

South Plainfield Observer



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VOL. 5, NO. 23

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 8, 2002

Beware of Phony Phone Solicitations

After receiving several phone calls soliciting donations for our local police and fire departments Councilman Ed Kubala got irritated. When he started asking questions about who they were representing, he got the run-around from the caller. One caller said he represented the FOP, but could not provide any information about the organization other than its name, The Federation of Police.

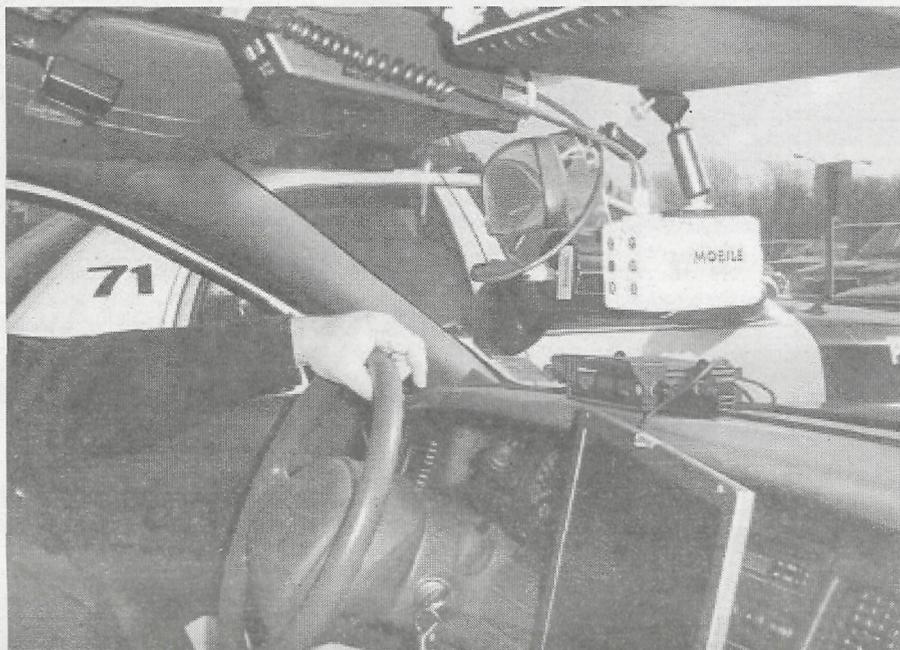
Kubala said that seniors should be aware of the scam as the calls seemed to be aimed at them.

Police Chief Bob Merkle said that the police and fire departments do not solicit by phone, only by mail. He added that the initials FOP stand for "Fraternal Order of Police," and that organization does not solicit by phone.

"It is totally reprehensible to take advantage of seniors, whether it be for \$1 or \$100," said Councilman Kubala.

Chief Merkle said that anyone who receives a call asking for a donation should tell the caller they want to check them out with our police department or the charity they say they represent. Most likely the caller will hang up rather than answer any questions.

The best advice to follow is, if you want to contribute to the police, fire department or rescue squad, do so directly.



South Plainfield Police Department patrol cars are now equipped with video cameras. Police officers view the new technology as a welcome addition.

Enron's Woes Felt By High School Athletic Boosters

The members of the High School Athletic Booster Club have become part of the Enron bankruptcy story. One of their fundraisers is collecting old newspapers and selling them to recyclers. In fact, they have a truck parked at the recycling center for residents to deposit their old papers.

According to Marge Reedy, a member of the Athletic Boosters, the group had an arrangement with Garden State Paper to pick up the newspapers in their containers. When Reedy was processing the last payment received from Garden State, which was dated Nov. 2, she noticed the name on the check said "Enron"!

Reedy decided to call Garden State to find out why they haven't received any more payments since November.

Continued on page 16

Patrol Cars Get Latest Video Technology

by Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Police Department has just finished installing video cameras in their patrol cars.

The recording device fits in the palm of your hand and is attached to the windshield next to the rear view mirror. Next to it is a monitor which views the images in front of it and records the date and time.

Officers also have portable microphones attached to their lapel which record conversations between the of-

ficer, the dispatcher and a suspect. There is also a second microphone located in the back of the patrol car. Since unauthorized conversations recorded in a patrol car without an officer present is not admissible in court, it may be necessary to place some kind of written warning in that area.

The little hand-held recording device can also be detached and taken into a crime scene or where it may come in handy to get a video record of an incident.

The actual video tape is located in

a locked fireproof metal storage box in the trunk of the car and has an eight hour record time. Two tapes a month will be randomly pulled for training purposes.

Videotapes will also aide officers in court when witnesses' statements or actions are in dispute. Police officers say they are not worried at all about being videotaped and feel it will an asset. They add that it is part of their job to be courteous.

According to Lt. Michael Grennier, the cost of the equipment was

\$3,000 per car. The cameras were installed in 11 vehicles and will be installed in three new vehicles on order. This state-of-the-art technology is courtesy of a \$5,000 grant. The balance comes from police forfeiture money. The equipment was installed by Lt. Grennier and he will be responsible for reviewing all the tapes.

Thanks in part to the hard work of our police detectives and the criminals themselves, South Plainfield now has a new "partner" in fighting crime.

D.A.R.E.



Five elementary schools hold D.A.R.E. graduation ceremonies. See pages 10 through 15 for coverage of each school.

Jaskulski Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Patricia Abbott

The year is 1902. There are only 45 states in the union; Teddy Roosevelt is president of the United States and World War I hasn't yet begun.

On Feb. 2, 1902 South Plainfield resident Mary Julia (Novak) Jaskulski was born in Dickson City, Pennsylvania. Sixteen presidents and six wars later, Mary is still going strong.

On Feb. 2, 2002 (02-02-02), Mary Julia Jaskulski celebrated her 100th birthday with her family. After a Mass at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, she attended a party in her honor. The party was held at her daughter, Irene Butrico's home, where Mary now lives.

Five of her seven children were in attendance: Irene Butrico, Anthony Jaskulski of Maryland, Florence Zamber, Mary Zajac and Theresa Bielinski, all of South Plainfield. Unable to attend were John Jasley of Washington State and Sally Henkel of North Brunswick. Thirteen of her twenty-two grandchildren and seventeen of forty-seven great grandchild-



Mary Jaskulski, who celebrated her 100th birthday, is pictured with her oldest grandchild, JR Herrin, 22; and youngest great-grandchild, Christian Butrico, age 2. She has physically slowed down.

Mary says her greatest joy in living 100 years is being with her family and watching them grow. The worst part of living to 100 is that

she has physically slowed down. Mary said, "I can't do everything I want to. I need help, which I get from my daughter Irene and her husband."

It's mind-boggling to realize that this woman has lived through so

Continued on page 6

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, 7 p.m. (New Time) • Questions? 908-226-7605

AGENDA MEETING PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, Feb. 19 Thursday, Feb. 21
Monday, March 4 Thursday, March 7
Monday, March 18 Thursday, March 21

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

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Feb. 12, Feb. 26, March 12, March 26, Apr. 8, Apr. 23, May 14, May 28, June 1, June 25

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first, third and fifth Tuesday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Feb. 19, March 5, March 19

taxpayers advisory group

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

site placement committee

The fourth Thursday of the month as follows:
Feb. 21, March 21

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
March 5, Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 12 and Dec. 3

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-561-8280
Feb. 13, March 13, Apr. 10, and May 8

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays, Feb. 12, March 12 and Apr. 2 at 7 p.m.
Regular Board Mtg., held on Tuesdays, Feb. 19, March 19 and Apr. 9 at 8 p.m.
Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities Committee, Wednesday, Feb. 6, March 6 and March 27

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

Traffic safety advisory commission

Meetings, held at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall
Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24,
(Aug. no meeting), Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27 and Dec. 18

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 at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us on our web page at sposobserver.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 sposobserver.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 their name be omitted when published.

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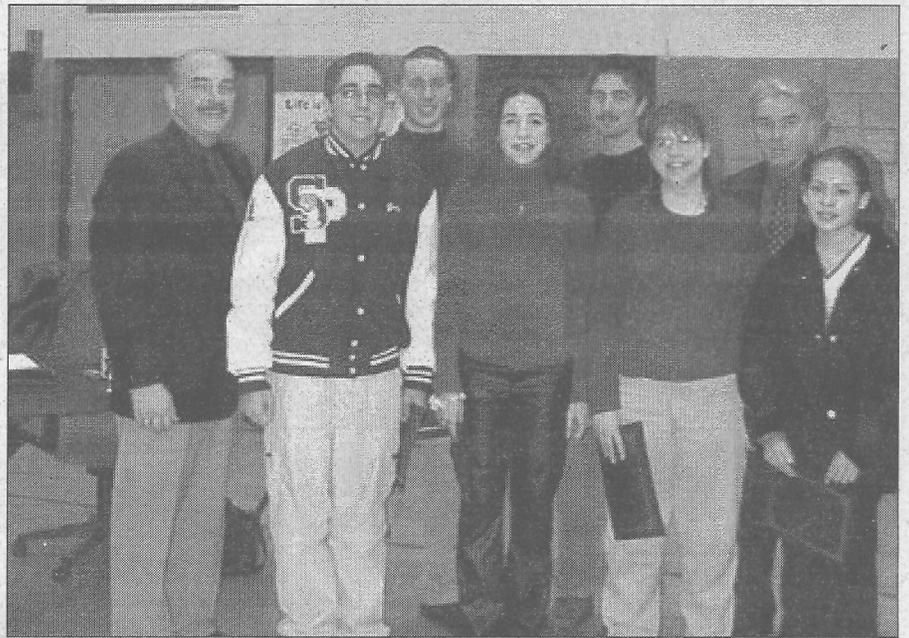
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Pictured are Assistant Principal Dr. Ken May, Joe Sierzega, Matthew Peloquin, Rula Kanj, Jeffrey McKnight, Sally Serago, Violet Huynh and Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Krewer.

Twelve SPHS Students Honored With the Bloustein Scholar Award

By Jenevieve DeLosSantos

At the last Board of Education meeting twelve of South Plainfield High School's finest were awarded with the prestigious Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Award. This scholarship is awarded annually to those students who rank in the top 10% of their class and have a combined SAT score of 1260, or ranked as either first, second, or third in their class at the end of their junior year. This year the seniors honored with this prestigious award include: Cassie Bosse, Joseph Dezmni, Violet Huynh, Rula Kanj, Elliot Kaplan, Jeffrey McKnight, Michelle Oppelt, Matthew Peloquin, Martin Seiz, Sally Serago, Joseph Sierzega, and Thomas Sniscak. Each of these distinguished scholars will be awarded

\$1,000 annually regardless of their financial need, provided they attend a New Jersey college or university. Assistant Principal Dr. Kenneth May, who presented the scholars to the board members, described the accomplishments of all the scholars with short bio's. Not only are the twelve honorees academically gifted, but their talents and contributions to South Plainfield High School range

from athletics to chorus to artwork and National Honor Society. Most of the scholars held leadership positions in one or more activities while being enrolled in some of the most challenging advanced placement courses at SPHS. Congratulations to all the honorees. Your hard work and determination is admirable and deserving of such an honor.

Old Photographs Still Needed for South Plainfield Historical Book

The South Plainfield Historical Society is asking residents to submit old photographs of South Plainfield and its residents for inclusion in Arcadia Press' book series called "Images of America."

The publication of a book on the Borough would be a first. Images of South Plainfield have been included in other publications, but our town has never been a subject of a book.

The book editor is Richard P. Veit, Jr., an assistant professor of anthropology at Monmouth University, and Director of the Center for New Jersey History. He grew up in South Plainfield, graduated from SPHS, and attended Drew University, gradu-

ating *summa cum laude*. Dr. Veit obtained his doctorate in anthropology from Penn State. He also directs Monmouth University's summer archaeological field school. Photos accepted for publication will be considered on loan, and will be returned. However, the South Plainfield Historical Society will gladly accept donations, or reprints of photos for their files for use in future publications. There are several in the works. Written information (date of photo, place or address of site, names of those in photo) should be included with each submission. Contact Dorothy Miele at (908) 754-3073.

