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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 3, NO. 23

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2000



Roosevelt School D.A.R.E. winners are: from Mrs. Allen's class—Joseph Turrisse, essay and Phuong Le, poster. From Mrs. Decker-Frederickson's class—Ashleyanne Chosney, essay and Michelle Butrico, poster. From Mrs. Martin's class—Jessica Ruiz, essay and Thomas McCullen, poster. From Mrs. McGrath's Class—Arti Patel, essay and Dale McCook, poster. Also pictured are Councilwoman Darlene Pinto and Police Chief Steven Merkle.



Sacred Heart School D/A.R.E. winners are: from Mrs. Natalie Temple's class—Amanda Jenkins essay and Danial Schiavo, poster. From Miss Billingslea's class—Shannon Smith essay and Dennis Cerami, poster.

Robin Stayvas Named SPHS's DAR Good Citizen

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department recently had the opportunity to choose a student to take part in the (National Society) Daughters of the American Revolution or DAR Good Citizen and Scholarship Program. The offer to participate was extended by the Continental Chapter of the DAR. The program, which is open to all senior class students, is "intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship." The student must display the qualities of a good citizen: dependability (which includes truthfulness, loyalty and punctuality), service (which included cooperation, courtesy and consideration of others), leadership (which includes personality, self-control and ability to assume responsibility) and patriotism (unselfish interest in family, school, community and nation) to an outstanding degree.

Senior Robin Stayvas received the honor of being named SPHS's DAR Good Citizen. Robin said she was with her guidance counselor discussing college applications when they told her she had been named the SPHS DAR Good Citizen. She



Robin Stayvas, SPHS DAR Good Citizen

had not heard of the program before and was excited. Next came the scholarship portion of the program which consists of two parts. Robin had to write a series of short essays that dealt with her school activities including offices she held, awards, any athletic participation and describe her efforts to serve her community. She described her future plans, educational and career goals, extra-curricular activities, hobbies and summer or after school jobs. She wrote about the four qualities of a Good Citizen and how they fit

in her life.

The second part was more difficult. She was required to write a 500 word essay, the title of which was not announced until the actual time of writing. The topic, "Our American Heritage and our Responsibility to Preserve It," was not difficult for Robin because history is her favorite subject. In fact, the topic fit in quite nicely with her future plans. Robin aspires to teach history at the high school level.

The essay had to be written in the presence of a faculty member within a two-hour time limit. It had to be hand-written without resource materials. Neatness, legibility, originality and historical accuracy were included in the judging. Robin noted that she finished the essay in about an hour and a half. If she places at the state level, Robin will continue on to the national level. There will be an awards dinner held at Rutgers University in March that will determine what student will place at that level.

Robin has not chosen a college yet, but she does know that she wants to teach history. Her essay on American Heritage shows she is off to a great start.

Robin's DAR essay appears on page 12.

Tiger Wrestlers Three-Peat in Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament

By Bobby Hunter

The South Plainfield Wrestling Team won its third consecutive Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament title in dramatic fashion by setting the stage early, placing 11 wrestlers into the final medal round.

It was no different in the finals, where the Tigers claimed seven of eight titles and three third place

medals in the consolation round. The Tigers, who led the field with a total of 253 points, easily outdistanced second place South Brunswick (158) by 95 points. Old Bridge was just edged out of second place with 155 points.

The Tigers won seven of eight finals with some matches coming down to the wire. "There were some great matches in the finals and it seemed as if we were involved in all of them," noted Tiger Head Coach Bill Pavlak. "The kids have been working really hard and they were ready for the challenge."

The Tigers started out by winning three straight titles and closed the show by winning three of the last four matches.

Matt Anderson (103) won his second straight title winning by a 8-2 decision over Justin Smigelsky of Old Bridge.

Rich Gebauer (112) avenged an earlier loss to Kyle Poulsen of Piscataway and claimed his title in a 5-1 decision.

Roberto Ramos (119) wrestling in a thriller, claimed his title

in double overtime by criteria 2-1, riding out Jad Duca of South Brunswick.

Senior Dave Stoeckel (125) avenged his earlier loss to Kyle Nasdeo of South Brunswick by a 5-3 decision to claim his second straight county title.

Chris Francis (171) earned the sweetest revenge of all when he faced long-time nemesis Tom Corio of East Brunswick. Corio had beaten Francis twice this season as well as in last year's county finals. He held Corio to no takedowns, while scoring three of his own for a 7-2 decision and his first county championship. Francis was also named Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament in the upper weights.

Danny Kunst (189) faced Danny DeJesus of Perth Amboy, and after regulation with the score tied at 1-1 DeJesus scored the takedown for an overtime win.

John Foscolo (215) produced the wildest final in a long time. With the score tied 4-4 at the end of regulation, Foscolo ran back to the center of the mat waiting



Tiger wrestlers celebrate after claiming the Middlesex County title.

for overtime to begin, while his opponent Marcos Eusebio of Perth Amboy laid face down on the mat and was penalized for delaying the match. "He was out of gas," Foscolo said, "I knew I would get him if he got up."

Colon Hunter (Hwt) claimed his third consecutive county title winning a 3-2 decision over Bryan Gerity of Old Bridge. "After

I took him down, I knew the match was mine," explained Hunter. "I got a little excited and let him up with five seconds left. It was nice to win for the third time, but it was especially nice for the team to win three in a row," he added. Dave Butrico (125) Matt Gatti (145) and David Fiore (152) all won consolation matches for third place.

Calling All Republican Candidates

The South Plainfield Republican Organization is currently seeking candidates for the upcoming primary election in June. The candidates will represent the party in November's general election. Anyone who is interested is asked to call Municipal Chairwoman Linda Dashuta at 756-6519. Screening for candidates will be held in March.

In My Opinion

Letters

To the Editor,

Why should we vote for the referendum, and why doesn't the Board of Education split it into two questions? Those are questions that are being asked around South Plainfield, and this is how I answer them.

Our schools are already overcrowded. With the building of new housing units, mainly on the south side of town, a massive amount of students is aimed straight at our school buildings. On the north side of town, the natural turnover of homes to younger families has already created overcrowded classrooms in Franklin, Kennedy and Riley schools. The Middle School has gym classes of 169 students in mixed grades, and overcrowded classrooms for grades 6, 7 and 8. It is probable that larger numbers of students will enter sixth grade than are leaving eighth grade in September. There is a bubble moving through our grade levels that will make this crowding even worse in the near future, even without the influx of NEW students. This "bubble" will continue

into the high school and cause overcrowded conditions there.

Every school's electrical capacity must be updated to provide students the opportunity to use today's technology. The schools must be wired to enable the children to use the computers they have and the computers they will get in the future. The elementary schools no longer have art or music rooms. There are no spaces for individual instruction or conferences with Special Services.

A new building for the Roosevelt area is imperative. This is the oldest, smallest, least handicapped accessible building we have. With the huge amount of new housing stock going up we must provide for the accompanying student population that follows. No one can imagine that four and five bedroom homes will not generate students, or that every apartment or townhouse will have only adults in it. Even with the conservative calculations done in the demographics report, we are talking 851 new bodies! Within the next year we will be slammed big time. Roosevelt School already is receiving

at least one new student a day! Total that up until the end of the year and you can see the kind of problem our schools face. That does not take into consideration the number of new students entering the middle and high schools.

The original boilers in the Middle School must be replaced. They are past the time they can be repaired in a cost effective manner. They are inefficient and expensive to run. There is no way to balance the heat produced and the children suffer from over heated or under heated classrooms.

The track has more than outlived its projected life. The Board of Education has kept it repaired and patched as well they could, but the time has come to replace it.

Given the December referendum defeat, the sense of urgency is now even greater. The public has asked the Board to move the administrators out of the Grant School so it could be converted back into an elementary school. That is exactly what the Board is planning in the new referendum. Instead of paying rent for administrative offices, the Board has plans to erect an administrative building at a net cost slightly higher than the original referendum instead of paying rent. That permits earlier use of the Grant School for a portion of the additional students who will occupy classroom space as early as the next school year. The old Roosevelt School can then be used as an overflow facility and for other ancillary programs.

As to the question: "Why can't they split the referendum into two questions, one for the new school and one for everything else?" Who has to wait? If the new school question wins and the rest goes down, we will have unequal education for the elementary schools on the north side of town. If the new school loses and the other question wins, we have unequal education on the south side of town. If they both go down again we have overcrowded conditions, followed by split sessions in every elementary school, inadequate wiring in all the buildings, a track that can't be repaired much longer and a heating plant ready to die in the Middle School.

Some people say, why don't they wait until the kids get here. Well, some of them are already here and

more are coming every day. It takes between two and three years to put up a new school. Not because of construction, but because of the process the state forces you to use. Why is the proposed new 600 student school 81,500 square feet? Because the state mandates how many square feet per child and this number includes hallways, bathrooms, offices, cafeteria, gym and media center.

The longer we don't build the more expensive it is going to be. Interest rates go up, building materials go up, labor goes up. For the cost of two pizzas a month we have what we will need for our children, now and in the future. The referendum is a comprehensive response to explosive enrollment growth. It's not a south side problem. Rather, it affects all of South Plainfield. I urge all citizens to support the referendum on March 14.

CAROL BYRNE

Dear Editor,

Two weeks ago I read about the Board of Education's new plans, about calling parents and asking them to come out and vote for the new budget. It was previously defeated for 25 million dollars. They have the nerve to add on 89K more! In these new 385 apartments coming into town, board members expect 4.3 more students per household. If these apartments are mostly going to be two-bedroom apartments, how are they going to fit 4.3 students in them? Another smoke screen by the money-wasting Board of Education to rape them and the town out of more money.

I contacted the U.S. Census Bureau, and have been waiting for an answer from them for two weeks. The most children families are having is 1.3, so we do not need this extra room and we do not need another administrative building!

Has a company ever been brought in to give a cost estimate for bringing Roosevelt School up to code? It is good for an administrative building, as they ruined Cedarcroft School and sold Grant School! This Board of Education has been a thorn in this town's side forever! The tax base is low but you have to pay these teachers and clerks this high salary. That is what launches our taxes up. It started as a \$136, increase

in December; now we are up over \$200! So, when you make your calls to the homes of the parents, tell them we are going to raise your taxes but most of us don't care as we live out of South Plainfield, and come here to earn the bucks and leave and live in a cheaper area.

This Board of Education is worse than the Newark Educational System that was taken over by the State of New Jersey. As you had people collecting pay for not even being there, I wonder how many of those slots we have? Also, are they going to call the senior citizens and people who have no children in the school system? Or the parents of children that go to private schools? I just want to know what happens to any surplus money? I voted NO once and I will again, and hope the good people in South Plainfield have the sense to again defeat this nonsense! I want to see how much it will cost to upgrade Roosevelt School to be brought up to code? I also hope they contact the U.S. Census Bureau for an update on how many children families are having!

