

South Plainfield Observer

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NOV 14 2000

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NOVEMBER 10, 2000

LOCAL DEMS WIN BIG

Local Public Question Passes

Voters Say Yes to Length of Service Awards Program

South Plainfield had its own public question on the ballot this election. Voters were asked if the township could establish a Length of Service Awards Program for our volunteer firefighters and rescue squad members. Voters said yes-4,881 to no-1,527.

Democrats Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick won overwhelming in Tuesday nights election over Republican candidates David Guoth and Ed Lyons. Their margin of victory was more than 2-1. Councilman Raymond Petronko received the largest amount of votes, 5,001 and Bob Cusick got 4,659 votes. Republican Ed Lyons and Dave received 2,489 and 2,427 votes respectively. Every district in South Plainfield went to the democratic candidates for council. South Plainfield's all Democratic mayor and council remain in control of our local government.

Councilman Ray Petronko in



Newly elected Councilman Bob Cusick along with his wife Monica and children Gabriella, Garrett, Shane and Robert Jr.

his victory speech pledged to keep working hard for South Plainfield. "I love this town and will work as hard as I can every day," he said. Mayor Dan Gallagher added, "In all my years, I have never met two people who have worked any harder than Ray Petronko and Bob Cusick." Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri noted, "These two men deserved to win by this huge margin because of the many hours they put in during this campaign." Both winning candidates pledged to continue working to improve our parks, listen to the people and keep the Borough's taxes down.

In the race for Middlesex County Freeholder, South Plainfield resident John Pulomena and his running mate James Polos, both incumbents, defeated Hank Grabarz, also a resident of South Plainfield and Carl Perlin, locally. Both were re-elected by a margin of 2-1 in the county-wide vote.

Locally, South Plainfield voters backed Al Gore 4,235 over George Bush, 3,604 for president. Bob Franks also won the local vote 4,101 over Jon Corzine 3,347 in the senatorial election. Mike Ferguson received 4,079 votes to Maryanne Connelly's 3,401 in the



Councilman Ray Petronko, who was re-elected to Borough Council along with wife Pattie and children Kimberly, Alexander and Randy.

7th District Congressional race. The overall election results showed Jon Corzine and Mike Ferguson were victorious.

Both public questions passed locally and statewide. The first question dealt with dedicating a certain amount revenue for funding the construction and repair of state transportation system. The second question will allow a constitutional amendment to permit disclosure of person found to have committed a sex offense.

The turnout in South Plainfield this election was over 60%. Most polling places were busy all day.

During the evening hours long lines of voters waited to cast their votes. Lines at Roosevelt School, some containing almost 100 people, remained a constant until the polls closed at 8 p.m.

Some voters were confused on where to cast their vote. Some who had registered were not on the list at the polling places and had to go to the Borough Clerks office to verify their status.

The *Observer* received many calls from residents on where to vote in town.



(Left to right) South Plainfield High School Principal Anthony Massaro receives a plaque to be displayed in the high school which depicts the photographs of local servicemen who lost their lives in World War II and the Korean War from VFW Post 6763 Commander Rudy Poczak, Mike Santoro and Raymond Costa.

Father Michael McGuire's Portrait Unveiled at Sacred Heart Church

During last Sunday's mass at Sacred Heart Church, a portrait of Very Reverend Michael A. McGuire, was unveiled and blessed by John Paul Alvarado, pastor. The painting will be hung in the main foyer of the church. Attending the ceremony were his niece, Debbie Mattia and her husband Sal.

The portrait was commission by parishioner Grace Betucci, who wanted to do something in remembrance of Father Mike. He had been the administrator and pastor of Sacred Heart Church for 14 years until his death in March.

Father McGuire was born in the Bronx and he grew up in New York City. He entered the Augustinian Order in 1954.

Continued on page 2



Debbie Mattia, Father McGuire's niece; Mrs. Garafola, the artist's wife; Sacred Heart Church Pastor Father John Alvarado; Ralph Garafola, the artist who painted the portrait and Grace Betucci, who commissioned the portrait.

Photo courtesy of Bill Tutthill

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meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month

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

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, November 13 Monday, November 20
Monday, December 11 Thursday, December 14

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month

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

November 14, November 28, December 12, December 26

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

November 21, November 30 (special meeting) December 5, December 19

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall at 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m.

siteplace sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

November (No Meeting), December (No Meeting)

recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

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

November (to be announced), December 28

recreation commission

Meets once a month

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

Mon. December 4

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

December 13

board of education meetings

Board Conference Room at Administration Building, on Cromwell Place

Committee of the Whole, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Nov. 21, 8 p.m.

Committee of the Whole, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg. 8 p.m., Dec. 19, 8 p.m.

Father McGuire's Portrait Unveiled

Continued from page 1

tinian Minor Seminary on Staten Island and graduated from Villanova University. He subsequently went to Rome, Italy for theological studies at the International College of St. Monica. Father McGuire was a teacher, guidance counselor, coach and principal of a number of different Catholic Schools in New Jersey and New York. He was also the acting editor and consultant for the 'Know, Love and Serve' series of new catechisms authored by his uncle, Msgr. Michael A. McGuire.

Ralph Garafola, the artist, actually painted the portrait having his brother-in-law pose for the painting and he captured Father Mike's face from a photo. The vestment worn was a gift from the



Portrait of Father Michael McGuire, former pastor of Sacred Heart Church, painted by Ralph Garafola

Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society.

Ralph Garafola, who lives in Warren Township, was recently recognized as one of the top twenty artists in the International Competition of the American Portrait Artists Society, has held a number of one-man shows in Somerset, Union, Bergen, and Essex Counties and has a studio in his home. His portraits hang in a number of universities, in the Warren Courtroom and in private collections.

In My Opinion

Letter to the Editor,

I am presently in my thirteenth year of Girl Scouting and I have enjoyed every bit of it. To me, Girl Scouting means fun, commitment, communication and hard work. We help our around the community and also raise money to go on rewarding, educational trips. I encourage anyone who has not already become involved with the Girl Scouts to do so. Whether it be registering your child to become involved, or even attending one of our functions, I am sure you will enjoy the experience as much as I do.

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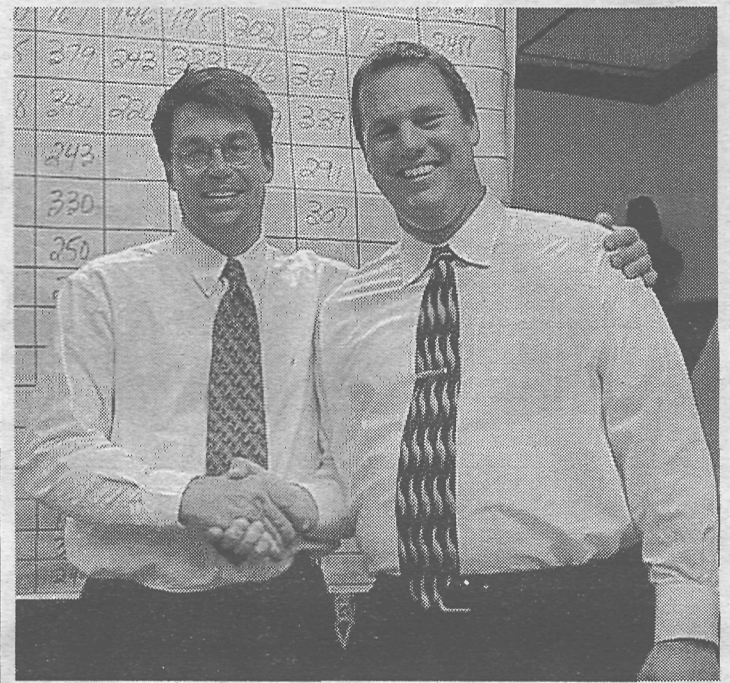
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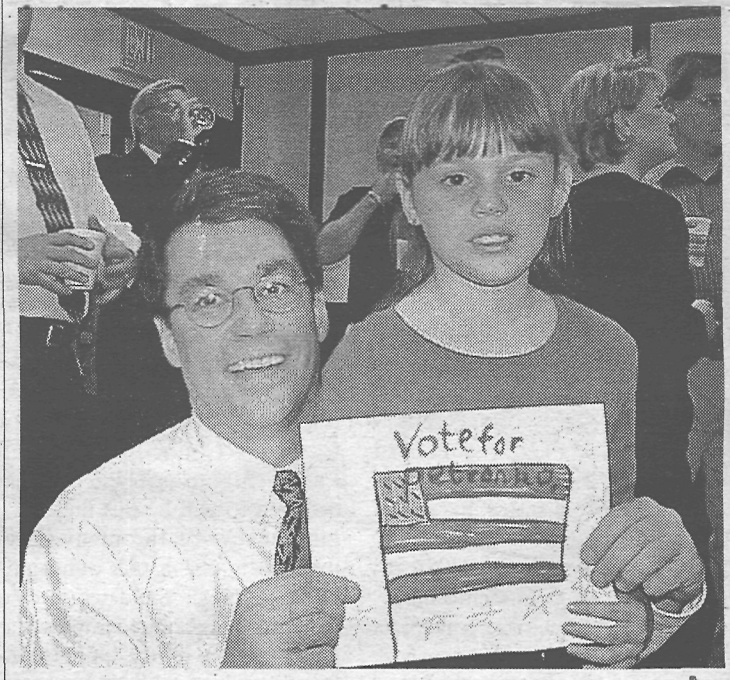
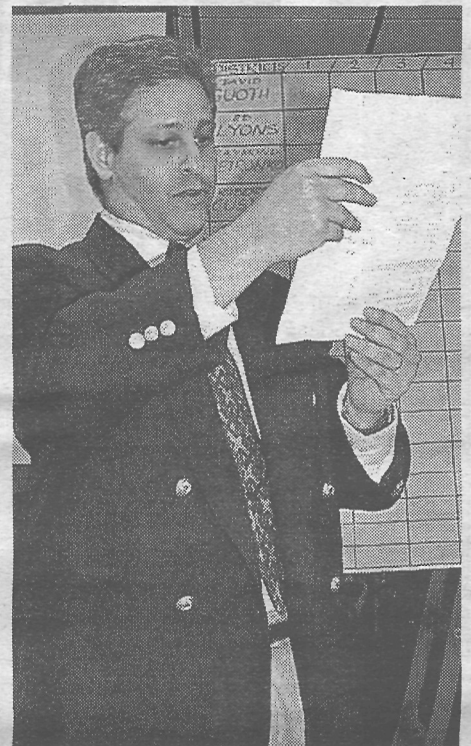


Election Day Scenes

(Top) Raymond Petronko and Bob Cusick congratulate each other after receiving word of election results.

(Left) Outgoing Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri, who chose not to seek re-election, checks election results.

(Below) Ray Petronko receives a "Vote for Petronko" poster from Alexa Cargill.



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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 ggann@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.



Wellness Corner

Stress, Pressure Points... & Shiatsu??

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.

Ever have a "knot" in the back of your neck? You know what I mean; your muscles are bunched so tightly, they feel like somebody stuck a golf ball up there. With the ever-increasing amounts of stress present in our lives today, it's no wonder these "knots" keep tying us up.

In our last article, we spoke about having a "game plan" for health;

that is, organizing and prioritizing the different aspects that go into a wellness plan for your total health picture. Well, in this issue, we are going to touch briefly on a problem that's all too common today: Stress.

