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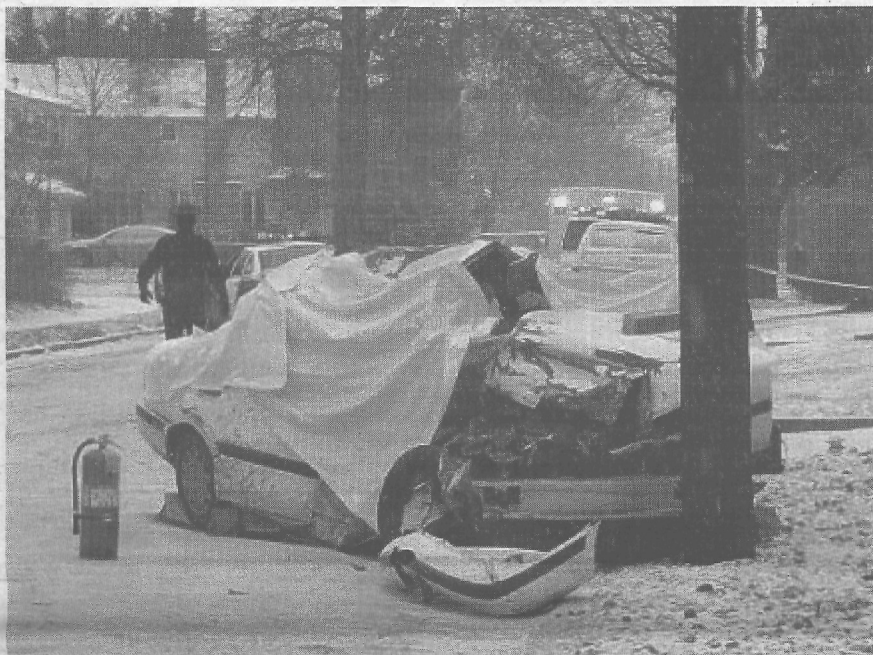
South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 6, NO. 22

50 CENTS

JANUARY 31, 2003

Auto Crash Kills Youth



Early Wednesday morning a car traveling on Oak Tree Ave. collided with flat bed truck and slide into a telephone. Preliminary reports say that the accident victim, a 20-year-old resident of South Plainfield, was killed instantly. Police did not release his name and no further details were available at presstime. The Middlesex County Prosecutors office is in charge of investigating the accident. Watch for next week's *Observer* for more details on this accident.

Middle School Plans Sept. 11 Monument Basketball Fundraiser Planned

The Middle School is planning to build a 9-11 monument and place it in the courtyard of the school and plans are to complete it by Sept. 11, 2003.

The South Plainfield Middle School Student Council is sponsoring a Student vs. Faculty Basketball game to raise the money to help pay for the cost of the monument. The game will be between the boys and girls eighth grade basketball teams and Middle School faculty members. It will be held in the Middle School Gym on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Doors open at 6 p.m., with pre-game ceremonies to beginning around 6:30.

Attending as part of the presentation of the Colors/Salute to the United States, will be members of the South Plainfield Police, Fire, and EMS Departments, as well as uniformed members of the NYPD, FDNY, and PAPD. They have already received confirmation from the PAPD and FDNY that their members will attend.

The game will include halftime performances from the Middle School

Girls Cheerleading Squad, the faculty "Cheerleading" squad and a performance by the Middle School Dance Club. A three-point contest will be conducted with random spectators for various prizes.

Mr. Limyansky and Mr. Makowski will provide music and commentary throughout the event. They are hoping to sell 600 tickets, so everyone's attendance would greatly be appreciated. Tickets to the game are \$3 and go on sale at the Middle School the week ending Feb 15. Remaining tickets may also be purchased at the door the night of the game.

Donated baked goods as well as candy, snacks and beverages will be sold by the Student Council during the game. Other donations at the door will be greatly appreciated.

The 9-11 monument will consist of concrete, steel and plexi-glass. The initial design concept is a cement pentagon, with each side five-feet in length, 1 1/2-feet wide and rising two to four inches from the ground. In the hollow inner portion of the

Continued on page 3

Grant Central's Basketball Team 6-1

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Grant Central Sixth Elementary School is proud of their young Tigers. As of last week, the school's first basketball team has a phenomenal record of 6-1. The fifteen boys who make up the Grant team are part of the six-team St. Cecilia's CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) League. It is the first time Grant School has formed a sports team to compete outside the school. For most of the boys it is the first time they have played on a school team.

