad and to the Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Elks

were, in no short measure, significant factors to the success of both organizations whose activities so benefit our town. We are proud to have counted her among us.

We can find no honor more appropriate than to see a street in our town named in her memory. To that end, we hereby submit her name and cause to the Street Naming Committee of South Plainfield.

Recycle Your Old Cellular Phones

Bell Atlantic Mobile and the South Plainfield Board of Education, in conjunction with the Borough of South Plainfield, will launch a program whose end result will be to provide the community with an added degree of public safety. Through Bell Atlantic's "Wireless at Work" phone recycling program, local residents will be able to recycle their older model cellular phones by donating their equipment to the South Plainfield Public Schools for the benefit of the safety of the children. Phones not used for this purpose will be distributed by the Police Department.

Dan Smith, Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee of the South Plainfield Board of Education and Frank Mikorski, Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, enlisted the assistance of Chief Steven Merkle of the South Plainfield Police Department to get this program underway. The two entities are working together to make this program a reality.

Bell Atlantic Mobile's role in this process is to test and re-program the recycled phones to dial 9-1-1 at the touch of a button, thereby allowing these phones to be distributed to those who may need emergency communications.

Phones are being collected at various drop-off points, including all six elementary schools (in the principal's office) and the Grant School administrative offices (in the business office), during the regular school day. Phones may also be dropped off at South Plainfield Police Department Communication Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Phones, batteries and charger must be placed in ziplock bags or boxes before drop-off. The campaign began Dec. 1 and ends Dec. 31. For more information, call the Business Office at South Plainfield Board of Education.

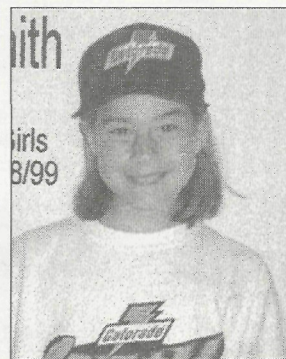
Huffsmith, Prendergast Compete In Punt, Pass and Kick Competition

By Patricia Abbott

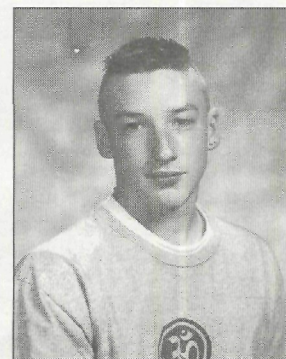
Two South Plainfield students recently participated in the New York Giants NFL Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick Competition held at Giant Stadium. The Nov. 28 competition was held before the start of the NY Giants/Arizona Cardinals game at

ary. Each NFL team has one winner in each age group. The top ten overall scores will move up to compete for the national title. Kyle also participated in the competition last year. Both students are to be congratulated and best wishes to Allison!

The Pop Warner nationals sponsor local contests for the



Allison Huffsmith



Kyle Prendergast

the Meadowlands.

Allison Huffsmith, nine-year-old fourth grade student at Roosevelt School, took first place in the 8-9 year old girls division, scoring 164. Kyle Prendergast, freshman at South Plainfield High School, placed fourth in the 14-15 year old boys division, scoring 235. In addition to the competition at half-time Allison and Kyle participated in a passing exhibition on the game field with an audience of 75,000 people watching.

Allison and Kyle both won the local and section competitions held in September and October. According to her father Gary Huffsmith, last year Allison was watching the boys practice prior to the local match. Pop Warner Commissioner Gary Prendergast suggested that she give it a try. Her parents signed her up and Allison surprised everyone by placing third in the sectional held in New Providence. This year's high score that put her in first place gives her a shot at qualifying to compete in the National Punt, Pass and Kick finals at the NFL playoff in Janu-

Punt, Pass & Kick Competition. It is open to girls or boys between the ages of eight and 13. Gary Prendergast noted that South Plainfield had not had a local competition in many years and he wanted to reinstate it.



Allison Huffsmith shows off her winning form as she grabs first place in the 8-9 division of the Gatorade Punt, Pass and Kick Competition at Giants Stadium last Sunday.

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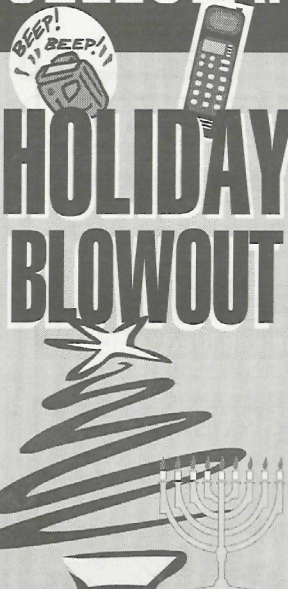
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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

This Weekend...

VFW Holding Country Breakfast

A country breakfast will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 at VFW Post 6763 from 8 to 11 a.m. Donation is \$4. The breakfast is sponsored by Pup Tent 41 Military Order of the Cootie.

Also the VFW will be holding a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Service on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. at the VFW Hall located on Front Street. Coffee and cake will be served after the service.

For more information, phone (908) 668-9751.

Holiday Craft Show At John E. Riley

John E. Riley School will be hosting a holiday craft show on Friday, Dec. 3. Show hours will be from 5 to 9 p.m.

The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your holiday shopping at Riley School. For vendor information, call (908) 668-8252.

UNICO Will Hold Annual Pig Roast

The Plainfield Chapter of UNICO will be holding its Annual Pig Roast on Friday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Italian American Hall on Valley Ave. in Scotch Plains.

The donation is \$30 per person. For more information or tickets, call Michael Cortese at 561-1539.

Holiday Craft Fair at First Baptist Church

Our last craft fair of the century, the 16th Annual Holiday Craft Fair, will be held Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening Circle, who will have baked goods and crafts, Kids Korner (no adults, please!), and hot lunch in the kitchen.

Proceeds will be distributed amongst various Church functions and charity work for our community. The crafters joining us will be offering items which include holiday decorations, dried flowers, knitted sweaters, decorated wood, jewelry, and gifts for year-round giving. Please start your holiday shopping with us.

Holiday Open House

The Women's Networking will hold a holiday open house on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 108 Wyckoff Ave. in Piscataway. Come browse for unique gift ideas, such as Massage Therapy, Tupperware, Lady Remington Jewelry, PartyLite, Sunrider Nutrition, Yoga/Aerobics, Hypnotherapy, Longaberger Baskets and Children's Parties. Refreshments will be served.

Aiello

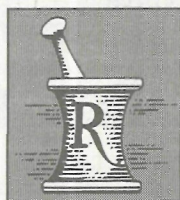
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Come and See for Yourself!

Elks Plan Annual Christmas Pancake Breakfast

Mark Sunday, Dec. 12 on your calendar! Come join us at the Elks for our annual cooked-to-order pancake breakfast celebrating the Christmas season! All are invited to bring family and friends for our ever-popular Christmas time event. In our freshly restored Lodgeroom, we will be serving french toast, pancakes, homefries, eggs any style, bacon and sausage, and toast along with juice, coffee, tea and milk.

Be sure to bring the kids and have their picture taken with Santa Claus (kids, bring your wish list to tell Santa!).