TONY PISANIELLO

To the Mayor & Council,

I am a homeowner living on the dead end portion of Morris Avenue. The topcoat on Morris Avenue has never been completed and there have been houses on this street for about 15 years. The manhole covers stick up a few inches, there are dangerous lips at the end of all driveways, and sink holes by sewers. The incident of someone getting injured on these infections could be very costly to the town. While building my house I followed all codes and regulations and expect the town in return to finish the road. I had a conversation with Mayor Gallagher in June of 1999 and he agreed with me but yet nothing was done.

Next concern would be snow plowing. Why doesn't the town plow the dead end portion of Morris Avenue where our houses reside? They seem to plow the part of Morris Avenue by Riley School and then make the turn onto Chambers leaving mounds of snow at the entrance. Being a taxpayer, I feel our road should be treated like any other road in town.

THANK YOU
CHERYL O'BRIEN

Mark Your Calendars -- Feb., March

BOROUGH MEETING DATES

Council Meetings

AGENDA MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 22 Thursday, February 24
Monday, March 6 Thursday, March 9
an Heritage 20 Thursday, March 23

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Planning Board

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month, as follows:

February 22 (No Meeting), March 14, March 28,

Zoning Board of Adjustment

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

February 15, February 29, March 7, March 21

Site Place Sub-Committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

February 24, March 23, April 27,

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

South Plainfield
Observer

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NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor
WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher
SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor
PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer
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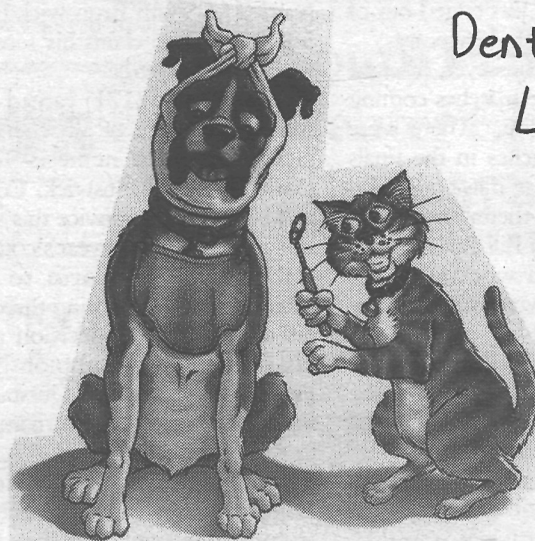
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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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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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.

Dental Care Shouldn't Be
Like Pulling Teeth

Unfortunately, for most pets, it is. As a result, oral disease is the most frequently diagnosed health problem affecting adult dogs and cats.

Periodontal disease can be prevented. The American Veterinary Dental Society recommends three very important steps:

1. See your veterinarian for a dental exam
2. Start a dental care routine at home for your pet
3. Get regular veterinary checkups to ensure proper oral health

Follow these guidelines for proper dental care and you're well on your way to keeping your pet happy and healthy for a lifetime!

Schedule a professional dental checkup with your veterinarian today!

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Monday marks Valentine's Day, a time that inspires thoughts of flowers, romantic music and hearts a-flutter. But, for a moment, let's turn our thoughts to the South Plainfield Library:

Today, tomorrow and Sunday the library will be closed in observance of Lincoln's Birthday. We'll reopen on Monday.

Our regular Storytime schedule is set for next week. The programs, all for children ages three and over, will be held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. There's also this month's Kidcraft program. It's slated for Friday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. It's for children ages six and over. Space for this program is limited, so please sign your kids up in advance. If you'd like more information, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

And there's still more word about upcoming programs. The basic instructional class for the Internet has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. If you signed up for the original class, please let us know if you're available for the new date. (And, if you can't make this class but are still interested, let us know. We may be holding another class in the future; we'll keep you posted on how it pans out.) Next, on Friday, the 25, the same day as the Kidcraft program, we've got a meeting for Home Schoolers at 10:30 a.m. in our Children's Room. The meeting is an informal gathering of those parents who home school their children, and those

who are considering it. No registration is needed. Finally, on Sunday, Feb. 27, we'll host a Black History program at 2 p.m. The program will focus on the Underground Railroad. It'll include a slide presentation and a Q&A session. No registration is necessary.

This month, our display wall features artwork from students at South Plainfield High School. It's been provided by their teacher, Denise Timinski. We'll feature this display until Feb. 28.

Try as we might to maintain them well, some items in our collection just insist on getting damaged. Videos get eaten by VCRs, CDs get scratched and bookbindings come apart. One way we can keep our collection in good condition is with your help. If you borrow an item that's damaged, don't just put in the drop and walk away. Please let us know. In the case of A/V items, the more detail you can provide about the problem, the better we'll be able to assess the damage. As always, we appreciate your help.

If you thought our renovation project was finished, think again. You may have noticed that we now have new signs in our main area and, in response to patron requests, a new clock above our circulation desk. We'd like to thank Marvin DeRuyscher and Don Zolkiwsky, who did a fine job with them.

That's all for this issue. We hope you enjoy your Valentine's Day.

But, if the day also inspires thoughts of Chicago and Tommy guns, don't mention it. It'll spoil the mood.

Local Student Named in Presidential Scholars Program

South Plainfield resident Christie Schueler, a graduating senior at Rutgers Preparatory School, has been named one of more than 2,600 candidates in the Year 2000 Presidential Scholars Program. The candidates were selected from nearly 2.8 million students expected to graduate from U.S. high schools in the Year 2000.

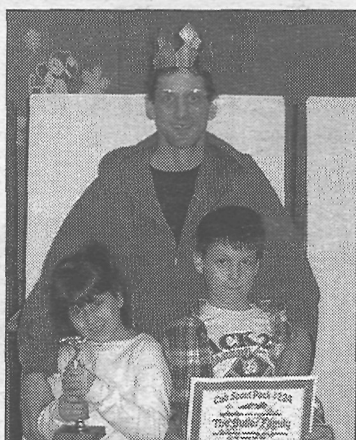
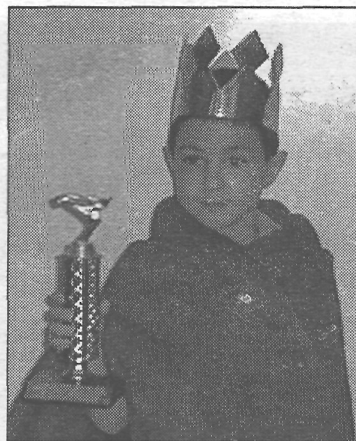
Now in its 37th year, the Presidential Scholars Program is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities. The 2,600 candidates were selected for their exceptional performance on either the College Board SAT or the ACT Assessment. Further consideration is based on students' essays, self-assessments, descriptions of activities, school recommendations and school transcripts. A distinguished panel of educators will review these submissions and select 500 semifinalists in early April.

The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars, a group of some 30 eminent citizens appointed by the President, will make final selections of the scholars. They will select one

young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. students living abroad—up to 20 students from the creative and performing arts; and 15 students at-large. The U.S. Department of Education will announce the scholars in May.

Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., for several days in June to receive the Presidential Scholars medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in activities with their elected representatives, educators, and others in public life.

Christie is the daughter of Paul and Doris Schueler.



(Clockwise from top left) Kyle Sangiuliano stands in the Winner's Circle after capturing the Overall Pack Winner trophy at Cub Pack 224's Pinewood Derby. Chris Peel (above) checks out the entries prior to voting for the design awards. The Butler Family—Olivia, Max and dad Steve (left), winners of the family division.

Scouts Hold Pinewood Derby Riley Race 2000

Cub Scout Pack 224 held its Pinewood Derby last Saturday at John E. Riley School. The annual event, named Riley Race 2000, had 39 entries which were designed, built and painted by scouts and members of their families.

All entrants started with the same kit, but each car was unique in ways of style, shape and form. The results are as follows:

Tiger Cubs, first place—Joseph Fugazzi; second place—a tie between Joey Nicastro and Michael Mocharski; third place—Eric Niemeyer.

Wolf Cubs, first place—Kyle Sangiuliano, second place—Robert Olpinski; third place—Ryan Flanagan.

Bear Cubs, first place—a tie between Jonathan Conroy, Stephen

Wagner and Christopher Seesselberg; second place—Matthew Olpinski; third place—Timmy Ratti.

Webelos, first place—Frank Fugazzi; second place—Bobby Parillo; third place—Chris Peel.

The **Overall Pack Winner** was Kyle Sangiuliano; the **Family Entry Winner** was the The Butler Family.

The design winners were: **Funniest**—Eric Niemeyer, **Best Paint-Job**—Stephen Wagner, **Most Original Design**—Eric Niemeyer, **Best Looking**—Christopher Seesselberg, **Best Family Entry**—Bill Seesselberg.

Some of the winners will compete in the District Competition on March 25 to be held at Franklin School.

—Submitted by Bill Seesselberg

Snow Cleanup Overtime Reported

Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri gave a report of the cost of snow removal during the last two snowstorms. The budgeted amount of overtime snow removal was \$30,000.

The first and second storms cost the borough \$10,322 and \$12,666, respectively, in overtime. \$7,000 remains in the overtime budget. Buttiglieri added that the town has plenty of salt available for the rest of

the winter.

Mayor Gallagher said he received complaints that snowplows were pushing snow into the already shoveled driveways in several neighborhoods. He will look into what other towns are doing in snow removal to alleviate this problem. He said his driveway was also blocked by snow after the plows came through and had to go out and shovel his driveway again.

Republicans to Hold Congressional Candidate's Forum

The South Plainfield Republicans Organization will be hosting a Candidate's Forum for those seeking Rep. Bob Franks, 7th Congressional seat in the upcoming primary and general elections.

The forum will be held at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. on Thursday, Feb. 17, starting at 7:30 p.m. All interested residents are welcome to attend.

Candidates will have 10 minutes to introduce themselves and make statements. At the conclusion of statements, candidates will be given the opportunity to meet the residents informally.



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AROUND TOWN

EVENTS

Riley Plans 'Smart Discipline' Seminar

Parents are invited to attend a seminar entitled 'Smart Discipline' presented by Molly McCloskey, Miss Molly of Romper Room.

'Smart Discipline' is a fun-filled seminar packed with great ideas about discipline and self-esteem and a positive system which gets kids self-motivated to follow the rules.

The seminar will be held at Riley School on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to register, call Janice at (908) 754-7524.

