

Christmas Comes But Once a Year...Feel the Spirit!!

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 5, NO. 15

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 21, 2001



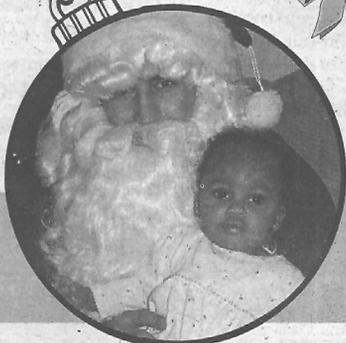
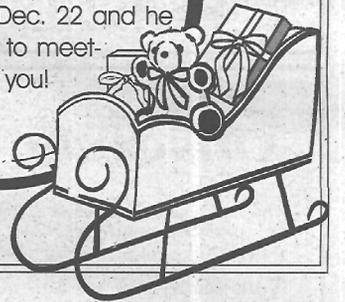
You're Invited...

Enjoy Holiday Caroling in Spring Lake Park

The residents of South Plainfield are invited to join a sing-a-long led by the South Plainfield High School Chorus under the direction of Tracy Murray. This is the perfect opportunity for the entire family to take a breather in their hectic schedule and begin enjoying the holiday season by singing some classic holiday carols. The only thing required is your spirit and your voice. Santa and his Elves will be there to greet the kids and join in the fun. Last year he arrived in a fire engine. The Christmas caroling will take place in the gazebo at Spring Lake Park on Sunday, Dec. 23 starting at 6 p.m. After the caroling everyone is invited to the Rescue Squad, which is directly across the street. There will be hot chocolate and cookies and Santa will be on hand to talk to the children. This annual event is a great time to say happy holidays to your neighbors and friends. Bring your relatives, neighbors and friends with you, the more the merrier. Be sure to wear warm clothes, since this could be a chilly night.

Santa to Visit the PAL on Dec. 22

For those who made reservations, Santa will be coming to the PAL on Saturday, Dec. 22 and he is looking forward to meeting with all of you!



Happy Holidays South Plainfield!!

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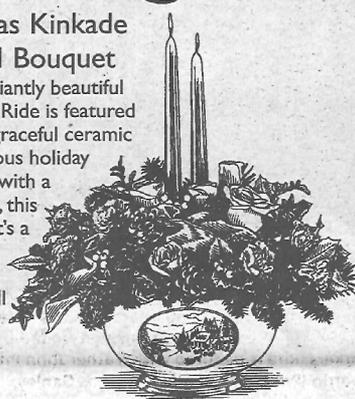
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Unity Bank Answers U.S. Marine Corps' Call To Action in Annual Toys for Tots Collection

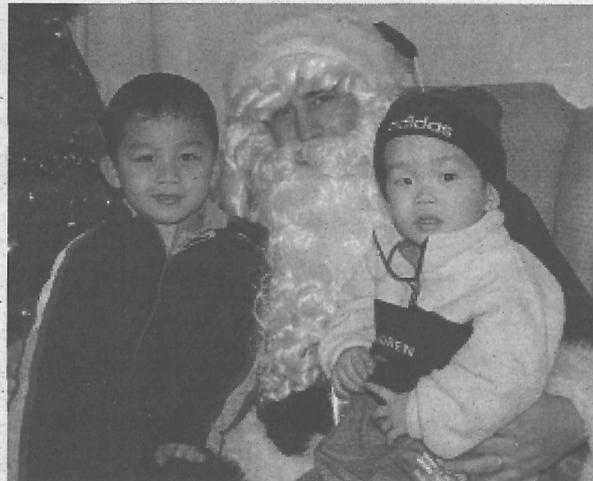
From December 10 through the 22, Unity Bank branch offices are collection centers for the US Marine Corps' annual "Toys for Tots" program, the nation's premier charitable Christmas endeavor. Since 1947, "Toys for Tots" has collected more than 272 million toys and distributed them to 133 million needy children in communities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

"This is the first year that Unity Bank branches have participated in this important program," commented Kelly Stashko, Unity Bank's Senior Vice President, Marketing. "The Toys for Tots is a good complement to Unity Bank's philosophy of community involvement," Stashko added. "The toys collected in our branch offices are given to needy children who live in local neighborhoods. The organization works directly with local charitable agencies and churches to identify children who otherwise would not have toys for Christmas."

Unity Bank's toy collection drive is led by Nicole Gadow, a teller in the Clinton branch office. "As children, my brother and I received presents from the 'Toys for Tots' program. Those Christmas presents were an important part of our childhood," Gadow said. "I brought the program to Unity Bank because I wanted to make the holidays special for other children, and I know that our clients would like to do the same," Gadow added.

Those who wish to donate to "Toys for Tots" should bring new, unwrapped toys to any Unity Bank branch office until Dec. 22. "Toys for Tots" is a not-for-profit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible.

In addition to "Toys for Tots," Unity Bank is participating in fundraising for World Trade Center victims, and has recently collected gifts for the Foster and Adoptive Family Services (FAFS) "Giving Tree" program.



Santa was at Unity Bank last Saturday to greet the children and listen to what they wanted for Christmas.

IN MY OPINION

To the Editor,

During this time of the year, when we all give thanks to people who have helped us through difficult times, I would like to thank Rich McCriskin and everyone associated with McCriskin Home For Funerals, for all their help and guidance in my time of need. My husband, George Meyer passed away on Nov. 8 and they were there to help and guide me during every step during this difficult time.

To all our friends and neighbors who expressed their grief and sorrow, thank you very much.

Deepest Regards
EILEEN MEYER

To the Editor,

Where do I begin to thank all of those who have helped me and my daughter Karen over the years and especially in the last couple of weeks of Karen's life. The South Plainfield Rescue Squad was so kind and professional each time Karen needed to be taken to the hospital. Sue Mishka was so helpful in arranging for the transportation and Bill Price for driving her in the Senior Citizen van for her weeks of radiation. Also thank you for all the support and kindness from family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances for the food, flowers, fruit baskets, mass cards and sympathy cards; to Bob Hunter of Conroy Funeral Home for his professionalism and caring with Karen's funeral arrangements and Father John of Sacred Heart Church for his comforting words at

her funeral mass.

Everyone's kindness has been overwhelming and has not gone unnoticed. Thank you all so much for all you have done to help me and my family during this difficult time.

LILLIAN SMITH

To The Editor,

I would like everyone to know how proud I am of the work that has been done on our new and improved Kennedy School website. Special thanks go to Mr. Hook, who is our Web Master and designer. He has spent countless hours making sure that everything was just right. Without him we would not have been able to accomplish this feat on our own.

Recently, Mr. Hook has placed over 125 pictures of our staff and children on the site. The teachers have also posted the school day for the children along with their weekly or monthly lesson plans.

Check out our website at www.geocities.com/pegymKennedy/. You will soon find out that the Kennedy site is one of the best in the state of New Jersey.

ALLEN R. CZECH, PRINCIPAL

Friends in South Plainfield,

On behalf of the South Plainfield Clergy Group, I would like to express our thanks to everyone who attended the recent Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.

Members of our Fire Department,

Rescue Squad and Police Department were recognized for the service they offer our fine community. An offering was taken and was split three ways to be a token of our appreciation for our uniformed service personnel. That offering was well in excess of \$1,200.

Again, we thank all who attended the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service and we already look forward to next year's service.

For the Clergy Group, Sincerely,
JIM STANLEY-ERICKSON

Annual
**New Year's
Eve Gala**
Monday, December 31, 2001

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Call 908-668-9443
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The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

G&G Graphics, Inc.
1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

Web page:
www.spobserver.com
For subscriptions, advertising or
information, call (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for
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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. **POSTMASTER:** Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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 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. Letters must be submitted with name and phone number, even if they request name their name be omitted when published.



Truck Takes Out New Market/ Hamilton Blvd. Telephone Pole

Traffic was disrupted on Tuesday when a tractor trailer, trying to make a turn onto Hamilton Blvd. from New Market Ave., ripped off the bottom of the telephone pole. Hamilton Blvd. was closed most of the day to all traffic until the truck was moved and the telephone pole replaced. This intersection is scheduled to be widened when Hamilton Blvd. is upgraded.

Retiring Cultural Arts Members are Honored

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission recently honored two retiring members for their years of service to the Borough. Gordon Fladger and Anita Lepelstat have served 18 and 16 years respectively. Their strong commitment and dedication to the commission has resulted in countless cultural programs presented in South Plainfield over the years.