The hours are 8 a.m. until noon. For more information, call 668-9750.

Athletic Booster Club Plans Sport Raffle Auction

The South Plainfield Booster Club will be holding a Sport Raffle Auction on Dec. 11 at SPSHS. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the raffle will begin at 7 p.m.

Prizes include an autographed Washington Redskins NFL football, NJ Devils tickets, autographed puzzle postcard of Thurman Thomas, assorted golf apparel, girls and boys bikes.

Breakfast with Santa At Sacred Heart

On Sunday, Dec. 12, Sacred Heart HSA will host a "Breakfast with Santa." This catered event will be held in the school cafeteria from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost will be \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Children under five will be admitted free.

This buffet breakfast will include eggs, french toast, hash-browns, bacon, sausage, croissants, juice, milk, coffee and tea. Santa will be available during breakfast and there will be entertainment for the children.

If you would like to be included in the fun, call Wanda at (732) 752-2624. Reservations would be appreciated.

UNICO Hosting Holiday Party for Keystone Residents

Plainfield's UNICO will be holding their Annual Holiday Party on Saturday, Dec. 11 at Sacred Heart School at 12 p.m.

Keystone residents will be served lunch by the South Plainfield Girl Scouts. Santa will come and hand out presents from the personalized wish list submitted to UNICO.

Area businesses have donated additional presents that go into individual Christmas bags which will be given to each resident.

If you are interested in donating a personalized present from the Keystone wish list, please call Frank Licato at 757-5500 by December 7.

Art Exhibit at United Family

A special art exhibit of works by residents of the Park Hotel will be displayed at United Family & Children's Society on Friday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Community Supported Project of United Family, funded by the NJ Division of Mental Health Services, will feature paintings by the residents. All are welcome for this fun event to be held at United Family at 305 West 7th St. in Plainfield. Light refreshments will be served. Call (908) 755-3636 for further information or directions.

United Family & Children's Society is a non-profit family services agency. The agency's Community Support Project provides advocacy services, art, recreation and support groups to residents of the Park Hotel, a licensed residential healthcare facility in Plainfield.

Columbiettes Upcoming Events

The South Plainfield Columbiettes are planning a trip to see the New Jersey Devils play the Washington Capitals on Friday, Jan. 14, which is baseball cap giveaway night to all fans in attendance. The cost is \$65 per person and includes the hockey game ticket, bus and driver gra-

Santa's Coming To the PAL

Santa Claus will be at the PAL Building on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. Children aged newborn to ten are invited, but must be accompanied by their parents. There will be movies, gifts and pictures with Santa. Register at the PAL by Dec. 3. Registration is \$5 per child.

tuity. Bus will leave the Knights of Columbus Hall at 6 p.m.

For information or reservations, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222. All events are open to the public.

Tourette Syndrome Support Meeting

The Tourette Syndrome Association Family Support Group of Middlesex County will meet on the following dates: Jan. 11, March 14 and May 9, 2000.

For more information, contact Debbie at 732-283-1439 or www.tsanj.org.

Senior Line Dancing At PAL Building

Seniors aged 55 and older are invited to join the fun of Line Dancing on Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. The scheduled dates are Dec. 15 and 29 and Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

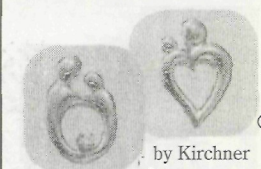
Line Dance instructors will be Sandy Smehil and Lois Desoto. The fee is \$15 for residents and \$25 for nonresidents. Social and country western dancing will be included. This class will be teaching all the great, popular lines. Sign up at the PAL Building located on Maple Ave.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at (908) 226-7714.



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The Alternative View

By Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C.



Dear Dr. DeCosta:

I have heard that children can be infected with worms and that they are especially susceptible to pinworms. Is this true? - E.D.

Dear E.D.:

The problem of parasites in children can provoke fear and embarrassment in parents. But parents should understand that children often acquire them through their interaction with other children.

According to dietician and nutritionist Ann Louise Gittleman, M.S. in her book **Guess What Came to Dinner**, pinworms are the most common of all worms in the United States and they are most prevalent in children. Transmission of pinworms occurs through contaminated food, water, and house dust as well as human-to-human contact.

Pinworm eggs are often carried by a child's fingers, (from scratching the itching anal area), to everything they touch, including the mouth. The eggs are then swallowed and hatch in the lower colon where the worms mate. The pregnant female crawls out at night and lays thousands of eggs around the rim of the anus and the cycle is repeated. Children can also easily transmit the pinworms to the entire family through the bathtub, toilet seat, and bedclothes.

Common symptoms include an itchy anal area, irritability, night wakefulness, teeth grinding, and stomachaches. These little quarter-inch mobile worms resemble threads and have been connected to a large range of neurological and behavioral symptoms. Leo Litter, M.D., a West Hartford, Connecticut pediatrician who published a study of over 2,000 cases of children with pinworms, documented seemingly unrelated symptoms that previously had not been associated with this parasitic infection. Some of the more unusual symptoms included an abnormal EEG (electroencephalogram)—sometimes resembling those in cases of brain tumors, epilepsy, hyperactivity, and vision problems.

Lendon Smith, M.D., a Portland, Oregon pediatrician, recommends that parents inspect the child's rectal area at night when the child is sleeping for evidence of this parasitic infection. Dr. Smith recommends parents perform the Scotch tape test. This test is done by patting the sticky side of the Scotch tape against the area around the child's anal opening first thing in the morning. Fold the tape together with the smooth side out and bring the tape to a physician or medical lab for testing.

Leo Litter, M.D. recommends the following procedures for an infected child:

- Bathe daily.
- Use one washcloth and towel for the face and hands, another for baths.
- Scrub hands thoroughly after bathroom use and before each meal.
- Wear close-fitting underpants at all times (including under sleeping garments).
- Do not share a bed.

An infected child's care givers should launder bed clothing and personal clothing of the infected person daily; keep toothbrushes in separate containers; scrub toilet seats daily; clean and vacuum daily; keep all rooms, especially the bedrooms well aired; and as frequently as possible, when family members are out of the home, superheat the home to 95 degrees Fahrenheit for the day.

Many effective herbs have been used by both Eastern and Western cultures to kill and expel parasites including garlic, black walnut bark, butternut root bark, goldenseal, wormwood, sage, clove, tansy, fennel, thyme, cascara sagrada, and una de gato. These are available in capsule, powder, and tincture forms at most health food stores.

Dr. Smith recommends a garlic enema. To prepare the enema, he suggests placing two cloves of garlic in a quart of boiling water. Boil the water for a few minutes, cool the liquid and place the fluid in an enema bag, then administer the enema to the child.

Questions for **The Alternative View** should be addressed to: **The Alternative View**, c/o Dr. Anthony J. DeCosta, D.C., 129 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Visit **The Alternative View** on the web at www.usalternativemedicine.com.