SEND YOUR LETTERS/ OPINIONS TO:

The South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080
fax: 908-668-8819 or email: ggnan@aol.com

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Free Tax Prep For Seniors

All South Plainfield seniors interested in having their tax forms prepared for mailing by Apr. 15 should come to the PAL Building on Maple Ave. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, starting Feb. 14.

Bring all pertinent information to complete the forms, i.e. a copy of last year's returns, all forms of income (such as 1099s, CDs, bank interest, stock dividends, capital gains or losses), a copy of last year's property tax bill or the green post card giving the total real estate taxes paid in 2001.

Assistance and information will be

available for help with other senior benefit forms such as PAAD, PTR, Lifeline, Homestead Rebate, NJ Savers, and Property Tax Deduction/Credit.

Environmental Commission Looking For New Members

Anyone who would like to become a member of the Environmental Commission is asked to contact Councilman Jim Vokral at Borough Hall. The group meets once a month on the second Wednesday.

Here's The *Scop* Valentines Day Special!!

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Attending the grand opening celebration at Hometown Heros, along with owners Charlie and Debbie Kurland (center), are Police Chief Bob Merkler, Councilman Ray Petronko, Charlie Butrico, Mayor Dan Gallagher and Fire Chief Larry DelNegro.

Hometown Heros Grand Opening Was a Huge Success

Last Saturday the newest business in town held grand opening ceremonies. Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd., at the bottom of the overpass, was filled with well wishers and friends.

Those attending included Mayor Dan Gallagher, Councilmen Jim Vokral, Ray Petronko and Charlie Butrico; Police Chief Bob Merkler, Fire Chief Larry DelNegro, Borough Clerk Vinnie Butiglieri and Freeholder Peter Dalina.

Charlie and Debbie Kurland, owners of Hometown Heros, were delighted with the turnout and with the amount of orders they received for the Super Bowl. They said they

made a lot of new friends.

Each month Hometown Heros will feature three heroes on their "Wall of Hometown Heros," a worker, a student and a volunteer. Each "hero" wins a complimentary catered luncheon for six.

This month's Hometown Heros are: Nancy Grennier, publisher of the *South Plainfield Observer*; student Danny DeFalco and volunteer Jack Reid.

The Kurlands would like input from all residents on who should be the next 'Hero of the Month.' They encourage residents to stop by the store and give them some suggestions and the reason why you are recommending your "hero."

Recycling Center Closed Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be on a holiday schedule because of Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day.

Regular hours at Recycling are: Tuesdays 12 noon to 7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The holiday schedule is:

Closed on Friday, Feb. 15 and on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Open on Thursday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Satur-

day, Feb. 16, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, 12 noon to 7 p.m.

The Yard Waste Site, at the end of Kenneth Ave., is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will not be affected by the holiday.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint on Saturday, Feb. 16.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline: (908) 226-7620.

Free Job Search and Resume Course at SP Library

The South Plainfield Free Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield has planned the following program schedule for February 2002. Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m., Job Searching 101, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Job Searching on the Internet, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Resumes and Cover Letters for Be-

ginners, Feb. 27 at 10: 15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Interviewing 101.

All programs are free, space is limited and reservations are required. For more information please call the library's Reference Desk at (908) 754-7885 or visit their website www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Bagel Stop Opens Under New Owner

Dale Finn, the new owner of the Bagel Stop, located on South Plainfield Ave., decided she needed a change. She left the real estate business and opened up a bagel store. Because she has been a resident of South Plainfield for 16 years, she felt the location at 23 South Plainfield Ave. would be perfect.

Dale lives with her son Matthew, who is a sophomore at SPHS and has three grown step-children.

The Bagel Stop specializes in take-out breakfast sandwiches and will be open daily at 6 a.m.

So stop in for a bagel and a cappuccino. You can call the Bagel stop at (908) 753-4334.

Midco South Plainfield Adopts Metuchen Rd.

Midco Residential Services, located at 11 Harmich Rd., has joined the South Plainfield Clean Business Association. Mr. Joe Vitulli, the general manager, signed an Adopt-A-Spot agreement to pick up litter on Harmich Road and the stretch of Metuchen Road from Harmich to Belmont Avenue. Two or three employees will go out once a week to clean both sides of the road. Midco acknowledges that cardboard and other materials sometimes fall from their trucks, contributing to the litter that accumulates along this heavily traveled route.

This waste transfer and material recovery facility originally was Statewide Environmental Contractors. Statewide pioneered using conveyer belts and hand sorting to remove recyclable materials from solid waste. The facility expanded and added advanced automated recycling equipment. Statewide merged with many local haulers, and then was acquired by a regional hauler, Midco, Republic Services, in line with a nationwide trend during the 1990's of mergers that produced some very large solid waste companies, subsequently acquired Midco. However, Midco Residential - South Plainfield retains its old ties to the community. Mr. Vitulli said they are happy to join the CBA and will dispose of all the litter they collect themselves. They will also dispose of litter collected by any other Adopt-A-Spot participant free of charge.

"Our Borough should be proud that even though the State legislature did not reauthorize the NJ Clean Communities Program, we have enough volunteer support to keep our local programs going," said Alice Temple.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Music Students Loan Program

The music students loan program began in 1981! Although there is no formal curriculum for this wonderful free opportunity, it is once again open to all music students in Central New Jersey (grades K-12)!

Due to the high cost of certain items, Mr. Sturm, Middle School music school teacher, has worked very diligently to either purchase or acquire music books, records, cassette tapes, compact discs, musical scores, encyclopedias, posters, etc. All these items are once again available-just stop by and sign things out!!!

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Jennifer Otlowski Receives BS

Jennifer R. Otlowski received a BS in Biology from The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on Jan.

25. Jennifer is the daughter of Wayne and Joanne Otlowski of South Plainfield.

Richard and Dolly Curcio Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Richard and Dolly Curcio celebrate 50 years of marriage.

Richard and Dolly Curcio celebrated their 50th anniversary last Saturday.

Rich and Dolly were both born and raised in Jersey City. They were married in All Saints Church in Jersey City on Feb. 2, 1952.

The Curcios moved to South Plainfield about 38 years ago, raised five children and became active in all aspects of their children's activities, especially sports. Both Rich and Dolly were active members for many years of Pop Warner Football, Little League Baseball and wrestling. Rich was also a member of the Recreation Commission.

The Curcios have five children, all married. They are: Jim and wife Jane, Rich and wife Cheryl, Garry and wife Patty, Dawn and husband Jerry Seaser



The Curcios on their wedding day.

and Tammy and husband Jim Nicastro. They have 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The celebration took place at a surprise party held at Carpaccio's with over 100 people in attendance.



Happy 50th Birthday, John Celentano!

With love from someone who will always be younger than you!!!



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As of February 2002, the "Arts & Crafts" lessons will be expanded to accommodate CHILDREN & ADULTS. For more information please call or visit us.

Craft Birthday Parties available as of February.

We accept all major credit cards and personal checks (w/ID)

Around Town

Spaghetti Dinner at Roosevelt School

February 8

The Roosevelt School PTA is sponsoring their first annual Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, Feb. 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Guests will be served at their table by students and volunteers. The cost for adults is \$6, seniors \$5 and children \$4.

Evening of Music at Wesley Methodist

February 9

The Wesley United Methodist Church, located on Plainfield Ave., will be presenting an evening of fellowship and music on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. Featured will be the Praise Band Reconstruction.

Everyone is invited to come in from the cold and warm up their soul with songs of praise to God! Enjoy the fellowship and some refreshment.

For further information call 908-757-2838.

PAL Sponsoring Three Ski Trips

February 10, February 24, March 3

The South Plainfield Recreation Dept. is sponsoring three ski trips on Feb. 10 and March 3 to Montage and Feb. 24 to Camelback.

Prices for Montage will be bus and lift \$50, bus, lift and ski rental \$65 or bus, lift and snowboard \$85. The prices for Camelback will be announced shortly.

If you are interested please contact the PAL at (908) 226-7714.

Historical Society Plans Meeting

February 12

The South Plainfield Historical society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the SPHS library. Residents can bring in their old photos. All are welcome.

Blood Pressure Screening

February 12

The Middlesex County Health Department will be at the PAL building on Feb. 12 to conduct a blood

pressure program.

They will be at the PAL, 10 to 12 noon taking resident's blood pressure.

Guest Speaker for AARP Chapter 4144

February 15

AARP Chapter 4144 of South Plainfield will meet on Feb. 15, (3rd Friday) at 12:30 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Ave. in South Plainfield.

Norman Weiss, Investment Executive will be the speaker. The topic will be "Learn how to maintain the tax deferred status of your IRA over your life and that of your children and grandchildren." His speech will not only be interesting but informative, also. All are welcome.

VFW Planning Roast Pork Dinner

February 15

The VFW Post 6763, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a roast pork dinner on Friday, Feb. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. The donation is \$7 for adults. A children's menu is available.

For more information, call (908) 668-9571 after 3 p.m. daily and after 12 noon on weekends.

Pancake Breakfast at American Legion

February 17

The South Plainfield American Legion on Oak Tree Rd. will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 17 from 8 a.m. until noon. \$5 adults, \$3 kids under 12, free under 6.

Blood Drive at Wesley Methodist

February 23

The South Plainfield Girl Scouts will be holding a blood drive at Wesley United Methodist Church located at 1500 Plainfield Ave. on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call (908) 753-7918 or (732) 220-7037.

St. Stephens Spaghetti Dinner

February 23

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave. is holding an "All You Can Eat" spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Beverage and dessert are included at \$5 per person and children under 12 are free. No reservations are needed.

For more information call (908) 757-4474.

Open House at Plainfield Animal Hospital For Pet Dental Health Month

February 24

The Plainfield Animal Hospital, located at 2001 Park Ave., will hold an open house on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 1:00 p.m. in celebration of Pet Dental Health Month. Tours of the hospital will be open to the public and their pets.

National Pet Dental Health Month is held to promote public awareness of the importance of dental care for pets in order to prevent dental problems, gum disease and the general health of your pets.

The festivities will include a tour of the hospital's dental facility, a free dental check, contests, door prizes, refreshments and much more.

Please join us for fun and an informative afternoon. For more information and directions call us at (908) 755-2428 or visit our website at www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com. If you plan to attend, please call to register by February 17, 2002.

Columbiettes Annual Easter Bunny Lunch

March 10

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold their annual lunch with the Easter Bunny on Sunday, March 10, at 12:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd.

There will be prizes for all ages and children seven years and under will receive an Easter basket filled with goodies from the Easter Bunny. A buffet lunch will be served.

The cost is \$10 per person and reservations must be made in advance by calling Geri at (908) 753-2032. The exact ages of all children must be given at the time of registration. Deadline is March 1.

PAL Sponsoring Trip to See Oklahoma!

(New Date!) March 28

The PAL of South Plainfield is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma!* on Broad-

way on Saturday, March 28. Bus leaves the PAL at 4 p.m. There will be plenty of time for dinner before the play. Orchestra ticket price is \$90 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the PAL, located Maple Ave., weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are only 45 tickets available so get yours soon.

Vision 2001 Presents Annual Art Auction

April 19

This year's annual Vision 2001 Education Foundation Art Auction will be held on Friday, April 19 at South Plainfield High School.

Admission is \$10 per person. \$5 will be returned as a gift certificate to be redeemed at the April 19 art auction only.

Preview time is 6:30 p.m. and the auction begins at 7:30 p.m. There will be hors d'oeuvres, coffee and cake and door prizes.

For tickets and information call (908) 561-3951.

Rec Offering Trip To Virginia Beach

September 8-12

South Plainfield Recreation, along with White Star Tours, is offering a trip to Virginia Beach, VA, featuring a ghost tour of Williamsburg. The trip will take place from Sept. 8-12.

Features include four nights accommodations at one of Virginia Beach's finest motels; a tour of the Norfolk Naval Base, Arthur Memorial in Norfolk, Waterside Complex, four breakfasts, four dinners, including Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise and evening entertainment.

The cost is only \$350 per person. Only one bus is available for this trip, no extra buses will be added, so make your reservations early.

