

South Plainfield Observer

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MARCH 8, 2002



Read Across South Plainfield, was held in all the schools last Friday to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2. Many special guests took the time to visit the schools and read to the children. Guests included elected officials, policemen, fire department personnel, PTO officials, business people, honor society high school students and Grant sixth graders. Kennedy School Principal Al Czech, had his hair dyed red, white and blue and then spent Monday on the roof of the school. See pages 6-7 for pictures and story.

Roosevelt School Principal Dr. Rick Hangge Resigns

Barbiere Fills Temporary Vacancy

By Patricia Abbott

On Wednesday Feb. 27, many Roosevelt School parents arrived to pick up their children only to find them in tears. The students had been informed that their Principal, Dr. Rick Hangge, had resigned to find a better job. Phone calls to Superintendent Dr. John Krewer and Assistant Superintendent Mario Barbiere elicited the same response, that Dr. Hangge had willingly handed in his resignation that morning.

As parents received the news, the

Observer office, located across the street from Roosevelt, began to receive distraught visitors and phone calls. Parents who seemed almost as devastated as their children, said the children could not understand why Dr. Hangge had left so suddenly. To their young minds many thought they were at fault and parents found themselves trying to explain that they had not caused Dr. Hangge to leave.

Two letters were sent home to the parents the following day. The first was from the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Krewer. His letter quoted

Dr. Hangge's letter of resignation which said, "He would be exploring further educational options and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with the parents, teachers and students of South Plainfield." The letter went on to say that Mario Barbiere would be serving in the dual role of Assistant Superintendent and Principal of Roosevelt School. The second letter was from Barbiere explaining that he would be temporarily filling the position. He said he planned to spend time getting to know the kindergarten children and meeting with staff and parents. He explained he would also be participating with the interview team to select a new principal.

Despite administration reassurance that all was well, many parents have come to the conclusion that the complete truth about Dr. Hangge's resignation had not been revealed. After hearing one child's announcement about Dr. Hangge's resignation, the student's father went to the school to inquire and was told "Dr. Hangge is out sick." He said that he witnessed a staff member who was very upset.

Rumors regarding the reason for Dr. Hangge's departure continued to escalate all week. On Tuesday evening several parents attended a special Board meeting held to announce the winning bids for the construction of Roosevelt and expansion of the school. The parents brought up Dr. Hangge's abrupt departure. Board President Frank Mikorski explained that Dr. Hangge had signed a letter of resignation and the Board could not discuss it further because it was confidential.

Members of the board voted unanimously to accept Dr. Hangge's letter of resignation after they held an executive meeting, which was not open to the public.

Most of the parents who spoke to
Continued on page 11

Identity Theft, Scams Aimed at Seniors

Those attending this week's senior meeting at the PAL got an education in scams and identity theft by special guest speakers. Speaking were State Assemblymen Peter Barnes, Jr. and Patrick Diegnan, along with Police Chief Robert Merkler and Captain John Ferraro. Assemblymen Barnes and Diegnan have been visiting seniors throughout the district talking about identity theft and telemarketing scams.

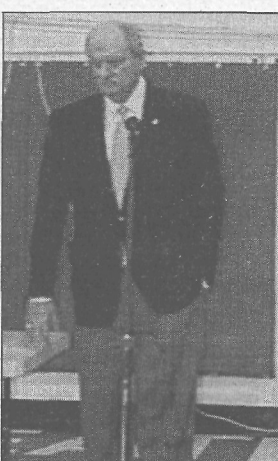
Seniors were shown a film on how easy it is to get duped by telemarketers. During the past few years there has been a significant increase in these scams, especially against seniors citizens. Scams can be perpetrated in many ways, but most are done by telemarketers. According to a recent survey, close to 79 percent of the targeted victims of scams are seniors. In all, victims lost approximately \$40 billion in scams in 2001. For this reason Assemblymen Barnes and Diegnan felt it was important to educate seniors on the dangers of these unscrupulous people.

Last year, a Sprauge Ave. resident was duped out of \$45,000. She was told she won a contest and sent the caller \$25,000. Her relatives asked police to intervene, but she was convinced it wasn't a scam and sent an additional \$20,000, losing a total of \$45,000.

Another telemarketing fraud is requesting money for fictitious charities. The scam artist may also try to convince the victim that he had already promised to donate money and is just calling to collect. Police Chief Merkler suggested that a good response would be to say you are busy and will call them right back. If they don't provide their telephone number, beware!

Residents should be alert for certain signs when they are asked for a donation or to purchase a product.

- Never give your credit card num-



ber or bank account number to anyone soliciting funds.

- Never pay money in order to collect a prize.

- Never give cash, certified check, money order or wire transfer. These items can't be traced. If your buying something over the phone or making a contribution, always use a personal check made out to the organization or business—never to the in-

dividual you are speaking with.

- Never act immediately! Take the time to ask that written information about their product or organization be mailed to you. An honest company will be happy to send you their information.

Identity theft is also rising at an alarming rate. Criminals can steal your identity and run up a huge credit card debt in your name. They do this several ways, by going through your garbage and taking credit card bills, bank and social security numbers and stealing your mail.

Make sure you keep your personal data in a safe place. Don't use your birthdate or social security number as passwords. Review your credit report at least once a year.

Also be careful when someone comes to your home posing as a law enforcement official or worker from the gas, electric or phone company to "inspect" your house. Sometimes these scam artists come as independent contractors willing to fix problems around your house.

Some tips to help you are:

- Never let anyone inside your home or open your door for some-

one unless you are absolutely sure who they are.

- Ask for identification, then call to confirm their identity.

- Always use a chain lock when opening the door.

If you feel you have been a victim of fraud, call the police department and ask to speak to an officer. You can also call the International Credit Fraud Information Center at (800) 876-7060.

Board of Ed. Awards Bids on School Construction Projects

A special meeting held Tuesday night by the Board of Education resulted in awarding the bids to build a new Roosevelt school and the proposed addition to Grant School, renovations to the other elementary schools and the purchase of property needed for Roosevelt School.

The Board received a total of 13 bids. Winning bids were within estimated costs and from companies that have a good track record of finishing projects on or before a deadline.

The first bid was awarded to Jo-

seph A. Natoli Construction Corporation for \$9,304,500. It covers the construction of a new Roosevelt School and renovating the current Roosevelt School, which will become the administration building.

The second bid was awarded to Tormee Construction, Inc. for \$3,096,777. This covers the addition to Grant School and renovations to the other elementary schools. The board also approved the purchase of three lots near Roosevelt school needed for the construction.



(L-R) SPHS teachers Rich D'Urso, Michael LoConte, Toni Day; students Allison Vaughn, Brittney Hartman, David Allara and Danielle Lytwyn.

Council Salutes SPHS Students For Aid to Sept. 11 Victims

More than 62 high school students were recognized by the mayor and council for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the victims of the 9-11 tragedy. They raised \$10,000 by selling World Trade Center Pins and getting a local business to match the funds.

After receiving the awards, high school student Allison Vaughn read a small statement on behalf of the students, explaining their reasons for the fundraising.

The following is Alison's statement: "Just a few days after the World Trade Center Bombing, the students at South Plainfield High School were busy raising money to help the victims by producing patriotic buttons. Graphic Arts Technology Instructor, Richard D'Urso and Electronics Technology Instructor, Michael LoConte were inspired by Toni Day, to raise funds as they have done in the past.

Over 100 students participated in creating buttons which were sold throughout the town and seen as far away as Yankee Stadium. A local company, VA Designs, owned and operated by Sara Crysanthopoulos and her husband were instrumental in helping achieve the total amount of funds donated. Students raised \$4,200 and VA Designs generously contributed \$5800, bringing the total to \$10,000.

Many local businesses including Infinity Bank purchased buttons for

the campaign. After consulting with many people on where the money should be donated, the group decided to hand the check over to the Middletown Favor Organization. Middletown lost 34 people in the tragedy and they were in need of support. D'Urso and LoConte felt that donating the money to a local organization gave us a true connection with the victims whose families live just a short distance away.

We stand tall here in South Plainfield, as students, teachers, administrators and business owners. We know that we made an impact on the lives of our neighbors in Middletown. We had great support from our Principal Tony Massaro, my fellow students and citizens in all neighboring communities. My sincerest thanks to Toni Day for her dedication in helping this campaign materialize and Sara Crysanthopoulos from VA Designs, without her, this large donation wouldn't have been possible. But most of all thanks to the students in the Graphic Arts and Electronics classes. These students gave their devotion and workmanship in creating these buttons. It seems funny how tragedies seem to bring people together and it seems that the whole country united as one after Sept. 11. We came together and helped make a difference in someone else's life."

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 at spsobserver.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 spsobserver.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.

To the Editor,

Our Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to take the time to thank the entire South Plainfield Community for their prayers and outpouring of support. Our son, Jeffrey, recently went through an unfortunate event and will hopefully have a speedy recovery.

There are so many people to thank and we hope this will reach everyone and we apologize if we miss anyone.

We would like to give a special thank you to Mrs. Sweney and Mrs. Heckel, who were quick to respond to help our son and risked their own personal safety, to the rescue squad for their quick response and also for taking time out of their busy schedule to visit local businesses and pick up gifts donated to Jeffrey. Also thank you to the police department, our family and friends, the Kennedy School parents and staff, Riley School parents and staff, those who sent special cards from the children. They brought many smiles to Jeffrey's face and touched our hearts.

We are so grateful for everyone's support in helping to make Jeffrey's recovery as painless as possible. We have been residents of South Plainfield all our lives and if there was anything ever to be proud of, it would be to say, "We are part of this community and we are South Plainfield residents."

