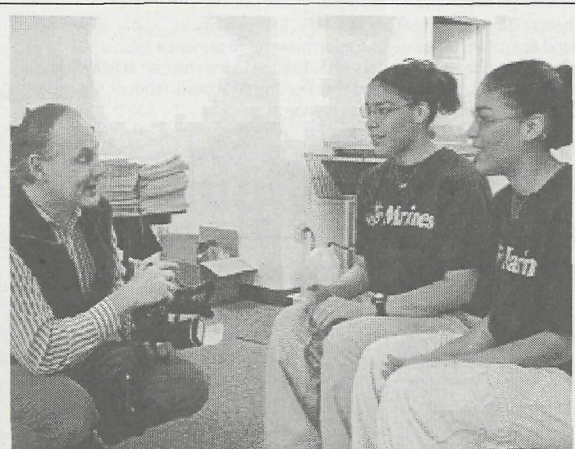


# South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 4, NO. 20

50 CENTS

JANUARY 19, 2001



The Home News Tribune will be featuring the borough next week in a special section called "A Day in the Life of South Plainfield." The Home News spent a day in town and the Observer was one of the places they visited. While they were busy interviewing us, we decided to do a story on them doing a story. Pictured above is Home News Tribune photographer Joe McLaughlin with the Morales twins. Watch for next week's issue of the Observer for a complete story.

## Identical Twins to Train In Marine Corps

By Patricia Abbott

The United States Marines Corps may soon be seeing double, as in South Plainfield's Morales identical twins who will leave for boot camp in just one week. The 19-year-old twins, who graduated from North Plainfield High School in 1999, have resided in South Plainfield for the past two years.

In their junior year at NPHS, Melissa and Lynette Morales took the Armed Service Vocation Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test. Lynette said she took the test to see what areas she would score well in and what specific jobs she would qualify for. Melissa took the test more out of curiosity.

When the list of those who passed was released in early September, Marine Recruiter Sergeant Karger contacted the girls. "I called them out of the blue," he said. They arrived at his office eager for more information.

Melissa and Lynette learned they would have to meet a weight requirement in order to enlist, meaning they would each have to shed about 30 pounds. Lynette was surprised there was a weight requirement, "I initially thought



Nineteen year old South Plainfield twins Melissa and Lynette Morales.

that boot camp would take care of that, but I wanted to lose weight anyway and now I had something to strive for." Melissa had a stronger reaction to the news, "When I was told that I had to lose 30 pounds, I was ready to get up and walk out of the office! I was surprised ... and I was a bit discouraged." Both girls said it was difficult at the onset of the regimen. In addition to regular

exercise, they had to change their eating habits. The first 12 pounds fell away, but after that plateau they found they had to work harder and harder to lose the weight.

Karger said that he worked with the girls for over two months. "They were extremely enthusiastic. They came to the office on a weekly basis to exercise and to learn more before they enlisted," he said. Although it was a long hard road to reach their goal, both girls noted that they felt more physically fit. Melissa said, "My energy level is way up and overall I feel very healthy."

The decision to join the US Marine Corps was not taken lightly. A military family background lent support to their choice. One uncle is a former Marine, while a cousin is currently enlisted. The twins' great grandfather was a veteran of WWI.

"I decided to join the Marines because it is a challenge both mentally and physically and it's a challenge not many people are willing to step up to. The discipline and courage you gain, and the respect you get as a Marine is impressive. I want to be a physical example of a U.S. Marine," Lynette said. I remember hearing 'The Few, The Proud, The Marines.'"

Melissa was more hesitant about her decision. "At first I joined because Lynette did. I thought it would be cool to do this together. Then as we went along with training I really got into it and had my own reasons. I thought it would be quite a challenge. I thought to myself, if I can lose the weight I need in order to

Continued on page 10

## Free Rabies Clinic Set for Saturday

*Animal licenses will also be available*

The Middlesex County Health Department will be holding a Rabies Clinic this Saturday, Jan 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Borough Garage located on the corner of Spicer and Belmont Avenues.

The rabies clinic is for both cats and dogs. Residents are urged to

bring their pets for inoculation.

Dog and cat licenses will be available. Cost of dog or cat license is \$8 if spayed/neutered and \$11 if not. A \$1 per month late fee is incurred after Jan. 31. Cats must be brought in a carrier.

For further information, call 226-7631.

## Will Store Closing Affect Center's Revamp?

Last spring plans were announced to renovate Golden Acres Shopping Center on Oak Tree Rd. The center's management company, Skyline Management, wanted to prepare the mall to compete with the onslaught of new malls throughout the area. The news came at a time when Wal-Mart in Piscataway was opening, Hadley Plaza had just completed renovations and Oak Park Commons was still young.

The mall's tenants rejoiced in the good news and looked forward to the much-needed facelift that would bring life back to the mall. Polimeni Organization, who had purchased the shopping center over two years ago, planned to begin work in spring of 2000 with completion set for autumn of the last year. Business owners have clamored for news of progress.

In November, a separate section of the mall that once housed McDonalds and Friendly's was demolished, but no further work has been done.

But rumors of store closings and bankruptcy have circulated throughout Bradlees, the Golden



Acres cornerstone store, for over a year.

Employees nervously spoke to the Observer of the rumors when plans for major renovations were announced last spring. Store management not only denied the rumors, but insisted that all was well. The rumors and worries were not unfounded.

Shortly after Christmas, the Bradlees department store chain

Continued on page 10



Bradlees has been filled with bargain hunters since they announced they will be closing their doors after many years in South Plainfield.



## mark your calendars

Log on to  
southplainfieldnj.com  
for the latest  
meeting agenda

### council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

#### AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, January 11 ..... Thursday, January 18

Monday, February 5 ..... Thursday, February 8

Tuesday, February 20 ..... Thursday, February 22

Monday, March 5 ..... Thursday, March 8

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 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

Special meeting on Thursday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.

January 23, February 13, February 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24

### zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month

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

January 30, February 6, February 20 (no meeting), March 6

### 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.

### site places sub-committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:

January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26

### recycling commission

Meets Thursday, once a month

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

Jan. 25, 2001.

### recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Monday of the month, except July and August  
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10,  
October 8, November 12, December 10

### environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

### board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Special Public Meeting for Student/Staff Commendations, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2001 at 7 p.m.

Regular Board Mtg., Jan. 23, 8 p.m.-Grant School gymnasium

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.

## 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.

## School Board Candidacy Information Available

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, 2001. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2001.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"I urge citizens who believe they can make a contribution to their communities' schools to consider board of education membership," said Patti J. Pawling, NJSBA president. "Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in your community, its children and their education."

## BOE Meeting Changes

The special closed session meeting to conduct interviews for the position of Superintendent of Schools, scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. has been canceled.

A special closed session meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m. for discussion of Superintendent Search Candidates.

The meeting will take place in the media center of Grant School on Cromwell Place.

## Corrections

In last week's issue of the *Observer*, we omitted the name of Mary Agrista, a parishioner of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. She was awarded the Medal Regina Nostra at ceremonies held at St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. We regret the error.

## Grant School Honor Roll

Last week three names were left off of the list of students who made the Grant Central Sixth Elementary School honor roll which was submitted to the *Observer*.

The students were Kimberly A. Galinski on the high honor roll. Also Nicholas P. Baldassarre and Matthew P. Emery on the honor roll.

## Specialty Gift Baskets

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Theresa Glowacki, a teacher at John E. Riley, and Tuilo Capparelli were on hand at a recent Board of Education meeting to present a special plaque to John E. Riley for his many years of dedication to the children at Riley School. Mr. Riley was unable to attend the meeting so Superintendent of Schools Guy Ferri accepted the plaque in his name.

## In My Opinion

### Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of the families of Anthony E. Singh, we would like to thank the South Plainfield Rescue Squad for their prompt response to the scene of the accident and for all of their efforts.

We would also like to thank the staff of McCrisky's Home For Funerals for their care and compassion for our family during this time of great sorrow.

Thank you to the South Plainfield Elks and to Tom and Colleen Kaufman for their generous donations and their helping hands.

A special thank you to the director, the members and the patrons of the South Plainfield Polish National Home for their time, generosity and comforting words, which meant so much.

We will forever be grateful to all of our family, friends and neighbors; for without them it would have been much harder to get through this difficult time.

**THANK YOU**  
**THE GUZENSKI, SINGH, AND**  
**SPOHN FAMILIES**

### To the Editor:

As a former Boy Scout Leader in many capacities for 22 years, it really bothers me when I read that some people want to ruin the scouting program. When they say that scout units should be not allowed to use public schools, etc., for meeting places because they do not want gays in their organization, they are inadvertently con-

doning the life style of the gays.

Scouting is a volunteer organization. But like many clubs, they have their own oath and promise. Part of the oath says, "I will keep myself physically fit, mentally awake and morally straight."

If a person cannot take that oath with meaning, then they do not belong in the organization. If a civic or church group wants to sponsor a troop or pack, there should be no argument.

I think many of the people who are fighting the scouting program do not understand the whole program. With the Scout Merit Badge program, a young man is introduced into many advocations. Many of them learn to use their hands, doing various "jobs" they never had the opportunity to learn before.

Another thing that bothers me is why the millions of men who have gone through scouting program and enjoyed many great experiences are not standing up to fight for the scouting program.

"Good Luck, Good Camping, Good Scouting."

**BILL TUTHILL**

Send us your letters/ opinions. We want to hear from you concerning what is going on around town. We will omit your name by request, but you must give us your name and phone number when you submit your letter. Send your letter/opinion to: *The South Plainfield Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield 07080. You can email us at GGNAN@aol.com or fax to 908-668-8819.