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

SPHS Class of 1982 Plans Reunion

November 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1982 announced that plans underway for their 20 year reunion. The date has been set for Saturday, Nov. 9. If you have a new address or know of other classmates's whereabouts, please contact Rosanne Demico-Iardo at (732) 878-9877. Please log onto www.classmates.com for more reunion information.

— Out of Town —

Villagers Theater Announces Auditions

February 11 and 14

The Villagers Theater of Somerset has announced the auditions for *Closer*, by Patrick Marber. The play will be directed by Michael Driscoll.

Dates of the audition are Monday, Feb. 11 and Thursday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The director is looking for two females, in their 20's to 30's and two males in their 30's. There will be readings from the script. British accents are required. The show runs April 5 through 20.

For more information, call (732) 873-271.

Our Town at the Brook Arts Center

February 11 & 13

The Brook Arts Center, located at 10 Hamilton St. in Bound Brook, announced that they will be holding auditions for their upcoming production of *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder, directed by Randall McCann.

Auditions will be Monday, Feb. 11 and Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Callbacks will be held on Sunday, Feb. 17. All roles are open; none are pre-cast. The casting will be multicultural so actors of all ethnicities are encouraged to audition. Roles range in age from adolescents to seniors. Please be prepared with a short dramatic monologue.

If you do not have one prepared, one will be provided. Anyone wishing to audition who cannot make the posted dates should call the theater.

Performance dates are April 5 through 27, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m.

For further information or questions/directions, call the Brook Arts Center at (732) 469-7700, write to gerry@brookarts.org or visit their website, www.brookarts.org

"One Life to Love" at Jersey Central Theatre Co.

February 14

Jersey Central Theatre Company will present *One Life To Love*, an exclusive Valentine's Day benefit performance of A.R. Gurney's classic romantic play, "Love Letters," at 8 p.m. at the Historic Dunellen Theater.

The play will feature two of the stars of ABC-TV's "One Life To Live," James and Kassie DePaiva.

This performance of *Love Letters* will benefit the League for the Hard of Hearing, a charity dear to James and Kassie's heart. For nearly a century, this organization has been helping infants, children and adults improve their quality of life and overcome challenges presented by hearing loss. The theatre is searching for a sign interpreter wishing to donate their services for the event.

Jersey Central Theatre Company is currently in residence at the Historic Dunellen Theater at 458 North Ave. (Rt. 28), at the corner of Madison Ave. in downtown Dunellen. Tickets are \$25; there will be no discounts, refunds or exchanges.

To make reservations, or for info, call (732) 968-9010.

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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.

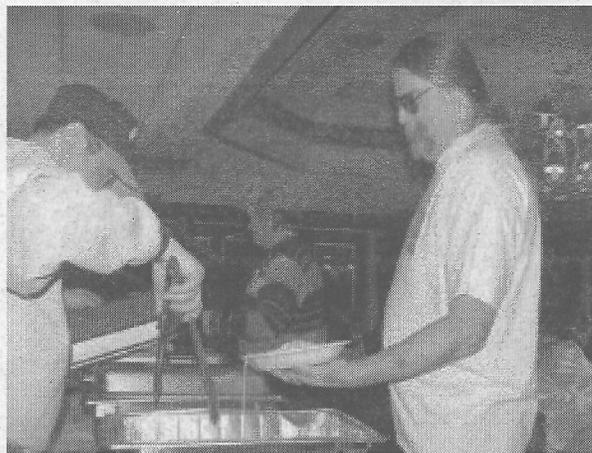
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Elks Lodge Becomes Italian For a Night

The South Plainfield Elks recently hosted a spaghetti dinner. The dinner was sponsored by the Past Exalted Ruler Association. About 100 people enjoyed an all-you-can-eat meal of salad, pasta, meatballs, sausage, Italian bread, desert, and beverages. All the cooking was done by Antonette Eckenstein. Another spaghetti dinner is scheduled for sometime in the spring.



From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Here's the latest news from South Plainfield Library:

The Library will be closed on Tuesday in observance of Lincoln's Birthday. However, the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will go on at 7:30 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend what promises to be an informative meeting.

Turning to our children's programs, there's this month's Kidcraft program today at 4 p.m. It's for children ages six and older; we ask that you pre-register for this program. Due to the closing on Tuesday, we'll only have two Storytime programs next week. They'll be held on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Each program is for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. The programs each last about an hour and feature stories and a craft activity. For more information, please check with Miss Linda at (908) 754-7885.

At this writing, there's still space available for our next class from the Job Information Center: "Job Searching on the Internet." It's scheduled for Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.; pre-registration is required. To sign up, or for more details, please call and ask for Allan.

We've got a special children's program coming soon. The Almost Famous Players will present the children's play "Dragon Heart", along with other children's stories, on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The program is for children of all ages;

you don't have to sign up in advance.

The new group of Circuit videos is now available. Titles this month include "Along Came a Spider," "Good Burger," "High Anxiety," "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," "The Thomas Crown Affair" and on DVD, "Analyze This." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks. We've also added some new selections from the Foreign Language Books Circuit. This group will be available for about three months and includes books in Spanish, Hindi, Gujarati and Vietnamese. They may be borrowed for two weeks.

Here's another Net-related advisory. In the past, we've advised against patrons borrowing our materials and then loaning them to someone else. This also goes for allowing others to use our Internet terminals with your barcode. The problem is one of responsibility. If someone is using your barcode, and there's a problem (the terminal is damaged, inappropriate websites are accessed, etc.), the loanee is not held responsible, but you, the loaner, are. If that extends to blocking your computer access, or even charging you for repairs to the system, so be it. (And, if it results in the loanee getting punched out for getting the loaner in trouble, again, so be it.) Thus, it's a lot better for everyone to use his or her own barcode. As always, we appreciate your cooperation.

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

Girls Scouts Teach 200 Daisies Science



By Patricia Abbott

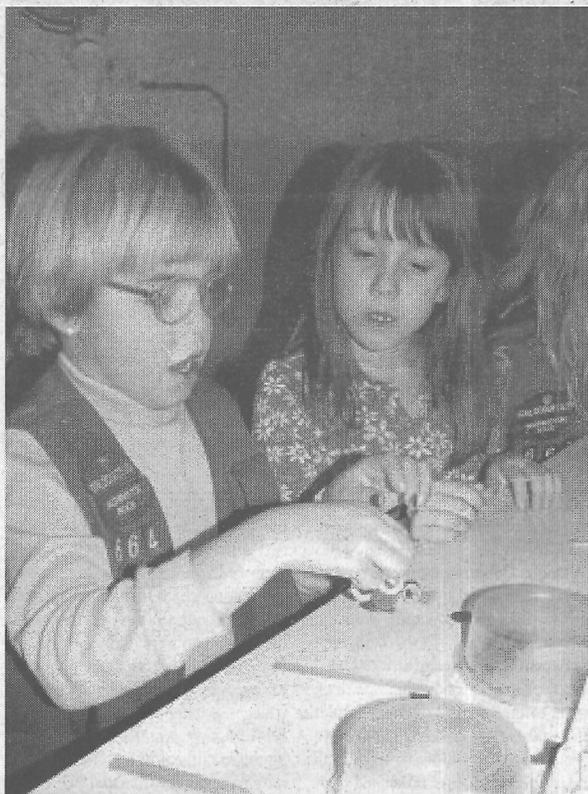
Junior Girl Scouts from Grant School Troops 463 and 431 demonstrated their leadership abilities while helping close to 200 Daisy and Brownie scouts earn "Science In Action" and "Let's Pretend" badges. Twenty troops of girls ranging in age from kindergarten to third grade participated in the 'Juniors Try It Workshop' held at Franklin School. To accommodate the large crowd there were two sessions, 9 to 11 a.m. and 12 to 2 p.m.

The workshop was organized by Junior Leaders Michele Billich of Troop 463 and Linda Kelly of Troop 431. Their goal was to find activities that did not require too many supplies and were simple enough for the five year olds. The \$2.50 fee per girl covered the supplies and the cost of the badges.

The Juniors spent one meeting acquainting themselves with the activities they would teach.

Two Junior scouts were assigned to each troop of younger girls. They rotated with their group to different stations throughout the room helping their young charges master the various badge related activities. The messier the activity the more fun the girls had. Science badge activities found the girls making "Weird Glop" with cornstarch, water and food coloring. They learned about chemicals that make up colors and experimented with magnets. The "Color and Light" station showed how combining primary colors creates new colors. For the "Let's Pretend" try-it badge they girls learned about mime, giggled their way through tongue twisters and experimented with costumes and accessories.

Troop 463 has been running the workshop for three years. It's the second year for Troop 431. The Junior troops will use their experience with the workshop towards a Leadership badge/pin bringing them one step closer to becoming Cadette level scouts.



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Parents and students get the low down on financial aid at a Guidance Department-sponsored workshop.

Parents Get Advice on Financial Aid for College

Seeking financial aid for college can be a confusing process; a quagmire of facts, forms and figures. The SPHS Guidance Department recently sponsored a financial aid workshop to guide students and parents through each step. The workshop, conducted by Benjamin Curtis, admissions counselor at Elmira College in New York State, offered a basic overview about financial aid. It covered the steps a family needs to follow to fill out all the appropriate forms. It detailed what they need to do once the award letter is sent from the colleges for which they applied. The presentation was designed by Curtis and a colleague. Curtis described it as "an attempt to clarify the sometimes overwhelming topic, as well as to attempt to put some humor into what can be an awfully dry topic at times."

Topics included filling the FAFSA-Free Application for Federal Student Aide, CSS Profile-College Scholarship Service, differences between scholarships, grants and loans, where to go for loans, financing, works-study programs, and how to recognize financial aid scams.

Curtis explained, "For the most part the financial aid forms for various schools are the same. All require the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) which is provided and administered by the federal government. Some schools also require the CSS Profile which is a paid service provided by the College Board, the

same group that provides and administers the SAT. Calling the Financial Aid office at the institutions where your student is applying is the best way to find out which forms are required.

Out-of-state schools operate exactly the same way. The same forms are filed. There is no difference in tuition for an out-of-state student at private colleges as opposed to State schools. I would always encourage a student interested in going to school out of state to apply for financial aid. Don't just give up because the college they are looking at is not in their home state. In fact, a full 55 percent of our students here at Elmira College are from outside the state of New York."

The presentation simplified this confusing information by asking the group to remember the word FACTS: Find out and fill out—FAFSA, CSS etc. is available—both institutional and private funds are available for students with differing Abilities/situations. Even higher income families may be eligible for assistance.

Communication is critical—ask questions. Keep information updated. Voice concerns.

Types of aid—Gift aid such as scholarships and grants. Loans; government or private. Need based.

Sources of aid—Federal such as Pell Grant, Perkins Loan or State aid.

A question and answer session concluded the evening. Povall, head of guidance department, noted 75 families attended the successful event.

Jaskulski Celebrates 100th Birthday

Continued from page 1

much—many of which most of us only know through history books. In her first presidential election, she voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt. He remains her favorite president to this day. She lived through countless inventions, things we take for granted such as tea bags, instant coffee and penicillin. In her youth there was no TV, no corn flakes and no atomic bomb. Most of our great leaders such as John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were not yet born.

Mary had two half brothers and four half sisters, all of whom are now deceased. She never knew her father, who was killed in a coal mine accident when she was a baby. Attending school and singing in the church choir were her passions as a youth. Her school days were brief. When she finished fourth grade, her mother sent her to work at the cotton mill, which was not uncommon in that era.

In 1918, the year World War I ended, 16-year-old Mary married her first and only love, Anthony Jaskulski. They lived in Erie, Pa. At age 28 Mary became so ill she was given last rites. She views advances in medicine as one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the past century. She said, "Without medicine, I would not be here today."

In 1931 Anthony moved Mary and their growing family to South Plainfield where her poor health began to improve. They raised seven children. Mary enjoyed working in her garden and cooking. She remembers South Plainfield in the early thirties as a quiet place with few houses and friendly people. She lived in the same house on Delmore Avenue for 66 years. Her husband passed away in 1993 at age 96; they had been married for 75 years. Mary lived there by herself until she was 95 and then moved in with daughter, Irene and her husband Charlie Butrico, parents of Councilman Charlie Butrico.