SINCERELY,
THE PRAUL FAMILY

To the Editor,

Last month I had the privilege of spending 21 days in Salt Lake City, Utah as a Law Enforcement Volunteer for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. I was honored to attend as a representative of the Metuchen Police Department.

Since being selected last year, I have often been asked to sum up my feelings regarding the Olympic experience. My response has generally been "a once in a lifetime opportunity." This has proven a safe enough answer considering that it seemed to be the standard response of every volunteer, athlete, spectator and person in the state of Utah.

It is only for a lack of time and better words that I continue to respond this way. I honestly feel I could write a book, let alone a sentence and still not relate all of the incredible experiences and feelings associated with the games. Either way, I owe it all to the people who made this dream of mine a reality.

I would like to start by thanking my Police Chief, James Keane. Since approaching him last year with this endeavor of mine, he has been nothing but supportive. I know he is all too familiar with the problems that can arise when someone takes off for a month in a small 28 member department, yet he let me go anyway. Thanks also to Mayor Edmund O'Brien and the members of the Metuchen Borough Council who ultimately approved his decision to send me.

I owe a special thanks to the following businesses and organizations who took it upon themselves to offer their assistance in helping cover some of my expenses, Metuchen PBA Local #60, the Metuchen Savings Bank, the Metuchen Rotary Club and the

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IN MY OPINION

Metuchen Chamber of Commerce.

My assignment allowed me to meet countless other volunteers from around the county and even the world. This showed me firsthand just how much my department and community have supported me and for that I am truly grateful.

CPL. JEFFREY M. TEMPLE
METUCHEN POLICE DEPT.

Dear Observer,

What is our educational system coming to when a principal in our elementary school system is dismissed and the parents aren't informed of the true reason.

I have two children who attend Roosevelt School, where they just hired a new principal at the beginning of this school year. I found out today, two days after the fact, that our new principal was escorted from the school and asked not to return (departure reasons are unknown).

I would like to know why the parents weren't informed of this turn of events in our children's lives until two days after the major event occurred.

We, as parents, put our trust in our school leaders and we work with them to ensure a safe and secure environment for our children. We should not be kept in the dark about something of this proportion and then hear about it on the streets from other people.

I, as a parent, find this appalling and I will not stand for it. Our children have had a hard enough time this year with the town taking away all of our playgrounds and any form of day camp this summer. Because someone didn't do their job, the kids are the ones suffering. This is not acceptable to me and I'm sure it is not acceptable to any parent, especially when the well being of our children is involved.

Unfortunately, we parents and taxpayers will most likely never know the truth behind Dr. Hangege's departure.

SINCERELY,
A CONCERNED PARENT

To the Editor:

I have never been so disgusted with the public school system as I am today. My children attend Roosevelt School and last Tuesday they real quietly removed the principal, Dr. Hangege, and do you want to know why? I think it's because the teachers did not like him. I can't believe that the Teachers Union has more power than the Superintendent of the school system. Supposedly there were ten teachers who wrote letters and made up stories about this man and he was subsequently removed from our school, and told to turn in his resignation.

We finally had someone in there that made the teachers do their jobs and teach the proper way. The children were happy with Dr. Hangege; I guess the teachers didn't like that. Not only did they make up stories, but they didn't even take the children's feelings and well being into consideration. These children think they did something wrong and that is why Dr. Hangege left them. This is just one of the crazy rumors that are going around the school.

I also don't understand why, whenever something or someone good comes to Roosevelt, either the teachers or the Board of Education takes it away from our children. Who is looking out for our kids? Obviously not the teachers or the Board of Ed.

I realize people think we live on the wrong side of the tracks, but they take everything good from these kids and that's not fair. These kids have nowhere to play at lunch time. They had Dr. Hangege as principal, whom they really liked and now they took him away too. We as parents, need to start watching the teachers like hawks and anything we see that we don't like, we need to go to the state BOE and ask them to investigate the situation.

This is the second time the NJEA Teachers Union removed a principal from their jobs. I guess if the teachers don't like you, they have the power to have you terminated. That's a scary thought considering we the taxpayers (who pay their salaries) and parents have no say in what goes on in our own school system. I feel that Dr. Hangege got the short end of the stick and we as parents need to get him back. We need to insist on an investigation into the allegations from the ten teachers and when his name is cleared and we prove the teachers were liars, they should be fired and have this put into their permanent records so they can never work as teachers again.

Of course, the Board of Education is giving us a story that Dr. Hangege put in his resignation for a better position in another school, but that is not true. Roosevelt School parents need to ban together, get to the truth and get Dr. Hangege back where he belongs, as principal of Roosevelt School.

NAME WITHHELD

Submit Letters to the Editor:

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Ashwani Kumar (l) and Sunny Bawa (r) presenting Grant School Principal Bob Doggett with a \$500 check from Exxon.

Grant Central School Gets \$500 Grant from Exxon

Grant Central Sixth School received a \$500 grant from the Exxon-Mobil Educational Alliance program to purchase SuccessMaker computer software last week.

Ashwani Kumar and Sunny Bawa, owners of Clinton Exxon at 1309 W. 7th St. in South Plainfield worked with school officials to secure the grant, one of 4,000 available to schools across the country served by Exxon or Mobil stations. The grant was made possible by funding from the ExxonMobil Foundation.

The ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program is designed to provide Exxon and Mobil retailers with an opportunity to invest in the future of their communities through educational grants to neighborhood schools. ExxonMobil believes that, as members of the community, local retailers are best qualified to work with local educators to help identify schools and programs most in need of support.

Clinton Exxon met stringent eligibility criteria before applying for and being awarded this grant, including having a recognized commitment to provide a superior buying experience for customers.

Booster Car Seat Vouchers Available

The South Plainfield Police and Fire Department are participating in the Boost America Program, administered by the International Association Chiefs of Police (IACP). The program is sponsored by the Ford Motor Co. and Toys R Us.

The South Plainfield Police have received fifty vouchers for a free "Evenflo Right Fit" booster car seat or \$22.99 off any other booster car seat.

This program is open to South

Plainfield residents ONLY. The vouchers will be distributed on a first come first serve basis, with low-income families receiving preference, as they might not otherwise be able to acquire these items. The vouchers are only redeemable at participating Toys R Us Stores until April 30.

For additional information, contact Officer Vincent Campagna of the South Plainfield Police Traffic Safety Unit at (908) 226-7693.

Summer Drama Workshop Offering College Scholarship

Applications are now available for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop Scholarship.

Applicants must be a graduating senior who has participated in the theatre program either on stage or be-

hind the scenes.

Applications are available at the SPHS guidance office or by visiting www.spsdw.com and downloading from the site. The completed applications must be returned by Mar. 30.

Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

Sponsored by the South Plainfield Lions Club
Helping the Visually & Hearing Impaired Since 1947....

When: Palm Sunday, March 24, 2000

Where: South Plainfield High School Cafeteria

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Ticket Price: \$5.00

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through a Lions member.
For information, please call 755-2289.



Observer Helps With Riley Playground Fundraising

The South Plainfield *Observer* announced that they will donate \$5 for every new subscription received in March to the John E. Riley Playground Fund.

"Our January subscription promotion for the Kennedy School playground was so successful that we decided to offer the Riley playground committee the same thing. It's very simple, every new subscription that we receive during the month of March, we will donate \$5 to the Riley playground fund," said Nancy Grenier, publisher. "This is one way people can help support the fundraiser and at the same time get the latest local news."

If you read the *Observer* regularly, this is the perfect time to subscribe and help raise money for this cause. Just fill out the subscription form on page 9 and mail it to us at 1110 Hamilton Blvd, or you can also visit our office and fill out a subscription form. For more information, call (908) 668-0010.

Hall of Fame Seeking 2002 Nominees

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is again beginning their search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community.

Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the High School's Annual Academic Awards Program in June 2002. All Hall of Fame Inductees from past years will also be invited to attend this luncheon. The nominees will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on the "Hall of Fame" at the High School.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Mr. Massaro at (908) 754-4620. The application deadline is April 5, 2002.



Julie DeLos Santos is one of the instructors at Bunchi's art classes.

Bunchi's Celebrates Artisan Demo Weekend

By Jenevieve DeLosSantos

On Feb. 23 "Bunchi's All About Arts and Crafts" held their first ever Artisan Demo Weekend. This weekend long celebration featured the artisans who create the merchandise that is sold in the store. They demonstrated their crafts and signed people up for craft lessons.

The artisans featured included Yorka T. Rawlins, owner, artisan, graphic illustrator, instructor of most painting techniques; 3D art, home decoration, dolls, murals, clay and various crafts. Dinorah Rawlins, seamstress of slip covers, bedspreads, table cloths, curtains, doll dresses, cushion and more. Julie DeLos Santos, an artisan and instructor of home accessories and painting, murals, albums, plaques and various crafts. Dolly Yannacci, crafter of one stroke painting on glass, wood and metal. Julia Rodrigues, crafter of cloth baskets and chocolate treats.

The day featured a variety of demonstrations from each of the crafters.

There was a free raffle for store merchandise and registration for craft classes and parties.

Craft classes are offered on all sorts of craft genres. Parties are offered for all occasions for children from age six and up, with a minimum of ten



Dolly Yannacci, crafter.

people. The craft theme for the party is personally planned with the customer according to age, interest and occasion.

For a complete list of classes offered or more information on class and party registration, call Yorka Rawlins (908) 755-4049.