Stress to our bodies can be categorized into three broad groups: Physical stresses (that is, falls, accidents, etc.); emotional stresses (i.e., work, social, and so on); and chemical stresses (allergies, diet, and environment, among others). Regardless of what brought the stress on, our bodies are sometimes unable to handle or cope with it—at least not fully. Symptoms such as sleeplessness, muscular tightness, headaches and irritability are among some of the more common problems associated with stress.

When treating a patient's problem, it's not only important to accurately assess and diagnose the particular ailment, but to determine the underlying causes. You wouldn't want to keep fixing a flat tire only to send it out on a road with broken glass everyday, would you?

With this in mind (and recognizing there is more than one way to skin a cat—or untie a knot), today we're

going to look at a form of therapy that could be an excellent source of breaking that stress cycle you may be in. It's called *Shiatsu*.

Shiatsu ("Healing with Hands") is a gentle, yet powerful technique that originated in Japan, and relies on sensitivity of touch to locate and release imbalances within the body. The art is characterized by its emphasis on simplicity. Carolyn McNulty, who practices *Shiatsu* at Ricochet Racquet and Health Club here in South Plainfield, told me that "by using hand pressure and manipulative techniques to adjust the body's physical structure and its natural inner energies," she can assist a person in becoming "better able to ward off illness and maintain good health."

Sounds like a kissing cousin to chiropractic, if you ask me. Carolyn goes on to say, "*Shiatsu* combines massage, gentle physical manipulation, and pressure along channels or rivers of energy called meridians. When the meridians are balanced, the tissues, nerves, muscles and bones are better able to respond to the daily things we face in our lives."

If our body is working the way it should, balancing itself with its environment and better coping with outside interferences, then it figures that one would feel, and be, healthier. Either way, *Shiatsu* feels great and soothes sore muscles.

So, if you've hit a roadblock in your health or just want to try something new that may significantly boost your well being, keep *Shiatsu* in mind. Your muscles will appreciate it.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, D.C.

Fall Leaf Pick Up Underway

The South Plainfield Leaf Pick Up Program began on Oct. 30 and will end on Dec. 1.

This past week each resident should have received a flyer in the mail listing the weeks for leaf pickups, a map showing the five pick up sections and a coupon for 20 free biodegradable leaf bags. The bags can be picked up at the Public Works Garage on Belmont Ave.

The road department will only be picking up biodegradable paper bag during the leaf program. They will not pick up any plastic. All plastic bags

must be taken to the compost area by residents.

The compost area only is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Dec. 1.

The week of pickups are: Section 1-Oct. 20; section 2-Nov. 6; section 3-Nov. 13; section 4-Nov. 20 and Sec. 5-Nov. 27. Trucks will be returning to all sections throughout the leaf program.

Residents are asked to leave bags at the curb. If you wish to purchase additional paper bags, you may do so at a local hardware store.

Students Serve Thanksgiving Dinner to Seniors

Students members the Family Leaders of America Chapter, (FLA) were at the PAL building last week serving the senior citizens a delicious turkey dinner, with all the trimmings.

The lunch was also attended by Councilmen Ed Kubala and Raymond Petronko. Petronko also unveiled the plans for the new senior center on the corner of Lakeview and Maple avenues, the site of the old Shell station.

Students who served the meal were Jennifer Boyl, Kelly Boyle, Johanna Camino, Pam Cianfrocca, Jaclyn Cox, Nadia Deba, Denise DeMeglio, Andrea Doell, Jenee Douras, Sante Edelen, Abbie Falato, Stephanie Gonzales, Lee Anne Gronski, Kelly Harty, Nadisha Hosein, Violet Huynh, Thanh Kim Huynh, Kim Huuynh, Allison Kravetsky, Amy Leso, Margaret Lazar, Nicole Luthman, Jennifer MacDougall, Sherin Navasca, Yamara Salazar, Jennifer Sanchez, Sally Serago and Jennifer Silhanek. Advisors to the students were Janet Flanagan-Wurtz and Loretta Tansey.

The meal was catered by Flanagan's Restaurant and the students served the entire meal from salad to dessert. More than 85 seniors were on hand to enjoy the meal and the entertainment.

South Plainfield High School Music Director Tracey Murray accompanied several members of the chorus while they sang for the seniors during and after the lunch. Performing were Malika Aaron, Christopher Baron, Jenevieve DeLos-Santos and Allison Provaire.

Community-Wide Thanksgiving Worship Service

The South Plainfield Clergy Group is proud to announce the annual community-wide Thanksgiving Worship Service. Each year, we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that God has done for us and for all that God is doing in our community.

This year's worship service will be hosted by Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave. The service will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.

As with all our ecumenical worship services, we will be blessed by music from our combined choirs. Our music directors, Tom Baker, Cathy Davidson, Liz Harrington, Jim Horvath and Tony Otlowski have been preparing the choir. All are welcome to attend this worship service. We hope to see you and your family worshipping with the rest of our community.



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Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

To order your book, call Lou Peralta at 908-756-6406.

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Around Town

Holiday Bazaar at Sacred Heart School

November 10

The South Plainfield Sacred Heart School HSA will host a Holiday Bazaar on Friday, Nov. 10. The hours are from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

The Bazaar will feature new products and handcrafted merchandise from a variety of vendors and crafts people.

Refreshments will be provided. Please join us for your holiday shopping!

For vendor information, please call (908) 226-0222.

Veterans Day Services

November 11

VFW Memorial Post 6763 will hold Veterans Day Services on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m. at 55 Front Street. Festivities include an open house with refreshments. The public is invited.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

McCriskin's to Sponsor Balloon Release for National War Memorial

November 11

Hundreds of red, white and blue balloons will be released over South Plainfield on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The event is being coordinated by McCriskin Home For Funerals. A nationwide release will occur at the same time (2 p.m. EST) as a part of a nationwide effort to raise money to build a National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.

You can sponsor a memorial gift of at least \$10 in exchange for a biodegradable helium balloon. Then join in at the simultaneous nationwide balloon.

McCriskin is encouraging family members and friends to release the \$10 sponsored balloons in the name of a veteran or home front worker. The person's name can be written on the balloon before it is released. All donations will go help to build the memorial.

Individuals or organizations interested in sponsoring a balloon or who would like further information should contact McCriskin Home For Funerals at (908) 561-8000.

Elks to Conduct First Aid Class

November 12

The South Plainfield Elks will be conducting a first aid class on Sun-

day, Nov. 12, starting at 12 noon. This class is FREE and you only have to bring your own pen and paper. The classes are informational only, they are not for certification.

All Elks, their families, friends and the general public are invited. Attendance is limited to 50 people per class. There will be a sign-up sheet posted at the lodge.

Historical Society to Meet

November 14

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at SPHS library at 7:30 p.m. to plan programs for the coming months. The public is invited.

Korean War Vets Mtg.

November 15

Middlesex County Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association will meet Nov. 15 at Memorial Post 6763 VFW, 155 Front St. at 8 p.m. All Korean War Veterans are invited to attend.

Terra Nova Garden Club

November 15

The Terra Nova Garden Club will hold their November monthly meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison Library on Grove Ave., Edison.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Roy Ennis whose presentation is entitled "The Care and Culture of African Violets." Roy will share his knowledge in taming this wonderful houseplant we all love, but seem to have so much trouble with. The Terra Nova Garden Club is also selling a savory cookbook of tried and true recipes of our members. The cost is \$10 and may be purchased from any member.

For more info, please contact Debbie Czech, Publicity Chair, Terra Nova Garden Club, (732) 287-9191 x180; (daytime); (732) 548-6255 (evening after 4:30).

VFW 6763 To Host Italian Night

November 17

Memorial Post 6763 VFW, 155 Front Street, South Plainfield, will host an Italian Night, with Chicken Cacciatore.

Donations are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and younger.

For more information, call (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

American Legion Chapter Meeting

November 17, December 1, 9

The 101st Airborne Division will be meeting on Friday, Nov. 17 at the American Legion on Oak Tree Ave. On December 1-3 we will be going to the Chateau Resort and Conference Center in Tannersville, Pa. for our Bastogne Dinner.

On Dec. 9 we will have services for the 248 men and women that went down in Newfoundland in 1985, at McCriskin Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ at 11 a.m.

This is a service we hold every year.

Columbiettes Sponsoring Events

November 18, December 2

South Plainfield Columbiettes are sponsoring the following events:

- Country Western Dinner Dance on Nov. 18 at Bobby & Mary's in Piscataway.

- Christmas Show and Dinner at the Spinning Wheel in Conn. on Dec. 2. Cost is \$50.

Events are open to the public. For info, call (908) 226-1222.

Athletic Boosters Plan Sports Raffle Auction

November 18

The South Plainfield High School Athletic Booster Club will hold a Sports Raffle Auction on Saturday, Nov. 18. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$7 if purchased in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission includes 25 auction tickets.

Prizes include Devils tickets, autographed balls, sports theme baskets, Rutgers tickets, a bicycle and Television.

For tickets or more information call. The Diaz's at (908) 561-5359 or The Celentano's at (908) 757-5691 or the South Plainfield PAL at 226-226-7713.

Rec Dept. Sponsoring HS Basketball League

Starting November 21

The Rec Dept. is sponsoring a high school basketball league. Join as an individual or a team, ten member roster. Games begin on Nov. 21. The times are 6, 7, 8 and 9 p.m. The fee is \$40 per person. Participants must be high school students living in South Plainfield.

Register until Nov. 2 at the PAL. Questions? Call 226-7714.



Sacred Heart parishioners prepare to depart on a pilgrimage to visit shrines in Europe.

—Photo courtesy of Bill Tuthill

SPHS Class of 1980 Reunion Slated for Nov.

November 25

South Plainfield High School Class of 1980 will hold a 20 year reunion on Sat., Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. at The Martinsville Inn in Martinsville.

Contact Jim Insel at (908) 713-0193 or Susan Graves Metz at susanmetz@worldnet.att.net.

Holiday Craft Show at John E. Riley School

December 1

The John E. Riley School Stokes Committee will host a Holiday Craft Show on Friday, Dec. 1. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m.

The show will feature new and handcrafted merchandise. Refreshments will be available. Come do your shopping at Riley School.

For vendor information, please call (908) 756-9257.

Rec Sponsors Trip to Riverdance

February 8, 2000

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see the best show on Broadway today, "Riverdance," on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2001. Orchestra seats are \$65 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 4:30 p.m. Only 45 tickets are available. Tickets are available at the PAL between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Multi-Class Reunion Planned

An invitation has been extended to all SPHS graduates from Sandy Spisso Connelly and Bobby Cobb, SPHS Class of 1969.

The 1969 alumni are planning a special "Golden 50th Birthday" Class Reunion for May of 2001, to be held as an all day outdoor event at Forest Lodge in Warren. Many people from a diverse range of graduating classes find the idea of a multi-class reunion appealing. It offers an excellent way to renew old friendships. Some classes lack either reunion coordinators, sufficient number of alumni or both.

In view of this interest, we, of the Class of 1969, have opened the invitation for the event to all SPHS alumni. The 60's Boardwalk theme will not only celebrate the class of 1969, but all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

Please pass the word to any and all alumni you have contact with. If they have an interest, please contact either Sandy Spisso Connelly or Bobby Cobb at the following email addresses: spdcon@aol.com or racobb@epix.net.

