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South Plainfield Observer

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VOL. 3, NO. 38

50 CENTS

MAY 26, 2000

SLAMMED AGAIN!

Brutal Storm Clobbers Borough's North Side



ago on Labor Day this same part of town was hit with a similar storm.

Damage was most severe in the area from West 7th St. to Tompkins Ave. and Clinton Ave. to Plainfield Ave. The wind picked up everything in its path, branches snapped and huge trees were uprooted, leaving large craters. According to Mike Zushma, emergency management coordinator, 36 houses were damaged and over 17 utility poles snapped. Scores of cars were also damaged from fallen trees. Damages are estimated at well over \$765,000. This is just a preliminary estimate since many residents have not even begun to assess the damage in their backyards, which are filled with fallen trees, crushed fences, damaged pools and furniture.

Continued on page 8



Huge uprooted oak trees are evidence of the ferocity of the storm that hit an isolated area of the borough last week. Residents and borough officials face a huge cleanup. Fortunately there were no major injuries.

Experts Tag Storm a "Microburst"

The storm had many residents thinking "tornado" but several experts said it was not a tornado that ripped up the trees on the north side of town.

Severe thunderstorms like the one that occurred on Thursday evening can create incredible violence and destruction in a short period of time. The best description of the storm that slammed into South Plainfield is a "downburst" or a "microburst."

A "downburst" is a severe localized wind blasting down from a thunderstorm. This outward burst of colder air creates damaging winds at or near the surface. These strong downward currents are classified as "microbursts" if the "downburst" covers an area less than 2.5 miles in diameter.

A "microburst" is a sudden vertical drop of air that produces considerable wind shear or more simply a sudden change of speed or direction in wind flow. While violent, the storms are often no more than five minutes in dura-

tion. Sometimes the damage resembles that of a tornado. The difference is the straight line in which the damage occurs. Had a tornado come through, the debris would be scattered about in different directions.



Wall of Fame Nominees To Be Honored May 31

By Patricia Abbott

Few people reach the status of a high-ranking politician, the fame and notoriety of an athlete or movie star, but there are many who are successful in life, working to better society by contributing in their own way.

The South Plainfield Wall of Fame is a forum where these individuals can receive the recognition they deserve. By being chosen for the Wall of Fame they become positive role models for our youth. The "wall" is intended to honor SPHS graduates who have made an example of themselves and to encourage our own children. The honorees are leaders in their fields and have achieved success in one or more of several areas—business, government, academia, community service or the humanities.

The Wall of Fame, established in 1995, is located in the lobby of South Plainfield High School.

The 2000 nominees will be honored at a lunch held at the Holiday Inn on May 31 and during

award ceremonies at SPHS that evening. This year's honorees are:

Dr. Susan B. Phifer of South Plainfield, nominated by high school guidance counselor Marjorie Kopasci. A 1983 SPHS graduate, Susan received a B.A. in Mathematics/Statistics from Rutgers University, a M.A. in Educational Psychology from New Jersey City University and a Ed. D in Organization and Leadership from the University of San Francisco, Ca.

Continued on page 8

This Weekend in South Plainfield...

Vision 2001 Car and Truck Show

Vision 2001 Education Foundation & Northwest Jersey Camaro Club Annual Car and Truck Show will be held this Sunday, May 28, at 9 a.m. in the high school parking lot. Donation is \$2 for spectators. For info, call Tom at (908) 755-6276. No alcoholic beverages, pets, bikes or skateboards allowed.

Annual Memorial Day Services Planned

Services honoring those who died for our country will be held on Monday morning.

Memorial services begin at the VFW on Front Street at 9 a.m. and proceed to the Baptist and Jewish Cemeteries, both on New Market

Ave., then to Holy Redeemer Cemetery on South Clinton Ave. and Veterans Memorial Park Services conclude at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave.

Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of the services along the way. After the ceremonies, refreshments will be served at the American Legion Hall.

Pilgrim Covenant Garage Sale/Flea Market

Come one, come all to Pilgrim Covenant Church's Garage Sale/Flea Market on Park Ave., Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Crafts, home baked goods, antiques, collectibles, baby accessories, clothing, furniture, jewelry, tools, knick-knacks and kitchenware will all be available for purchase. Proceeds help send our kids to camp. Rain date is June 3.

mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, May 22	Thursday, May 25
Monday, June 5	Thursday, June 8
Monday, June 19	Thursday, June 22
Monday, July 10	Thursday, July 13
Monday, August 14	Thursday, August 17

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, September 12, September 26, October 10 (No Meeting), October 24, November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

May 30, June 6, June 20, July 4 (No Meeting), July 18, August 1, August 15, August 29, September 5, September 19, October 3, October 17, October 31, November 8 (Thursday), November 21, December 5, December 19

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

recyclingcommission

Meets Thursday, once a month

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November (to be announced), December 28

recreationcommission

Meets once a month

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

Tues. June 6, Tues. September 12, Mon. October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280

June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 2, Mon. November 6, Mon. December 4

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place
Committee of the Whole, June 13, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., June 20 & 27

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dot com... breaking news?
check out our website at
spobserver.com

Korean War 50th Anniversary —A Veteran's Biography—

Submitted by
Joseph G. Zekas
RA33980602 S/SGT (E5)

I was drafted in June of 1945, received medical basic at Fort Crowder, Mo., then went to Surgical Technician School at Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Colorado. I was stationed at William Beaumont General Hospital and was discharged in December, 1946.

In January 1949, I reenlisted and went to Quartermaster School at Fort Lee, Va and in May of 1949 I was sent to Japan as a chief medical aidman, assigned to the 24th Clearing Company, 24th Medical Battalion, 24th Infantry Division, located in Kokura, Kyushu.

My division was sent to Pusan, Korea on July 3, 1950, then on to Taejon. We were there about one week when the North Koreans were nearing Taejon. We were sent back to Waegwan, which is midway between Taejon and Taego.

On July 19, our battalion commander, Colonel Berman, sent us back to Taejon (he was later relieved of his command because he sent us back) to set up a hospital in support of the 34th Regiment. By late August, only 184 of the approximately 2,000 men of the 34th Regiment who had arrived in July remained.

In Korea we were issued side arms and carbines because we had no protection. We did not know who the enemy was because it was impossible to tell a North Korean from a South Korean. The red crosses on our ambulances had to be blacked out because the North Koreans used them as targets.

In the early morning hours of July 20, we were awakened by the sound of explosions. We were not supposed to be near the front lines because our unit received the wounded from the Regimental Aid Stations. We ran outside with our weapons and I took shelter behind a bush as North Korean tanks were going up and down the street firing. I heard an explosion and turned over onto my back with shrapnel was landing all around me. A small piece of

MEMORIAL Day is Monday, May 29

shrapnel entered my right knee where it still remains.

Our company was ordered to pack up and load the trucks. We tried to leave Taejon by following behind the 24th Reconnaissance Company, but we had to turn back because North Korean machine guns were firing at recon jeeps going by. We then joined the main convoy and waited for the roads to be cleared of enemy tanks. This was the first time we were able to destroy the tanks with bazooka rockets. The earlier bazookas used at the start of the war only bounced off the Russian tanks.

General Dean was directing truck traffic out of Taejon. Drivers were given orders to move out and not to stop for any reason. If any truck was disabled, drivers were told to run them into the rice paddy. All of my personal equipment was put on a half-ton truck which was later disabled and driven into the rice paddy. Luckily, I had boarded a 2½-ton truck for the trip out. There were many trucks in the rice paddy with men trapped under them. We could not stop to help. When we reached safety, there were several bullet holes in our truck. Thankfully no one was hit. We learned a little later that General Dean had been captured.

I became the admission and disposition clerk for my platoon, recording and typing reports on all of the casualties.

We spent about 1½ months in the Pusan Perimeter. In mid-September the division broke out of the Pusan Perimeter and we went

back through Taejon, Seoul, Pyongyang, North Korea and up the West Coast of Korea to within 35 miles of China. When the Chinese entered the war, we pulled back below the 38th Parallel.

I recorded the death of General Walton Walker, who was the Eighth Army Commander. He was killed when his jeep collided with a Republic of Korea (ROK) truck.

After 9½ months in Korea, they started to rotate troops back to the states. Since I had been wounded, I had the choice to return to the states on the first rotation. I left Korea on April 21, 1951, was processed overnight and left Japan on April 22, 1951 which was my 24th birthday.

I was assigned to Fort Meade, New Mexico as platoon sergeant and class instructor for Medical Basic Training. Training was later moved to Camp

Pickett, Va. I was discharged June 17, 1952.

Joseph Zekas is married to Dolores Ruk from Swoyersville, Pa. They have five children and six grandchildren. He retired from Lockheed Electronics Company as a senior engineering administrator after 33 years.

He is the recipient of Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Medical Badge, Korean War Service Medal, Distinguished Unit Emblem, four Bronze Campaign Stars, Japan Occupational Medal and one overseas bar.

He is or has been affiliated with the following organizations: Disabled American Veterans, American Legion Chaumont Post 243, 24th Infantry Division Association, South Plainfield Police Reserves, Holy Name president-Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church, Polish National Home director, Manager-SP Little League, South Plainfield Senior Citizen's Club, Greenbrook Flood Commission and South Plainfield Senior Advisory Committee.

Submit Letters to the Editor:
South Plainfield Observer,
Editorial Dept.,
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

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. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject we will publish.

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

MEETING NOTICE Council Mtg. Rescheduled

The Borough Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 14, 2000 has been changed from to Monday, Sept. 18, 2000 at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

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Jeanmarie Fultz

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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.

To get an article published in South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
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.

Local Science Teacher Sentenced

Former Middle School science teacher Roger Wood was sentenced to four year's probation and will undergo sex offender counseling for improperly touching several girls. Wood can never again be employed as a teacher. He was ordered to pay \$828 in fines, \$500 in restitution and is subject to community supervision for life under Megan's Law. Superior Court Judge Barnett Hoffman also ordered Wood to never again have contact with the victims or any girls under the age of 18.

Wood pleaded guilty in February to six counts of endangering the welfare of a child. Charges of official misconduct, sexual assault, sexual contact and attempted sexual contact were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

The victims were 13- and 14-year-old girls who were students in Wood's science class when the incidents occurred.

The board of education removed Wood from his post in February of 1998 and suspended him without pay in August of that year.



Jacqui and Scott Hawn and son Brett, prepare to do a commercial.

Local Couple in Comcast Commercial

Jacqui and Scott Hawn, along with their son Brett, are going to be a part of a commercial for Wyman Ford in Springfield, NJ.

Comcast Cable arrived at their house and set up cameras, tents and sound equipment. They are part of a testimonial commercial and each has one speaking line.

Jacqui Hawn's mother, Barbara

Benko, also from South Plainfield, directed the commercial. She is a Sr. Account Rep. for JS Blade Advertising in Union and Wyman Ford is one of her accounts.

The Hawn family will be one of three families appearing in the commercial which will start airing the last week of May.