Her secret to longevity and a successful life is prayer and hard work. Mary explained, "I pray all the time. Through good times and bad I worked hard raising my children and I always tried to do the best for my family. But most of all I had a good husband."

Her days are still busy and prayer is still an important part. She sees her large family come and go all the time. She helps daughter Irene fold clothes and peel vegetables; she especially enjoys helping to make apple pies. She reads and watches Emeril Lagasse on TV. Grandson Bill Butrico enjoys her laugh and sense of humor. He and his wife Sue noted, "She loves when he happens to cook a polish food. She gets a kick out of it when he uses unexpected combinations of ingredients. We really enjoy being with her, she has a great sense of humor."

Bill and Sue and their children kept Mary company recently while Irene was out for the evening. Sue said, "Lately, she has taken up singing. My mother-in-law said she always sang, but now she likes to perform. When it was time for bed, she asked if she could sing for us. She sang a beautiful Polish religious song and asked if we would like to hear more. Then she stood and sang *God Bless America*. It was beautiful."

At night she watches Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune then goes to bed at 9 p.m. Mary sums up her years with simple words, "My life couldn't be better for 100 years old."

Councilman Charlie Butrico said, "I love my grandmother very much and we all feel very fortunate to have her here with us celebrating her 100th birthday. It is amazing to think that she is able to see 86 of her descendants be born and grow. Not many of us will ever come close to that. God has blessed my grandmother with a



Mary Julia (Novak) Jaskulski on her wedding day.

long life, a wonderful family and children and grandchildren that love her. Happy Birthday Grandma and Sto lat!"

"Sto lat" is a Polish word and birthday song that means to "live for 100 years." Mary's family sings this song at all birthday celebrations.



Seated are Theresa Bielinski, Mary Julia Jaskulski, Florence Zamber. Standing are Mary Zajac, Anthony Jaskulski and Irene Butrico.

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To All the Residents of South Plainfield:
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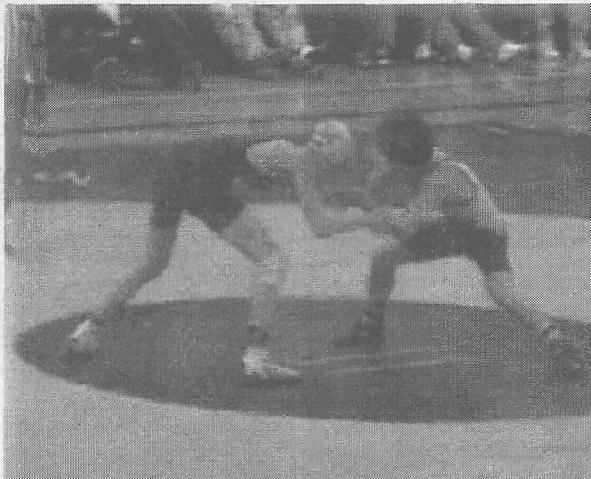
By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield Has BIG Wrestling Weekend

Well, what a weekend for South Plainfield wrestling. The High School, Middle School and Recreation Wrestling Teams all had successful results last weekend. The high school winning the GMC Tournament for the fifth consecutive year, the Middle School winning the North Jersey Elementary School League Championship and the Rec team winning both matches in a league tri-match.

We all know the type of season the Tigers have had heading into the GMC tournament. After losing four straight matches to state ranked teams, this team wanted to prove that they are better than the record, and did just that by winning their fifth consecutive GMC Championship to stay on top in Middlesex County. The Tigers scored 197 versus the 193.5 points of second place South Brunswick and 169 points for third place Old Bridge.

"This was nice to get because Old Bridge wins the division and South Brunswick beat us. We are a good tournament team and the team



worked hard to win this (GMC) tournament," Tiger Coach Bill Pavlak said. The Tigers sent six wrestlers to the finals and crowned three champions, with three runner-ups.

Senior Matt Anderson 130, won

his fourth consecutive GMC title with a 7-0 decision over Kyle Poulsen of Piscataway. Senior Scott Doer 145, claimed the second title of the night with a 8-5 decision over Wil Kinehofer of Old Bridge. Junior Glenn Gross

152, sealed the tournament team title, when he won a 9-3 decision over Scott Andersch of Woodbridge. Senior Ricky Ringel 112, came up short in his bid for his first GMC title when he dropped a 6-3 decision to Joe Bubenheimer of Woodbridge. Junior Steve Johnson 171, gave it his

best shot, but came up short dropping a decision 11-7 to Mike Wojcik of Old Bridge. Ryan Elliot 215, had to default due to a knee injury on a takedown attempt by Tim Karmazsin of J.P Stevens. Placing fourth for the Tigers were Dan DeAndrea 119, Pete DeAndrea 125 and Mike Buteas 160.

Congratulations to South Plainfield Tigers for winning their fifth straight Greater Middlesex Conference Wrestling Tournament and to SPSHS senior Matt Anderson for taking his fourth title and to Scott Doerr and Glenn Gross for their first place wins!

Junior Tigers Now 10-0

The Recreation Wrestling Team is now 10-0 on the season, after beating Hillsborough 48-16 and Middlesex 53-15, in Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League action.

In the Hillsborough match, the Junior Tigers found themselves down 7-6 after Jeffrey Conroy 57, won by forfeit. Ryan Sacco 63, got the Tigers going with a 5-0 decision over Matt Hartzog. Nick Heilmann 67, then scored a major decision 13-2 over Jason Walton. John Wylam 73, then tied the score with a 6-0 decision over Chris Beal. Patrick Hunter 77, put the Tigers ahead for good with another major decision 14-0 over Damion Papas.

Jake Smithline 80, kept things going with a 8-5 decision over Brian Conolly. Mike Wagner 85, added to the Tiger lead with another major decision 8-0 over Mike Daly. Nick Vallone 90, then won a 6-0 decision over Collin Coslett. Brad Martin 95, wrestled Matt Leon and won a 4-2 decision. Mark Wagner 100, won by forfeit and Danny Pompilio closed

the scoring with a fall at :48 over Matt Coheleach.

Also wrestling were Anthony Ashnault 50, Tyler Hunt 53, Randy Jakubik 60 and Corey Hay 70.

In the Middlesex match Anthony Ashnault 50, got the Tigers off to a good start with a tech fall 16-1 over Sean Bicheizlere. Tyler Hunt 53, then won by major decision 17-3 over Jason Schweyer. Ryan Sacco 63, kept the pressure on with a tech fall 17-0 over Mark Hookham, Nick Heilmann 67, won by forfeit.

Corey Hay then won a tough 2-0 decision over Eric Norgard. John Wylam 73, won by major decision 8-0 over Blaze Iannetti. Patrick Hunter 77, also scored a major decision over Matt Gattuso 9-1. Mike Wagner 85, also won by major decision 9-0 over Jose Perez. Brad Martin then pinned Billy Everhart in 38 seconds. Mark Wagner 102, won by forfeit and again Danny Pompilio closed the scoring with a fall at 0:22 over Kyle Dyness.

Also wrestling were Jeffrey Conroy 57 and Randy Jakubik 60.

Middle School Wrestlers Win League Tournament

The Middle School Wrestling Team 20-2 on the season headed to Kirtatiny High School for the annual North Jersey Elementary School Wrestling League tournament.

The only league loss of the year came from Del Val who were favorites coming in with the Tigers looking to avenge that early loss. The Tigers did just that, scoring 180.5 points over second place Del Val with 167 points. This is one of the toughest middle school wrestling leagues in the state and the first time in along time the Tigers won the league championship.

South Plainfield sent 10 wrestlers

into the semi finals and had an 18 point lead going in. Billy Ashnault 80 won the first Tiger title by pinning Kyle Mazurak of Voorhees.

Jimmy Conroy 85 won his second consecutive league title when he pinned his opponent. Conroy was named most valuable in the tournament and now sports a 44-0 record. In the past two years, Conroy has not given up any offensive points in league action and only gave up two stalling points in that same span. Conroy was also last years 80 pound Intermediate State Champion. Conroy had three pins to win the title. Kevin Crilley 150, came up short

in his quest for a title losing by decision.

Also placing for the Tigers were Robert Gentile 70, third place; Patrick Hunter 75, fifth place; Nick Dorey 90, fourth place; Mike Jakubik 95, fourth place; Mark Wagner 100, third place; Sam Martin 107, fourth place; Anthony Niemczyk 124, sixth place; Mark Warness 119, sixth place; Opie Muse 132, fifth place; Anthony Fierro 140, third place.

The Tigers will wrestle in the Paulsboro Middle School duals later in the month. This tournament is made up of fifteen teams from around the state.

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Sports

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

As we get closer and closer to the start of another baseball season things are beginning to happen.

Junior Umpire classes have begun, all new umpires should already have attended one class. If you haven't please see the club website at www.spjbc.com for a schedule of classes or contact Bill DeNitzio, Charlie Decker or Jim Colapietro for details. League structures will be determined this week and coaches will be named as well.

Small fry (ages 8-12) tryouts will take place at the P.A.L. on Sat., March 2. Post cards will be going out with individual times for each player, so look for these about one week prior to March 2.

Last week's message inadvertently mentioned a final registration to be held on March 2. This registration was actually held on Feb 2, but since we made the error we will be accepting registrations through March 2 at the \$65 rate. After March 2 the registration fee will increase to \$100 per player. We will take registrations at the tryouts at the PAL on March 2, until approx. 3 p.m.

Coaches Clinics continue... this month J.V. Coach Tim Gallagher will be discussing hitting. Also featured will be former all-state outfielder Anthony Guyda, talking about outfield play and training techniques.

Mon. Feb 25 is the Rutgers certification course at the SPJBC complex, 6:45 p.m. ALL COACHES AND MANAGERS must have this certification. If you have not already obtained such certification please plan on being available on this date. If you already have a Rutgers certification card from last year, or from other sports, you need not attend again.

Below is a detailed calendar of events for the upcoming weeks leading into Opening Day:

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

Tuesday, Feb 12 at 7:30 p.m. Coaches Clinic, see details above.

Monday, Feb 25th, 6:45 p.m. Rutgers Certification course, (Certification Required for all Managers and Assistant Coaches).

Week of Feb 26 - 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 p.m. 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.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., April 4-6, Booster Weekend (All Small Fry players).

Saturday, April 13th OPENING DAY!



Countdown To The Shotman Summer Camp Begins

Don't Get Left Out! Register Now. The Shotman Basketball Camps plans have been finalized and there will be another Shotman Summer Camp this summer at South Plainfield High School. Starting on Monday, July 29 and running until Friday, Aug. 2, Shotman and his coaching staff will be providing instruction, tips and drills to help youngsters improve their game.

The hours will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will be for boys and girls ranging in ages from 11 to 18 years old. Additional features to be taught at this year's summer camp will be: Mental Techniques in Shooting such as Pure Shooter's State, and Positive Self-Talk, Pistol Pete Maravich Ball Handling, and the Killer Crossover Series, where you'll learn 16 different ways to the basket. The price for the four sessions will be \$150. Spots will be limited so register as soon as possible.

For further information, check out their web site at <http://www.shotman.net> for details, or contact Mike Lanza at either (908)-754-2692, or via e-mail at <http://www.shotman.net>.

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BOYS WINTER TRACK

By Tim Morgan Jr.

On Wednesday, Jan. 23, the SPHS Boys' Winter Track Team had it's best performance in many years. The Tigers took fifth overall as a team in the GMC Individuals at FDU and were the best White Division team in the field. They racked up 28 points, far surpassing the six they earned last year.

First, Tim Morgan took third in the 3200 with a time of 9:55, edging out Ryan Bennett of Old Bridge going down the last straight away and putting six points on the board. Next, in the 55m Dash, Sean and Chris Grevious and Chris Dickerson advanced to the semi-finals. The Grevious brothers would then qualify for the finals where they stunned the competition by placing first (Sean) and second (Chris), gathering a whopping 18 points combined.

In the 800m, Jeff Williams unfortunately was injured during the race, but still finished a respectable seventh in 2:06, despite this hindrance. In the 55m High Hurdles, Phil Thomas, Chiny Okparkee and Alan Dummett all qualified for the semi-finals, but got knocked out there, each finishing with decent times.