Events In Surrounding Towns

Brass Lantern Upcoming Events

The Brass Lantern, located on Main Street in Metuchen, will hold the following events in November:

- Open House on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 9 and 10, 6-9 p.m.

Tourette Support Group Sets Meeting Dates

November 14

The Tourette Syndrome Association-Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group Meetings will be held at JFK Medical Center's Neuroscience Institute in Edison, from 7-9 p.m., on Nov. 14.

Scheduled speaker is Adam Bloom, psychologist, specializing in diagnosis and treatment of tourette syndrome and related disorders.

For more information, contact Debbie after 6 p.m. at (732) 283-1439 or www.tsanj.com

Culinary Seductions

November 18

KISMET will sponsor "Culinary Seductions" Full Participation Cooking Class for singles on Saturday, Nov. 18, 7 to 11 p.m. at Classic Thyme Cooking School, 161 East Broad St., Westfield. \$65 at the door. Contact (908) 232-8827 for information or www.thatskismet.com.

Blood Drives

ARC/Tri-County Chapter and NJES are partners collecting blood to supply the necessity of hospitals in our region. Around four million people are in need of blood every year, in our country. The majority of those people would die if the blood would not be available. Blood is needed for emergencies and as a way of life for thousands of people. People who suffer from cancer, leukemia, heart disease, sickle cell anemia and other major diseases need blood on a regular basis to survive. We continue to seek out volunteers to give blood and save lives.

To donate, a person must be between 17 and 75 years old. 17 years old in New Jersey require parent's written permission to donate. Must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. The whole process takes around 45 minutes but the actual blood donation just takes 6-8 minutes. You may donate every 56 days and you can resume all normal activities after donating.

Following are upcoming blood drives for November.

- Nov. 11: Evangel Church, 1251 Terrill Rd., Scotch Plains, 3:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

- Nov. 12: Immaculate Heart of Mary 1571 Martine Ave, Scotch Plains, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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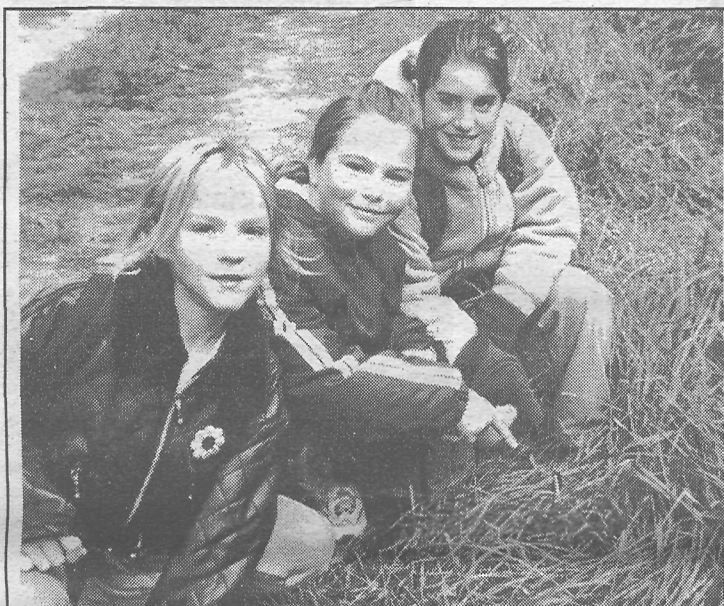
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Scouts Hold Food Drive

Cub Scout Pack 205, Den 11, from Roosevelt School held a food drive last week, part of their "Do a Good Deed" project. Over 200 food items were donated and brought to South Plainfield Borough Hall to add to their food drive. Pictured are the scouts with some of the food they collected. They are Eric Carrasca, Louis Esposito, Matthew Sward, Joseph Ifrach, Eddie Sullivan, Jesse Coury, Michael Eckardt and scout leader Ron Sward.



Kelly McCormack, Amanda Hunteon and Danielle Butrico, members of Riley School's Junior Girl Scout Troop 786, stop to observe the caterpillars during a recent hike at Round Valley Recreational Park.

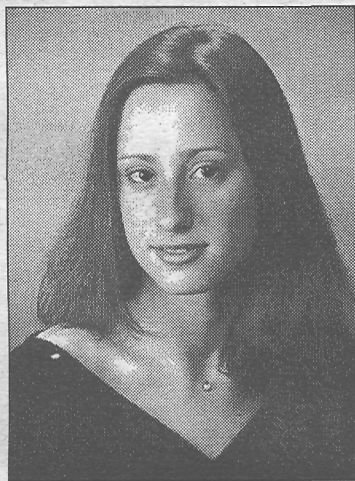
Local Student Set For New Challenge: Leadership Education

Nicole Luthman, daughter of Debra Cacciatore of South Plainfield, has been selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) from Nov. 7-12 in Washington DC. The NYLC is a unique leadership development program for high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. Luthman will be among 350 outstanding National Scholars from around the country to attend the conference. Part of the cost of the trip was due to a contribution by Dr. LaCosta.

The theme of the NYLC is *The Leaders of Tomorrow Meeting the Leaders of Today*. Throughout the six-day conference, Luthman will interact with key leaders and newsmakers from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. Luthman will also meet with senators and representatives or an appointed member of their staff to discuss the important issues facing the nation.

"The National Young Leaders Conference provides an opportunity for students like Nicole to distinguish themselves as tomorrow's leaders," said Michael Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors the NYLC. "Scholars not only gain knowledge and experience in the nation's capital, they leave with a sense of accomplishment and increased ability to face the challenges of the future."

To complement the schedule of special meetings and briefings, Luthman will also participate in a number of leadership skill-building activities. In one role-play activity



Nicole Luthman

known as *If I Were President*, students act as the president and Cabinet members responding to an international crisis. Students also participate in a judicial simulation called *Testing the Constitution*, in which they examine actual Supreme Court cases. The NYLC culminates with the *Model Congress*, in which scholars assume the roles of U.S. representatives, and debate, amend and vote on proposed legislation.

The CYLC is a nonprofit, non-partisan educational organization. Founded in 1985, it is committed to fostering and inspiring young people to achieve their full leadership potential. Over 425 members of the U.S. Congress join this commitment by serving on the CYLC Honorary Congressional Board of Advisors. Each year, 7,000 select, outstanding youth nationwide may participate in the 20 sessions of the NYLC. For additional information on the NYLC, visit us on the internet at www.cylc.org

Library Celebrates Halloween with Magic

By Patricia Abbott

The SP Library recently celebrated Halloween a bit early with a magic show by Magician Joe Fisher called "Tricks for Tiny Tots." Educator/Entertainer Joe Fisher is based in Nutley. The program used age appropriate humor, colorful props and Fisher's special touch of 'magic.'

Those chosen to participate inadvertently helped Fisher with his amazing feat Magic; gold coins flowed from an audience member's hands, mouth, ears and more. Paper shredded by a child in front of the audience became a magician's hat. The result was a roomful of giggling, delighted children.

From start to finish the children were enthralled by Fisher and his magic abilities. A favorite act was his seemed inability to see a cat who lived in the barn. As he described the animal to the children it appeared. Fisher had a tough time locating the feline but in the end the cat ended up at home, in the barn. Fisher captured the children's full attention and filled their minds with the magic of illusion.

The South Plainfield Public Library can claim yet another success with their 2000 Halloween offering of Joe Fisher.



From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some autumn-season news from the South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed today and tomorrow in honor of Veteran's Day. We'll be open from 1:30-5 p.m. on Sunday.

Since we were closed last Tuesday for Election Day (you did go out and vote, right?), the meeting of the Friends of the Library has been moved to this Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. That evening, we'll host a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend both of these meetings.

We'll follow our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. Those programs will be held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. We've also scheduled this month's Kidcraft program for next Friday afternoon at 4. This program is for children ages six and over. Space is limited for Kidcraft, so please call ahead and sign up. If you have any questions about our Children's programs, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The latest group from the CD Circuit is now ready for borrowing. Artists featured in this group include Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Benny Goodman, the Moody Blues and John Tesh. CDs can be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. This group will be available until mid-March of 2001.

Two new displays have been added. Both of our display cabinets now feature a selection of handcrafted wood items created and presented by South Plainfield Resident Charles Noble.

And our display wall features several paintings by local resident Janine Turrisse, a student of fellow local resident Dorothy Miele. You can view these items at the Library until November 27.

Anticipating the holiday season, we're again involved in the Books to Keep program, bringing books to disadvantaged children. We're accepting donations of new (remember, that's *new*) children's books or you can make a monetary donation. Ask at the desk for more details.

We've just upgraded and updated some of the available research databases on our Internet terminals. We now feature updated versions of Novelist (which lists published works arranged by author, title or subject/genre) and EbscoHost (a periodical reference resource). These databases offer information in both summary and full text form. All you need to use them is a bar coded South Plainfield library card. If you need assistance with them, check with the Reference Librarian.

Finally, some sad news for the kids: It was recently reported that the last book in the popular and long-running "Baby-Sitters' Club" series is being published. While we don't have that book (titled *Graduation Day*) yet, we do have most of the rest of the series. You can find them in the children's room. We also have a number of videos in the BSC series; they're found on display with the juvenile videos. Feel free to stop by and get caught up on the series before we receive the last chapter. (Unless, of course, they decide to start a "BSC: Next Generation" series...)

That'll do it for this week. Thanks for your attention. Now, maybe you'd better break out the rakes and leaf bags...

PHOTO OR FULL PAGE REPRINTS OF THE OBSERVER ARE NOW AVAILABLE!!

The Observer is now offering reprints of individual photos or entire pages in black and white or color. Call for information, 908-668-0010.