Good Friday, Easter Sunrise Services Announced

Members of the South Plainfield Clergy Group invite the public to worship with them on Good Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. First Baptist Church, 201 Hamilton Blvd., is the host for the evening. Minister Wanda Roach from Rescue House of Prayer will preach.

Check with your local church, as several churches have specific worship services for Good Friday and cannot join together for this service. We invite you all to worship on Good Friday.

The wonderful Easter Sunrise Service tradition continues again this year.

Everyone is invited to gather for our sunrise worship service, which will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the gazebo in Spring Lake Park. Pastor Cathy Stanley-Erickson from Pilgrim Covenant Church will preach and Tom Baker, Music Director from St. Stephen's Lutheran Church will lead in music.

Feel free to bring your own chair and blanket for warmth! If it rains, our time and location will be 6:45 a.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

All are welcome!

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Events

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 9

The SPHS PTA Auction/Raffle scheduled for March 9 has **SOLD OUT**.

No tickets will be sold at the door and all admissions to the event must have a pre-purchased ticket in hand. No one will be admitted without a ticket! The committee is very appreciated of the support they received and they are sorry they cannot accommodate everyone.

Chili Fest at Kennedy School

March 10

Boy Scout Troop 207 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will hold its third annual "Chili Fest" on Sunday, Mar. 10. It will be held at Kennedy School auditorium located on Norwood Ave. from 3 to 7 p.m.

This will be an all-you-can-eat chili dinner which will also include salad, rolls and drinks. The cost is \$4 per person. Games and prizes for the younger children attending will be included.

This annual fundraiser will benefit Troop 207 on future scouting events and for equipment the troop may need. Your support for the scouts is appreciated and we invite all that can attend. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Troop 207, (908) 753-2562 and ask for Mark.

Columbiettes Annual Easter Bunny Lunch

March 10

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

There will be prizes for all ages. 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 Mar. 1.

Six Course Wine Dinner Planned

March 11

A six course wine dinner, sponsored by Buy Rite Liquors located on Oak Tree Ave., will be held on March 11. Seating is available to only the first 25 guests.

For tickets and information, call (908) 561-0051.

Historical Society Plans Meeting

March 12

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

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Republican Org. Meeting

March 13

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held Wednesday, Mar. 13, at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Road at 8 p.m.

All residents concerned with the issues of the Borough as well as local and state government are invited to attend.

Tourette Syndrome Group Meeting

March 14

The Tourette Syndrome Association of NJ, Middlesex/Union County Family Support Group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Neuroscience Institute Department at JFK Medical Center, 65 James St. in Edison.

For information, call Marilyn at (908) 757-5074 or after 6 p.m. call Debbie at (732) 283-1439.

The last meeting before the summer break will be May 9.

AARP Chapter #4144 Meeting

March 15

AARP Chapter #4144 of South Plainfield will meet on March 15, at 12:30 at the PAL Bldg. on Maple Ave.

We will be entertained by Charles Reed who plays the keyboard and sings. Reed's music includes tunes for St. Patrick's Day and a walk down Memory Lane. It will be fun and all are welcome.

Pilgrim Covenant Coffee House

March 15

Pilgrim Covenant Church, 3121 Park Ave., will hold a Coffee House on Mar. 15, at 8 p.m.

Acts from all over the area will be performing. For ticket information call 908-756-4879, or if you wish to perform, please let us know.

VFW Italian Dinner

March 15

VFW Ladies Auxiliary VFW 6763 will sponsor a dinner on Mar. 15 at VFW Post 6763 at 155 Front St. There will be a choice of an Italian dinner or cabbage and noodles.

Dinner will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Donation is \$6; children's menu available. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

Franklin School Auction/Raffle Night

March 16

The Franklin School PTA is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Auction/Raffle Night. The event will be held on Saturday, March 16 at the South Plainfield High School gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$10 at the door.

For tickets call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Terry at 753-2864.

There will be a complimentary ticket for a Grand Prize Drawing with every advance sale.

Food is welcomed and soft drinks will be available for purchase.



The main display case at the library last month featured staff member Ken Morgan's collection of mugs.

St. Patrick's Party & Corned Beef, Cabbage Dinner

March 16

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will hold a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

Take out dinner prices are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. Advance orders are recommended. To order, call (908) 755-6203 and leave a message for John Weakley, or just stop in on Mar. 16.

The Knights of Columbus will also hold their annual St. Patrick's Day party at the hall from 8 p.m. to midnight. Price is \$20 and includes dinner and open bar. If interested, please call Jim Shea at 908-755-6203.

St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance at American Legion

March 16

A St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance is planned for Saturday, March 16 from 6-10 p.m. at the American Legion Post 243, located on Oak Tree Ave.

The cost is \$10 per person and includes corned beef and cabbage and beer and wine.

For information or reservations, call (908) 668-9414.

Easter Egg Hunt at the PAL

March 23

South Plainfield Recreation invites all children ages one to 10 to their annual East Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23.

The Easter bunny arrives at 12:45 p.m. and the hunt begins at 1 behind the PAL building on Maple Ave. Please have children bring their own baskets to collect the eggs.

For more information call the PAL (908) 226-7713.

Prayer Vigil for Peace at Wesley Methodist

March 23

Let us all come together as a community of faith to pray for peace on Saturday, March 23, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave. We invite everyone to join us on this special day of prayer. An opportunity to pray for our country, our leaders and our service men and women.

Our doors will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please join us.

Alice in Wonderland, A Magic Show

March 23

The South Plainfield Girl Scout

Community of Washington Rock Girl Scout Council and The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be presenting "Alice in Wonderland," a magic show by Westcraft, Inc. along with snacks with the bunny.

The show takes place at the South Plainfield Middle School on Saturday, Mar. 23. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., show time begins at 10 a.m.

Tickets purchased in advance are \$5 and \$7 at the door. Pictures will be taken with the bunny! Limited seating is available.

For ticket information call, Carrie George at (908) 755-8429 or Connie Palmer at (908) 755-3850.

Lions to Hold Annual Gourmet Breakfast

March 24

The South Plainfield Lions Club will be holding their Annual Gourmet Breakfast at the high school cafeteria on Sunday, March 24 from 8 a.m. to noon.

This breakfast is known for its many gourmet items, which include french toast, pancakes and made-to-order omelettes, all dished up by members of the South Plainfield Lions Club. The Lions will also create a cholesterol free omelette for the health conscious person.

The South Plainfield Lions Club is known for helping the visually and hearing impaired.

The cost of the breakfast is only \$5 and it's a great way to start the day on Palm Sunday. Tickets may be purchased at the door. For information call 755-2289. See you there!

PAL Sponsoring Trip To See Oklahoma!

March 28

The PAL of South Plainfield is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma!* on Broadway on Saturday, Mar. 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 on Maple Ave. weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are only 27 tickets available so get yours soon.

Dance/Gymnastics To Benefit of Autism

April 6

Jo-Ann's Dance Studio and Feigley's School of Gymnastics, 4475 So. Clinton Ave., will hold a program celebrating the art of dance and gymnastics for the benefit of autism awareness on Saturday, Apr. 6, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Some of the area's top dancers and

gymnasts will perform to raise funds for the COSAC, the NJ Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community, Inc. The only admission charge will be a donation and tickets are available in advance or at the door.

For information call Jo-Ann's Dance Studio at (908) 561-5094.

Rainbow Academy Open House

April 6

The new Rainbow Academy Child Care Center located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison will hold an Open House on Saturday, Apr. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are now registering for Summer Camp and Fall 2002. For directions and information visit their website at www.rainbowacademy.com.

Everyone who registers will receive one free month of ParentWatch, an internet viewing service. For a demo of their video services, visit their website at www.parentwatch.com.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex WOWs Holding Dance

March 8

The Middlesex East Wow. Carteret Chapter, will hold a dance for widows and widowers on Friday, March 8, at St. Demetrius Community Center, 68-691 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Admission is \$8.

There will be live music and refreshments. Dance runs 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. For information, call (732) 969-1123 or (908) 757-0515.

The Odd Couple at Entertainers Theater

March 15-24

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, will be presented by the Entertainers Theater weekends Mar. 15-24. Directed by Noreen Dunn, *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, promises to bring wholesome entertainment for the whole family, says Suzanne Ferris Hammer, founder of Entertainers Theatre.

The comedy will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. The only Sunday performance is Mar. 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors on Mar. 24 only.

Entertainers Theatre performs at the People Care Center, Edward A. Chandler Theatre, 120 Funderme Ave., Bridgewater, off Route 28.

For tickets, call (732) 846-5032.

A Day To Remember Presented at Alliance Bible Church

March 28-29-30

A Day To Remember....A Passion Play, will be performed at Alliance Bible Church in Warren, on Mar. 28, 29 and 30th at 7 p.m. There will be a matinee show on Saturday, Mar. 30 at 3 p.m. Conclusion show will be on Easter Sunday, Mar. 31 at 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. Tickets for all performances are free and can be obtained by calling the church office at (732) 469-1425. No tickets required for Easter performance. Seating is limited.

For additional information or directions visit our website at www.alliancebiblechurch.com or contact the church office at (732) 469-1425.

Printmakers Council Brings Art Lessons to Middle School

By Patricia Abbott

Middle School teacher Diane Kardos' art classroom was abuzz with frenzied activity last week, a living collage of motion and colors, textures and shapes with the arrival of Paula E. Smithson, instructor from the Printmaking Council of New Jersey.

Eighth grade art students enjoyed a special printmaking workshop called the 'Roving Press.' The program brings teachers, supplies and materials for the workshops to the schools. The students were introduced to two techniques of printmaking: Monotype and Collograph.