Fourth Grade Kennedy School Teacher Honored

Jennifer Szemborski, a fourth grade teacher at John F. Kennedy School, was recently honored as "Middlesex County Outstanding Science Teacher — Elementary 2000." Mrs. Szemborski received a certificate and \$125 to spend on science materials at a ceremony at Rutgers University on April 25. This recognition qualifies her as a candidate for "Presidential Award of Excellence in Science 2000."

Mrs. Szemborski has been teaching at Kennedy School for six years. She graduated from Loyola College in Baltimore in 1994 with a degree in Elementary Education. She has done graduate work at Kean University in instruction and curriculum — math/science, technology. She is a member of New Jersey Mathematics Coalition and National Science Teachers Association.



Mrs. Szemborski continues her science interest by reading *National Geographic Explorer* and relaxing with the Discovery and Learning Channels.

Nineteen Local Roads Slated for Paving

Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri announced that the Middlesex Road Department is in the process of milling and paving 19 roads in South Plainfield.

He asks residents along these roads make sure they do not park their cars on the street during the day. Work has already started on several roads and all work is slated to be completed by June 5. However, due to the recent storm, some roadwork might be delayed because of the heavy cleanup.

The following roads are scheduled for paving:

Famularo Drive from Durham to the end, Fleet Ave. from the South Plainfield border to the end, Atlantic St. from New Brunswick, Cumberland St. from Atlantic to South 11th, Hudson St. from Sussex to South 11th,

Sussex St. from New Brunswick to Hudson, Mahar Ave. from Tompkins to Palmer, Palmer Ave. from Sherman to Tompkins, Poe Place from dead end to Morton, George St. from Sampton to Ledden, Steven Terr. from Franklin to the end, Worth Dr. from Perry to Greenwich, Conklin Ave. from Wickford to Leeds, Stratford Ave. from Cedarbrook to Cromwell, Terrace Ave. from Dolores to the end, Cotton St. from DeSepio to the end and from South Plainfield to the end, East Fairview Ave., from Park to Woodland, Minford Ave. from South Plainfield to the end and from Oakland to the end and Schindler from W. Elmwood to May.

All roadwork will take place from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

Summer Drama Workshop Announces Staff

South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has named this year's creative staff for their 29 season. The group, which provides an educational theatre experience for the borough's youth while presenting an entertaining show each August, will bring the Broadway hit *42nd Street* to town this summer.

There are some new faces on the creative staff this year, including the director. This year will introduce Eric Hafen of North Brunswick to Summer Drama Workshop. Hafen has over 20 years experience, having directed both musicals and non-musicals throughout New England, New York and New Jersey. Recognized for his non-traditional casting, he has served as the artistic director of entertainment at Six Flags Great Adventure and has an MA in Theatre: Acting and Directing and a BA in Special Education/Theatre.

"My intention is to bring the children and families of South Plainfield a professional experience in both active and passive participation in an American music classic," Hafen said. "I expect the children to learn more about the art of the theatre and the necessity of live theatre."

This backstage musical shows the birth of a Broadway show from audition to opening night, with memorable songs and spectacular dancing. Another newcomer to Summer Drama is this year's choreographer, Patti O'Brien. Ms. O'Brien teaches elementary school and dance and has two decades of tap, jazz, ballet, swing and other forms of dance in her repertoire.

"I am very excited to have the position of choreographer for *42nd Street*," O'Brien said. "Working on this production will bring two of my favorite worlds together—children and tap dancing. This will be a wonderful learning experience for everyone involved." O'Brien teaches elementary school and dance.

This year's musical director is Shayne Miller, a familiar face from past Summer Drama Workshop productions and high school shows, most notably this year's production of *Tommy*.

Another familiar face is this year's technical coordinator, Joseph LaJeunesse. LaJeunesse has been a fixture at the high school, both onstage and off, performing in many productions.

Adam Toth will be this year's rehearsal pianist accompanying

the cast members during vocal, choreography and stage rehearsals.

Costumes will be coordinated by Dianne Seesselberg, who worked on the past two Summer Drama Workshop productions as well as shows for other area theatres.

All of these staff members will be overseeing an enthusiastic and talented group of cast members, as well as a supporting cast of volunteer parents and others.

Other staff members will be announced shortly. Auditions for *42nd Street* will be held at the high school on June 5 and 7, with callbacks on June 8. Rehearsals begin June 26, with performances August 3-6.

For more information, contact the Summer Drama Workshop at www.spsdw.com.

Bid Awarded for Pal Building Expansion

At this Thursday's the council meeting a resolution awarding a contract to Tri-Form Inc. of South Plainfield to construct the expansion of the PAL building. Tri-Form's bid was for \$816,200.

After more than a year of planning, the PAL expansion finally looks like it may become a reality. Last year the estimated cost of the building was a little over \$500,000, but when the bids were received they were closer to \$1 million. AST Development Corporation was hired to negotiate with the bidders and see if it was possible to lower the costs.

The result of their work is the bid by Tri-Form.

Cost savings resulted from the type of building to be constructed. Instead of expanding the PAL building, which meant substantial demolition work, a 'pre-engineered building' will be constructed next to the present PAL building and connected by hallways.

Work on the expansion will begin sometime this summer. Funding for the expansion will be coming from the Recreation Commission and the Borough Council and fundraising.

GYMNASTICS & CHEERLEADING

OPEN HOUSE

JUNE
Wed. 7th, 14th
Fri. 9th & 16th
6:30-7:30
So. Plainfield

Spring Fling Week

Registration Mini Fair
So. Plainfield
May 15-20, 2000
Fun • Booth • Games
Fri. 6:30-8 pm May 19
Sat. 3-6 pm May 20
Sat. 8pm-8am Sleepover

Feigley's School

SUMMER CAMPS

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- Gymnastics 1½ & Up, Boys & Girls
- Music Theater Camp w/Performance (Along with Joanne's Dance Studio)
- Cheerleading
- One-hour classes

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events

Around Town

Single Professionals' After Work Social

A single professionals' after work social is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30-10 p.m. at Punera's, 143 East Broad Street, Westfield. The cost is \$10 at the door and includes refreshments. Contact KISNET at 908-232-8827 or visit www.thatskismet.com.

AARP Chapter 4144 Plans Trip to Catskills

Meetings will resume on the third Friday in September (Sept. 15), for AARP Chapter 4144 at the PAL Bldg. in South Plainfield on Maple Ave.

A trip to Raleigh Hotel in the Catskills is planned from July 10 through July 14. The price is \$370 per person, double occupancy. Singles add \$60. Price includes all expenses paid, plus transportation.

For more information, call Mary at (732)752-3764.

Kindergarten Orientation for Parents

A Kindergarten Orientation Program will be held on Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. in Franklin School for the parents/guardians of children who will enter the South Plainfield Kindergarten Program in September. This orientation will provide important information concerning various aspects of the kindergarten, experience, including the curriculum, health and transportation services, the latchkey program, special summer programs, and tips for helping parents to prepare their children for kindergarten.

Parents who have not yet registered their children for kindergarten in September are urged to do so immediately in the Enrollment Center of the Administration Building between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Children who will have reached the age of five by Oct. 1 are eligible for enrollment.

Parents having questions concerning the registration process may call Mr. VanKleef at 754-4620, Ext. 222.

Pilgrim Covenant Plans Garage Sale/Flea Market

Come one, come all to Pilgrim Covenant Church's Garage Sale/Flea Market at 3121 Park Ave., South Plainfield on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Submit your Events Around Town

Mail or drop off your stories and photos:

The South Plainfield
OBSERVER,

1110 Hamilton Blvd.,
South Plainfield,

NJ 07080.

Fax (908)668-8819;

email GGNAN@aol.com.



Preschool children "rocked the house" for parents and grandparents at Creative Kids Academy annual "Spring Fling."

Crafts, home baked goods, antiques, collectibles, baby accessories, clothing, furniture, jewelry, tools, knick-knacks and kitchenware will all be available for purchase.

Space is available for crafters/garage salers. Call Diane at 756-6830 to sign up.

Proceeds help send our kids to camp. Rain date is Saturday, June 3.

Sacred Heart Plans Dinner Theatre Trip

The Caring and Sharing Group of Sacred Heart is sponsoring a trip to Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre on Sunday, June 4. The cost of \$50 per person includes the bus, show (*West Side Story*), dinner and driver gratuity.

The bus will leave at 9 a.m. from the parking lot of South Plainfield Borough Hall and return about 5 p.m.

For reservations, call Lydia at (908) 755-1596 by May 25.

Vision 2001 Golf Outing June 28

The South Plainfield Vision 2001 Education Foundation, Inc. will be holding their annual golf outing on Wednesday, June 28 at Royce Brook Golf Club in Somerville.

Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, green fees and cart, coffee/golf range, on course beverages, lunch at the turn, beer/wine hour and a buffet dinner. All gratuities are included. Casual attire and rubber spikes only.

Hole-in-one prizes include a new car, a vacation, antique golf clothes, radio and pot of gold. Prizes also awarded for low net, low gross, longest drive, closest to hole, closest to the line, corporate team net and corporate team gross.

If you would like to become a sponsor, need more information or want to sign up, contact Eric Radell at 755-9555 or Emil Leporino at 756-8038.

Women's Evening Circle Holding Fashion Show

The Women's Evening Circle will be presenting their second annual Spring and Summer Fashion Show on Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m. It will be held in Hendersen Hall at the First Baptist Church on Hamilton Blvd.

Fashion will be by Dress Barn. Door prizes and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance by contacting Mrs. Elise Webster at (908) 754-3862. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Singles After Work Social Planned

A 'Single Professionals' after Work Social' is planned for Thursday, May 25 from 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Inn at Mount Bethel located at 161 Mount Bethel Road in Warren. The cost is \$10 at the door and includes refreshments. Contact KISMET at 908-232-9927 or visit www.thatskismet.com.

Car Rally Planned in Downtown Area

The Northwest Jersey Camaro Club will hold a car rally on Saturday, June 17 in the downtown area. This is the first of many events planned by the newly formed Downtown Activities Committee.

Plans are still in the early planning stages, but the car rally will include a DJ, vendors, plenty of food and special events for the kids. South Plainfield Ave. and a portion of Hamilton Blvd. will be closed to traffic to accommodate the cars and the pedestrians.

Vendors who would like to participate should call 756-8038 for further information.

Rec Trips to Broadway Musicals

The Recreation Department is sponsoring two trips to Broadway musicals.

• *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Thursday, Aug. 31, 8 p.m. performance. Bus leaves PAL at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person.

• *A Christmas Carol*, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m. performance. Bus leaves

PAL at 10:30 a.m.. Tickets are \$66 per person.

Only 48 tickets per trip available. Purchase at the PAL, 8:30-4:30 p.m. First come, first serve. 226-7713.

Visit Lake George This September

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Lake George for 3 days/2 nights. Bus transportation, deluxe hotels, four meals, boat cruise, shopping. Sept. 13-15. \$245 per person. Only 40 tickets are available. Purchase at the PAL on Maple Ave.