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# Borough Notes

## Council News

- David DeLair, South Plainfield's newest probationary officer has resigned due to health.
- Marie Dudek will be hired as a secretarial assistant in the Municipal Clerk's Office effective February 4.
- Motor Vehicle Licenses for the year 2001 have been issued to Conti Enterprises, AJV Auto, HK Truck Services and Absolute Fire Protection.
- Gene's Auto Wreckers, South Plainfield Auto Salvage and Boro Wrecking have all been issued Junkyard Licenses.
- The Deputy Clerk has been authorized to execute a five year agreement with Pinto Brothers for litter can service in the Borough, subject to the receipt of the Clean Communities Grant.
- The Police Department will be purchasing five Panasonic Toughbook computers and one RBR Ballistic Shield for a cost of \$9,185. The funds will be coming from their Federal Forfeiture Funds.
- Lisa Spahn, senior docket clerk in the court, resigned effective Jan. 5.

## Planning Board

- Last Tuesday the Planning Board held their 2001 reorganization meeting. The Board elected Bob Ackerman-chairman, Cornelia Calderone-vice-chairman, Janice Muccilli-secretary and Chris Nelson, Esq.-Planning Board Attorney.

## Board of Adjustment

- The Board of Adjustment has appointed William Thomas-chairman, Maria Campagna-vice chairman, Janice Muccilli-secretary, James Clarkin III, Esq.-Board of Adjustment Attorney and THP, Inc.-Zoning Board of Adjustment Planner. John Rayho was appointed chairman of the Site Plan Committee. Maria Campagna and William Thomas were appointed member of the Site Plan Committee and Ron Bosse as an alternate.

## Terra Nova Garden Club

The Terra Nova Garden Club held a Garden Therapy Workshop on Jan. 16 and their Garden Therapy on Jan. 17, at the Muhlenberg Adultcare Facility in Plainfield.

Their January monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the North Edison Library, 777 Grove Avenue in Edison. New members are always welcome.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Gregory Hurley whose

presentation is entitled "Different Trees for the Home Landscape." Hurley is a NJ Certified Tree Expert and plans to educate the club about the many different trees that can be used in our landscapes, including many "not so ordinary" selections.

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

## VFW to Announce 'Voice of Democracy' Winners

Members of VFW Post #6763 will be presenting their annual 'Voice of Democracy' Awards this Friday, Jan. 19 at the VFW on Front St. The award presentation will start at about 7 p.m., following their Friday night Italian Night dinner.

The essays are written by seventh and eighth grade students from South

Plainfield Middle School, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield High School.

Post Chairman Rudy Poczak and his wife, Marlene, read each essay that is submitted. Rudy said that this is one of the VFW jobs he always enjoys and adds that the students have a lot of good ideas and suggestions.

Three winners will be chosen from both the Middle School and Sacred Heart and three from the high school. Winners in all groups received a \$200 first place prize, \$175 for second place, and \$150 for third place. The first place winners will be entered into a district competition. If they were successful there, they advanced to the state and national contests.

The public is invited to attend the ceremonies and/or the dinner. The dinner runs from 5-8 p.m. and this week will feature Chicken Cacciatore. Donation is \$6.

## Rescue Squad Holds 2001 Installation Dinner



On Saturday, Jan. 6, the South Plainfield Rescue Squad held their Annual Installation Dinner. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad is an all volunteers organization whose members donate their time in aiding those residents who have medical emergencies. Members are required to attend school and learn Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

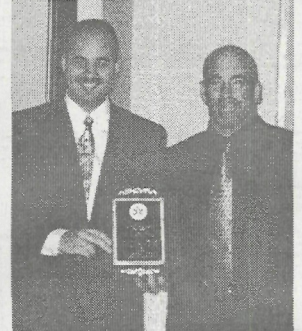
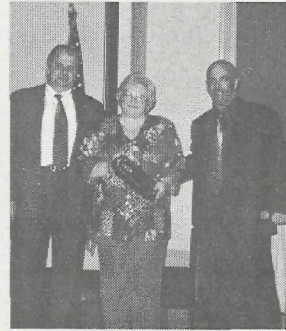
Service Awards were awarded to Peter J. McGrath for five years of service. Ladies Auxiliary member Joan Cantamessa was recognized for 40 years and Kathy Simpson for five years service.

Officers of the Rescue Squad for 2001 were sworn in. They are: President-Brian Anderson; Vice President-Rich Hamilton; Recording-Secretary Heidi Quinn; Corresponding Secretary-Joan Cantamessa; Treasurer-Glen Ewing; Captain-Kenneth Seidel; First Lieutenant-Gary Toth; Second Lieutenant-Ron Sward; Night Sergeant-Peter Magnani; Day Sergeant-Clem Ockay; Chaplain-Keely Heyman. Delegates are Mary Chapman, Glen Ewing, and Rich Hamilton; Alternate Delegates are Peter Magnani and Brian Anderson; Trustees are Gary Toth, Michael Zushma and Jim Wallace; Executive Board are Rich Hamilton, Sylvie Mulvaney, Gary Toth, Kenneth Seidel and Linda Zushma and Historian is Keely Heyman.

Ladies Auxiliary members installed were President-Joanne Eroglu; Vice President-Sandra Donnelly; Recording Secretary-Joan Cantamessa; Corresponding Secretary-Kathy Smolinski; Treasurer-Denise Neto and Historian-Elsie Webster.

Cadet Corps Officers established were President-Allison Provair; Vice President/Secretary-Karl J. Schuetz and Treasurer-Eman Younes.

Active Rescue Squad members for 2001 are Marie Aimone, Joe



Altomare, Brian Anderson, Kim Bulla, Philip Burrell, John Butrico, Joan Cantamessa, Jessica Cerami, Mary Chapman, Robert Dolan, Glen Ewing, Bill Fekete, Karen Grab, Michael Grab, Carol Grennier, Rich Hamilton, Jose Heavens, Keely Heyman, Steve Keleman, Gregory Kuhn, Daniel Kunst, Ed LaFerrara, Peter Magnani, Erica McGrath, Peter J. McGrath, Sylvie Mulvaney, Douglas Noel, Clem Ockay, Anthony Otlowski, Thais Petrocelli, Heidi Quinn, Doug Rousseau, Greg Rowlands, Kenneth Seidel, Michael Sesta, Ron Sward, Jill Tener, Eric Toth, Gary Toth, James Wallace, Lauren Yulick, Linda Zushma and Michael Zushma.

Active Rescue Squad Life Members for 2001 are Brian Anderson, Joan Cantamessa, Mary Chapman, Jose Heavens, Steve Keleman, Doug Rousseau, Jim Wallace, Gary Toth, Linda Zushma and Michael Zushma.

Cadet Corps Members include Melissa Jamieson, Paul Lee, Millie A. Patel, Randall S. Petronko, Robert Prongay, Elizabeth Ring, Jen Silhanek, Eman Younes and Carly Yulick.

Ladies Auxiliary Members are Ethel Bruscatto, Joan Cantamessa,



Nancy Colvard, Tracy Colvard, Laura Colvard, Melissa Colvard, Joan Curcio, Chris Dimaio, Sandra Donnelly, Joanne Eroglu, Patricia Fizur, Marion Gallagher, Eleanor Guinta, Mary Lammers, Addie Levine, Diane Mills, Denise Neto, Rose Penkunas, Anne Pollak, Pat Rasmussen, Helen Sakevich, Kathy Simpson, Kathy Smolinski, Tracey Smizaki, Doris Tripet, Elsie Webster and Darla Woodcl.

Rescue Squad Honorary Life Members include Tulio Caparelli, Julius "Supe" Celentano, William Chapman, Betty Lou Hamilton, Paul Micali, A. Phillips and Marlene Toth. Honorary Chaplain for the Rescue Squad is Pastor Charles Mingle.

## Voters in Districts 6 and 11 Assigned New Polling Place

Beginning with the Special School Referendum to be held on Tuesday, March 6, the polling place for residents in Districts 6 and 11 will be at the South Plainfield Rescue Squad Building at 2520 Plainfield Ave.

For further information, call Mary Blue at (908) 226-7606.

## George Washington To Visit SP Library

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library are inviting everyone to "A visit with George Washington." William Summerfield from the American Historical Theatre will portray George Washington on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Library. Admission is free.

This program is made possible through funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



## Osteoporosis? Back Pain? Loss in height?

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# Around Town

## George Washington To Visit SP Library

February 4

The Friends of the South Plainfield Library are inviting everyone to "A visit with George Washington." William Summerfield from the American Historical Theatre will portray George Washington on Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. at the South Plainfield Library. Admission is free.

This program is made possible through funding from the NJ Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Ponytail Association Meeting

January 23

The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School Library.

## AARP Meeting and Events

February 21, 22

AARP will sponsor an overnight trip to Atlantic City and the Three Little Bakers Theater on Feb. 21 and 22, 2001. Transportation, admission, show and lunch at Baker's, lodging in Atlantic City with continental breakfast, \$20 casino bonus, beef and seafood dinner are included. Hotel and restaurant gratuities included. Double occupancy is \$155, single is \$185. For reservations, call Mary at (732) 752-3764.

## Rec Announces Trip to Papermill Playhouse

May 9

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to the Papermill Playhouse to see *Funny Girl*.

The bus leaves the PAL at 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Register at the PAL on Maple Ave.

## Sponsoring Trip to See The Lion King

July 5, 2001

The Rec 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 is sponsoring a 5-day, 4-night trip to Cape Cod, with a visit to Foxwoods Casino, Sept. 10-14, 2001.