For three days students learned the basics from Smithson and then worked on creating their own unique prints. Kardos and Smithson were continually on the move throughout the classroom assisting students and offering suggestions.

Student Jake Levine preferred the monotype printmaking, painting on a piece of plexiglass. The finished 'painting' is run through a press to create a final image. Jake said, "I learned that you don't need to be an artist to do this, you just have to be creative. I would recommend this program to someone who likes abstract and is creative."

Alex Brown created a collograph, made by placing shapes or small objects on cardboard then covering it with foil. Paint is applied to the entire surface. When put in the press, the final result highlights the raised objects.

Krystal Williams' favorite part of the program was designing and painting the collograph. Krystal's thoughts on the printmaking echoed that of Levine's saying, "I learned something new. Someone with absolutely no artistic touch can make beautiful pieces of art in the most peculiar ways."

All of the students agreed Smithson made learning easy and fun. Krystal Williams noted, "Ms. Smithson's instructions were very clear and if we didn't understand, she worked with us one on one. She was never impatient or frustrated with us." None of the students had experienced printmaking before but all agreed it was a fun and exciting form of art. Johnson and Johnson provide grants to the Printmaking Council of New Jersey, funding the workshops to area schools.

Smithson is an artist, sculptor and printmaker. She received a BFA from the University of Hartford and an MFA from Indiana University. She is an adjunct professor at Bergen Community College and a teacher of art and a lecturer, both locally and nationally.

Diane Kardos has been teaching art at the Middle School for 26 years. She has a BA in Art Education K-12 from Trenton State College. Eighth grade art classes have had the workshops for the past three years. Kardos summed up the experience, "It is important to infuse outside artists, workshops, student teachers and career speakers into the eighth grade art curriculum to give students an insight to the opportunities in the visual arts."



Middle School students Heather Palitto and Andres Solarte.



From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Time for some more news from the South Plainfield Library:

This month's assortment from the Video Circuit is now available. This month's titles include "A Goofy Movie", "Thick as Thieves", "Groundhog Day", "The Mummy Returns" and, on DVD, "The Tailor of Panama." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

Don't forget about those coupons for the Bridgewater Zany Brainy store. When you shop there from today until Sunday and present a coupon, the store will donate 10% of the total sale to the Library. Coupons are still available at the Circulation Desk.

We'll stay with our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. They're for children ages three and over; no pre-registration is required. Each program lasts about an hour and features stories and a craft activity. For more information, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

This month, our display cases are featuring a variety of Elvis memorabilia provided by the Jenkin family of South Plainfield. You may see this exhibit throughout March. Also, our display wall features artwork by South Plainfield teen Sarah Miele.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees, originally scheduled for this Tuesday evening, has been rescheduled. It will now be held on Tuesday, March 19.

We'll continue to offer classes on basic computer usage and job searching throughout the month. For de-

tails regarding registration and scheduling, please call us and ask for Allan or Marcia.

We have a request for you from the South Plainfield Historical Society. We have, on display, a picture of South Plainfield firefighters originally taken in May of 1975. Unfortunately, it isn't captioned so they haven't been able to identify all of the people in the photo. If you think you might be able to help them in this effort, please stop by and glance at the picture. Any help you can provide on this is greatly appreciated.

And here's a request for you from the Library staff. When it's time to close down for the day, it's actually a pretty involved operation. We need to shut down the computers and other machines, unlock the bookdrops, and perform several other housekeeping chores. One way that you can assist us in these tasks is to finish up what you're doing as quickly as possible once closing is announced. We realize that you may want stay on-line or read a magazine until the last possible moment before you have to leave, and we respect that. But, we hope you realize that, after a long day at work, we'd like to go home. So, please don't force us to hang around waiting for you at closing time. Thanks very much for your consideration on this.

While we're at it, we may as well remind you of our hours of operation. We're open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Keep an eye on our monthly calendar and this column for schedule changes.

That's about it for this week. Thanks very much for your attention.

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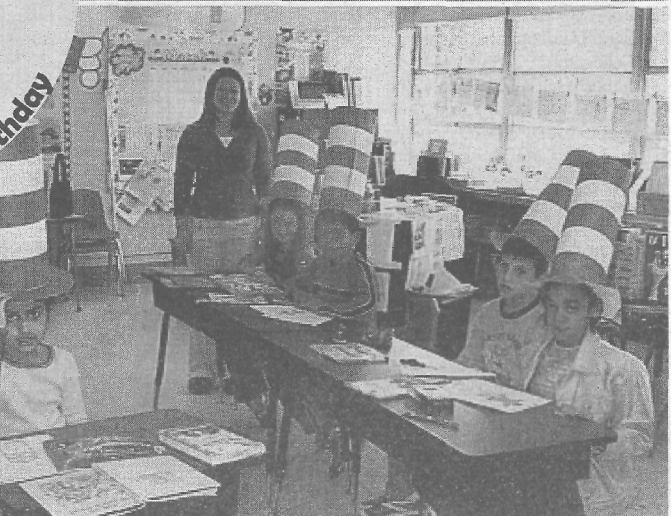
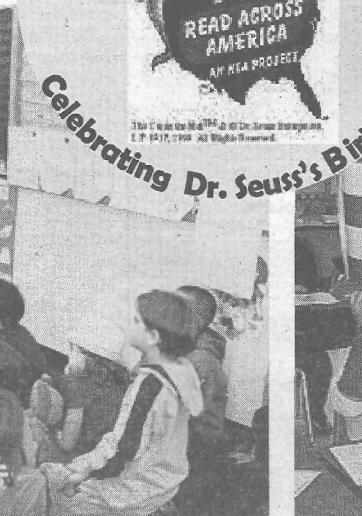
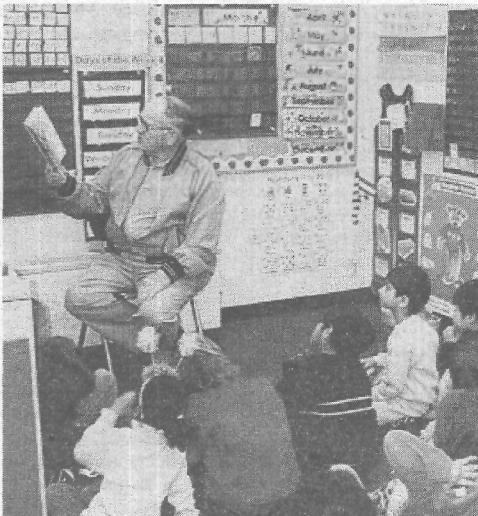
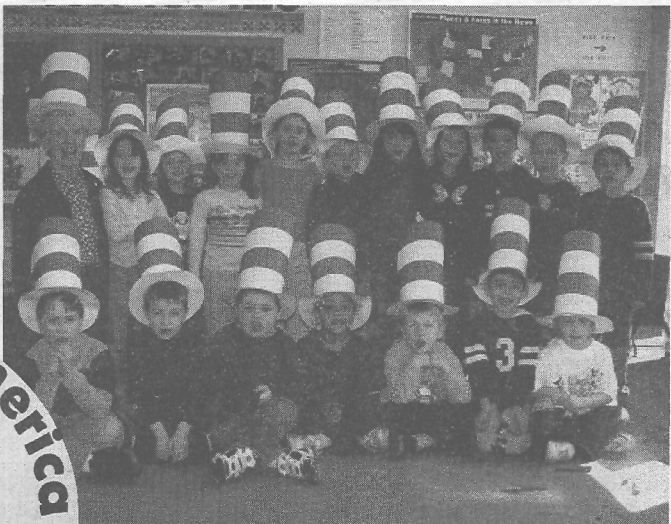
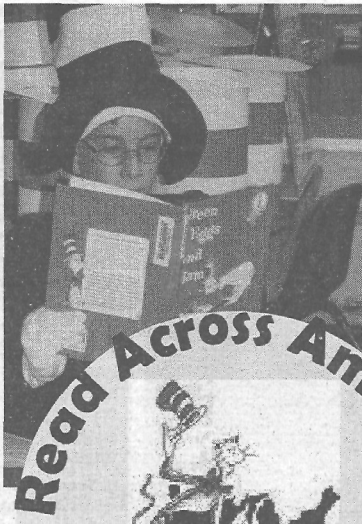
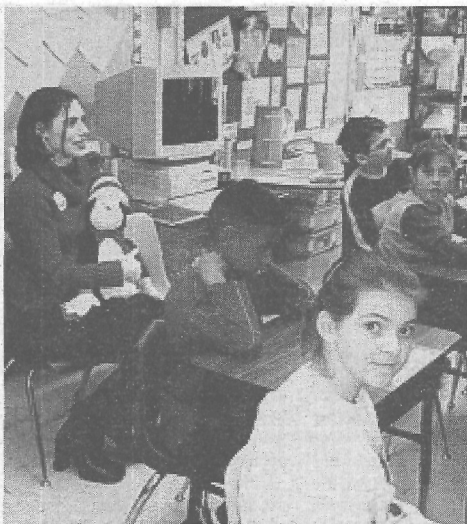
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Read Across America Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Seuss

"Read Across America" was celebrated nationwide last week in honor of Dr. Seuss's 98th birthday on Mar. 2.

Dr. Seuss's legacy of the love of reading resonated throughout the school district this past week.

Last year over 25 million people participated in the celebration. The date is way for our community to become involved with education, particularly to promote reading.

Students around South Plainfield celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday in a variety of ways. Each school had their own unique way of saying, "Happy

Birthday Dr. Seuss."

