

South Plainfield Observer

DEC 08 2000

VOL. 4, NO. 14

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 8, 2000

Billboards Loom For Route 287

A second hearing on whether to allow billboards in South Plainfield was held last week in front of the Board of Adjustment. The hearing went until almost midnight and was continued to the Jan. 2, 2001 meeting.

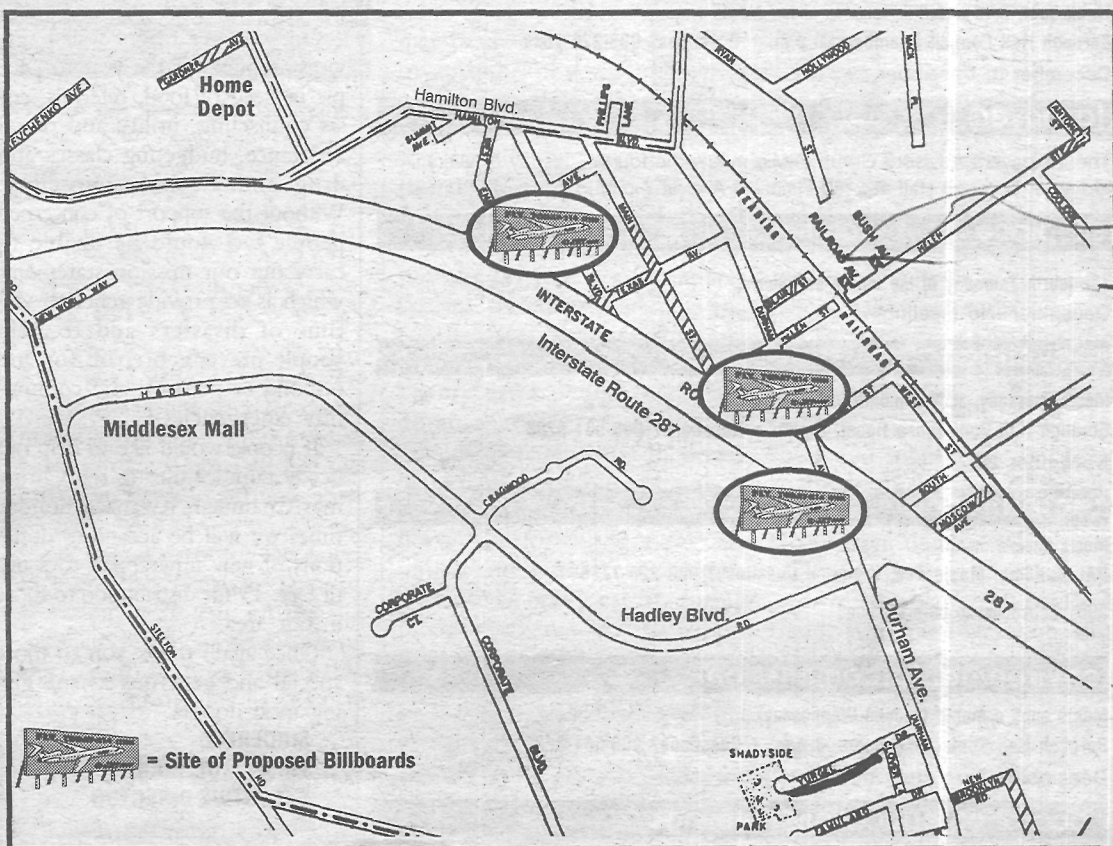
Last year the Borough adopted an ordinance which stated that outdoor advertising is only allowed when advertising the business occupying the property.

Two of the three billboards are being proposed by Carole Media. AMI, LLC is proposing the third billboard. Thus far only the first two cases have been presented to the board.

The first proposed billboard will be located on the northbound side of Rt. 287 at Bedford Ave. This billboard will be located on indus-

trial property owned by John Risoli and located near four single family homes. Neighbors who live in the area expressed outrage at being forced to look at a lighted billboard right in their backyards. Planner John Chadwick, III, hired by Carole Media, admitted he incorrectly indicated where one of the nearby houses was located, but insisted that would not adversely affect his conclusions. According to Chadwick, the NJ-DOT issued a permit for the billboard, checked the sight and found it to be acceptable. According to a DOT spokesperson, the permit is issued to an applicant when it is satisfied that the proposed billboard is on industrial property, the sign is the regulated

Continued on page 7



The map above shows the approximate location of the proposed billboards.



Santa has been sighted in several places around town this past week. Above Santa talks with one of the many children who were at the American Legion last Saturday. (See story/photos on page 12). Below Santa listens to three-year-old Shanyne Cifrodelli at 1-800-Flowers during last week's open house. The South Plainfield High School Traveling Chorus also performed at the open house. (See photos on page 7.)



Trash Train Closer to Reality

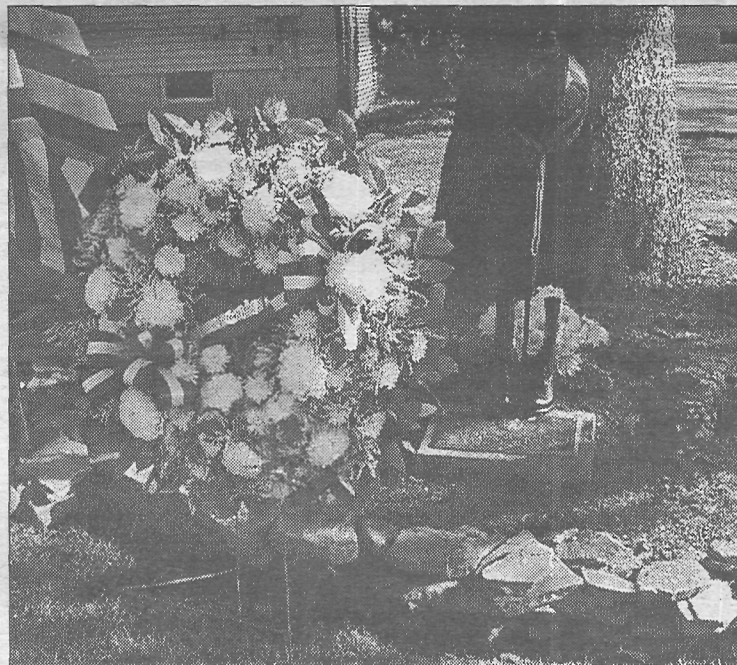
Despite opposition from South Plainfield and many neighboring municipalities, the "Trash Train," which will carry New York City trash through Middlesex County, is coming closer to becoming a reality.

Recently, the Union County Freeholders unanimously approved the Linden transfer station. New York City already voted to send their trash to the Linden transfer station. The next step is up the Department of Environmental Protection which will have 150 days to review the application after it is submitted to them.

The New York City trash will be carried by barge to Linden, loaded onto trains and delivered to out-of state landfills. Each train is estimated to be as long as one mile and will be passing through South Plainfield along its route several times a day.

The proposed route the "Trash Train" will travel will be along the Reading Line, which passes through the south side of town and intersects with traffic on both South Clinton Ave. and New Brunswick in South Plainfield. Right now these crossings are rarely used.

Some question how safe it is to have the long, heavy trains traveling on a daily basis next to the underground gas pipelines and question what would happen if there were a derailment.



A memorial, dedicated to the servicemen who died in the Newfoundland airplane crash in 1985, sits at the base of the large tree in front of McCriskins.

Annual Tree Lighting Honors Serviceman

On Dec. 12, 1985, a plane carrying servicemen, members of the 101st Airborne Division, The Screaming Eagles, crashed in Newfoundland, Canada. All 248 aboard were killed. Each year the McCriskin Family, with ties to the military and a deep respect for military tradition, have transformed the decorating of a tree into a living memorial for those who lost their lives in the plane crash. A plaque beneath the tree is dedicated to the memory of those American servicemen.

The towering tree, bearing 13,000 white lights, will be lit this Saturday at 11 a.m. A memorial

service, which will be held on the lawn of McCriskin's prior to the lighting, brings veterans and their families to the site to honor the fallen Eagles.

Attending will be members of the 101st Airborne Division Association and members of General Anthony C. McAuliffe, New York/New Jersey Chapter.

The 13,000 lights become a beacon in the dark, visible for quite a distance. The tiny lights shine like stars, each twinkling in memory of the 101st Airborne-Screaming Eagles.

The public is invited to join the ceremonies on Plainfield Ave.

mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-754-9000
AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
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
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
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:
December (No Meeting)

recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
December 28

recreation commission

Meets once a month
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
2001 Scheduled to be announced

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, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Dec. 19, 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Jan. 16, 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, Mar. 13, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Mar. 20, 8 p.m.
Committee of the Whole, Apr. 3, 8 p.m.; Regular Board Mtg., Apr. 10, 8 p.m.

South Plainfield Observer

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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.

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.

In My Opinion

Letter to the Editor:

The American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter wishes to thank the generous members of our community who made food donations enabling us to distribute Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families in our area. Their contributions assisted us in providing Thanksgiving dinners for 117 local families. We feel so fortunate to have been able to match up wonderful and giving people with area residents who need this assistance so greatly.

Our chapter offers social services throughout the year to people in need of food, referrals, crisis counseling, utility and rental assistance, budgeting classes and drug and alcohol counseling. Without the support of concerned people we would be unable to carry out our mission statement, which is to provide relief to victims of disasters and to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to personal and community emergencies.

If people would like to help out needy families during the Christmas/Chanukah/Kwanzaa holiday time, we will be accepting donations of new unwrapped toys until Dec. 19 for distribution to those in our area.

Once again thank you to those special and generous Thanksgiving food donors.

**SINCERELY,
TRISH MULLIGAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Letter to the editor:

Stop Highway Uglification

Have you seen the monstrosity of the recently erected double-faced billboard disgracing the Bridgewater/Bound Brook area on the east side of Interstate 287? Many sizable trees were cut to increase the visibility of this atrocity, which, I hear, will soon be joined on the west side by another one. I hope that the newspapers will soon publish sizable photos to inform the public of the impending dangers, because there are many applications pending for a whole herd of such monsters.