The retirees recently attended a party in their honor, where they were presented with commendations from Mayor Dan Gallagher and members of the Council. Councilman Ray Petronko, liaison to the Cultural Arts Commission and Councilman-elect Charlie Butrico attended the event.

After a meeting of the Commission Petronko presented the awards. He thanked them for their years of service and noted that if they were inclined to return to the Commission, they'd be welcomed in an instant.

The Cultural Arts Commission strives to offer something for everyone. Among the programs they have sponsored are an annual art show, con-

certs in the park, caroling on the green and much more. The commission is seeking new members for appointment in the new year.

Durham Ave. Shopping Center Gets Go Ahead

For more than a year developer David Deluccia has been trying to build a shopping mall on property located on Durham Ave. The property is located between Valley National Bank and Seagrave.

After many appearances before the Planning Board, including numerous changes to his plans, the shopping mall was unanimously rejected. Deluccia appealed the board's decision and in October a Superior Court judge ordered the case returned to the Planning Board and be approved with "reasonable conditions" imposed.

Board members were concerned about the heavy traffic that flows along Durham Ave., but the judge ruled that the Board could not deny Deluccia on that basis. The Board approved the shopping mall, but with the condition that no left turns be allowed either into or out of the complex. Cars wanting to turn left will be directed to enter the mall entrance off Hamilton Blvd. on Main Street.

Most Board members were very reluctant to approve the shopping mall, but felt they had no choice after the judges ruling.

The property had been rezoned last year from commercial to professional offices, with the passage of a revised Master Plan. However the judge ruled that because Deluccia applied before the zoning change it did not apply.

The L-shaped shopping will occupy 24,500-square-feet. Stores in mall could include a cleaners, a deli, convenience store, etc. The shopping center is located close to the Abbington Apartments and Deluccia expects renters in the complex will visit the stores.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Leonardis Welcome Daughter

Donna Jeanne and Frank Leonardis are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Sofia Johanna, born on Sept. 11, 2001. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 1/2 oz. and was 20" long.

Mother, Donna Jeanne is employed by Phillips Van-Heusen in Bridgewater. Her proud father, Frank, is employed by Lucent Technologies in Holmdel. Both parents are graduates of South Plainfield High School and reside in South Plainfield.

The grandparents are Lorraine and Richard Podlovits of Boman Rd. and Andreina and Ralph Leonardis of Pierce St. Also a great grandfather, Gino Leonardis of South Plainfield.



Sofia Johanna Leonardis



After working almost 30 years at Sacred Heart, Rita Riccardo was honored with a retirement party attended by many friends and co-workers. Rita is pictured with Father John Primich, Father John Paul Alvarado (Pastor) and Father Thomas Ganley.

Seniors Enjoy Lunch and Concert at High School

South Plainfield Senior Citizens were once again treated to an afternoon of the musical talents of South Plainfield High School students and a luncheon.

Performing for the group were the jazz band and concert bands along with the chorus. The Emeralds per-

formed Salve Regina from *Sister Act*, while the Jade sang "The Restroom Door Said Gentlemen" a take off on *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.

Over 50 seniors attended and enjoyed a turkey dinner, complete with salad, peach cobbler and coffee. The meal was served by the FLA club.

Summer Drama Workshop Selling "Titanic" Tickets

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop has tickets available for the musical "Titanic," to be performed at the State Theatre in New Brunswick on Saturday, Jan. 26, at 3 p.m.

Throughout the year, the SPSW plans for its annual production, and

promotes the performing arts. This Tony-award winning musical is great family entertainment. Tickets are a great Christmas suggestion for those late shoppers.

If you would like tickets or more information, please call (908) 561-5255.

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NEW YEAR

"God Bless America"

Paid for by South Plainfield Republican Organization

Events Around Town

'Almost Famous Players' to Perform at Library

December 26

Nothing to do the day after Christmas? Come see the 'Almost Famous' Players at the South Plainfield Library. This local group brings their newest show to the library on Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 6:30 p.m. The teenage performers offer their rendition of *The Night Before Christmas* and an unusual mime version of *Cinderella*. There will be songs and time permitting, a juggling act.

The young performers are all South Plainfield High School students. 'Almost Famous' has been directing/producing shows in our elementary schools for almost 10 years. Many of the actors started as students in their grade school drama clubs.

Visit the library Wednesday, Dec. 26 at 6:30 p.m. and watch *The Night Before Christmas* come to comedic life.

New Years Eve Gala at Polish Home

December 31

The Polish National Home, located on New Market Ave., will be holding their Annual New Years Eve Gala, Monday, Dec. 31.

The cost per couple is \$70 or \$40 per person and includes hats, noise-makers, open bar, cocktail hour, hot and cold buffet, midnight champagne toast, coffee and dessert. Music will be supplied by Nick L. Odeon. Ticket sales will be limited to only 200 people.

For reservations or information, call (908) 668-9442.

Roosevelt School Blood Drive

January 5, 2002

Roosevelt School is having a community blood drive being held on Jan. 5, 2002. Anyone interested in donating blood, please contact Theresa Montuori, (908) 769-5270 to schedule a time.

Borough Annual Reorganization Meeting

January 6, 2002

The Mayor and Council will be holding their annual reorganization meeting on Sunday, January 6, 2002.

Councilman Dennis Cerami will be sworn in as well as the newest council member, Charlie Butrico.

Nominations to the boards and committee will be made and members sworn in.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Rec Going to See "Naked Boys Singing"

February 3, 2002

For those who would like an alternative to watching football on Super Bowl Sunday, the South Plainfield Recreation Department is planning a trip to Broadway to see "Naked Boys Singing."

The trip takes place on Sunday, Feb. 3 and costs \$45 per person. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m.

Register at the PAL, Monday through Friday.

South Plainfield Recreation Winter Dinner Show

February 7, 2002

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be sponsoring a trip to a Winter Dinner Show at the Hun-

Photo Night Meeting Change

Due to unforeseen conflicts, the date of the Historical Society "Photo Night" at the high school must be changed to Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Veit was just elected to another prestigious post and it conflicts with the previous date of Jan. 8.

The regular Society meeting will still take place on Jan. 8.

terdon Playhouse on Feb. 7, 2002. The bus leaves from the PAL Building at 10 a.m. The fee is \$45 per person and includes dinner and the show.

Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

AARP Plans Bus Trip To New Orleans

April 20-28, 2002

AARP Chapter 4144 is planning a bus trip to New Orleans from April 20-28, 2002 (9 days/8 nights). The trip includes deluxe motor coach transportation, hotels, tours in New Orleans, riverboat jazz cruise, dinner party, Bellingrath Gardens and cruise in Alabama, Stone Mountain Park in Georgia and much more. Price is \$655 for double occupancy and \$855 for single occupancy.

For reservations and information, call Lee at (732) 968-6613 or Mary at (732) 752-3764.

Out of Town

"First Night" at the Bickford Theatre

Through December 30

Morris Museum's Bickford Theatre is proud to present "First Night" by Jack Neary, which will run during the holiday season from Dec. 6-30, Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

Daniel LaPenta, chairman of the Theatre Dept. at Drew University, will direct this warm romantic comedy about dreams, life and love that takes place on New Year's Eve.

The Bickford Theatre is located at 6 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. Tickets are \$26 for the general public, \$23 for seniors, \$22

for Morris Museum members and \$12 for students. A special ticket price of \$40 per person includes a ticket to the Sunday performance and brunch at Rod's Steak and Seafood Grill in Convent Station.

For more information and tickets please call (973) 971-3706.

Alliance Theatre Presents "Friends"

December 21, 22

Alliance Repertory Theatre Co. in cooperation with The Villagers Black Box Series will be presenting, "Friends" - Not The TV Show.

Alliance examines the ups and downs of relationships in a light-hearted evening of comic scenes and short plays dealing with family, friends, relationships and everything in between. Alliance Rep's last Café was heralded as "An evening that just may be the best comedy bargain in the area. Take someone you love - or would like to."

The play is directed by Alliance veterans, Jeff Streger, Jay Leibowitz, Joel Stone and Michael Driscoll, with newcomers Cynthia Wiese, Christine Furlong, and Rich Baker.

Performances are on Dec. 21, and 22. Fri. and Sat. starts at 8 p.m.

The Villagers Barn Theatre is located on DeMott Lane in the Franklin Township. Cost is \$10.

For reservations call, 732-873-2710.

Precious Jewels at Cedarbrook Elementary School

December 21

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Inc., Plainfield/Scotch Plains Section, a non-profit organization, presents "Jewels of Winter; Believing, Achieving and Becoming the Best" on Dec. 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Cedarbrook Elem. School, 1049 Central Ave., Plainfield.