Few schools have sixth grade teams. Most of the teams the Grant Tigers face have more experienced players, students in grades seven and eight as well as sixth. This makes their record all the more noteworthy.

Coaches for the team are Al Czech, Tom Curtis and Ken Lucky. In addition to league games, the team often plays scrimmage games against area schools. In a recent scrimmage against Green Brook the Tigers won 71-19. Their two home games brought a huge crowd of supporters to cheer them on. The boys are looking forward to the playoffs on Feb. 25 and the consolation and championship games scheduled for March 4.

Over 50 students tried out for the team. They have been practicing about five times a week since November. The league plays on Tuesday nights at St. Cecilia's School in Iselin. They play

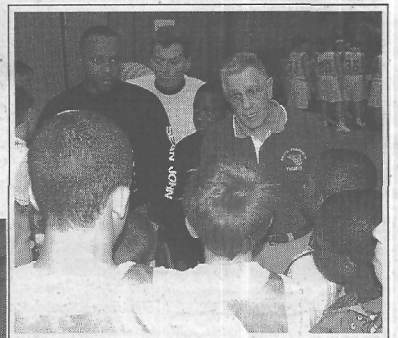
three games a night, with four six minute quarters.

The young Tigers are: Mike Boyle, Taylor Curtis, Tramane Miller (Captain), Kyle Quail, Ken Lucky (Captain), Mike Dezmin, Cris Kedmenec, Robbie Hoffman, Mike Burton (Captain), Nosa Ogbevoen, Teddy Skwiat,

Chris Lesniak, Alex Cihanowyz, Jared Christopher and Chris Fulton. Manager for the team is Jared Czech.

Grant Central Sixth Tiger Chris Lesniak said, "It is fun to play on the Grant Sixth grade basketball team, because you get to represent your school. It's cool to play home games because

Grant Central Sixth School's Basketball team (below) has earned a 6-1 record so far. Team members get instructions from Coach Al Czech (right).



all of the students can come and watch."

Teammate Teddy Skwiat talked about the scrimmage against Green Brook saying, "Tonight we had a great game! Everyone on the team scored and we all had a lot of fun. We owe most of our success to our great coaches who helped us become this GREAT!"

Coach Czech is proud of the youths. He said, "They are hard working, dedicated young people who care about each other, a group of young men who have great pride in their school." Czech noted that the Grant Central Sixth Tigers are greatly supported by the Board of Education, their classmates and parents. Their next game is Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m., against Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

Mark your calendars

Log on to
southplainfieldnj.com
for the latest
meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Thursday.

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

AGENDA MEETING **PUBLIC MEETING**
Monday, February 3 Thursday, February 6
Monday, February 18 Thursday, February 20
Monday, March 3 Thursday, March 6
Monday, March 17 Thursday, March 20

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, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Feb. 11, Feb. 25, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 24

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month

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

Jan. 23, Feb. 13, Feb. 27, March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.

board of education meetings

Grant School Gymnasium on Cromwell Place unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Feb. 11, March 11, April 1.

Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Feb. 18, March 18, April 8.

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-668-0538

site place sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.

Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16

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

February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, September 2, October 7, November 11 (November 4 is Election Day) and December 2.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday except August)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621

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

South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER
Publisher/Editor

Web page:
www.spobserver.com

For subscriptions, advertising or information, call (908) 668-0010.

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WAYNE GRENNIER
Associate Publisher

SUSAN KANEPS
Art Director/Associate Editor

PATRICIA ABBOTT
Staff Writer/Photographer

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Editorial Assistant

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KENNETH MORGAN
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ROXANNE CORTESE
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Advertising Sales

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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 the 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 spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. Letters must be submitted with name and

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor & Observer Readers,

I just had to write to the readers of the Observer and thank them for the unbelievable amount of support I have received from so many in regard to my letter about my idea for the S.A.E.E.E. Foundation!

Due to all the donations I have already received, S.A.E.E.E. is no longer just an idea, it's a reality. By the week's end, a microwave, two dish sets, three blankets, six comforters, bags of clothes were donated. Two pickup dates were made for Tuesday for children's toys, kitchenware and furniture, and another on Thursday with a room full of things that they will be donating.