The trip package includes four nights accommodations, four breakfasts, four 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.

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.

## —Out of Town—

### KISMET Events

January 18 and 27

"The Basics of Investing: Surviving Market Volatility" will take place on Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30-10 p.m. at 109 North Ave., Second Floor, Westfield. There will be ample parking. Cost of \$10 at the door includes presentation and refreshments.

For info, call (908) 232-8827 or contact [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

**What Would You Do For Romance?** A full participation game show for singles will be held on Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8:30 to 11 p.m. at the Bravo Center, 1100 South Ave.—upper level in Westfield. Cost is \$30 at the door and includes game show, refreshments and prizes.

For further information on any of these events, contact KISMET at (908) 232-8827 or visit [www.thatskismet.com](http://www.thatskismet.com).

## Shakespeare's Macbeth At Playhouse 22

January 19

South Plainfield resident Chris Abbott will appear in a production of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* which opens on Friday, Jan. 19. Chris is a freshman at SPHS and is a veteran Summer Drama member as well as a performer with the NJ Renaissance Kingdom.

The Renaissance Shakespeare Company is combining Shakespeare's darkest tragedy, *Macbeth* with the world of puppetry in a unique production. Shakespeare enthusiasts and newcomers alike will enjoy this original take on Shakespeare's supernatural tale. Director Christopher T. Parks, who is also the associate director of McCarter Theatre's Education Department in Princeton, has been using the puppetry medium to bring classic literary tales to life for the past five years. The supernatural characters such as the three witches in *Macbeth* are transformed into puppet creatures while the principal characters who encounter them are played by live actors. *Macbeth*, an audience favorite, lends itself to the use of special effects, intense stage combat and majestic costuming.

Many of the performers, costumers, and artstries involved in *Macbeth* have collaborated previously on Shakespearean productions at the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom. The production will be staged at Playhouse 22 in East Brunswick. Show dates are Jan. 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and the 21 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and seating is limited. Reservations are recommended. For more information and reservations call (732) 249-2301.

## Widows/Widowers to Sponsor Dance

January 21

The Woodbridge Widows or Widowers will sponsor an open fundraiser dance on Sunday, Jan. 21 at the Elks Lodge, 665 Rahway Ave., Woodbridge, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Entertainment for the evening will be Steve Berger and Debbie, of "Stevie & Mc." Steve and Debbie were regulars at the Landmark Inn in Woodbridge

and now perform at Georges Catch 27 in Linden and onboard the Cornucopia Princess in Perth Amboy. The WOWs are very excited that they will be performing and hope to have a great turnout. Please plan on joining us for this very special event. The cost is \$7. Light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Woodbridge WOWs is a group of widows and widowers who gather monthly at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge for dancing and socializing. Sponsored by the Family Life Ministry of the Metuchen Diocese, this group is a non-sectarian, non-profit group, who want to make new friends with others who have lost a spouse. Festivities start at 7:30 the third Sunday of the month and include light refreshments and a live band. Cost is a \$7. All widowed people are invited and encouraged to attend.

For more information on the Woodbridge Widows or Widowers, or on the open dance, please call Carol, publicity chairman, at (732) 634-0297 or Dot at (732) 634-0059.

## Adoption Support: CHATS

January 22

CHATS (Connected Hearts Adoption Triad Support), will meet 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 22 at the Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield.

Who would be more able to talk about "Addressing the Myth and Mystery of the Birthmother" than a birthmother herself? Thirty-two years ago, Janis Duncan, LCSW, made an adoption plan for her only child. She'll discuss adoption therapy and its role for all members of the triad. The meeting will include open

sharing of adoption-related stories and light refreshments.

Call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or visit <http://community.nj.com/cc/chats> for more information.

## Tourette Syndrome Meetings

March 8, May 10

The Tourette Syndrome Association of Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group meetings have been scheduled for the following dates, Thursday, March 8 and May 10. The meetings are held at JFK Medical Center in Edison, in the Neuroscience Institute Department, from 7 to 9 p.m. Please note that the meeting night is different.

For more information, call 732-283-1439 after 6 p.m. or contact [www.tsanj.org](http://www.tsanj.org).

## 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 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: [spdcn@aol.com](mailto:spdcn@aol.com) or [racobb@epix.net](mailto:racobb@epix.net)

## Submit your Events for Around Town:

Mail or drop off stories and photos to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax (908) 668-8819; email [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

## 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!

**IF THERE IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE** in South Plainfield? Thank them by letting us know.

**USE THE OBSERVER AS AN ADVERTISING TOOL.** Introduce your business to the community. Promote your specials or sales. Residents would rather patronize local businesses than travel out of town. It is more convenient and it's good for the local economy.

**SUGGEST A BUSINESS FOR US TO SPOTLIGHT.** If you have had great service in South Plainfield share it with your neighbors through the newspaper.

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

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

**HOW TO CONTACT US.** By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: [ggnan@aol.com](mailto:ggnan@aol.com).

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Monday, Feb. 5,  
7am-3pm





## Girl Scout Troop 14 Earns Horse Lover Badge

Girl Scout Troop 14 from Kennedy School earned their Horse Lover's Junior Badge at Washington Stables in Piscataway.

Each girl learned how to ride a horse, stop, turn and more. They

also received a lesson on how to groom and take care of a horse. They all had a really great time earning this badge!

Afterwards, the girls enjoyed a picnic lunch of pizza and soda.

From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

It's Friday, January 19, 2001. Time for some more news from the South Plainfield Library:

Now that Miss Linda is back from her vacation, we'll return to our usual Storytime schedule. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Each program is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is needed. Also, this month's Kidcraft program is scheduled for next Friday. That's for children ages six and over. There's limited space for Kidcraft, so please call us at (908) 754-7885 to reserve a spot. If you'd like more information, check with Miss Linda.

The next Homeschoolers meeting is also set for next Friday. It's for parents who home school their children, or are interested in doing so. It'll be held in our Children's Room at 10:30 a.m.

The latest group from the Audiobook Circuit is now ready to be borrowed. Titles in this group include *Prayers for the Dead* by Faye Kellerman, *A Star Called Henry* by Roddy Doyle, *Vector* by Robin Cook, *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen and *The Investigators* by W.E.B. Griffin. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. This group will be available until the beginning of April. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the CD Circuit. The next group of CDs will be available next month.

Last week, we reminded you about our Homebound Program, allowing the elderly and infirm among our patrons to borrow items without having to go out in heavy weather. As far as the young and able-bodied are

concerned, we have an alternative to trudging out into a snowstorm to return items. You can renew items via our website (that's [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us)) or by calling our automated Elvis system at (908) 757-3280. Be sure to have your library card and the items handy, as you'll need to type in the barcode numbers. Two reminders, though: First, you can't renew items that have been reserved by other patrons. Second, you have until midnight on the day the items are due to renew them without penalty. If you renew even one minute past midnight, you'll be charged an overdue fine. (Our computers are very strict about that.)

One other website note: We've now set up a feature where you can request Inter-Library Loan items directly into our system. If you use this feature, be sure to have your Library card available; once again, your barcode number is a required input. Further, you'll have to put in the author, title and, if you have it, the ISBN number of what you're requesting. As always with Inter-Library Loan requests, please allow several days for the request to be processed and the item to be shipped to us. If you have any questions about this, please call us and ask for the Reference Librarian.

Finally, due to the recent rise in postage rates, we're now offering the new 34-cent stamps for sale. They cost 34 cents each (as you'd expect) or \$6.80 per book. You might want to call ahead to check on availability, though; they've been selling very well. And we promise that the lines will be shorter than at the post office.

Time to close things out for this week. We'll have more news next Friday. See you then.

## Cooking Craft for Children

Are the Winter Blues starting to get you down? Here is a fun, easy activity that you can do with your children to help battle those blues. Not only does this activity provide you with quality time with your child, you can take this one step further and explain how they are helping their feathered friends in winter.

Bread Tubes  
2 packages refrigerator biscuits  
Peanut butter  
Bird seed  
Twine cut to 25 inch lengths  
Wax or parchment paper  
Large eye needle

Preheat your oven to 350°. Grease bread tubes. Place 1½ packages biscuit dough in each tube. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes.

Immediately remove end caps from tubes and allow heat to escape. Remove shaped bread from tubes promptly. Place bread on cooling rack to finish cooling. Using a serrated bread knife, slice shaped bread into about one inch thick slices. Place bread slices on a baking stone and spray slices with oil. Bake to crisp, about 15 minutes.

Thread needle with twine and push twine through center of slice to make hanger. Melt peanut butter in microwave and paint edges using a pastry brush. Place slices on cooling rack with parchment lined cookie sheet underneath to catch birdseed. Sprinkle peanut buttered slices with Bird Seed. Hang feeders outside on a tree by a window where viewing is easy and the enjoy watching. After all that's part of the fun.

\* Please note, you can also bake the biscuits without the tubes following manufacturer directions, but children seem to enjoy the shapes the bread bakes into using the baking tubes.

Although this recipe is great for children, adult supervision is necessary.

This is one of the Bread Bird Feeders ideas expressed at Kitchen Shows, by Marie Markey, Independent Kitchen Consultant for The Pampered Chef. For additional Cooking Tips, or free cooking product information, call 908-755-3213 or email [MMPMPRCHF@AOL.COM](mailto:MMPMPRCHF@AOL.COM).



Rick Stefany, Joe Chanley, Clayton Echan and Bill Samson will team up once again this year to ensure a happy Valentine's Day for a lucky recipient and to raise money for the United Way. The quartet will serenade your sweetheart and present them with a flower, candy and a photograph.