Winners Announced in Beautiful Baby Contest



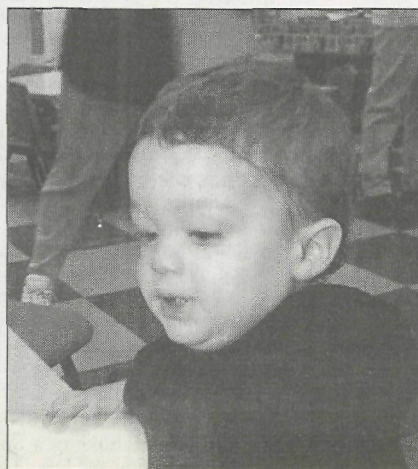
First place winner, McKenzie Larsen and her grandma, Georgeann DiGrazia.

The Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield announced the winners of their Annual Beautiful Baby Contest.

First place winner was McKenzie Ann Larsen, second place was Nikolas William McKeever and third place went to Nicholas Thomas Scalera.

There were 17 babies entered in this year's contest. Photos of the contestants were placed in two local stores and voters dropped money into the appropriate slot at the ballot box. Votes were tallied at one vote per penny.

The Junior Woman's Club raised over \$600 in this contest. Money is used to fund their many projects and scholarships.



Second place winner Nikolas William McKeever.



Third place winner Nicholas Thomas Scalera.

Suburban Woman's Club Holding Christmas Program and Activities

The G.F.W.C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will hold its annual Christmas program on Thursday, Dec. 2, at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Avenue at 2 p.m.

Guests providing musical entertainment will be the Bell Ringers of the Presbyterian Church of Metuchen.

Special guest in attendance is Mildred Leonard, the 6th District Vice President of the General Federated Woman's Clubs of New Jersey.

Following the performance, a Christmas gift exchange will take place among the club members, followed by a social hour of desserts, beverages, etc.

The Christmas program chairperson is Renee Pasacrita.

Club members are also preparing and donating money, canned goods etc., for Christmas baskets. Jeanine Kimmel, social services chairperson, will chair this annual event.

Other activities planned in the future are speakers in different fields, a joint meeting with the Junior Woman's Club of South

Plainfield, a spring theater party and various fundraisers. Monies from these fundraisers will be donated to local and state organizations, and will also fund a \$1,000 scholarship which is awarded annually to a high school graduating senior.

For further membership information, call 757-5629.

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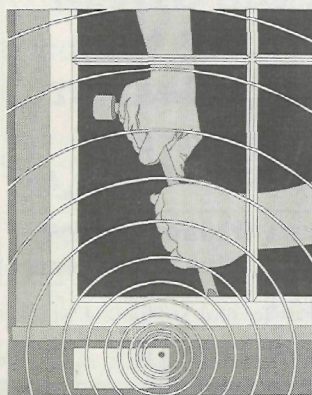
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The Wesley Ringers perform at the Thanksgiving services held last week.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services at Wesley Methodist

Several area churches held a combined Thanksgiving celebration last week at Wesley Methodist Church.

A large crowd gathered, along with choirs, musical directors and pastors to give thanks together.

Participating in the Thanksgiving services were Rev. Henry Leono from Wesley United Methodist Church, Rev. Catherine Stanley-Erikson from Pilgrim Cov-

enant Church; Pastor Dennis O'Neill, Jr. from First Baptist Church; Rev. Richard Kiesling from St. Stephen Lutheran Church; Rev. Irene Campbell from Rescue House of Prayer, Father John Skwara from Our Lady of Czestochowa.

Musical directors were Anthony Otlowski, Cathy Davidson, Liz Harrington, Thomas Baker and Jim Horvath.

Independent Cellular Celebrates First Anniversary In South Plainfield

Independent Cellular, located on South Plainfield Ave., recently celebrated its one year anniversary. The store opened last year on Nov. 13 and a lot has been accomplished in the past year.

Independent Cellular has been satisfying customers with attentive service and competitive prices. In the beginning they offered only one cellular service. Over the past 12 months the business has grown to include pagers, pager repairs and automotive accessories. They can activate a customer's pager immediately and have expanded to carry

cellular service with AT&T Wireless, Bell Atlantic Mobile, Omnipoint, MCI WORLD-COM as well as their first service, Cellularone.

Another popular item available at Independent Cellular are 911 Emergency Phones.

Independent Cellular remains a step ahead of similar businesses by striving to offer their customers more choices and better service.

Owners Ken and Sandy are active in various local fund raisers, as well as community events.

Vocal Auditions to be Held

An open call for auditions will be held for a New Jersey, all male, all acappella, vocal ensemble to fill the vocal percussionist, tenor I and low-base positions.

We are looking for males in their 20's to perform all kinds of acappella music in the "Rockapella" style and original arrangements, music writing ability a plus. Future goals include performing for pay and cre-

ating a CD of work, and acquiring a recording contract.

Auditions will be held on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in South Plainfield. Please prepare a ballad and an uptempo to be sung acappella with a starting note given and you will sight read. For more information call, T. Murray at (201) 341-1029.

What is Community Policing?

By Patricia Abbott

With the opening of the our new Community Policing Building, we thought you would like to know more about what Community Policing is all about.

Community policing is just what the name suggests, the community working with law enforcement officers to cut down on crime and to deal with the fear of crime and taking steps toward dealing with the various social problems that are inherent in any community. Community policing is not vigilantism. The goal is to work together and form a partnership. Within a community there is a limited number of officers for a large number of citizens. Citizens can help fight crime in many ways. One of the most well-known ways is Neighborhood Watch, a program that bands neighbors together as they watch out for each other, becoming eyes and ears for the local police department. Community policing seeks to stop crime before it occurs.

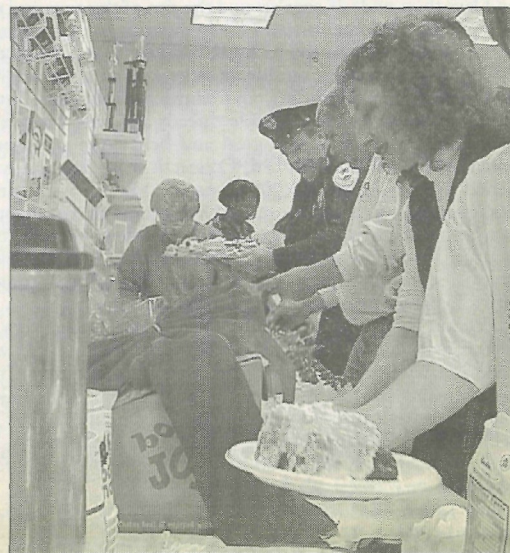
Community policing has a history dating back 160 years to Sir Robert Peel of the Metropolitan Police of London. His philosophy and famous statement explain the simple idea behind community policing. Peel said; "...the police are the public and the public are the police."

South Plainfield's Community Policing Office offers an informative *Citizen's Handbook On Community Policing*. The 30-page booklet offers information and insights into a variety of situations and answers questions about crime, it's prevention and what the private citizen can do. Beyond the explanation, some of which is offered above, the booklet details information on witnessing crimes, domestic violence, neighborhood watch, detecting and reporting suspicious activities, use of cellular phones to report crimes/emergencies, how to describe a suspect, reporting information anonymously, Operation ID, precautions against street crimes and much much more.