Thanks so much to all of you. I already have so much to give a woman starting out on her new life! Not to mention the people who offered to volunteer their time to help me. I have made some changes, the permanent name and logo will be:

The S.A.E.E.E. Foundation

Helping women in crisis

Start A Fresh Free Existence

The new phone number will be (908) 822-5023, the drop off site remains the same at R & F Transportation Inc. 120 Barone Ave. (across from Roosevelt School). If any business is willing to be included as a drop off site please let me know. I will soon be talking with someone who will give me the proper guidance I need to have fundraisers. I want to raise money to purchase grocery store gift cards to give to the women along with the household items to help them with grocery shopping.

Again thank you so much for all the support, donations and mostly the encouragement in what I am trying to accomplish with S.A.E.E.E.

THANKS AGAIN,
DEBI ESPOSITO

Dear Editor,

As some may know, I was a Councilperson for three years and served on the Planning Board for five-plus years prior, during and after my term. I have been a Democratic since I was able to vote. During last year's campaign season, I wrote letters against the Republicans and criticized them for expecting to be elected and not getting involved in our town. During the course of the campaign season, I became acquainted with a gentleman who is very active within the Republican party, Bob Jones. Bob and I were chosen by our respected parties to work with Nancy Grennier, who represented the Business Association to help put together Debate Night. Bob and I worked well together in a bi-partisan manner, along with Nancy and we had a very successful debate.

During that time Bob told me of his background, which included zon-

ing and planning law. I suggested that he apply for either the zoning or planning board, since there were openings. Up until the time I resigned from the Planning Board in December, only one of three openings had been filled. I realize I am not, nor was not "privy" to all that goes on behind closed doors, but Mayor Gallagher did make it known he was in search of Planning Board members and that was prior to the Mayor knowing I was resigning. I also contacted the Chairman to the Zoning Board to see if there were any openings and was told there was "one" on that board as well.

When I was first appointed to the Planning Board, the Chairman was John Hogan, who was a Republican. John served for many administrations and he proved he was fair and never allowed politics to interfere with the betterment of South Plainfield. When John stepped down, because he was moving out of town, he was replaced by Bob Ackerman, who had been on the board for thirteen years. Bob is a registered Democrat and like John, has never allowed politics to interfere with the betterment of South Plainfield.

I was taken back and quite frankly embarrassed when Bob Jones informed me there were no open seats on either board. When I told Bob that I was resigning from the Planning Board and that he should apply again, he did so. This time he was simply thanked and told there were many applicants interested in these boards. I was dumbfounded since the five-plus years I had been involved with the Planning Board, including the period I was Council liaison, we were always looking for citizens to get involved. I applauded those who were chosen, but I do hope Bob Jones was not overlooked because of his political involvement. I also hope consideration was given, as well to the background and knowledge of those "chosen" on each board. Bob's background is zoning and planning law and he even served on the Land Management Commission many years ago. Bob has a wealth of experience in zoning and planning issues and would be an excellent candidate for either board. Bob has informed me he will be appointed to the Taxpayers Group, where I know he will be an asset, but I hope when there is another opening on either board, his party affiliation will not deter or cloud his chances.

The Planning and Zoning boards are in my opinion the most important boards within our community. They ensure that the proper guidelines are being followed, so it is of the utmost importance to have individuals who have a loyalty to South Plainfield and to its future and not to just one political party.

SINCERELY,
DARLENE M. PINTO

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to our office: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email at our website at spobserver.com or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher.

To the Editor,

On behalf of the family of Anthony Molinaro, we would like to express our sincere thanks to a number of people and organizations that were there to assist us in our time of need. Bill McCrarkin of McCrarkin Home for Funerals was wonderful in anticipating our needs and handling the many details during this difficult time. John Butrico and Jessica Cerami of the South Plainfield Rescue Squad went above and beyond in their response and caring. We are lucky to have volunteers like them on the Rescue Squad. A special thanks to Sgt. John Alles and the members of the South Plainfield Police Department for their tremendous support.

We are truly grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers and feel fortunate to live in a town where people do care.

SINCERELY,
THE MOLINARO FAMILY

PAL Plans Ski Trips

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring two more ski trips to Mountain Creek on Friday, Feb. 7 and Friday, Feb. 14.

The bus will leave from the PAL at 3 p.m. and return back at 10 p.m. We are limited to 42 skiers and three chaperones. The costs per trip will be \$35 for bus and lift and \$50 for bus, lift, and rentals.