## Quartet Reunites for Valentine's Day United Way Fundraiser

This year the United Way Quartet will again be available to serenade your sweetheart on Valentine's Day.

The quartet will go to your business or home, dressed appropriately in a red vest and tie, sing two songs, and present your sweetheart with a rose, candy and a photo of the event for only a \$50 donation. This is a great way to tell your sweetheart you care and to help the United Way of South Plainfield raise money for their many projects.

Last year this group, consisting of Rick Stefany, Joe Chanley, Clayton Echan and Bill Samson teamed up to raise over \$800 for the United Way of South Plainfield. The group rehearsed together for weeks before their big event. This year they have already begun practicing and hope to exceed last year's donations.

To make arrangements to have the quartet serenade your sweetheart or if you need more information, call Marge at (908) 753-2200.

## Safety Tips on Snow Shoveling

Know your exertion limit when shoveling snow. Remove snow with caution. Avoid doing too much physical work at one time and rest often. Overwork can cause sore muscles, falls and heart attacks. When shoveling, lift with your leg muscles rather than your back. All heavy work should be done before eating. The good news is that 15 minutes of snow shoveling counts as moderate physical activity. The bad news is that researchers have reported an increase in the number of fatal heart attacks among snow shovelers after heavy snowfalls. This rise may be due to the sudden demand that shoveling places on an individual's heart. Snow shoveling may cause a quick increase in heart rate and blood pressure. One study determined that after only two minutes of

shoveling, sedentary men's heart rates rose to levels higher than those normally recommended during aerobic exercise. Shoveling may be vigorous activity even for healthy college-aged students. Shoveling can be made more difficult by the weather. Cold air makes it harder to work and breathe, which adds some extra strain on the body. Who should think twice about shoveling snow?

Those most at risk for a heart attack include:

- Anyone who has already had a heart attack.
- Individuals with a history of heart disease.
- Those with high blood pressure or high cholesterol levels.
- Smokers.
- Individuals leading a sedentary lifestyle.

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## Special Gift To a Special Teacher

The first grade students at Franklin surprised their teacher, Mrs. Winston, at the holiday party with a special gift to say thank you to her for her dedication to teaching. The children made a very unique quilt. Each student wrote a special thank you message on one of the squares on the quilt. Mrs. Winston was overwhelmed to say the least, and said that this is one gift she will treasure forever.



## Japan Trip Continued

# The Next Eight Days

By Phyllis Savage



Could it get any better or had the best already been! That was the question posed by many in my group as we boarded the bus to the Bullet Train (Yes, the real Bullet Train that goes over 150 m.p.h.), that would take the 20 of us to Sendai City. From there, we would take a bus to Myagi University and then to Ishinomaki City, where we would spend the next eight days focusing on the educational system of Japan.

Before I discuss the particulars, I want to share a few basic facts about Japan and the structure of its major educational administrative agencies. Japan is divided into 47 prefectures and three districts. Its educational system is presided over by the government body entitled Monbusho, ministry of education, science, sports and culture.

The Prime Minister (designated by the publicly elected National Diet Members), appoints the personnel of the ministry and of the educational and cultural agencies under the jurisdiction of the ministry, subject to applicable public service laws and regulations.

The prefectural boards of education consist of five members each. These members are appointed by the governor with the consent of the prefectural assembly. They hold office for four years. The prefectural superintendent of education is appointed by the board with the approval of the Minister of Education, Science, Sports and Culture.

Cities, towns and villages have municipal boards of education, consisting of three to five members. They are appointed by the mayor with the consent of the municipal assembly and they hold office for four years, as in the case of the prefectural boards. The superintendent of a municipal board of education is appointed from among the members of the board, with the approval of the prefectural board of education.

Out of three (or five) members of the prefectural or municipal boards of education, no more than two (in case of three members, no more than one) are allowed to belong to the same political party.

In the prefecture of Myagi, we visited Myagi University, Ishinomaki Mayor Kohei Sugawara, Ishinomaki Superintendent of Schools Kazuo Abe, Ishinomaki Sumiyoshi Elementary School, Ishinomaki City Aoba Junior High School, Ishinomaki City Girls Senior High School, the Ishinomaki Fish Company, one of the Ishinomaki PTA, and many other cultural sights.

Mr. Wada, from the Ishinomaki Board of Education, accompanied us on all of our tours. The highlight of this visit was my one night stay with the Azumi Family. It was in Ishinomaki that we also decided that there would be no such thing as better, but different did exist. We were accompanied by two interesting, intelligent, well-educated, caring and humorous female guides, Yayoi Kawano and Reiko Konishi, who were with us continuously, taking care of our interpreting needs and acting as our mothers away from home. At one point, I lost my lunch tickets and when I didn't appear at lunch with the group, Reiko called me in my room.

Our first stop was in Sendai City at the beautiful Sendai Tokyo Hotel for a scrumptious buffet lunch, which included pizza and vanilla ice cream. My prayers had been answered. We were ecstatic because we had dined as royalty in Tokyo and weren't ready to step down, although we knew just as there is no place like the Big Apple, there is also no place like Tokyo. I was amazed that we could be so adaptable after five days! Afterwards, we proceeded to Myagi University, where we met with President Yoichiro Esaki and some of their top educators. We toured the library and participated in a dance physical education class. Tradition was observed. We were served the traditional green tea and our shoes were removed and replaced with slippers at the entrance of one building.

We also met three exchange students—one from America and two from Australia—who assisted the Japanese students in learning the English language and toured the Ishinomaki schools with us.

It was here that my group (we called ourselves "The Ishinomaki Twenty"), began our singing and dancing careers. We were taught their traditional dances and in turn we taught them the *Hokey Pokey* and sang *Amazing Grace* and *This Land is Your Land*. We were sung to at every school and we replied in kind with our two songs. It was also here that we had our first experiences with the heating system that is used in many parts of Japan. They don't have central heating. Each room has a heater, but the corridors have none. The gyms in the schools didn't have heaters that we could see or feel. The Japanese children and the adults were accustomed to the temperature, but we wore our coats most of the time. However, the environment was so positive and rich that the cold was overshadowed. (To Be Continued).....

# Singing Valentines



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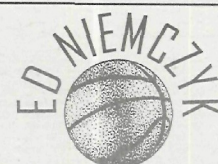
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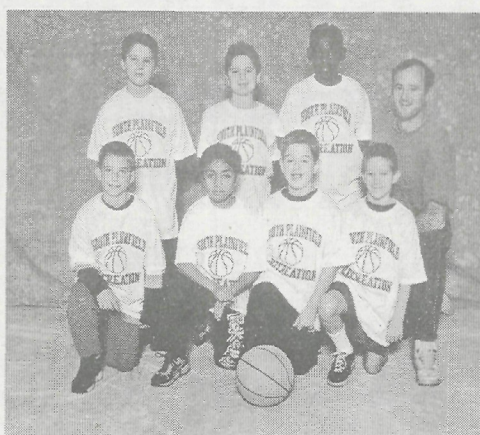


# Youth Basketball League



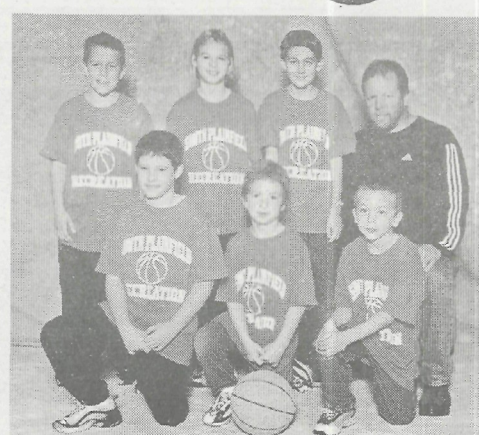
## D League Lakers

Darrec Fonti, Iyanosa Ogbvoen, Leiloni Chepulis,  
Kyle Freuler, Ray Coletta, Idris Sadio,  
Christopher Oprysk, Shaun Alers



## D League Jazz

Riley Hubner, Stephen Coppi, Matthew Galinsky,  
Gaganjot Dhaliwal, Shawn Mack, Jurrien Kratz,  
Jimmy Bijlani, Joseph Ifrach



## D League Bulls

Michael Jeffreys, Kyle Kaczka, Alex Horn, Joey Delgado,  
Eric Lake, Jason Pattison, Jonathan Sukenik, Emily Piekarski



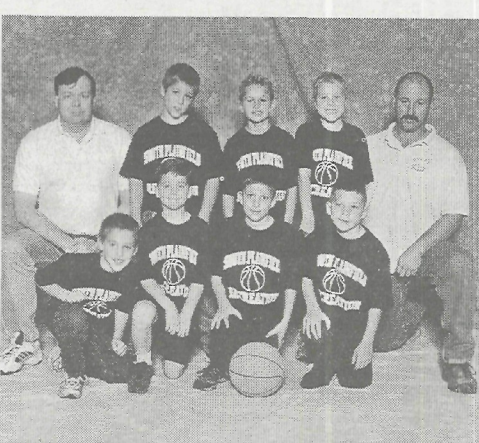
## D League Magic

Brian Tjong, Christopher Richard, Steven Grzenda,  
Daniel Sticco, Danielle Tramutola, David Stogoski,  
Elizabeth Gratta, Snehal Darji