Rec Department Sponsors Yankee Trip

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Yankee Stadium to see the N.Y. Yankees vs. Boston Red Sox on Tuesday, June 13. Bus leaves the PAL lot at 4 p.m. Ticket price is \$37 per person. Call the PAL at 226-7713.

Plainfields' Unico 3rd Annual Golf Outing

Plainfields and Clark's Unico will be co-sponsoring their annual golf outing on Monday, June 12. The event will be held at Beaver Brook Country Club in Clinton. The outing will be a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Registration is 11:30 to 1 p.m.

There will be a \$10,000 putting contest, prizes on all par threes for a hole-in-one, closest to the pin, as well as longest drive, closest to the line and many more. A banquet dinner will follow the outing and many door prizes will be awarded.

Prizes will be awarded for men and women for low gross and low

net. Calloway scoring system. Entrance fee is \$125 per person. Call Roxanne Cortese to sign up or information at (908) 561-1539.

Cruise on Big Red Boat II Planned

Dunellen Recreation is sponsoring a cruise on the NEW Big Red Boat II to New England and Canada. A seven nights cruise leaves on Aug. 5 and returns Aug. 12, with ports of call of Newport, Boston, Halifax and St. John New Brunswick Canada.

Rates for the cruise range from \$875 per person for an inside stateroom to \$1,075 for an ocean view stateroom. Cost includes port charges, transportation to and from the pier in New York from South Plainfield, driver gratuities. Third and fourth passengers sharing cabin rate is \$565 per person.

For information, call Mary Ann at (908) 226-1222 or Clem, Dunellen Recreation (732) 752-2466.

Mets vs. Pirates Trip Planned

Sacred Heart Church is sponsoring a trip to see the Mets vs. Pirates on Saturday, June 24.

The cost of \$50 per person includes game ticket in lower loge, transportation and driver gratuity. This is also kickball day and all children 13 and under will receive a kickball. The bus will leave Sacred Heart parking lot at 4:30 p.m. and return immediately after the game.

For additional information and reservations, call Helen at the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633 ext.11 or Mary Ann (908) 226-1222.

PAL Offers Tickets for Area Amusement, Theme Parks

Discounted tickets (in most cases) are available for area amusement and theme parks at the PAL for the 2000 season.

	GATE PRICE	OUR PRICE
Sesame Place (All Ages)	\$31.95	\$26.00
Hershey Park Adult (Ages 9-54)	\$32.95	\$26.00
Hershey Park Jr. (Ages 3-8)	\$17.95	\$19.00
Great Adventure Two Park Adult	\$45.57	\$28.00
Great Adventure Two Park Child (48" & Under)	\$22.78	\$22.50
Great Adventure Theme Park Only (Adults)	\$42.39	\$27.00
Great Adventure Waterpark only (Adult)	\$28.61	\$23.00
Dorney Park-Early Season (5/6 - 6/23)	\$23.50	\$20.00
Dorney Park-Regular Season	\$31.00	\$24.00

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SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us via mail. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well.

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Pictured left to right are South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 Finance Officer John Blanchard, high school seniors Kerri Howells and Michael Grasso, and CE coordinator Dee Falato.

American Legion Awards \$1,000 Scholarships

The South Plainfield American Legion Chaumont Post 243 has created an ongoing partnership with the South Plainfield High School Cooperative Education Program.

The American Legion initiated a scholarship fund and competition to honor students excelling in both academics and on-the-job training during their senior year. A highly competitive essay and application was held by both teachers and Legion members, which included recommendations and community

service activities. Commander Joe Penyak, Vice-Commander "Doc" Donald Austin, Finance Officer John Blanchard and Adjutant Rich Magri announced two \$1,000 winners for 2000. They are Kerri Howells, daughter of Paul And Debra Howells of Garibaldi Ave., who will attend College of Saint Elizabeth and major in Business Marketing and Michael Grasso, son of Antonio and Doris Grasso of Regency Place, who will attend Kean University, and major in Business Management.

Vision 2001 Announces Scholarships

Several scholarships have been announced by the scholarship committee of Vision 2001 at a recent meeting.

Recipients of Vision 2001 four year scholarships of \$4,000 each are Lisa Mocerino, Paul Lee, Marie Hudak; one year scholarships at \$1,000 each are Carol Ann Serago, Kim Lam, Jane Nguyen, Roohee Patel and Rania Younes.

Receiving the Drew Forgash Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 is Johanna Alzate.

The Kevin Reitz Memorial Scholarship goes to Michael DeMato and Kerri Howells for \$580 each.

The Historical Society Scholarship of \$100 each was awarded to Lauren Yulick and Kim Bulla.

The Robustelli Scholarship was awarded to Lauren Walter, Brad Tierney and Joe Scotto for \$1,000 each.

The Timko Memorial Scholarship of \$250 goes to Jessica Ardis.

The Francis N. Bellew Memorial Scholarship of \$565 goes to Yolanda Toca.

The Giakas Family Foundation awards five, \$2,000 scholarships. This year's recipients are Justin Benford, Lisa Mocerino, Brad Tierney, Paul Lee and Tracy Regan. A \$2,000 renewal scholarship goes to Carol Schweer.

Patronize Our Advertisers

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Bruno Earns BA in Criminal Justice

Mario D. Bruno of South Plainfield has graduated from The Richard Stockton College of NJ in Pomona with a BA in Criminal Justice.

His parents are Sam Bruno of

Monmouth Junction and Janet Heiner of South Plainfield. Commencement ceremonies were held at the Pomona campus on Friday, May 12.

Malecki Earns BA in Political Science

Scott M. Malecki has graduated from The Richard Stockton College of NJ in Pomona with a BA in Political Science.

His parents are Thaddeus and

Patricia Malecki of South Plainfield.

Scott received his diploma on Friday, May 12 at commencement ceremonies in Pomona.

Pender Graduates from Marist College

Erin Marie Pender of South Plainfield graduated on May 20 from Marist College located in Poughkeepsie, NY. Pender graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Marist, an independent liberal

arts college in Poughkeepsie, is ranked among the top tier of colleges and universities in the northern United States in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges guide.

Yuill Is Recipient of Military Awards

Sergeant Daniel F. Yuill (USMC), son of Mr. and Mrs. John Yuill of South Plainfield, NJ, is currently deployed to the Arabian Gulf with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314. This is Daniel's second deployment on active duty in support of Operation Southern Watch in the Middle East.

Two weeks after graduation from South Plainfield High School in June of 1996, Daniel enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was selected for service as an 0231, Intelligence Specialist and received specialized training. In the Spring of 1997, upon completion of basic training, Daniel was assigned as an Intelligence Analyst with an F/A-18C Strike Fighter Squadron which was soon to proceed to the Arabian Gulf on a routine deployment.

Similar deployments have taken him to Mexico, Canada, Japan, China, Korea, Malaysia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates and in the near future, he will be arriving in Australia before to returning to the United States.

Daniel has been the bearer of several military awards including the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Deployment Award, Meritorious

Unit Citation, Naval Unit Citation and the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

He will soon receive two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals for his superior accomplishments during his tour of duty. He has also recently been nominated for the Exceptional Achievement Award, an annual award given to only one member of the US Marine Corps.

Daniel's tour of duty ends this summer. He'll be honorably discharged from the military and will receive veteran status. This past winter, one of Daniel's longest desires—acceptance to Rutgers University—was accomplished. Daniel will start as a full-time student in the fall semester as an undergraduate in pursuit of degrees in Middle Eastern Studies and Political Science on full scholarship provided by the U.S. Montgomery G.I. Bill and the Marine Corps College Fund.



Sgt. Daniel F. Yuill (USMC)

TERRA NOVA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Terra Nova Garden Club has a busy year-end schedule of activities planned. The Civic Beautification Committee planted flowers at the South Plainfield Municipal Building on May 17 as well as at the North Edison Library.

The Garden Therapy Committee

planted seeds with the Muhlenberg Adultcare Clients on May 17, following a Garden Therapy workshop at chairman Virginia Nuzzo's the day before. The club will also participate in the Garden Therapy program at Lyons VA. Hospital on May 26.

The club's monthly meeting

will be held on May 24 at the North Edison Library at 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker Barbara Jones will present a program titled "Feeding a Crowd." Guests are welcome. Hostesses for the evening will be Robin Jess and Elinor Winstanley; table design by Nancy Fuchs.

Congratulations

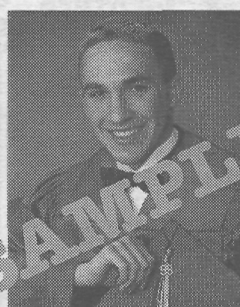
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Christopher Atcachunas
High School Graduation
June 25, 1999



Congratulations Chris!!
Love, Mom, Scott, Erica and Ashley

Good Luck Class of 2000!!!

Eodices are Grandparents of Twins

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Eodice Sr. of South Plainfield are the proud grandparents of twin

boys, Branden and Bryce Eodice, born on May 3, 2000.

Fessock Receives Achievement Medal

First Lieutenant Robert J. Fessock, 1993 graduate of South Plainfield High School, has been awarded the United States Army Achievement Medal for Outstanding

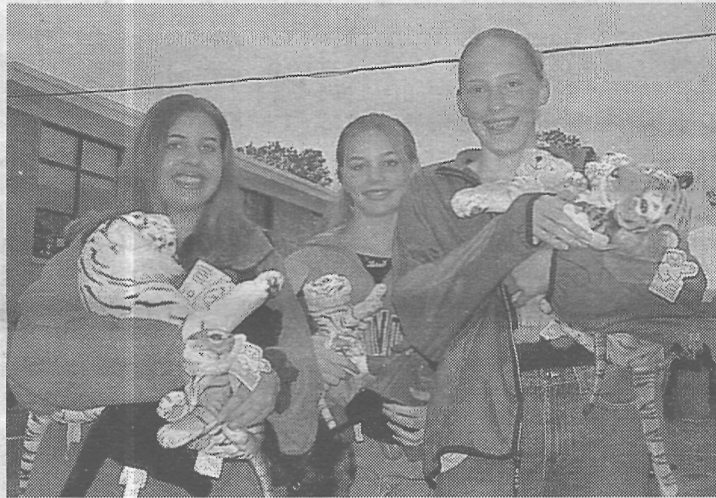
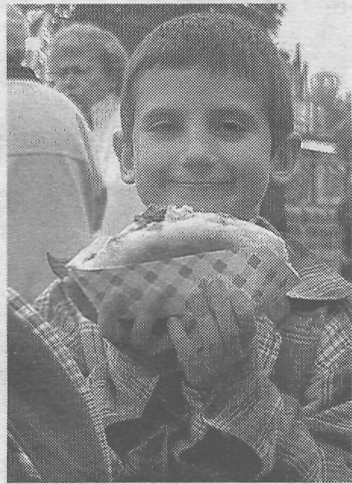
Service as platoon leader and executive officer while assigned to the 170th Military Police Company, Fort Lewis, Seattle, Washington.