Juniorettes Sponsoring Prom Fashion Show

The South Plainfield Juniorettes invite you to enjoy an entertaining evening while supporting Project Graduation. The Juniorettes, a community service organization, will sponsor a prom fashion show, *Now and Forever* on Friday, March 3 at 7 p.m. at the

South Plainfield High School.

All proceeds will benefit Project Graduation. Formal wear fashions from Bezee's and Ducoffs Formal Wear will be featured at in the show. The opening act is Newworld. Music will be provided by DJ Breeze & DJ Cream. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens and \$7 for adults. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.

Rescue Squad Auxiliary Plans Evening at Races

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold an "Evening at the Races" on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Arbor Firehouse in Piscataway.

The event is a fundraiser for the rescue squad.

For information, call 732-393-1887 or 908-757-7399.

Recreation Plans Ski Trip to Montage

The Recreation Department invites you to ski Montage on Monday, Feb. 21.

Participants must be at least 14

years old. Fee for bus and lift only is \$45; bus, lift and rental is \$59 and bus and adult learn to ski is \$47.

Register at the PAL by Feb. 14.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

AARP Chapter 4144 will meet on Feb. 18, at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. at 12:30 p.m.. Bob Desch, CHT, a certified hypnotherapist, will be their speaker at the February meeting. He has taught hypnotherapy classes at over 35 adult schools and companies in the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania area. His talk will cover the many ways hypnotherapy benefits the mind, as well as the physical problems of aging.

A trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse is planned on March 30 to see the play *Blythe Spirit*. Ticket includes lunch, show and transportation. For more information call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 968-3764.

Services Plus Under New Ownership

By Patricia Abbott

South Plainfield resident Brenda DeSantis became the new owner of Services Plus on Jan. 31. The 1994 SPHS graduate had been working at the store part-time for two weeks when a regular customer told her the business was for sale. Brenda thought it was a great opportunity and immediately reached for it. With no previous experience in the business, she knows she has a lot to learn. The Gaul's have been helping Brenda get started and she has learned the basics quickly and is excited about her plans for the store.

Brenda welcomes suggestions from customers on what they would like to see in her store. She plans to keep the UPS and packaging service and has been busy creating her own personal look around the new shop. Regular customers are finding a whole new layout, with reorganized displays and painted walls, giving the store a brighter look.

The inside is brighter with shades of pink and a white trellis adorns the front window along with items such as country and gift items. She has already moved in this direction with the addition of Boyd's Bears and Christopher Radko ornaments.



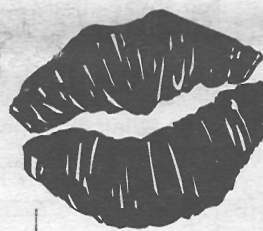
Services Plus owner Brenda DeSantis.

Brenda says that she wants the store to be comfortable for everyone. Browsers are welcome to stop by. She will be taking craft consignments for the spring and will continue to offer a wide variety of balloons. The *Observer* will continue to be sold there.

Services Plus is also the only place where you can purchase South Plainfield Tiger flags and balloons and it's a convenient location to purchase Valentine's Day balloons and candy. There is ample parking behind the store for those who find the street parking full.

Services Plus is usually closed on Sundays, but for all those last minute Valentine shoppers, it will be open this Sunday, Feb. 13 from 12-4 p.m.

You are *My Favorite*
VALENTINE



Happy
Valentine's
Day to All
Our Readers!

To My Favorite Valentine:

(Joe) I can't tell you how
much I Love You!

Happy Valentine's Day Baby,
Kristen

Phillip III

I love you very much and
I'm so proud of you!
Thank you for our beautiful son.
Love Always, Allison

Taylor & Troy

Roses are Red, Candy is Sweet
Your Are Both
My Special Treat!
Love you forever, Mommy

--JEK--

Life is short and life is sweet,
Old or young, you'll always
be my Sweetie Pete!
Love, Mom

Happy Valentine's Day
Roosevelt School ReRun
Runaround cast members and
assistant directors, Pam, Chris,
Chip, Allison and Nikki!
hugs, Ms. Pattie

Chris Abbott,
Congratulations on making
the Honor Roll!
I am proud of you!
Love Mom

Dear Mr. Thursday Man,
Sugar is sweet, but raisins are sweeter.
Butter is nice,
But cream cheese is better!
Thanks for keeping us happy!!

A Happy Valentine's Day
MSE, From the 143 degree
Shade of a Jersey tree
to you!

Founder's Day Celebrated at Roosevelt School

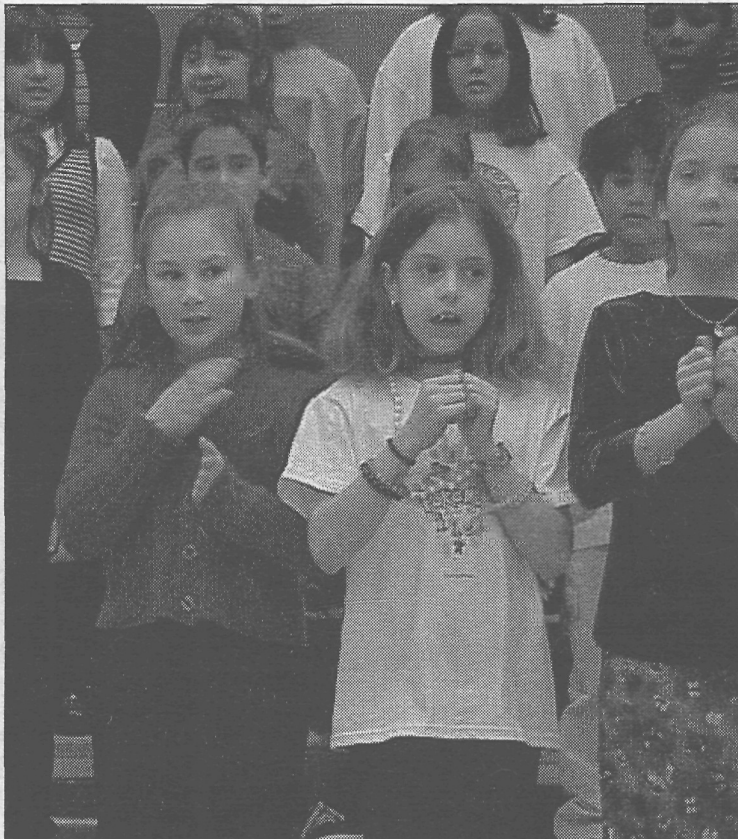
By Patricia Abbott

Last Tuesday evening Roosevelt School students, parents and PTA members celebrated Founder's Day. A candlelighting ceremony honored past PTA presidents, many of whom were on hand for the event.

In addition to the brief ceremony, those in attendance were treated to a glimpse of the Multi-Cultural evening that had been cancelled the previous week due to the snow. Some parents had been fortunate enough to catch the entire program during the school day prior to the snow storm.

Principal Mario Barbieri selected the third grade to present their multi-cultural selections. Students in Mrs. Celentano, Mrs. Czapinski and Mrs. Maher's classes sang songs from the United States, Europe and songs that represented how small our big world really is. Several of the songs were highlighted by music teacher Miss Sharon Perez's LAMP class as they signed the words using American Sign Language.

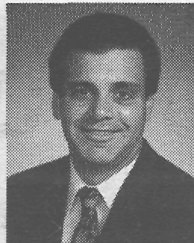
Founder's Day is an annual event that celebrates the leaders of yesteryear who started the New Jersey Congress of Parents and Teachers, originally called the National Congress of Mothers. In the late 1800s Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst saw the need to create a better world for all children. The response to their call was the formation of the National Congress of Mothers on Feb. 17, 1897. The organization's primary goal was to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the home, school, community and place of wor-



ship. Now known as the National PTA, the name may have changed over the decades but the goals remain consistent. The New Jersey PTA began in 1900.

The program ended with Board of Education members

Doris Haley, Frank Mikorski and Daniel Smith speaking about the upcoming school referendum. The evening concluded with refreshments that disappeared with the help of the hungry youngsters.



The Alternative View

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

Dear Dr. DeCosta: I suffer from sleep apnea. WebMD agrees with sleep specialists that "Diamox is the treatment of choice" for central sleep apnea. The negative side effects of Diamox are so numerous as to almost discount the benefit of the medicine. Are there any alternative therapies available to help sleep apnea without the bad side effects? - A.H.

Dear A.H.:

For those readers who do not know, sleep apnea refers to a serious condition in which there is intermittent cessation of breathing during sleep which forces the individual to repeatedly wake up to take breaths of air. This disturbs the continuity of sleep and is a primary cause of the excessive daytime sleepiness associated with this disorder.

According to John Zimmerman, Ph.D., Laboratory Director of the Washoe Sleep Disorders Center in Reno, Nevada, there are three types of sleep apnea: central sleep apnea, obstructive sleep apnea, and a combination of the first two types called mixed-type sleep apnea.

Central sleep apnea refers to a defect in the central nervous system which affects the diaphragm. It can result in poor quality sleep, frequent awakening during the night, and excessive fatigue throughout the day. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when a blockage develops in the upper airway, preventing normal air flow. Individuals who have obstructive sleep apnea usually snore and are excessively tired and sleepy throughout the day.

While not well understood, sleep apnea can be a difficult condition to treat. However, practitioners of alternative healing are having some success with behavioral treatments, homeopathy, chiropractic, and exercise and weight loss programs.

According to John Hibbs, N.D., of the Natural Health Clinic of Bastyr College in Seattle, Washington, since "many of those who suffer from sleep apnea are either overweight or obese, weight loss and exercise can be an effective form of treatment. Sleep apnea is generally, though not always, thought to occur because of structural problems. This means that the breathing airways become obstructed while a person is sleeping."

Robert Milne, M.D., of Las Vegas, Nevada, recommends Homeopathic preparations, such as Lachesis. He points out that sleep apnea relates to loss of energy. Therefore, diet must be carefully chosen, eliminating sugar and other allergic foods.

One should avoid alcohol and sleeping pills, because they slow down the respiratory drive needed during sleep and cause further relaxation of the throat muscles, which makes obstructive sleep apnea more likely to occur. Sleep laboratory tests reveal that eliminating alcohol dramatically reduces the number of sleep apnea episodes, increases the oxygen saturation levels of the blood, and leads to deeper, more restful sleep.

Sleeping on one's back may allow the tongue to fall back into the airway and cause an obstruction, leading to sleep apnea. Many people panic when they wake up unable to breathe and try to inhale vigorously. This only worsens the problem and the fear. If this happens, forcefully breathe out, then breathe in again slowly. Also, try sleeping in the fetal position as this may prevent the tongue from falling back into the airway.

Chiropractic adjustments will also allow for proper functioning of the neck and associated nerves leading to the throat muscles and diaphragm. This may be of particular help with all three types of sleep apnea.