The denouement of the meet was the 4*400 Relay. The team of Sean and Chris Grevious, Jobs Rayho, and Tim Morgan (substituting for Jeff Williams) posted a fourth place finish, tacking on four more points with a collective time of 3:39.

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, the Tigers took down White Division opponent North Brunswick by a score of 61-21, raising their record to 40. Chiny Okparakee took second in the 55 High Hurdles, Sean and Chris Grevious packed a one-two punch in the 55m with Sean and John Rayho doing the same in the 400. In the 1600, Tim Morgan won and Kyle Kazmit took third.

The 800 was swept (1-2-3) by Morgan, Rob Hoffman, and Ian Levine. Galen Johnson and Kyle Kashmir took second and third in the 3200 The 4*400 team of Chris

Grevious, Will Hamilton, Tim Morgan, and John Rayho won their event and Chris Dickerson and Chris Grevious split second and third in the high jump. Lastly, in the shot put, Jermaine Thomas, Tommy Haus, and Jared Dembia took all three places for another sweep.

On Sunday, Feb. 3, Tim Morgan competed in the Meet of Champions and placed 20th in the state with a third place school record time of 9:51. He is the first male athlete to go to the Meet of Champions for the track team in over a decade.

The Tigers will face off against Perth Amboy and Bishop Ahr on Wednesday, Feb. 6 with hopes of clinching the White Division championship. They will also be involved in the White Division Invitational on Saturday and select runners will compete at the Armory Track and Field Center in New York this coming Monday. Good luck boys!

Jason Williams Candidate for All-American

Jason Williams has been listed along with 30 other basketball players as a possible candidate for the John R. Wooden Award Player of the year, as well as the All-American Team.

On Tuesday, March 26, the 10 player Wooden Award All-American Team will be announced. One member of the Wooden Award All-American Team will be selected on Sunday, April 7 to receive the Wooden Award Trophy as the nation's "Most Outstanding Collegiate Basketball Player of the Year."

Williams broke all scoring records while attending Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield and St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen. The 6'2" junior attends Duke University and was a 2000-2001 John R. Wooden Award All-American.



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Renaissance Kingdom Auditions

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Calling all performers to the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom auditions! The 2002 Grand Audition will be held Feb. 7-10 at the Hampton Inn on Davidson Ave. in Somerset. Thursday and Friday auditions run from 7 to 10 p.m. and Saturday auditions from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday callbacks also run from 1 to 5 p.m. Needed for the Kingdom are versatile men and women ranging in age from 18 to 65 to play a variety of roles for the 14th Annual New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom. Please note that all new auditioners must be at least 18 in order to participate. Thursday, Feb. 7, is set aside specifically for music and dance.

We are looking for singers, dancers, and musicians to perform in a variety of shows at the New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom. These shows include the Madrigal Singers and our Folk Singers and dancers. The festival is also looking for a variety of period musicians. All other performing roles will be auditioned on Friday and Saturday. Auditioners should also reserve Sunday, Feb. 10, for callbacks. Actors are needed to portray fighters and men-at-arms in many shows throughout the festival day, including the Enchanted Forest tour. Stage combat experience is a plus when auditioning for these roles.

Also needed are comedic actors for

the Fairy Tale Troupe and for the travelling comedy troupe. There are also openings for jugglers, acrobats, storytellers, and puppeteers. A full list of roles will be available to all those attending the audition.

For those who would love to participate, but can't find the time for rehearsal, they are always looking for volunteers to help run game booths, refreshment stands and security. If interested in volunteering, call (732) 271-1119. You need not attend auditions to participate in this manner. The New Jersey Renaissance Kingdom is an educational and cultural event sponsored by Dunn-Ley Productions, LLC. Performances will run weekends, June 1-30. All performers are volunteers. For more information, please call (732) 271-1119.

Obituaries

Chestelle Malecki Wrotny, 84

Chestelle Malecki Wrotny of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at the Haven Hospice Center at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born in Old Forge, Pa. and has resided in South Plainfield for the last 80 years.

Chestelle was the vice president of the former Queen City Savings in the South Plainfield branch for 11 years before retiring in 1980.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield, was a member of the Altar Rosary Society and was active in the Sacred Heart School PTA.

She was a member of the South Plainfield Polish National Home and served as treasurer for five years. She was a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens and AARP.

Her favorite pastime was art. She loved drawing and painting in water colors and oils. She also loved her Bingo.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Joseph P. Wrotny who died in 1985.

She is survived by her son, Joseph P. Wrotny and his wife Donna; two daughters Marianne McLoughlin and her husband James of Piscataway, Cynthia Montgomery and her husband Jack of Yorktown, Va.; her brother, Thaddeus Malecki, Felix and

his wife Ann Malecki and Stanley and his wife Helen Malecki all of South Plainfield; her sister, Helen Oschanski of Edison and her grandchildren James, Jillian, Matthew, Jackson, Taryn, Tyler and Jason.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to Haven Hospice c/o JFK Medical Center, James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Catherine A. (Griesmeyer) Hall, 63

Catherine A. (Griesmeyer) Hall died while on vacation in Cozumel, Mexico.

She was born in North Plainfield, where she grew up and then lived in South Plainfield for 35 years prior to moving to Rossmoor Community in Monroe Twp. seven years ago.

Cathy enjoyed being a housewife, mother and grandmother. She was also an avid gardener.

Surviving are her husband of 41 years, Gerald L. Hall; her children, Shaun M. McClary, Valerie Hunterton and her husband David, Sheryl Katowich and her husband Tom and Owen Hall and her fiancée, Matthew Sabol all of South Plainfield; her brother and sister-in-law, John and Dora Griesmeyer of North Plainfield and her five grandchildren, Jennifer McClary, Thomas and Jordan Katowich, Samantha Hunterton and Matthew Sabol. She is also survived by many relatives from the Griesmeyer and Corley families.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Alfred "Al" Del Monaco, 69

Alfred "Al" Del Monaco died on Thursday, Jan. 31 at the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Pietra Cupa, Italy, he came to the US in 1947 settling in Westfield before moving to South Plainfield 40 years ago.

He had been a machinist with the former Hyatt Roller Bearing Co. in

Clark for 30 years before he retired when the company closed in 1982.

He served with the US Army during the Korean War era and was stationed stateside during his enlistment.

Mr. Del Monaco was a member of the United Auto Worker's Union Local #736 of Linden.

Surviving are his wife of 40 years, Martha (Milo) Del Monaco; his daughter and son-in-law, Maria and Joseph Publik of Readington Twp.; his son, Richard D. Del Monaco of Bridgewater; a sister, Mary Buscaino of Summit; his brother, Angelo Del Monaco of Westfield and by his three grandsons, Jeffrey, Ryan and Tyler Publik.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Martin Diamant, 70

Martin Diamant, 70, died on Monday, Feb. 4, in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Brussels, Belgium, he came to the United States at the age of 33. He lived in Queens for many years and Manalapan for 20 years, before moving to South Plainfield 20 years ago.

Mr. Diamant was the owner of Bratter & Diamant of New York City for 30 years before his retirement. Most recently he was employed as security guard for Burns Security of New Brunswick.

He served in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict and was the recipient of the Purple Heart from an injury he sustained while serving in Korea.

Mr. Diamant was an avid fisherman and comic book collector.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen E. Jenkins; three daughters, Holly Brown of Freehold, Stacy Diamant of Lawrenceville and Elisabeth Diamant at home; a son, Martin Diamant, Jr., at home and two granddaughters, Heather and Dana Brown.

Funeral Services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Diamant children's college fund.

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policereport

• On January 29 a Clinton, Tenn. resident reported the theft of his 1999 Chevy Silverado from the parking lot at the Holiday Inn.

• A Burlington resident reported the theft of his 1999 Volkswagon Passat from the parking lot at Home Depot.

• Riley School custodian, Bill Ball reported that three windows on the east side of the school had been broken.

• On January 31 a Sampton Ave.

resident was arrested for obstruction of justice, driving while drunk and refusing a breathalyzer test. She was found by a Middlesex Mall security guard slumped over the steering wheel of her car.

• On Monday a Plainfield woman reported that someone had obtained a false driver's license at the South Plainfield DMV in her name. It was used to open up a bank account at First Union Bank.

• Alice Temple, Recycling Coordinator reported that between late Dec. and early Jan., trees had been damaged on the median of Hadley Rd.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

January 30, 2002

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Zoning Board at its meeting held on January 29, 2002.

A. Janice Muccilli was appointed Board Secretary to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

B. James F. Clarkin, III, PC was appointed Legal Counsel to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

C. Case #62-01/S/V/A—Sprint Spectrum, LP—Block 45B; Lots 1 & 7; Block 45D; Lot 2; 1500-A Seymour Street—Applicant's request to install six cellular antennas on an existing tower, equipment cabinetry and preliminary and final amended site plan, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

D. Case #80-01—QualTec, Inc.—Block 447, Lot 1; 800 Montrose Ave.—Applicant's request to install a seven foot fence with a 35' setback from curb line of South Clinton Ave. and a setback from Montrose Ave. equal to the curb line of the existing parking lot, less two feet, was hereby GRANTED, with conditions.

E. Case #81-01—Robert & Sandra Mammone—Block 172; Lot 27, 2141 Orchard Drive—Applicant's request for a front yard setback of 28' for the erection of a second story addition, was hereby GRANTED.

F. Case #79-01/S/V—Shaughnessy Crane Service—Block 472; Lot 23; intersection of South Clinton Ave. & Gardner Ave.—Applicant's request for a use variance and preliminary site plan, and

existing front variance, were hereby GRANTED, with conditions, for the sale, storage and service of aerial equipment and vehicles.

Respectfully Submitted
Janice Muccilli
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment
\$43.00 February 8, 2002

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Angel Robles requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the 28' x 13' addition and a 20' x 6' dormer, proposed addition lacks the required 30' front setback from Mellon St., 10' being proposed. Proposed dormer lacks the required 30' front setback from Mellon St., 14' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 192 Lot 1 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 March 5, 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 February 8, 2002

Consideration

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Charles Weaver:
7/6/22-2/9/97



Pop! These five years you've spent in heaven hasn't changed my loneliness or love for you. I know you can't come to me but some day I can come to you. Pop, I know my tears will keep the grass green where your body is resting. I truly know you are in heaven. You finally won the wings you waited for.

I Love You,
Your Wife Stella



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2002

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS.



*South Plainfield DARE Officers (l to r)
Joe Papa, Dave Franchak & Allen LaMonda*

The Observer salutes DARE Officer Joe Papa, for his many years of dedication, alerting the youth of South Plainfield to the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Education is the key to prevention and Officer Papa's efforts have truly made a difference! This was Officer Papa's last year teaching DARE. Officer Franchak will be taking his place as the new DARE Officer.

Congratulations to the DARE Graduates!

DARE Officer Joe Papa must feel like the "proud papa" when the annual DARE program winds up each year. Seventeen weeks of DARE classes with fifth-grade students throughout the district equals a lot of time in the classroom. Papa noted that he sometimes wonders if he is getting through to the students. When he reads the essays and posters he sees proof that the children were listening and learning.

Franklin School held the first DARE graduation of the week, followed by Sacred Heart, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Riley. Each graduation began with a welcome from the principal, followed by guest speakers. Councilman Dennis Cerami attended several of the graduations as well as Police Chief Bob Merkle and Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbieri. Other guests included Councilmen Ray Petronko, Bob Cusick and parents who took the time to attend the ceremonies. Officer Dave Franchak was introduced at each ceremony as the new DARE Officer.

Winning essays were read and poster winners announced. The winners all received the coveted DARE Lion, which is not available in stores. The DARE graduation certificates were then presented to each student. The students enjoyed refreshments after the ceremonies and displayed their DARE diplomas with pride to visitors.



The following businesses are proud to support these DARE graduates through sponsorship of these graduation pages

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Roosevelt School Fifth Grade 2002 DARE Graduates

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS.