For the first time ever, the NCNW Plainfield/Scotch Plains Section is hosting a Youth Pageant for young girls, ages 4-16. "The pageant's purpose is to introduce and improve public speaking, build team leadership as well as develop skills for being an effective team player and positive role model," stated Deadra Miller, chairperson for this event. "All interested candidates were encouraged to enroll.



America We Stand As One

The new hit single, *America We Stand As One* by Dennis Madalone will soon be sweeping the music industry. Be one of the first to share in this universal message of hope and patriotism.

For information visit his website at www.americawestandasonone.com or call Rich D'Urso at (908) 753-7629.

Sons of American Legion Looking for Members

The Sons of The American Legion is looking for patriotic Americans to become members of this active community service organization. If you are a male descendant, adopted son or stepson of a veteran who served during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War or delimiting periods set forth in the National Constitution of the American Legion, you may be eligible to join.

The Sons of The American Legion participates in a variety of community activities including volunteer work at VA Hospitals, social activities, fund-raising for charities & scholarships and other community projects.

Applications for membership are available at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on Oak Tree Ave. For membership you must present a valid proof of honorable discharge (form DD214), or active membership in the American Legion. Annual dues are \$7.

If you have any questions or want to learn more, contact them at sal0243soplfd@aol.com.

Monthly meetings are held at the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Back Pain?

Edison, NJ- Most people have no idea what to do when they experience back pain; they use heat, ice, sleep on the floor, even take pain pills hoping their pain will go away. The more you don't know, the more likely you may experience serious disc or nerve injury. If you are tired of suffering and don't know what to do about it, there is a Free Eye Opening Report that just been released. For your free copy, call Toll-free 1-888-568-8424, 24 Hrs. Free Recorded Message.

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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.

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Council Recognizes Local Students

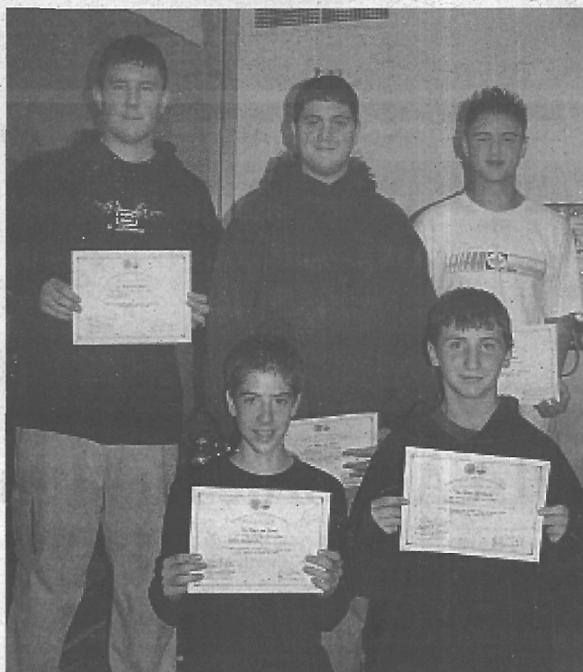
By Patricia Abbott

President Bush recently spoke of the outpouring of compassion from the youth of our country towards victims of the horrific terrorist attacks. He noted that thousands of youths found a means to raise money for families of the victims. South Plainfield can proudly claim many of those youths as our own.

Nine teenagers, members of local bands *Level Zero* and *Three Legged Dog* wanted to contribute to the effort to help the victim's families. They approached Recreation Director Mike English with a proposal. The teens would donate their services and play for a dance at the PAL's Teen Night. They suggested charging admission and adding that money to the fund. Over 200 youths attended the event. The successful dance raised over \$1,000.

Ryan Cornell, a former South Plainfield resident now living in Marlboro, is a member of *Level Zero*. He said, "We didn't think that we would raise that much money but we hoped we would. It's really hard for kids our age to assist in situations like this." Members of *Three Legged Dog* commented, "It was great playing Teen Night with *Level Zero*. Especially since so many people showed up and contributed. We knew that all the money was going towards Sept. 11 and it made us feel great that we were playing for a cause."

The boys were recently commended by the mayor and council. They received certificates that read "In Grateful Acknowledgment of Distinguished Contribution of Talent and Initiative to the Borough of South Plainfield and its Citizens." The teen-



agers were surprised to be given an award for their efforts.

Cornell summarized their thoughts saying, "When I heard that we were being honored by the mayor I was really surprised, because I thought that we were just doing the right thing. I had no idea that we would be acknowledged and I'd just like to thank all the kids that were at the show."

He offered these thoughts on the tragedy, "As far as the war goes, I think our cause is just and I believe that as a nation we are reacting in a positive way. We are rebuilding our cities and our lives. It is true when people say

our lives will never be the same again, we feel vulnerable and partially helpless. To the families of the victims I think I speak for all of my bandmates when I say that I am deeply sorry and hope with time you can regain some normalcy in your lives."

Level Zero members are: Joshua Jackson, Ryan Cornell, Danny Lammi and Greg Garbowski, all high school sophomores. *Three Legged Dog* consists of: Todd Rivers, Keenan Gaynor, Grant Gianneschi and Seiichi Daimo. They are freshman at SPHS. The boys are all South Plainfield residents with the exception of Ryan Cornell.

Coin War at The Middle School

Mrs. Schwebel's eighth grade math classes waged a coin war Dec. 6 through 14 to raise money to buy gifts for the "Toys for Tots" program. Each class was asked to bring in pennies and see which class could accumulate the most money during this time period for this worthy cause.

The students decided that a Discman, batteries, music, gift certificates, basketballs and footballs would make great gifts for a child their age, and then made a tremendous effort to make the acquisition of these gifts possible.

Each class had a container in which they could place their accumulated pennies. As one container started to fill, the other classes would somehow find the pennies to keep ahead of them. The spirit of giving was contagious. Soon nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars appeared in the contain-

ers. The students collected over \$215 to purchase the gifts they had agreed upon.

Period four/five was in the lead until the last day when Mikit Kumar, in first period and Jocelyn Thompson in second period surprised all the classes by bringing in a large container full of pennies.

"It was difficult carrying the pennies to school," said Jocelyn, "They weighed a lot. My hands were hurting, but I wanted to help others have a wonderful Christmas."

Jarret Spino convinced his class to donate dollars to the cause. "We might not have the greatest amount of pennies, but we gave the most money," he said.

Mrs. Schwebel thanked all her students for their generosity. They surprised the entire school community with their donations.



Dr. Dina Pascasio, DMD at her new practice on Oak Tree Road in Edison

Dr. Dina Pascasio, DMD Opens New Dental Office

Dr. Dina Pascasio, DMD has recently opened her new dental practice at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison. The office building is conveniently located opposite the A&P shopping center and Woodland Ave. Also located in the building is the new Rainbow Academy Day Care Center.

Dr. Pascasio has been in practice for 10 years, having graduated from Tufts University.

She and her husband, William and

their four year old son, Grant have lived in South Plainfield for three years.

The new office features the latest in computer technology, enabling patients to view their charts on a computer monitor while sitting in the dentist's chair.

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Grant Central Six — First Marking Period

High Honor Roll

Dana Alexa, Francis Alfano, Kristin Billich, Brittney Bishara, Lillian Blanco, Louis Bottone, Nicole Brooks, Brianna Calderone, Paulo Cantarella, Grey Coppi, Jonathan Cursi, Brooke DeNitzio, Christopher DeOliveira, Melissa Fisher, Andrew Gray, Robert Harrington, Taylor Harris, Theresa Huber, Przemyslaw Lasota, Raymond Lee, Jeffrey Licato, Andrea Lozarito, Kellie McLean, Rachel Milliron, Chelsea Moubarak, Diana Naser, Christina Nieves, Katie Nuber, Jaime Okoszko, Christopher Pennisi, Ashley Peterson, Tiffany Rouse, Sarah Schulte, Rachel Senz, Aakruti Sheth, Kerri Siedenbug, Anthony Simone, Olivia Smith, Chelsea Soisson, Kathleen Sullivan and Stephanie Szeliga.

Honor Roll

Peter Adorna, Ashley Alvarado, Michael Ascencio, April Ayers, Scott Barton, Taryn Billich, Rebecca Bosse, Erica Bowden, Jessica Brandes, Raymond Brooks, Brittany Burton, Caryn Butrico, Jennifer Capparelli,

Alison Case, Venessa Casteblanco, John Christ, Nichole Coccaro, Christian Cole, Nicole Cosma, James Cox, Kyle Czarnik, Joseph Dacchile, Kyle Darr, Christopher Delaney, Joseph Delgenio, Danielle Dembia, Elizabeth Diamant, Christopher Duquette and Timothy Durmak.