Interstate 287 is treacherous. It requires drivers to keep their eyes on the road. A steep increase in accident rate can be anticipated if these visual and terribly huge and ugly monsters are introduced and allowed to proliferate. A Federal Highway Administration study documented, as early as 1980, the positive correlation between billboards and accident rates.

The lawyers for the billboard companies argue that they have the right to create such beasts based on their first amendment right of free speech. They argue that we, the public and its elected representatives, in opposing these monstrous intrusions, deny them these rights.

Should we allow sound trucks to cruise our highways and neighborhoods blaring jingles and shouting commercial slogans? Should we allow graffiti in our neighborhoods, because much of that has greater artistic merit than those billboards? Do we, the public, have the right to be free from harassment, free from annoying exposure to obnoxious sounds and sights, free from the degradations of our highways and neighborhoods? Billboards are a blight,

causing a decrease in quality of life, an intrusion on open space, and most important of all, a deterioration of real estate values.

Who owns the highways? We do!! We, the taxpayers. We, as owners, to fight blight, impose aesthetic standards on companies along our highways, and we and our elected public officials decide on maintenance, decoration, landscaping, lights and traffic signs, etc.

If the taxpayers want billboards, that decision has to be made by referendum, on a local, county, state or national level, and not by commercial companies. It can be anticipated that such a referendum will show that the vast majority of the voting public opposes highway uglification.

Oh, to be fair, in between contracts, that is for about one month per year, the billboard companies in their generosity, will allow the townships to advertise their soup kitchens and animal shelters.

To fight the blight we have to support our surrounding towns in their struggle with the billboard companies.

A third meeting of the South Plainfield Zoning Board will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Jan. 2, 2001 in the courtroom of the South Plainfield Municipal Building at 2480 Plainfield Ave., to discuss the fate of billboards on Interstate 287 at Hadley Road, Bedford Ave. and Durham Ave. applied for by Carole Media. Please attend this meeting!! Public support of the South Plainfield ordinance banning billboards is of crucial importance! The decisions made by the South Plainfield Zoning Board will certainly have significant regional, county, state-wide and maybe even national consequences.

On Dec. 7, 2000, the East Brunswick Zoning Board is scheduled to decide the fate of a 67-foot high, 14-foot by 48-foot billboard proposed by Infinity Outdoor Advertising for a location on the NJ Turnpike, off Ryders Lane. Please contact your local officials to vote to ban these billboards!!

The Franklin Township Council in bipartisan spirit voted to let stand a ban on billboards by tabling an ordinance that would allow them on a limited basis.

Please come out and support the council in their efforts to preserve the environment, open space and history, if and when the billboard companies, Matrix and Carole Outdoor Advertising, decide to file a legal challenge to enforce the erection of their proposed monsters close to the Weston Canal Road and Eliza-

beth Ave. locations on Interstate 287.

**JAN TEN BROEKE
SOMERSET
TENJABA@BELLATLANTIC.NET**

If you would like more information on billboard opposition and scenic highway legislation, visit the following websites: www.scenic.org/billboards.htm or www.scenic.org/bb_fighting.htm

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday Nov. 7, 2000 the citizens of South Plainfield traveled to the polls and overwhelmingly approved the Length of Services Award Program for both the Rescue Squad and the Fire Department "VOLUNTEERS". Although most people have only become somewhat familiar with this terminology over the past few months, this program has been in the works for over twenty years. The program is designed as an incentive to obtain and retain "VOLUNTEERS" for our emergency services. Each member is potentially entitled to a maximum of five hundred dollars per year of service placed into an individual account, accessible to that individual at age 59.

It is imperative that we extend our sincerest thanks to Mayor Gallagher and Commissioner Cerami for their leading roles in the presentation and approval of the program to the council members as well as the public. Both Mayor Gallagher and Commissioner Cerami worked diligently in their efforts to provide factual information and to detail the benefits of this program to our community. We would also like to extend our thanks to Councilmen Vokral, Kubala, Buttiglieri, Petronko and Councilwoman Pinto who provided staunch support of this request from the emergency services and made every effort to assure its passage on election day. And finally to the citizens of South Plainfield, thank you for your support in passing this item in such a resounding manner. The affirmation of our request by you the citizens substantiates the well known fact that our community overwhelmingly supports its "VOLUNTEERS" and is committed to retaining their services.

Once again, thank you South Plainfield for your approval of the LOSAP plan and for your continued support, which allows both of our organizations to continue **TO SERVE YOU!**

**RESPECTFULLY,
CAPTAIN KENNETH SEIDEL,
SO. PLAINFIELD RESCUE SQUAD
CHIEF J.A. ABRUZZESE,
SOUTH PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPT.**

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South PlainfieldScouting

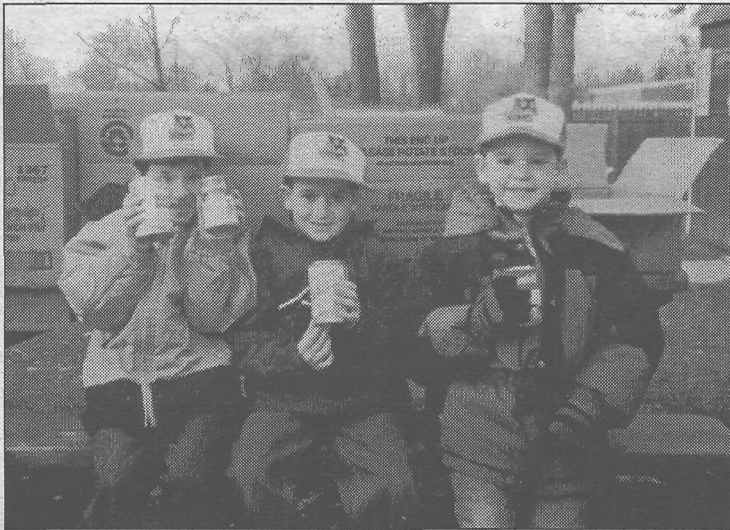
Tiger Cubs Get a Taste of Boy Scouting

Franklin School Pack 207 Tiger Cubs have been learning the true spirit of the Boy Scouts.

Since September they have participated in a camping trip, Halloween party with Mr. Reptile and canning for the needy.

The Tiger Cubs have also successfully achieved four Tiger paw badges.

The den attributes parental involvement for making the scouting experience a positive one.



Franklin School Pack 207 Tiger Cubs get a taste of boy scouting by participating in canning for the needy.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Pam Janiszak Wins First Place in Talent Contest

During Thanksgiving week, while most of us were busy planning and preparing our Thanksgiving meals, Pam Janiszak, along with her mom and dad, were on their way to the Walt Disney World Hilton in Orlando, Florida.

Pam, a 13-year-old Middle School student, competed in the National Finals of the American Coed Pageant. She placed first in the talent competition, winning a crown and a \$500 cash scholarship. Pam sang "O Mio Babbino Caro" by Ruccinni. She also placed second runner-up in the preteen talent contest singing "La Pastorella" by Rossini.

Seventy-four girls competed in this national competition.

On Sunday, Dec. 10 at 5 p.m., the entire Janiszak family will be performing at Woodbridge Mall.



Pam Janiszak

NEWS FROM TERRA NOVA GARDEN CLUB

There will not be a December monthly meeting of the Terra Nova Garden Club. The club will hold their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 20.

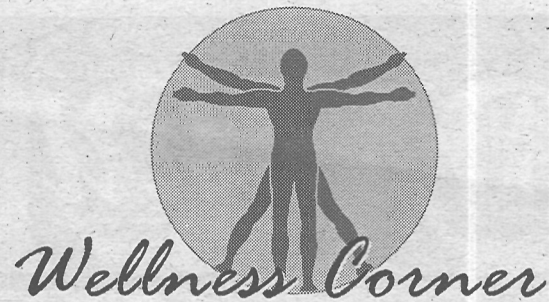
Important dates for December include the Garden Therapy Workshop at 10 a.m. on Dec. 12 and Garden Therapy at 1 p.m. on Dec. 13, to be held at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield.

The January monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison Library on Grove Ave. in Edison. Guest speaker for the evening will be Gregory Hurley whose presentation is entitled, "Different Trees for the Home Landscape." Greg is a NJ Certified Tree Expert and he will educate the club about the many different trees that can be used in our landscapes, including many "not so ordinary" selections.

Reminder: The Terra Nova Garden Club is also selling a savory cookbook of tried and true recipes of our members. The cost is \$10 and cookbooks may be purchased from any member.

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Wellness Corner

Holiday Stress Raises Health Risks

Dr. Patrick M. Aiello D.C.



Dr. Patrick Aiello, DC

Have you ever filled yourself with great holiday food and pushed away from the table in agony? This may be the beginning of an unhealthy scenario that you can avoid this holiday season, says the International Chiropractors Association (ICA).

"A bulging stomach can put pressure on your body's support systems, including your spine and spinal nerves," advises Dr. Robert J. Hoffman, ICA President. "Every extra pound in the abdominal region could put 10 pounds more stress on the lower back. This stress can last a short time, such as just after eating a heavy meal or lifting a package improperly. It may also become chronic, as heavy eating during the holidays may lead to weight gain, and carrying extra pounds can put added strain on the supporting structures of the spine and nervous system."

Additional weight can force the pelvis and torso to shift and cause changes in spinal balance, leading to spinal misalignments (known as vertebral subluxations) and malfunction in the entire body, explains Dr. Hoffman.

ICA suggests eating in moderation and taking a 15-20 minute walk after a big meal to ease the discomfort and burn a few calories. Fitness research findings indicate you can burn up to 100 calories in a 30-minute walk.