Miss Decker's class (top right)—Jessica Anderson, Danielle Armistead, Christian Barrientos, Cori Black, Gregory Burton, Ashley Capparelli, Christopher Fierro, Sara Frazzano, Kelliann Friday, Eleena Gordon, Chelsea Hunt, Tiffany Hunter, Nicholas Jankoski, Garrett Kelly, Alan Kunie, Shawn Mack, Daniel Maistickle, Emily Orlandini, Eric Pantaleon, Rachel Pinto, Sandra Pleeter, Diego Portero, Heather Stoloff, Katelyn Vaughn, Steven Wiczorek

Mrs. Allen's class (bottom left)—Abraham Aminin, Vikash Budhan, Audrey Cupo, Taylor Deskins, Stephanie Decindio, Ralph Dimayuga, Gloria Esaw, Renato Francia, Wayne Francis, Stephen Garry, Maricela Gonzalez, Nancy Grieb, Amy Hayes, Antonette Hudak, Alexa Kunch, Carlos Loyo, Klayton McDaniel, Nicole Palchik, Jordam Petriello, Joshua Rivera, Saira Sheikh, Sagar Sindha, Nelson Soriano Jr.

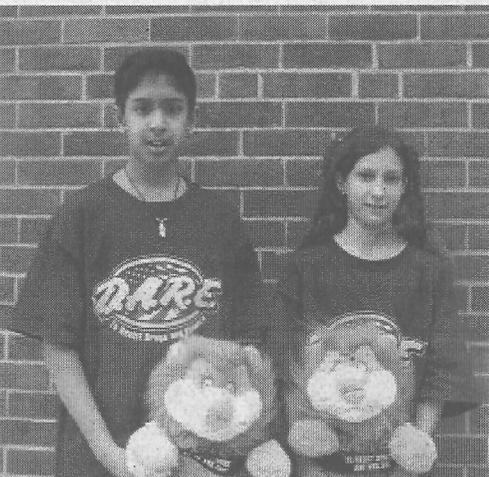
Miss McGrath's class (top left)—Darnell Beverly, Suneet Chandler, Alex Cihanowyz, Jeannine DeAndrea, Ashleigh Gray, Jessica Handwerger, Christopher Kedmenec, Jaclyn Kukuch, Jacqueline LaVerne, Nicholas Levendusky, Luis Melgar, Alberto Miranda, Rachel Moloughney, Lyndsey Murtagh, Brittany Musolino, Kevin Nolasco, Shana Pascalli, Dharti Patel, Priya Patel, Alison Refe, Jessica Rosocha, Alexa Sambat, Jeric Santos, Steven Sharpe, Justin Smith

"I have always been told by my family not to be afraid or embarrassed to say "no." That is something I am learning in DARE class right now. I learned that kids may make fun of you or call you a baby, but you just have to stay strong and ignore them. If they don't want to be your friend anymore they weren't worth being friends with in the first place."—Lyndsey Murtagh

"My dad had three heart attacks while he was smoking. He stopped smoking and he has never had a heart attack since. What does that tell you about drugs? In your mind did you know all of this? Think about that before you pick up another cigarette. Remember. Be drug free!"—Heather Stoloff

"It is important to learn about these drugs early because some kids start using them in fifth grade and do not know what drugs can do to you. The more you learn about drugs the more you know about making the right choice in your life."—Alexa Kunch

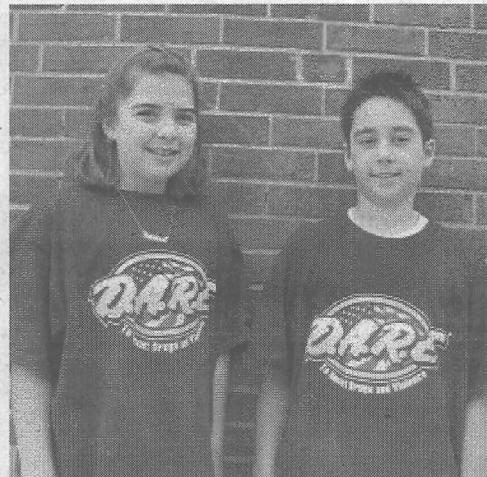
The Winners



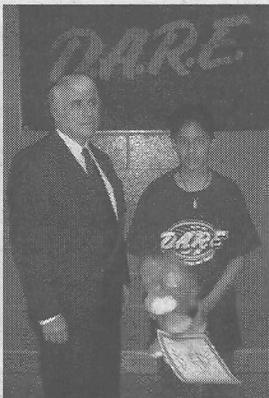
Poster winner, Vikash Budhan and Essay winner, Alexa Kunch.



Poster winner, Cori Black and Essay winner, Heather Stoloff.

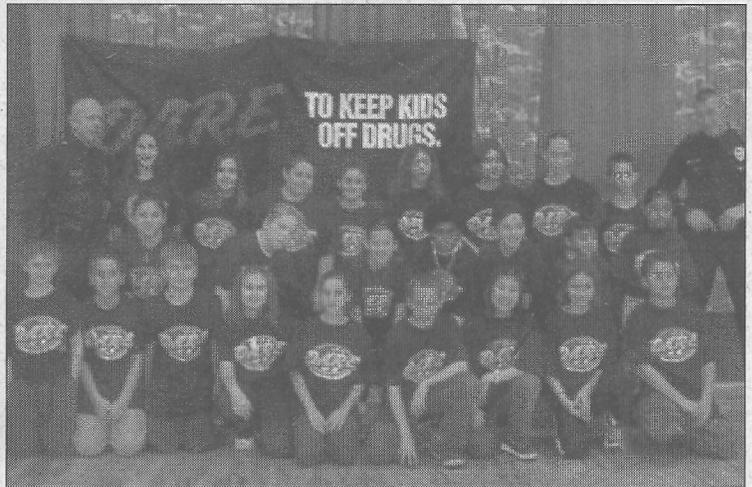
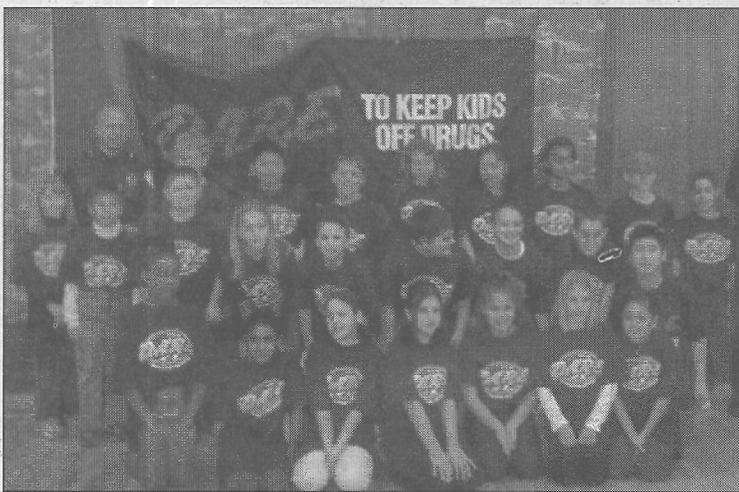


Poster winner, Alberto Miranda and Essay winner, Lyndsey Murtagh.



D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS.

Kennedy School Fifth Grade 2002 DARE Graduates



Mr. Miller's class (top left)—Noelle Aguilar, Jorge Anverez, Kurt Carlson, Steven Chen, Jared Czech, Danielle Guerriero, Terry Ho, Sara Johnson, Matthew Kopchak, Joseph Lacerda, Phong Lai, Anthony Louise, Kelly McCormack, Eric Nuber, Dominic Papa, Brian Pullen, Kyle Quail, Amber Scott, Nicole Soisson, Tiffany Tangorra, Jeane Ulacia, Christine Usuriello, Gina Viola.

Miss O'Toole's class (top right)—Danielle Atcachunas, Lindsay Barton, Francesca Bayak, Kenneth Breslau, Michael Dondola, James Delillo, Michael Dezmin, Jennifer Disch, Cindy Garzon, Nicholas Jeglinski, Alan Kasmer, Ian McGregor, Lisa Migliore, Russell Nash, Joanna Nastarowicz, Brittany Okoszko, Kaitlyn Pangborn, Daniel Phillips, Matthew Prual, Danielle Ranger, Michael Skeete, Alysa Sutherland Victoria Tran, Robert Yulic.

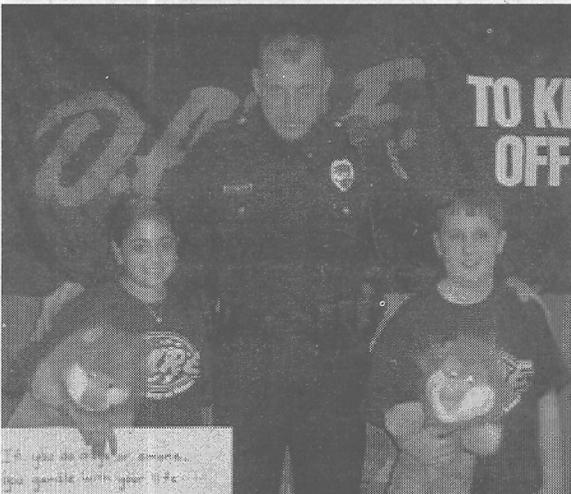
Mrs. Patetta's class (bottom left)—Katherine Baldeasarre, John Barry, Barry Brown, Christina Cornelius, Jake Donohue, Brian Erhardt, Allen Garcia, Jason Gray, Richard Harzula, Sheryl Lipuma, Joseph Mennuti, Timothy Moskal, Jessica Murtagh, Kirsten Nuber, Nicole Rann, Johnathan Schurr, Anthony Simms III, Scott Suleski, Andrea Verdutis, Richard Walton III, Erik White.

"Your friends and other people can put pressure on you to do drugs. This is called Peer Pressure. If someone says to you, "Hey, have a beer" there are many ways to say no. If you don't do drugs you'll be drug free." — Lindsay Barton

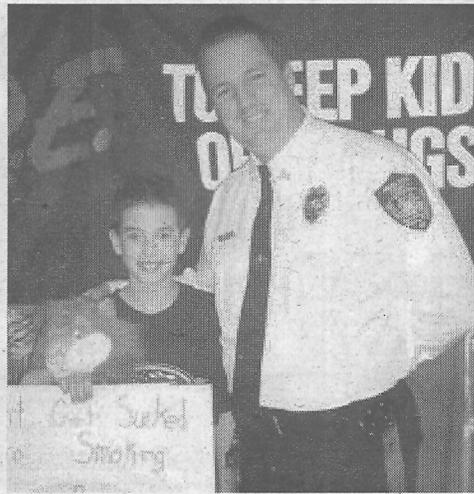
"There are two different roads you can take, the way to be drug free and the way to be wrong. You have to be strong and pick the right road because drug free is the way to be!" —Andrea Verdutis

"I learned that I must stand up to pressure and not let the media or other people make decisions for me. I found out that decisions are based on your self-esteem. I will never forget this valuable information I learned in DARE." —Jared Czech

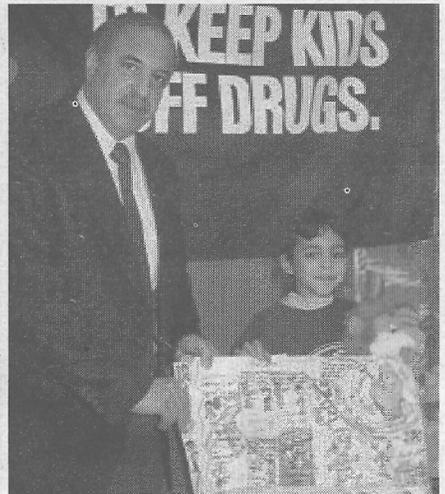
The Winners



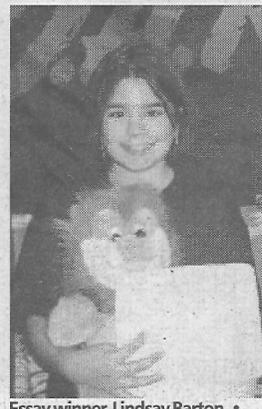
Essay winner, Jared Czech and Poster winner, Gina Viola with Officer Franchak.