Celebrations were held in all of the schools. The "Cat in the Hat" could be seen in everywhere we visited, with his red and white striped hat. Dr.

Seuss books were the most popular reading source, but many readers choose their favorite book to read.

Students at Grant Central Sixth Grade visited the Future Stars classes and read books to the youngsters.

Dr. Seuss would have been pleased with Franklin School's celebration of his birthday. Mrs. Matticola's first grade students started off the morn-

ing right by making green eggs and ham. The celebration continued as Child Study Team member Pat Higgins read a Seuss stories to the first grade.

Mrs. Pelton's kindergarten class enjoyed a special treat. Mr. Marcus, Franklin's reading teacher, and several older students arrived in the classroom wearing Cat in the Hat stove pipe hats and the famous red tie. One student even had an entire Cat in the Hat costume. The students and Marcus each read portions of beloved Seuss tales and the kindergarten students immediately guessed which story each excerpt was from.

On Friday, Roosevelt hosted many town officials, including Mayor Gallagher, Councilman Ray Petronko, Police Chief Robert Merkle, Detective Murtaugh, Police Officers DeLair, Firefighter Scalera, Mr. Celentano, Mrs. Jankoski, president of the PTO, Charlie Decker, Dr. Janet Munger, Myra Stillman, and Charles Kurland,

owner of Hometown Heros. Each guest read their favorite book to the students. All of the readers gladly accepted an invitation to read to the children and in turn the children were delighted to hear their favorite books read by celebrities.

Each guest reader at Roosevelt was escorted to the classroom by the members of the Student Council. The escorts were: Amanda Plum, Kristy Ray, Alex Green, Brittany Alvarado, Courtney Schaefer, Tyler Driscoll, Frank Licato, Melissa White, AJ Kunie, Danny Maistickle, Rachel Pinto, Maricela Gonzalez, Audrey Cupo, Jordan Petriello, Alex Cihanowyz, Darnell Beverley and Ashleigh Gray.

Riley students were visited by 18 members of the High School National Honor Society. The honor students

read a variety of books to the students, played games and answered questions. The students were: Cassie Bosse, Jennifer Butrico, Christopher Catalfamo, Jaclyn Cox, Jenevieve DeLosSantos,

Rula Kanj, Antonia Katsantonis, Danielle Lytwyn, Jeffrey McKnight, Timothy Morgan, William Olson, Matthew Peloquin, Kevin Petrocelli, Kimberly Pfeifer, Danielle

Schweers, Martin Seiz, Michelle Socha and Jacqueline Wong

Every year Kennedy School Principal Al Czech issues a challenge to the students to read 20,000 books for the "Book It" project by the end of February, just in time for Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students received a list of dares that he would perform if they read more than their quota.

Once again the students met the challenge and read over 20,000 books in a four month period. Mr. Czech agreed to the students request and had his hair painted red, white and blue with stars at an assembly last Friday. Students were also asked to recite a pledge about reading every day to feed your brain.

Since the students read over 5,500 books in February alone, Czech also decided to spend a day on the roof because of their overwhelming response to read that month. Monday, even though it was freezing cold, he spent the day sitting on the roof.

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With My Eyes
Shut"*

*"Oh, The
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Can Think"*

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Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

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Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays 9:00 a.m. (church)

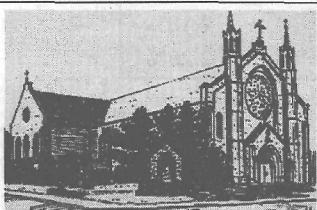
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 7 p.m. (Vigil); 7 and 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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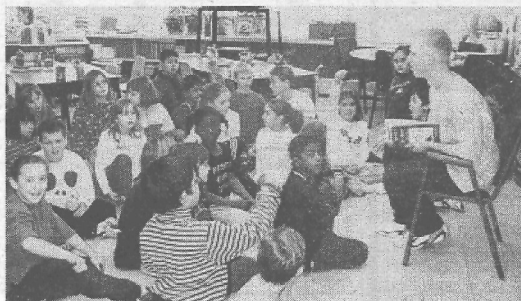
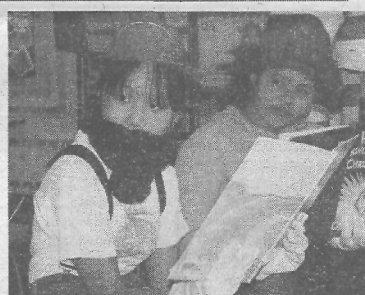
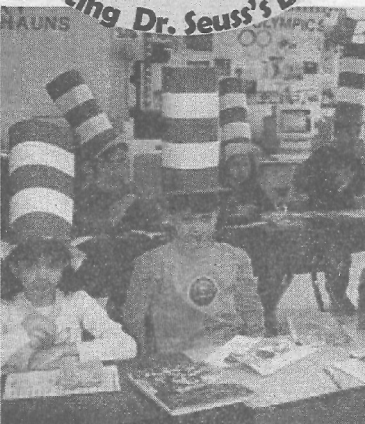
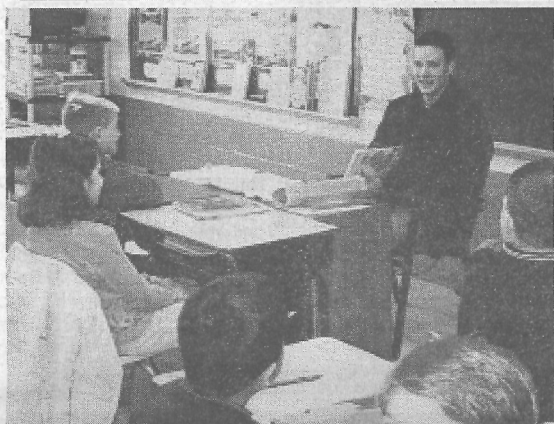
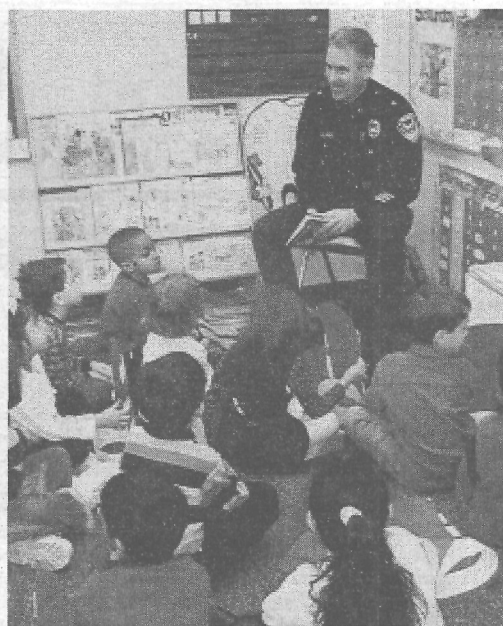
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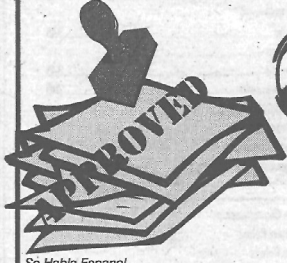
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Sports

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Rec Wrestlers Capture 4th Central Jersey Title

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team ended their season in impressive fashion when they captured their fourth consecutive Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Team Tournament championship. The Junior Tigers finished the year tied with Kenilworth for the division title. This year's tournament was held in Kenilworth, facing those odds made the Tigers task a little more difficult. South Plainfield tied Kenilworth during the regular season, but the Tigers prevailed with a score of 69 points to 59 points for second place North Hunterdon. Kenilworth was not even a factor when they finished third with 48 points while

Flemington finished in fourth place with 33 points.

The Tigers sent seven wrestlers into the finals and claimed four individual titles three second place and two third place finishes.

Nick Heilmann 69 pounds, claimed the first Tiger title when he defeated the number one seed, Joe Calderone of Kenilworth 7-6. The win knocked Kenilworth out of contention for the tournament title. Heilmann won his first match 12-0 and his second match 4-2 in OT.

Patrick Hunter 79 pounds, the number one seed, claimed the second Tiger title in dominating fashion winning by tech-fall 15-0 over Tony Fusco of North Hunterdon. Hunter won his first two matches by fall to reach the finals. Hunter finished the year at 18-0.

Danny Pompilio 112, won the next title by fall over Henry Elshiek. Pompilio lost to Elshiek during the season, but avenged that loss by dominating the match before getting the fall in the third period. Pompilio won his first match by fall and his second 2-0 in OT. Heavyweight Rocco

Petriello closed the show with a fall over Christian Bollin of Middlesex at 0:42 to claim the fourth Tiger title. Petriello won his first match by fall.

Tyler Hunter 55 pounds, came up short in his bid for a title losing a 4-1 decision to Patrick Levandowski of North Hunterdon. Hunt reached the finals by winning his first three matches two by fall and one by a 6-2 decision over Mackey Price of Hillsborough, who defeated Hunt in OT at the South Plainfield tournament two weeks ago.

Corey Hay 72, lost a tough 6-3 decision to Sean Kane of Kenilworth, the number one seed, for second place. Hay won his first two matches by decision to reach the finals. Mark Wagner 104 lost his bid for a title when he dropped a 2-0 decision to Brandon Ard of Watchung. Wagner appeared to have Ard turned for back points, but didn't get the call. Wagner won his first match by fall and his second by decision 9-6.

Third place went to Ryan Sacco 65, and John Wylam 75. Brad Martin 97 placed fifth and Anthony Ashnault finished in sixth place.