ICA has prepared a list of health tips to help protect your back and general health over the holidays:

Lift packages, firewood, your frozen holiday turkey and other heavy items with your legs, not your back. When lifting, hold objects close to your body; rather than flexing forward, maintain a slight arch in your lower back and bend at the knees before standing up with the object. That way, the lifting is done primarily with the strong muscles of the legs supporting the load.

When cooking or standing for an extended period, elevate one foot with a foot rest or stacked books, about six inches from the floor. Alternately elevating each foot relieves tired back and leg muscles—similar to the function the foot rest serves customers standing at a counter—and helps prevent bad posture habits that can lead to abnormal spinal curvatures.

When travelling by car or plane, place a pillow or folded towel behind the small of your back to help maintain the arch in your lower back and support the rest of the body properly. This relieves the discs and joints structures of the spine from unnecessary pressure.

In addition to fastening your seat belt for car trips, adjust the headrest to align with your head, at least up to ear level. This is important to support and protect the head and neck in the unfortunate event of a sudden stop.

Get enough rest. Many health problems that occur with the holidays are simply due to fatigue. By simply getting adequate rest, you can help prevent structural strain, emotional and cognitive imbalance and general health problems.

For further information on health and chiropractic, check out the ICA's web site at www.chiropractic.org

Mark Your Calendars

Special Meeting

A special meeting called by Mayor Gallagher for the entire Governing Body for Monday, Dec. 11, 2000 at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall to adopt a resolution in reference to bonding for senior housing.

We Need A Hero! Personalize-A-Book

From the moment children open one of our books, their magical adventure begins. They love to read when the story is about them. Your child can lead a big circus parade, visit the land of the dinosaurs, save the day at the zoo, make a Christmas wish and more. Call to experience for yourself how reading becomes exciting with **personalized** children's books.

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Around Town

American Legion Chapter Meeting

December 9

On Dec. 9 the 101st Airborne Division we will hold services for the 248 men and women that went down in Newfoundland in 1985 in front of McCrisky Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., at 11 a.m. This service is an annual event.

VFW Pearl Harbor Services

December 7

Pup Tent 41, Military Order of the Cootie is holding Pearl Harbor Services will be held on Dec. 7, at 7 p.m. at the VFW Post. The public is invited. Coffee and cake will be served.

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

Historical Society Mtg.

December 12

The Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12 at SPHS library at 7:30 p.m. Recently donated items will be on display. The public is invited to attend.

AARP Mtg., Christmas Luncheon & Trip

December 15

AARP Chapter 4144 will hold their December meeting and Christmas luncheon at the Willows Restaurant, Washington Ave. in Greenbrook on Dec. 15 at 12 noon.

Also, upcoming for Feb. 21 and 22, 2001, a trip to Atlantic City and to the Three Little Bakers Theater is planned. Tickets are \$155, double occupancy.

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

American Legion Pancake Breakfast

December 17

The American Legion Post #243 located on Oak Tree Road, is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast on Dec. 17, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Adults are \$5, children under 12 are \$3 and children under six are free.

For more information, contact Tony Mann at (732) 407-1385.

Santa at the PAL

December 23

Santa will be coming to the PAL on Dec. 23, at 1 p.m.

Children, newborn to 10 years old, are invited to come and see Santa (accompanied by parents).

Movies, gifts and pictures with Santa are part of the festivities. Pre-registration is required. Call 226-



7713. Registration fee is \$5 per child.

Rec Sponsors Trip to Riverdance

February 8, 2001

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a trip 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 Sandi 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 celebrate all those who once walked the halls of South Plainfield High School.

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

Rec Sponsoring Trip to See The Lion King

July 5, 2001

The Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see *The Lion King* on July 5, 2001.

The cost is \$95 per person and includes your ticket and the bus. Purchase your ticket at the PAL. The bus leaves at 4 p.m.

The PAL is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PAL Trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts Offered

September 10-14, 2001

The PAL Building Recreational Center is sponsoring a 5-day, 4-night trip to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, with a visit to Foxwoods Casino.

The trip package includes 4 nights accommodations, 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners, including a lobster bake, fully escorted tours of the Hyannis area, the historic Massachusetts towns of Sandwich, Boston, Quincy Market, Plymouth and Provincetown; and the Hyannis Harbor Cruise.

A visit to Foxwoods Casino

enroute home, an evening of entertainment, a welcome reception, baggage handling, all taxes and standard gratuities and motorcoach transportation will all also be included in this trip.

Dates of the trip are set for Sept. 10-14, 2001. Prices are \$325 per person double, triple and quad occupancy. Single supplement is \$78.

For more information and reservations, contact Mike English at (908) 226-7714.

Events In Surrounding Towns

Fundraiser at Woodbridge Mall

The Colonia Chapter of Hadasah is holding a gift wrapping fundraiser at the Woodbridge Center Mall. They will be raising money for Hadasah Medical Organization's cancer research and cancer treatment programs. This event will be ongoing until Sunday, December 24.

The Charity Giftwrap counters are located at the main mall entrance between Sterns and Fortunoff's department stores; same mall entrance where public bus stops are found. Members of the community are encouraged to stop by and support this valuable fundraising event.

They have wrapping paper to suit Hanukkah, Christmas, birthday, anniversary, wedding or any other gifts needs. Donations range from \$1 to \$5 for average sized packages and members of the Premier Shoppers Club can use their membership cards towards this charity fundraiser as well.

Anyone interested in volunteering their time to help with this fundraising event should contact Sara Chazin at 908-608-1004.

Alliance Church To Perform Bethlehem's Treasure

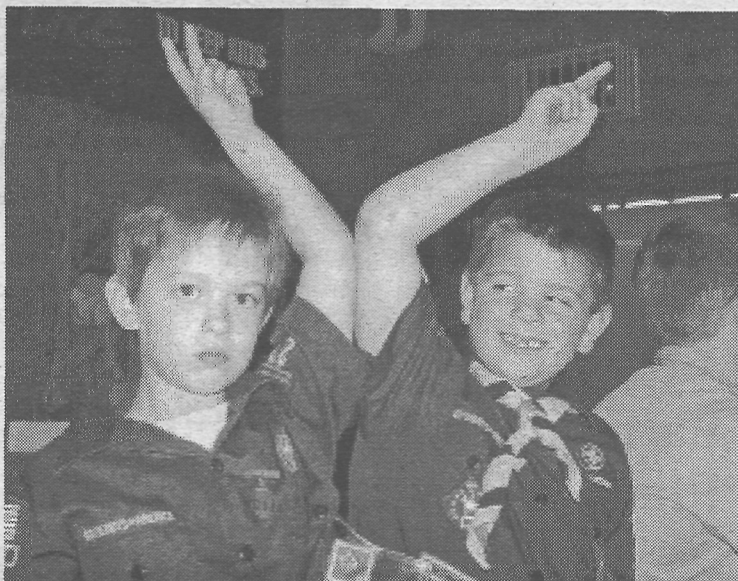
December 9-17

Bethlehem's Treasure-A Live Nativity will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren on Dec. 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Admission is free. Immediately following, refreshments will be served at a "Christmas Cafe" inside the church.

The production, written and directed by Tom McKenna, incorporates various aspects of the Christmas narrative intertwined with seasonal music and live animals.

The church is located at 52 Mount Horeb Road in Warren, minutes off Interstate 78. Take Exit 33 of I-78 and proceed toward Martinsville. Travel three miles and turn left onto Mount Horeb Road. The church is one mile on the right.

For information, contact the church at (732) 469-1425.



Cub Scout Pack 224 Holds Thanksgiving Family Feast

On Nov. 15, members of Cub Scout Pack 224 held their Second Annual Thanksgiving Family Feast at Riley School. This year over 100 scouts, family members and friends enjoyed full turkey and ham dinners, with all the trimmings.

Millie Hunt chaired the feast committee with the help of many parents, including those who contributed baked goods and prepared dishes for all to share. The Cub Scouts and their families want thank all whose efforts contributed to the success of the evening.

The event's great success even went beyond the night of the dinner. Ample amounts of left over food were donated to the residents of Keystone in South Plainfield for their enjoyment.

—Submitted by Bill Seesselberg



How You Can Be a Part of the South Plainfield Observer.

ENCOURAGE YOUR ORGANIZATION TO SEND US THEIR UPCOMING EVENTS. We want to add them to AROUND TOWN. It can make your event more successful. Send them to us by mail, fax or e-mail.

SEND US INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MILESTONES, i.e., promotions, births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations. Include photos. Share your good news with the community!

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Holiday Craft Show Raises Funds for Riley Fourth Grade Stokes Trip



Story/Photos by Patricia Abbott

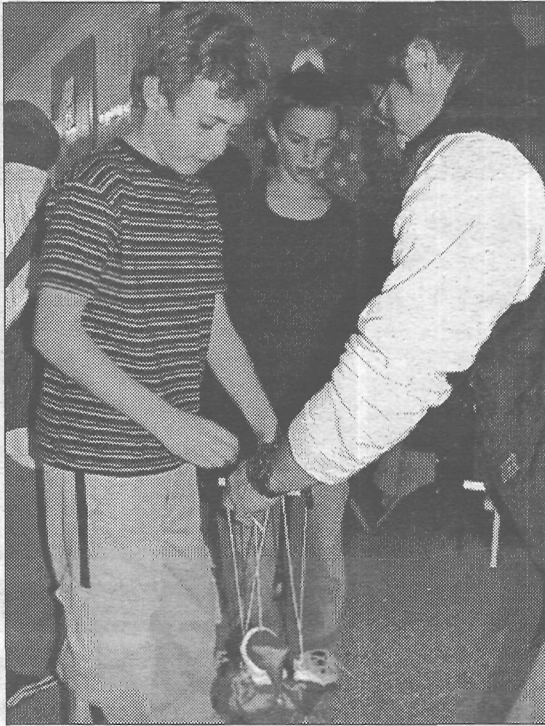
Throughout fourth grade, focus on fundraising for the Stokes State Forest fifth grade trip becomes more intense as the year progresses. With this in mind, Riley School fourth grade parents recently held their annual Christmas Craft Show.