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

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South Plainfield, NJ

Very Rev. Michael A.
McGuire, Pastor

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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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 11 a.m. - 12 noon, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m.
and after 5:45 p.m. Vigil Mass



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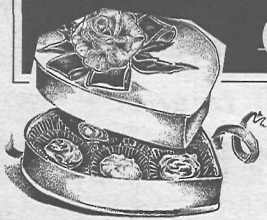
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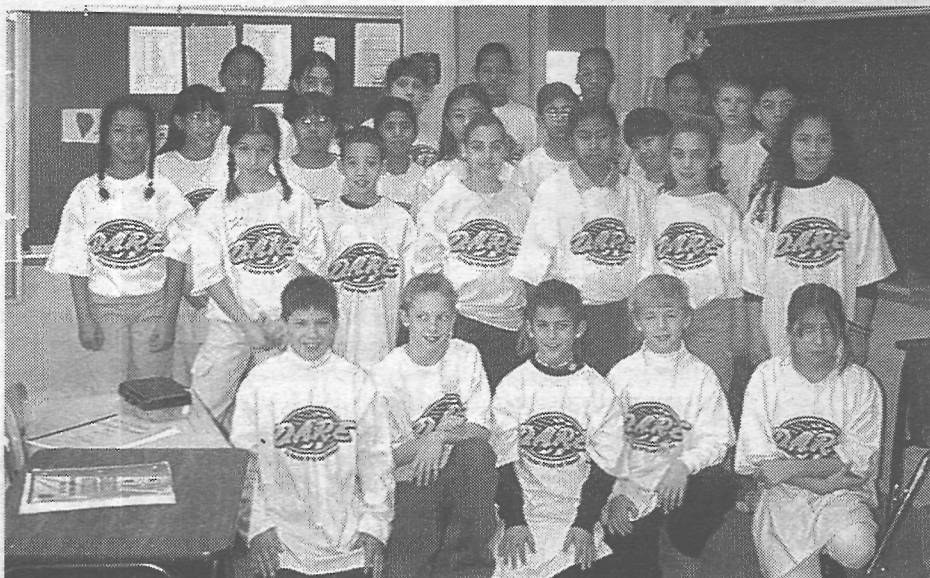
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Feb. 13 - 8:30 am-4:30 pm • Feb. 14 - 8:30 am-7:00 pm

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Mrs. Allen's Class—Michelle Alcantara, Michelline Anim, Angela Benko, Kiran Budhan, Amit Chandler, Zakiya Clarke, Rebecca Dacchille, Thomas Deschaine, Angelica Hebreo, Leticia Johnson, Kasandra Joyner, Brittanni Kennedy, Garrett Lake, Richard Le, Phuong Le, Yazmine Munoz, Domingo Orellana, Viridiana Rivas, Esteban Rodriguez, Daniel Sambat, Abdussami Sheikh, Shawn Smith, Sabrina Tantillo, Joseph Turrise, Jalisa Williamson and Chaz Wrobel.



Mrs. Decker-Frederickson class—Justin Basilone, Caitlyn Brindley, Michelle Butrico, Ashleyanne Chosney, Samantha Cihanowyz, Dana DeCillis, Nicholas Dorey, Kayla Eckel, Lauren Frazzano, Samantha Gaughan, Cagney Gonzalez, Daniel Hubner, Byran Hunt, Michael Jakubik, Andrew Keraga, Shannon Kertes, Marissa Kline, Brittany Marino, Breanna Miyasato, Brittany Moloughney, Julian Pantaleon, Christopher Pollin, Trevor Rastelli, Christopher Stoeckel and Dean Tuwaidan.

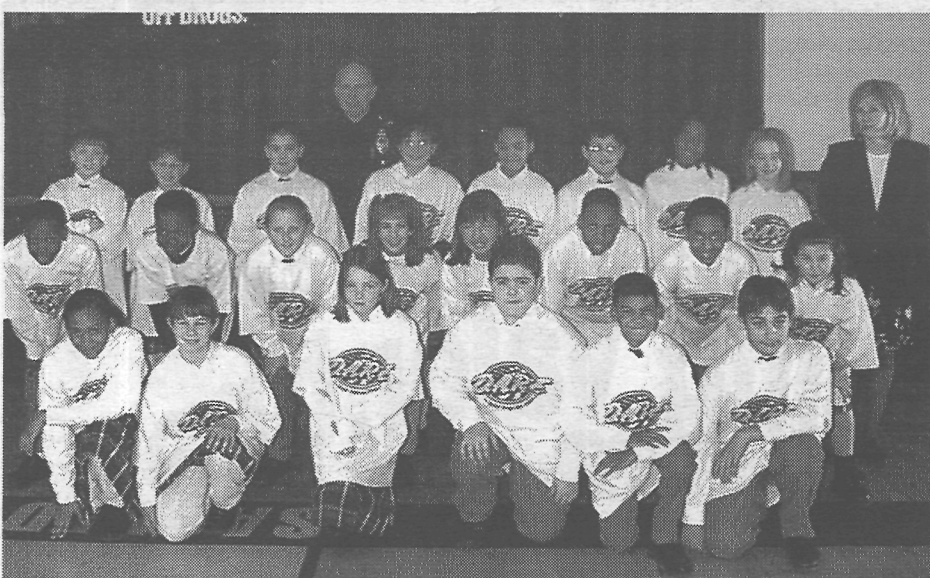
Roosevelt School D.A.R.E. Graduates



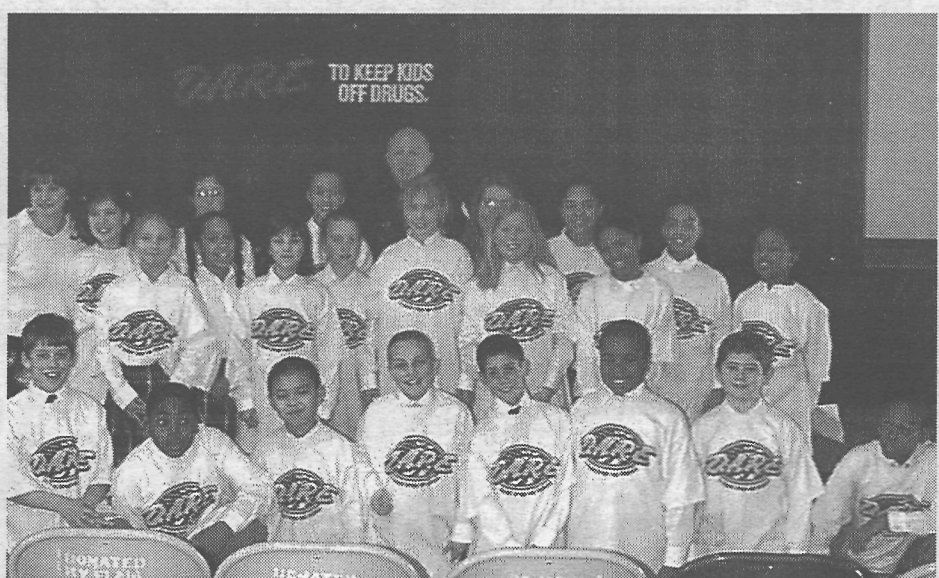
Mrs. Martin's class—Karylanne Baker, Arun Balkaran, Kevin Bolivar, Courtney Breland, John Carigma, Adam Cruz, Joseph Cupo, Ashlee Cybulski, Krystal Dougherty, Bryant Draper, Samantha Fiore, Padmani Itwaru, Alexander Kress, Quintin Lightner, Richard Lin, Shalini Mangra, Sandile Manzini, Heather Martin, Melvin Martinez, Thomas McCullen, Martily Ramagado, Stephen Richard, Jessica Ruiz and Heather Thalheimer.



Miss McGrath's class—Joseph Attanasio, Nicole Benak, Christopher Bizup, Stacie Carrasca, Jonathan Clary, Kamal Darji, Charles Decker, Diane Dimayuga, Mark Hankiewicz, Samantha Horvath, Brieana Jennings, Jillisa Jones, Kent Kaumpungan, Alan Maglaque, Dale McCook, Jessica Montuori, Anthony Moretti, Denise Nazario, Aarti Patel, Jenna Pein, Joseph Pope, Love-E Raynes, Christina Schuetz and Alex Zeccardo.

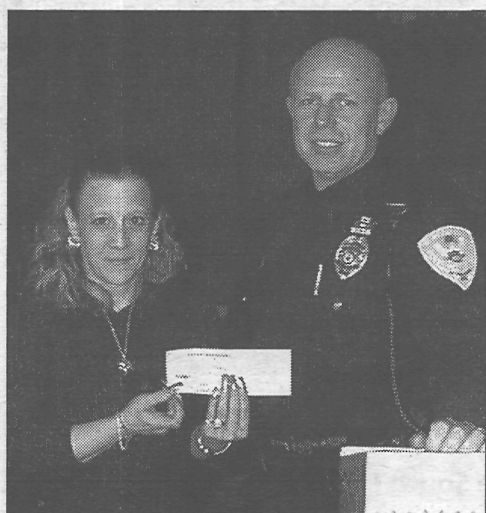


Mrs. Natalie Temple's class—Cathryn Avery, Krista Banon, Joseph Campanaro, Sumayyah Cathcart, Kristen Ciandella, Michael Ciccarella, Marie Cunicella, Jonathan Degutis, Lisa Del Negro, Jared Geraci, Jerel Guilford, Amy Hsieh, Amanda Iavarone, Amanda Jenkin, Darren Kaczowski, Octavia Knight, Saledin McClain, Anthony Pelle, Shamai Santiago, Angela Service, Daniel Schiavo, Cassandra Wilkowski and Andrea Wright.



Miss Billingslea's class—Kim Arki, Adam Barletta, Erin Boosmann, Terrence Butler, Joseph Casey, Dennis Cerami, Samantha Crane, Ryan Cullen, Alexandra Durning, Qaadira Ishaan, Maria Lipnick, Christine Murry, Erica Palma, Oliver Pinkard, Alicia Presley, Heather Ray, Niya Santiago, Shannon Smith, Tiffany Smith, Kiersten Whitaker, Christian Wormley and Peter Yeung.

Sacred Heart School D.A.R.E. Graduates



Sacred Heart HSA Co-President Carol Ray presents Officer Joseph Papa with a check to be used towards the DARE program.

Roosevelt and Sacred Heart schools held Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) graduations this week. These ceremonies honor students who have completed the 17-week course taught by Officers Joe Papa and Allen Lamonda. The D.A.R.E. program helps students who are entering their teenage years to make the right choices.