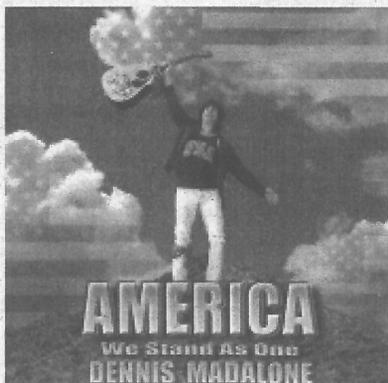
Kaitlin Egan, Daniel Espin, Christopher Esposito, Brian Fabino, Meredith Ferguson, Constance Flanagan, Elizabeth Flannery, Juliann Garbowski, Sydney Gentile, Tara Goitandia, Danny Gomez, Katherine Gorman, Jessica Gray and Soham Gupta.

Hakim Hardy, Keith Heckel, Danielle Heilmann, Matthew Helgesen, Rosa Hernandez, Kelsey Hoffman, John Horvath, Justin Howarth, Allison Huffsmith, Scott Hunterton, Christian Johansen, Natia Katsantonis, Timothy Keane, Clare Kelly, Taylor Kurilew, Gina Lampasona, Kimberly Le, Vanessa Leguizamon, Jordan Leporino, Erica Linick, Jonathan Marcoux, Jason McConnell, Christina Monticchio, Robert Moreira and William Morrison.

Daniel Nastarowicz, Ashley Newman, Lauren O'Day, Brendan O'Shea, Zachary Olim, Matthew Olpinski, Michael Oprysk, Michael Ortiz, Vincent Padula, Izelis Pajaro, Danielle Pasquale, Vinal Patel, Stephanie Penny, Rocco Petriello, Alexandra Petronko, John Polizzano, Daniel Pompilio, Russell Pornovets and Andrea Powell.

Kayla Quadrel, James Quesada, David Quiroga, Kelly Remsing, William Rickert, William Ritchey, Samantha Rivera, Elizabeth Roger, Alyssa Roibal, Ashley Sacks, Simone Sealy, Matthew Seider, Jason Seigel, Zohaib Shah, Jasmine Silas, Elan Sims, Ginarose Siringo, Alison Smith, Christopher Smith, Samantha Smith, William Smith, Jake Smithline, Christopher Spayder, Stanley Stellakis and Robert Stilo.

Sean Tamzoke, Melissa Thibault, Amanda Thorn, Meghan Toolan, Anh-Phuong Thinh, Brandon Ullom, Elizabeth Valentino, Mark Wagner, Gregory Watts, Courtney Wilhelm, Kenneth Yefko, Katiejean Zacek and Julie Zappi.



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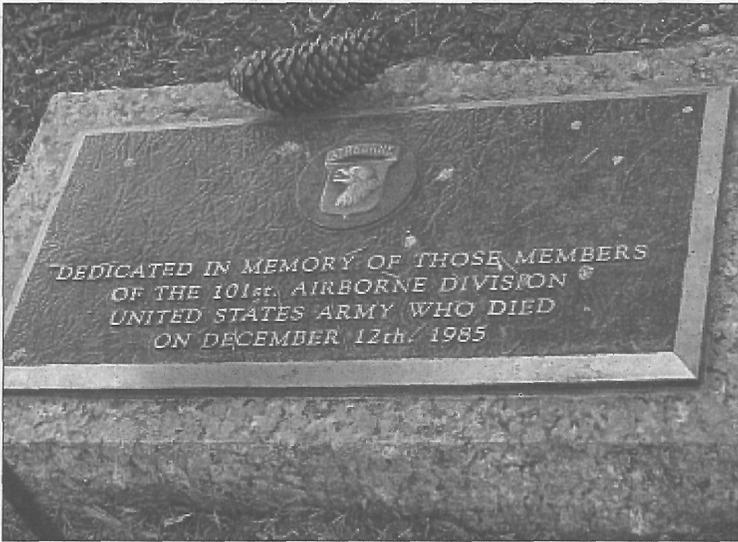
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Sacred Heart Church
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Christmas Schedule

Monday, December 24
5:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy
11:00 p.m.: Lessons in Carols and Proclamation
12:00 a.m.: Christmas Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25
8:00, 9:30, 11:30 am:
Christmas Day Masses



101st Airborne Hold Annual Tree Lighting at McCriskin's

By Patricia Abbott

The huge fir tree in front of McCriskin's Home for Funerals rises majestically from the ground, towering over the rooftops and dwarfing most everything in sight. It stands like a gentle giant keeping watch. During the holiday season the tree bears 13,000 white lights that shine in honor of the 248 members of the 101st Airborne Division who were killed in a plane crash on Dec. 12, 1985. The plane carrying the paratroopers was returning home for the holidays from a peace keeping mission

in the Sinai Peninsula when it crashed shortly after take off.

A ceremony in their honor is held each year by the 101st Airborne Division Association and members of the General Anthony C. McAuliffe, NY/NJ Chapter. The plaque at the base of the tree reads, "Dedicated in memory of those members of the 101st Airborne Division United States Army who died on December 12, 1985." This year's ceremony was held on a chilly gray morning. Shiny black combat boots stood at the base of the tree near the plaque. Accompanying the boots was a rifle and bayonet driven

into the ground, it was topped with a combat helmet. Attending the ceremony along with area veterans and their families was Sydney Jennings, from Yonkers, NY, whose son Todd lost his life in the crash.

The familiar routine of the brief ceremony seemed a comfort to those who make the yearly journey to see the tree lit. South Plainfield resident Helen Helriegel sang *Amazing Grace*. American flags whipped in the brisk wind as a bagpipe, played by Duncan McCaskill, filled the air with sound. Frank Febus of Edison, Vice President of the 101st McAuliffe Chapter read

a prayer he had written in honor of the Screaming Eagles. He took time to remember New York's heroes along with servicemen and women who are engaged in war defending our country's freedom. "We would like to have a moment of silence not only for the sacrifices made by the people that were at the Twin Towers, but for New York's finest and bravest and also for our troops overseas right now in Afghanistan," Febus said. On his command, the Honor Guard's rifle salute shattered the still morning air. Moments later the tree's lights flicker on. Richard and William McCriskin

decided to decorate the huge tree in December of 1985, just prior to the crash. The McCriskin family has ties to the military and a deep respect for military tradition and the news of the crash touched them. A plaque was placed at the base of the tree and it was transformed into a memorial for the fallen eagles. The tree is lit each year on or about Dec. 12 to mark the anniversary of the tragic crash.

Although they are no longer with us, the heroes are in the minds and hearts of many. Passersby see a multitude of twinkling holiday lights, while Veterans see comrades remembered.



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From the South Plainfield Library
Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

We understand that many of you are busy right now. You've got to hang the ornaments, wrap up presents, make sure the chimney is clear, etc. But, let's take a moment and check on the news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Sunday. We'll be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday (Christmas Eve), and we'll be closed all day on Tuesday in observance of Christmas Day.

Due to the Christmas closing, we'll only hold two children's Storytime programs next week. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. They'll be held on Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They're for children ages three and older; no pre-registration is required. If you'd like more information about our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and check with Miss Linda.

This month's group of Circuit videos will be available until Monday. Titles this month include, "Under Suspicion", "The Red Violin", "Men in Black", "Evita", "The Little Vampire" and, on DVD, "Snatch". Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

In response to questions about our series of introductory computer

classes, yes, the classes will continue next year. There will, however, be a slight hiatus in the class, due to the recent departure of Reference Librarian Allan Kleiman. Will keep you informed about the updated schedule.

Here's a word about renewals. Sometimes, the basic borrowing period for an item isn't enough time. (For example, even four weeks may not be long enough to read one of Tom Clancy's massive works.) In that case, we allow patrons to renew items for a further borrowing period. Provided that another patron hasn't reserved the items, multiple renewals are allowed, with the number of times determined by the item type. However, let's be clear on this; items cannot be renewed in perpetuity. Once the limit has been reached, the items must be returned to the Library and made available for someone else to borrow. After a reasonable interval, you can borrow them again. Above all, please remember that the operative term is "borrow"; these books and A/V items are not your personal property. Other people have as much right to take them out as you do, and it's not at all considerate to deprive them of that right.