Matt Anderson Claims Third Region Title

South Plainfield senior wrestler Matt Anderson 130 won his third consecutive Region 3 championship. Overall the Tigers sent 10 wrestlers to the Region's and finished the tournament advancing three to the state tournament. Senior Scott Doerr 145 came up short in his bid for his first Region title when he lost a close 5-4 decision to John Cholish of Delbarton 5-4. Doerr who was leading in the match 4-3 in the third period gave up a takedown with Cholish holding on as time ran out. Ricky Ringel 112 also advanced when he won his consolation final 5-4 over Steve Mineo of Scotch Plains 5-4. Anderson won his title in dominating fashion winning a 15-2 major decision over Stefano Sarracino of Bearley (Kenilworth).

Anderson who was the 2000 state champion at 103 and runner up last year at 119, looks to win his second state title at 130 while Doerr a 7th 8th place winner last year looks to improve on that by winning his first state title. Ringel, making his first trip to the states has the toughest road but has a good shot at placing.

Good luck to all Tiger wrestlers.

JV Wrestlers Have A Great Day

The JV wrestlers also had a great day, claiming four individual titles, three second place winners, four thirds and three fourth place winners.

Claiming titles were Kyle Hughes 68, Nick Vetuschi 75, Justin Smith 82 and Jonathan Conroy 97. Second place went to Mike

Molinaro 65, Kyle Pompilio 70, Ryan Billich 72.

Third place winners were Kyle Brady 47, Rich Szeliga 62, Nick Pauls 70 and Mike Dandola heavyweight.

Fourth place went to Bobby Kolvites 47, Corey Stasencko 52 and Dylan Dorey 62.

Sign-ups Underway For Adult Softball

Adult softball leagues are now forming and games start on April 9.

The men play at 6 p.m. on Tues. and Thurs. Cost is \$220 plus umpire fees. The women play at 6 p.m. on Tues. Cost is \$155 plus umpire fees.

If you are interested please contact Pete at the PAL at 226-7714.

SPHS Spring

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Varsity & Junior Varsity Softball

March

8	Immaculata (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
9	New Egypt (scrimmage)	(H)	11am
12	J.P. Stevens (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
15	Middlesex (scrimmage)	(A)	3:45
16	Notre Dame (scrimmage)	(A)	2:00
18	Immaculata (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
20	So. Brunswick (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
23	Edison (scrimmage)	(H)	11am
25	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
27	Hunterdon Cen. (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45

April

3	Perth Amboy	(H)	11am
5	Sayreville	(H)	10am
6	Watchung Hills	(H)	11am
9	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45
11	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
12	North Plainfield	(H)	3:45
15	Colonia	(H)	3:45
17	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
19	Carteret	(H)	3:45
22	Piscataway	(A)	3:45
23	Perth Amboy	(A)	3:45
25	Sayreville	(A)	3:45
27	Union/Watchung Hills	(H)	11/1
29	Manchester Township	(A)	3:45
	J. F. Kennedy		

May

1	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
3	Colonia	(A)	3:45
4	Woodbridge	(H)	10:30am
6	J. P. Stevens	(A)	3:45
7	Bishop Ahr	(A)	3:45
8	Bridgewater	(A)	3:45
13	Old Bridge	(A)	3:45
15	GMC Tournament		
	State Tournament		

Varsity & Junior Varsity Baseball

March

9	New Providence (scrimmage)	(A)	10:30am
12	Franklin Township (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
15	Middlesex (scrimmage)	(A)	3:45
16	Somerville (scrimmage)	(H)	10 am
19	New Providence (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
22	Bound Brook (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
23	Hopatcong (scrimmage)	(H)	11 am
25	Roselle Catholic (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
27	Somerville (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
30	Bridgewater (scrimmage)	(H)	10 am

April

1	North Plainfield	(H)	4:00
3	Perth Amboy	(A)	3:45
5	Sayreville	(A)	3:45
6	Bound Brook	(H)	10 am
9	J. F. Kennedy	(A)	3:45
11	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
15	Colonia	(A)	3:45
17	Bishop Ahr	(A)	3:45
19	Somerville	(A)	3:45

20	Tournament	(A)	
20	Roselle Catholic (JV)	(H)	11 am
23	Perth Amboy	(H)	3:45
25	Sayreville	(H)	3:45
27	Carteret	(H)	11 am
29	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45

May

1	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
3	Colonia	(H)	3:45
4	South River	(A)	1:30
7	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
16	Dunellen	(A)	3:45
17	Middlesex	(H)	3:45
18	J. P. Stevens	(A)	11 am
21	Franklin Township	(H)	3:45
22	Roselle Catholic (Varsity only)	(H)	3:45
	GMC Tournament		
	State Tournament		

Freshmen Baseball

March

9	New Providence (scrimmage)	(H)	10:30 am
12	Franklin Township (scrimmage)	(A)	3:45
19	New Providence (scrimmage)	(A)	3:45
25	Roselle Catholic (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
30	Bridgewater (scrimmage)	(A)	10 am

April

1	North Plainfield	(A)	4:00
2	New Providence	(H)	3:45
3	Perth Amboy	(H)	11 am
5	Sayreville	(H)	10 am
9	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45
11	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
13	Roselle Catholic	(H)	11 am
15	Colonia	(H)	3:45
17	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
19	North Plainfield	(H)	4:00
20	Roselle Catholic	(H)	11 am
23	Perth Amboy	(A)	3:45
25	Sayreville	(A)	3:45
27	Carteret	(A)	11 am
29	J. F. Kennedy	(A)	3:45

May

1	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
3	Colonia	(A)	3:45
4	New Providence	(A)	11 am
6	Johnson Regional	(H)	3:45
7	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
13	J. P. Stevens	(H)	11 am
19	Franklin Township	(A)	3:45
21	Roselle Catholic	(H)	3:45

Freshmen Softball

March

12	J. P. Stevens (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
18	Immaculata (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
20	South Brunswick (scrimmage)	(H)	3:45
28	Edison (scrimmage)	(H)	11 am

April

1	Carteret	(H)	11 am
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3	Perth Amboy	(A)	11 am
5	Sayreville	(A)	10 am
6	Watchung Hills	(A)	11 am
9	J. F. Kennedy	(A)	3:45
10	Middlesex	(H)	3:45
11	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
12	Bridgewater	(H)	3:45
15	Colonia	(A)	3:45
17	Bishop Ahr	(A)	3:45
19	Carteret	(A)	3:45
22	Piscataway	(H)	3:45
23	Perth Amboy	(H)	3:45
25	Sayreville	(H)	3:45
29	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45

May

1	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
2	Middlesex	(A)	3:45
3	Colonia	(H)	3:45
4	Woodbridge	(A)	10:30am
6	J. P. Stevens	(H)	3:45
7	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
13	Old Bridge	(H)	3:45

Golf

April

9	Old Bridge @Glenwood	3:30
9	Watchung Hills @West-9	3:30
10	Sayreville @West-9	3:30
12	Bishop Ahr @West-9	3:30
15	Woodbridge @West-9	3:30
16	Perth Amboy @Raritan Landing	3:30
19	Union @West-9	3:30
23	Colonia @Colonia CC	3:30
24	Clark @Oak Ridge	3:30
30	East Brunswick @West-9	3:30

May

1	Clark @West-9	3:30
2	Woodbridge @Colonia CC	3:30
3	North Brunswick @West-9	3:30
6	Perth Amboy @West-9	3:30
7	Bishop Ahr @Oak Ridge	3:30
8	Colonia @West-9	3:30
9	Sayreville/North Brunswick @Tamarack	3:30
13/14	Sectionals	
15	Old Bridge @West-9	3:30
16	GMC Prelims	3:30
17	Watchung Hills @Quailbrook	3:30
20	Groups/Meet of Champions	
21	GMC 1st Round	3:30
23	GMC Tournament @Tamarack	7 am

Boys Tennis

April

1	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
8	Perth Amboy	(A)	3:45
10	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
12	St. Joseph's	(A)	3:45
15	Colonia	(H)	3:45
17	J. F. Kennedy	(A)	3:45
22	Monroe Township	(A)	3:45

24	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
26	GMC Tournament		9 am
27	GMC Tournament		9 am

May

1	Perth Amboy	(H)	3:45
6	St. Joseph's	(H)	3:45
7	Bishop Ahr	(A)	3:45
10	Colonia	(A)	3:45
13	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45
15	Monroe Township	(H)	3:45
	State Tournament		

Girls Track

April

3	Colonia	(H)	3:45
10	Perth Amboy	(A)	3:45
17	J. F. Kennedy	(H)	3:45
24	Bishop Ahr	(H)	3:45
30	GMC Relays		

May

1	GMC Relays		
7	Carteret	(A)	3:45
11	GMC Meet	(A)	
15	Sayreville	(A)	3:45
22	North Brunswick	(H)	3:45
24	Sectional Meet		
25	Sectional Meet		
31	Group Championships		

June

1	Group Championships		
5	State Championships		
	Blue Devil Classic		
	Holmdel Relays		
	Penn Relays		

Boys Track

April

3	Colonia	(H)	3:45
10	Perth Amboy	(H)	3:45
17	J. F. Kennedy	(A)	3:45
24	Bishop Ahr	(A)	3:45
30	GMC Relays		

May

1	GMC Relays		
7	Carteret	(H)	3:45
11	GMC Meet	(A)	
15	Sayreville	(H)	3:45
22	North Brunswick	(A)	3:45
24	Sectional Meet		
25	Sectional Meet		
31	Group Championships		
1	Group Championships		

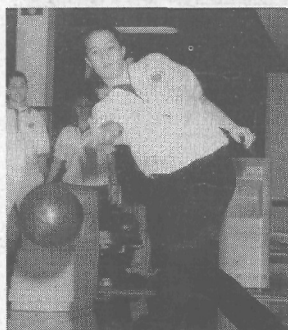
June

5	State Championships		
	Holmdel Relays		
	Penn Relays		
	Millburn Relays		
	Matawan Relays		
	Monmouth Invitational		

Sports

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Junior Alexis Montarnaro rolled 129-143-172 games for a 466 set in the Joe Romer Tournament.