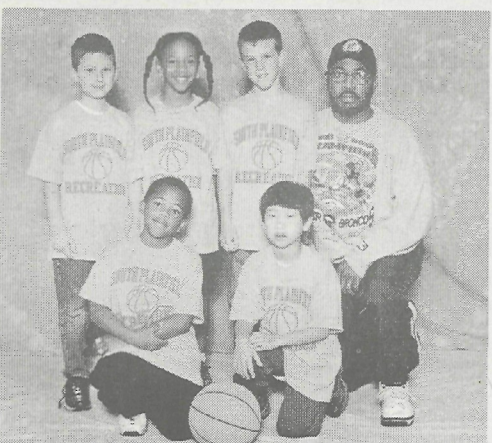
## D League Spurs

Eddie Sullivan, Matthew Miceli, Tommy Loalbo,  
Thomas Katowich, Dylan McDermott, Andrew Ritchie,  
James Butrico, Lauren Conrad



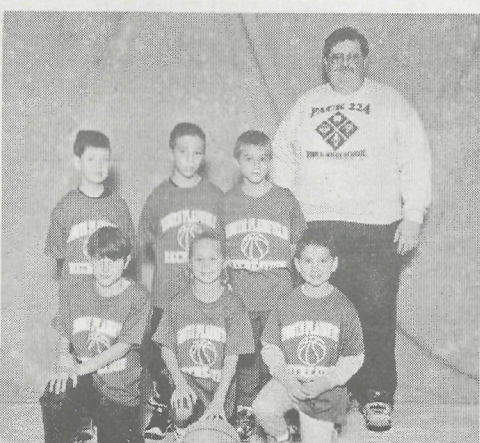
## D League Pistons

Brandon Downes, Daniel Hansen, Connor Gillis,  
Shaun Boyle, Michael Simone, Steven Paskowitz,  
Keith Horvath, Kishan Patel



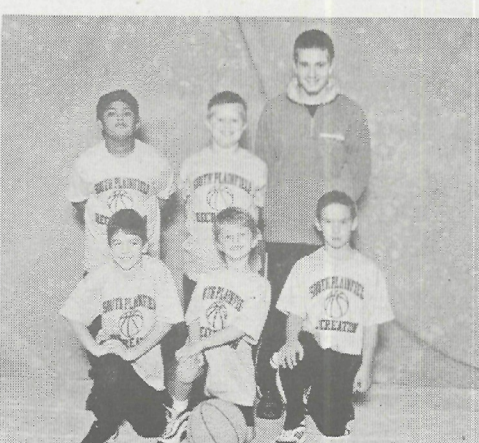
## D League Heat

Morgan Bethea, Logan Green, Nicholas Smith, Harrison Lee,  
Mathew Santos, Christine Nau, Charles Gruver,  
Amun'Ra Archbold



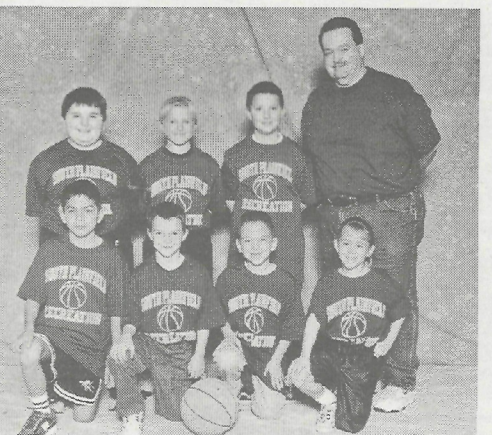
## D League Hornets

William Hartmann, Michael Pryor, Lenny Casiero, William  
Mott, Anthony Pisano, Patrick O'Connor, Samantha Pukash



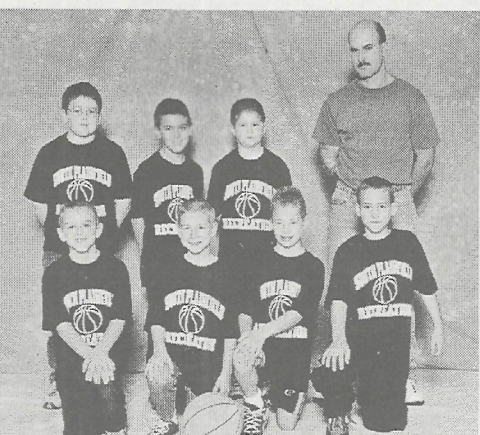
## D League Timberwolves

Matthew Cesare, Mark Benak, Justin DeOliveira, Shane  
O'Connor, Cassie Prenergast, Christopher O'Keefe,  
Kyle O'Keefe, Samrin Ghai



## D League Nuggets

Ryan Flanagan, Elizabeth Martin, Ryan Harrington, Zachary  
Haupt, Gerry Pinto, Thomas Bowden, Jayme Bishop,  
Jeffrey Gillen



## D League Nets

Michael Romano, Dylan Papa, Anthony Baldassarre,  
Mark Brindley, Danny Smith, Brian Babinetz,  
Charles Huber, Jeffrey Praul



## D League Cavaliers

Stephen Lanza, Matthew Little, Christian DiCarlo,  
Michael Dispenziere, Jessica Ray, Patrick Landy, Kenneth  
Calderoni, Michael Pullen



# Sports

## BOWLING

### Lady Tigers Still Undefeated; Tomei and Jamieson Reach GMC Finals

#### Tigers Upset By Hot-Shooting Bishop Ahr

The Boys Bowling Team and Bishop Ahr split the first two games but the Trojans outshot the Tigers in the deciding third game and pinned a 3-1 set back in a crucial white division rematch, held on Jan. 3. Paul Larisch's big 246 game and 200 were the only bright spots for the green and white. Chipping in were Eric Gaub with a 109, Jeff Smith with a 180, Rishi Ramogobin with a 175 and Brett Snyder with a 171. The Tigers dropped to 7 and 3.

#### Girls Bowling Team Rallies For Win No. 10

The Girls Bowling Team found themselves trailing after two games, but exploded for a big third game and came away with a victory over a stubborn Bishop Ahr, 3-1. Melissa Jamieson's 214 and 210 and Rachel Feller's 160 and 174 set the pace for the league leading Tigers.

#### Lady Tigers Win 11th Straight, Remain Unbeaten

The Girls Bowling Team remained undefeated, picking up their eleventh win as they trounced nemesis Mother Seton Regional

#### Tomei (623) and Jamieson (621) Qualify For GMC Finals

Congratulations to Ray Tomei and Melissa Jamieson, who qualified for the GMC Individual Finals Championship from a field of approximately 400 bowlers. Ray's 187-224-212 (623 set) and Melissa's 205-179-237 (621 set) were outstanding efforts for this week's showdown. 20 boys and 20 girls qualified for this competition.

The championship match format consists of three more games, with the top 10 receiving medals. The top five play a stepladder match to determine individual champion.

by over 400 pins on Jan. 4.

It was the Tigers eighth shut-out victory. Melissa Jamieson fashioned games of 223 and 204 enroute to a 611 set. Sophomore Meredith Cooper bowled games of 164 and 197 for a solid 506 set. Sabina Montanero chipped in with a 175 game.

#### Tiger Bowlers Romp Over Eagles

The Boys Bowling Team, who received strong efforts from a trio of Tiger bowlers, shutout and bombarded the Eagles of St. Mary's on Jan. 9. Eric Gaub's 618 high set included games of 213 and 216, Paul Larisch's high game of 246 and 203, for a 601 set, and Jeff Smith's 245 game and solid 598, set provided the firepower for the Tigers who im-

proved to 8 and 3. Chipping in were Joe Adorna with a 204 and Brett Snyder with a 190.

#### Girls Bowling Team Improves to 12-0-1

The Girls Bowling Team won its 12th straight match on Jan. 9, disposing the Eagles by over 500 pins. Melissa Jamieson's 200 game and 555 set were tops for the league leading green and white.

Vicky Boley turned in a 182 game and a solid 508 effort. Kristen Herzog and Sabina Montanaro rounded out the team effort.

#### Boys Bowling Dehorned South River Rams

The Boys Bowling Team improved to 9-3 as they dehorned the Rams of South River by almost 400 pins. Eric Gaub had a banner day, rolling games of 205-222-228, for a sparkling 655 set. Other high scorers were Jeff Smith with a 224, Joe Adorna with a 215 and Paul Larisch with a 200 in a solid team effort.

#### Lady Tigers Remain League Leaders

The Lady Tigers Bowling Team remained undefeated as they ran their winning streak to 13 in a row, clobbering the Rams by



Brett Snyder, member of the SPHS bowling team.

nearly 1,000 pins. Melissa Jamieson bowling games of 191-222-225 for a 638 high set, paced the Tigers and received solid support from Sabina Montanero with games of 169 and 179, Kristen Herzog with a 178, Rachel Feller with a 163 and Vicky Boley with games of 162 and 163.

### Tiger Wrestling News...

### Tigers Win Big At Roselle Park Tournament

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield Recreation wrestling team combined their talents with the Middle School team this past weekend at the 24th Annual Roselle Park Dads Club Wrestling Tournament. This tournament was a traditional team tournament, but this year the format was changed to an open tournament format. The Bantam, 8 and under and Midget, 10 and under, competed on Saturday. The Tigers, with 21 strong wrestlers, had a great day claiming 11 overall medals. The Tigers won 38 out of 54 matches they wrestled and claimed four individual titles. They had five second place medals and two third place medals. The Junior wrestlers, 12 and under and Intermediate, 14 and under, wrestled on Sunday and did equally as well, claiming three individual titles and seven second

place medals, one third place finish and two fourth place medals. Sunday the Tigers won 33 of 61 matches wrestled.