The show featured a large, diversified number of crafts and merchandise with prices to fit even the smallest allowance. This year's event filled the gym and spilled into the hallways. Youthful customers spent much time in the school's lobby. The entranceway featured a number of age appropriate attractions, such as collectible cards, spin art and edible sand art.

A booth featuring child-sized marionettes did a brisk business as well as entertaining crowds the entire night.

The food court offered hot dogs, soft drinks and more to hungry visitors.

A steady crowd of customers looking for that perfect gift kept the event busy throughout the evening.



From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Hello again. Time for some more news from South Plainfield Library:

Just a reminder about the special program from the Friends of the Library this Sunday afternoon at 2:00. It's called "American Folk Songs-American Tradition" and features Angus Gillispie, Professor of American Studies at Rutgers. He'll talk about the origin of folk songs in America and the current revival of interest in the form. You don't have to pre-register for this program.

We'll be following our usual Storytime schedule next week. The programs take place on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15; they each last about an hour. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. In addition, next Friday, there's this month's Kidcraft program at 4 p.m. It's for children ages six and over. As space is limited for Kidcraft, please call ahead to reserve a place. And, be sure to mark your calendars: the Storytime on Wednesday, Dec. 20, will feature a Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. Tim. If you'd like more information on any of our Children's programs, check with Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is slated for Tuesday night at 7:30. The public is invited and encouraged to attend what promises to be an

informative meeting. Refreshments will be served.

You still have the opportunity to donate to one or both of the charity drives currently at the library. Books to Keep is collecting new children's books for needy youngsters. (Monetary donations are also accepted for this drive.) And the Friends of the Library are collecting mittens, gloves, scarves and hats to distribution to those in the area without them. (FISH, Inc., will handle the distribution.) Ask at the main desk for more information.

As you probably know by now, access to our Internet terminals works on a "first come, first serve" basis. If you'd like to use a terminal and they're all occupied, let a staff member know so we can make sure you get the next open spot, once a patron's 30-minute use period is finished. However, the word processors are another matter. If you wish, you can reserve one of them for a specific time of day. Please call ahead as early as possible so we can make sure a spot will be available with a minimum of difficulty.

And, lastly, here's a tip for those still wondering what to get someone for this gift-giving (and gift-getting) season. We still have a few handsome South Plainfield coverlets available; they cost \$35 each and come in blue and white. If you'd like one, ask at the desk while supplies last.

With that, we'll wrap it up for this week. Thanks for reading; we'll have more next time.

Learn All About Angels

The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church would like to invite all who believe in angels to attend an informative and entertaining presentation by Sister Elias on Sunday, Dec. 10, at their church, located on 807 Hamilton Boulevard at 2 p.m.

Angels figure prominently in all of the world's religions; therefore, Sister Elias presents an ecumenical view on the work of angels among us today.

Sister Eileen Elias Freeman has been thinking and writing about angels since she was five years old. She directs *The Angel Watch Foundation*™, a nonprofit organization that searches for evidence of angelic activity and she publishes *The Angel Watch Journal*, a monthly magazine. She holds a masters degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame and a B.A. in comparative religion from Bernard College.

A teacher, musician, folksinger

and full time writer and speaker about angelic phenomena, she is the author of *The Holy Week Book*, *Angelic Healing*, *The Angels' Little Instruction Book* and of course, the internationally renown, *Touched by Angels*.

The free presentation is open to people of all faiths; a free-will offering would be appreciated for Sister Elias's continuing good works. Her books will be available for purchase and Sister Elias will gladly personalize them.



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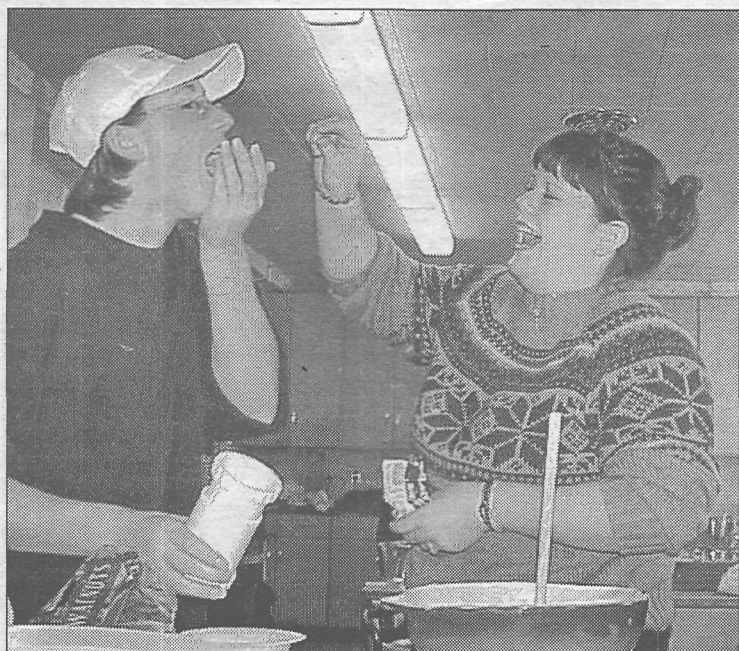
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Juniorettes Bake 800 Holiday Cookies for Community Service Project



When the South Plainfield Juniorettes set out to do something, they do it in a big way. An afternoon in the kitchen of Wesley Methodist Church produced 800 fresh baked cookies, which will be sold to family and friends as a fundraiser for the community service group. This is the first year the girls all met in one place to bake the cookies together. Sales are made by word of mouth.

The South Plainfield Juniorettes began about 10 years ago. There are a number of new girls this year and the club is always interested in new members. Juniorettes is open to South Plainfield girls from 12-18 years old, although 11-year-old sixth grade girls can become prospective members.

GFWC Juniorettes are young women who work together to



meet the needs of their community through volunteer service projects.

If you would like to become a

member, please contact President Julie Palmer at (908) 755-5260 or any other current Juniorette member.

Roosevelt School Drama Club Flourishes with the Help of Alumni

By Carrie Reilly

Roosevelt School Drama Club is back this year with an all new production entitled, "Once Upon A Time." Most rehearsals are spent reciting lines, going over parts and getting a feel for the stage. However, this club has much more of a history than what just meets the eye. For Director/Founder Patricia Abbott, there is a nine year history here.

Pattie's career as a drama advisor/director began at Franklin School, where her son Chris was attending kindergarten. She enlisted the help of local high school and college students to assist her at rehearsals, and hence, the drama club was born. The club

built a strong foundation for the next five years at Franklin School. In the years that followed, past

"It's a great learning experience for the kids and alot of fun as well to teach them the basics of theater. This is my fourth year helping out and it's been great," said Chris Imbroscianno.

drama club members who had learned the basics of theater from Pattie had no idea that they would one day be able to pass on what

they learned to children taking a part in her future productions.

With the club's transition to Roosevelt School four years ago, and the high school and college assistants already gone, younger past members were enlisted to help. Chris Abbott, Chris Imbroscianno, Pam Cianfrocca, Vinnie Carubia and Katie Mott were all past prodigies of the Franklin School program, and to Pattie, her saving graces.

"All except Vinnie were students of mine from the Franklin program. I've seen them all grow so much, individually and theatrically. Literly, I would not be able to do this without them," Pattie said.

Continued on page 12

Sacred Heart School Announces First Marking Period Honor Roll

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Grade 1A: Kevaughn Charles, Amanda Joe, Andrea Muglia and Kathleen Vincent.

Grade 1B: Jasmine Aguinaldo, John Michael Bicho, Austin Jenkin and Nathall Martinez.

Grade 2A: Shaun Bandrowski
Grade 2B: Sabrina Douge and Kristin Treslar.

Grade 3B: Alfonse Muglia and Aaron Pinkard.

Grade 4A: Aedan Bayona, Jacqueline Dougherty and Alice Hsieh.

Grade 4B: Allyson Paterek and Kathryn Paterek.

Grade 5B: Kristen Partesi.

Grade 6A: Amy Hsieh, Amanda Jenkins and Erica Palma.

Grade 6B: Samantha Crane, Marie Cunicella, Amanda Iavarone, Rana Moses, Anthony Pelle, Alicia Presley and Daniel Schiavo.

Grade 7A: Juliet Fryszczyn

Grade 8A: Alexandra Gamboa and Jenna Zielinski

Grade 8B: Courtney Ervin.

Grade 1A: Jenny Reilly

HONOR ROLL

Grade 1B: Lanna Arki, Anthony Cardoso, Carla Palma and Marissa Smith

Grade 2A: Joseph Landry, Ivonne Martinez, Samantha Vella and Jennifer Villacres.

Grade 2B: Shannon Bell, Shelece Counts, Curtis Murry, Jr., Allyson Ricarte, Karla Rodriguez, Careese Simmonds and Michael Vitello.

Grade 3A: Andrea Aguilar, Alexandra Fee, Jilianne Gulotta, Nicole McDonough, Kaitlyn Muglia, Gerianna Pinto, Ryan Ricarte and Alexandria Santos.

Grade 3B: Edward Amirault, Amanda Bowker, Michael McHugh, Nicholas Montuori, Jessica Napolitano, Adrienne Novak, Ethan Ockay, Zachary Sikanowic and Ashley Venino.

Grade 4A: James Abney, Daphne Aguinaldo, Sara Crane, David Ervin, Alexandra Grant and Gloria Lobato.

Grade 4B: Brianna Bicho, Zena Gamble, Ryan Hohner and

Michael Muglia.

Grade 5A: Jonathan Abe, Elih Colon, Olivia Gerlitz and Allison Whitefleet.