To obtain a copy of this handbook or other literature call the Community Policing officers Alan LaMonda or Joe Papa at 226-7716.



Tony Pelligrino stands in front of the new DARE Building, the same place he stood in the 1963 photo shown on page one of the Nov. 19 issue of the Observer.



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Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

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- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
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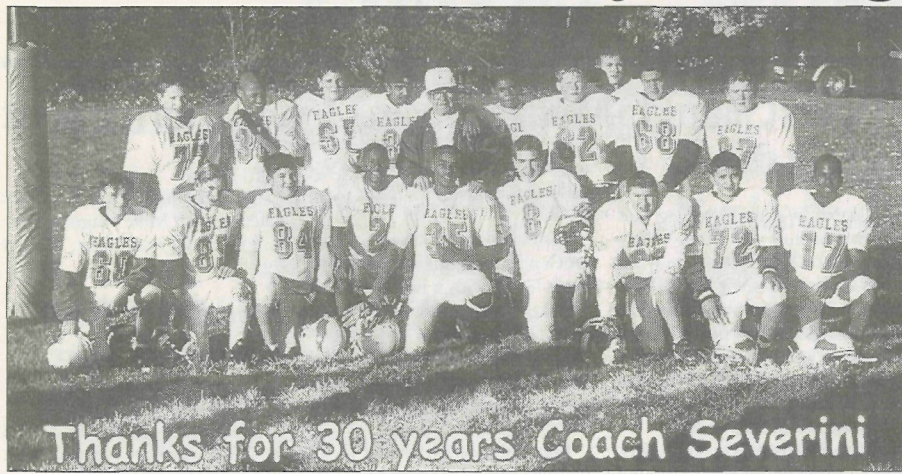
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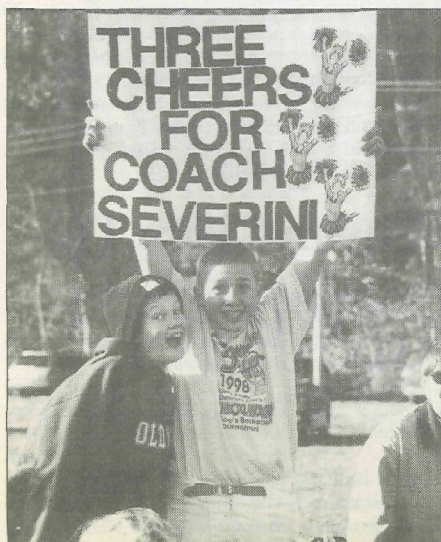
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and
Carolynn
Parisi

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Very Rev. Michael A.
McGuire, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Evening Mass 5:45 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

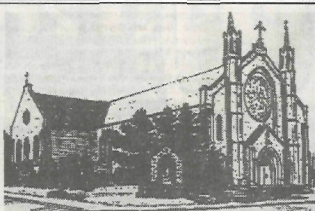
Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m.

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and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

And the time continues to fly by. We're now well into both the last month of 1999 and the last Holiday season of 1999. So, while there's time, here's some 1999 news from the South Plainfield Library:

We're back with our usual Storytime schedule next week. For those who don't read this column regularly (there must be a few of you), that means the programs take place on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Each program is for children ages three and over. Children's Librarian Linda Hansen can give you more information, should you need it. There's also a children's program coming soon. On Wednesday, Dec. 15, Kurt Gallagher will perform at a family Holiday Sing Along at 6:30 p.m. It's for children ages 2-8; we ask that you register your kids in advance for this program.

The Friends of the Library will hold their December meeting on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. In other Friends news, they're holding a charity drive and collecting hats, gloves and scarves for the less fortunate. The items will be distributed by FISH, Inc. The collection will continue until Dec. 18.

There's also another charity drive going on at the library. The library is once again collecting for Books to Keep, which gives books to disadvantaged children. You can donate books (only new books, please) or make a financial contribution. The envelopes

for monetary contributions are available at the main desk. For books, look for the drop box or give them to a staff member.

A couple of special events will coincide next week. On Dec. 11 and 12, artist in residence Sheila Eichenblatt will be at the library. She'll be here during each afternoon painting watercolors and answering questions. Several of her works will be on display throughout the month. Also on Dec. 11 we'll be hosting an all-day salute to long-time library employee Eleanor Haines. (She, of course, was also honored in September as grand marshal of the South Plainfield Labor Day Parade.) Please be sure to stop by and see them both. No registration is required.

The group of Circuit videos for December is now in place. Videos can be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. This group will be around until Dec. 27.

Finally, in response to several patron requests, we've been attempting to expand our collection of science fiction books. You'll find a number of new SF volumes in our New Book section. These include the *Dune* prequel *House Atreides* by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson, *The Road to Mars* by Monty Python veteran Eric Idle, *Darwin's Radio* by Greg Bear, *Return to Mars* by Ben Bova, and the controversial new Star Wars novel *Vector Prime* by R.A. Salvatore. New books go out for two weeks.

That's about all for this time. We'll see you with more next time. And, yes, there is still time before 2000.

Elks News...

Elks First Women Inductees Are Welcomed

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298 proudly welcomes their first two female inductees into the Order and their local Lodge. Membership in the B.P.O.E. had been limited to men until constitutional changes were made just a few years ago.

The invaluable Ladies Auxiliary of the South Plainfield Elks have been very active in their own right, and each group had maintained separate memberships. Earlier this year, the South Plainfield lodge finally received its first two female applications and on Dec. 2 they were initiated into the order.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is characteristically an American organization supporting the principals and prosperity of our country and fellow citizens through programs for everyone from America's youth to our Veterans. All are invited to visit our web pages to learn more about Elk activities everywhere: www.elks.org and www.njsca.rutgers.edu.

Memorial Services Planned

On Dec. 5, at 1 p.m., the Elks will observe their annual memorial service for deceased members. All Lodge Officers will be present in tuxedo to honor and recognize their members and all are invited to remember family and friends who were Elks. This annual service is lead by Louis DeFillipo, Past Exalted Ruler and Lodge Chaplain. This is a short service followed with refreshments.



Paul & Maryhelen Thivon

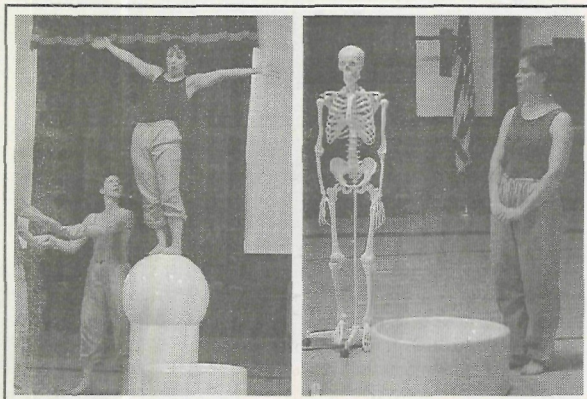
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Rhombus Dance/Multimedia Performs at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart students were treated to a dance program by Rhombus Dance/Multimedia. The unique program connects dance with science. "City Inside" dance assembly featured large sculptures representing human joints, vertebrae and red blood cells.