While the weather has been somewhat unusual lately (OK, it's been positively wacky), it's a pretty safe assumption that it will get much colder in the coming days. This causes problems for those who have trouble physically getting to and from the Library. Fortunately, we have a way to help. The Edith Goodrich Homebound Delivery Program has been set up to provide Library materials for those who are unable to come to us due to illness or disability. There's no charge involved and it's very easy to sign up. For details, call us and ask for Mrs. Penn, the Library Director.

That's all for now. See you next Friday, and Happy Holidays from the Library. And don't go too heavily on the eggnog; we'd hate to lose a patron.

Rescue Squad Calls for October

The South Plainfield Recue Squad answered 185 calls during the month of October, for a total of 474 actual man hours.

The Rescue Squad consists of all volunteers. Members are always needed. To join call, 908-754-2343.

SPHS Chorus Holiday Concert

By Patricia Abbott

The Annual SPHS Christmas Choral Concert was enjoyed by a full and appreciative audience. The concert featured each of the schools groups performing a wide variety of music including, of course, songs of the season. The concert choir started the evening and featured soloists, Chrisann Zushma, Cassie Bosse, David Garatino and Joe Rodriguez. The traveling choir entertained with fast paced holiday songs. *Emeralds*, a select group of female vocalists songs included a number from the hit movie *Sister Act*. Other soloists throughout the evening included Allison Provaire, Malika Aaron, and John Roesch. It was the *Jades*, the school's elite all male choral group, that stole the show. They sauntering on stage in tuxedos, complete with tails, top hat, gloves and canes. The hats and canes were placed on the floor and the boys stood on the risers to sing a number of songs. Finally they moved to the top hats and canes. The audience was on the edge of their seats with anticipation. The song was a spoof of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* called *The Restroom Door Said 'Gentlemen'*. The choreography was pure Broadway. The song dealt with the hilarious subject of rest room door signs that had been switched. The lyrics had the audience rolling in the aisles. Choral Director Mr. Tracy Murray can be assured that this concert is one that will not be forgotten for a long time to come.



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Sports

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

Boys Bowling Team Upset Bishop Ahr, But Drop Matches to JFK and Monroe

SPHS 914-867-759-2540
Bishop Ahr 814-806-810-2430

The Freshman loaded boy's bowling team won its third straight, as they surprised Bishop Ahr winning two games and racking up a 110 pin victory. Matt Boley again led the Tigers with a brilliant 203, 224, 236 for a 663 set. Also aiding in the Tiger cause were Shawn Ferguson 227 and Jon

Jeglinsky 204. George Kleinknecht chipped in with a 180.

SPHS 914-881-747-2542
JFK 895-1015-976-2886

The boy's bowling team stunned a powerful JFK in the first game, but could not keep up with the Mustangs, who rallied and pinned a 3-1 defeat on the young Tigers. High scores for the Tigers were Matt Boley 214, 226

and Nick Grego with a 210 game. Shawn Ferguson fired a pair of 182's.

SPHS 766-807-783-2356
Monroe 906-873-895-2674

Despite Matt Boley's 222 and 207 games the Tigers were also crushed by a hot shooting Monroe squad. The boys team record now stands at 3-3. Shawn Ferguson chipped in with a 181 game.

Girls Bowling Team Blasts JFK and Monroe, but is Upset by Bishop Ahr (Now Ranked 17th in the State)

SPHS 681-814-787-2282
Bishop Ahr 811-753-794-2458

Despite Vicky Boley's sparkling 203, 240 high game and 622 high set, the girl's bowling team suffered its second straight setback narrowly missing a tie match by a scant seven pins. Danielle Larish chipped in with a 172 game.

SPHS 716 - 699-786-2201
JFK 685- 653- 660 2001

The girls bowling team shut out JFK with a solid team effort. High game for the Tigers was a 236 game from Freshman Kim Gaub. Also contributing to the shutout victory were Vicky Boley 171-162-150 and Alexis Montanaro 165.

SPHS 644-664-716-2024
Monroe 696-634 -653- 983

The Lady Tigers also came from behind with a 10th frame rally to pin a 3-1 defeat on a spirited Monroe Team. Vicky Boley's 182 and 180 games highlighted the action on a low scoring day. The girls team's record stands at 4-2.

WRESTLING

Results of the 10th Annual Twin City Pharmacy/SPASA Holiday Basketball Tourn.

The Twin City Pharmacy/South Plainfield Alliance for Substance Awareness Holiday Basketball Tournament was a great success again this year. This 10th annual event featured boys and girls teams from middle schools in Dunellen, East Brunswick, Sacred Heart and South Plainfield.

The purpose of this tournament is two fold: provide a quality, healthy, athletic event and to disseminate information regarding the dangers of smoking, drinking and the use of controlled dangerous substances and steroids.

Bill Beegle, SPASA coordinator

and principal of John E. Riley School presented the HBO video "The Faces of Addiction" and led a discussion on the dangers of student athletes abusing drugs and smoking. He stressed that athletic performance on the court and the playing field is greatly diminished when athletes abuse drugs, alcohol and smoke cigarettes.

Volunteering and serving as members of the Board of Directors for SPASA are Tom Cassio, owner of Twin City Pharmacy, Officer Joe Papa, DARE coordinator and Tom Baker, High School Student Assistance Counselor. Many thanks to these individuals for their dedication in making the SPASA organization and this tournament a continued success.

Joe Romer, a resident of South Plainfield and owner of Trophy Shop of Edison, donated the team trophies and individual awards for each of the winning team players. Joe has been donating trophies and awards for all of the years of the existence of this tournament and his gracious support is greatly appreciated.

Shirts with an anti-drug message "Put The Jam On Drugs" were given to each player, coach and manager along with substance awareness information. Jeff Spezio, Graphics Technology teacher in the middle school designed the artwork for the shirts.

The preliminary games for the girls on Monday, Dec. 10 had East Brunswick defeat Dunellen 38-15 and Sacred Heart edging Sough Plainfield 32-27. On Tuesday, the South Plainfield boys won over Sacred Heart 50-28 and East Brunswick rolled over Dunellen 55-25.

The finals were held on Thursday, Dec. 13. Both East Brunswick boys and girls teams were victorious. The boys defeated South Plainfield 52-37 and the girls out lasted Sacred Heart to gain a hard fought 32-25 win.

By Kevin Wickes



juniorbaseballclubnotes

www.spjbc.com NOW ONLINE AND FUNCTIONING!—http://www.spjbc.com. is now up and running. You can check our new website to stay updated on club activities, (coaches clinics, meetings, umpire training classes, tryouts, etc.) and a lot more, like: schedules, rosters and standings, once the season gets into gear. Also to participate in trivia contests and even to see our complex from an aerial view.

Coaches clinics are continuing with the next one scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2002 starting at 7:30 at the complex.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

- Monday, Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m.—General Meeting.
- Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m.—Coaches Clinic featuring former major leaguer Bill Leahman discussing pitching and practice organization.
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 10, 11 and 12—Winter Registration. Times are Thursday and Friday, 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., (tentative). This is also registration for managers, assistant coaches and NEW umpires.
- Monday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m.—General Meeting.
- Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.—Coaches Clinic, topic TBD.
- Monday, Feb. 25 at 6:45 p.m.—Rutgers Certification course, (Certification Required for all Managers and Assistant Coaches).
- Week of Feb. 26 to March 1—League Manager meetings.
- Saturday, March 2—Tryouts at PAL, (Small Fry only).
- Week of March 4—Draft nights/player notification.
- Monday, March 4 at 7:30—General Meeting.
- Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.—Coaches Clinic, at SPHS practice, site to be determined.
- Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m.—"C" League Orientation, Field 1.
- Monday, April 1 at 7:30—General Meeting.
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 4-6—Booster Weekend (All Small Fry players).
- Saturday, April 13—OPENING DAY!

LADIES AUXILIARY will be begin their Gertrude Hawk Candy Fundraiser at our January registration.

OUR FUNDRAISER FOR THE WTC disaster will continue with the sale of ribbon pins, flag pins and flag decals at the January registration.

From myself and the SPJBC board, we'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday! Many thanks to all the people who took the time out of their busy schedules this year to help us have a very successful season.

Next Week's Observer will be published a day later, Saturday, December 29 so that we may enjoy the Christmas Holiday.

Weight Room Membership Report

Last week's Observer listed incorrect membership totals for the PAL Weight Room. Here are the latest figures on membership.