Grade 5B: Celina Compos-Marquetti, Charles Eke, James Howard, Rita Landry, Megan McHugh, Luis Reynoso and Camille Romano.

Grade 6A: Kristen Ciandella, Stephen Dvorak, Maria Lipnick and Tiffany Smith

Grade 6B: Adam Barletta, Gregory Bayard, Michael Ciccarella and Kiersten Whitaker.

Grade 7A: Mya Lewis, Adam Pruss and Diane Romano.

Grade 7B: Roseller Lapitan and Lauren Sprott

Grade 8A: Kristin Gilormini, Kevin Hohner, Christina Martin, Kate Polifka and Erin Sikano-wicz.

Grade 8B: Kenneth Abel, Jinelle Arki, Kevin Ciampi, Nicole Cunicella, Sarah Kulihin, Mary Lillis and Kristen Salvatore.

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL Choir Director Tracy Murray and several members of the traveling choir were on hand at last week's 1-800-Flowers open house. Santa was also on hand to hear what the children wanted for Christmas. Pictured left is Santa with 2-year-old Nora Bogart.

Christmas Trees on Sale At Rescue Squad

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will be conducting its first annual Christmas tree sale during the first half of December.

The Christmas tree sale will run from Monday, Dec. 4 through Friday, Dec. 15, or as long as trees are available. The hours are 5 to 9 p.m. during the week and 12 noon to 7 p.m. on the weekends.

The number of trees available are limited, so hurry while supplies last. The price for a five to seven foot tree is \$25.

The Christ-

mas tree sale will take place at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, located at 2520 Plainfield Ave., across from Spring Lake Park. All proceeds of this fundraiser will go to the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is a 100% volunteer organization, serving the surrounding community with emergency medical services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The squad relies heavily on donations and money raised by fundraisers such as this.

Brunch Cruise Tickets Available

The South Plainfield Historical Society has two gift certificates for two tickets (each) for the Brunch Cruise on the Cornucopia Princess for sale.

The tickets are good for any date. If the purchaser prefers to go on an evening cruise, the tickets may be exchanged and the price difference must be paid. The two

certificates are \$98 each.

Checks should be made out to the South Plainfield Historical Society. Mail to: P.O. Box 11, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or call Bill Tuthill at 756-9654.

Tickets are available on a first come, first serve basis and would make a special holiday gift.

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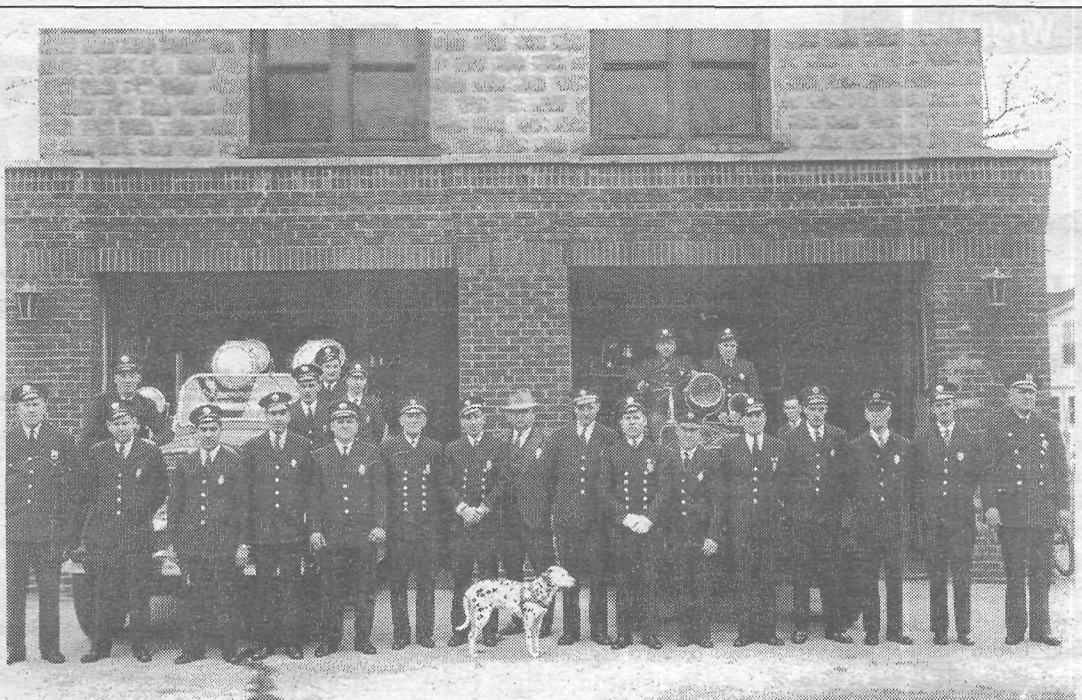
Get Well Greetings to

Linda Zushma,



who fell
and broke
her ankle.

Get Well Soon!
The Observer



1944 South Plainfield Firehouse

A few months ago we published this photo without identifying any of the firemen pictured. We received many calls from our readers, who explained that this picture, taken in 1944 in front of the old firehouse, was made into a postcard and sent as a Christmas Card to all the firemen serving in World War II. Many identified some of those pictured. One caller, Frank "Butch" Bumbak gave us all the names of those in the photo and when they served. We want to thank Butch and also wish him a speedy recovery on his recent illness. Pictured above are John Whelan, Russell Bowers (1944-1952), Andrew Huzzey (1941-1947), Leonard Capraro, Sr. (1939-1980), Ignatius Faso (1942-1952), William Ackerman (1942-1962), Joseph Bazamicki (1944-1945), Frank Banul, Jr. (1934-1941), Joseph Bori (1932-1966), Joseph Delany (1912-1963), Charles Thornton II (1931-1945), William J. Bittles (1934-1965), Adam Philips (1929-1951), Edward Sloan, Frank Diana, Sr. (1922-1936), L. Donald Diana (1948-1976), Lewis Randolph (1907-1934), Howard Elliott (1939-1964), Edward Ten Eyck (1928-1931), Joseph Scalera, Sr. (1930-1938), Charles Russo (1936-1944), William Dotsko (1947-1964) and Chief McCarthy.

Billboards Loom For Route 287

Continued from page 1

size and if it is placed according to DOT specifications. They do not study the traffic, nor the surrounding property, they leave those issues up the municipality. It is up to the discretion of the municipality to issue a permit. Two permits are required to erect a billboard, one from the DOT and one from municipality.

The second billboard will be located directly behind Flex-Pak, located on the corner of Durham Ave. and Hadley Rd. It will be placed on the southbound side of Rt. 287 and be erected directly behind the building, abutting the easement of the Texas Eastern pipeline which goes through the rear of the property. The bottom of the sign will be level with the roof of the present building.

The third billboard will be located on the northbound side of Rt. 287 behind the BP Gas station, almost directly across from the one placed behind the Flex Pak building. The case on this billboard will be completed at the Jan. 2 and a vote could be taken.

All three billboards will be v-shaped, two sided signs and will be 50 feet high. Both sides will be lit with five 400 watt bulbs

from dusk to dawn. Carole Media recently constructed a similar billboard in Bridgewater on Rt. 287, which is visible for miles.

Much of the discussion in front of the Board centered around whether the signs will be visible from surrounding residential areas and what effect it will have on traffic safety. The applicants are sighting 'free speech' as one of the reasons the board should approve the billboards. Larry Randolph, a member of the Environmental Commission, said billboards are not free speech, they are commercials and have nothing to do with the first amendment. Hank Grabarz also objected

saying, "An outside interest should not be allowed to come to South Plainfield and force their beliefs on the residents." He also questioned what the impact of traffic safety on Rt. 287 would be. Grabarz added that the reasons billboards are not allowed on exit ramps is because they may cause accidents by distracting the driver.

If all of these billboards are approved by the board, the 1.8 miles of Rt. 287 which passes through South Plainfield will have three two-sided 50 feet tall billboards.

The meeting starts at 8 p.m. and the public is invited to attend and ask questions.

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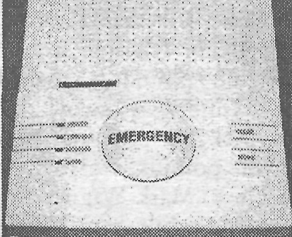
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Wrestling

Sports

High School Wrestling Preview

By Robert Hunter

The South Plainfield High School Wrestling team has begun its preparation for the upcoming 2000-2001 season. The Tigers, coming off the best season in school history, have their work cut for them. As you know the Tigers won their first State title and finished as the number three team in the state with a 17-0 record.

The Tigers lost some key spots due to graduation, but have some good young freshmen that could step in to help the team. But it is the senior leadership that this team will look to to give them the lift that they will need.

Seven seniors will lead the Tigers: Rich Gebauer, Roberto Ramos, Dave Butrico, Matt Gati, John Foscolo, Jason Stokes and Tom Doyon.

Let's have a look at the probable starting lineup: 103 Danny DeAndrea (freshman), 112 Rich Gebauer (senior), 119 Matt Anderson and Rickey Ringel, both (juniors), 125 Roberto Ramos (senior) 130 Dave Butrico (senior), 135 Matt Gati (senior), Evie Demarest (sophomore) and Guy Severini (freshman), 140 Scott Doerr (junior), 145 Glen Gross (sophomore), 152 Mike Buteas (junior), 160 Steve Johnston (sophomore), 171

Joe DiBiase (freshmen) 189/215 John Foscolo (senior) and Ryan Elliot (freshman) 215/heavy-weight.

The Tigers should be a very good tournament team with a lot of individual talent. The freshmen will have to step up and wrestle hard with the Tigers red division schedule plus non-conference matches against Del Val, Livingston, High Point and Brick Memorial.

Last year's season will be hard to beat, but this team will be very good and well conditioned. Look for the Tigers to surprise a lot of skeptical fans this year with a solid team.