Four dancers and lively music let the students explore the inner workings of the human body in a 45-minute interactive show that integrates science, performing arts, health and fitness.

Rhombus Dance/Multimedia, based in Jersey City, is the resident dance company of the Liberty Science Center. The company was founded by Choreographer Christine Bodwitch in 1997. Their mission is to "collaborate with scientists, choreographers, musicians, visual artists, and students to create multi-sensory experiences through the interaction of movement, music and artistic sets."

GFWC Junior Woman's Club Sponsors Wish Tree Project

The GFWC Junior Woman's Club of South Plainfield will again sponsor a Wish Tree to benefit the residents of Woodbridge Developmental Center. The purpose of the project is to collect small gifts to add to the holiday joy of the 600 developmentally disabled residents of the center. Holiday trees will be decorated with hand-crafted ornaments that have a tag with a

list of gift suggestions attached. Individuals are invited to take an ornament and return a wrapped gift in its place. Please indicate on the package what the gift is.

Wish trees can be found at the following locations: The South Plainfield Public Library on Plainfield Ave. and Columbia Savings Bank on Oak Tree Ave. Gifts will be collected until Dec. 13.

COMING IN
DECEMBER

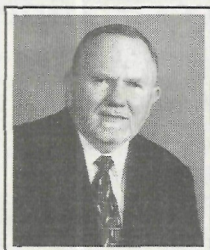
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SPORTS

Tigers Claim 13 Medals at Van Doran Tournament

By Bob Hunter

Get ready Tiger wrestling fans it's that time of year again—wrestling season. The Recreation wrestlers kicked off their 1999-2000 season at the annual Scott Van Doran Tournament held at North Hunterdon High School. South Plainfield entered 15 Recreation and Middle School wrestlers, claiming 13 medals overall.

In the Bantam Division Nick Pauls, wrestling in the 55-pound weight class, won two matches for a fourth place finish.

In the 65-pound class, Nick Valone won his first two matches before dropping his final by decision for a second place finish.

John Wylam wrestling in the 60-pound class defeated fellow

teammate Jonathan Conroy by decision for third and fourth place finishes.

In the Midget Division, Robert Gentile wrestling at 53 pounds came home with a first place trophy by winning his final by technical fall.

In the 57-pound weight class, Patrick Hunter finished fourth place, losing his consolation match by a score of 3-0.

Billy Ashnault, wrestling at 67 pounds, came up short in his final match losing a close decision for second place.

Mike Jakubik in the 72-pound class dropped a close 6-5 decision for a fourth place finish.

Mark Wagner wrestling in the 80-pound weight class won his consolation match by decision for

third place.

Also winning matches and not placing were Mike Wagner, Bantam 65 and Bryan Hunt, Midget 72.

Middle School Wrestlers Win Four Medals

South Plainfield Middle School had four wrestlers compete with all four winning medals.

Jimmy Conroy, Junior 70 pounds, and Joe Debiase, wrestling at 140 pounds both claimed a third place medal. Guy Severini, wrestling at 125 pounds finished in second place. Ryan Elliott came home with a first place medal wrestling at 215.

Dory, Hunter and Heilmann Claim Titles

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield recreation wrestlers continued to look strong in this weeks Annual Voorhee's Turkey Day Classic held at Voorhee's High School.

Over four hundred wrestlers turned out for this annual holiday wrestling tournament, with the Tigers claiming three titles and eight overall medals and six runner-ups.

Nick Heilmann claimed the first title by winning his final by a major decision 12-2, over Kyle Pysniak of Carteret in the Bantam 56-pound weight class. Heilmann won his opening round match 4-2 over J. Nazzol of Huntington and his second by beating T. Somma of Neshanic. 6-0.

Patrick Hunter, Midget 57-pound-weight class claimed the next Tiger title by defeating Mike Morales of Brick 7-2 in the finals. In the opening round Hunter pinned Jason Dietrick of West Orange at 1:27 and pinned Nick Pearsall of Warick at :27 to reach the finals.

Nick Dorey claimed the next Tiger championship in the Junior 73-pound-weight class by beating Paul Vanloan of Roselle Park 8-4. In the first round he pinned Raf Morales of Brick at 2:21 and scored a major decision 8-0 over Mike Gulla of Neshaminy.

Taking second place honors were Mark Wagner wrestling in the Midget 80-pound weight class. He defeated J. Cuevas of Belleville 7-3 and T. Whitecavage of Voorhees by fall 1:33. In the final he dropped a 7-3 decision to Jason Smith of Vineland.

Not to be out done by his big brother, Mike Wagner came through with a second place finish in the Bantam 68-pound-weight class. Wagner had a bye in the first round, defeated Scott Friedman of Bridgewater 8-0 in the semi-finals and dropped a 6-3 decision to Tim McMullen of Phillipsburg in the final.

Third place medals went to Corey Hay Bantam, 56-pounds, who won his first match by fall in just :17 and his consolation

match by decision. John Wylam Bantam 60-pounds, won his first match by a 5-0 decision and his match by fall at 2:22.

In the Midget division, Tim Gaughan, Midget 65-pounds lost his first match, but came back to win his next two for fourth place.

Runner-up ribbons went to Midgets wrestlers Nick Pauls at 51-pounds, Jonathan Conroy at 57-pounds and Nick Vallone at 60-pounds. Junior runner-up winners were Mike Jakubik at 75-pounds, Bryan Hunt at 75-pounds and Billy Daley at 100 pounds.

For all you wrestling fans that want to support our wrestlers The Observer will post Recreation, Middle School and High School Schedules.

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SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

Holiday Party

The Woman's Auxiliary holiday party will be held tonight, Friday Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Flanagan's.

2000 Membership

Membership cards for the 2000 season are available and may be purchased at the monthly meetings.

2000 Season Registration

Registration for the 2000 season will be held in January. Registration will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 and Friday, Jan. 14 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15. Registration fees are \$55 for one player, \$85 for two players and \$105 for three or more players (all per family). Registration is open to all South Plainfield residents ages 8 through 16. New players must turn eight years old before Aug. 1, 2000 and must present a copy of a birth certificate.

Late registration fees are \$60 per player with no discounts.

Monthly Meetings

The Men's meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Starting in January, 2000, the Woman's meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Parents are encouraged to get involved with one of the many club committees. Any parent interested in being a team manager, coach or umpire can sign up at registration or at the regular monthly meeting.

Woman's Auxiliary

The next Woman's Auxiliary meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The meeting has been moved to the second Wednesday of the month due to conflicts with other group meetings.

Contact the SPJBC ... clubhouse (908) 754-2090 ... email SPJBC99@aol.com ... Web Site members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html

Events at a Glance

Woman's Holiday Party — Tonight—Friday, Dec 3 at 6:30 at Flanagan's.

Men's Monthly Meeting — Monday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 at the clubhouse.

Registration — January, 13, 14 and 15 at the club house.

Tryouts — Saturday, March 4 at the PAL Building.

Opening Day — Saturday, April 15.

Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tournament Dec. 7, 9 and 10

The South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness and Twin City Pharmacy are sponsoring the Eighth Holiday Basketball Tournament for middle school seventh- and eighth-grade students. Preliminaries will be held on Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 7 and 9 and the finals on Friday, Dec. 10. The purpose of the tournament is to increase the awareness of student/athletes to the dangers of substance abuse. Each player, coach and manager in the tournament will receive a packet of substance abuse literature and a T-shirt with an anti-drug message. Tom Baker, high school SAC counselor, will develop a seminar for all athletes regarding the dangers of smoking, substance abuse and the use of steroids. William Beegle, SPASA Chairperson indicates, "We want student/athletes to understand that the use of dangerous controlled substances can hinder their athletic and academic performance. Their participation in this tournament will heighten their awareness to the dangers of substance abuse."

The tournament will consist of four teams, both boys and girls, from South Plainfield, Sacred Heart, Dunellen and East Brunswick. Tuesday, Dec. 7, the East Brunswick girls will play the Dunellen girls at 4 p.m. and Sacred Heart girls will play South Plainfield girls at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, the Sacred Heart boys will play the South Plainfield boys at 4 p.m. and the East Brunswick boys will play the Dunellen boys at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10, finals will be played, comprising the winners of the previous four contests. Girls finals will start at 4 p.m. and boys at 5:30 p.m. All games for the tournament will be played in the Middle School gymnasium.

Beegle says that the SPASA executive board is very excited about this tournament and it's purpose of substance awareness. Executive board members will be donating their time and efforts to make this an effective tournament for substance awareness.

He also indicated that the several sponsors for the tournament have been very generous and gracious in donating their time and resources for the success of the tournament. Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy, Joe Romer, owner of Joe Romer

Trophies of Woodbridge, and Michael Buggy, South Plainfield Athletic Director have been very cooperative in providing some of the financial resources and personal time for the tournament. T.C. Screen Printers of Plainfield will assist with the shirts. Without their support, we could not have made the program possible.

Additionally, the Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Middle School Basketball Tournament is a fund raising activity for SPASA to fulfill grant proposals and provide substance awareness information for the South Plainfield schools and community.

Those individuals seeking more information can contact Mr. Beegle at the Middle School at (908) 754-4620, extension 310.

"13" Year Old Fall Ball Team Plays for Championship

The "13" year old South Plainfield Fall Ball Team made it to the Final Championship Game in the Edison Boy's Fall Baseball League, but lost a heartbreaker, 4-3, to the Edison Boy's Team.

Danny Piowar lined a double to right center with two out in the fifth inning, scoring both Tommy Kiczula, who had singled and Mike Richard who had walked, giving South Plainfield a 3-2 lead. However Edison scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth to win it.

John Kukuch and Nick Panzarella put in strong pitching performances. The strong

defensive efforts of Michael Benak and Andrew Miller kept the game close.

The team started the season slowly with a 1-3 record after four games. But behind strong pitching from A.J. Mazurak (who also had a red hot bat) and Mike Benak, and with some big clutch hits from Chris McKinght, Matt Boley, and Chris Bojorski, the team came on strong the rest of the season and made it to the Championship Game. The team was coached by Tom Kiczula, Frank Benak, Al Mazurak and Don Panzarella.

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Obituaries

John M. Najim, Sr., 71

John M. Najim, Sr. of Alexandria, Va. died on Monday, Nov. 22, at the Anova Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, Va.

He was born in North Plainfield and was a former resident of South Plainfield before moving to Alexandria 25 years ago.

Mr. Najim was the Director of Inventory, United States Government War Supplies in Washington, D.C. and Fort Belvoir in Virginia for 37 years before retiring in 1983.

He was a avid hunter and fishermen and traveled the United States hunting and fishing. He belonged to several hunting and fishing clubs in Virginia.

He is survived by a son, John Najim Jr. of South Plainfield; two daughters, April Smith of South Plainfield and Sharon Silva of Freehold; his mother, Mary Najim; a brother and sister Fred and Elizabeth Najim, all of Las Vegas, Nevada; five grandchildren and one great-grandson.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to American Diabetes Association, Vantage Court North, 200 Cottontail Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Mary "Marie" R. (Mazza) Kowalski, 83

Mary "Marie" R. (Mazza) Kowalski died on Saturday, Nov. 20, at Cedar Oaks Care Center in

South Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Kowalski had resided in South Plainfield for the past 49 years.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband, Emil S. Kowalski, died in 1990.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Leon A. and Diane Kowalski of South Plainfield; a sister, Theresa Paley of Sacramento, California; two brothers, Dominick Mazza of Rahway and Pat Mazza of Linden. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Leon, Anthony and Lorie Kowalski and two great grandchildren, Alexandra and Isabella Kowalski.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Mary E. (McGinn) McConville Collora, 81

Mary E. (McGinn) McConville Collora died on Saturday, Nov. 20 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mrs. McConville was born in Newark and lived in Irvington before settling in Plainfield from 1955-1986. She relocated to Lakewood, where she lived until 1993, when she entered Meridian Nursing Home in Plainfield.

She was employed by C. R. Brad Hospital Supply Co. of New Providence as an assembler for 10 years before retiring in 1976.

She was a member of the Commodore John Barry Knights of Columbus Council #2544 Ladies Auxiliary of Dunellen and a former communicant of St. Bernards Church in Plainfield.

Her first husband, Joseph McConville, died in 1974 and her second husband, Nicholas Collora and her sister, Helen McGinn, are also predeceased.

Surviving is a daughter, Patricia A. O'Brien of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; two sons, Joseph W. McConville of South Plainfield and James P. McConville of Colombia, Tenn.; three sisters, Ann McDonauld of New Providence, Margaret Peterson of Commerce City, Colo. and Virginia Sylvanovich of Lakewood, NJ. She is also survived by nine grandchildren and one great grandson.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the charity of ones choice.

Alphonse J. A. Pisaniello, 78

Alphonse J. A. Pisaniello died suddenly on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Robert Wood Johnson University

Hospital in New Brunswick.

He was born in Bronx, New York and had resided in South Plainfield for the last 75 years.

Mr. Pisaniello was a manager for the motor pool for the U.S. Army at Camp Kilmer in Edison for 30 years until 1962. He then worked at the former David Smith Steel in South Plainfield for 23 years, before retiring in 1985.

Mr. Pisaniello was a veteran of WW II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a combat medic. He received the Purple Heart when an enemy bomb destroyed the field hospital which he was stationed in Belgium. He landed on Utah Beach, fought in the Battle of the Bulge and then marched on to Berlin during the occupation of Berlin. He was involved in three major U.S. Campaigns: Central Europe, Northern France and the Rhineland Campaigns.

He was a 51-year member of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 and a former member of the V.E.W. Memorial Post 6763 both in South Plainfield.

He was a member of the Antique Car Club of America and was active in the restoration of antique cars. In his earlier years he was an avid bowler and played softball in various leagues throughout the area.

He was predeceased by his brother, Joseph, who died in 1984.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Carmella (Connie) Del Negro Pisaniello; a son, Anthony Pisaniello and a daughter, Donna Pisaniello, both of South Plainfield.

Private funeral services were arranged by James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Eva (Zorn) Phin, 97

Eva (Zorn) Phin, died on Friday, Nov. 19, at John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Edison.