Errico Makes Dean's List at Kean Univ.

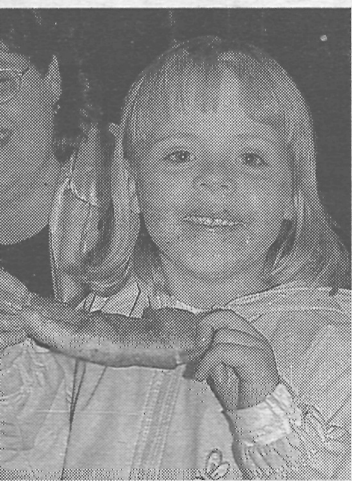
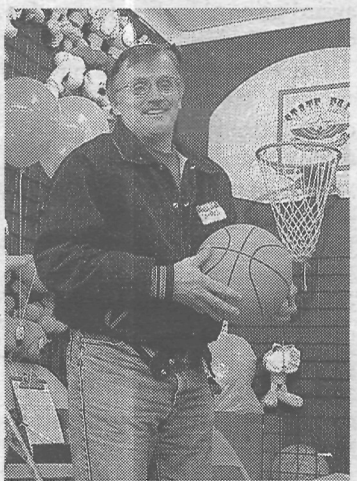
LeeAnn Errico, daughter of Gene and Janet Errico of South Plainfield successfully completed her sophomore year at Kean University, making the Dean's List for both the Fall and Spring semesters.

LeeAnn completed her freshman year at Salisbury State University in Maryland, prior to matriculating to Kean. A 1998 graduate of South Plainfield High School, LeeAnn is pursuing a degree in communications.

Sacred Heart's Funstival 2000



Sacred Heart's Annual Funstival Carnival was held last week. Despite the heavy rains sustained in our area, visitors had the opportunity to try out the food, ride the rides and win prizes.



John F. Kennedy School Holds Annual Spring Concert

John F. Kennedy School held their Spring Concert on May 17. The *John F. Kennedy String Ensemble* was led by conductor, Mrs. Carleen Tedeschi. Accompanist was Ms. Barbara Habeeb.

Third, fourth and fifth graders performed their favorite piece, "Hot Cross Buns" and "Happy Dance."

Musicians from this ensemble included the following: on *Violin I*, Katie Hardy, Melissa Budhan, Lauren Fry, Elizabeth Pisack, Tina Bijlani, Katie Eder, Chelsea Moubarak, Victoria Tran, Amber Scott and Kelly McCormack; on *Violin II*, Taylor Kurilew, Kathryn McGee, Lisa Migiliore, Molly O'Brien and Sara Johnson. On *Viola*, Devin Kile and Raymond Lee; on *Cello*, Brittney O'Brien, Barney Johnson, Danielle Ranger and Ian McGregor.

The evening continued with performances by the *John F. Kennedy School Band*, conducted by Tobie Baldwin, which included Johannes Brahms' "Hungarian Dance No. 5" and Leo Arnaud's "Bugler's Dream."

Members of the *Intermediate Band* included, on *Flute*, Ashley Prete, Amanda Harzula, Jennifer Copeland, David Quiroga, Elizabeth Valentino and Kimberly Russell; on *Alto Saxophone*: Robert McGregor III, Jessica Ranger and Brian Hanley.

On *French Horn*, Joanna Luzny, Elizabeth Diamant and Samantha Rivera; on *Baritone Horn*, John Christ III and Britney O'Brien; on *Oboe*, Aaron Wright; on *Clarinet*, Chelsea Moubarak, Raymond Lee and Kory McGovern; on *Trumpet*, Keith Heckel, Michael Penkunas, Austen Lynch, Andrew Ohriska and Ryan Pauls; on *Trombone*, Ryan Szumski; on *Percussion*, Grey Coppi, Michael Chambers, Christopher DeOliveria and Philip Luzny.

The *Advanced Band*, also conducted by Tobie Baldwin, presented performances of "Bartok Three Folk Songs" by Bela Bartok and arranged by Anne McGinty, "Gymnopedie No. 1" by Eric Satie and arranged by Larry Clark and "Maria" from *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim and arranged by Eric Osterling.

The *Advanced Band* is comprised up of the following students: on *Flute*, Ashleigh Gaspari, Guari Joshi, Maxwell Johnson,



Kyla Rouse and Dorian Bishop; on *Oboe*, Britney Holloway; on *Clarinet*, Alexandra Viscosi and Selene Rayho and on *Alto Saxophone*, Justin Pauls.

On *Trumpet*, Anthony Ettore and Timothy Williams, on *French Horn*, Ryan Miller; on *Trombone*, Daniel Becker; on *Tuba*, Barney Johnson and on *Percussion*, Donna Cacciatore and Lori Sepkowski.

The *School Chorus*, conducted by Barbara Habeeb, was accompanied by Carleen Tedeschi. Mistress of ceremonies was Melissa Budhan.

Students performed "JA-DA" by Bob Carlton, "The Dream Lives On" by Mary Donnelly and George L.O. Strid and "Aura Lee, Are You Sleeping" and "Go Tell Aunt Rhody."

LAMP students on *Recorders* were Alexander Viscosi, Ashleigh Gaspari, Donna Garcia, Katie Hardy, Lori Sepkowski, Amanda Harzula, Britney Holloway, Jackie Miller, Kyla Rouse and Nicholas Pasquale.

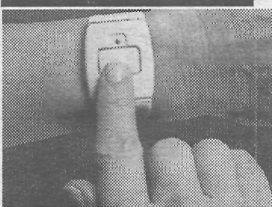
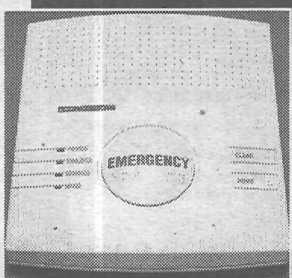
The *chorus* is: Quran Ali, Tina Bijlani, Kristen Billich, Dorian

Bishop, Elizabeth Blackford, Melissa Budhan, Cynthia Carlson, Vanessa Casteblanco, Jennifer Copeland, Megan Cornel, Kristina Kursi, Katie D'Aleo, Caitlin Davies, Jenna DeLillo, Christopher DeOliveria, Elizabeth Diamant, Katie Eder, Anthony Ettore, Constance Flanagan, Lauren Fry, Donna Garcia, Jennifer Garzon, Ashleigh Gaspari, Samantha Granski, Stephanie Hansen, Katie Hardy, Amanda Harzula, Britney Holloway, Jenna Kanaley, Becky Keller, Taylor Kurilew, Jordan Leporino, CJ Loiacono.

Mark MacIntosh, Joy Maszczak, Stephanie Mazurak, Kathryn McGee, Kory McGovern, Tricia Merryman, Jackie Miller, Chelsea Moubarak, Neghan Nigro, Jaime Okosko, Sonali Patel, Ashley Prete and Jessica Ranger, Samantha Rivera, Elizabeth Rodger, Kyla Rouse, Tiffany Rouse, Rohanda Sharbash, Sara Shulte, Sean Tamzoke, Christopher Uribe, Elizabeth Valentino, Alexandra Viscosi and Timothy Williams.

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John E. Riley Spring Concert

On May 15 John E. Riley School entertained family and friends at their annual Spring Concert.

Riley School Chorus, directed by Joanne Gurske and accompanied by Joan Stasio, were Briana Alexander, Kimberly Barletta, Stephanie Bartfaivi, Brittney Bishara, Daniel Bosse, Brianna Calderone, Derika Catalano, Nicole Cosma, Christopher Delaney, Tina DeStefano, Lauren DiFrancesco, Sherrie Lynn Donato, Katie Egan, Rachel Estevez, Melissa Fisher, Jessica Flood-Crisitello, Melissa Franzson, Nicole Freitas, Alexandra Fodor, Crystal Gorman, Katherine Gorman, Marcel Graham, Jessica Gray, Carolina Guardado, Taylor Harris, Meghan Hartmann, Allison Hartym, Clare Kelly, Stephanie Kelly.

Christine Lanza, Kimberly Le, Ashley Little, Jennifer Little, Jaclyn MacDougall, Sam Martin, Nicole Mathew, Jennifer Mocerino, Roxana Morilia, Anthony Moscato, Krista Natale-Hellebrand, Katie Noonan, Ashley Peterson, Heather Prokoplak, Kayla Quadral, Leslie Quichua, Tanya Ramnath, Karla Reyes, Jessica Rousseau, Nicole Scott, Gary Stark, Stanley Stellakis, Katie Sullivan, Stephanie Szoliga, Amanda Thorn, Meghan Toolan, Chelsea VanEss, Jessica Vasquez.

The Riley School Band, directed by Joan Stasio, are: *Flutes*—Megan Boyle, Nicole Freitas, Alexandra Fodor, Chelsea VanEss, Brianne Calderon,

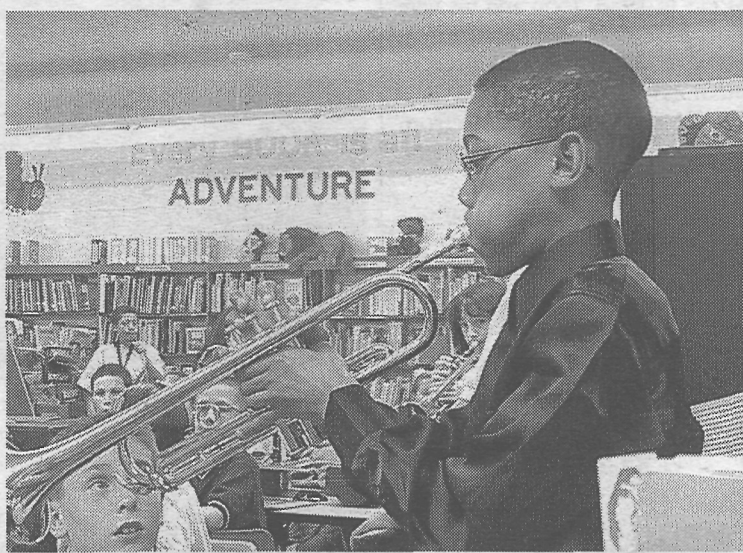


Brittney Bishara, Clare Kelly.

Clarinets—Jacqueline Bosse, Leslie Quichua, Justin Panzarella, Jessica Gray, Alyssa Roibal, Amanda Thom, Jaclyn MacDougall, Taylor Harris, Catherine Natareno, Rebecca Bosse, Kaitlin Egan.

Trumpets—Fred Hooks, Michael George, Tanya Ramnath, Bobby Harrington, Nicole Cosma, Julie Garbowski, Jessica Adams, Christopher Peel.

Alto Saxophones—Matthew Krupit, David Sangster, Stanley



Stellakis, Christopher Delaney, Daniel Flynn, Eric Rovayo.

Trombone—Marcel Graham, Jerome Jemerson.