You can register at the Pal or with Ms. Zurka at school. You can only register for one trip at a time.

AIDA SANTOS

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Assemblyman to Speak at Suburban Woman's Club

Patrick Diegnan Jr. Assemblyman from the 18th Legislative District will be the speaker at the February meeting of G. E. W. C. Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield. His topic will be "Tracking a bill through the Legislature." The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. at the Amer-

ican Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave.

Assemblyman Diegnan is a long time resident of South Plainfield and the first to be elected as Assemblyman from this town.

Visitors are always welcomed. For information about club membership, please call 754-7419.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

SPHS PTA will hold their annual Project Graduation Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 8 at the high school. Doors open at 6 p.m., auction/raffle starts at 7 p.m. This annual event usually sells out, so make your plans early.

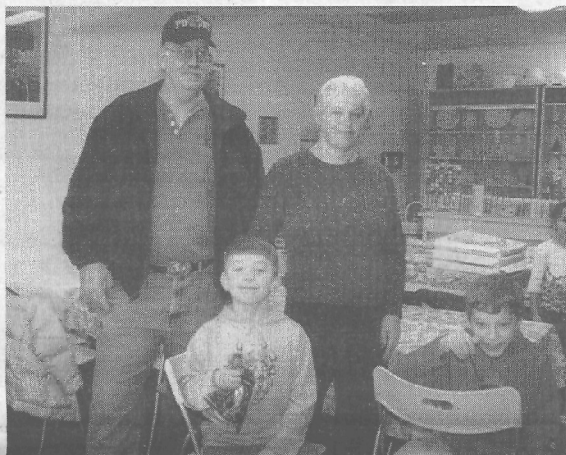
The purpose of the auction is to fund SPHS' Project Graduation, an all-night, alcohol- and drug-free party

for the SPHS Class of 2003 held on their graduation night.

Tickets for the Project Graduation Auction/Raffle are \$7 each and can be purchased in advance.

For tickets, contact Janet at (908) 757-3148. For information concerning the raffle, contact Ellen at (908) 756-3731 or Pat at (908) 756-6512.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Twins Celebrate Seventh Birthday

Steven and his twin brother Daniel celebrated their seventh birthday last Saturday along with a dozen friends from their neighborhood in Rahway. Their birthday party was held at The Painting Station on Plainfield Ave.

The Painting Station, owned by Tammy and Greg Vincent, makes their parties a little bit different. The guests are treated to decorate a ceramic of their choice. Some made candy dishes, others worked on dolphins.

Those attending the birthday

party were Emily Kayalo, Ashely Kayalo, Yasmine Vega, Victoria Vega, Mellisa Earle, T.J. O'Reilly, Paige Holman, Adriana Angrisani, Chandela Yuen, Michael Stypulowski, Zachariah Wojcik. Some parents also joined in the fun and made their own ceramic pieces. They were Elisha Vega, Luz Cabrera, Luci Angrisani, Christine Yuen, Patrice Wojcik, Waldemer Stypulowski, Sue Hughes and Mildred Montero.

The two-hour party concluded with pizza, sodas and cupcakes.

—Submitted by Bill Tuthill



Members of the South Plainfield Lions Club pictured are: (front row) PDG George Reinhardt, Secretary Hank Grabarz, Treasurer Steve Cecchetti, Past Council Chairman and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award Larry Massaro, President Bob Desch and Harry Popik; (back row) Ken Redler, Bill Ashnault, Bill McCriskin, Peter Walsh, Dave Deutsch, Roy Kaplin, Pat Aiello, Ron DeSchalfano, Edward Schwall, Mike Zushma, Brian Capparelli, Dieter Hollain and Allan Ceasar. Not pictured are Guy Moretti, John W. George, Sal Severini, Mario Abbruzzese, Eugene Massaro and Frank Matthews.

Massaro Earns New Jersey Lions Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to past State Council Chairman and Past District Governor Larry Massaro at a recent Lions Dinner. Massaro presently serves as the Lions District Cabinet Treasurer and State Financial Chairman. The donation to Camp Marcella was made by the club to honor Lion Larry for his 42 years of service and dedication to his club, the District and the State Lions Organization. A special Distinguished Service Award plaque will be placed at Camp Marcella in Lion Larry's honor.