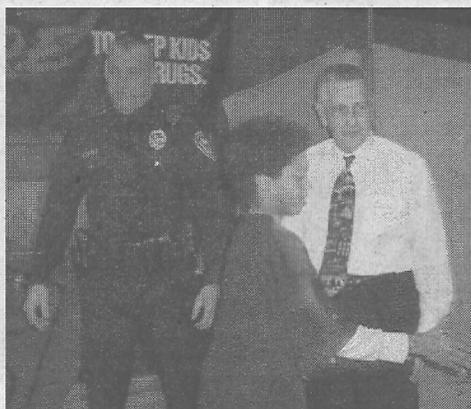
Poster Winner, Erik White with Councilman Bob Cusick.



Poster winner, Lisa Migliore with Councilman Dennis Cerami.



Essay winner, Lindsay Barton.



Essay Winner, Andrea Verdutis.

Franklin School Fifth Grade 2002 DARE Graduates

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS
OFF DRUGS.



Mrs. Donahue's class (top left)—Danny Alligier, Arielle Armand, Steven Barlow, Douglas Bush, Daren Campbell, Janee Coleman, Jessica Decker, Rebecca Deffler, Christen Donnelly, Tina Foscolo, Christopher Fulton, Caitlin Herriot, Catherine Krawiec, William LaMastro, Christopher Lesniak, Kenneth Luckey, Gilbert McKimm, Adea McKnight, John Neesan, Rachel Smith, Christine Snogans, Ryan Voelkel, Wilfredo Rosado.

Miss Curcio's class (top right)—Michelle Arancio, Kyle Buck, Rodolfo Caraballo, Natash Catarino, Taylor Curtis, Ann Dang, Quynhu Doan, Osama Elarjoun, Richard Guaraci, Cindy Hernandez, Robert Hoffman, Alice Hseih, Ayshia King, Michael Maiorino, Stanley Mitchell, Alyssa McCreesh, Nosavoen Ogbovoen, Oscar Solarte, Andrew Staynings, Spencer Stubbs, Elizabeth Tran, Kaleigh White.

Mr. Orfan's class (bottom left)—Anthony Albunio, Ashley Cardinale, Matthew Carringer, Gina Curico, Andrew Dietzold, Vincent Fazio, Jaime Giannakis, Darryl Howard, Codi Merritt, David Monroe, Victoria Nguyen, Brittany Norman, Raquel Oades, Douglas Porzio, Wilfred Quesada, Samantha Rebinbas, Alyssa Rutowski, Kyle Schroeder, Brittany Smith, Alexander Vajda, Nicole Walker.

"This story is why I won't smoke. My grandfather smoked for 50 years, four packs a day for the last 20 years. In April of 2000 he went for his annual checkup and that's when they discovered he had a tumor in his left lung . . . he died on May 24, 2001, two days after my mother's birthday."—Matthew Carringer

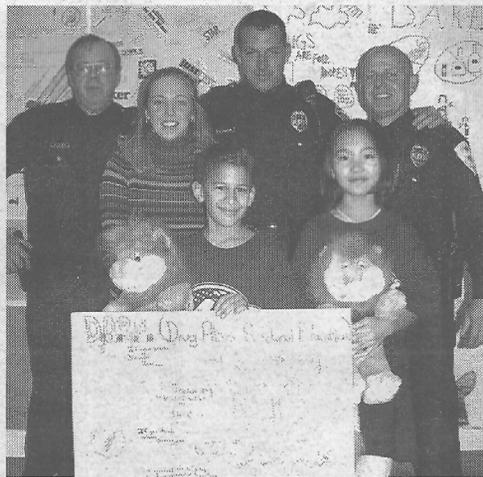
"Never use drugs it's bad for you. Beers and wines are really bad too. Drugs aren't very cool. They're just for fools. Drugs cause loss of memory. AND can be deadly. So keep this in mind then you'll know. To say NO!—Ann Dang

I always knew not to do drugs, but D.A.R.E. showed me WHY. D.A.R.E. also taught me much more. D.A.R.E. taught me how dangerous drugs are. They can give you slow reflexes and make you dizzy, even sick to your stomach. Some drugs lead to higher drugs or could kill you. I learned how to say "NO" even if you're against the group. I also learned to tell who your friends are."—Rachel Smith

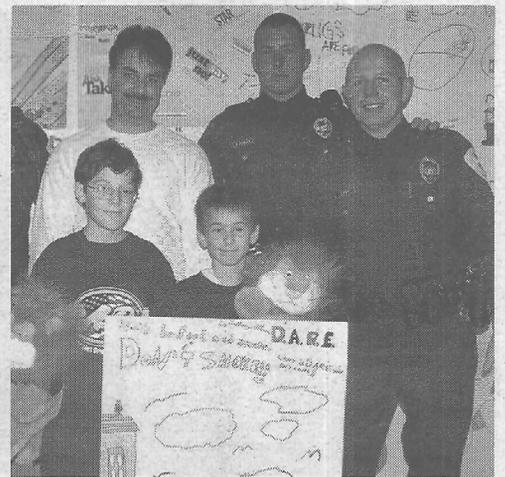
The Winners



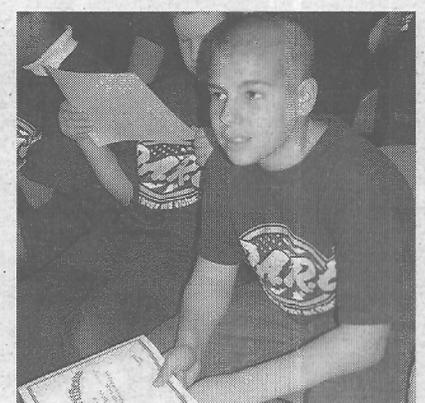
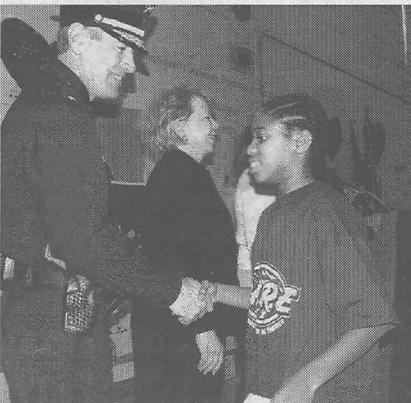
Mrs. Donahue with Poster winner-Rebecca Deffler and Essay winner-Rachel Smith and Officers LaMonda and Franchak.



Miss Curcio with Poster winner-Rodolfo Caraballo and Essay winner-Ann Dang and Officers LaMonda, Franchak and Papa.



Mr. Orfan with Poster winner-Anthony Albunio and Essay winner-Matthew Carringer and Officers Franchak and Papa.



D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS OFF DRUGS.

Riley School Fifth Grade 2002 DARE Graduates



Mrs. Gaffney's class (top left)—Jonathan Addesa, Thomas Barney, Samantha Barthel, Henry Carillo, Kyle Chandler-Sanchez, Sean Coffey, Courtney Easterday, Ashley Galan, Jennifer Giulano, Shane Howard, Christopher Izzi, Shakera Jones, Stephen Kelly, Colleen Mackenzie, Martha Mejia, Kimberly Pham, Timothy Oppelt, Carly Reuter, Patricia Robles, Rhianna Ruzicki, Michelle Slover, Salvatore Soto and Vincent Stark.

Miss McGrath's class (Top right)—Christopher Ascencio, Danielle Blackford, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael Boyle, Michael Bumback, Allison Clawans, Jonathan Conroy, Justin Ditmars, Michael Eustice, Lindsay Fredericks, Mark Garcia, Christopher Hartje, Ivan Hughes, Amanda Hunterton, Michelle Kobilis, Tramane Miller, Stephanie Milicia, Mark Piltz, Christopher Seesselberg, Rocco Severini, Richard Sierzega, David Valerio, Stephen Wagner, Nicholas Whitney, Jelissa Williams.



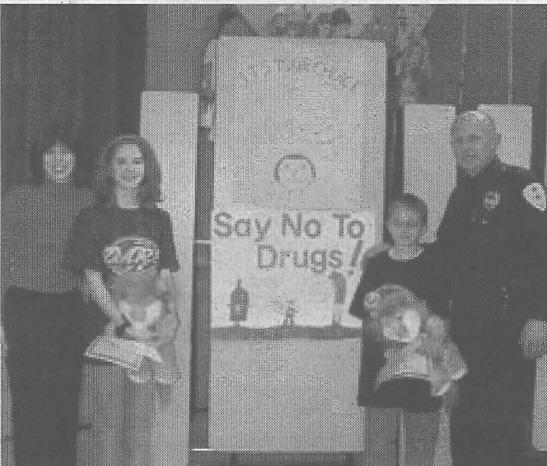
Mrs. Sottirou's class (bottom left)—Lee Aboosamara, Michael Burton, Maxwell Butler, Danielle Butrico, Lauren Diana, Steven Diaz, Luis Dubon, Joseph Grennier, Rinita Gulliani, Ashley Kwasniewski-Knoff, Stephanie Lanza, Darien Miller, Cornelius Mootoo, Kelly Nguyen, Patrick Nolty, Matthew Ortiz, Nicholas Pauls, Timothy Ratti, Theodore Skwiat, Mark Sprenger, Stevie Stark, Nora Stasio, Kara Thomas, Nicholas Vallone, Paul Zushma.

"The most frequently asked questions of drug abusers is why? Why smoke? Why drink alcohol? Why do you use drugs? When drug abusers are asked 'why?' they make up answers. There is no sensible answer to this question. The next time think about smoking, doing drugs, or drinking alcohol, remember there are consequences."—Kara Thomas

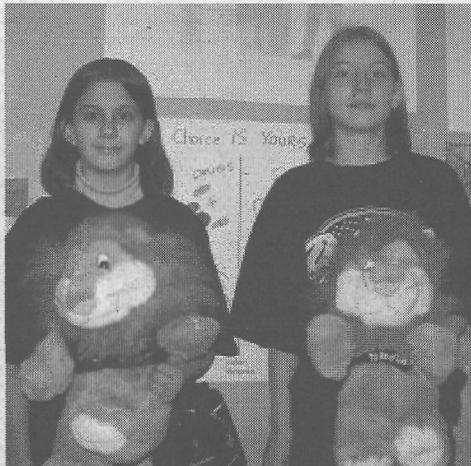
"Everybody knows drugs aren't good for you, right? Therefore the number of people that do use drugs is surprising and pretty sad. I can't tell you exactly how many people use drugs...but I'll tell you one thing, it's too many!—Lindsay Fredericks

"Teenagers may do drugs because they might just want to experiment. They might also want to do drugs because the 'gang' does them or the 'cool kids' do drugs. Most teenagers use drugs because they think drugs make you look 'cool.'—Courtney Easterday

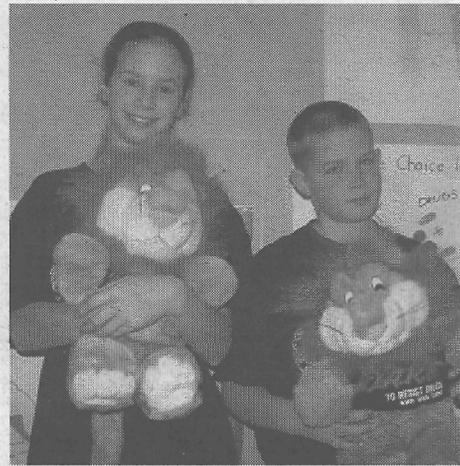
The Winners



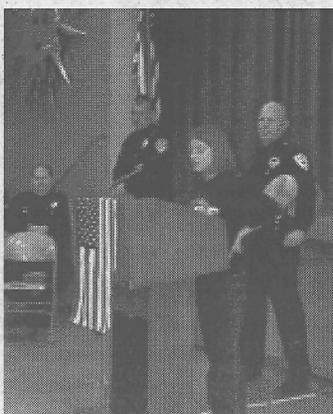
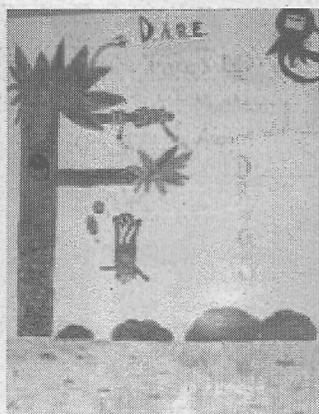
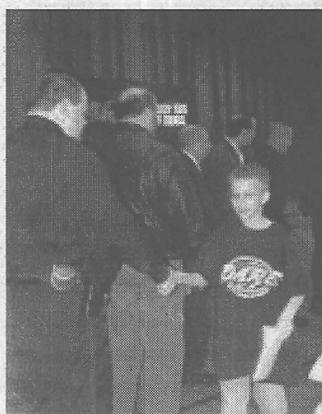
Poster winner Timothy Ratti and Essay winner Kara Thomas.