AIDA SANTOS

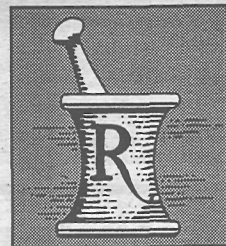
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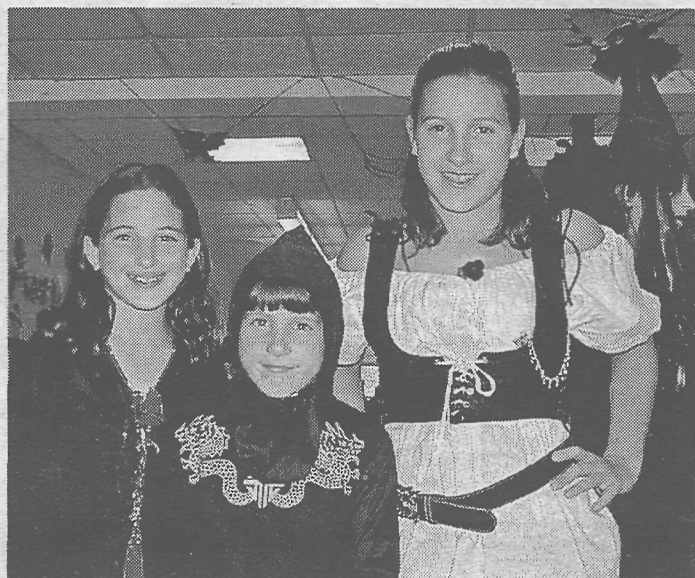
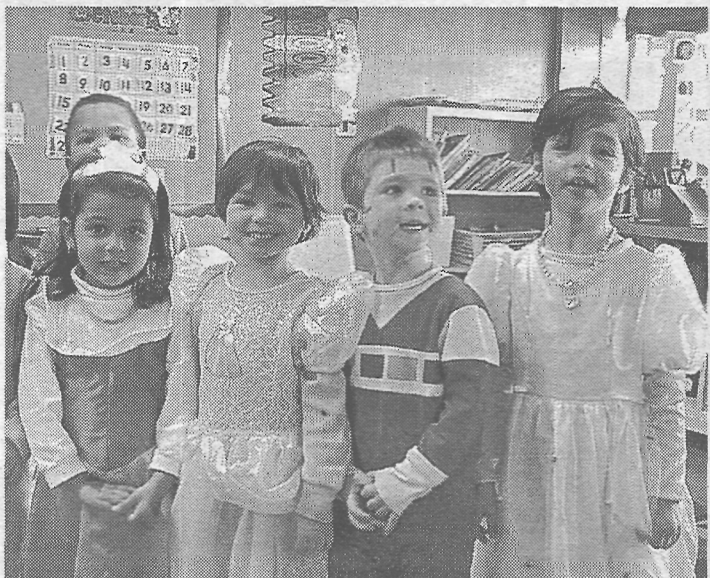
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**Remember
Veteran's Day-
Nov. 11**

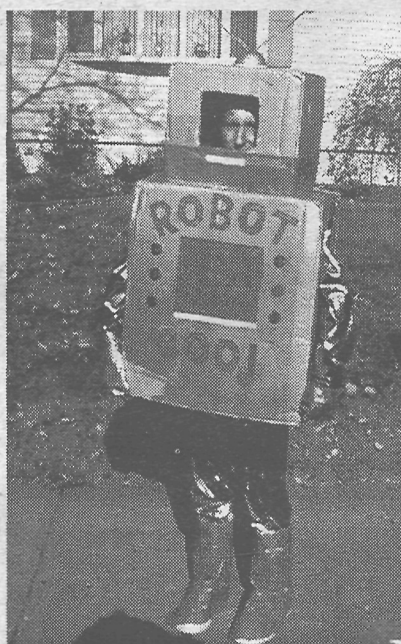
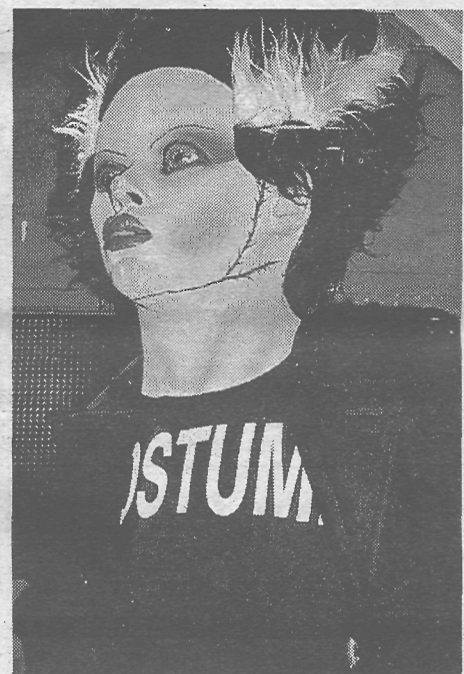
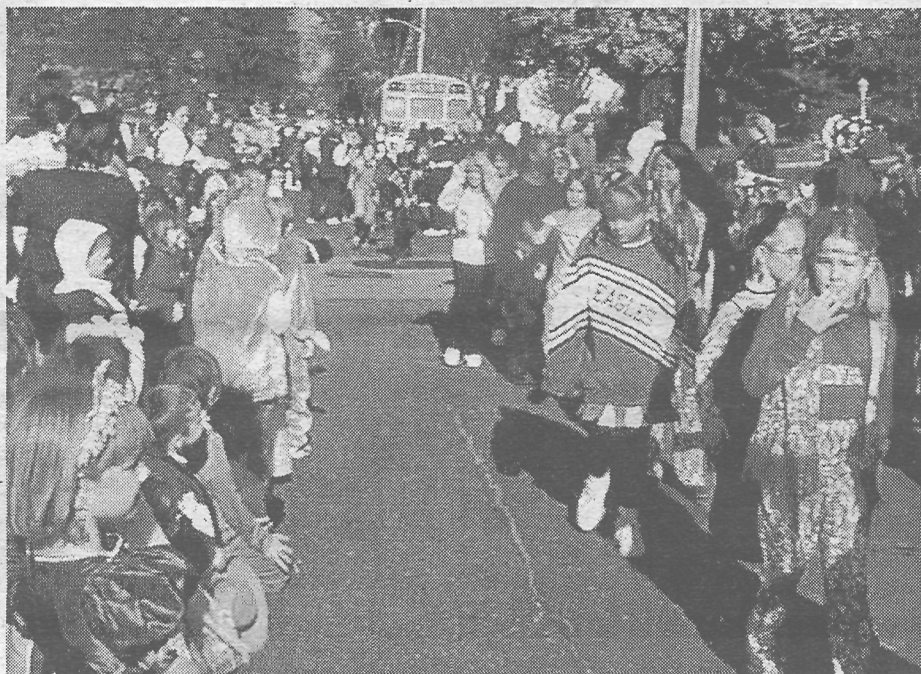
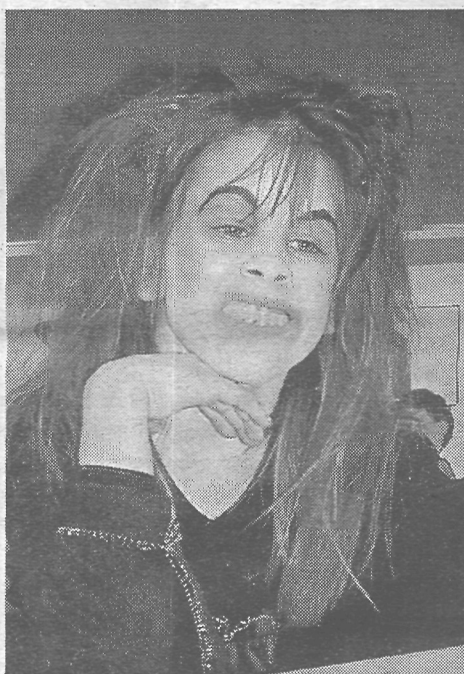
Come and See for Yourself!



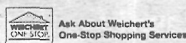
HALLOWEEN THRILLS & CHILLS IN SOUTH PLAINFIELD

Area schools and the DARE celebrated Halloween in style.

See pages 11 for additional photos.



Wayne Grennier
Sales Associate



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South Plainfield Observer

SPECIAL VETERAN'S DAY SUPPLEMENT

NOVEMBER 10, 2000

South Plainfield Salutes Veterans

A History

Veteran's Days humble beginnings date back to 1921 when a military ceremony was held for an unknown WWI Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

The end of WWI was celebrated on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. A memorial ceremony for the Unknown Soldier laid to rest was included in the celebration. The day, named "Armistice Day," became a national holiday to pay tribute to the Unknown Soldier and the ending of what was known as "the war to end all wars."

Sadly more than four hundred thousand soldiers died in World War II. There arose a need to honor all those who served in American Wars and a proposal was made to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954 President Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day.

In 1958, two more unknown soldiers, one killed during WWII and the other killed during the Korean War, were buried beside that first unknown soldier. The ceremonies celebrated all of them. In 1968 Veterans Day was changed to the fourth Monday in October. Over the years a strong sense of American History prevailed and in 1978 the celebration was changed back Nov. 11. Only three unknown soldiers are at rest in Arlington National Cemetery at this time.

1984 brought a fourth unknown soldier to Arlington, killed during the Vietnam War. He was buried beside the others. An Army honor guard is present day and night at the Arlington Cemetery site. Nov. 11 is celebrated nationally as a day to honor all veterans for their contribution to their country.



An Essay

By Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC

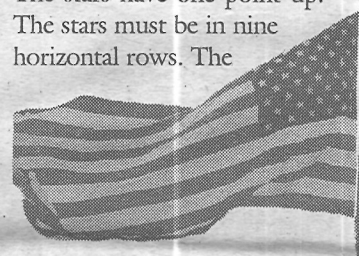
It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech,
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
and whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

"Old Glory"

The design is seven red and six white stripes. One red stripe must be at the top and bottom. The union square colored of navy blue must fill the upper left quarter of the flag from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars have one point up. The stars must be in nine horizontal rows. The



odd-numbered rows have six stars. The even-numbered rows have five stars, centered diagonally between the stars in the longer rows. The flag is folded into a triangular shape to symbolize the shape of the cocked hats worn by soldiers of the American Revolution.

Origins of the VFW

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was founded in Denver, Colorado on December 1, 1899. The roots date back to April 1899, the First Colorado Infantry, and the end of the Spanish-American War. The first VFW post was the John S. Stewart Post #1 located in Denver. Annual dues at that time were just a \$1 per person. Each future post was numbered consecutively starting with Post #1 and there is only one #1 as the John S. Stewart Post #1 proudly proclaims.

August 12, 1900 was the date of the First National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The First Colorado Band sang their famous song, "There'll Be a Hot Time on The Old Town Tonight." This gathering of veterans included the 1861 veterans of the Blue & Gray-The Civil War. This first convention included the preparation of the VFW constitution and by-laws.

In 1914 the Annual Convention voted to unite all veterans into one single group, to be known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. As the VFW sprang to life, individual posts were initiated in cities throughout the United States.



Franklin Honors Veterans

By Patricia Abbott

From the youngest of kindergartners to the more worldly fifth graders, Franklin School students await Veteran's Day with eager anticipation. The students do not see the national holiday as a day off from school but as a day to honor our country's veterans, past and present. With school normally closed for the holiday, students celebrate with a program

of their own prior to Veteran's Day. They spend weeks preparing for their Annual Franklin School Veteran's Day Program, the school district's only Veteran's Day event. Area veterans, ranging from Desert Storm to WWII, were the guests of honor and graced the stage at the front of the auditorium. Family and friends packed into the gym already filled

Continued on next page

Gift to SPHS Honors Our Fallen Veterans

By Patricia Abbott

The VFW's motto, "Honor the Dead by Helping the Living," are words that members truly live by. South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 recently presented a gift; a labor of love, to SPHS Principal Tony Massaro in a ceremony attended by history students, teachers and Post members. The gift, a frame that holds the photos of 28 South Plainfield residents who lost their lives in WWII and the Korean War, will grace the walls of SPHS just in time for Veteran's Day 2000. The oldest of which was only 24-years-old.

Post Commander Rudy Poczak noted that it took three years to research, accumulate and assemble the photos. American Legion Chaumont Post 243 was a major source for the project. They possessed a number of original photos of the veterans. Poczak borrowed those photos, had negatives made and new photos created. Slowly the

gift to SPHS began to take shape.

VFW Commander Rudy Poczak spoke a little about each of those men who were in the picture. Five of those killed in World War II lived within one block of each other. Poczak has worked tirelessly in his determination to have a street named after each one.

History teacher Anthony Barca organized the presentation as a way to let students know more about the men who died for their country.

The actual framing was done by Joseph Zamorano, a professional framer in North Plainfield. He donated his time and the material as a tribute to the fallen servicemen.