A check for \$3,000 was also presented to Camp Marcella, a state-funded Lions project, which provides a facility for blind children to attend a summer camp. A two-week camping experience is provided each summer for more than 300 young blind children ages three to 16, where they can swim, boat, fish, skate, play baseball and participate in other recreational activities. Camp Marcella located in Rockaway, NJ, also offers a year-round recreational building which includes a library and offers crafts and bowling.

The South Plainfield Lions Club was recently privileged to have been made a member of Camp Marcella's Inner Circle. Inner Circle members represent the backbone of Camp Marcella to clubs who have committed to a particular project at the camp. The club has been invited to a luncheon meeting at the camp for Inner Circle members to be held in April. The Lions are looking forward to working with the blind children and the camp.



South Plainfield Lions Club President Bob Desch, presents The Distinguished Service Award to Past State Council Chairman Larry Massaro, along with a check for \$3,000 to PDG George Bassett, State Chairman of Camp Marcella.

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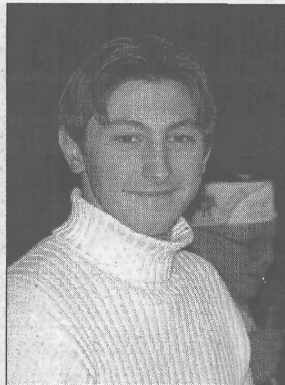
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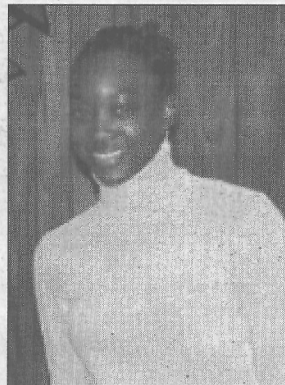
VFW Announces Voice of Democracy Winners



Hannah Levine



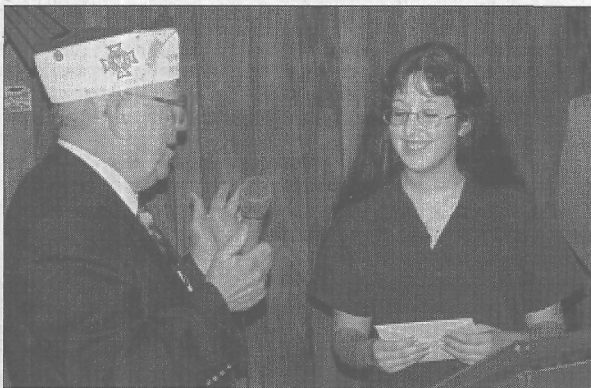
Nick Sbordone



Asia Hollis



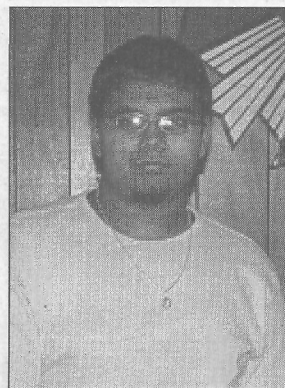
Gina Severini with VFW Post #6763 Commander Julius Peterson



Rudy Poczak of VFW Post #6763 and Samantha Crone



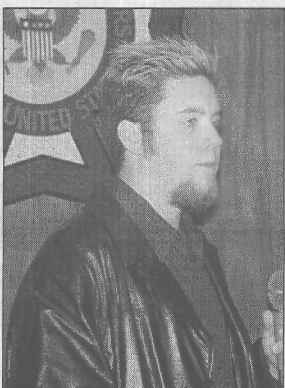
Cathryn Avery



Nikesh Patel



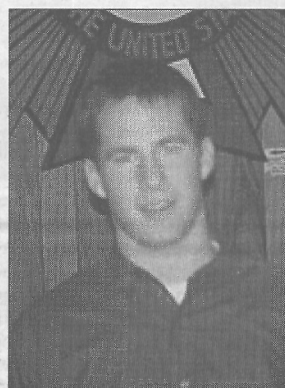
Christine Lanza



Tim McGover



Erica Palma



Erik Vesper

Members of the VFW Post #6763 proudly presented their annual "Voice of Democracy" prizes to winning students at ceremonies held recently. Rudy Poczak and Post Commander Julius Peterson made the presentations while more than 90 parents, teachers and friends looked on with pride.

High school students truly have the greatest challenge in this contest. They not only have to write an essay, on what democracy means to them, but they also have to make a recording of their essay. Students usually find that making the recording is much more difficult and challenging than just writing an essay.