Born in Bamberg, SC, Mrs. Phin had moved to New York City in 1936, before settling in South Plainfield in 1970.

She was employed as the head housekeeper for the Riverside Church in New York City from 1936 until her retirement in 1963.

Mrs. Phin was a member of the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Raymond Phin, who died in 1935.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary E. Weishaar of South Plainfield and Miriam N. Walsh of Daly City, Calif.; a sister, Grace Hardy of Denmark, SC and a brother, Urban Lee Zorn of Denmark, SC. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Charles Walsh and Maureen Agnew and two great grandchildren, Michelle and Nicole Agnew.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

By Cyrus n Moon

Weekly Horoscope 12/3-12/9

SAGITTARIUS 11/23-12/21 Your ambition is high this week. You may want power and you can succeed, if you do so with integrity. If you don't, resistance, conflicts, or power struggles can surface. You also will need to face up to needed change, so take charge of rejuvenation efforts.

CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19 You may be a little stressed this week. This stress can come in the form of having an argument with your mother. Take the initiative to resolve any difficulties with her. This is also a time when you make changes in the structure of your domestic role, or in your home.

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 This is a time when you may be propelled by an urge to get to the bottom of motivations and to understand the reason for your ego drives. At this time also circumstances may provoke you to resent others who are manipulative or who have more power. Ride this out your time is coming soon.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 Around Thursday do not sign any contracts or go into negotiations. Put them off if you can when you have a more calm approach to think things out. Take a day off from work if you can or at least plan something relaxing when you get home. Intuition is stimulated and insight can be gained.

ARIES 3/21-4/19 Go get em Aries! Intense energy in the present circumstances represents a chance to gain a more powerful position. Your efforts may lead, for instance, to increased physical strength, more control over your actions, and greater resourcefulness. Investments are looking good.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 This week your feelings of love and affection are likely to be strong and you'll want to express them to your loved one. Be amorous,

be nurturing, be protective—but do not be possessive or smothering! Also if you are single you can meet someone new. **GEMINI 5/21-6/20** Be aware! Your rational and logical mind will be strongly influenced by your moods, which can be either positive or negative. So this week will not be the best time to make an important decision. But it is a good time to gather information on a decision you are making.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 This is a good time to get out and socialize. Or an excellent time to dine with others, especially if you entertain them in your home with a wonderful meal. If you ever wanted to take a chance on something, now is a good time! You can also improve a troubled relationship.

LEO 7/23-8/22 Can you take a compliment? Others will find you attractive and will openly express their admiration or affection. Your superiors are impressed and favorably disposed to recognize your talent, which puts you in a position to ask them for favors or a promotion.

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 You will be emotionally influenced in some way by information, opinions and ideas that will come to you. A possibility of communication with out-of-town relatives or visits could happen. Also, circumstances may present the chance to buy or sell a home.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 This is not the best time to make agreements or get involved socially, romantically or legally. You will be vulnerable to false flattery. And although there may be rejection of social or romantic overtures, the rejection may be a lucky stroke for you.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 There are opportunities to bring about more satisfactory family relationships, a change for the better in your domestic environment, improvement in a family business, and a chance to sell or restore homes and domestic items.

QUOTE:

Paint me a picture of your love, I will write a novel of my dedication.

Donations Sought for Hurricane Floyd Pet Victims

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is accepting donations of pet food and pet supplies to help those pets left homeless as a result of Hurricane Floyd. Please bring donations to drop off box at the animal hospital, 2201 Park Ave. from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

The food and supplies will be distributed to Lorraine Zdeb, owner of "Love Your Pet" pet sitters in Millstone, who has generously used her property as a temporary shelter for these animals.

For more information, call the Plainfield Animal Hospital at (908) 755-2429, or log on to www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com.

Copy deadline for the *Observer* is Monday, 5 p.m. for the following Friday's publication.

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Because We Care

by Robert Hunter

A PRESCRIPTION FOR YOUTH

Said Albert Einstein: "O Youth: Do you know that yours is not the first generation to yearn for a life of beauty and freedom? Do you know that all your ancestors felt as you do - and fell victim to the trouble and hatred? Do you know, also, that all your fervent wishes can only find fulfillment if you succeed in attaining love and understanding of men, and animals, and plants, and stars, so that every joy becomes your joy and every pain becomes your pain? Open your eyes, your heart, your hands, and avoid the poison your forebears so greedily sucked in from History. Then will all the earth be your fatherland, and all your work and effort spread forth blessings."

Meeting life with the joy and openness of child isn't easy when one has experienced the pain and disappointment that life dispenses to all who have reached maturity. Yet, distrust blinds us to the consolation of beauty around us, and cuts us off from those who would be friends. The staff at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield, work hard to perpetuate our long history of caring and courteous service to the community. To learn more about our wide range of affordable end-of-life services, please call 756-2800.

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POLICE REPORT

• The owner of Bravo Supermarket, Clinton Ave. reported receiving harassing phone calls several times a day over a period of days. The owner activated call trace and as well as the service that gives you the phone number the call came from. The unknown suspect began to curse as soon as the phone is answered. Bell Atlantic has been notified and the owner stated he will sign a complaint once the suspect is identified.

• A South Plainfield Ave. resident reported a harassing phone call in which the suspect called her by name and told her he would be at her home on Friday to monitor her phone.

• Stacey Ruchak of Parlin reported her cell phone was stolen while she had dinner at Red Lobster, Hadley Rd. The cell phone was in her purse, which had been left in the coat room.

• The fire department responded to a report of a house fire on Bullard Place. The fire was extinguished and while ventilating the house, Fire Fighter La Ferriere saw what he believed to be narcotics paraphernalia. Police were notified and additional drug related items found in the house were confiscated.

• A North Brunswick resident reported someone had applied and received instant credit at home depot using the victim's name. The discovery was made when a bill for \$3,017.9 was received at his home. He contacted Home Depot Fraud Investigation and they will look into the matter. Home Depot stated that a driver's license or birth certificate are the only documents needed to apply for credit. DMV was contacted and said no duplicate license had been issued.

• A Hillside Ave. resident reported an assault by a Wooden Ave. resident. The victim called police to complain about a woman

walking a dog on his property. Police responded and asked the woman, also a resident of Hillside Ave., not to walk the dog on the victim's property. Minutes later the Wooden Ave. resident knocked on the victim's door and exchanged words. The victim asked the suspect to leave the property. The suspect then threw the victim off the porch. The police were notified. The suspect claims the victim hit him in the face.

• A So. 9th Street resident reported receiving threatening phone calls from an ex-girlfriend's brother. While police were at the scene getting information the suspect called twice. Several hours later the victim called and reported the suspect had just pulled into his driveway, then pulled out. A search for the vehicle was negative.

• Tumi, Inc. reported the theft of three laptop computers, a 35mm camera and a passport from third floor offices that had limited access. The doors were kept locked. Employees reported seeing two well dressed men in the building but assumed they were with the maintenance company discussing contracted work.

• Police responded to a commercial burglary alarm at BP Gas Station, Stelton Rd. The front glass door had been smashed and the lottery tickets, cash and cigarettes were removed. Exit was made via a storeroom door. The security cameras taped the suspect. A similar incident was reported in Piscataway a short distance from the gas station.