Freshman Geo Kleinknight fired games of 172-153-166, for a 491 set in the Joe Romer Tournament.

Matt Boley's 201-209-198 — 608 set lead the Tigers to a ninth Place Finish in the Joe Romer Memorial XXVI. Also chipping in were freshman Shawn Ferguson 160 - 175 - 186 - 521, freshman Jon Jeglinski 474, freshman Nick Grego 431, and junior Anthony Igerto 457.

By Kevin Lykes



juniorbaseballclubnotes

MAJOR WORK DETAILS SET TO OPEN SPJBC BASEBALL COMPLEX—Our recent try-outs went well; teams are being selected this week and players should be contacted by their respective coaches no later than this weekend for (Small Fry) and on Monday and Tuesday of next week for Pony. Now it's time to really start getting serious. Opening day is only five weeks away. Starting on Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 a.m. and every Saturday during the month of March, we will be out at the complex doing major work detail. We will be putting up windscreens, painting, hanging sponsor signs and getting the complex ready for the season in general. It would be very much appreciated if anyone who has gas powered weed whacking equipment or a wheel barrel could bring them along. We can use all the help we can get during these upcoming Saturdays. If you can spare some time, stop down. All volunteers are welcome.

Saturday, March 16 at 9:30 a.m. on Field 1 we will hold our C League orientation. All parents and players involved in C League are invited to attend. The session lasts approximately 1-1½ hours. We will familiarize you with some of the workings of the club and the people who run it. We will also be introducing the players to the next level of baseball.

We are still looking for anyone who's interested in helping with our Booster weekend, (canning), to be held from Thursday thru Saturday, April 4, 5, and 6. Volunteers should contact Al Lisewski at (908) 753-5745.

Attention Candy Lovers!

Even though the South Plainfield Jr. Baseball Club's annual Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale wrapped up on Mar. 2, we have heard that some people did not receive their flyers in the mail. Therefore, we will accept late orders until Monday, March 11. That is the final deadline for any orders in order to get the candy for Easter. If you need an order form or have questions, please call Stacy Lake at 757-9531.

20 Turn Out for SPHS Golf Team

Twenty students turned out for SPHS the golf team! Returning letter winners are: Dan DeAndrea, Frank Gaspari, Guy Severini, Matt Peloquin and Tom Sniscak along with Jimmy Bataille. Billy Weaver, Mike Alvarez, Mike Jankoski, Tim Keller, Frank Wrubleski, Lauce Smith, Derrick Smith, Sankalp Patel and Ryan Spillane will try to make the SPHS Gold Team. Freshmen that could help the team include Nick Sbordone, Doug Dietzold, Peter DeAndrea, Billy

Paula and Brian Murtagh.

Last year the Tigers were 17-3, White Division Champs in the GMC and took second place in the GMC Tournament. They also finished third in South Jersey Group III at the Sand Barreus course in Cape May.

Replacing Jason Bataille, who is now a Rutgers freshmen on a golf scholarship, is something Coach Mike Kavka will find very difficult. Coach Kavka even had a hole in one on Saturday!

Bori Leads Hockey Team to Undefeated Season

Franklin School student Danny Bori, a seven-year-old goalie for the Chimney Rock Predators Traveling Hockey Team, led his team to a 16-0-4 record in the NJ Youth Hockey League North Division. In combined action North and South, Bori was second out of 22 teams with lowest goals allowed per game. He recorded eight shutouts and gave up only 25 goals in 20 league games. For the season Bori played in 46 games, had 532 shots attempted and saved 450 of those shots. In those games he had 1.95 goals scored per game and recorded 12 shutouts.

In the NJ Colonials Christmas Tournament, he had a break during hockey game.

Goal tender Danny Bori takes ment, he a break during hockey game. was the tournament MVP and gave up three goals in four games and had one shutout. Danny and his brother Billy devote five days a week to hockey, three days of practice and two days traveling to games and tournaments up and down the east coast. Coming up, Danny and Bill will travel to the Univ. of Delaware for a 16 team invitational hockey tournament of the best teams on the East coast. In April they will be traveling to Lake Placid, as part of the Chimney Rock Predators Squirt B traveling all-stars.



Pictured while waiting for the start are Webelo Max Butler, Webelo Chris Izzy, First Class Scout and Senior Patrol Leader Nick Green, Tender Foot Kick Hogan, Tender Foot Colin Slattery, Webelo Steve Wagner, Webelo Tiin Ratti and Second Class Scout Bobby Parillo.

Troop 124 Participates in Klondike Derby

Scout Troop 124 participated in the Blue Mountain Valley District Klondike Derby held on Saturday Feb. 23 on the grounds of the Green Brook Middle School.

The scouts competed with the several other troops in the district. The event simulated the excitement of the Alaskan Gold Rush in the Yukon territory a century ago.

The scouts travel from town to town pulling their sleds loaded with 100 plus pounds of gear and test their

skills of wilderness survival in each town. The tests include fire building, cooking, knotting and lashing, first aid, orienteering, woodsman tools safety, nature, citizenship and scout values. Gold nuggets are awarded according to proficiency and time. Bonus nuggets are awarded for sportsmanship, good turns, cooperation of patrol members and pop quizzes on scouting information. The patrol with the most nuggets wins.



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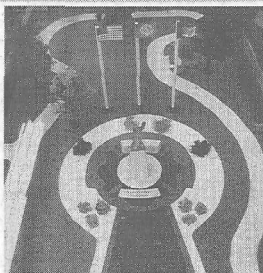
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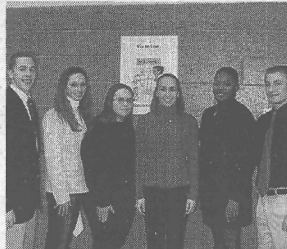
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Obituaries

Howard S. Elliott, Jr., 83

Howard S. Elliott, Jr. of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Howard was born in Plainfield and grew up in South Plainfield, where he lived before moving to Piscataway 44 years ago.

He retired in 1975 after 32 years of service at Mack Motors, formerly of Bridgewater and Plainfield, working in assembly and later in the parts supply department.

Howie joined the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. in February of 1939 and remained an active member for many years. He was a Life Member of the South Plainfield Exempt Fireman's Assoc., the NJ State Exempt Association and the NJ State Fireman's Assoc.

He served with the U.S. Army during WWII.

He was predeceased by his wife, Helen Phillips Elliott, who died in 1987.

Surviving are his brother Norman B. Elliott of Longwood, Fla. and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Clement Ippolito, 80

Clement Ippolito of South Plainfield died on Saturday, Feb. 23 at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

Clem was born in Belleville where he grew up. After high school, he entered the U.S. Army Air Corps, achieving the rank of sergeant. He saw battle action in the European Theater during WWII. After the war he married and then lived in Jersey City, before moving to South Plainfield in 1951, where he had resided until last week, when he began to move to Littleton, Colorado.

Mr. Ippolito had worked as a service technician with the Frigidare Co. of Newark for 15 years and for five years with the Tempco Co., also in Newark. From 1968 until his retirement 15 years ago, he worked as a service manager for LaBate and Conti of Nutley.

From 1971 through 1972, he attended the Newark College of Engineering and in 1995, at the age of 75, he went to school and obtained his real estate license and began working as a realtor with the Century 21-Moretti Realty of South Plainfield. He retired this past September.

He was a life member of the VFW Memorial Post #6763 and in his younger years, he had been an assistant scout master with Boy Scout Troop 246, both of South Plainfield. He was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield.

Clem was an avid and accomplished photographer and he loved being "Mr. Fix-it." It was known to many people that if "Clem couldn't fix-it...it just couldn't be fixed!"

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Marie A. (Tranchetti) Ippolito; a daughter, Maria R. Ippolito of Westchester, Pa.; a son and daughter-in-law, Mark C. and Penny Ippolito of Littleton, Colo.; five sisters: Nettie Primavera of West Paterson, Mary Tranchetti of Cedar Grove, Eleanor Dicola of South Carolina, Louisa Rendenra of Las Vegas and Ann Chieppa of Nutley; a brother, Arensio Ippolito of Rotonda West, Fla. and two grandchildren, Katie and Jon Ippolito.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Lester W. Hall Jr., 68

Lester W. Hall Jr. of South Plainfield died on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

He was born in Pleasant Run, NJ and was a former resident of South Plainfield, before moving to Middlesex seven years ago.

Mr. Hall was an automobile mechanic for Somerset Tire Service in Green Brook for 20 years, before retiring in 1996.

He is survived by two daughters, Valerie Scalera of Piscataway and Pamela Hecht of South Plainfield; a sister, Lois Thor and three grandchildren, Sahnnon Hecht, Alexis and Adam Scalera.

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

Paul S. Kavka, Sr., 83

Paul S. Kavka, Sr. of South Plainfield died on Monday, Feb. 25 at the NJ Firemen's Home in Booton.

Mr. Kavka was born in South Plainfield and was a life long resident of the community before entering the Fireman's Home one and a half years ago. He had graduated from North Plainfield High School. After high school, he entered the U.S. Army and achieved the rank of staff sergeant during WWII.