More than 300 entries were received this year from students from South Plainfield High School, Middle School and Sacred Heart School. Rudy Poczak and his wife Marlene read every entry. The entries do not have the students' names, so they don't know the actual winners until after they judge the essays. The

Poczaks say they really enjoy their job, but each year they find it more difficult to pick a winner.

First place winners from each school were awarded \$250; second place \$200 and third place \$175. The first place winners were also asked to read their essays for the audience.

High school winners were Gina Severini, freshman; Erik Vesper, sophomore; Nikesh Patel, junior; Tim McGover, senior and Nick Sbordone, sophomore.

Middle School winners were: first place-Christine Lanza, second place-Asia Hollis and third place went to Hannah Levine.

Sacred Heart School winners were: first place-Samantha Crone, second place-Erica Palma and third place-Cathryn Avery.

The VFW holds fundraisers all year to support their scholarship and

contest awards. They try to educate students about what the VFW stands for and how its members are an important reason why America enjoys freedom and is a democracy.

One of the reasons this contest has grown each year is because of the encouragement from teachers and advisors from each school. Many students at the award ceremonies not only thanked their parents, but also their teachers, who encouraged and helped them through the

process of entering the contest.

All of the first place essays were entered in the District Essay Contest. If they win at that level they move onto the National Competition.

After hearing a few of the essays, one could only feel that each was a winner and the contestants all got the message of what democracy means.





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Sports

BASKETBALL

By Greg Machos

High School Tigers Win Streak Reaches Four Straight

By Greg Machos

The South Plainfield Tigers increased their win streak up to four games in a row as they won two games on the road. First, South Plainfield defeated the Monroe Township Falcons by a score of 57-47 on Wednesday night, January 22nd. Then, last Friday night the Tigers defeated a Carteret team that was fresh off of an upset victory over Colonia two nights earlier, 50-42. With the two victories, SPHS is now in a four way tie for first place with a 5-3 record as seven teams in the White Division are either tied for first, or a game behind in one of the tightest races in the Greater Middlesex Conference's seventeen year history.

Furthermore, with Piscataway Votek losing its first game of the season to New Brunswick on Friday night, the Tigers possess one of only three winning streaks in the entire conference. They are behind Cardinal McCarrick, which had won eight in a row going into its contest with Bishop Ahr last Saturday. St. Joseph's, which is number one in the GMC Hoops Top Ten and is coming off two road victories at Old Bridge and Piscataway to increase their win streak to seven straight. Consequently, South Plainfield moved up into the GMC Hoops Top Ten for the first time since the second week of January as they moved into the number nine spot.

Continuing to lead the charge for the Tigers is sophomore guard, Marquis Jones, who has averaged 16.5 points per game, 5.1 assists per game, and 4.0 steals per game during the winning streak. This includes an 11 point performance at Monroe, and an 18 point performance against Carteret.

Meanwhile, Jonathan Buggie had a career high 14 points in the win over the Falcons as he lead a balanced scoring attack that saw four Tigers hit double figures (Buggie with 14, Jones with 11, Darren Smith with 10, and Gary Houston with 10). Meanwhile,

in the game against the Ramblers, South Plainfield was aggressive on defense using a half court trap as well as man to man pressure to force Carteret to commit 30 turnovers including 17 in the second half.

Besides Jones scoring 18 including 15 points in the second half, Ian Robinson provided some support with 13 points while junior point guard, Corey Gilmore had eight points along with Darren Smith, who has continued to play well since his break out game against J.E Kennedy of Iselin a week and a half ago. As mentioned earlier, the Tigers moved up into a first place tie with a 5-3 record in the GMC White Division as a result of the four consecutive wins. Sharing the top spot with them is Colonia, who they play on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at home, Sayreville, who they play on Friday night at Sayreville War Memorial High School, and North Brunswick, who they will play at home in about ten days.

The next several games will be very important for the Tigers since it will not only determine who will ultimately win the White Division, but it will also determine seeding in the upcoming Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament, which starts the week of Feb. 16 with preliminary and first round games. On top of that, with all the parity in the GMC this year, any team that goes into the tournament with lots of momentum, and a winning streak like the Tigers currently do, could end up winning the whole thing when the dust settles at South Brunswick High School on Thursday, Feb. 27. Currently, there are only three teams in the GMC with 10 wins or more at this juncture of the season. Meanwhile, there are 18 teams throughout the entire conference that have between five and eight wins. Parity has certainly taken hold in the GMC this year.