At the conclusion of the course, students are required to submit an essay and a poster. Officers Papa and Lamonda have the honor of declaring a winner for best essays and posters from each class. A medal and calculator were presented to the poster winners and Darren The Lion was given to each essay winner. Winners read their essays at the ceremonies and the winning posters were on display. Every student receives a D.A.R.E. tee shirt, a hat and a certificate. The tee shirts, hats and awards were donated by the South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness (SPASA).

The ceremonies were attended by Police Chief Steven Merkler and members of both the Board of Education and the Borough Council as well as parents.

Kennedy 'Hands On' Science Week

By Patricia Abbott

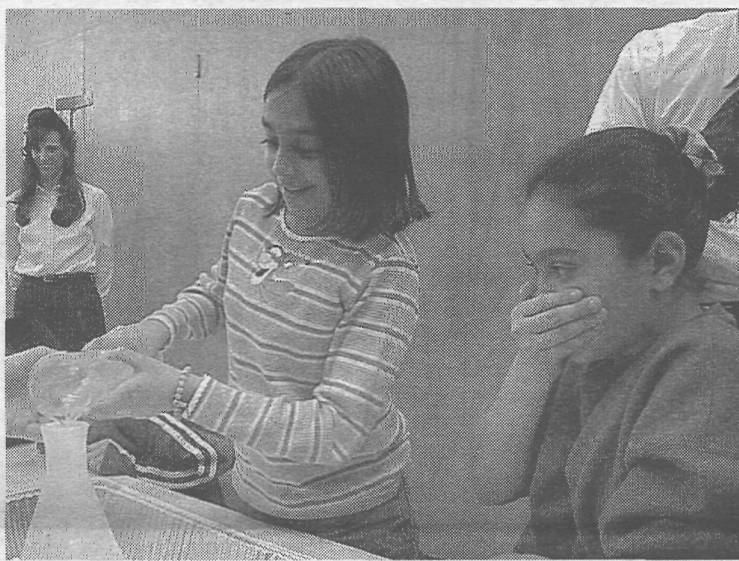
Kennedy School students were recently treated to the ultimate science class. No books, no tests, no homework—just fun! The PTA-sponsored 'High Tough-High Tech' program brings science to the school or, as their logo proclaims, "The Science Experience That Comes To You!" The endeavor lasted six days. Each grade spent an hour and a half in a hands-on science lesson. The children experienced grade appropriate, hands-on 90-minute in-school "field trips" involving the participation of each and every student. The materials are provided by High Touch-High Tech.

Cheryl Papa, Cultural Arts chairperson at Kennedy School, noted that everyone enjoyed the program—kids, teachers, parents and even custodians. She said that several teachers commented that the program was better than a field trip to a science museum.

Each grade explored a different area of science in a grade appropriate program. The instructors kept the fast-paced program and jam packed with learning, holding the students spellbound.

Kennedy School kindergarten participated in "Get Buggy." Students designed a bug, made their own beehive, saw the world through a bug's eyes and learned how bugs help our world. The first grade students had "Chem Fun." They learned how colors separate, made silly putty and gummy bears. The second graders traveled back to the "Jurassic" period with a study of dinosaurs and made their own fossils. Grade three traveled through space with their "Cosmic Capers" lesson, studied the sun, learned about the planets and eclipses, and how craters are formed. They even enjoyed astronaut ice cream.

Fourth grade students were handed "Globs, Goo and Guts." They got a look at a real cow muscle, learned about systems of the body; heart, kidneys, brain, liver and made all sorts of icky-sticky stuff. Grade five had a blast with "Fun' O Mena" by learning about hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes. Hard boiled eggs became the earth, its core and layers; suction cups explained the power of air. Imagine their delight when they lifted an entire cafeteria table off the floor with suction cups attached to the seats. The class had a blast learning while exploding volcanoes right in the gym.



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Riley School 'Caught in The Act of Kindness'

During the week of Feb. 7, Riley Elementary School joined a worldwide celebration known as 'Random Acts of Kindness Week.'

The entire Riley School staff assisted Kristen Kaplan, student assistance counselor, in teaching students to engage in behaviors by outwardly extending kindness and generosity to all members of the school community. The purpose of this project was to teach the students at an early age the importance of treating each other with kindness, compassion and respect.

The goal was to teach all students to discover the natural rewards they receive when they give of themselves and that this important lesson will transfer beyond the school setting. At the conclusion of the week's events, students were encouraged to continue engaging in this type of behavior on a more frequent and

regular basis so that kindness and generosity may become more innate.

Each day students were given some kind act to do. On Monday, Miss Kaplan explained the meaning of "Act of Kindness" week during the morning announcement and all students were asked to hold open a door for someone that day.

On Tuesday all students were asked to share something with another person. Wednesday, students were asked to say "Hello" to someone they didn't usually talk to and to make a new friend that day. Thursday had students say something kind to someone else.

'Random Acts of Kindness Week' concluded on Friday with all of the students and staff wearing something red, pink or something with hearts. All students were also asked to help someone at school and someone at home that day.

Kid's Place Accepting Enrollment for September

YMCA Kid's Place is accepting enrollment for September 2000, which will now include full day Kindergarten.

The childcare center is located at 3145 Park Avenue, South Plainfield, and offers a full day experience for children age three months through kindergarten, with options for part-time and full-time day care for two to five

days a week, from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Before and after school programs are also available.

For further information, please call (908) 822-9076.

The Plainfield Area YMCA is chartered to serve youngsters and adults in Dunellen, Green Brook, North Plainfield, Plainfield, South Plainfield, Piscataway and Watchung.

NEWS FROM TERRA NOVA GARDEN CLUB

Terra Nova Garden Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 23 at the North Edison Library on Grove Ave.

A program on pesticides will be presented by Carmen Valentin of the New Jersey Pest Control Program. Hostesses for the evening are Mrs. Joseph Bender and Mrs. Otto Fuchs. The Floral Design, "My Funny Valentine" will be by Mrs. Oleg Maranich. Guests are welcome.

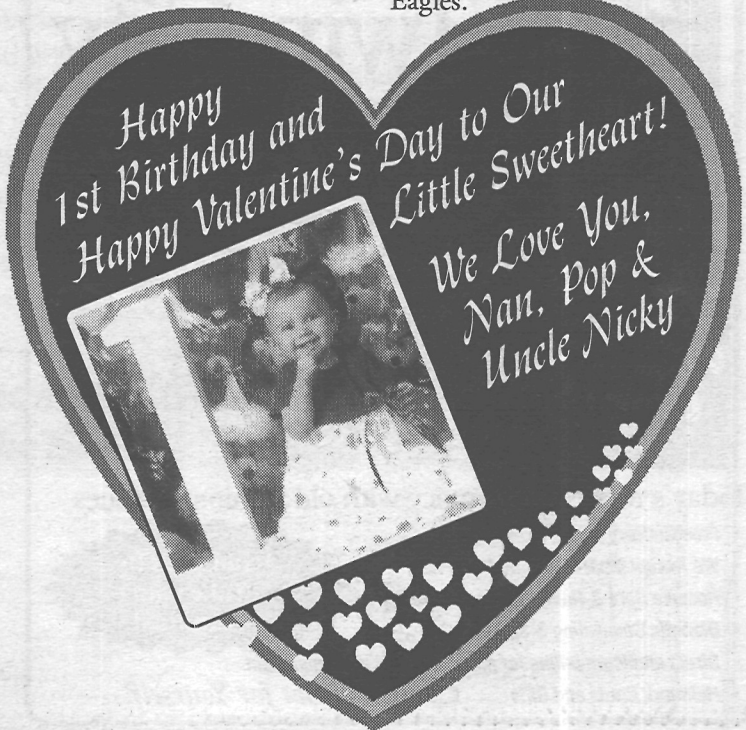
Members are reminded that Feb. 23 is the deadline for recipe submissions for the "Favorite Recipe for all Seasons" cookbook to be published by Terra Nova, a member of Garden Club of New Jersey and National Council of State Garden Clubs.

Garden Therapy Chairman Mrs. Dominick Nuzzo, will hold a workshop at her home at 10

a.m. on Feb. 15 in preparation for the Committee's visit to Muhlenberg Adultcare Center. They will meet with the Adultcare Clinic for their monthly flower arranging session at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16.

Terra Nova members will also be teaching Fine Arts courses through the Edison Township Adult School beginning on Feb. 29. A 10-week pottery studio course will be taught by Susan M. Nuzzo on Tuesday evenings.

On March 15, Gail Sulinski, Debbie Czech and Sue Nuzzo will present a spring Floral Wreath workshop at J.P. Stevens High School on Grove Ave. in Edison. A pressed flower workshop will be presented on Apr. 12 by Gail Sulinski, together with Mary Mazepa and Sue Nuzzo, at Edison High School, Boulevard of the Eagles.



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SPORTS

Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League Scores

The Ed Niemczyk Basketball League consists of 420 boys and girls who play 24 games each Saturday at both the Middle School and the PAL Building.

A LEAGUE STANDINGS

Cavaliers	8	1
Grizzlies	7	2
Bucks	6	3
Suns	6	3
Supersonics	3	6
Rockets	3	6
Warriors	3	6
Nuggets	0	9

A LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 5

Rockets 38
Bucks 43
High scorers—Rockets: Tommy Haus-24, Terry Paschall-8, David Cacciatore-3, Danny Sierzega-3; Bucks: Alan Dummett-12, Jasen Ortiz-9, Mike Salerno-8, Philip Derosa-6, Gary Houston-5.

Grizzlies 31
Cavaliers 40
High scorers—Grizzlies: Chris Sanchez-10, Mike Chrysanthop-6, Tim Keller-6, Kyle Prendergast-4; Cavaliers: Jon Buggiey-11, Andy Cupido-8, Sean Keane-8, Chris Horn-7, Eileen Milcarek-4.

Supersonics 36
Warriors 30
High scorers—Supersonics: Steven Sobel-11, Danny Melick-10, Mike Alvarez-7, Mike Espin-4; Warriors: Jessa Jones-8, Alex Ferrarris-6, Jonathan Chiang-6, Jordan Lynch-4.

Nuggets 11
Spurs 55
High scorers—Nuggets: Dani-Jo Dimaria-5, Amanda Fugate-4; Spurs: Chris Czaplinski-10, Mike Wiczorek-10, Mike Allocco-8, John Kukuch-8, Nick Green-7, Steve Janiszak-6.

B LEAGUE STANDINGS

Jazz	8	1
Magic	7	2
Heat	7	2
Bulls	6	3
Nets	6	3
Raptors	5	4
Timberwolves	4	5
Lakers	3	6
Knicks	3	6
Cavaliers	3	6
Hornets	2	7
Pistons	0	9

B LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 5

Hornets 32
Bulls 33
High scorers—Hornets: Justin Basilone-19, Kevin Siedenburg-8, Jonathan Lazar-3; Bulls: Danielle Arndt-12, Mike Benak-12, Vincent Velez-9.