The Tigers got a very nice review from Rob Sherrill's National Pre-Season Top 25 High School Wrestling Teams Preview. The Tigers were ranked #23 of the best high school wrestling teams in the country. This was based on last year's record, returning starters and strength of schedule.

Congrats to Coach Pavlak and assistants Kevin McCann and Bill Hamilton. The Tigers open the season on Friday, Dec. 15 at Bishop Ahr at 7 p.m., then travel to Morris Knolls the following morning for the Morris Knolls Tournament.

SP RECREATION WRESTLING SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent(s)	Home/Away	Weigh-ins
Dec. 17	North Hunterdon	Away	12:30 p.m.
Dec 17	Middlesex Christmas Tournament	Away	12/16/00 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Dec 20	Berkeley Heights	Home	6:30 p.m.
Dec 30	Kenilworth and North Plainfield	Home	8:00 a.m.
Jan 13	Roselle Park Tournament (Bantams & Midgets)	Away	1/12/01 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Jan 14	Roselle Park Tournament (Juniors)	Away	1/12/01 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Jan 20	Bridgewater and Roselle Park	Away (Bridgewater)	9:00 A.M.
Jan 21	Delaware Valley and Flemington	Away (Delaware Valley)	12:30 P.M.
Jan 21	Middlesex Novice Wrestling Tournament	Away	1/20/01 from 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Jan 24	Middlesex	Away	6:30 p.m.
Jan 30	Westfield	Away	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Scotch Plains	Home	8:00 a.m.
Feb. 4	Kenilworth Pee Wee & Bantam Tourn.	Away	see application
Feb. 7	Union	Home	6:30 p.m.
Feb 14	Voorhees	Home	6:30 p.m.
Feb 17	South Plainfield Tourn.		
	(Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget)	Home (HS)	2/16/01 from 5-7 p.m. (PAL)
Feb. 18	South Plainfield Tourn. (Juniors)	Home (HS)	2/16/01 from 5-7 p.m. (PAL)
Feb 21	Cranford	Home	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 4	Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Tourn.	Home (HS)	3/2/01 from 6-7 p.m. (PAL)

Schedule is subject to change.

Middle School Grapplers Take 3 of 4

South Plainfield Middle School wrestlers opened their season with a team tournament in Randolph on Sunday and walked away winning three out of four matches. A team which lost five standouts

wrestlers from last year, "reloaded the gun" with a strong showing from an outstanding group of incoming sixth graders led by Billy Ashnault, Robert Gentile, Sam Martin, Nick Dorey, Brian Hunt and Mike Jakubik. The incoming sixth graders combined to go 16-2 with 12 pins.

Returning veterans also made a strong showing. Lead by eighth-graders Peter De Andrea, Rob Masticle, Paul Ritchie and Anthony Costante, these four combined for a record of 13-3 with seven pins.

Returning seventh-graders also fared well. Lead by Jim Conroy, Kevin Crilley, Matt D'Alessandro, and Anthony Niemcyk, these four combined to go 9-4 with seven pins.

Also wrestling for the Middle School team were newcomers Nick Ćurcio, Bill Daly, Troy Benson and Shawn McCarthy. These boys showed tremendous heart and great promise for the future.

A special thanks goes out to the Rec team for the loan of Patrick

Hunter who also distinguished himself by going 3-1 on the day with two big pins and one tech fall.

The day saw the Middle School get a first round bye and then lose a heartbreaker to Branchville, a tough Pennsylvania school, by a score of 55-45. The boys rebounded to hammer Livingston 78-19. Next up was Hopatcong. Once again the boys were up to the challenge winning 61-30. The last match was against a very tough Roxbury team. The outcome wasn't decided until the very end where Rob Masticle and Kevin Crilley came through with two big pins, while giving up a lot of weight to their opponents.

Coaches Shane Kagan, Bill Ashnault and "newcomer" Kevin Hajduk have a lot to look forward to in the upcoming season with another standout team to work with.

Kevin Hajduk was a standout wrestler for the high school and it is great to have him back.

-Submitted by George D'Alessandro

Tigers Roar at Toms River Wrestling Tournament

By Robert Hunter

The Rec wrestlers continued to improve taking 17 overall medals at the Toms River Wrestling Tournament.

In the Tot division Anthony Ashnault claimed first place at 35 pounds while Troy Heilmann took third at 50 pounds. In the unlimited weight class Ryan Hughes also claimed second place.

In the Bantam Novice Division Kyle Pompilio, 55 pounds, finished in second place. Mike Molinaro finished in fourth place at 60 pounds. Jeff Conroy claimed fifth at 45 pounds.

In the Bantam Division Corey Hay finished third while teammate Kyle Hughes finished fourth. John Wylam, 70 pounds, finished second and Mike Wagner finished first at 75 pounds.

In the Midget Division Nick Heilmann, 60 pounds, finished fourth. Danny Pompilio, 95 pounds, took first place and Rocco Petriello (heavyweight) also took first place.

Others winning matches but not placing were Nick Pauls, Patrick Hunter, Tim Gaughan, Nick Vallone, Jonathan Conroy.

In the Junior Division Robert Gentile, 60 pounds, finished fourth. Jimmy Conroy, 75 pounds, took first place and Nick Doerr, 80 pounds, finished in fourth place. Mark Wagner finished second while Sam Martin finished third, both at 90 pounds. Kevin Crilley took first place at heavyweight.

Also wrestling but not placing were Billy Ashnault, Bryan Hunt and Mike Jakubik.

The Tigers open their season Dec. 17 at North Hunterdon.