Greg Machos covers the South Plainfield Tigers as well as other Greater Middlesex Conference Varsity Boys Basketball for his web site, GMC Hoops at <http://www.gmchoops.com>.

2003 Ed Niemczyk Youth Basketball League

League A

76ers	55	Knicks	29
Spurs	46	Pistons	43
Rockets	32	Lakers	34
Nuggets	28	Cavaliers ..	43
Bulls	39	Jazz	37

Standings

	W	L
76ers	9	0
Cavaliers	7	2
Spurs	7	2
Nuggets	6	3
Lakers	6	3
Pistons	3	6
Knicks	3	6
Rockets	2	7
Jazz	1	8
Bulls	1	8

League B

Rockets	27	Cavaliers	33
76ers	39	Spurs	19
Bulls	25	Nuggets ..	15
Jazz	20	Hornets ..	38
Knicks	33	Timberwolves	30
Lakers	27	Pistons ..	24

Standings	W	L
Hornets	8	0
Cavaliers	6	2
Bulls	6	2
76ers	5	3
Knicks	5	3
Timberwolves	5	3
Nuggets	4	4
Lakers	4	4
Spurs	3	5
Rockets	2	6
Pistons	1	7
Jazz	0	8

BOWLING

By Ralph Fech

Boys Shoot Big #'s, Tie Old Bridge, Rip S. Brunswick and Clobber N. Brunswick

SPHS 1063-1035-994-3092
Old Bridge 896-1138-1053-3087

The Boys Bowling Team shot its highest scores of the season, going over the 3000 mark for three games, however a veteran Old Bridge team would not fold and the Tigers won the first game and the total pin count to finish with a hard fought 2-2 tie. The Tigers, who were firing on all cylinders were spectacular with Matt Boley 231-244-669 set, George Kleinknecht 234-205-614 set, Shaun Ferguson 216-214-613 set, Jon Jeglinski 225-203-604 set and Anthony Ingerto 237-588 set, all led the scoring parade.

SPHS 940-979-982-2910
So. Brunswick 809-899-800-2508

The Boys Bowling Team ambushed the Vikings of South Brunswick to post their first Red Division victory.

The big green swept all their games in convincing fashion and built up a 410 pin edge. High scores for SPHS were: Shaun Ferguson (248-610), Anthony Ingerto (201-200-583 set), Matt Boley (210), George Kleinknecht (214), Nick Grego (205) and Jon Jeglinski (203).

SPHS 1002-1080-962-3044
N. Brunswick 774-623-728-2125

The Boys Bowling Team won its second straight match as they coasted to a shutout victory over newcomer New Brunswick. The Tigers once again hit the 3000 mark with George Kleinknecht (235-224-638 set) paving the way. Solid team support was received from Shaun Ferguson (224-213-619 set), Anthony Ingerto (212-206-611 set) and Matt Boley (217-605 set).

Girls Team Posts Shutouts Over Old Bridge and New Brunswick

SPHS 846-877-871-2594
Old Bridge 682-673-706-2061

Vicki Boley rolled nine strikes for a big 257 game and a solid 633 set to pace the Tigers to a three game sweep over Old Bridge. Freshman Beverly Jamieson (480 set), Kim Gaub (180) and a solid performance by Alexis Montanaro, who fired games of 201-189 for a 539 set, helped the girls raise their record to 8-7-2.

SPHS 692-740-768-2200
So. Brunswick 930-911-882-2723

The Vikings took no prisoners in the girls match as they walloped the

Tigers for a three game shutout victory. The only bright spots for the Tigers were Vicki Boley, 200, and Beverly Jamieson, 181.

SPHS 786-816-774-2376
N. Brunswick 541-616-569-1726

The Girls Bowling Team posted another shutout as they clobbered New Brunswick in all three games behind Vicki Boley's 180-191-201-572 set. Chipping in were Kim Gaub, 168-192-165-525 set, and Beverly Jamieson 171-468 set. The girls record stands at nine wins, eight losses and two ties.