Winning individual titles were Corey Hay (Bantam 60). Hay won four matches and defeated Anthony Scifflino of Watchung Hills 5-0 in the finals. Mike Wagner (Bantam 75) won three matches and pinned Nick Vorrius at 0:58 in the final. Patrick Hunter (Midget 67) wrestled five matches and defeated Bill Yuskatis of Pascack Hills 9-2 in the finals. Danny Pompilio (Midget 95) the number one seed, defeated Malcolm McQueen of Plainfield by tech fall 15-0 in the final. Jimmy Conroy (Jr. 77) won his first two matches by fall, before taking a 4-2 decision over Mike Shanaman of Pascack Hills in the finals. Mark Wagner (Junior 87) won by fall in the finals at 2:07 over Dennis Vanloan of Roselle Park. Kevin Crilley (Jr. Hwt.) pinned in his first to matches and defeated Jorge Gonzalez of Metuchen 4-0 in the finals.

Claiming second place medals were John Wylam (Bantam 70),

Pat Millard (Bantam Hwt), Tim Gaughan (Midget 73), Nick Vallone (Midget 77), Rocco Petriello (Midget Hwt), Robert Gentile (Jr. 65), Billy Ashnault (Jr. 73), Nick Dorey (Jr. 83), Justin Huffsmith (Jr. 118), Kyle Bostick (Int 129), Jamar Beverly (Int. 145) and Rob Maistickle (Int. 157). Third place medals went to Nick Pauls (Midget 57), Nick Heilmann (Midget 60), Patrick Hunter (Jr. 69) wrestled both days. Fourth place medals went to Anthony Costante (Jr. 108) and Shawn McCarthy (Int Hwt).

Also wrestling, but not placing were Jeff Conroy, Tyler Hunt, Randy Jakubik, Frank DeBiase, Kyle Pompilio, Ryan Sacco, Kyle Hughes, Jake Smithline, Jonathan Conroy, Joe Gonzales, Mike Jakubik, Bryan Hunt, Matt D'Alessandro, Anthony Niemczyk, Sam Martin, Brad Martin, Sal Soto, Billy Daly, Viet Vo, Kyle Luthmar, Nick Curcio, Greg Yefko, Paul Ritchie, Craig Kalick, Peter DeAndrea, Anthony Fierro, Jeff Toolan and Tony Nguyen.

### Greater Middlesex Conference 2000-2001 Bowling Standings

	Wins	Losses	Ties	Pts	Matches
<b>Boys—White Division</b>					
Colonia	10	0	2	22	12
Bishop Ahr	9	1	2	20	12
Middlesex	6	2	3	15	11
South Plainfield	7	3	0	14	10
John F. Kennedy	6	4	1	13	11
South River	3	7	1	7	11
Carteret	2	8	1	5	11
Monroe	2	9	0	4	11
St. Mary's	0	11	0	0	11
<b>Girls—White Division</b>					
South Plainfield	12	0	1	25	12
Carteret	10	1	2	22	12
Colonia	11	2	1	23	13
Mother Seton	9	4	0	18	12
John F. Kennedy	6	5	2	14	12
Bishop Ahr	7	7	0	14	13
St. Mary's	5	8	0	10	12
South River	3	11	0	10	13
Monroe	1	13	0	2	13
Middlesex	0	13	0	0	12

### Star Ledger Bowling State Rankings

#### Girls Top 20

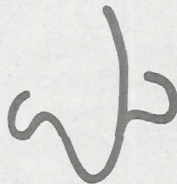
- 1-Woodbridge
- 2-Brick Memorial
- 3-Edison
- 4-Immaculate Heart
- 5-Belleville
- 6-Bayonne
- 7-Ewing
- 8-Brick
- 9-Lenape
- 10-Clifton
- 11-Toms River North
- 12-Paramus Catholic
- 13-Howell
- 14-South Plainfield
- 15-Nutley
- 16-Colonia
- 17-Bishop Eustice
- 18-Holy Angels
- 19-Jackson
- 20-Central Regional

#### Boys Top 20

- 1-Colonia
- 2-Toms River South
- 3-St. Joseph's (Met.)
- 4-Belleville
- 5-Woodbridge
- 6-Nutley
- 7-Point Pleasant Boro
- 8-St. Peter's Prep
- 9-Newton
- 10-Lakewood
- 11-Dumont
- 12-Cranford
- 13-Lenape
- 14-Brick
- 15-Shawnee
- 16-Seton Hall Prep
- 17-Westfield
- 18-St. John Vianney
- 19-North Bergen
- 20-Livingston

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# Sports

## Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League

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Results from January 13 games.

A LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Jazz .....	5-1	Michael Benak
76ers .....	5-1	Chris Bakazan
Cavaliers .....	4-2	Chris Horn/Kyle Kazimir
Spurs .....	3-3	Jason Ortiz
Bulls .....	3-3	Galen Johnson
Nuggets .....	1-5	Andrew Miller
Rockets .....	1-5	Adam Bianchi
Knicks .....	2-4	Andrew Cupido

B LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Jazz .....	4-2	Keith Dezmin
Magic .....	5-1	Chris Stallone/Mike Stallone
Pistons .....	6-0	Kyle Lendach
Nets .....	6-0	Kevin Siedenburg
Hornets .....	5-1	Tom Pryor
Cavaliers .....	5-1	Justin Basile
Lakers .....	2-4	Matthew Fabino
Heat .....	3-3	Zachary Gray
Bulls .....	2-4	Garrett Lake
Raptors .....	1-5	Stephen Dvorak
Supersonics .....	2-4	Anthony Petriello/Nicole Cortese
Timberwolves .....	0-6	Tommy Smith/Charles Loiacono
Knicks .....	2-4	Danny Hubner
Celtics .....	0-6	Joe Stasio

C LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Magic .....	4-0	Scott Barton
Knicks .....	5-1	Ashley Sacks/Jalil Williams
Pistons .....	5-1	Blair Houston
Heat .....	3-3	Danny Espin
Timberwolves .....	4-2	Robbie Hoffman
Lakers .....	3-1	Matt Seider
Bulls .....	2-2	Greg Watts
Celtics .....	3-3	David Alston
Nets .....	2-2	Brad Martin
Jazz .....	2-3	Brandon Ullom
Raptors .....	2-4	Greg Watts
Cavaliers .....	0-5	Andrew Gray
76ers .....	1-5	Kyle Darr
Hornets .....	0-6	Anthony Simone

D LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Nuggets .....	5-1	Zachary Haupt
Jazz .....	6-0	Gaganjot Dhaliwal
Bulls .....	4-2	Jonathan Sukenik/Mike Jefferys/ Kyle Kaczka
Timberwolves .....	4-2	Matthew Cesare/Mark Benak
Hornets .....	4-2	Michael Prior
Nets .....	2-4	Charles Hubner/Tony Baldasare/ Mark Brindley
Magic .....	2-4	Steven Grzenda
Pistons .....	3-3	Kishan Patel
Spurs .....	2-4	Mathew Miceli
Heat .....	2-4	Mathew Santos
Lakers .....	2-4	Iyanosa Ogbevoen
Cavaliers .....	0-6	Ken Calderon/Patrick Landy/ Christian DiCarlo

## Ponytail Assoc. Meeting to be Held Jan. 23

The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Middle School Library.

## Senior Citizen Walking Club Begins at PAL

Walking serves as a great way to get in shape, as well as a way to get outside and to get some fresh air.

Starting next week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, South Plainfield senior citizens have the opportunity to do just that. Interested seniors can join the Walking Club, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the PAL Building, 1250 Maple Ave., South Plainfield.

For more information, please call the PAL Building at 226-7713.

*The South Plainfield Observer is seeking a student or parent to submit sports information to the paper. If interested, please call 908-668-0010.*

By Tony Cassano

## juniorbaseballclubnotes

**WINTER REGISTRATION RESULTS**—Winter registration was held last weekend and the results speak for themselves. Numbers are up over last year already. We signed up 229 kids, bringing the total year to date of 480. There are only a few open slots for all leagues. With tryouts looming in early March, we are now starting the process of forming the league sizes. Thanks go out to my Executive Board and Trustees for the time and effort given last weekend. Special thanks to Bob Golon, without him registration would be a manual process and we would still be counting the numbers and all the uniform sizes. Thanks again Bob for all that you do! In addition, we also received help from several other members of the SPJBC and we appreciate it. Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to the 'new' Woman's Auxiliary for being present at all three sessions and providing the same support to the club that your predecessors have in the many years before.

**LATE REGISTRATION-MONDAY, Jan. 22** from 6:30 to 7 p.m.—We will hold our last registration for the 2001 season on Monday, Jan. 22 at the SPJBC Clubhouse. Please note that this registration is on a first come basis because our league sizes are almost complete. Any extra's will have to be put on a waiting list. As previously mentioned, at this point this year compared to last, our numbers are up significantly. Please make every effort to come down to the clubhouse between 6:30 and 7 p.m. next Monday to sign up. Once the league's maximum sizes are set, we can make no promises or guarantees that your child will be able to play. One last note on eligibility, 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 Aug. 31. In addition, 17-year-olds will be eligible to play in Pony A, but not be allowed to pitch.

**OPEN MEETING SET FOR MONDAY Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.**—We will be holding an open meeting to all members and interested parties on Monday Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the SPJBC Clubhouse. The topic to be presented will be Babe Ruth Baseball. The SPJBC will have two representatives from Babe Ruth Baseball who will make a presentation to the Club. They will also answer all questions regarding the benefits and/or negatives of our club considering joining their organization. A follow up discussion will be held at the conclusion of their presentation. We encourage your attendance. Any significant findings will be made public at our next monthly meeting scheduled for Monday Feb. 5.