Timberwolves 33
Heat 38
High scorers—Timberwolves: Adam Bianchi-19, Brett Morris-6, DJ Miglis-6; Heat: Andrew Miller-12, Nick Cesare-11, Peter Peregrin-8; Jonathan Liebel-3.

Raptors 27
Cavaliers 32
High scorers—Raptors: Joey Jaghab-123, Mike Williams-5, Zack Gray-4, Kyle Lendack-3; Cavaliers: Robert Strani-14, Erik Vesper-10, Joseph Dinitzio-4.

Lakers 25
Knicks 19
High scorers—Lakers: Allan Mazurak-8, Mike Hanley-7, Chris Bojarski-4, Kathleen Morgan-4; Knicks: Anthony Romano-7, Erika Blaszk-7, Keith Dezmin-3.

Jazz 33
Pistons 11
High scorers—Jazz: Chris Bakazan-11, Anthony Petriello-7, Dan Piwowar-5, Kevin Brown-4; Pistons: Charles Kazimir-5, Lacey Santone-4.

Magic 32
Nets 27
High scorers—Magic: Chris McKnight-8, Ryan Taylor-4, Nick Curcio-4, Mike Richard-4; Nets: Mike Downes-9, Nick Jefferys-8, Melissa Hansen-6.

C LEAGUE STANDINGS

Wizards	9	0
Warriors	8	1
Grizzlies	7	2
Cavaliers	7	2
Rockets	7	2
Trailblazers	5	4
Kings	5	4
Hawks	5	4
Suns	3	6
Supersonics	2	7
Bucks	2	7
Nuggets	1	8
Spurs	1	8
Mavericks	1	8

C LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 5

Cavaliers 8
Wizards 29
High scorers—Cavaliers: Bennie Gibson-5, Ryan Curtis-3; Wizards: Chris Pollin-10, Garrett Lake-12, Danny Hubner-3.

Nuggets 14
Spurs 10
High scorers—Nuggets: Matthew Ramos-10, John Christ-4; Spurs: Samatha Horvath-4.

Bucks 16
Rockets 22
High scorers—Bucks: Anthony Cassano-6, Andrew Gray; Rockets: Joe Turris-6, Ben Milcarek-6, Charles Loiacono-4, Lauren Fry-4.

Mavericks 12
Suns 15
High scorers—Mavericks: Joel Mastrian-6, Chris Pennisi-4; Suns: Billy Rickert-8.

Kings 28
Supersonics 16
High scorers—Kings: Vinnie Padula-14, Blaire Houston-8; Supersonics: Brian Fabino-7.

Hawks 35
Trailblazers 32
High scorers—Hawks: Danny McCreesh-8, Nick Desimone-8, Nick Baldasarre-6, Ashley Sacks-4; Trailblazers: Bobby Harrington-16, Grey Cuppi-4, Brendan O'Shea-4, Chris Uribe-4.

Grizzlies 16
Warriors 34
High scorers—Grizzlies: Danny Espin-8, David Alston-4; Warriors: Chris Stallone-12, Robert Hoffman-8.

D LEAGUE STANDINGS

Raptors	9	0
Cavaliers	8	1
Knicks	8	1
Lakers	7	2
Nets	6	3
76ers	5	4
Heat	4	4
Hornets	4	4
Magic	4	5
Bulls	3	6
Timberwolves	2	7
Celtics	1	8
Jazz	1	8
Pistons	0	9

D LEAGUE SCORES-FEB. 5

Hornets 24
Magic 21
(In overtime)
High scorers—Hornets: Steve Wiczorek-8, Mike Muglia-4, Kaitlin Muglia-4, Kristie Crilley-4, Alfonse Muglia-4; Magic: Tramane Miller-14, Riley Hubner-5.

Heat 14
Nets 16
High scorers—Heat: Matt Cesare; Nets: Dontae Johnson-6, Kelvin Randolph-4.

Cavaliers 16
Raptors 17
High scorers—Cavaliers: Ken Breslau-6, Nick Jeglinski-4, Joe Lacerda-3; Raptors: Jalil Williams-15.

Celtics 36
Pistons 24
High scorers—Celtics: Chris Hartje-26, Mike Romano-4, Lenny Casiero-4; Pistons: Zachary Haupt-10, Melissa Loiacono-8, Mikey Pryor-4.

Bulls 22
Timberwolves 16
High scorers—Bulls: Greg Herbster-8, Justin Ditmars-8; Timberwolves: Stephen Coppi-8, Ian Collins-8.

Jazz 11
Lakers 26
High scorers—Jazz: Patrick Noltty-10, Chris Fulton-5; Lakers: Shawn Mack-10, Jordan Petriello-8, Ryan Smith-6.

76ers 22
Knicks 39
High scorers—76ers: Kyle Quail-14, Dominic Papa-8; Knicks: Mike Dezmin-22, Anthony Salerno-7, Vincent Stark-4, Matthew Galinsky-4.

High School Bowling Team Competes in GMC Playoffs

The Boys Bowling Team advanced into the second round of the GMC Playoffs with a two-game sweep over a stubborn Monroe Squad. Matt Square took bowling honors with games of 197 and 231. Junior Paul Larisch chipped in with a 197 game. The win put the boy's record at 17-1.

In the second round, the third seeded Boys Tiger Team scored an impressive victory over tough Red Division foe East Brunswick, sweeping two close games in a high scoring match. Doug Lauckhardt bowled games of 210, 213; Erich Gaub bowled a 216 game; Paul Larisch a 209, Ray Tomei a 203 and Matt Square a 222. All joined in the scoring parade. The Tiger record improved to 18 and 1. Tuesday's semi-final round is a showdown with co-leader Colonia.

In the girls competition Melissa Jamieson fired games of 190 and 229 as she led the girls bowling team to an easy win over Bishop Ahr. Kristen Herzog chipped in with a 166 game. The girls stood at 13-4-2.

In the second round, fourth seeded Carteret foiled the Tiger girl's bid for an upset despite Kristen Herzog's 199 game and Melissa Jamieson's 183 game. The girl's record stands at 13-4-2.

The Central Jersey Girls Bowling sectionals saw the Tigers finish a strong seventh place in a contingent of 25 eligible good teams. Melissa Jamieson captured high set honors with a 503 while Kristen Herzog rolled the high game of 180. The Tigers fell 77 points short of qualifying for the state finals. Great job girls!

Little Miss Baseball Nominations Underway

Once again it's time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2000. The contest will, for the most part, be the same as in the past. We have made one change this year and that is how the winner will be notified and announced. The winner will not be notified in advance, but will be announced at Opening Day Ceremonies.

We ask that all the girls nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on April 15. The parade ends up at the Baseball Complex and during Opening Day Festivities, we will announce Little Miss Baseball 2000. A REQUIREMENT for the winner is that she MUST BE PRESENT TO BE CROWNED. If she is not there, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

We will be accepting nomina-

tions for Little Miss Baseball 2000 from Feb. 14 thru Feb. 28. 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, phone number and age on the answer machine.

Finalists will be phoned on Feb. 29. Little Miss Baseball 2000 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes (with finalists pictures) will be place in Ciccio's, Quick Chek and B & C Deli starting March 4th. They will remain there until March 31. They will then be removed and counted for the announcement of the winner on Opening Day, April 15. Get out and vote for our 2000 Little Miss Baseball. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Eichler at 769-4047.

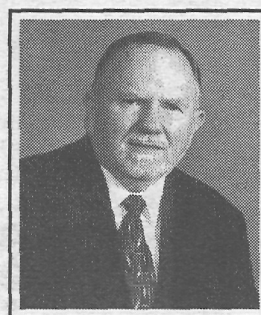
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SPORTS

Junior Baseball Club Notes

By Frank Hanley

Monthly Meeting—The regular monthly meeting was held on Monday evening. Work on the Pony snack stand is moving forward. Electrical work and finish plumbing is in progress. The Club has reached an agreement to install a sprinkler system on the four main fields. Uniforms for the players have been ordered. The registration banners were damaged by the bad weather. There will be a Trainers Clinic held at Rutgers on Feb. 21. The club is seeking a volunteer to represent the club. Opening day events are being organized.

SPJBC Scholarship—The club is taking applications for its annual college scholarship. Applications are available at the High School Guidance Department or contact the club. Each year the club offers up to two \$1000 scholarships. Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield graduating this June and have participated at the SPJBC for a minimum of five years. The filing date for applications is Apr. 1, 2000.

Coaching Clinic—A Coaching Clinic will be offered at the clubhouse on Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The Clinic will be presented by Colorado Rockies scout Mike Garlatti. Coaches and parents are welcome to attend.

Registration—The club held a late registration prior to the monthly meeting on Monday night. There are currently 462 players registered to play in the 2000 season. Anyone interested in playing should contact the club ASAP, as there are only a few openings remaining.

Umpire Classes—Umpire classes began with a general session held on Tuesday night. Formal classes will begin next week as follows...first and second year umpires on Feb. 14 and Feb. 17 at 6:45 p.m., third year and up on Feb. 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Tryouts—Tryouts will be held on March 4 at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. All registered players will receive notification by mail indicating their try-out time. Players should remember to wear sneakers and bring their gloves.

Somerset Patriots—This year the club is offering tickets to see the Somerset Patriots. The club has reserved 300 tickets for the game scheduled on Friday night, May 26. Tickets are \$8 each and are being sold on a first come-first serve basis. Contact John Rayho at 754-8904 for more information.

Sign Sponsors—The Sign Sponsor program is again being offered to local businesses. This program provides businesses with advertising space at the complex. Businesses interested in becoming or continuing as a sponsor or should contact the club as soon as possible. Businesses that renew their sponsorship by February 29 will be entitled to a discount.

Woman's Auxiliary—The Woman's Auxiliary is sponsoring the annual Little Miss Baseball contest. Contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 for more info. The women are once again holding a Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale. This is a major fund raising event held each year. Proceeds from the candy sale are put right back into the club in form of equipment for the players and improvements to the complex. All registered players should be receiving a brochure shortly. There are still some of the new custom SPJBC outdoor flags left. The flags are 2 feet by 3 feet, white, black and green, with the new SPJBC logo. The cost is \$21 per flag. Contact Carolyn White at 561-8723 for more information.