Percussion—Christopher Stallone, Ryan Egan, Matthew Gross, Christopher Herbster, Travis Noll, Nicholas Haupt, Brian Wieckowski, Ron Guancione, Robert Mathis, Derika Catalano, Kathleen Sullivan, Stephanie Kelly, Matthew Olpinski, Anthony Moscato, Matthew Seider, John Mocharski. On *Bells*—Drika Cetalano.

Recorder Ensemble directed by Joanne Gurski were Lee Aboosamara, Jonathan Addesa, Stephanie Barletta, Thomas Barney, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael Boyle, Maxwell Butler, Danielle Butrico, Jonathan Conroy, Justin Ditmars, Luis Dubon, Jessica Gonzalez, Jennifer Gustafson, Christopher Izzi, Stephanie Lanza, Carly Reuter, Patricia Robles, Rhianna Ruzicki-DiPaolo, Teddy Skwiat, Salvador Soto, Nora Stasio, David Vaerio, Stephen Wagner, Samantha Barthel, Kimberly Carlomagno, Kyle Chandler, Sean Coffey, Courtney Easterday, Lindsay Fredericks, Joseph Grennier, Christopher Hartie, Ashley Hawkins, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Kobilis, Colleen Mackenzie, Kelly Nguyen, Matthew Ortiz, Christopher Seesselberg, Rocco Severini, Ricky Sierzega,

Mark Sprenger, Stevie Stark, Kara Thomas, Paul Zushma.

String Ensemble under the direction of Carleen Teceschi were: *Violin I*—PhiNguyen, Jessica Vasquez, Ryan Kamen, Nicole Miglis, Katherine Gorman, Kimberly Pham, Justin Ditmars, Christopher Seesselberg, Nicholas Vallone, Duy Nguyen, Heidi Hanson, Nora Stasio, Timothy Ratti, Matthew Ortiz, Kyle Chandler.

Viola—Stephen Parello, Stephanie Milici, Stephen Wagner.

Violin II—Robert Moreira, Stephanie Szeliga, Elan Sims, Catherine Natareno, Briana Alexander, Rhianna Ruzicki-DiPaolo, Allison Clawans, Matthew Smith, Jonathan Conroy, Patrick Nolt, Amanda Hunterton, Christopher Izzi, Patricia Robles.

Cello—Ryan Bunting, Maxwell Butler, Mark Sprenger.

Planning for Retirement

money matters

There's a lot of truth in the saying, "Most people don't plan to fail, they fail to plan." This is especially true for retirement planning. Too often, people assume that they can plan for their retirement within a few years of the day they quit working.

The fact is, although it is never too late, it is best to start early. It's never too soon to start setting goals and planning for your financial independence in retirement.

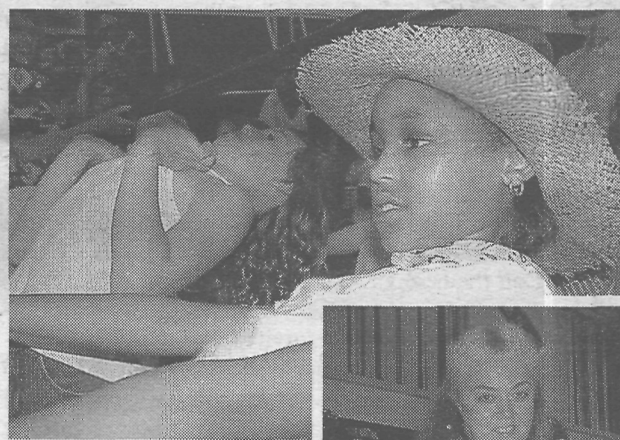
Financial advisors predict that most retirees will need between 70 and 80% of their pre-retirement income to maintain the same standard of living during retirement. Of course, this can vary due to the personal lifestyles of each individual, but you may want to use a similar percentage as a rough estimate of your needs.

Although your investment strategies for retirement will be for income and protection of principal, growth of income cannot be ignored. Inflation can have a profound

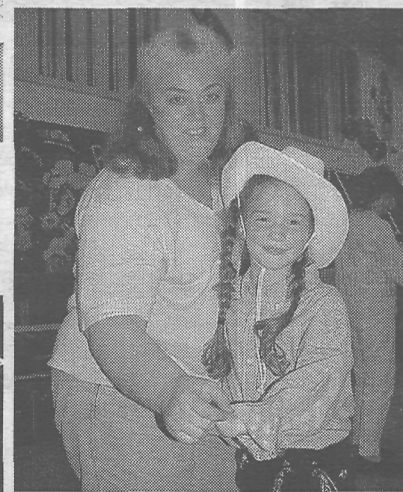
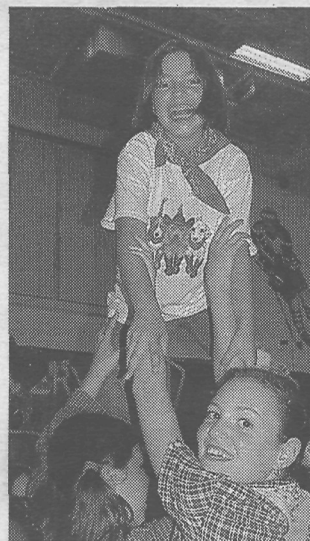
effect over time on a portfolio that is weighted too heavily in conservative investments. Investing in these accounts, such as savings accounts, bank CDs or Treasuries, could lead to your reaching retirement and finding out that you will not be able to maintain your current standard of living. Your principal investment will be safe, but the income may not be able to keep up with inflation.

To help offset the effects of inflation, you need to ensure that the return from your investments keeps up with, or beats, the rate of inflation. One way to achieve this goal is to invest in stocks or mutual funds. Over the long term, stocks have outpaced inflation, while money market funds and CDs have barely kept up with it. Yes, stocks may fluctuate over the short term and have a greater degree of risk, but a well balanced portfolio of stocks and other investments will help protect you from the effects of inflation without exceeding your risk comfort level.

Jeannmarie Fultz is a Registered Representative based in South Plainfield. She can be reached locally at (908) 561-3608. Securities offered through Clearing Services of America, Inc., Member NASD/SIPC. 77 West Port Plaza, Suite 263 St Louis, MO 63146 (314) 878-7565.



Kennedy Hoedown!



Kennedy School Girl Scouts had a foot-stompin' good time at the Mother/Daughter Girl Scout dinner. Troop 958 were the hosts and troops 8, 14, 118, 883, 924 and 690 attended. The western theme had moms and girls decked out in cowboy hats, bandanas and jeans. All enjoyed a variety of food then hit the dance floor. Music was by Boot Scootin' Slim and Pam.

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2000 Wall of Fame Nominees to be Honored

(Continued from page one)

From 1999-2000, Susan was the Coordinator of Minority Recruitment and Retention for the University of San Francisco where she developed a program using newsletters, brochures and web-pages to interest and aid potential new students. She established the first Minority Overnight Visit Program for admitted high school seniors, the first Multicultural Unity Picnic. She developed the first Upward Bound and Trio Bay Area minority on campus recruitment program, "Bay Area High School Basketball Night Program."

Honors include the Vizuri Kabisa Award for Academic Excellence, Doctoral Student, in 1997, 1998, and 1999. The Black Student Union, Appreciation Award and the Vizuri Kabisa Award for University Unity Award. Susan is the new student Retention Officer and Coordinator at Kean University.

James R. Schenck of Arlington, Va. a 1984 graduate of SPHS, was nominated by Kenneth Van Kleef. James graduated from West Point in 1988 and has held various positions with the US Army in Korea from 1989-1991. He graduated Harvard Business School, became an instructor at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, then an assistant professor and later executive officer to the Dean.

James is currently the Action Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) at The Pentagon in Washington, DC. He is on the Board of Directors for both the Pentagon Federal Credit Union and the Pentagon Federal Insurance and Services Corporation and has served on the board of the West Point Federal Credit Union. He coauthored *Armed Forces Guide to Personal Financial Planning*.

James was a Rhodes and Marshall Scholarship Faculty Advisor at West Point, a judge for the West Point Debate Team and the treasurer for the Army Hockey Association. He is a member of

the Harvard Business School (HBS) Alumni Association, an organizer with the West Point Trap and Skeet Team and the was also the President of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and serves on the Council of Foreign Relations, NY, NY.

Georgeann DiGrazio, a resident of South Plainfield, was nominated by her daughter Georgeann Larson. She attended the original Grant School and is a 1968 graduate of SPHS.

Georgeann has been a floral designer for 20 years and the owner and operator of Mohn's Flowers and Fancy Foods since 1990. Over the years Georgeann has always been active in the community. She served as president of the Pop Warner Football Eagles, was a member of the executive board of the Athletic Booster Club and a member of the Business Association, all in South Plainfield.

One phrase you hear her repeat often is, "Anything for the kids!" She is currently a member and an active supporter of a number of youth oriented organizations such as Vision 2001, Project Graduation and a high school Gold Card sponsor. Gold Card students are offered free corsages and/or boutonnières for the prom. Georgeann sponsors a Mother's Day essay contest and she and partner Bill Cochrane pocket the expenses of the roses for 12 lucky winners every year. PTA and PTSOs throughout town know they can count on Georgeann when it's fundraising time. She has been a member of the Recreation Commission since 1982 and she is a past member of the South Plainfield Juvenile Conference Committee.

Georgeann is also a breast cancer survivor and shares her experience as she counsels women who are just beginning to experience the fears and questions regarding breast cancer and mastectomy.

John R. Vargo of Falls Church, Va., was nominated by Wallace Giakas. John attended Franklin Elementary School and graduated

SPHS in 1973. John and his wife Kim have two daughters, Ellen, 10 and Julia 7. He majored in business and economics and earned his MS and MBA from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

John is a telecommunications executive with over 20 years experience. He is a founding partner of DaVinci Solutions, LLC-NY, NJ and Va. He served as president, CEO, vice president and director for a number of growing communications businesses in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and California and Washington DC.

John is active in his community "Neighborhood Watch" and helps out with his daughter Ellen's Junior Girl Scout Troop; participating in projects and helping with cookie sales. He volunteers in various youth sports and is active at his children's school. The annual "Walk for the Homeless" is another area of service to his community.

John Frederick Roser, Jr. of Clifton, Va., was nominated by his father John F. Roser, Sr. He is a 1974 graduate of SPHS, is married with two children. John is a Colonel in the US Army, only three years from retirement. He received two awards from the army; the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. John attended the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va. and the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. His graduate studies include Internship Medicine, US Army in Honolulu, Hawaii. He is a graduate of Army AMEDD, Officer Advanced Courses and US Army General Staff College.

John has served on the Plainfield and South Plainfield Rescue Squads and in the Emergency Room at Harrisburg General Hospital in Pa.

In 1973 John caught two touchdown passes that enabled the SPHS Tigers to win the annual Thanksgiving Day game against North Plainfield Canucks.

Dr. Kenneth F. Diana of Manassquan, graduated from SPHS in 1971. He attended Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pa., where he majored in biology. He also attended Georgetown University School of Dentistry in Washington DC, where he graduated in 1980. He has maintained a family dental practice in Monmouth and Ocean Counties since 1980 and is a member of the American Dental Association, NJ Dental Association, Monmouth/Ocean Counties Dental Society and the Academy of General Dentistry.