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## Family and Friends React to Twins' Decision

By Patricia Abbott

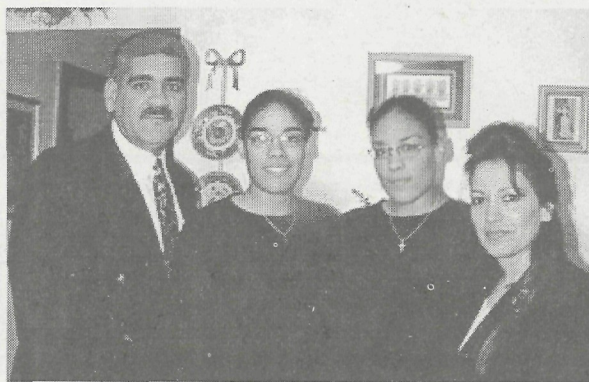
When Lynette and Melissa Morales announced their decision to enlist in the US Marine Corps, they were met with mixed reactions from family and friends. Their friends were shocked, but they were also impressed and asked a lot of questions. Aunts and uncles experienced some trepidation. The girls described their parents as a bit leery at first to have both daughters leaving. They said their dad was "incredibly ecstatic and already missing them." They agreed that while their mother is 100% supportive and proud of them, they also believe the reality has not yet hit her. Melissa explained, "Both her daughters are leaving home at the same time and when you're as close of a family as we are, it's a hard thing to deal with for everyone. I think we will do well, though. Our family is strongly grounded in faith and we know everyone is praying for us."

Older brother Richie had this

to say about his sisters and their decision. "When I first heard the news that both my sisters were leaving for the Marine Corps I was shocked. I support the decision they are making about their future. I want my sisters to always remember that I love them very much and that God will protect them through every step they take."

Mother Irma Morales said her feelings of having her twin daughters enlisting in the USMC at the same time was difficult to describe. "I will miss them beyond the definition of the word itself, but at the same time I will be filled with pride and then joy upon their graduation from boot camp. I admire and applaud their efforts and the dedication they have shown. I watched them through the weeks as they worked to meet the requirements. My prayers will be with them every day as I rise in the wee hours of the morning (as they will in training) and patiently await their return home."

Their father Danny Morales was exuberant. "It is a proud moment in a parent's life when their children make the choice to serve their country. It wasn't a shock for me when my daughters told me they wanted to join the Marine Corps. I know my daughters well and I am sure their strong wills will take them far. It's not easy for me because we are a very close family. I am proud that my daughters are going to be US Marines."



Melissa and Lynette and their parents Danny and Irma Morales.

## Twins to Enter Marine Corps

Continued from page 1

enlist, then I have the discipline to do my best in boot camp. I chose the Marine Corps because...they are the best. They instill the confidence, self-respect and discipline needed to succeed in society. It's an amazing accomplishment to become a Marine."

The girls stressed that they are two individuals. Melissa noted that both of them are on the quiet side, but she admitted that Lynette is the more outspoken of the two. "People are having a hard time picturing us in fatigues!" Lynette pointed out, "We are very different in what we want and how we approach it. The good thing about being a twin is that you are never alone." Melissa said, "As we get older, our thoughts and opinions began to differ a little. We still like a lot of the same things but our personalities are practically opposite. After high school, they attended college for a while, then grabbed an opportunity to work in the U.S. Post Office. Melissa joked, "Dealing with all that paperwork for the post office really prepared us for our en-

listment paperwork. There is a lot of it!"

Lynette and Melissa enlisted on the delayed entry program. On Jan. 22, they will leave together for boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina. Under the Buddy Program they will be in the same platoon and graduate together. Lynette has enlisted for four years active service. She said, "I chose active duty because I will get to travel and work a job that I know I will love." Melissa will join the Reserves, explaining, "I chose the reserves because I want to be sure that I was comfortable and that I truly enjoyed being in the Marine Corps."

Their career goals are as different as their appearance is alike. Lynette has long term plans. She said, "My goal is to make a career of my position in the Marine Corps. I have a very good feeling that after boot camp is over I will enjoy it immensely. I hope to make a career out of the Marines and possibly work my way up to other positions, maybe become a drill sergeant."

Both girls had words of praise

for Staff Sgt. Karger. Lynette spoke of his tremendous support and help. "He always calls to check up on his recruits and make sure they are doing okay. He helped us a lot. He's the kind of person who makes you want to work hard and make him proud. Melissa added, "Staff Sgt. Karger was a great motivator and always had nothing but positive things to say. He was always very real when it came to informing us about boot camp and telling us how mentally and especially physically challenging it will be. He did a great job of preparing us for the next three months."

The girls have no illusions about boot camp. They know that it will be hard and their lives will change in ways they can only imagine. Both girls are nervous, scared and excited. They leave South Plainfield, still teenagers, embarking on a challenging adventure. Armed with confidence, a desire to succeed and the support of family and friends, they will return to South Plainfield in three months time as U.S. Marines.

## Will Store Closing Affect Revamp?

Continued from page 1

announced bankruptcy and the closing of all its stores within weeks of the holiday rush. Customers flocked to the store in search of bargains and left the store in a hazardous mess.

According to Polimeni, it was the uncertain future of the mall's cornerstone store that delayed the start of construction. With bankruptcy imminent for Bradless, who has nine months to find a tenant to take over the lease, the renovations were put on hold un-

til a new tenant could be found.

Depending on the tenant, management may need to modify plans and will not move ahead at this time. Owner Vincent Polimeni noted that he has potential tenants for space behind the bank and hopes to meet with the mayor in the next few weeks. Mayor Dan Gallagher told the *Observer* that he had heard the Bradless lease had already been purchased, but could not confirm it. The Polimeni organization plans to tour the mall sometime next week.

## Obituaries

### Pauline (nee Gibilisco) Gitto, 72

Pauline (nee Gibilisco) Gitto of South Plainfield died on Monday, Jan. at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Newark and lived in South Plainfield for the past 50 years.

Mrs. Gino was a production assistant for Howell Electric Motors in Plainfield for 15 years, retiring in 1986.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church and an avid Bingo Player.

She is predeceased by her late husband, Joseph J., who died in 1986 and her late son, Anthony J. Gitto who died in 1988.

Surviving is a son and daughter-in-law Robert and Linda-Susan Gitto of South Plainfield; three brothers, Salvatore Gibilisco of Avenel, Paul Gibilisco of Edison and Benedict Gibilisco of Stanhope, NJ; three sisters, Kim Giordano of Union, Concetta Cheskowich of Rahway and Antoinette Marback of Rahway.

Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Veronica M. (Walsh) Fredericks, 99

Veronica M. (Walsh) Fredericks died on Monday, Jan. 15, at Genesis Eldercare The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in New York City, she had resided in South Plainfield since 1946.

Mrs. Fredericks was employed by the former Cornell Dubilier of South Plainfield.

She is a former communicant of Sacred Heart R.C. Church in South Plainfield.

She is predeceased by her husband, Nicholas H. Fredericchio, and her four brothers, Joseph E., Leslie V., Russell A. and Brother Bernon Walsh of S.C.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia A. McCluskey of Oakhurst, NJ; two nieces, Patricia Sheridan of South Plainfield and Dolly Muir of Thorofare a her nephew, Vincent E. Walsh of El Toro, California.

Also surviving are three granddaughters, Megan, Suzanne and Molly; one great-grandson, Alexander and two great-nieces, Sondra and Kellianne.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

### Evdokia Probbent, 79

Evdokia Probbent died on Sunday, Jan. 14, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Russia, Mrs. Probbent settled in the United States in 1955. She had resided in Syracuse, NY, South River, Patterson and Rutherford before settling with her son in South Plainfield in October of 1999.

She had been employed in the gar-

ment industry many years ago as a seamstress.

She is predeceased by her husband, Arnold Probbent, who died in 1981 and her son, Walter Probbent, who died in March of 2000.

Surviving is a son, Allan Provair and his wife Carol, of South Plainfield and two granddaughters, Michelle and Allison Provair.

Private funeral services were held under the direction of the McCriskin Home For Funerals, So. Plainfield.

### Warren A. Hope, 79

Warren A. Hope died on Sunday, Jan. 14 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Queens, Mr. Hope had resided in Brooklyn before settling in Scotch Plains in 1957.

He was a graduate of St. John's

University School of Law, where he received his law degree in the late 1940's.

Mr. Hope served in the United States Army from 1942 until 1944 in the 2nd battalion, 398th Infantry as an ammunition handler.

He was employed as an aviation insurance underwriter for Frank B. Hall Co. of Manhattan for many years, before his retirement in 1990. He previously was employed in the same capacity for USAIE Insurance Co. of Manhattan.

His wife, Norma L. (Andersen) Hope, died in 1992. He is also predeceased by his sister, Alice Prellwitz.

Surviving are his daughter and her companion, Diane Hope and Brian Leary and his nephew, Noel Prellwitz.

Graveside services were held on at Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Visitation was held in the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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## police report

• Gannett Fleming Inc., Durham Ave. reported the theft of computer equipment valued at \$9,277.46. An unknown person gained entry to an office by slipping the lock on a door. There were pry marks found outside the door. Police were able to lift fingerprints as evidence. The robbery was discovered by an employee, he noted that all three doors to the office were closed and locked when he arrived. A cleaning company has access to the office. There are no suspects at this time.