Pass Type	Pass Term	Passes	Amount
N/C Weight Room	1 Year	47	\$ 0.00
Weight Room	1 month	17	\$ 270.00
Weight Room	3 month	517	\$15,510.00
Weight Room	6 month	100	\$ 6,000.00
Weight Room	1 Year	281	\$27,940.00
Total		962	\$49,720.00

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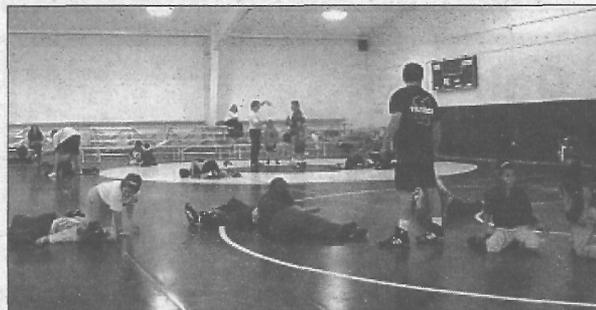
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Merry Christmas **BONCHI'S BULLETIN**

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Sports



One of the reasons South Plainfield's wrestling program is so successful is because of our Recreation wrestling program. Pictured are the youngest group of kids learning the basics.

Boys Cross Country Wrap-Up

by Tim Morgan

The South Plainfield Boys Cross Country team had another banner year, going 8-2. Markedly, they also had their best three-year stretch in history, compiling a 27-4 record. They were a respectable sixth place in the State Sectionals, seventh in the GMC's and second in the Blue division. The Tigers narrowly lost both meets which blocked them from a perfect season, losing against (non-division) rival Edison closely by a single point, with a score of 27-28 and tightly to Blue Division competitor Metuchen 26-29.

The top four runners received Blue Division All-Star team honors. Those runners were Tim Morgan, Galen Johnson, Joe Desmin and Kyle Kazmir. Morgan was thirteenth in the county, nineteenth in the State Sectionals and advanced to the State Groups, where he placed twenty-fifth.

Elks Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. Please contact Lou Peralta 756-6406.

He also set a school record of 17:23 for the Homdel course and was selected as second All-Area Team for the Home News.

The number of Green Lightnings this season were also impressive. These are 5K times under 18 minutes. A total of six runners achieved them, which is another school record. Tim had the all time total of 39. The top four are newcomer and 'Rookie of the Year' Rob Hoffman and Bishop Ahr transfer Derek Smith were the composites of this.

The boys had a total of 32 athletes this year (our largest ever) and they move into the White Division next year. They consistently trounced most of the teams they faced and should be strong for the division battle next year. Two seniors in the top five and seven altogether will be gone due to graduation, but the team is young and experience will increase in the next two years.

Many cross country runners also run distance during the track seasons and will keep sharp for the next year. The prospective principal leaders for next season most likely will be led by the sophomore trio of Johnson, Kazmir and Hoffman, with John Wiekowski, Joe Reach, Chris Addvenski and Derek Smith providing a solid backbone.

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Tigers Win Morris Knolls Tournament

The South Plainfield High School wrestling team opened their season with an impressive showing at the Morris Knolls Tournament, crowning six individual champions along with a second place finish and three third place winners.

The Tigers, who reloaded the gun this year had a few questions answered with a great effort from the younger wrestlers. Freshmen Pete DeAndrea 119, wrestling in his first varsity match came through with a big 5-2 decision over Jose Gomez of Bogota and a third place finish. DeAndrea was 3-1 on the day. Another freshmen wrestling in a very tough weight class showed he can handle the job. Rob Maisticle 189, did an outstanding job. He pinned Bryan Flynn of Bogota at 1:56 for third place. Maisticle was 2-1. Freshmen Viet Vo 103, went 1-2 and Paul Ritchie 125 went 1-2.

A heartfelt welcome back to Senior Kyle Stoeckel 140, who returned to wrestling, helping in a big way by winning his consolation final with a 10-4 decision over Dave Schochet of Montville for third place, going 2-1 for the day.

But it was the senior and junior leaders of this team who stepped up and lead by example. Senior Rickey Ringel 3-0 at 112 was dominant in his quest for the title by pinning Art Disabunsong of Bogota at 2:21. Ringel also received the award for the most and fastest pins.

Senior Matt Anderson 130, won his third Morris Knolls title when he pinned Steve Gaydarik of Morris Hills at 1:50. Another milestone in his stellar career will be his 100th win. Anderson, who has a chance to become the all time win leader in school history. Tommy Doerr now holds that record with 114 career wins. Anderson had a great tournament going 3-0.

Junior Scott Doerr 145, also had a great tournament going 3-0 and winning his title by decision 9-2 over Troy Hood of Cherry Hill West.

Glenn Gross 152, a three year starter also looked strong in winning his final 9-2 over Bryan Gassenmeyer of Morris Knolls. Mike Buteas 160, came up short in his bid for a title when he lost by tech fall to Ryan Cunningham of Cherry Hill West 26-

11. Look for Buteas to have a good year at 160. At 171 Steve Johnston went 3-0 and captured his title by decision over Joey Filippo of Montville 9-4. Next came the big guy. Ryan Elliot 215 looked good going 3-0 on the day and winning his first tournament title by decision over Manny Kackas of North Plainfield.

The Tigers won this tournament 187.5 to 132.3 over second place Morris Knolls. North Plainfield made a strong showing and finished in third. Coach Bill Pavlak was happy with the effort saying, "This is a good tournament, it's good to get some of the younger guys out there to get some experience before the dual meet season starts. We were banged, up but now everybody is back." Tiger head coach Bill Pavlak and assistants Kevin McCann and Bill Hamilton have done an outstanding job getting them ready for the long season.

The first home match will be Saturday night against Bishop Ahr. JV at 5 p.m. starting with the gift ceremony for last years State Championship team. The matches starting at 7 p.m.

Middle School Wrestlers Defeat Hillsborough

The Middle School wrestling team had another strong outing, beating Hillsborough Middle School 55-21.

The Tigers struck first with Robert Gentile (70) pinning Dan DeSantos in 0:39. Patrick Hunter (75) followed

taking early control before cruising to a 12-1 major decision over Chris Pappas. Billy Ashnault (80) scored a tech fall over Justin Urbano 18-3. Jimmy Conroy followed at (85) and wasted little time before pinning Chad

Frasher in 0:43.

Nick Dorey then pinned Jon Wilk at 1:28. Mike Jakubik (95) then pinned Brian Ambrose at 1:39. Mark Wagner (100) scored first and went on to win a 7-0 decision over Jim Pogorzelski. Sam Martin (107) faced Sean McLaughlin in an exciting match and won 6-4.

The next Tiger victory came at (132) when Opie Muse pinned Tom Wolf at 1:50. Anthony Fierro (140) had a tough match with Dan Matthewson but was victorious with 6-4 decision. Kevin Criley closed the scoring with a fall over Kyle Kelderman at 2:40.

Also wrestling for the Tigers were Anthony Niemczyk (112), Mark Warness (117), Tony Nguyen (124) and Justin Huffsmith (150).

Rec Wrestlers Now 3-0

The recreation wrestling team continued to dominate with two big league wins over Union and Voorhees. The junior Tigers crushed Union 85-3 and rough upped Voorhees 58-12 in a tri match held at the PAL. The Tigers only lost three matches on the day and looked strong. Anthony (Firecracker) Ashnault 50 won 2 matches on the day.

Tyler Hunt 53 was 2-0. Jeffrey Conroy 57 was 1-1 and Randy

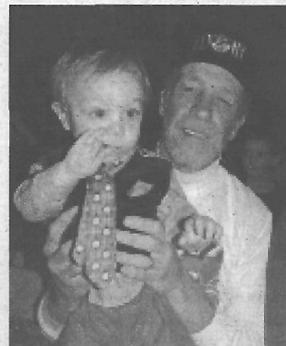
Jakubik 60 was 2-0. Ryan Sacco 63 was 2-0 and Nick Heilmann 67 was 2-0. Corey Hay 70 was 2-0, Nick Vetuschi 73 was 2-0, Patrick Hunter 77 was 2-0 and Tim Gaughan 80 was 1-1.

At 85 Mike Wagner went 2-0, Jake Smithline 90 was 1-1, Brad Martin 95 was 2-0, Mark Wagner 102 was

2-0, while Danny Pompilio 110 and Rocco Petriello heavyweight both went 2-0.

There's a lot going on...

... In South Plainfield!