Kenneth has been featured in the cover story of the *Incisal Edge*, a dental trade magazine and he has a pending article for publication in the *Journal of Prosthetic Dentistry* on dental implant prosthetic reconstruction. Kenneth gives back to his community by presenting oral health lectures for senior citizen groups and is an annual guest speaker for Career Days in Brick Township, Point Pleasant and Howell Township school systems. He served as an Ocean Township Little League manager for two years and is an annual supporter of the St. Dominics Sports League. He also served as a volunteer on-call for forensic identification of victims of the TWA flight 800 airline disaster off Long Island, NY.



Storm Clobbers Borough's North Side

(Continued from page one)

Houses and cars were literally covered with vegetation, giving them the appearance of having been splattered with green paint. Some residents reported large hail pounding against their windows. Many residents were without power for several days.

People were unable to leave or return to their homes until late Friday afternoon. Streets were impassable with downed power lines making just walking a hazard.

The police department 911 emergency lines immediately lit up. Franklin School was turned into a command center. Police, fire and rescue squad members responded in what turned out to be an around-the-clock tour of duty. Mayor Gallagher and several councilpeople arrived to help. Roads were immediately closed in the area and PSE&G was called out. Fire department members responded to homes hit by trees, turning off electric power where it was deemed dangerous. Rescue squad members began checking on the elderly and sick, making sure that all were safe. No major injuries were reported from the storm.

The storm raged off and on for hours, but the severe damage was done within a relatively short time frame. The destruction left behind will take weeks to clean up.

As the rain fell steadily on Friday morning, people could be seen hosing down their homes and moving what they could of the debris. A bus seeking a way around the closed roads attempted to cut through Palmer to access Sherman Ave. Branches littered the street and the top of a telephone pole, complete with wires, lay dangling at the corner of Palmer

and Sherman. Police helped guide the bus back out of the road to an area of Tompkins that was passable.

The shopping center on the corner of Seventh and Clinton lost its roof and received extensive flood damage.

Sandra and Mark Freuler, who live on Maltby Ave., got quite a scare. A falling tree came crashing down on their roof and a branch from the tree cut through both the roof and attic, imbedding itself in their living room ceiling. Luckily Mark had just vacated that area to seek shelter in the basement. Their home has been declared uninhabitable and they are temporarily staying with relatives.

Most of the affected area lost electric power and phone service. Crews from PSE&G spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday cutting trees and repairing power lines. By Sunday afternoon everyone's power was back on but some still did not have phone service.

Once again South Plainfield's police department, volunteer firemen and rescue squad personal should be commended on how well they handled the emergency. We heard nothing but praise for how they all handled the many emergencies which arose that night and on the days that followed. We should all keep in mind what this town would be like if we didn't have all of these volunteers, willing to leave their warm, dry homes everytime South Plainfield needs them in an emergency. If you see a member of the police, fire or rescue squad say thanks and especially remember them when they send that once a year letter asking for a donation. What better way to say thank you.

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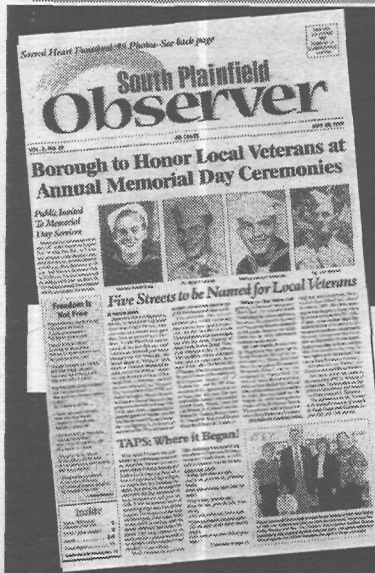
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Notice to Residents

The borough will not be responsible and will not pick up any stumps from private property. Nor will they pick up debris cut up by private contractors and left at the curb. Residents are responsible for removal.

-Emergency Management Coordinator,
Mike Zushma

So. Plfld. Blaze Leaves a Trail of Smoke

So. Plfld. Blaze vs. Montclair Wee Badgeron May 21—The South Plainfield U-11 Girl's soccer team beat Montclair, posting their second sweep of the season and improving their record to 5 and 4.

On a damp and wet field the Blaze continued to do what they have been doing all season long – playing tough!

Our defense comprised of Kate Hardy in as keeper, Dorian Bishop and Becky Keller in as stopper and sweeper, Katie Baldassarre and Elizabeth Flannery handling the outside wing fullback positions allowed for only one score in the first half. Our mid-fielders Lauren Fry, Clare Kelly, Tiffany Roth, Alex Viscosi and

Maria Lipnick dominated the middle, which allowed our forward right Jennifer Copeland a chance to score the first goal of the game. Allison Huffsmith went in as left forward assisting.

Montclair answered back with a score of their own setting the stage for what would be a very exciting game. With numerous offside calls against us and not to be outdone Blaze quickly answered back with a score of their own. Katelyn Conrad scored on a blocked shot taken by Jennifer Copeland.

At halftime the scored was Blaze 2, Montclair 1.

The second half started out slow for Blaze which allowed Montclair

a chance to tie it up. With the dazzling work of Dorian Bishop and persistence from Katie Baldassarre on the right side, Kate Hardy was able to score on a crossed shot from the right to break the tie. What would've seemed like a lucky break for Montclair turned out to be a turning point for Blaze. On a foul in the box Montclair had a chance to tie the game with a penalty kick. Not to be denied Becky Keller in as keeper made a sensational save to preserve the win.

The final score was Blaze 3, Montclair 2. Way to go girls!

Visit our web site at www.sopfld-soccerclub.com.

– Submitted by Coach Hardy

Blast U-9 Soccer Post Winning Record

The South Plainfield Blast, our own U-9 soccer team, topped off their season with a 2-2 tie at Cranford. It was another exciting year for our boys, who have now competed for three seasons, going undefeated twice. Their overall record stands at a very impres-

sive 23 wins, 2 losses and 7 ties.

The team was led in scoring by Kenny Breslau, Allen Garcia and Nick Pauls. Strong offensive contributions were also made by Max Butler and Chris Izzi. Leading the distribution from midfield were Joseph Gonzalez, James Seyffart,

Joey Lacerda and Ian Collins.

Potent defensive games were always turned in by Mike Dezmin and Daniel Phillips. Acrobatic goaltending was displayed by Steven Kelly and Nick Jeglinski, who both also contributed on the rest of the field. Coach Carlos Gonzalez and his assistant Paul Seyffart did an outstanding job with this group of young men. We're all very proud of them and wish them luck at Soccer-Ama on June 18.

– Submitted by Sam Pauls

Sign Ups for Recreation Summer Camps Underway

South Plainfield Recreation will be offering summer camps in soccer, field hockey, basketball, baseball, softball and wrestling.

Soccer camp will be held July 17 to July 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Middle School gym. It is open to boys and girls ages 8-15. The cost is \$35.

Field Hockey camp will be held June 26 through June 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Middle School (rain or shine). It is open to girls 8-13. The cost is \$35.

Basketball camp will be held from July 10 through July 14, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the SPHS gym. It is open to boys and girls ages 8-13. The cost is \$35.

Baseball summer camp will be

held from July 3 to July 7 (no camp on July 4), Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the SPHS ballfields. Rain site is the high school gym. It's open to residents ages 8-15. Cost is \$35.

Softball camp runs July 24 to July 28, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the SPHS ballfields. Rain site is the high school gym. It's open to girls ages 8-15. Cost is \$35.

Wrestling camp runs from July 10 to July 14, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the SPHS gym. Open to residents ages 7-15. Cost is \$35.

Applications are available at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. For more information call 226-7714.

Be a Part of the Most Popular Sport in the World!

The South Plainfield Soccer Club, in association with MNJYSA, NJYSA, US Youth Soccer & FIFA, announces tryouts for the Fall and Spring 2000/2001 season on May 26 and 27 and June 2 and 3. Boys and girls ages 8 through 14 are eligible.

For complete details visit the tryout section of our website at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com or call Pete Kelly at 908-226-0387.

Tryouts will be held at South Plainfield High School field at the end of Lake St. The dates and times are as follows:

U-Age	Born Between	First Day	Second Day
U-8	8/1/92-7/31/94	May 26-6:30 to 8:30 pm	May 27- 2 to 4 pm
U-9	8/1/91-7/31/92	May 27-10 am to 12 Noon	June 3-10 am to 12 noon
U-10	8/1/90-7/31/91	May 27-12 noon to 2 pm	June 3-12 noon to 2 pm
U-11	8/1/89-7/31/90	June 2-6:30 to 8:30 pm	June 3-2 to 4pm
U-12	8/1/88-7/31/89	May 27-4 to 6 pm	June 3-4 to 6 pm
U-13	8/1/87-7/31/88	May 27-6 to 8 pm	June 3-6 to 8 pm
U-14	8/1/86-7/31/87	May 27-8 to 10 am	June 3-8 to 10 am

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

Please mail, fax or email your copy, (preferably typed in upper and lower case and double spaced). Send to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Fax to (908) 668-8819, email us on our web page at spobserver.com.

By Frank Hanley

juniorbaseballclubnotes

Rain Stops Play—Due to the rain and wet field conditions, all games since last Thursday were cancelled. These games will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

Traveling All-Stars—Due to the weather, the try-out dates and times have changed. Players and parents should check the notices posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse, or contact the team managers for details. Contact Tournament Director Danny White with any questions.

12-Year-Old Tryouts—The 12-year-old try-out schedule has been changed due to the weather. The try-outs for the 12 year-old-team will be held at the following times..Sunday, May 28, 10 a.m. at field 3....Monday, May 29, 10 a.m. at field 3...Tuesday May 30, 4 p.m. at field 3.

SPJBC Annual Tournament—The club is pleased to announce that it will be holding its annual All-Star tournament this year beginning on June 29. Teams from all over the state have been invited to attend. This year, the format in all age groups has been changed to a "round robin" style.

Raffle—The books are due back on June 5. The raffle will be drawn on June 17.

Woman's Auxiliary—The Women will be holding their annual dinner-dance, a "Casino Night," on Saturday, June 3 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the VFW hall. Tickets are \$45 per person. Contact Cindy Eichler at 769-4047 for tickets and information. There are a limited number of tickets still available.

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

Events at a Glance

Somerset Patriots Game - Friday, May 26
"Casino Nite" Dinner/Dance - Saturday, June 3
All-Star Day - Sunday, June 4
All-Star Tournament - begins Thursday, June 29

Game Highlights and League Standings not available due to the weather.....

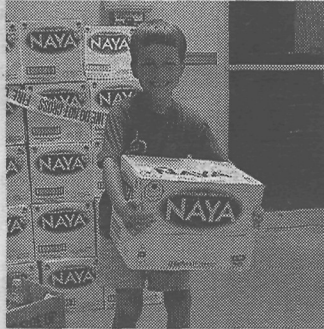
2000 GMC Softball Championships

The South Plainfield Girls Softball Team will be playing Metuchen at the South Plainfield High school complex on Field 1 at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 27.