• Patricia Ann Jeter of New Brunswick was arrested for shoplifting \$214.96 worth of sheets from Kohls, Stelton Rd. The suspect attempted to leave the store with the sheets concealed in a bag. Police discovered she had 14 aliases and birthdates as well as 10 social security numbers.

• Police responded to a report of a truck on fire on Metuchen Rd. When they arrived, they found a Dodge Ram pickup fully engulfed in flames. The fire department responded and put out the fire. A VIN number was located and the truck was traced to Victoria Collins in Edison. When contacted, her husband told police that their son John had the vehicle. John Collins told police a friend had given him a ride home from KC Corner Bar. He claimed the truck had been parked in the Drug Fair lot and he did not know the truck had been stolen until morning. After being interviewed by officers, Collins admitted he had falsely reported the truck as stolen, he said the truck just caught fire while he was attempting to get it out of the mud.

• Acme Supermarket reported the theft of a VCR. A black male approached the first register and asked for a price on the VCR, when the employee said he would have to scan the item the suspect grabbed it and ran out of the store. The suspect and another black male got onto bikes and road away. They were seen going through Cedarbrook Park. The VCR was valued at \$69.99.

• A Plainsboro woman who was living temporarily at the First Baptist Church reported her diamond and wedding rings stolen from a jewelry box from an unlocked room. The church program had ten other people, ranging in age from 6-42, living at the church at the time of the theft. Raymond Scott who runs the program told police a plumber had been working in the building at the time of the theft. The program has people live at the church for one week before moving on to another location.

• An employee of Innovative Folding Carton Co. reported his vehicle had been broken into and the interior of the truck, including the glove box had been ransacked. Nothing appeared to be missing. Access was gained by breaking the lock on the passenger door.

• Kohls Dept. store reported that a shoplifter had left the store concealing a watch valued at \$20. Security Supervisor Nick Lombardo followed the suspect out and confronted him. The suspect refused to stop and said "Go ahead and call the cops." The suspect then got into a silver Ford Tempo and left the parking lot. A plate number was obtained

by Lombardo. The plate came back to a different vehicle. The suspect has been seen in the store several times before doing the same thing. It was the first time they had him on tape.

• An Orchard Dr. woman reported receiving harassing phone calls. The caller said "Can I play with you?" When she asked if it was 'Chris' the caller said yes. When she realized it was not who she thought it was she hung up. The suspect called again a few minutes later and asked her if they could meet for drinks, stating he wanted to meet her because he liked her accent. The number provided by \*69 returned to a resident of No. Plifd. The victim doesn't wish to sign a complaint at this time.

• A Front St. resident was arrested for driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident. A witness called in the hit and run from a cell phone and followed the suspect who was driving a white commercial van until it pulled into the lot behind the VFW. The suspect was on foot by the time police arrived. He claimed he had been at KCs and had had one beer. He claimed he had been driving a blue van parked nearby. The blue van had snow around it and obviously had not been moved since the storm. The suspect then stated he had walked from KCs but had driven the white van earlier. He changed his story again stating he had been driving the blue van but had not hit anyone. He was given a sobriety test and arrested.

Please note: Police reports are a matter of public record.

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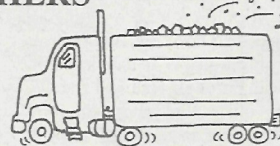
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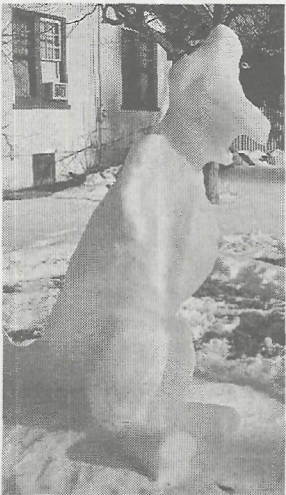
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## Let it Snow... Let it Snow... Let it Snow

Pictured are a few of the scenes caught by Chris Abbott after last week's snowfall. Above Jeff and Chris Seesselberg and Michael Mocharski having a great time enjoying the snow. On the left is of some sort of a snowman. We aren't too sure what animal they were trying to duplicate, but they did a great job.

## Flashback... Tiger Talk Circa 1964

By Patricia Abbott

A foray into the attic in hopes of removing junk instead produced a wealth of SPHS memories. It is the 50 plus group that will actually recall some of these events, but even younger alumni can appreciate reading about the days before they walked the halls of the old SPHS.

The discovery was a stack of newspapers bearing dates covering almost 15 years. The old newspaper had a five cent stamp on it. The masthead read *Tiger Talk*. The date explained the postage, Friday, Feb. 7, 1964. The well-organized, professional looking school newspaper offered a wide variety of reading for students of 27 years ago.

The front page offered news of the Future Physicians Club which would be touring CIBA Pharmaceuticals, a SPHS sponsored Hootennany, best described as a concert of sorts with a professional group, SPHS folk singers and a number of musical groups from other schools. The paper told of the crate of new scooters that were put to use in gym classes. The

article was complete with a photo of senior girls scooting across the gym floor. Student teachers were introduced and there was a review of a production of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. Inside the paper we found an interesting editorial on the Board of Education elections and a discussion of the 1964-1965 school budget, with an "overall increase of about \$366,000." Moving on, three seniors were spotlighted for their activities. An article about the dangers of cigarette smoke were expounded by a staff writer. The black and white photos showed the hairstyles and fashions of the era including the hated girls gym suits.

The six page paper included a crossword puzzle, a Klub Korner and Car of the Month column. Incidentally the car of the month for this issue was a 1936 Plymouth owned by a Gerard Krellwitz. There was a blurb informing students of the Latin Team's upcoming annual Latin Test at Montclair State College. There was also an insightful little article entitled *A Warning Card Is Really Your Friend*.

On the lighter side, there is an article written by Nancy Slicner entitled *Fuzzies*, on the current fashion trends, mohair sweaters. It said that a survey showed that senior girls owned a total of 114 mohair sweaters.

Those who attended SPHS in the early 1960's will remember there was a roof, but no completed ceiling. A brief but humorous story pointed out that upon the return from Christmas



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vacation, the students gazed up to find a real ceiling. Letters to the editor covered a wide variety of topics ranging from serious to silly. One requested music piped in during lunch period, another lamented that the band never received enough recognition. A real surprise find was the ad for South Plainfield Ice Palace on Hamilton Blvd. near Hadley Airport. Open 7 days a week, adults could skate for just a dollar children up to age 12 for 75 cents.

If you have memories of South Plainfield, SPHS or the other schools from days gone by, or have copies of old town newspapers or school papers, why not share them with the *Observer*. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of South Plainfield. We are attempting to create a Flashback column of memories of the early days in South Plainfield. Give us a call at 668-0010, fax us at 668-8819, or email us at GGNAN@aol.com.

## Lets Put a Stop to Drunk Driving in 2001

Another New Year has past and people are again making their resolutions to do better this year. Some are resolving to lose weight, others to get out of debt, and others to finally go back to school. However, there is one resolution that should be on everybody's list, the resolution to not drink and drive. Driving while intoxicated (DWI) is the most frequently committed violent crime and is the number one killer of teens. Therefore, resolving not to drink and drive will save not only your life, but someone else's as well.

The statistics are staggering. DWI is responsible for approximately 17,000 deaths annually in the United States. That is a rate of one every half hour. Last holiday season, of the 479 traffic fatalities that occurred over Christmas (measured from 6 p.m. Dec. 23, 1999 to 5:59 a.m. Dec. 27 1999), 221 of them were alcohol-related. Last New Year's Eve 147 traffic fatalities were recorded, of which 75 of them were alcohol-related. Every weekday night one in 13 drivers on the road is drunk, this figure increases to one in seven between the hours of 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. on weekend mornings. The average abusive drinker drives 250 times before being arrested for DWI. While many of these arrests are people with serious alcohol and drug problems,

many others are people who are simply not educated in the area of blood alcohol levels, consumption and absorption of alcohol and what the alcohol content of the average drink is. Impairment from alcohol begins at blood alcohol content (BAC) levels as low as .04%, which is about two normal drinks. While impairment may be subtle, reaction time and eye muscles are already being impacted. Considering that 90% of the information received while driving comes from the eyes, even this subtle impairment while driving can be fatal.

The saddest thing, when considering these statistics, is the fact that they are 100% preventable. There are things that every person can do to prevent DWI. First, if you have to drive somewhere, don't drink. Shatter the myth that one needs alcohol to have a good time. If you are planning to drink, then don't plan to drive. There are many alternatives to drinking and driving. One of these is to appoint a designated driver. Have one member of your party agree to stay sober to safely get the rest home. If all members of your party plan to drink then arrange alternative transportation, such as a cab.

A little planning before you drink can go a long way. If everyone in the country could make the

resolution to not drink and drive in 2001, we would be guaranteed safer streets for the New Year.

Joe Williams is currently Executive Director of the Southwest Council located in Vineland. The agency serves as the Drug and Alcohol prevention resource center for Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland counties.

## School Parents Urged To Register to Vote

Members of the Board of Education are asking parents of children in the school system to be sure they are registered to vote.

The board has scheduled a third referendum on Tuesday, March 6, asking voters to approve a new school bond.

One of the first priorities in getting residents to the polls is to make sure they are registered. Voter registration is an easy process. Pick up a form at any New

Jersey agency, such as the Division of Motor Vehicles located in the Middlesex Mall or the post office on Oak Tree Ave. Forms are also available at the clerk's office in Borough Hall and the *Observer* office. Just fill out the form and mail it back in the self-addressed envelope. You don't even need a stamp. To participate in the referendum election, voters must be registered by Feb. 5.

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