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Sports

SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE

JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL				JUNIOR VARSITY - VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL				JUNIOR VARSITY & VARSITY WRESTLING			
Fri., Dec. 1	Carteret (scrimmage)	Home	3:45	Wed., Dec. 6	New Providence (scrimmage)	Away	3:00	Sat., Dec. 2	Rahway/Kearny (scrim)	Home	10:00am
Sat., Dec. 2	Edison (scrimmage)	Away	2:00	Sat., Dec. 9	Princeton (scrim)	Away	10:00	Fri., Dec. 8	Roselle Park/Randolph	Home	3:45
Tues., Dec. 5	Immaculata (scrim.)	Away	3:30	Mon., Dec. 11	St. Mary's (scrim)	Away	3 45	Sat., Dec. 9	Metuchen (scrimmage)	Home	10:00am
Sat., Dec. 9	North Plainfield/ Highland Park	Home		Wed., Dec. 13	Linden (scrim)	Home	3:45	Fri., Dec. 15	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:30/7:00
Mon., Dec. 11	St. Mary's/ South Brunswick	Home	3:45	Fri., Dec. 15	Woodbridge	Away	5:15/7:00	Sat., Dec. 16	Morris Knolls Tournament		9:30am
Fri., Dec. 15	Bishop Ahr	Home	5:30/7:00	Tues., Dec. 19	Cranford	Home	5:30/7:00	Wed., Dec. 20	J. P. Stevens	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri., Dec. 22	Colonia	Away	5:30/7:00	Thurs., Dec. 21	North Bergen	Away	5:30/7:00	Wed., Dec. 27	Hunterdon Central Tournament		
Thurs., Dec. 28	Bound Brook Holiday Tournament			Fri., Dec. 22	Colonia	Home	5:30/7:00	Fri., Jan. 5	East Brunswick	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri., Dec. 29	Bound Brook Holiday Tournament			Thurs., Dec. 28	Bound Brook Holiday Tournament			Tues., Jan. 9	Delaware Valley	Away	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 2	Sayreville	Home	5:30/7:00	Fri., Dec. 29	Bound Brook Holiday Tournament			Wed., Jan. 10	Edison	Home	6:00/7:30
Thurs., Jan. 4	New Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00	Tues., Jan. 2	Sayreville	Away	5:30/7:00	Sat., Jan. 13	South Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00
Tues., Jan. 9	North Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00	Tues., Jan. 9	North Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00	Wed., Jan. 17	Old Bridge	Away	5:00/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 11	J. F. Kennedy	Home	5:3 0/7:00	Thurs., Jan. 11	Perth Amboy	Away	5:30/7:00	Fri., Jan. 19	Livingston	Home	6:00/7:30
Tues., Jan. 16	St. Peter's	Away	5:30/7:00	Tues., Jan. 16	J. F. Kennedy	Home	5:30/7:00	Sat., Jan. 20	Pope John	Home	5:30/7:00
Thurs., Jan. 18	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:15/7:00	Thurs., Jan. 18	Woodbridge	Home	5:30/7:00	Tues., Jan. 23	South River	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed., Jan. 24	Colonia	Home	5:30/7:00	Wed., Jan. 24	Colonia	Away	5:30/7:00	Fri., Jan. 26	Piscataway	Away	5:30/7:00
Fri., Jan. 26	Sayreville	Away	5:30/7:00	Fri., Jan. 26	Sayreville	Home	5:30/7:00	Sat., Jan. 27	High Point	Home	5:00/7:00
Tues., Jan. 30	New Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00	Tues., Jan. 30	Bishop Ahr	Away	5:15/7:00	Fri., Feb. 2	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway		6:00
Thurs., Feb. 1	North Brunswick	Away	5:30/7:00	Thurs., Feb. 1	North Brunswick	Home	5:30/7:00	Sat., Feb. 3	GMC Tournament @ Piscataway		10:00am
Sat., Feb. 3	J. P. Stevens	Home	11:30/1:00	Sat., Feb. 3	J. P. Stevens	Away	11:30/1:00	Wed., Feb. 7	Perth Amboy	Away	5:30/7:00
Wed., Feb. 7	J. F. Kennedy	Away	5:30/7:00	Wed., Feb. 7	Perth Amboy	Home	5:30/7:00	Thurs., Feb. 8	Brick Memorial	Home	6:00/7:30
Fri., Feb. 9	St. Peter's	Home	5:30/7:00	Sat., Feb. 10	J. F. Kennedy	Away	11:30/1:00	Tues., Feb. 13	Team Sectionals		
Mon., Feb. 12	Cranford	Away	5:30/7:00	GMC Tournament State Tournament				Thurs., Feb. 15	Team Sectionals		
Thurs., Feb. 15	Hunterdon Central	Away	5:30/7:00	FRESHMEN GIRLS BASKETBALL				Sat., Feb. 17	Group Finals		
Tues., Feb. 20	Perth Amboy Vo-Tech	Home	7:00	Fri., Dec. 15	Woodbridge	Away	3:45	Fri., Feb. 23	Districts	Home	6:00
Thurs., Feb. 22	E. Brunswick Vo-Tech	Away		Thurs., Dec. 21	Metuchen	Away	3:45	Sat., Feb. 24	Districts	Home	11:00am
GMC Tournament State Tournament				Fri., Dec. 22	Colonia	Home	3:45	Feb. 27; Mar. 2, 3	Regions	Away	
FRESHMEN BOYS BASKETBALL				Tues., Jan. 9	North Brunswick	Away	3:45	Mar. 6, 10, 11	State Championships	Away	
Fri., Dec. 15	Bishop Ahr	Home	3:45	Thurs., Jan. 11	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45	BOYS & GIRLS WINTER TRACK			
Fri., Dec. 22	Colonia	Away	3:45	Tues., Jan. 16	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45	Sun., Jan. 21	State Relays at Princeton		
Tues., Jan. 2	Sayreville	Home	3:45	Thurs., Jan. 18	Woodbridge	Home	3:45	Wed., Jan. 24	Sayreville	Home	3:45
Thurs., Jan. 4	New Brunswick	Away	3:45	Wed., Jan. 24	Colonia	Away	3:45	Sun., Jan. 28	State Groups at Princeton		
Tues., Jan. 9	North Brunswick	Home	3:45	Fri., Jan. 26	Metuchen	Home	3:45	Wed., Jan. 31	North Brunswick	Home	3:45
Thurs., Jan. 11	J. F. Kennedy	Home	3:45	Tues., Jan. 30	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:30	Sun., Feb. 4	Championships at Princeton		
Thurs., Jan. 18	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45	Thurs., Feb. 1	North Brunswick	Home	3:45	Wed., Feb. 7	Perth Amboy	Away	3:45
Wed., Jan. 24	Colonia	Home	3:45	Sat., Feb. 3	J. P. Stevens	Away	10:00	Wed., Feb. 14	Bishop Ahr	Away	3:45
Fri., Jan. 26	Sayreville	Away	3:45	Wed., Feb. 7	Perth Amboy	Home	3:45	East Brunswick Relays GMC Relays GMC Meet			
Tues., Jan. 30	New Brunswick	Home	3:45	Sat., Feb. 10	J. F. Kennedy	Away	10:00				
Thurs., Feb. 1	North Brunswick	Away	3:45								
Sat., Feb. 3	J. P. Stevens	Home	10:00 am								
Wed., Feb. 7	J. F. Kennedy	Away	3:45								
Mon., Feb. 12	Cranford	Away	4:00								
Thurs., Feb. 15	Hunterdon Central	Away	3 :45								
BOYS AND GIRLS BOWLING											
ALL MATCHES PLAYED AT CAROLIER LANES - 3:45 p.m.											
Tues., Dec. 5	Carteret										
Wed., Dec. 6	Bishop Ahr										
Thurs., Dec. 7	Mother Seton										
Sat., Dec. 9	Bishop Ahr Holiday Classic										
Tues., Dec. 12	St. Mary's										
Wed., Dec. 13	South River										
Thurs., Dec. 14	Monroe Township										
Mon., Dec. 18	South Amboy										
Tues., Dec. 19	J. F. Kennedy										
Wed., Dec. 20	Colonia										
Thurs., Dec. 21	Middlesex										
Tues., Jan. 2	Carteret										
Wed., Jan. 3	Bishop Ahr										
Thurs., Jan. 4	Mother Seton										
Sat., Jan. 6	Brick Tournament										
Tues., Jan. 9	St. Mary's										
Wed., Jan. 10	GMC Individual Qualifying										
Thurs., Jan. 11	South River										
Sat., Jan. 13	Joe Romer Memorial										
Tues., Jan. 16	Monroe Township										
Wed., Jan. 17	GMC Individual Finals										
Thurs., Jan. 18	J. F. Kennedy										
Sat., Jan. 20	Lakewood Tournament										
Tues., Jan. 23	Colonia										
Wed., Jan. 24	Middlesex										
Thurs., Jan. 25	Woodbridge										
Sat., Jan. 27	Central Jersey Winter Classic										
Mon., Jan. 29	Franklin Township										
Tues., Jan. 30	GMC Playoffs										
Thurs., Feb. 1	GMC Playoffs										
Sat., Feb. 3	Girls Sectionals										
Tues., Feb. 6	GMC Semi-Finals										
Wed., Feb. 7	Franklin Township										
Thurs., Feb. 8	GMC Finals										
Sat., Feb. 10	Boys Sectionals										
Wed., Webs 14	Woodbridge										
Sat., Feb. 17	State Finals										

Sports

By Tony Cassano



juniorbaseballclubnotes

A FEW COMMENTS—As per this month's general membership meeting held this past Monday, Dec. 4, the sprinkler/irrigation project is progressing as planned and the regrading of fields one and two are underway. A new batting cage, thanks to the generosity of the Ralph Cassio and Robert Boyle family, in addition to a significant donation from our local VFW, will be installed on field three. Construction is scheduled to begin soon.

SOME IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES have been voted in, most notably starting with the 2001 season, any child who turns eight between Aug. 1 and Sept. 30 is eligible to sign up and play as an eight-year-old. Previously you had to be eight by July 31. In addition, 17-year-olds will be eligible to play in Pony A but will not be allowed to pitch. The season ending in-house tournament has been added to the C League. These are a few of the more noteworthy changes for the new season ahead.

THANKS ONCE AGAIN TO THE 2001 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY. They are Cindy Eichler, Donna Hanley, Rita Doell, and Debbie Lykes (I apologize for last week's misprint). We will miss you. Starting in January 2001, the Woman's Auxiliary will meet on the first Thursday of each month at the SPJBC clubhouse at 7:30 p.m.

SECOND COACHES CLINIC SET FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 12 at 7:30 p.m.—The SPJBC will be offering "free" monthly Coaches Clinics. The first one, held on Nov. 14, was attended by 25 men.

The next scheduled clinic is set for Tuesday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the SPJBC clubhouse.

Topics in upcoming clinics to include: Practice Organization; Hitting; Throwing; Fielding; Pitching; and Catching.

Special thanks go out to Tom Kiczula for his time and efforts in organizing the clinics and to Ray Ciecwisz for running the clinics. All current SPJBC Coaches in all leagues and any new individuals interested in coaching are welcomed.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MONTHLY MEETING IS MONDAY, JAN. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on the second Monday in January (Jan. 8) at 7:30 pm (the 1st Monday is Jan. 1st). Volunteers are still needed for several committees for the upcoming year. As always, new members are welcome and we encourage you to attend. Your participation will help shape the club for the upcoming season.

** WINTER REGISTRATION SET FOR JANUARY 11th, 12th, and 13th **

Our next scheduled registration is set for Thursday, Jan. 11 from 6 to 9 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the clubhouse. As mentioned previously, we had a good start during Fall Registration in October when 250 kids registered.

Further details to follow or call club for information @ 908-754-2090.

Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League Scores

South Plainfield started its Recreation Youth Basketball Leagues for ages 7-14 and divided it into four groups. Over 400 boys and girls participate in this basketball program. There are 48 teams and they play in the Middle School and the PAL building every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A LEAGUE RECORD TEAM'S HIGH SCORER

76ers	2-0	Nickolas Cesare
Jazz	2-0	Chris Bakazan
Cavaliers	1-1	Jason Cosma
Spurs	1-1	Michael Salerno
Rockets	1-1	Allan Mazurak
Bulls	1-1	Mike Downes
Nuggets	0-2	Andrew Miller
Knicks	0-2	Melissa Hansen/Joey Jaghab

B LEAGUE RECORD TEAM'S HIGH SCORER

Jazz	2-0	Keith Dezmin
Magic	2-0	Christopher Pollin
Pistons	2-0	Kyle Lendach
Nets	2-0	Kevin Siedenburt
Cavaliers	2-0	Peter Peregrin
Hornets	1-1	Ryan Curtis
Lakers	1-1	Robbie Strani
Heat	1-1	Zachary Gray
Supersonics	1-1	Bennie Gibson/Anthony Petriello
Bulls	0-2	Garrett Lake
Timberwolves	0-2	Charles Loiacone/Donna Garcia
Raptors	0-2	Mike Piazza
Knicks	0-2	Joey Turrise
Celtics	0-2	Joseph Stasio

C LEAGUE RECORD TEAM'S HIGH SCORER

Knicks	2-0	Jalil Williams
Pistons	2-0	Blaire Houston
Heat	2-0	Danny Espin
Magic	2-0	Jordan Petriello
Jazz	1-0	Michael Muglie
Timberwolves	1-1	Ken Breslau/Chris DeOliveira
Lakers	1-1	Vinnie Padula
Bulls	1-1	Grey Coppi
Celtics	1-1	Jeff Pagdonsolan/Jonathan Cursi
Cavaliers	0-1	Andrew Gray/Kristopher White
76ers	0-2	Kyle Darr
Raptors	0-2	Michael Dezmin
Hornets	0-2	Vincent Stark
Nets	0-2	Christopher Hartje

D LEAGUE RECORD TEAM'S HIGH SCORER

Nuggets	2-0	Ryan Harrington
Bulls	2-0	Kyle Kaczke/Michael Jeffreys
Hornets	2-0	Michael Pryor
Timberwolves	1-1	Matthew Cesare
Jazz	1-1	Gaganjot Dhaliwal
Heat	1-1	Matthew Santos/Harrison Lee
Lakers	1-1	Iyanose Ogbevoen
Nets	1-1	Anthony Baldasarke
Magic	1-1	Steven Grzenda
Spurs	0-2	Matthew Miceli
Cavaliers	0-2	Stephen Lanza
Pistons	0-2	Conner Gillis

Obituaries

William H. Mack, 67

William H. Mack of South Plainfield, died on Thursday, November 30, at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Shenandoah, Pa., he had resided in Mahanoy City, Pa. before moving to South Plainfield in 1963.