Web Site—The SPJBC web site is back online. Check it often for schedule updates. Our email address has changed to spjbc@aol.com. **Contact the SPJBC**—clubhouse phone: (908) 754-2090...email: spjbc@aol.com ... Web Site: members.aol.com/spjbc/spjbc.html **Events at a Glance**—Umpire Classes-Tuesday 2/14 and Thursday 2/17 at 6:45 at the clubhouse; Coaching Clinic-Tuesday 2/15 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse; Tryouts-Saturday, March 4 at the PAL; Scholarship Application Deadline-April 1. Opening Day - Saturday, April 15

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

By Brian Cochrane

Tiger Girls Win Fourth in a Row

The South Plainfield girls Basketball Team has a streak of their own in progress as the Tigers have won four in a row...all on the road.

Back on Jan. 31, the girls traveled to Perth Amboy on the third leg of a four game trip and handily dispatched the Panthers 52-36. Sheryl Cwiekalo had four blocked shots to go along with

her team high 14 points as Kelly Ritchey added 13 to move the Tigers to 10-3 overall.

The road trip was completed last Thursday when the Tigers traveled to Monroe and thoroughly pummeled the Falcons 46-15. All Tiger players saw action this game as everyone joined the thrashing behind the hot hand of Kelly Ritchey's

game high 17 including three three-pointers.

The Tigers record moved to 11-3 overall with one home date remaining...tonight (Jan. 10) versus Colonia.

The Greater Middlesex Conference tournament starts on the 17th with the regular season schedule coming to a close on the 14 in East Brunswick.

Tiger Boys Win Streak Reaches Seven

The South Plainfield Boys Basketball team have sure been giving their home crowd their money's worth by pushing their current win streak to seven straight. Five of those seven victories have come at home and three of them have been "grudge match" wins.

Last Tuesday the Tigers defeated Metuchen 54-49 behind the hot hands of senior Dominique Penders game high 24-points, including five three-pointers. Although Dominique was the only one to score in double digits, all Tigers contributed collectively to fend off a late but feeble Bulldog comeback.

Two nights later the Falcons from Monroe came visiting and were promptly shown the door as the Tigers built a 10 point half time lead and never looked back winning by a score of 62-47. Dominique scored his average 20 points as junior big man Joe Nicolay poured in 12 points while grabbing numerous rebounds along the way. Clint dog Robinson added 10 as the Tigers record moved to 11-5.

Last Saturday was probably the most anticipated game on the schedule in a while as the Owls

from Highland Park came to town. In early January, the Owls beat the Tigers by two points and this 80-65 rematch Tiger victory proved that the earlier loss was a fluke. Dominique tied a career high with 33 points and is currently on a very hot streak as he moves up eleven places in the area scoring stats. Once again the big men were there with back-up as Joe Nicolay and Clint Robinson scored 12 and 10 respectively. This South Plainfield win knocked Highland Park out of the playoff picture and just about solidified a

Tiger presence in those playoffs.

Just to add icing to the cake, the Tigers traveled to South River on Monday and won handily, once again battering the Rams 63-37. This time it was Carlo Estonactoc stepping up and leading all scorers with 16 points including four three-pointers. Dominique chipped in 15 and Joe Nicolay added 14 in the romp.

The Tigers play two tune-ups before the GMC Tournament on Feb. 9 at New Brunswick and on Valentines Day at home against Cranford.

Bantam and Pee Wee Wrestlers Win Medals

The Bantam and Pee Wee wrestlers took to the mat last weekend at the fourth annual Kenilworth Junior Wrestling Tournament. Six Bantam and Pee Wee wrestlers entered and all six won metals.

In the Pee Wee division, Kyle Pompilio (52) won his first match 8-2, lost his next match, but won his consolation round match 8-0 over Mike Thimone of Flanders.

In the Bantam division, John Wylam (59) won his first match by 7-0, won his second match

6-5 and pinned Mike Heinie of Roselle Park in 10 seconds for the title.

Mike Wagner (66) pinned Arron Arnold in 40 seconds and won by major decision in the second match. In the finals he defeated Jimmy Fox of Union 6-2.

Kyle Huges (57) won his first match by major decision 8-0, won by decision 4-2 in his next match and lost in the finals 2-1.

Finishing in third place for the Tigers were Corey Hay and Nick Heilmann.

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Obituaries

Sophie (Welc) Bulava, 82

Sophie (Welc) Bulava of Whiting, formerly of South Plainfield, died on Monday, Jan. 31, at the Community Hospital in Toms River.

She was born in Dunbar, Pa. and was a former 60-year resident of South Plainfield before moving to Whiting 15 years ago.

Mrs. Bulava was a salesperson for the former Steinbach Department Store in Plainfield for 15 years, retiring in 1976. She then owned and operated the Water Crest Deli in Long Beach Island for 15 years.

She was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Whiting and a member of the Rosary Society. She was a former member of Our Lady Czestochowa Church in South Plainfield and a former member of the Rosary Society.

She was a member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield and in Whiting. She belonged to the Fernwood Women's and the Residence clubs and the Chelsea Drive Knitting Group, all of Whiting.

She was predeceased by her husband, John J. Bulava, two sisters, Julia Herbst and Stella Setz and a brother, Stanley Welc.

She survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Roger J. and Christine Bulava of Broadway, NJ; a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and John Sheldrake of Westchester, Pa.; her grandsons John M. and Adam Bulava, David and Daren Dinkfeld; and a sister, Fran Piotrowski of Whiting.

Funeral services will be held at James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Anna V. Hines, 94

Anna V. Hines of South Plainfield, died on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in New York City, she had resided in New York before settling in South Plainfield a few years ago.

She had been a homemaker most of her life.

She is predeceased by her husband, Harry, who died in 1970 and her son, Richard Hines.

Surviving are a daughter, Renee Healy of South Plainfield; eight grandchildren, Marie Mitesser, Kathryn Peterson, Richard Hines, Daniel Hines, Patricia Finn, Kathleen Fenlon, Maureen Disch and Ann Conklin and 23 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Florence Clark Burchette, 77

Florence Clark Burchette of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, Feb. 6 at her home here.

She was born in Jersey City and had resided in Saddle Brook and Bayonne before moving to South Plainfield in 1996.

She had worked in the accounting department for Uni Shops, Inc. of Jersey City for 10 years before retiring in 1977.

Mrs. Burchette had served in the Women's Army Corps during WW II and held the rank of sergeant. She had been assigned to the medical detachment at Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Her husband, James C. Burchette, died in 1994.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Ted Martin of Iselin and Linda and David Rapp of South Plainfield; a sister, Joyce Pein of South Plainfield and a brother Frank Clark of Brooklyn, NY and two

granddaughters, Jodi and Jami Martin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Gloria H. Peterson, 71

Gloria H. Peterson of South Plainfield, died on Friday, Feb. 4, in her home.

Born in Somerville, she had resided in Newark and Carteret before moving to South Plainfield in 1959.

Mrs. Peterson was an underwriting clerk for the Unum America Company of Piscataway for 10 years, before her retirement in 1994. She had also received her registered nursing degree in the early 1950's.

Surviving are her husband, Julius J. Peterson; two daughters and sons-in-laws, Dawn and Robert Moss of South Plainfield and Susan D. and Eric Pepe of Franklin; and a brother, August Wist of Toms River. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Richard and Lauren Moss.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Theresa "Terry" Kormendy, 74

Theresa "Terry" Kormendy of South Plainfield, died on Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical in Plainfield.

She was born in Rahway and has resided in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

During the 1950's, she had been a clerical worker for Merck & Co. in Rahway.

Mrs. Kormendy was a former member of the BPO Elks Lodge 2298 Ladies Auxiliary.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, John D. Kormendy; a daughter, Deborah Johnston of Schoolcraft, Mich. and two grandchildren, Douglas and Laura Johnston.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

POLICE REPORT

• An student of ITM reported the theft of her pocketbook. She went to lunch and left it in a common area that all had access to. When she returned the purse was missing. The victim is new to the school and does not know anyone well.

• A Bergenfield man reported the theft of funds from his Summit Bank account. He explained that he had made a \$40 withdrawal from the ATM and stated that he had been in a rush and may have left the card in the machine without closing the account. A withdrawal was made with the card. A second attempt to use the card by an unknown suspect caused the card to be confiscated by the machine.

• Ferraro Foods reported the theft of fog lights and two Easy Passes from a company vehicle while it was parked in their lot.

• A Jacobus St. resident reported that an unknown suspect had smashed the passenger side window of her car and removed the radio/CD player while the car was parked in her driveway.

• A Whitehouse resident reported the rear window of her car had been smashed while parked in the Red Lobster parking lot. The suspect entered the car and removed a CD stereo, several CDs and two backpacks.

• Bett A Way Beverage of Sylvania Place dropped a truck off at Penske's lot South Clinton Ave. for repairs. While in the lot unknown suspects ripped out the overhead compartment to gain access to the CB radio. Also taken were rubber floor mats from the vehicle. A mechanic noticed the damage the next morning and reported it to the owner of truck.

• A Piscataway resident reported the theft of a purse from her

vehicle. The victim of a scam, she said that as she exited the First Union Bank, Stelton Rd. she noticed a gray van parked near her vehicle. She noted that an Asian man had reached down near her rear tire but she thought he was just picking something up. As she left the parking lot an Asian male standing near the road motioned to her that she had a flat tire. She immediately pulled into the parking lot of Red Lobster and the man offered to fix the tire. The man examined the tire then said he would go for help. It was after he left that she noticed her pocketbook that contained a withdrawal of \$1100 was missing. She told police she saw the gray van in the Red Lobster lot after pulling her car in to check the flat.

• An Edgar Ave. resident reported the theft of her handicap placard from her car while it was parked at Acme, Park Ave.

• Eagle Plywood, Oak Tree Rd. reported to police that a former employee had entered the premises and began to hand out gifts to personnel in the office and warehouse. He distributed flowers, candy and more. The suspect has a lawsuit pending against him by the company. Witnesses say he may have been under influence of drugs or alcohol. It was noted that he was acting strange, his eyes were described as "bulging out". He left when asked. He was reported as a suspicious person.

• Three West Ave. residents reported their mail boxes had been knocked down. Several residents of Pomponio Ave. reported this as well. Police noted that a vehicle drove over the snow and the boxes had been hit with a blunt object.

Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

SELF-KNOWLEDGE

We live in an "information age," aided and abetted by the current fascination with the computer. Has this information gathering furthered our knowledge of ourselves? Seymour Cohen has observed, "A modern commentator made the observation that there are those who seek knowledge about everything and understand nothing. It is wonder — not mere curiosity — sense of enchantment, of respect for the mysteries of love for the other, that is essential to the difference between a knowing that is simply a gathering of information and techniques and a knowing that seeks insight and understanding. It is wonder that reveals how intimate is the relationship between knowledge of the other and knowledge of the self, between inwardness and outwardness."