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OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA CHURCH
Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24 • 5:30 p.m.	Children's Mass with Santa
Dec. 24 • 10:30 a.m.	Caroling with OLC Choir
Dec. 24 • 11 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass
Dec. 25 • 8 a.m.	Mass of the Shepherds
Dec. 25 • 11 a.m.	Mass of Christmas Day
Dec. 26, 27, 28 & 29	Mass at 9:00 a.m.
Dec. 29 • 5:30 p.m.	Feast of Holy Family
Dec. 30 • 8 a.m. & 11 a.m.	Feast of Holy Family
Dec. 31 • 9 a.m.	7th Day in Octave of Christmas
Dec. 31 • 5:30 p.m.	Vigil Mass-Solemnity of Mary -New Year's Eve
Jan. 1 • 10 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Day

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

Obituaries

Hannelore (Honey) Mihalik, 73

Hannelore (Honey) Mihalik of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Dec. 16, at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Kaiserslautern, Germany and came to the U.S. in 1959 settling in Union before moving to South Plainfield 29 years ago.

Mrs. Mihalik worked in the housekeeping department at Sacred Heart Church and Sacred Heart School for 20 years before retiring in 1998. Honey also loved her bingo; she was a worker at the Sacred Heart Bingo for many, many years.

She was predeceased by her husband, George S. Mihalik, who died in 1996.

She is survived by a son, Stephen G. Mihalik of Morganville; a daughter, Susanne E. Fierro of South Plainfield; a brother and sister, Hans and Geisla Buck of Germany and seven grandsons and two granddaughters.

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

Eileen (Whitehead) Zmuda, 75

Eileen (Whitehead) Zmuda of Piscataway died on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

She was born in Acushnet, Mass. and was a former resident of Plainfield before moving to Piscataway 47 years ago.

Mrs. Zmuda was a former telephone operator for Bell Telephone in Plainfield.

Eileen was a volunteer for Fish Hospitality in Piscataway and was a member of the Marriott Health Club in Somerset. She was an avid swimmer and loved bowling. She bowled in various women's leagues through-

out the area. Her favorite pastime was going to garage sales as well as having them. Most of all, she loved her family and being a devoted wife and mother.

She is survived by her husband, Leo Zmuda Sr.; a son, Leo Zmuda Jr. of Piscataway; a daughter, Elaine and her husband, Gary Ciba of Easton, Pa.; a sister, Doris McLarnon of Piscataway; a brother, Earl Whitehead of Berkeley Twp. and grandchildren Stephanie and Valerie Ciba.

Funeral arrangements were made by the James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Inger "Lise" (Soderstrom) Hasara, 48

Inger "Lise" (Soderstrom) Hasara died on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at Medical University of South Carolina.

Born in Newark, Lise had resided in Edison for most of her life before moving to South Carolina six years ago.

She was employed as the operator and hairdresser of the former Ketty's Beauty Salon in Edison.

Mrs. Hasara is predeceased by her mother, Ketty Benedickson, who died earlier this year.

She is survived by a son, Eric and his wife Donna; her father, Joseph Soderstrom; a sister, Marianne Jones; a brother, Eugene Soderstrom; her step-father, Henry Benedickson; three step-sisters, Lynn Benedickson, Lori Coyle and Susan Nieroda and two step-brothers, Rod and Scott Benedickson.

Also surviving are her two grandchildren, Ariel and Kyle.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Consideration

It is far easier for the family if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit organization. 908.756.1729

Hillside Cemetery
www.hillsidecemetery.com



Commerce Bank, located on Plainfield Ave., held their grand opening ceremonies last Saturday. The ribbon which they cut was made of real 10s, 20s, 50s, and 100 dollar bills. Helping Mayor Dan Gallagher cut the ribbon were State Assemblyman-elect Pat Diegnan, Commerce Bank Manager Eric Radell, Council members Bob Cusick, Jim Vokral, Darlene Pinto, Ed Kubula (Santa), Councilman-elect Charlie Butrico, Police Chief Robert Merkler, Rescue Squad Captain Ron Sward and Fire Department member Ed Laferrera. See next week's Observer for more pictures of the celebration.

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MICHELOB OR MICHELOB LIGHT 12 OZ NR BTLS 13.99	PILSNER URQUELL 12 OZ NR BTLS 2/12 PAK CASE 19.99

THIS WEEK'S SPIRITS & CORDIAL SPECIALS

ADMIRAL NELSON COCONUT RUM 750 ML 8.99	MARIE BRIZARD ANISETTE 750 ML 16.99
E&J CASK & CREAM 750 ML 9.99	SMIRNOFF 80 VODKA 1.75 LITER 17.99
SEAGRAMS SEVEN 1.75 LITER 14.99	CAPTAIN MORGAN SPICED RUM 1.75 LITER 20.99
INVER HOUSE SCOTCH 1.75 LITER \$3 MFG REBATE 14.99	FINLANDIA VODKA 1.75 LITER 22.99
GORDON'S GIN 1.75 LITER 14.99	HENNESSEY VS COGNAC 750 ML 22.99
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE GIN 750 ML 16.99	GLENFIDDICH SINGLE MALT SCOTCH 750 ML 26.99
JOSE CUERVO GOLD 750 ML 16.99	DEWAR'S SCOTCH 1.75 LITER 31.99

THIS WEEK'S WINE SPECIALS

WILD VINES ALL TYPES 1.5 LITER 5.99	PETER VELLA CHAB. WH. GREN. BURG. RHINE. DEL. RED. 5 LITER BOX 8.99
M&R SWEET OR DRY VERMOUTH 1 LITER 5.99	GEORGES DUBOUEF MERLOT OR CHARD 1.5 LITER 8.99
ARBOR VALLEY MERLOT OR CHARD 1.5 LITER 5.99	M&R ASTI 750 ML 8.99
FOXHORN CAB SAUV. CHARD. MERLOT 1.5 LITER 5.99	HARVEY'S BRISTOL CREAM 750 ML 8.99
CALINA CHARDONNAY 750 ML 5.99	GLEN ELLEN MERLOT 1.5 LITER 9.99
ARBOR VALLEY CHAB. BURG. ROSE 4 LITER 6.99	KENDALL-JACKSON VR CHARDONNAY 750 ML 9.99
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FOLONARI SOAVE OR VALPO 1.5 LITER 7.99	MOET WHITE STAR CHAMPAGNE 750 ML 24.99
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AMARETTO DI SARONNO \$16.99 750 ML

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MILLER LITE OR GENUINE DRAFT \$13.99 12 OZ NR BTLS 2/12 PAK CASE

BECK'S, BECK'S DARK OR BECK'S LIGHT \$19.99 12 OZ NR BTLS 2/12 PAK CASE

SUTTER HOME WHITE ZIN \$3.99 750 ML

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Police Dept. Accepting Applications for Police Exam

The South Plainfield Police Department is accepting applications for the examination for the position of police officer. The application is published by and must be returned to the N.J. Department of Personnel. Specific instructions regarding application fees, eligibility requirements and veterans preference are delineated in the application.

The announcement and application is also available on the Internet at www.state.nj.us/personnel. Applications may be obtained any time of the day at the South Plainfield Police Department communications center. The filing deadline is Feb. 15,

2002. Candidates must be a resident of South Plainfield as of the closing date for filing the application and must maintain residency up to and including the date of appointment. Other requirements are listed on the application. The starting salary is \$37,265.

A summary of benefits are posted at the police station. A brief summary of duties & responsibilities is also available at the police station.

Any questions, please contact Sgt. Chuck Siedenburg at (908) 226-7674.

The Borough of So. Plafd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PD Accepting Applications For Communication Operators

The South Plainfield Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of full- and part-time Communications Operator. The requirements for this position are:

- 18 years of age or older.
- Graduation from high school or possession of an approved high school equivalent certification.
- A citizen of the United States.
- Applicants that have completed the Basic Telecommunica-

tions, Emergency Medical Dispatch and CPR courses will be given a preference.

- Be able to accurately type a minimum of 30 words a minute.
- The ability to work weekends, holidays and a minimum of 40 hours a month filling in for full-time personnel.

If you are interested in applying, submit a resume to Lt. Michael Grennier or call (908) 226-7673.

policereport

• On Dec. 12, a Demerest Pl. resident reported the theft of a tile saw, concrete drill, two electric drills, circular saw and zawsaw from the cellar of his residence.

• On Dec. 13, Dr. Douglas Klein on Maple Ave. reported the theft of two insurance checks from his mailbox. The checks had been deposited in Tel-Aviv. Another doctor in the same office complex has had a similar problem.

• An Elizabeth resident reported that he had brought his cell phone into Radio Shack for service and handed the phone to the employee who left the phone on the counter. When he returned the phone was gone.

• On Saturday, a Palmer Ave. resi-

dent reported the theft of her cell phone from her unlocked vehicle in her driveway.

• On Sunday, a Madison Dr. resident reported that his rear garage door was ajar and his shed door was open. The neighbor's shed and gate were also ajar.