Mr. Mack was employed as a industrial training supervisor for the East Jersey State Prison in Rahway for 13 years before retiring in 1996. Previously he was employed as a Plant Manager for the former N.S. Baer Co. of Hillside for 23 years.

Bill was member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and had served in the United States Army. He was also a member of the South Plainfield B.P.O. Elks Lodge #2298 and had been active in the South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club. He was a former member of the Wardlaw-Hartridge High School Fathers Club and the American Legion Chaumont Post # 243 of South Plainfield. In earlier years he had

attended The University of Kentucky.

Surviving are his wife, Lubov Sims Mack; a son, William F. Mack and his fiancée, Linda J. Sandro of South Plainfield. He is also survived by one grandson, Ryan W. Mack.

Funeral Services were held at McCrisky Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations in his name may be made to the St. Joseph's High School Fathers Club or to the Kathy McCrisky Cerebral Vascular Fund c/o Neuroscience Institute at the JFK Medical Center would be appreciated.

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policereport

• A Sherman Ave. resident reported the theft of his cell phone and \$10 cash from his car. The unlocked vehicle had been parked in his driveway, the alarm had not been activated. The glove box had also been ransacked.

• A Clinton Ave. resident reported her registration and insurance card had been removed from her vehicle. The car had been running with the doors unlocked in the resident's driveway. When she entered the car she noticed that someone had been in the car and had removed the documents.

• A Van Fleet Ave. resident reported the theft of a standing wire lighted reindeer from her front lawn. The resident reported hearing a car door open and close and the sound of screeching tires but did not investigate. The reindeer had been held down with four anchors. One of the anchors was still in the ground the other three were found in the street in front of the home. Police found footprints in the grass from the street to the area where the reindeer had been anchored.

• A New Market Ave. resident reported that his car had been broken into while he was at work at Imperial Foods, St. Nicholas Ave. The driver's side window had been broken and the radio was removed from the car. Employees at Imperial stated that this is an ongoing problem. Two cars had been burglarized and one had been stolen in the past month.

• A Bell Place resident reported the theft of a bike from the side of her home. The bike had been unlocked at the time of the theft.

• An instructor at Verizon Phone Co., reported that someone had removed a

Sony Trinitron color TV from an office.

• Tawanda Florence of Hillside was pulled over for speeding on So. 11th St. The officer found the driver very upset, scared and crying. She explained she had been trying to get away from someone who had attempted to steal her purse. The victim was lost in the area of New Brunswick Ave./ Royal Deli and had pulled over to the side of the road. A car pulled up alongside and asked if she needed help. The driver told her that the roadway was very busy and suggested she pull into a Harris Steel lot off of New Market Ave. The suspect had been speaking to the victim through the passenger window when he suddenly reached in, grabbed her purse and drove away at a high rate of speed until she was pulled over.

• A Park Ave. resident reported to HQ of being threatened by his former boss at Petra Overhead Doors, Grand St. in Sayerville. He explained he had had an argument with his boss and left work. He then phoned from home in an attempt to work out the problem and apologize. The suspect told him not to return to work. The victim said he would return to pick up his tools and pay check. At this point he was threatened. His former boss said he would be harmed if he came to remove his property. When the victim said he would have the police assist him in retrieving his property the suspect then threatened to come to his home and kill him and his wife. His wife witnessed the phone call. The suspect fears retaliation and wants to sign a complaint if allegations are founded.

• A So. 11th St. resident reported the theft of a cell phone from his ve-

hicle. The unlocked vehicle was parked in the victim's driveway, the glove box was open but nothing had been removed.

• A Middlesex water company employee reported the aluminum railing that had been around the steps and loading dock had been sawed off and removed. The building is inside a locked barbed wire fence. The missing property is valued at \$5,000. Federal Recycling was contacted but noted they had not received anything similar. They did suggest that police also try Boro Auto Salvage in SP and Absolute Auto in Middlesex.

• A Manning Ave. resident reported being harassed by Joseph Vesoloski of Edison. The victim had agreed to testify as a witness against the suspect in a simple assault case. Since this time she reported that the suspect, whom she sees on her way to work daily, has been making obscene gestures at her as often four times a week. He recently made a motion as if holding a handgun to his head. The victim fears for her safety. She related other incidents involving the suspect including an attempt to run over her husband, the stalking of her daughter and son at a roller rink, and an attempt to rear end her car. She has been harassed by the suspect's son while visiting St. Joseph's High School, an issue the school refuses to address according to the victim. The incidents occurred in South Plainfield, Clifton and North Brunswick. She feels that if the suspect is found guilty he will retaliate. She was advised to report the additional incidents to the appropriate town police departments. She will sign a complaint if harassment continues.

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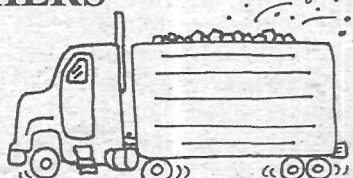
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By Patricia Abbott

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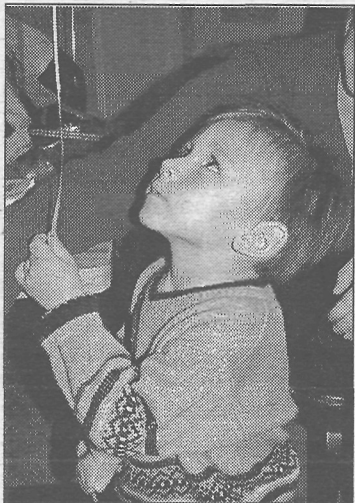
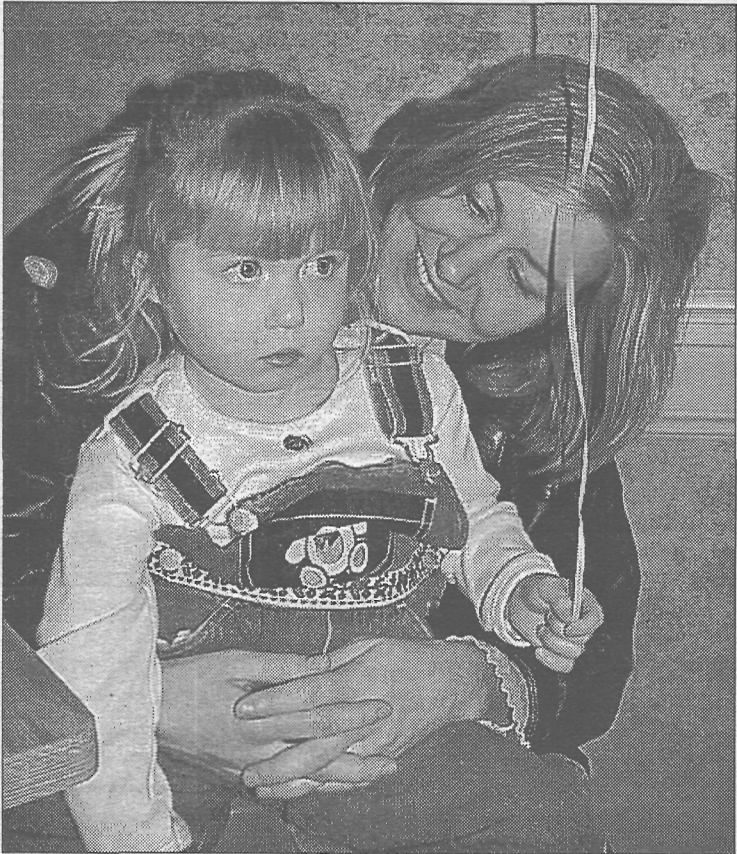
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Mrs. Claus sat at Santa's side, encouraging smiles and handing each child a gift before they left the jolly old man's lap. More than a few squirmed as parents called and cajoled smiles out of their young ones.

Santa smiled throughout and coaxed many smiles out of shy youngsters. One young lady re-

fused to approach Santa even after observing him. She did, however, give in to making a grab for the offered gift before fleeing back to the safety of her mother's lap. Another very young lady had mom join her on Santa's lap and had her daddy stand nearby. With three cameras focused on her she promptly hid behind her balloons.

Bright balloons floated from the ceiling as the children feasted on complimentary hotdogs and soda while they awaited their turn for a photo with Santa. The event was deemed successful by all who participated.



Roosevelt School Drama Club

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Needless to say, one would think that Pattie must be doing an awesome job to keep these kids coming back to help year after year. Her assistants agree.

"I grew up with Pattie in the program at Franklin. It's a great learning experience for the kids and a lot of fun as well to teach them the basics of theater. This is my fourth year helping out and it's been great," said Chris Imbroscianno.

Along with the tireless efforts of the assistants at rehearsals, a lot of work goes in during outside hours as well. Pattie writes all of her own scripts as a means of giving more lines to each child. The club uses all of their own costumes and makes their own props and sets for the productions as well. A lot of support also stems from parents, whom Pattie says "are very cooperative and helpful."

This year's production will take place on Friday, Dec. 8, with two performances held; one during the school day and another at 4 p.m., at Roosevelt School.

"I'm having a wonderful time working with all these children. It's incredible to watch them come in and after a few weeks on stage, it's like watching a whole different child," Pattie concluded.

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