• An employee of Pathmark was observed using another employee's PIN# to log on to the cash register. After waiting on several customers, the suspect took the money. The suspect gave a hand written letter explaining what he did and how he did it.

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From Points South: Take Route 287 North to Exit 4 (Durham Ave, South Plainfield). At the end of exit ramp, turn right onto Durham Ave. At second light, turn right onto Hamilton Blvd. Turn left onto Montrose Ave. Make third right onto Kennedy Rd. to Woodland Manor straight ahead.

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Roosevelt School Youngsters Enjoy Annual Thanksgiving Feast



By Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt School's gym was recently transformed into a festive Thanksgiving feast for 159 first and second graders. First and second grade teachers Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Gwiazda, Mrs. Lepri, Mrs. Weller, Mrs. Madden, Mrs. Muglia and Mrs. Wilson, along with PTA and parent volunteers organized the food and

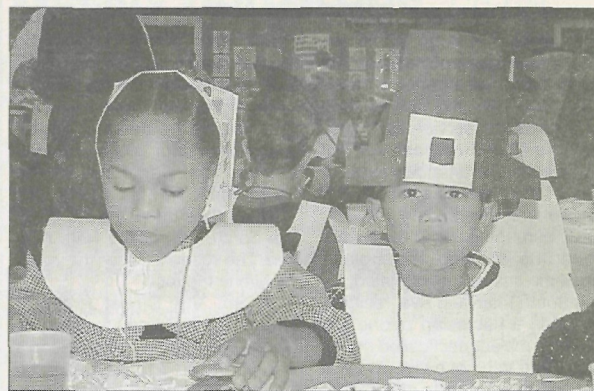
decorations. Mr. Nathaniel Seabrook set up the tables and performance area.

The children chose their own roles, that of a pilgrim or an Indian. They wore Indian head-dresses and beads, or pilgrim hats and collars. The students worked with art teacher Mrs. Posey on some of the details of their costumes. Others were prepared in the classroom with their teachers.

Cooking lessons took place in the classroom as the children learned to make corn bread, cranberry sauce and popcorn. First grade students made cookies in class and at home.

Principal Mario Barbieri donned an apron and tried his hand at carving a turkey.

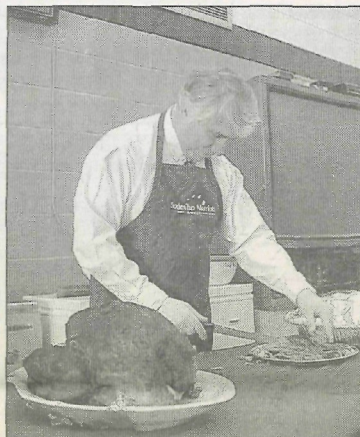
Parents lined the walls armed with cameras of all shapes and sizes. The feast started with songs about our America, Indians and, of course, turkeys. The youngsters began learning the songs with music teacher Sharon Perez in early October. First graders began the celebration with the song *America*, and signed the words as they sang. Other songs included *Thank You, One Little Indian* and *Five Fat Turkeys*. Second graders sang *America the Beautiful*, again using American Sign Language. Additional songs were *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *A Turkey Knocked at my Back Door* and a poem entitled *A Turkey*



Named Bert. The classes joined together to sing the school song, *We Are Roosevelt's Children*.

When the vocal section of the program came to a close the children were eager to get to their favorite part, the food. The excited pilgrims and Indians sat together laughing and talking as they prepared for the feast. The youngsters gobbled down plates filled with turkey, cornbread,

cranberry sauce, juice and popcorn. Volunteers dashed between tables refilling plates with turkey. One young pilgrim was overheard saying, "Hey, I didn't know they had popcorn back then!" This delightful annual tradition has been teaching first and second grade Roosevelt students about Thanksgiving for nearly 20 years.



In My Opinion

Continued from page 2

an inexperienced engineer, right out of college, holding a four-year bachelor degree. My wife, after seven years of work, has finally reached the *starting* salary level of many other professions. That same engineer, after ten years, will earn close to twice that amount. Think about it, would you rather get an additional few weeks off without pay or work those few weeks and earn close to twice her salary? I haven't even mentioned bonuses, which can be as high as 15 to 20% of base salaries, or matching 401K savings plans, where the employer matches a percentage of employee contributions. Perks and benefits in other professional fields get better with seniority. Teachers, however, receive none of these options. In fact, the more senior the teacher, the greater the financial penalty when compared to other professional fields. People who choose teaching as a career know this going in. They obviously chose teaching for more than the money. However, this does not mean that they should not expect to receive a fair salary for what they do.

My wife loves to teach. She devotes herself to her students as if they were her own kids. There are many parents in town whose kids have been taught by my wife. They know her for the teacher she is. Lately I've had

to watch her become demoralized by the constant belittling and personal attacks on teachers. I can almost understand how some parents might be unaware of the true demands of a teacher's job. They may really think that a teacher simply works within classroom hours. What surprises me, however, is how some elected Board members, who should know better, continue to fan the fires of misconception regarding the true work and value of a teacher.

A teacher spends hours, and I mean hours, behind the scenes preparing lesson plans, working out creative teaching activities, grading papers, creating tests. It is common for my wife to work a couple of hours at home every evening and every weekend so that her class time can be both productive and exciting for "her kids". Her efforts are not the exception, all teachers put in hours of work behind the scenes.

I've recently read a front-page newspaper article about parents becoming upset over the teachers' recent job actions of wearing SPEA shirts and working "to the contract". I've never read any front-page articles acknowledging all the extras our district teachers have routinely provided. I guess no one really notices or appreciates the multitude of extras and special touches quietly given until they are missing. The people concerned about their

children being used as pawns need a dose of reality. That extra attention you've come to expect and now miss was never part of the teacher's "job."

Have you ever noticed your child's returned papers decorated with colorful or scented stickers? Have you ever noticed the classroom decorations? Have you ever wondered who provided extras such as the colored rocks, sand, buckets and strainers when your child panned for gold during lessons on the gold rush? Have you thought about who provides the ingredients for activities such as butter churning, grinding corn, etc. which make lessons come alive? These little touches come directly out of the teacher's pocket and are

planned for on the teacher's personal time. What about the extra academic help, the letters of reference for college and employment, the telephone calls, the after-hours conferences to accommodate working parents, the remedial worksheets, and the attendance at school functions and clubs? All the above, and more, are provided by teachers because they care, not because they are paid to provide it.

The fact is there are many talented and caring teachers in our school system. I know this from the perspective of not only a teacher's spouse, but also from the perspective of a parent of two children who have been in this system since kindergarten. My

kids have received an excellent educational foundation and continue to receive quality instruction from teachers in this district. It takes a special type of person to be a teacher.

As the holiday season approaches I can only hope that those few Scrooge-like people, who always seem bent on attacking teachers, will receive spiritual visitations of their own. Perhaps like Ebenezer, they will finally understand and appreciate the value of what they already have. Your maliciousness not only hurts teachers, but also like Scrooge, your venom actually poisons yourself as well.

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