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Obituaries

Stanley F. Vozab, 81

Stanley F. Vozab died on Wednesday, May 17, at his home here.

Born in New York City, he had resided in Parlin most of his life, Bayville for 10 years and South Plainfield for the past three years.

He had been a Hall of Fame salesman for 44 years with Reigal Textiles in New York City covering a territory from Baltimore to Buffalo. He started with the company as a box wrapper and worked his way up to the sales department where he was the first to become a salesman in Reigal without a college degree. He opened the door for future salesmen in the same situation. He was offered many positions of advancement in the company, but preferred to stay in sales. His career ended in 1983, when he retired.

He was a veteran of WW II where he served in the US Army in Japan.

He was as also a member of the Elks and Democratic Club. He was also an avid bowler and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Vozab is predeceased by his wife Mildred (Ulrich) Vozab.

Surviving are two daughters, Valerie Kadek of South Plainfield and Linda Mazola of Arizona; a sister, May Geffort of Rye, NY and a brother, Edward Vozab, of Long Island.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Michael Kaduk, Maria Marzinke and Jennifer Kaduk, Kevin Mazola, Gary Mazola and Cara Seavers.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations may be made to the Cedar Croft Bible Chapel.

Marie M. (DiGiosafatto) Ettere, 65

Marie M. (DiGiosafatto) Ettere died on Saturday, May 20 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Italy, Mrs. Ettere came to the U.S. in 1939, residing in

Manville. She had resided in South Plainfield for 20 years before settling in Hillsborough in 1983.

She was employed at the former Unisys Co. in Flemington where she worked in production.

She is predeceased by her husband Sam, who died in 1981 and her parents, Pasquale and Michelina DiGiosafatto and her brother, Frank DiGiosafatto.

She is survived by her daughter, Lorraine and her husband Chris Yoos of Pocono Summit, Pa. and her son Edward and his wife Debbie Ettere of Somerville; three sisters Jeanette Flower of Blairs-town, NJ, Angeline Castin of Hillsborough and Rose Godown of Bound Brook; two brothers, James DeGiosafatto of Manville and Peter DeGiosafatto of Maine.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Frank W. Rafalko, 41

Frank W. Rafalko died suddenly on Saturday, May 20, at his home in Keansburg.

Born in Belleville, NJ, Mr. Rafalko had resided in South Plainfield for most of life before settling in Keansburg 14 years ago.

Mr. Rafalko was a 1977 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

He was employed as a driver for Stroehmann Bakery for the past year. Prior to Stroehmann, he worked for Hostess in Woodbridge as a driver and then moved to management for 15 years.

He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local #194 Bakery Drivers of Vauxhall, NJ.

Surviving are his wife, Angie (Spohn) Rafalko; two daughters, Tiffany and Krista and three sons, Frank, Nicholas and Matthew Rafalko, all at home; his parents, Stanley and Judy (Tierff) Rafalko of South Plainfield; a sister, Christine Floster of Maine and a brother, Robert Rafalko of Hazlet.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated.

Local Residents Perform at Renaissance Kingdom

A number of South Plainfield residents are participating in the 2000 NJ Renaissance Kingdom.

Katie Mott appears as Princess Alfreda in the tale *Finder's Keepers*. She is a 13 year old seventh grade student at the Middle School, was a member of the Franklin All Stars Drama Club for two years and appeared in her first SP Summer Drama Workshop production in 1999 and most recently appeared in the Middle School production of Kokonut High. Kate is also a volunteer with the Roosevelt School Drama Club. This is her first year as a volunteer and performer with the NJ Renaissance Kingdom.

Pam Cianfrocca is a 15 year old SPHS sophomore who appeared in the first Franklin All Stars Drama Club program. She has been a part of the Middlesex County Teen Arts Program for several years and is a five year veteran of Summer Drama Workshop. Pam is in her third year as a volunteer teacher/director for the Roosevelt School Drama Club. This is Pam's second year with the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom where she is a member of the newly formed Junior Revelers. She also portrays Princess Marissa in the Fairy Tale land performance of *Finder's Keepers*.

Chris Abbott, a 14 year old eighth grade student at the Middle School has performed with the Franklin All Star Drama Club for five years and has been onstage with the Summer Drama Workshop for seven years. He is a three year volunteer with the Roosevelt School Drama Club. Chris has been a part of the NJ Renaissance



Kingdom since the age of four. This is his second year performing on the Kingdom's stages. He is a member of the Kingdom's Junior Revelers and also portrays Kurtz the Klutz in the *Fairy Tale Land* show, *Finder's Keepers*. The *Observer* will feature additional local participants next week.

Prepare for a world of royals, knights, nobles and peasants as the NJ Renaissance Kingdom celebrates its 12th anniversary season. The walk the down the hill towards the gate of the NJ Renaissance Kingdom provides only a glimpse of what lies ahead. The final step over the bridge into the kingdom transports one into another time and place. Merchants and villagers mix with royalty and revelers. From the Towne Square, to the King's Royal Keep, to Briarwood's Pirates Cove to the depths of the Enchanted Forest, the entertainment is non-stop. Over 30 shows provide something for everyone. Come see the

Bard and the Bard's company, the Fairy Tale Troupe, and the Somerset Puppeteers and listen to the Madrigal Singers and Somerset Revelers.

The NJ Renaissance Kingdom is unique in that it offers an ongoing storyline throughout the day. The opening ceremony, which sets the tone for the day begins at 12 noon. The season runs through July 2, on Saturday and Sunday, as well as Memorial Day. Hours are 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on the property of the Festival on Davidson Ave. in Somerset, off exit 10 on I-287. The weekend of July 1 and 2 will be a special Pirate Adventures Weekend in which the entire Kingdom will be overrun by a scurvy lot of ruffians, pirates, smugglers and bawdy wenches. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children under 12, \$8 for seniors, toddlers under 3 go free. Group sales discounts are available. For more information and directions call (732) 271-1119.

By Cyrus N. Moon

Weekly Horoscope

ARIES - March 21-April 19—You are the first sign in the zodiac. This means new beginnings. Some traits you may have: energetic, active, and open to change, impulsive. Mars is your ruling planet, ancient god of war. Your color is red like that of fire. Birthstone is the diamond. There you go lady Aries. A city to visit—how about England. Key word I AM! The Ram goes head first into situations so ease up as these may get out of hand sometimes.

TAURUS - April 20-May 20—Your most favorite trait as seen in the eyes of others is dependability. Your ruling planet is Venus the Roman goddess of beauty and the arts. You may be quiet but make no mistake the Bull is strong and can be fierce. Lucky day, Friday. Birthstone is the emerald. Tree to plant how about a cypress or apple. Pale blue is always a nice color to wear. For a country may I suggest Cyprus? Key word—Balance.

GEMINI - May 21-June 20—The sign of communication. Quick witted full of ideas—One who wants to play all the parts actor, director, producer, and stagehand. Mercury rules over this sign. Ancient messengers of the gods which also rules communication and travel. Birthstone is the agate. A cool city for you to check out would be San Francisco. Wear your seat belt in the car. People of this sign are prone to injury while traveling.

CANCER - June 21-July 22—The Moon is your ruler here, as a satellite around the

earth it moves and wanes a strong magnetic force in your life. And need I say it 'emotions.' Some of your nice traits are sympathy and being receptive. You also can be shrewd but be careful it does not backfire on you. The pearl is your stone this can change bad fortune into good. And a nice country for you to travel is Scotland. Your colors sea green and silver.

LEO - July 23-August 22—Your loyalty is without question. You control your own domain no matter how small or large. While others will accept second best you will not. And why not the SUN is your ruler the center of the solar system. Other words to describe you powerful, creative, and generous. Well don't you know there is a down side?

Don't draw people into confrontations you are not always right. And you can also be the target of slander. Your birthstone is the lovely ruby. And your place to visit is Hollywood, where else?

VIRGO - August 23-September 22—Never put off anything that can be done today instead of tomorrow that is the code for this other Mercury ruler. The Virgin who is the symbol for this sign represents purity, modesty, and service to your fellow human being. Since Virgo rules the nervous system in the body you can be prone to illness caused by stress and tension. So do things to lighten the load. A trip to Greece would be nice and Paris on the way home. Sapphire is your stone. Your lucky numbers 5 and 3.

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Freight Train Strikes Tractor/Trailer at Clinton Ave. Exten.

On Thursday, May 18 at 10 a.m., a freight train traveling east bound on the Lehigh Valley Line struck a tractor/trailer traveling northbound at the railroad crossing located on South Clinton Ave. Extension. The engine of the train struck the very rear portion of the trailer, partially overturning the tractor/trailer. The roadway was closed for approximately 1½ hours as a result of the crash.

The operator of the tractor/trailer, Frantz Felix of Brooklyn, age 38, sustained minor injuries and was transported to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center by the South Plainfield Rescue Squad. Nobody on board the train was injured. Felix stated that he was straddling the RR crossing when the lights/gates were activated and indicated that he was unsure of what action to take and by the time he decided to

move forward, the train hit the trailer.

The tractor/trailer sustained moderate damage to the 36' open dump trailer. The tractor/trailer is registered to the Hugo New Schnitzer East company in Jersey City, NJ.

The locomotive, which sustained minor damage as a result of the impact, was hauling new automobiles and had a total of 61 rail cars in tow. The engineer of the train reported he was traveling at approximately 50 mph at the time of the crash.

P.O. Wayne Diana of the South Plainfield Police Department is investigating the crash. Emergency services on scene included the South Plainfield Police Department, South Plainfield Fire Department, South Plainfield Rescue Squad and South Plainfield Office of Emergency Management.

policereport

- Footlocker, Oak Tree Rd., reported the theft of three pairs of shoes. Two suspects entered the store and asked for several pairs of shoes. While the employee's attention was diverted the suspects ran out the door with the merchandise.

- Ramon Perez of Phillipsburg notified police of the theft of a CD player from his locked vehicle. Unknown suspects gained entry to the vehicle, which was parked on So. Clinton Ave., by prying the lock. The CD player was valued at \$300.

- A South 9th St. resident reported the theft of two Honda motorcycles from her unlocked garage.

- A manager at Eckerd on Maple Ave. reported a shoplifting. The manager stated that a black male, about 5 ft. 10 inches and dressed in all white, had entered the store. As he exited with a green backpack, the alarm

sounded. The manager yelled for the man to stop. The pharmacist, who was outside the store, heard the manager and tried to grab the bag from the suspect. The suspect jumped into a waiting car on the side of the building. The registration number was noted and the unoccupied car was located at the owner's address in Plainfield. Police were unable to locate owner.