From 1950 through 1969, Paul, along with his brother Mike Kavka, had owned and operated the former Lakeside Tavern in South Plainfield. After retiring from the Lakeside, he had worked for the Borough of South Plainfield for five years in the maintenance of the PAL building.

He was a former member of the Lions Club, the American Legion Chaumont Post #243, the VFW Memorial Post #6763, Sacred Heart RC Church, Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church and the Senior Citizens, all in South Plainfield. Paul also formerly served with the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Dept. and was a life member of the NJ State and the South Plainfield Exempt Firemen's Associations.

His first wife, Elizabeth (Huff) Kavka, died in 1976 and his second wife, Dorothy (Mullaney) Kavka, died in 1999. He was also predeceased by his brothers, Mike and John Kavka.

Surviving are two sons, Paul "Skip" Kavka, Jr. and wife Kathleen of South Plainfield and Peter M. Kavka of North Brunswick and two granddaughters, Kristen McLouth and Katie Kavka.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Assoc. or to the NJ Firemans Home.

Loretta M. (Knowlton) Petronella, 62

Loretta M. (Knowlton) Petronella of South Plainfield died Friday, Feb. 29 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Jersey City and lived in South Plainfield for the past 30 years.

Mrs. Petronella worked for Fleet Bank in South Plainfield for 12 years as an accounting clerk until 1999 and then worked for Odd-Job Corp. in South Plainfield as an accounting clerk for the past three years. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

She is survived by John, her husband of 43 years; two daughters, Tina Zwiebel of Rahway and Patricia Perrine of South Plainfield; a sister, Mildred Knowlton of Old Bridge and a brother, Kenneth Knowlton of Lititz, Pa. and five grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at

McCriskin Home for Funerals.

John "Van" Francis Ventriglia, 83

John "Van" Francis Ventriglia died Monday, March 4 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Plainfield and has resided in South Plainfield since 1950.

Mr. Ventriglia was employed as a cement truck driver with Wel-Don Concrete Company of Watchung for 30 years before retiring in 1980.

He served in the United States Army during WWII. He was a member of Teamsters Local #408 in Union and Sacred Heart RC Church of South Plainfield.

He was predeceased by his wife Angelina, who died in 1999 and by two sisters and four brothers.

Mr. Ventriglia was a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Gail and Andy Ring and Janice and Edward LaRusso and a brother, Peter Ventriglia. Also surviving is one granddaughter, Elizabeth Ring.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

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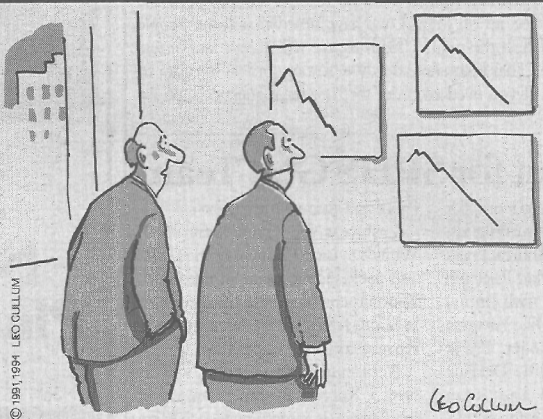
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St. Stephen's Dishes Out Spaghetti Dinner

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church hosted a spaghetti dinner recently, the fourth in as many weeks. Despite the frequency and the similarity of the menus, residents still flocked there to enjoy the meal. St. Stephen's offered a full dinner, with all the trimmings including a mouthwatering desert table. In addition to the pasta, they served huge meatballs, salad, bread and beverages. Approximately 75 people attended the annual event, a fundraiser for the Confirmation class's retreat at Crossroads Camp.

Lou Hasbrouck, Frank Gianeschi, and Baxter Brooks cooked the meal, while Dale and Michelle Morin, and George Rudo served the steaming spaghetti to hungry diners. Hostesses for the evening were Cathy Newman and Carol Rudo. Also helping were Bob Newman and Agnes Czarnecki and the Confirmation class of 2002.



policereport

• On Sunday, police discovered a pile of boxes and papers in the parking lot where Durham Deli was previously located on Durham Ave. They contained what was thought to be undelivered mail and turned them over to the South Plainfield Post Office. According to Supervisor Gabe Garcia at the post office, the mail was left there by a courier service from New Brunswick. He could only say that it was inter-office company mail. The mail was a day old and the matter is currently under investigation.

• Ray LoCacio of Edison was arrested for shoplifting \$179.89 worth of groceries at the A&C.

• A Plainfield resident reported that her debit card had been fraudulently used at Bravo Supermarket on

W. 7th Street.

• Blockbuster Video on Hadley Rd. reported the theft of 51 DVDs worth \$1,040. The empty cases had been found on shelves throughout the store.

• A Jersey City woman reported that someone who worked for Montrose Moulders on St. Nicholas Ave. was using her social security number. They had given the company several different names and social security numbers in order to gain employment and was arrested for wrongful impersonation.

• A Piscataway woman shopping at CVS on Stelton Rd. reported that her pocketbook was missing after she stepped away from her shopping cart.

Legal Notices

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Douglas Tjorn requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit the erection of a 11' x 16' deck, a 16' x 21' first floor addition, a 16' x 7' front porch and a 16' x 30' second floor addition. Proposed work all lacks the required 30' front setbacks from Clifford Street, 13.67' being proposed for deck, 24.67' proposed for first floor addition, 25.88' proposed for front porch and 26.87' proposed for second floor addition and any other variances that may be required, said property being located on Block 98, Lot 16 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 Tuesday, March 19, 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 March 8, 2002

Dr. Hangge Resigns As Roosevelt School Principal

Continued from page 1

the Observer requested to remain anonymous for fear of retribution against them through their children. Over a dozen calls and numerous emails were received during the course of the week. Several sources have suggested that Dr. Hangge had been forced to resign, but no one has stepped forward to confirm this rumor.

A concerned Roosevelt father described Dr. Hangge as a dedicated man who came to Roosevelt and instituted much needed changes. This sentiment was echoed by nearly all parents who called. The father continued saying, "Dr. Hangge was the Joe Clark of Roosevelt School!" Clark was the controversial principal who arrived

at Eastside High School in Paterson in 1984. He turned the once dangerous hallways into a model school through strict discipline.

The only facts we were able to confirm were that Dr. Hangge did sign a letter of resignation last week and the Board did voted to accept the letter on Tuesday night.

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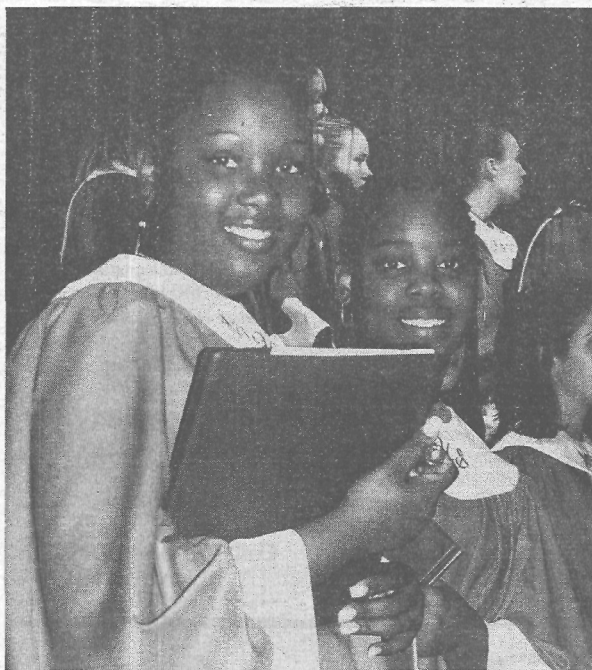
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Sounds of Music at Mid-Winter Concert

by Patricia Abbott

"Filling your hearts and minds with the music of our children," a sentiment perfectly suited to the South Plainfield High School Music Department's annual Mid-Winter Concert. The concert featured the chorus, orchestra, concert, stage and jazz bands and was directed by Tracy Murray-chorus, Bruce Mikolon, orchestra and Mark Tweed-band.

The instrumental groups featured students Wajdi Kanj, Joshua Jackson, Chris Duddy, James Ales, Mike Jankoski, Danny Lammi, Justin Toth, Will Humber, Steve Janiszak, Joey Reach, Danny Sierzega and Brian Public.

The choral portion of the concert was entitled "An Evening At The Opera." Selections included pieces from Puccini, Verdi and more. Soloists included Malika Aaron, Rula Kanj, Allison Provaire, Josef Rodriguez, Christopher Baron,



David Garatino, Wajdi Kanj and Pamela Janiszak. Pianist for Janiszak's solo was her father, Steve Janiszak. Adam Toth was pianist for several

other numbers. The soloists were backed by the combined chorus, Emeralds and Jades.

Open Enrollment At Learning Center

Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center, located at 3121 Park Ave. in South Plainfield is beginning Open Enrollment for students in preschool through fifth grade. Classes run for nine weeks beginning on June 24.

P.C.L.C. is also offering full and

part time classes for preschoolers in the fall. A full day kindergarten program is also available.

P.C.L.C. is a state certified school. All inquiries may be directed to Chris Sienkiewski, Director at (908) 756-4879.

Elks Lodge Looking For Vendors

The South Plainfield ELKS Lodge #2298, 1254 New Market Rd., is looking for vendors for their Craft Fair on May 4.

Tables are \$20 each. For information or reservations, call Anna at (732) 968-7238.

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