While we cannot know the hour and date of our last day (despite those times when we feel we simply can't go on but always do somehow), each of us must be prepared for that day when it comes. Choosing the way in which we will be remembered is an opportunity none of us should let pass us by. For courteous and professional assistance in arranging memorial and burial services, call the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME at 756-2800 to schedule a private consultation at our facilities, located at 2456 Plainfield Avenue in South Plainfield.

It is the appreciation of beauty and truth, the striving for knowledge, which makes life worth living.

— Morris Raphael Cohen

By Cyrus N. Moon

Weekly Horoscope

2/11-2/17

AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18 You're likely to be in a hurry, or to be feeling more impulsive, risk-taking and even rebellious than usual. So go, just watch out you don't precipitate an accident by being in too much of a rush. Don't let suppressed tension explode. Find a constructive and safe way to release it.

PISCES 2/19-3/20 This can be a tricky time. Even with luck on your side, there is no guarantee you'll make proper use of the information or ideas that come your way. Your intuition, although high this week, can have you ignoring some cold hard facts that will help you along. **ARIES 3/21-4/19** This is a good time to take big strides towards your major goals. If there are important changes that need to be made, this is the week when your efforts and progress can be more easily successful. Don't waste the opportunity! Assert yourself as long as you respect the rights of others.

TAURUS 4/20-5/20 Be careful, compulsive behavior can get you into trouble. This will include love, finances, and self-

indulgence. You most likely will face a challenge where you have to balance desires with self-control. Avoid manipulation in a relationship and barriers can be dropped.

GEMINI 5/21-6/20 At this time information and ideas lead to incorrect actions, either because the information itself is erroneous or you misinterpret what it means. You may do the opposite of what was told to you. Be very careful on trips and avoid buying that automobile for a week.

CANCER 6/21-7/22 Try to be clear this week. People will have a hard time distinguishing whether you are giving your views on a subject matter or of those of someone else's. Try not to cling to a situation even though you have found another that makes you happy. Lighten up on being possessive.

LEO 7/23-8/22 This is an excellent time to initiate artistic and other creative activities, start domestic projects, and take care of matters related to children, women, or a new venture. Should disap-

pointments occur, they are apt to eventually work out to your advantage. Smile and let it rub off!

VIRGO 8/23-9/22 How about being inclined to compromise and meet another person halfway, especially if you are having a disagreement. You may even give ground on issues that you would otherwise stand up for. But you may regret it later if you give in about something important. Compromise.

LIBRA 9/23-10/22 "What else can go wrong" things this week that may happen? People dropping in to your home when it's a mess. You may meet someone you're trying to impress at an inopportune time. This is not one of the best times to be a host or attend a dinner party. Ride though this, you'll be OK.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21 This is a good time for getting to the bottom of any problems, either in a relationship or in some other encounter between you and another person. Someone may try to convince you of some truth you would rather not accept. See that you do not try to do the same.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21 Now is the time to turn your attention to larger issues in your life. It's a good time to plan for the future; mix in a little hope with your wishes and dreams become a reality. You will be clear of dealings with people. Contract discussions are favorable along with law issues.

CAPRICORN 12/2-1/19 It is possible that you may quit or get fired from a job because of new duties you feel are not fair from an authority figure. A love relationship also has the potential to break-up unless the two of you are open to new and challenging ideas. But make necessary changes now! Or they will come back to haunt you.

QUOTE: *Life is a balance between old and new, Memories made and experiences coming.*



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The Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, February 24, 2000 at 8:00 PM in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey for the purpose of discussing with the public the use of \$51,000 Community Development Block Grant Funds for the year 2000.

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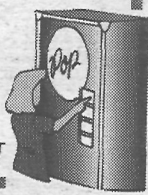
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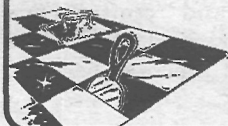
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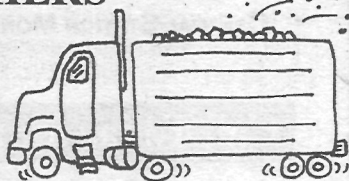
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Battle of the Classes Roars at The Middle School

By Patricia Abbott

Last Friday night the Middle School became a battleground, witnessed by both parents and students. Police Detective Kevin Murtagh, who volunteered as MC and DJ, had a hand in the fray as well.

The competition was fierce but fair as the Middle School Battle of the Classes 2000 entered its seventh year. The 6-8 grades were broken down into six teams, two for each grade level. Each team consisted of 15-16 students, for a total of approximately 100 students participating. "A" teams consisted of the sixth grade black team, seventh grade blue team and eighth grade burgundy team. "B" teams were the sixth grade red team, seventh grade green team and eighth grade gold team.

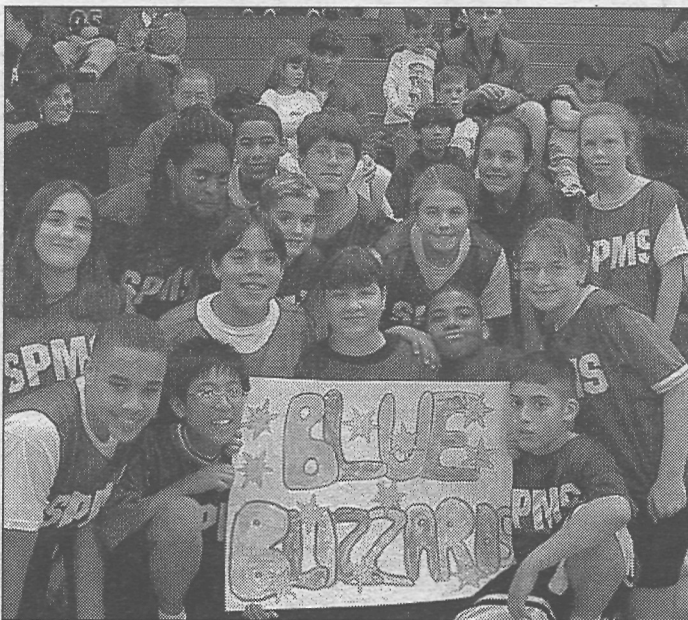
Events consisted of the banner judging, over and under, alligator crawl, hula-hoop circle, foul shooting, baton relay, tug-o-war and the deafening and much favored crowd cheering. Winning teams were sixth grade red with 88 points, seventh grade blue with 88 points and eighth grade gold with a whopping 91 points.

Refreshments were sold throughout the evening. Parents manned a water station for thirsty competitors and 50/50 tickets were sold with the winner receiving \$200.

Kevin Murtagh and Dennis O'Neill shared master of ceremony detail. Murtagh also supplied a staple for the event — plenty of loud, crowd-rousing music.

Judges for the games were Valerie Blazak, Angel Jazikoff, Donna Mackey, Nancy Murtagh, Amy Rastelli and Jean Tietjen. The event was well attended; supporters of all ages sat behind their teams.

The only down side was, as several parents once again noted, the obvious absence of teachers at this unique program for and about the students. All proceeds went to the *Tiger Gold Program*.



The many diverse attributes of American heritage enable all Americans, whether natural or immigrant, to discover peace and courage in a country of freedom. From her historic beginning, America has been capable of overcoming tremendous adversity and hardship. This quality alone is the basis for a strong heritage. Combined with the innumerable traditions of the diverse population, a strong, proud, and powerful American nation stands. This sense of power and pride must never be lost, for it is the impetus of perhaps the most efficient and effective system, democracy. As Americans, there is a definite responsibility to maintain and preserve American culture.

With the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, America's destiny was clear. The colonists overcame incredible hardships to defeat Great Britain and attain their much desired freedom. With the

signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783, the colonies began the long and difficult process to construct a nation, a nation based upon strength, determination and rebelliousness. These qualities are evident in many American documents, and even more obvious in every American citizen.

The quintessential man of American heritage is Thomas Jefferson. A man of integrity, diversity and controversy, Jefferson possessed all the characteristics of American heritage. Jefferson was an architect, a scholar, a writer, a musician, a father and a politician. His architecture, like many Americans, reflected European style and tradition. Monticello, his home and sanctuary, reflected Greek architecture. He was fluent in many languages, a reflection

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tion of the many languages spoken in America. Like many Americans, he found pride in his nation, but felt strong ties to Europe. Jefferson was a francophile, and spent much of this time as a diplomat in France. Perhaps his greatest feat was composing the Declaration of Independence. His endless knowledge helped him create one of the greatest pieces of American history. Along the principles of Montesque and John Locke, Jefferson included the ever-present American concept, "all men are created equal." The impact of this statement is still apparent today. Therefore, the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson is inherently found in all Americans.

He has contributed to American heritage beyond comprehension.

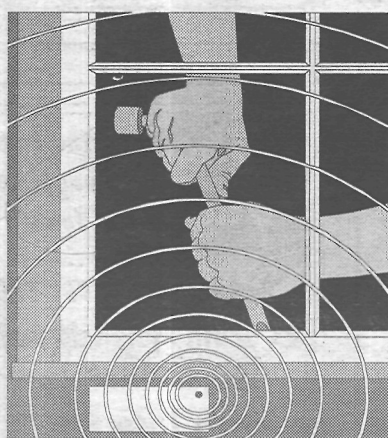
With the arrival of new and unique immigrant groups, additions were made to American heritage. New customs, traditions, and beliefs slowly assimilated into the culture. This assimilation is responsible for the evolved American heritage. Unique people with diverse backgrounds are encountered daily; thus it can be stated that American culture is ever-changing. This quality is what makes America so unique and worthy of preservation.

In no other nation can women overcome oppression and gain respect, honor and suffrage. In no other nation can a citizen revel in freedom of speech and religion. These goals are respected, cherished and treasured. It is a heritage based upon

creating and achieving goals and accepting change that must be maintained.

American heritage must be preserved. In gratitude to the country's founders, Americans must honor, respect and remember their feats. The wit and wisdom of Benjamin Franklin is embedded in every American. The courage of Theodore Roosevelt, the charisma of Babe Ruth, the grace and strength of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the eloquence of Thomas Jefferson must never be forgotten. To lose that would be to lose not only a piece of America, but a piece of democracy. As an example to the world, the United States has an obligation to preserve the heritage that allows the freedoms all Americans so deeply cherish. It is impossible to imagine America without democracy. To ensure its future, American heritage must be preserved.

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South Plainfield Recycling Center Closed For Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Friday, Feb. 11, which is a borough holiday in honor of Lincoln's Birthday. The Recycling Center will also be

closed on Feb. 22 because of the Presidents' Day holiday.

The Recycling Center will be open instead on Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 12-7 p.m. The Recycling Center and the Yard Waste Site will both be open every Saturday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in February. Feb. 19 will be a paint recycling day.

Regular winter hours at the Recycling Center are: Tuesdays noon-7 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m.-3 p.m. and at the Yard Waste Site are: Saturdays 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline, (908) 226-7620.

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