- CVS on Plainfield Ave. contacted police about a theft that had just occurred. Employees were able to record the registration number on the car in which the suspects fled. The car was registered to a Plainfield resident. Plainfield police were notified. They held the suspects until witnesses were brought to the location. The two witnesses positively identified the suspect, James Wider of Plainfield. A complaint was signed by CVS.

South Plainfield
Observer

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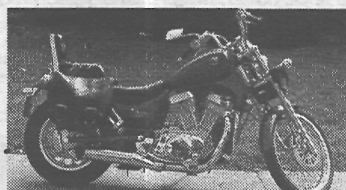
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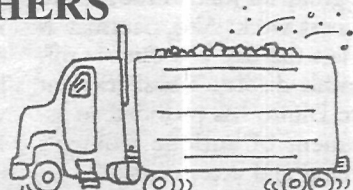
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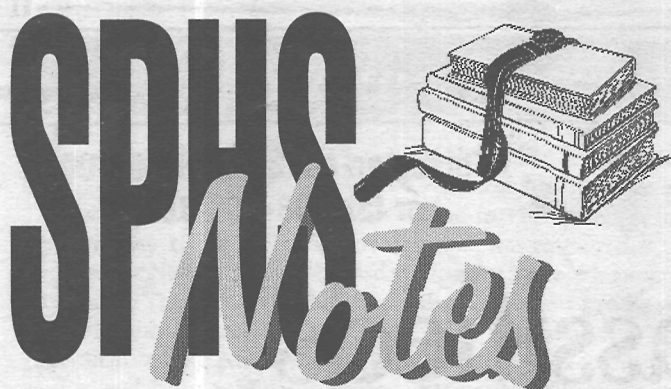
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● This weekend is **Memorial Day Weekend** and high school students are off from Friday, May 26 to Tuesday, May 30. Classes will resume on Wednesday, May 31.

● Due to two very successful blood drives, SPHS has won the Yankees Tickets Contest in the category of Most Improved School. The game we will be attending is either June 13 or 14. Only donors and rejected donors will be eligible to go.

In addition to the aforementioned, SPHS is still in the running for the category of 'Most Pints Donated.' The South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad will be running a blood drive soon and will be using our high school's donor name. This way all blood donated will go toward our school for the contest. The winner of this category receives Yankees tickets for a second game. Details of the SPVRS Blood Drive will be coming soon.

● Due to a lack of interest, the **Volleyball Tournament** scheduled for May has been cancelled. However, Project Graduation is running a Volleyball Tournament of their own and sign-ups are at the high school. Only seniors attending Project Graduation will be allowed to participate.

● The **SPHS 2000 Prom** is scheduled for June 2 at the Sheraton Hotel in Woodbridge. It starts at 7 p.m.

● The Student Council is sponsoring an **Anthony Pacifico Car Wash** on Saturday, June 17. Everyone is welcome to participate in the washing and clean-up. Refreshments will be needed for the car wash. Anyone willing to bake or buy something for the event is appreciated. Details will follow.

● For all seniors, **graduation** is scheduled for Friday, June 23, with **Project Graduation** taking place that night at 10 p.m.

● The **Powder Puff Football Game** has been cancelled due to time constraints.

Dave Johnson, senior at SPHS, is a contributing writer for Tiger Times. High school students or faculty who would like to submit copy for **SPHS Notes** should contact Dave at the high school.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

This Memorial Day weekend you're probably planning on picnics, sports, maybe the beach and (we hope) remembering those who gave their lives in our defense. Please take some time to stop by the library, as well. Here's what's going on:

We've got two events scheduled for today. This morning, we'll be hosting this month's Home-schooler's meeting at 10:30. It's an informal meeting for parents who homeschool their children, or are interested in doing so. It'll be held in our Children's Room. Also, we've got this month's Kidcraft program this afternoon at 4. It's for children ages six and over. There's still space available, but please call ahead at (908) 754-7885 to make sure there's room.

We have some schedule changes to announce. This weekend, we will be open on Saturday, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m., but we'll be closed on Sunday and Monday in observance of Memorial Day. Also, we'll be closed on Sundays until September. We'll let you know when we switch to summer hours on Saturdays.

Saturday is the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. Some of the titles this month are, "Groundhog Day," "Ever After," "Tea & Sympathy," "Matilda" and "A Perfect Murder." The group for June will be in place late next week. Also, Saturday is the last full day you can see this month's display. Local resident Alice Dinizo has provided an assortment of antique women's clothing and accessories.

We'll be following our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. For those unfamiliar with said usual sched-

ule, the programs are held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. They're for children ages three and over. The programs last about an hour; no registration is necessary. Children's Librarian Linda Hansen can provide more details.

One of the usual aftermaths of our Storytime programs is a parent checking out books for their kids. Usually, it's lots of books. Those books can be heavy and difficult to carry, so we've decided to help. New shopping baskets can be found near the door to the Children's room. They're just right for carrying masses of Arthur, Berenstain Bears or dinosaur books, just to name a few. However, the baskets can't leave the library. We can, though, give you a shopping bag to carry your books home.

We've done expansion in our DVD collection. Newly added titles include "Apocalypse Now," "The Maltese Falcon" and several Disney animated movies, including "The Little Mermaid," "101 Dalmatians" and "Mulan." Due to space limitations, some of the display boxes for these new titles are kept behind the main desk. All you have to do is ask a staff member for them. DVDs can be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Finally, here's a clarification of policy. Patrons are limited in the kind of software they may use in our computers. Floppy discs may be used for documentation in our word processors, but not CD-ROMs. And no outside software of any kind may be used in our Internet terminals.

That's all for now. We'll have more next Friday.

Seven Receive Governor's Teacher Awards

Seven South Plainfield educators have been selected by their colleagues as Governor's Teacher Recognition Award recipients. The honorees this year are Frances Flannery, Elyne Foscolo, Virginia Irwin, Bill Milone, Judith Rudnick, Mary Jean Smith and Kathleen Trenchak. They will receive their awards at a luncheon on May 25 at the *Cornucopia Princess—Spirit of Perth Amboy*.

● **FRANCES FLANNERY** currently teaches ninth grade Global Studies, 11th grade US History II Honors and 12 grade Advanced Placement US History. She has been teaching for 25 years, 19 of them in South Plainfield. Ms. Flannery has also taught seventh grade geography, eighth grade reading and ninth/eleventh grade English. She received her undergraduate degree in education, social studies and English, with a graduate degree in history from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Fran belongs to many professional groups and associations. She has served the community as a member of the South Plainfield Recreation Commission, Fresh Air Fund and a member and former secretary of South Plainfield Athletic Booster Club. Her school service includes varsity field hockey coach, high school JV and middle school cheerleading coach, Jersey History Club advisor, Algonquin Square Book Club advisor, and Advanced Placement coordinator. Flannery has been named County or Conference (GMC) Field Hockey Coach of the Year seven times. Her other awards include Douglass College Teacher Recognition Award (1997) and Montclair State University Distinguished Educator Award (1997). In her "spare time" she enjoys reading, hiking, horseback riding and building a log cabin in Vermont!

● **ELYNE FOSCOLO** has taught preschool at Grant School for three years now. She also taught first grade and has been in education for 20 years. She received her degree from Jersey City State College in Early Childhood/Elementary Education. She is a member of SPHS Athletic Booster Club and served as a Girl Scout leader and member of the PTA at Franklin School. Mrs. Foscolo is married and the mother of three children. She enjoys swimming, camping and crafting.

● **VIRGINIA IRWIN** is a second grade teacher at Kennedy School.

She has also taught the academically accelerated second-fifth grades at JFK and Franklin schools, as well as "regular" first, third and fifth grades at JFK. She has been a reading specialist in Edison in grades four through nine. Mrs. Irwin has taught for 25 years, 18 of them in South Plainfield. She received a BA in General Elementary Education K-8 from Paterson State College, and an MA in Reading Specialization K-12 from Kean College.

She is listed in "Who's Who Among Teachers" and is a member of the National Reading Association, as well as SPEA and NJEA. Ginny has served her community in Edison as a voting poll clerk. Her hobbies include reading, cooking and gardening.

● **BILL MILONE** is the physical education teacher, grades K-5, at Roosevelt School. A South Plainfield educator for 31 years and a teacher for 32, Bill has also taught PE, Health and Drivers Ed. at the high school and Kennedy School. He received both a bachelor's degree in physical education and health, and a master's degree in PE from Montclair State University. He has also been honored as White Division Track Coach of the Year. Mr. Milone is an active member of AAHPER, NFOTOA and SSI, his professional organizations. His volunteer work includes Special Olympics, Penn Relays and activities at his church. In South Plainfield he has served as coach for football, wrestling and track, as well as Ski Club advisor. His hobbies and interests range from scuba diving to skiing and climbing.

● **JUDITH RUDNICK**, third grade Franklin School teacher, has been an educator for 25½ years. She began her career in South Plainfield as an aide almost 21 years ago. She has also been a supplemental teacher and taught fifth and sixth grades at Franklin and Kennedy (for one year). Judy received her undergraduate degree in Psychology/Elementary Education from Rutgers University, and a Teacher of the Handicapped Certificate from Kean. She is a member of NEA, NJEA, MCEA

and SPEA as a building representative. Mrs. Rudnick plans to retire in June. She is looking forward to traveling, reading everything she hasn't had time to read and being a "beach bum"!

● **MARY JEAN SMITH** is currently the eighth grade reading teacher, but her 16½ year career as an educator is quite varied. While earning her degrees in Elementary Education K-8 and Reading K-8, she was a substitute teacher in South Amboy for eight years. She also taught 9-12 grade writing at East Brunswick Vo Tech and Keansburg High School, and sixth grade in parochial and public schools for four years.

Seventh grade reading teacher was another South Plainfield assignment. In a different educational capacity, Mary Jean was a member of the South Amboy Board of Education for three years. She also served as a softball coach for South Amboy and a Brownie Girl Scout leader. At the middle school, she has been the chairperson for "Battle of the Books" and on the Teachers' Advisory Committee's Student of the Month Committee. Ms. Smith is also a member of the International Reading Association. She loves to read and travel, but most of all, she "loves teaching!"

● **KATHLEEN TRENCHAK** from Riley School is reading teacher in the district and has taught in South Plainfield for 29½ years. In addition to reading specialist, she has also been a classroom teacher in grades two, three, four and six. She graduated from the college of Mt. St. Vincent in New York with a BA in History and Education. She later received her MA in American and European History from Seton Hall Univ.

Kathy began her teaching career in New York City at the Immaculate Conception School and later at St. Bernard's. Prior to coming to South Plainfield she taught sixth grade in Plainfield for one year. Before coming to Riley School, Kathy taught at the old and new Grant schools. She is a member of the NJ Reading Association. Her life as an educator spans 39½ years!

Volunteers Needed: The HIV Health Services Planning Council for the Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon Ryan White Title I Eligible Metropolitan Area is looking for volunteers to help make decisions about allocating funds for services for people living with AIDS. Training will be provided. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. in New Brunswick and Somerville. For more information, contact Luis Acevedo, membership chairman, at 732-398-3174.



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