The gift is one that serves a multiple purpose. It honors those veterans and equally important, it reminds all who pass through the SPHS halls what these young men gave for their country, their fami-



This framed picture of the 28 local servicemen who were killed in action in the war will now hang in South Plainfield High School.

lies, current and future generations. They fought to protect basic rights and freedoms, ours and those we as a strong country, support and assist. Thirty six pictures fill the frame. An inscription at

the bottom reads,

*"From the SOUTH
PLAINFIELD VFW
To those veterans who made the
supreme sacrifice for our country.
VFW Post #6763"*

The old photographs of the fallen soldiers depict youthful young men. Men who knew the joys of youth just like today's SPHS students. Once they went to school, worried over tests, hung out with their friends, teased the girls, had jobs, had a life. They did not choose to die in some foreign land, but their country called and they went. Young men in the uniform of a soldier, sailor, airman or marine, they went to defend their country and its beliefs in freedom and equality. They were never able to enjoy the freedoms they defended, never able to raise a family, send a child to college. The gift exemplifies the motto and gives today's students a chance to view the vets as young people like themselves whose lives were stopped by war. Today's students will see that "doing the right thing" is the important thing, if only because someone bought them that opportunity with their life.



Franklin School Honors Veterans

Continued from previous page
filled students attired in red, white and blue for the occasion. Before the start of the ceremony costumes were checked, poems and essays read and reread, hats and small flags distributed and last minute reminders given.

After the welcome concluded students bearing flags from each branch of the service paraded down the center aisle and lined up below the stage. The veteran

gently pulled the flag pole into a more upright position and held them in place. When the American flag was presented everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. A kindergarten student in the front row beamed as he recited the pledge, his

eyes not on the flag but on his father standing in the front row.

This year's theme highlighted the 50 years since the Korean War. The program used the long-running hit TV show M*A*S*H as a basis for the Korean War theme. Grade school students took turns singing the theme songs from the army, navy, marines and air force.

During the weeks prior to the program students wrote poems and essays about Veteran's Day. A di-

"They fought for freedom. They fought for me. They gave their lives so I may be free. They gave their lives for America and me."

—ANDY WEBER

verse handful were selected to be presented to the audience in honor of the guests.

The words of the students ranged from simple repetition to detailed accounts of loved ones, each voiced their concern, love and respect for the veterans and what they have done for them and the generations before and after.

Meghan Murphy said, "What Veteran's Day Means to Me. My daddy was in the Navy. He is a veteran. He saved us. I love my daddy."

Rachel Smith wrote, "Veteran's Day is not about Holidays or parties. It is a time when families get together and pray for the veterans who died and thank God for the veterans who came back safely. I think of my grandmother's cousin we call Uncle Bill. He served in the Army in World War II. His family never knew where he was. So whenever he could he

would send a postcard from Italy or France with two letters on it — "O.K." signed Bill K., so that they would know he was safe.

"I also think about my great, great grandfather Isaac Smith who fought in the Civil War for the North. And I think about my great grandfather Eugene Biancheri Sr. who was poisoned by mustard gas and spent many months in the hospital. Thank you all soldiers. We will always remember your brave deeds."

Ryan Billich, grade 2, writes, "Dear Veterans, I do not care if

you fought in wars or not.

All that matters is that you cared enough to keep us safe.

The men and women that were on the

USS Cole did not expect what happened to them. They

were brave enough to be there in the

first place, where enemies could

attack at any time.

My Pop-Pop was in the Sea-

bees, which is part of the Navy.

He was based in Bermuda. He helped to build roads, bridges and

runways so that airplanes could take off. He was lucky to not have

to fight in a war. His job helped prepare the Navy in case there was a war. I would just like to

thank Veterans everywhere for helping keep us safe. I am happy

that you care enough to protect us. Thank you Veterans!

From Andy Weber: "They fought for freedom. They fought for me. They gave their lives so I may be free. They gave their lives for America and me."

Katie Yon, grade 5, writes, "My Veteran's Poem" Veterans, veterans please hear me... veterans on a boat ... hear me veterans with God ... hear me. Veterans in my family...hear me. Veterans everywhere ...hear me. Thank you for rising your lives for us... and for freedom."

The thank

you's issued

by the stu-

dents either

with song or

written word

are what it is

all about;

thanking our

vets and remembering

their gift to

our country,

whether it be

recently or

decades ago.

Franklin

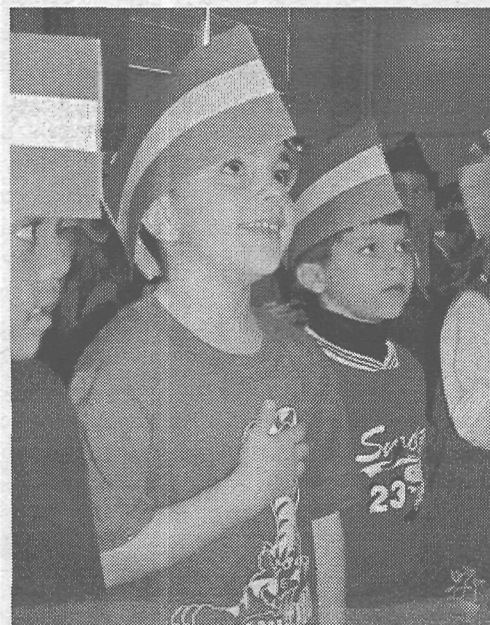
School students can be proud of their knowledge and understanding.

These youths honored all veterans; those fallen and those who proudly live among us. The students understand that you can

mourn those who have given their lives yet celebrate their gift at the same time. They have a precious

view of freedom, hopefully one that will never be tested in their

lifetimes.



One Family's Commitment to Country



Evelyn (Bolster) Massa and husband Tony with the original flag that hung at her parents' home. Pictured below is the flag hanging beside the American flag at the Bolster's home.

In past years, South Plainfield has sent its share of young men and women off to fight in the war. But there is one family who holds the distinction of sharing eight of their sons equally between the army and the navy and all of whom served in World War II.

Cornellius and Mary Bolster settled in South Plainfield after moving from Kingbridge, New York. The Bolsters had a total of 19 children, 15 of which grew up in town and were widely regarded as one of the largest families in the area. The family lived on the corner of

Lakeview and Maple avenues, where the Star Diner now stands.

During the war, it was a well-known tradition to display a star in the window of a household of someone who was serving in the war. With eight boys in the service, it

was impossible to purchase a flag with eight stars, so Mrs. Bolster made her own banner of red, white and blue, with eight blue stars. It proudly flew it from the side of her home beside the American flag. She couldn't hang it in front of the house, because it was too close to Maple Ave.

Serving in the navy were Thomas, Terence, Edward and Joseph. James, Paul, Vincent and William served in the army. The boys were stationed all over the world and miraculously, all of them survived. Each served in a different unit. Joe was stationed on the USS Shaw when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. One of the brothers was driving an ambulance in Germany and stopped to pick up a hitchhiker on the road in Germany. That hitchhiker turned out to be his brother, Billy.

The banner with stars was passed along among the brothers and soon disappeared all together, until Paul died and the family cleaned out his apartment. When the yellowed flag was found, it was placed at the curb to be thrown away. Then John, a nephew, realized what they found was grandma's flag and it was quickly retrieved from the junk pile.

There are three of fifteen surviving siblings, Evelyn (Bolster) Massa, who along with her husband Tony, live in South Plainfield and have possession of the flag. Also living are a sister, Grace and brother Tom, both living in New York. In the past few months, the flag was on display at the American Legion in New York.

In memory of the eight boys, the family has purchased eight balloons and plans to release them tied together at McCriskins' this Saturday. The McCriskin's balloon release, a fundraiser for the construction of a World War II Memorial to be built in Washington DC, is part of a simultaneous nationwide release of balloons.



Edward



Joseph



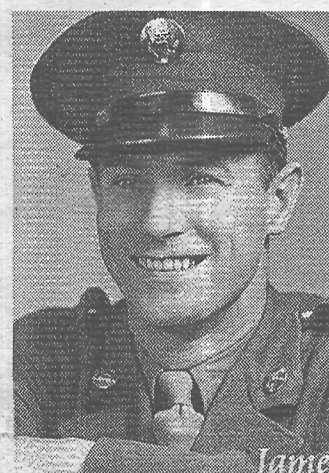
Vincent



Terrence



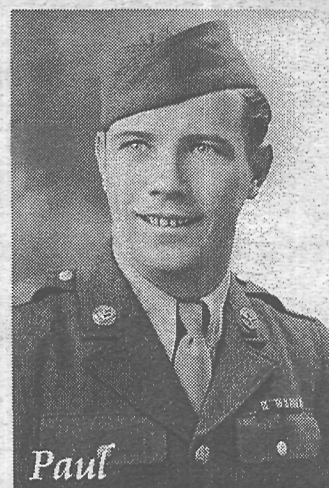
Thomas



James



William



Paul



The Bolster Bros.

VFW Offering Free Membership

Memorial Post #6763 VFW is offering free membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to honor those who have served their country. Membership includes those currently in active duty military, all reserve forces and Army or National Guard personnel.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Anyone serving on Active duty, Army or Air National Guard and all Reserve Forces;
- Whose services in the armed forces of the United States in Korea (1949-present) Vietnam, Lebanon, Panama, Liberia, Rwanda, Libya, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, El Salvador, Bosnia, Persian Gulf, Kosovo is recognized as campaign medal service and governed by the authorization of

the issuance of a campaign badge (medal) by the Government of the United States; and

- Who is a citizen of the United States.

The documents required for Proof of Eligibility are:

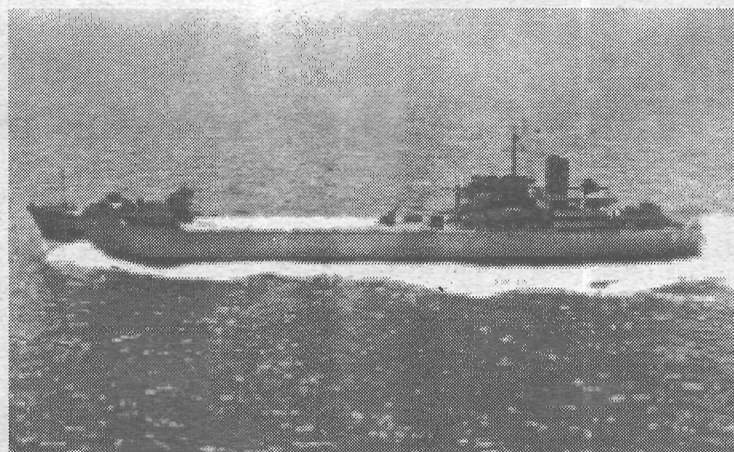
1. Active Duty Service Record Awards or
2. DD-214 Discharge or
3. Some type of document showing APO address of current assignment.

Those individuals, who are interested and think they may be eligible for membership in the VFW, are urged to contact Rudy Poczak at (908) 668-9751 after 3 p.m. daily or after 12 noon on weekends, or stop at the VFW Post on 155 Front Street after 3 p.m. daily or 12 noon on weekends.