• Off-Duty Police Officer John McConville has officially been charged with DWI pursuant to the N.J.S.A. 39:4-50. On Nov. 1 at 12:47 a.m., he was involved in a single car crash on Plainfield Ave. while off-duty. He and his occupant suffered only minor injuries. A court date has not yet been scheduled. Officer McConville remains on active duty at this time.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Robert and Sandra Mammone requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 28'3" x 30'8" second story addition, proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback, 29' being proposed and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 172, Lot 27 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on January 15, 2002 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T December 21, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
December 12

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 11, 2001.

A. Case #00-12—Lordina, Inc.—Block 362; Lot 2; Green Place, Spicer & Delmore Ave.—Applicant's request for an amended final subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #011-03/V—Dan & Christina Pasola—Block 420; Lots 6 & 7; R-10 Zone; 133 Lexington Ave.—Applicant's request for preliminary and final two lot subdivision is hereby GRANTED.

C. Case #01-01—Cesar Moreira—Block 379; Lot 6; R-10 Zone; Spicer Ave.—Applicant's request for preliminary and final two lot subdivision is hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Mucilli
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$28.00 December 21, 2001

Log on to the
Borough of South Plainfield's
official web site at
southplainfieldnj.com

Visit your community web site for the latest local news on

- Mayor and Council
- Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Agendas
- Police - Fire - Rescue Squad
- Recreation, Youth Activities
- Senior Corner, Professional & Business Directory
- Community Bulletin Board, Civic Organizations
- Election Results, and more

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Classifieds

Rates -- 3 line minimum-\$11, \$1 ea. additional line.

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MANAGER-DEPOT—We are seeking a mgr. for our So. Plafd. container depot. Experience in depot operation required. Must have 2 yrs. exp. Send resume to: Office Mgr., PO Box 561, Moorestown, NJ 08057.

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Deadline For Classified Ad Submissions is Monday, 5 P.M. Call 908-668-0010.

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Color Photos Still Available—Limited Time Only

Color photos taken by *Observer* photographer Patricia Abbott are available for sale, including many photos not published. Photos from the following events will be permanently deleted as of Dec. 31. If interested in a photo call Pattie at 756-8011 or email angelonly@aol.com.

To be deleted—all graduations/promotions 2000 & 2001; Father/Daughter dances/ Riley & Kennedy 2000 & 2001; Mother/Son Dance Kennedy 2001; Project Graduation Auction 2000 & 2001; Story Teller at Riley; Roosevelt School plays; Dragon Heart (1999); Rerun Run Around (2000); Pirates & the Princess (2001); VFW picnic 2000 & 2001; Fire Dept Open House 2000; Riley Chili Fest; Sphs Homecoming 2000; Franklin Block Party 2000 & 2001; Franklin Beach Party 2000 & 2001; ALL grade school DARE promotions; DARE Picnic; 8th Grade Dinner Dance 2001; Library Mr. Kurt, Mr. Tim; SPHS Band Fest 2000; Kennedy Carnival; 2001 Jr. Prom; 2000 Senior Prom; Sacred Heart Fair 2000 & 2001; OLC Feast of St Anthony 2000 & 2001; Bike Rodeo 2001; Grant 6th play *School House Rock* and all school concerts/chorus/band 2001 school year and (some from 2000).

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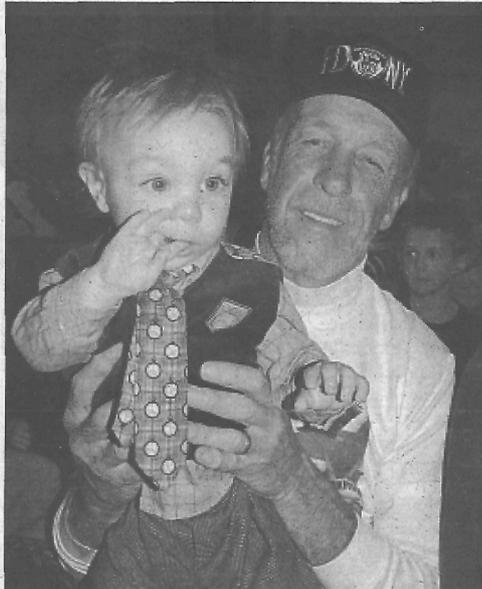
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Members of the Competition Cheerleading Team, were at Sherbans Diner a few weeks ago fundraising. Ann Nagy was also at the diner and quickly pulled out her camera and took a picture. She is a regular reader of the *Observer* and submitted the picture for publication. The cheerleaders are Steve Porcelli, Marissa Jedd, and Sal Corano in the back making sure no one gets hurt. We want to thank Ann Nagy for thinking of us. We welcome photos of all South Plainfield activities.



Creative Kids Celebrate the Season with Holiday Show

Creative Kids Academy held their 2001 Holiday Show. The following children participated:

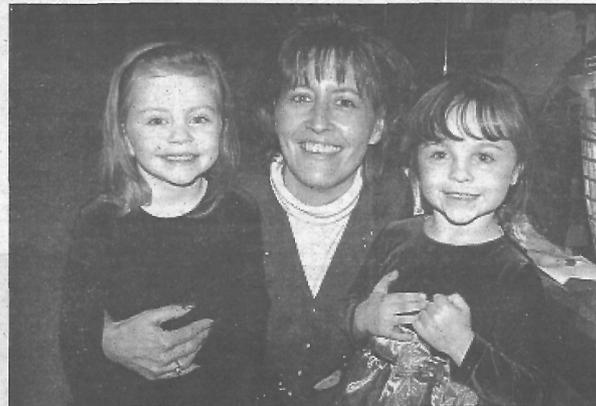
Two/three-year-olds were Dayna Bucey, Jack Cochrane, Anandah Gomez, Jake Hoffman, Chris Jeffreys, Andrew Kensey, McKenzie Larsen, Benjamin Lundy, Morgan Merkle, Anthony Montouri, Taylor Niedzielski, Victoria Nunez, Alexis Smyth, Taylor Strano and Nicholas Torchia.

Three/four-year-olds were Beth Aucello, James Barna, Devon Bucey, Alyssa Chirumbolo, Courtney Duffy, Taylor Euston, Daniel Furey, Jack Gillis, Nicole Goitandia, Kristen Koep, Nikit Nainwal, George Pittenger, Anabelle Rodriguez, TJ Scott and Ani Iyengar.

Pre-kindergartners were David Ardizzone, Gina Aucello, Sara Bichler, Ian Brewer, Frank Butrico, Mark Bu-

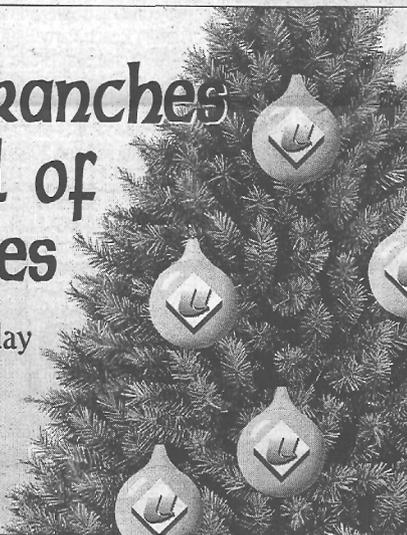
trico, Michaela Butrico, Nicole Bythell, Valerie Cecchetini, Ben Cochrane, Jessica Dandola, Jill Dave, Lauren Dicellis, Christopher Graves, Jordan Handwerker, Amanda Larson, Cheyenne Locklear, Taylor Maistickle, Kayla Massaro, Alyssa Maurath, Danielle Maurath, Steven Merrill, Matthew O'Brien, Dakota Pauls, Christopher Prasek, Robby Puckett, Melanie Rajpal, LJ Scarpitto, Katie Simmonds, Nicolas Sullivan, Matthew Vargas, Tyler Van Blarcom, Sarah Walsh and DaQuan Williams.

Kindergartners were Nina Bavosa, Joseph Bermudez, Kayla Bridges, Anthony Chirumbolo, Natalie Fontana, Brandon Graham, Jonathan Grennier, Shanequa Johnson, Tucker Merkle, David Neidzielski, Corey Neiper, Allyson Piersanti, and Inan Sikel.



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- Free mystery ornaments
...while supplies last



Just when you need us most... we'll be there.

Our extended holiday schedule:

- Saturday, Dec. 22nd3 PM
- *Sunday, Dec. 23rd.....3 PM
- Monday, Christmas Eve3 PM

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** No purchase necessary. You must be 18 or older. One per family.

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President

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