Poster winner, Courtney Easterday and Essay winner, Carly Reuter.



Essay winner, Lindsay Fredericks and Poster winner, Jonathan Conroy.



Sacred Heart School Fifth Grade 2002 DARE Graduates

D.A.R.E. TO KEEP KIDS
OFF DRUGS.



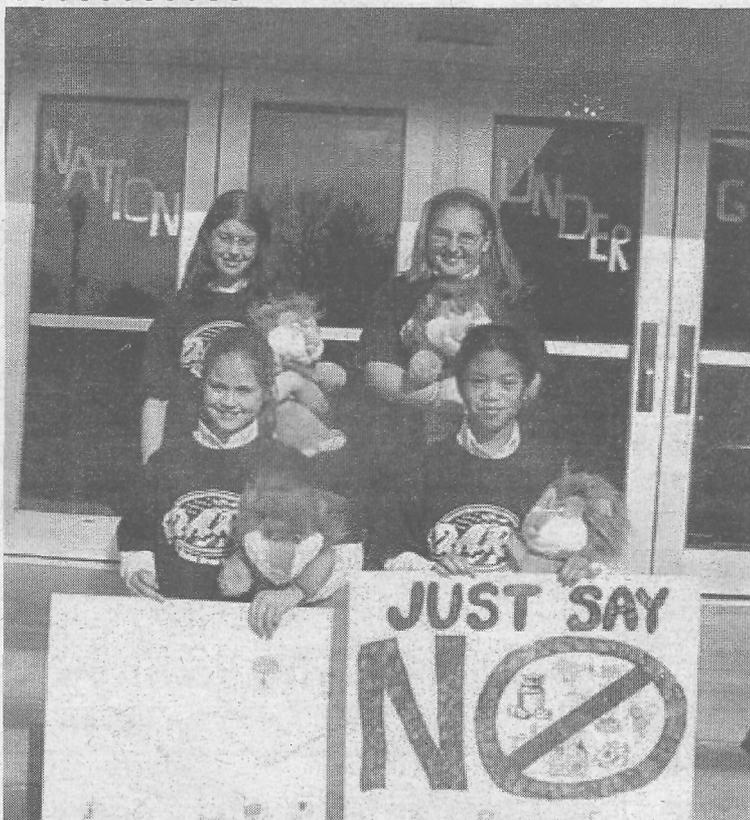
Mr. Gerard Bartalino's class—Daphne Aguinaldo, Arturo Arce, Douglas Avery, Carissa Baratta, Ian Collins, Kyle Cullen, Dana Depasquale, David Ervin, Ashley Forbes, Aleksandra Grant, Ryan Hohner, Michael McBride, Xavier Obode, Kathryn Paterek, Stephanie Peterson, Kaitlyn Salvatore, Heather Thomas.

Mr. Robert Gillisepie—James Abney, Aedan Bayona, Franchesca Beltran, Brianna Bicho, Sara Crane, Devin Dinkins, Jacqueline Dougherty, Khaliah Doulgas, Nijah Dupiche, Gloria Lobato, Astara Maiure, Antione Mathis, Michael Muglia, Allyson Patemek, Walter Rodriguez, Anthony Salerno, James Sansone, Melissa Santiago, Marika Simons, Ashley Smith

DARE, what does it mean? It means drug abuse resistance education, To me DARE means help. Helping me to stay away from drugs and making good choices with good consequences. Officer Papa has helped me learn about drugs and what they can do to my body and mind. He makes it easy to understand peer pressure and many other situations. I've learned a lot about drugs since we had DARE at Sacred Heart, but it all comes down to one word when you're in trouble. . . . NO!—Sara Crane

Sometimes Officer Papa would hand out things for doing good homework or for just being good in class. I really liked learning about the horrors of drugs and alcohol and I know it will help me in the future. I would really like to thank the school for having someone teach us DARE and also I would like to thank Officer Papa very much for teaching us.—Dana Depasquale

The Winners

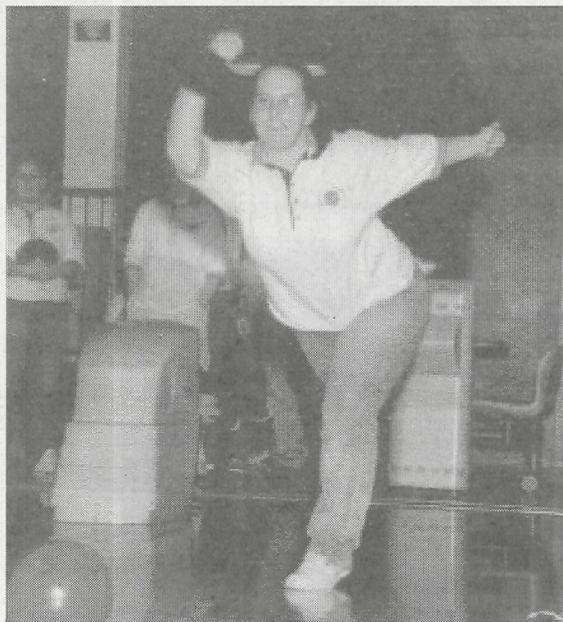


Poster winner, Daphne Aguinaldo; Essay winner, Dana Depasquale; Poster winner, Allyson Paterek and Essay winner, Sara Crane proudly display their DARE Lions.



Pattie Cullen, Sacred Heart HSA President presented a check to DARE Officer Joe Papa on behalf of Sacred Heart School.

BOWLING



Vicki Boley (604) in State Sectionals Qualifies for NJSIAA State Finals

The Girls Bowling Team placed a distant 15th in the Central Jersey State Sectionals. Qualifying, however, was Sophomore Vicki Boley, who fired games of 213-204-187 for a solid 604 set, which earned her third place

Bronze medal.

Vicki is also eligible to compete with the 35 other girls from all over the state in the NJSIAA Individual Championship to be held Feb. 16 at Carolier Lanes.

Boys Edge Franklin Twp. but Fall to Fourth Seeded JP Stevens in Playoffs

SPHS 866-777-839-2477
Franklin Twp. 822-763-869-2445

(13th) SPHS 854-829
(4th) JP Stevens 871-1073

The Boys Bowling Team won its sixth match as they downed non-conference foe Franklin Twp. The Tigers won the first two games and withstood a strong rally by the Warriors. John Jeglinski fired games of 228 and 187 for a 542 high set. Chipping in were Matt Boley 191, Shawn Ferguson 175-170, Nick Grego 180 and George Kleinknecht 175.

Despite Matt Boley's 257 game the 13th seeded Tigers could not deliver the knockout punch as the 4th seeded JP Stevens avoided to upset by 17 pins in the first game. The Hawks came out strong in the second game and blew out the young Tigers to nail a 2-0 playoff victory.

Girls Shutout Franklin Twp.; Upset by Mother Seton in GMC Tourn.

SPHS 701-836-690-2227
Franklin Twsp. 679-707-679-2065

(8th) SPHS 746-812-695
(9th) Mother Seton .. 798-805-846

The Girls Bowling Team won its fifth straight and thirteenth victory of the season as they swept all three games and shutout Franklin township. Freshman Kim Gaub rolled a booming 252 game and 575 high set. Also aiding in the Tiger win were Vicky Boley 213-176 and Meredith Cooper 173-166.

The Girls Bowling Team took Mother Seton regional to three games before falling to the hot shooting Terriers in spite of Vicky Boley's 216 game and 556 high series. Chipping in were freshman Kim Gaub 177-172 and Danielle Larisch 171. The Tigers were even after the first two games, but Mother Seton got strong and posted the 2-1 playoff victory.

Athletic Boosters

Continued from page 1
Reedy found out that Garden State had been bought by Enron a few years ago and since Enron went bankrupt, they probably wouldn't be getting paid for either their November or December pickups. However, Reedy said she did receive a check this week, but it was for far a lesser amount than expected.

The amount owed the Boosters is approximately \$1,400. They now have to sit and wait along with all the other creditors listed in bankruptcy court to see just how much they will be receiving.

The Boosters will now have to find a new paper company to work with them that also pays.

SPJBC Little Miss Baseball Contest Underway

Once again, it's time to crown Little Miss Baseball 2002. We ask that all girls nominated march with the Baseball Club in our parade on April 13. The parade ends at the Baseball Complex and during Opening Day Festivities we will announce Little Miss Baseball. A requirement for the winner is that she must be present to be crowned. If she is not there, the next runner up will be crowned Little Miss Baseball.

We will be accepting nominations for Little Miss Baseball 2002 from Feb. 11-25. Girls must be between the ages of eight and 11 years old and be South Plainfield residents. To nominate someone, you can call Stacey Lake at 757-9531. Finalists will be phoned on Feb. 26. Little Miss Baseball 2002 will be chosen by the "penny-a-vote" system. Boxes with finalists' pictures will be placed in Ciccio's, Quick Chek and B&C Deli starting March 2 and will remain there until April 5. They will then be removed and counted for the announcement of the winner on Opening Day April 13.

Get out and vote for our 2002 Little Miss Baseball. If you have any questions, please call Stacey Lake at (908) 757-9531.

Cat Adoption Events on Feb. 9-10

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor pet adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 9-10, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at two PETSMART stores: Bridgewater at the Promenade Mall at the intersection of Route 28 and Route 287 and in Watchung at the Watchung Square Mall at 1515 Rt. 22 West.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship



From left to right J.R. Licato, Joey Lacerda, Mike Stallone, Kevin Seidenburg

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held a Free Throw Basketball Championship tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Riley School. The four winners were asked to represent South Plainfield at the Knights of Columbus District Level Free Throw Championship held at Carteret Middle School.

Kevin Seidenberg at the 14 year old level.

The next phase is the Knights of Columbus Regional Level Free Throw which is being held Saturday, March 2 in Fords. Joey Lacerda and Michael Stallone will move on to the regional level. If these two boys win the regional level free throw they will have the opportunity to move on to the state level and then finally the national level. Good luck to both of them!!

The four participants were Joey Lacerda at the 10 year-old level, J.R. Licato at the 12 year old level, Michael Stallone at the 13 year old level and

Senator Barbara Buono Appointed to Committees

State Senator Barbara Buono (D-Middlesex) announced that she will serve on three key Senate committees during the next legislative term; Budget and Appropriations; Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens; and Community and Urban Affairs.

"I am delighted and eager to take on the responsibility of serving on three influential committees in the New Jersey Senate," Buono said. "The issues areas of these committees have a direct and profound impact upon the quality of life for all New Jersey citizens. Dedicating myself to the legislative duties of committee membership provides a special opportunity to work for my constituents and New Jersey as a whole," said Senator Buono, a full-time legislator.

Senator Buono was first elected to the State Assembly in 1994 and re-elected three times. She took her oath of office as State Senator for the 18th Legislative District in January.

While in the Assembly, Ms. Buono was the ranking Democrat on the Assembly Budget Committee. She said that this experience will prove vitally important as a member of the Senate budget panel, which faces a difficult road ahead to bring New Jersey's \$23 billion budget into balance.

"The fiscal challenges before us require poised leadership and battle-tested expertise on the part of all budget committee members. I am proud to be a part of a veteran Democratic team that is ready to get to work."

The Metuchen Democrat added that her appointments to the other two committees make it possible to shape and champion issues that are especially close to her heart.

There are 12 standing reference committees for the Senate in the 210th Legislative session. In the evenly divided, 20-20 Senate, each committee has an equal number of Republican and Democratic members. Members of both parties will share chairmanship on a rotating basis.

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