Bring Home USS Lorain County

An effort is presently underway to raise \$7,000,000 needed bring the USS Lorain County, LST-1177, home to Lorain, Ohio as a memorial to Ohio's veterans and defense related industrial workers. The 445 foot long USS Lorain County was built at the former American Shipbuilding ship yard in Lorain, Ohio, in the 1950's and was commissioned in 1958. The ship was decommissioned in 1972 and placed in the reserve fleet in the James River in Virginia, where she is now anchored. The ship served in the US Navy for 14 years in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. The LST participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. This is the last opportunity to bring home to Ohio an Ohio built warship as a war memorial.

The Ohio War Memorial, Inc. received its 501C3 non-profit status on July 31, 1995 and all donations are 100% tax deductible.



Attached photo courtesy of the Great Lakes Research Institute, Bowling Green, Ohio.

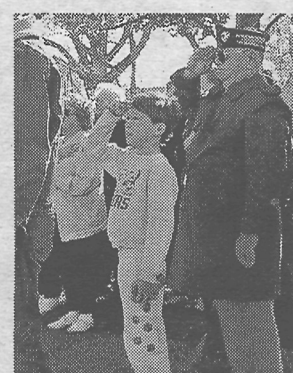
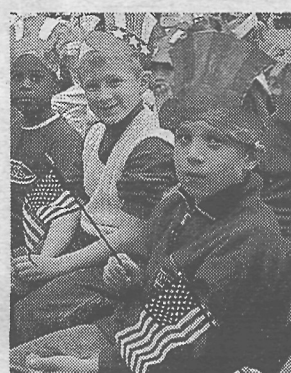
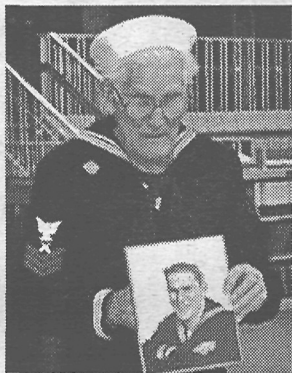
Donations are to be sent to the following address: USS Lorain County Memorial Fund, Ohio War Memorial, Inc., P.O. Box 307, Lorain, Ohio 44052-0307.

A nationwide effort is now underway to locate all former crew members from the USS Terrebonne Parish, LST-1156 Class LSTs. A crew member database has been created for all 15

ships of the class in Lorain, Ohio. The proposed reunion is tentatively set for October 2001, with the location to be determined this November.

Crew member information can be sent to: Charles C. Patton Ohio War Memorial, Inc., P.O. Box 307, Lorain, Ohio 44052, (440) 284-2621, ccpatton@alltel.net.

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JUST A COMMON SOLDIER

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion
Telling stories of the past,
Of a war that he had fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies
They were heroes, every one.

Tho' sometimes to his neighbors,
His tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened,
For they knew whereof he spoke,
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a soldier died today.

He'll not be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary
Quiet and uneventful life,
Held a job and raised a family,
Quietly going his own way;
And the world won't note his passing -
Though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, Their
bodies lie in state,
When thousands note their passing
And proclaim that they were great,
Papers tell their life stories from
The time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier
Goes unnoticed and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises
And cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who,
In times of war and strife
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life

A politician's stipend and the
Style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate
To the service that he gives,
While the ordinary soldier
Who offers up his all
Is paid off with a medal,
And perhaps a pension, small.

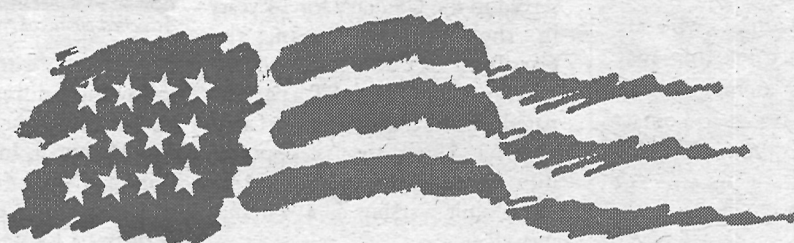
It's so easy to forget them,
For it was so long ago
That the "Old Bills" of our country
Went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians,
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger
With your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician
With his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier
Who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and country,
And would fight until the end

He was just a common soldier
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again,
For when countries are in conflict
Then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days,
Perhaps just a simple headline
In a paper that would say:
"Our Country Is In Mourning -
For a Soldier Died Today."

— AUTHOR UNKNOWN



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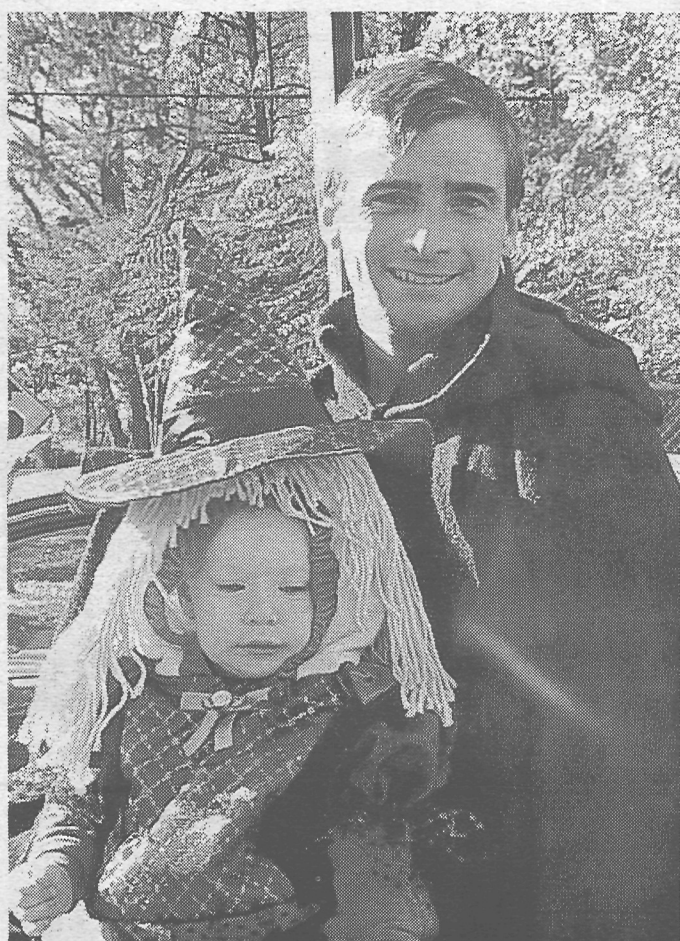
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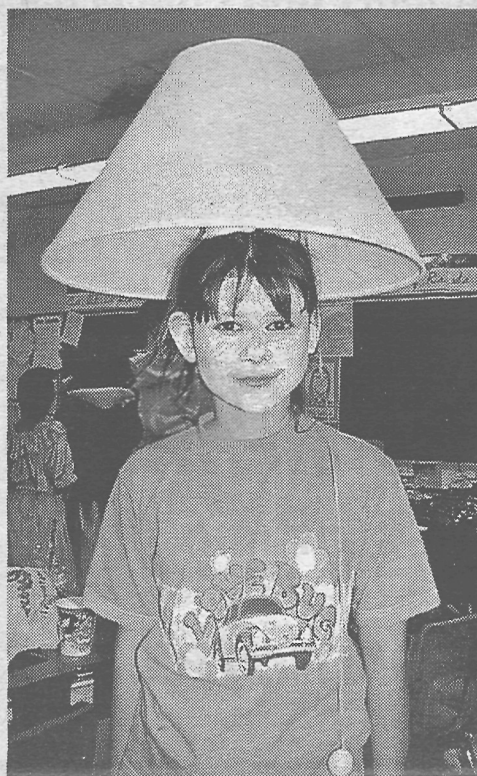
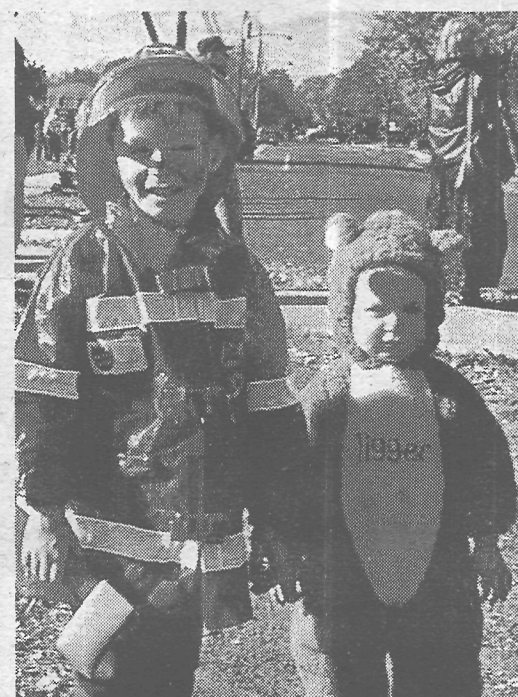
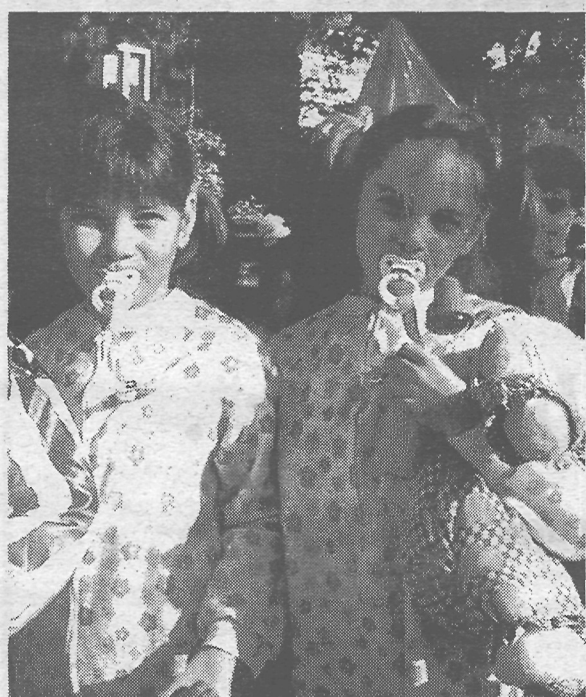
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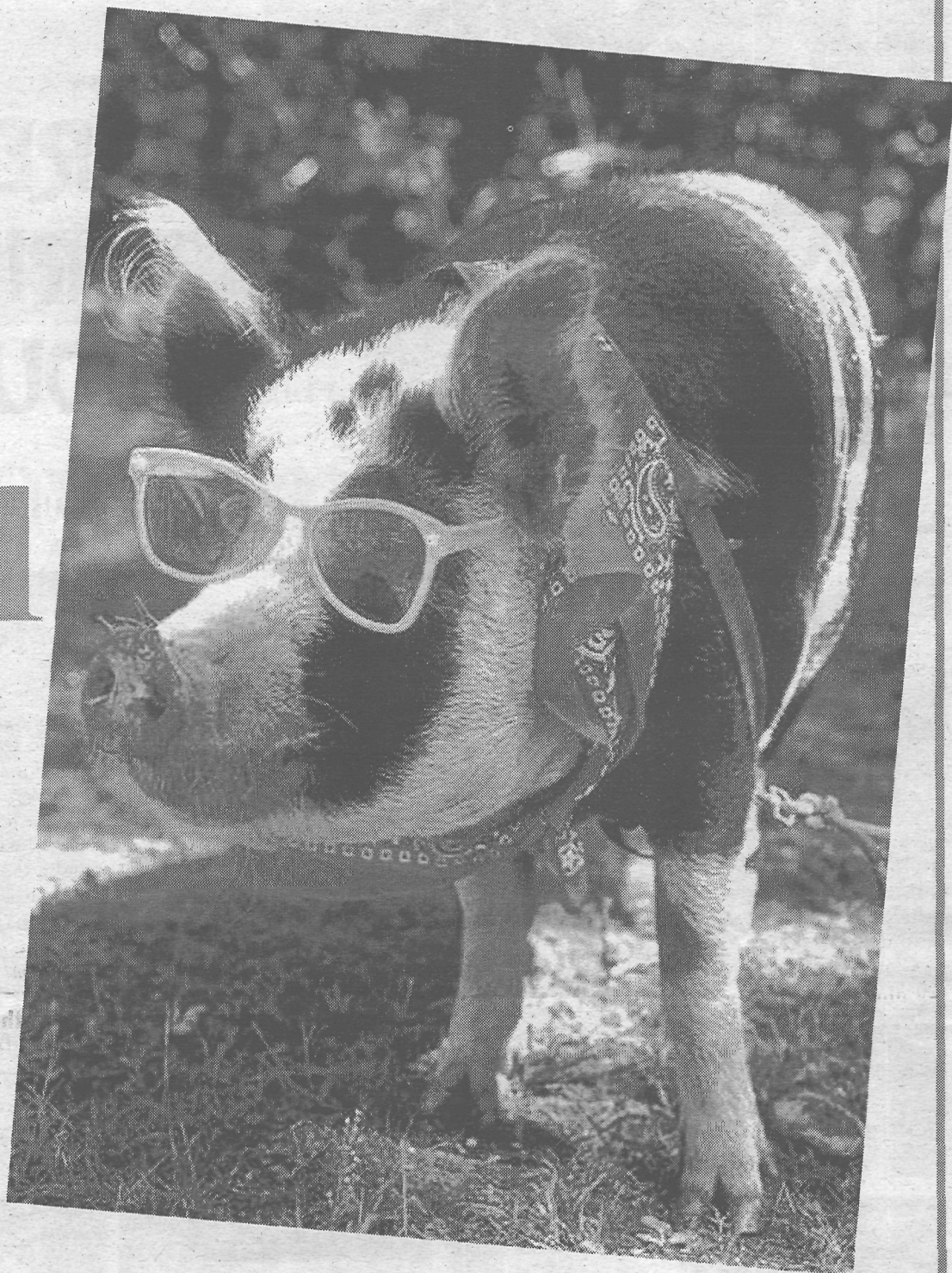
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Sports

Soccer



The Typhoon Boys U11 Soccer Team are Chris Pennisi, Brandon Ullom, Brendon O'Shea, Grey Coppi, John Christ, David Alston, John Polizzano, J.R. Licato, Greg Watts, Jonathan Marcous, Steven Guevara, Matt Helgensen Brian Fabino, Keith Heckel and Eric Rovayo.

Typhoons Stay on Top

On a cold and windy Sunday, the boys U11 Typhoons went on the road and defeated the Woodbridge Warriors 2-0. Powered by two first half goals off the foot of Brendan O'Shea and another strong performance in goal by Grey Coppi, the Typhoons improved their league leading record to 6-2.

O'Shea's first goal came at the 20-minute mark off a Brandon Ullom pass as he slid and kicked the ball into the corner of the net. Five minutes later, David Alston

sent the ball past the defenders as O'Shea outspurred them all and beat the goalie to go up 2-0.

The wind controlled much of the flow of the game as the Typhoons' only scores came with the wind at their backs. While Woodbridge had the advantage in the second half, a strong defensive effort kept the shutout intact.

The boys travel next week to play Hunterdon United, before finishing the season at home vs. North Hunterdon, Nov. 19.

U13 Lightning Results

The South Plainfield Soccer Club U13 Lightning defeated the South Brunswick Saturn team 4-1 last Friday night, then suffered a tough 2-1 loss to the Tewksbury Cougars Sunday morning.

In the game against the Saturn, play was fast-paced much of the first half with both teams missing several scoring opportunities. Scott Rann finally found the net towards the end of the first half, running on to a pass from Michael Hanley. The Lightning opened up in the second half with a quick goal by Brian Guevara. Steven Lindgren scored an unassisted goal, beating several defenders. Lindgren just missed another score as his corner kick hit the post and bounced to the keeper. Hanley

took a pass from Matt Jeglinski and placed a shot high into the net for the Lightning's fourth goal.

Against the Cougars on Sunday, the Lightning were down early as the Cougars scored twice in the first half. They came out quickly at the start of the second half as Hanley took a long pass from Chris Weakley, drew a defender, and then passed off to Guevara, who beat the keeper with a difficult shot.

The Lightning simply could not find the net again, missing several opportunities to tie the game.

The Lightning are playing at home this Sunday, hosting the West Windsor Terminators at 1:30 p.m. at Riley School field.

—Submitted by Frank Hanley

United Pummels N.Brunswick

This past Sunday the team took the field and their opposition from North Brunswick and disposed of them early in the game.

Once again the defense shut down the visiting team and allowed goalkeeper Anthony Moretti his fifth shutout of the season. With Trevor Rastelli, Nick Baldassarre, Steve Dvorak and Danny Hubner, this defense has allowed only five goals to reach the United net all season.

The midfield created their usual magic with the perfection in passing to the front line. Josue Llerena, Justin Basilone, Vinnie Padula and Kevin Bolivar were responsible for the magic this afternoon.

The front line was as aggressive as ever manhandling the North Brunswick defense thus causing a long afternoon for the visiting team.

The goal scoring came via John Lopez, Josue Llerena, Justin Basilone and defender Nick Baldassarre. This win allowed United to raise its record to 7-1.

Hard work pays off. Congratulations to the United Soccer Team!

If you are a student, athlete or parent and would like to see your sports events in the Observer, we would like to hear from you! Call 908-668-0010.



Mutineers Paint on Their Game Faces

The Mutineers six-year-old D-League soccer players celebrated Halloween in their own unique way. They came to last week's soccer game with painted game faces in honor of Halloween. Playing on the Mutineers are Kathrine Podlovits, Tracey Cihanowyz, Jessica Gomes, Steven Janowicz, Nick Kuruch, Chris Kukuch, Daniel Lyew, Angela Mazzei, Nick Pleeter, Alyssa Ragno, Eric LaVerne and their coach is Bob Podlovits.

Blaze U-12 Girls Subdue Princeton's Roar

SP Blaze vs. Princeton's Roar

The South Plainfield Blaze U-12 girls traveling soccer team continued their stellar play by beating Princeton Roar for the second time this season 1-nil.

Leading the defense with numerous saves and producing her seventh shut out of the season, our goalkeeper Becky Keller had an outstanding day inside the net. Fullbacks Ashleigh Gaspari, Tiffany Smith, Jenna Delillo and Megan Boyle did a great job shutting down all attacks in the defensive third. While halfbacks Dorian Bishop, Jennifer Copeland, Lauren Fry and Katelyn Conrad controlled all loose balls

in the middle, setting up the only score of the match.

In the 43rd minute and in our attacking third, Dorian Bishop placed a well passed ball to left striker Kate Hardy who sailed a cross to right striker Denise Lopez who slipped a shot into the back of the net. This tally was the second of the season for Denise and capped our sixth win of the season.

Our record stands at a very impressive 6-1-1, one point behind the first place team with two remaining. Congratulations girls! Visit the South Plainfield Soccer Club at www.sopfldsoccerclub.com.

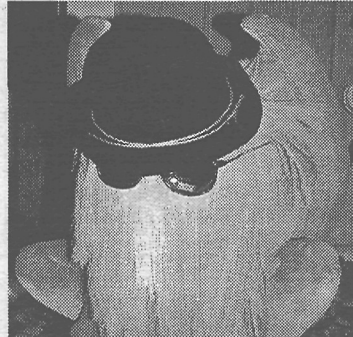
Submitted by Coach Hardy



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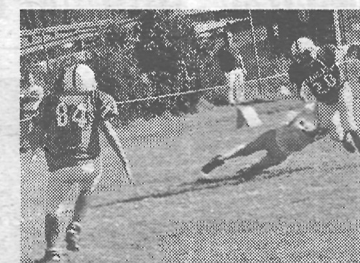
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Obituaries

Walter G. Konops Sr., 90

Walter G. Konops, Sr. of South Plainfield died on Tuesday, Oct. 31 at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Plainfield and was a former resident of Edison before moving to South Plainfield 47 years ago.

Mr. Konops was a foreman for Wigton-Abbott Construction Company in Plainfield for 35 years before retiring in 1965.

Mr. Konops was a cook and a sergeant in the US Army during WWII and received the Bronze Star. Despite adverse combat conditions and a limited variety of food, he prepared hot and nourishing meals when possible and with complete disregard for personal safety. He repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to carry meals to the men in forward combat zones insuring at all times that his fellow soldiers were well fed. He saw action in Algeria, French Morocco, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Sicily and Tunisia.

He was a member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 and the American Legion Chaumont Post 243, both in South Plainfield and the Ninth Infantry Division Association.

He was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his son Walter G. Konops, Jr. who died in 1999.

He is survived by his beloved wife Frances Pickett Konops; two sons, Robert of South Plainfield and Kenneth and his wife Noreen Konops of Las Vegas, NV; two sisters, Agnes Bielecki and Frances Konops, both of Milltown.

Also surviving are six grandchildren, Walter III, Christopher, Kathleen, Kelly, Leah and Sarah.

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

Brenda A. Willey, 58

Brenda A. Willey of Belle Mead died on Monday, Oct. 30, in her home.

Born in Plainfield, she had resided in Middlesex, South Plainfield and Warren before moving to Belle Mead in March of this year.

Mrs. Willey was presently employed as an auto parts sales rep for World Pac Distributors of Edison.

Surviving are her husband Leonard H. Willey; daughter and son-in-law Teresa and Matthew Ward of South Plainfield; three sons and daughter-in-laws, Leonard J. of Belle Mead, Thomas E. and Lisa of South Plainfield, Samuel C. and Tricia of Manville; a sister and a brother, Jaqueline Fiorentino of Middlesex and Robert Rinker of Bloomsbury.

Also surviving are seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her memory may be made to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Ave., New York, NY 11230.

Dennis J. O'Mara, 49

Dennis J. O'Mara died Monday, Oct. 30, at NY Hospital Cornell University Medical Center in New York, NY.

Born in Orange, Mr. O'Mara grew up in South Plainfield and was a 1969 graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen. He attended St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Indiana, and later settled in Virginia during the 1970's. He moved back to South Plainfield in 1978 and has been residing in the Central Jersey Area for the past 11 years.

Mr. O'Mara started his radio

career with WERA in Plainfield during the 1960's. After college, he worked with various radio stations as a DJ in Virginia. Upon his return to New Jersey he was employed by WHWH/WPST Radio Station in Princeton and later for WJLK in Asbury Park. In 1984 he joined Shadow Traffic as their program director and announcer. He was best known on WCBS FM in New York City.

Mr. O'Mara was also the voice of the Food Emporium commercials.

He was a member of the AFTRA (American Federation of Television and Radio Artists) and a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his mother, Marie (Sweeney) O'Mara; his brother, Thomas and his mother-in-law, Ann Dell Bene.

Surviving are his wife Patricia Dell Bene-O'Mara; his father, Arthur J. O'Mara of South Plainfield; his father-in-law, Frank Dell Bene of White House Station; his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Benny Howard of Plainfield; his brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Angie O'Mara of South Plainfield, John and Mary O'Mara of Metuchen and his grandmother, Mary Wirth of Plainfield.

Also surviving are many nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in his memory to the American Association of Kidney Patients, 100 S. Ashley Dr., Suite #280, Tampa, FL 33602.

Michael Peters, 82

Michael Peters died on Thursday, Nov. 2, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Mr. Peters resided in Queens and Hempstead, NY prior to settling in South Plainfield in the early 1960's.

He was employed by Lion Match Co. in Brooklyn NY as a printer and later worked at Holman Printing Co., formerly of Summit.

Mr. Peters served in the United States Army Company M 110th Infantry Division as a sergeant. He served during WWII and received the Good Conduct Medal, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal as well as the distinguished Purple Heart for combat in February of 1945.

He is predeceased by his wife, Rita Peters, who died in 1996.

Surviving are his sister Olga Kapsky of Bayside, NY and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Wanda Quagliano, 76

Wanda Quagliano died on Thursday, Nov. 2, at Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Greenbrook.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Quagliano had resided in Hoboken prior to settling in South Plainfield 26 years ago.

She was a homemaker for most of her life.

She is predeceased by her son, Robert, who died in 1974.

Surviving are her husband of 54 years, Michael; four daughters, Cynthia Colvin, Joyce Puglese, Karen Gigantino and Chris Niedzielski; two sons, Anthony and Michael Quagliano; her sister, Pauline Coleman and her brother, Stan Warick.

Also surviving are her grandchildren, Wendy, Tiffany, Andrea, Peter, Matthew and Jacob.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Patricia Vojnyk, 54

Patricia Vojnyk of South Plainfield, died on Saturday, Nov. 4, at her home.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Vojnyk had resided in Irvington for 25 years prior to settling in South Plainfield 18 years ago.

She had been employed by A&P in South Plainfield for the past 10 years and was a homemaker for most of her life.

Mrs. Vojnyk had a great love for crafts. She enjoyed making and shopping for different crafts, especially painting bird houses.

She is predeceased by her husband, Edward, who died in 1980.

Surviving are a daughter, Dana Koegel and her husband Kurt of Middlesex; her son Thomas and his wife Jennifer Vojnyk of Turnersville; her mother Marie Noll

and her brother Ken Noll, both of South Plainfield.

Also surviving are her three grandchildren, Samatha and Katherine Koegel and Annika Koegel.

Memorial services will be held Friday at 11 a.m. in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Paul P. Pompa, Sr., 73

Paul P. Pompa, Sr. of Warren died on Friday, Nov. 3, in Central State Medical Center in Freehold.

Born in New York City, he has resided in Newark and in South Plainfield for many years, before moving to Warren in July of this year.

He was the retired founder of Truck-Rite Corp. in Brooklyn, NY, a company he founded in 1964.

He was a member of the Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and served in the United States Navy during WWII. Mr. Pompa was a member and past president of the South Plainfield Lions Club.

He was a thoroughbred horse owner over the past 15 years. One of his personal favorite horses was "Lakeside City."

Surviving are his wife Rose (Bianco) Pompa; daughter, Michele and her husband Jeff Merle of Neschanic Station; three sons, Thomas and his wife Dina of Flemington; Paul, Jr. and his wife Elisa of Warren and Richard Pompa of Bedminister; four sisters, Ida Pompa, Celia Pompa and Caroline DiCembra, all of New York City and Gloria Durante of Long Island, NY; three brothers, Anthony and Michael, both of New York City and Fred Pompa of Long Island.

Also surviving are five grandchildren, Paul III, Michael, William, Nicholas and Alison.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.



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The South Plainfield Recycling Center, located on Kenneth Ave., will be closed for Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. Recycling will be open on Wednesday or Thursday of those weeks instead. The schedule will be:

Closed	Open	
November 7, 10	November 8	12-7 p.m.
	November 9	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
	November 11	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
November 23, 24	November 21	12-7 p.m.
	November 22	8 a.m.-3 p.m.
	November 25	8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Please Note: Error in Previous Yard Waste Site Hours

The Yard Waste Site, which is open for leaves from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday (not Sunday as previously reported) during November, will also be closed on these holidays. They will be closed Nov. 7 and 10 and open on Nov. 6, 8, 9 and 11 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For Thanksgiving they will be closed Nov. 23 and 24 and open November 20, 21, 22 and 25 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

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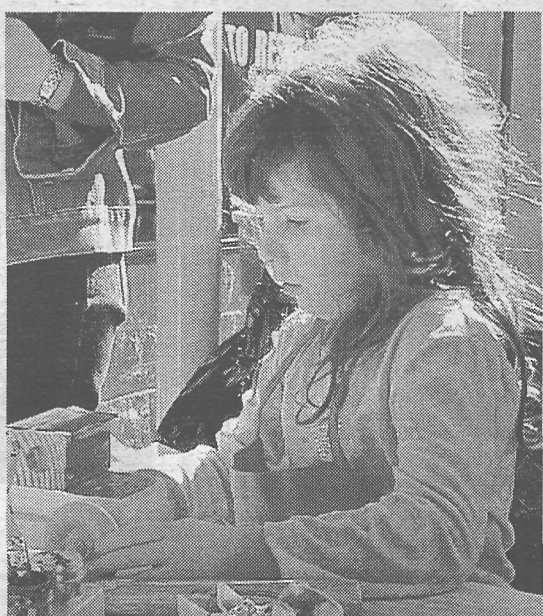
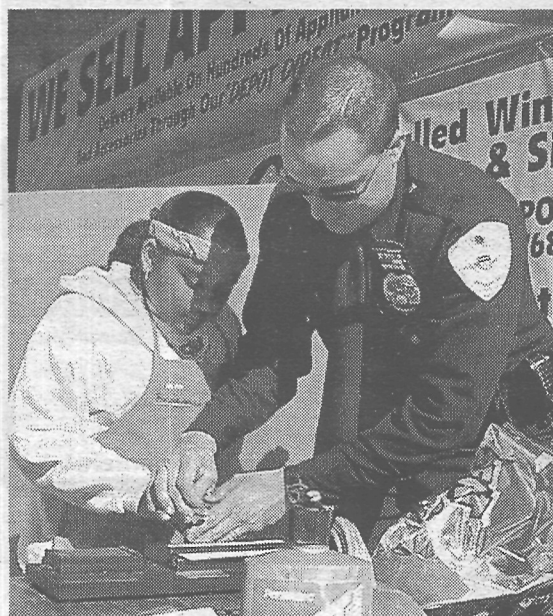
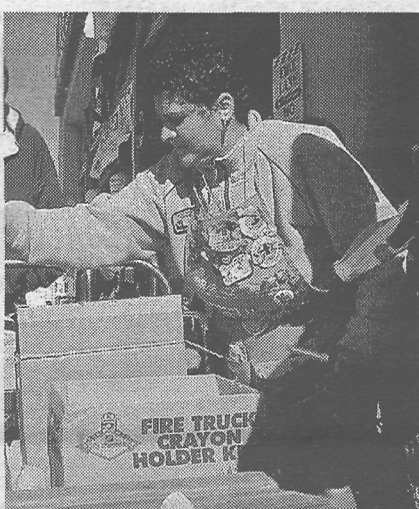
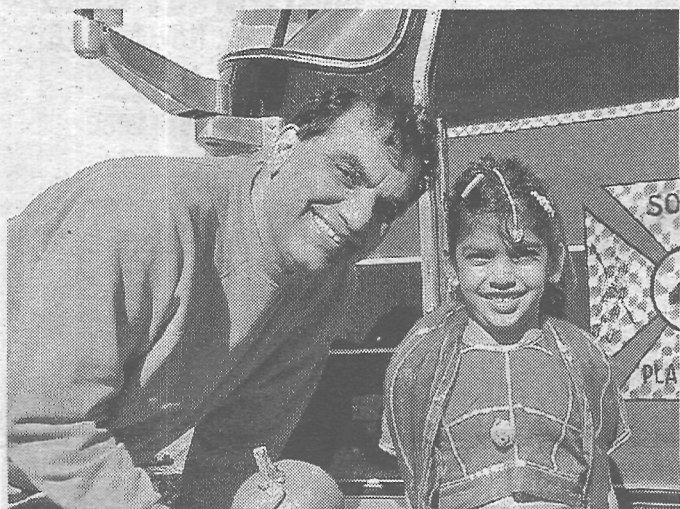


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Operated Business"



The Home Depot's Weekend Project

Home Depot recently hosted a fun-filled day for kids and their families. They offered pumpkin painting, kids had the opportunity to learn to work a household fire extinguisher, and a costume contest was held. Each child was given a Home Depot apron with their name on it and they had the choice of building a wooden race car or fire truck. The fire department was on hand with a truck that the children could explore. The South Plainfield Police Department offered KidCare ID, the taking of finger prints and making of id cards. Older kids and parents enjoyed viewing the Home Depot stock car that was on the grounds.



Tigers Take Second Place at Chapter 10 Championships

The South Plainfield High School Marching Tigers once again wowed the judges and the audience with their excellent performance of *Gladiator* at the Chapter 10 Championships in North Brunswick on Saturday, Nov. 4. The Tigers beat out Pompton Lakes, with a score of 83.9 and West Essex High School, with a score of 87.45, scoring 88.55 and placing second in their Group II Division.

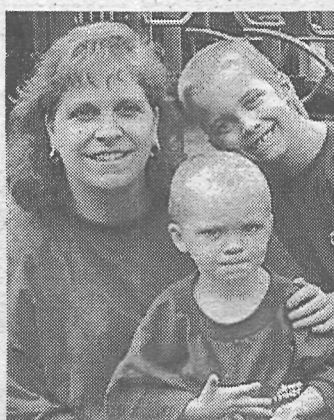
The Tigers have increased an incredible 25.7 points since their first competition in September and are currently ranked 22 out of 84 bands that compete in the Tournament of Bands (TOB). The Tigers have now advanced to the Atlantic Coast Championships which will be held on Saturday, Nov. 10 in Scranton, Pa.

The Tigers are under the direction of Mark S. Tweed and Joe Borghese. Color Guard coordinators are Kathy Petrocchi and Angela Gallagher. Student drum majors are Allison Provaire and Allisa Gittens. Color Guard Captain is Brian Publik and Color Guard Lieutenants are Tiffany Boyle and Jamie Glowacki.



Birthday Wishes

are sent to Carol Grennier, our much appreciated proofreader, and Georgeann DiGrazia of Mohn's Flowers, who both celebrated their birthdays recently.



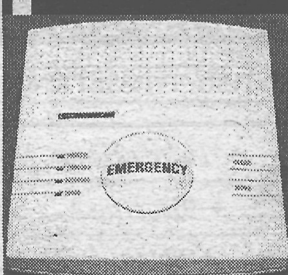
Carol Grennier



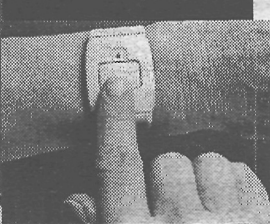
Georgeann DiGrazia

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