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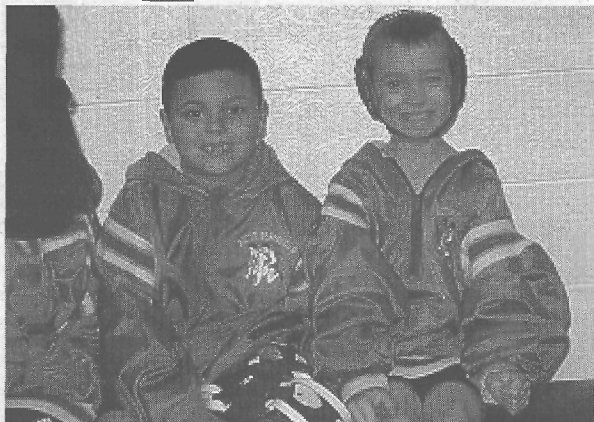
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Sports



Inan Siekle and Johnathan Grennier are waiting for their wrestling match to begin. Both are hoping to be future wrestling champions.

By Kevin Lykes

juniorbaseballclubnotes

The time for baseball is fast approaching! Our annual Winter Registration has just concluded. Together with the Fall Registration held in November, a total of over 400 participants are ready to go for the 2003 baseball season, which is little more than two months away. Room is still open for players in each of our leagues. Registrations will continue to be accepted at the winter rate of \$95-single, \$125-double, and \$145-three or more through January 31.

We will be at the clubhouse for one final registration for any of those who have not done so yet...on Friday, Jan. 31 from 6 to 9 pm. You can also register by printing out a copy of the registration form from our website at www.spjbc.com. Fill it out, sign, and return with check in the appropriate amount to: S.P.J.B.C., P.O. Box 166, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. All registrations must be post-marked by Jan 31, 2003. Important: players new to this league must also include a copy of their birth certificate; this includes those coming up from Teenerball. You can also pick-up a registration form from Charlie Decker at Century 21-Moretti Realty, or contact any of our board members directly.

On Feb. 1 the late registration fee will be a flat \$100 per player, with no multiple family discounts, so it's important to take advantage of this, especially for those families with two or three members participating.

Small Fry parents (ages 8-12) should note that our annual tryout will be held at the P.A.L. on Saturday, March 1. For those of you who are new to the club, this is merely a process used to evaluate each player to determine roughly what kind of ability he or she has so that they can be evenly placed among all the teams in each league. All players who have signed-up will be placed on a team regardless of ability. Each participant will receive a post card around late February advising of the time he or she should come. Please remember this is indoors in the P.A.L. and cleats should NOT be worn.

WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

SPHS Tigers Back On Winning Track

The High School varsity wrestling team got back to their winning ways, defeating Bishop Ahr 48-23 and then a tough East Brunswick team 33-27. The Tigers also disposed of Perth Amboy 35-31.

In the Bishop Ahr match Jimmy Conroy (103), got the Tigers rolling with a fall at 3:27 over John Pagan. Viet Vo (112), followed with a fall at 5:33 for an early 12 point lead. Mark Warness (119), increased the Tiger lead to 18-0 when he pinned his man at 2:21. Peter DeAndrea (140), won by major decision 11-3 over Dave Joseph. Paul Ritchey (145), scored a tech fall 16-0 at 5:12. Senior Glenn Gross (160), pinned Sean Dean at 2:26. Steve Johnston (171), wasted little time scoring the fall at :25 over Jim O'Shea. Joe DeBiase (189), won a tough 2-1 decision over James Warn-

ing. Rob Maistickle (215), closed the show with a fall at 1:01 over Tom Conklin.

The Tigers handed East Brunswick their first loss of the season winning 33-27, with big wins from Jimmy Conroy (103), with a fall over Mike Corona at 1:02.

Pete DeAndrea (135), won by decision 5-3 over Brian Ackerman. Paul Ritchey (140), won by decision 6-4 over Tim Ackerman. Guy Severini (152), won a major decision 15-4 over Matt Merigan. Glenn Gross (160), won a decision over Dmitry Kuzinots.

Joe DeBiase (189), won a crucial 5-1 decision over Nate Quill. Rob Maistickle (215), put the Tigers ahead 28-27, when he pinned Brian Campbell at 2:45. Heavyweight Ryan Elliot sealed the victory with a tech 17-0 fall over Ralph Danice at 4:40

for the win.

The match against Perth Amboy started with Rob Maistickle losing by decision. Ryan Elliot heavyweight, pinned Angel Ramirez at 3:12. Jimmy Conroy (103), followed with a pin over Deisy Teles at 2:57.

However, the Tigers dropped the next four matches. Peter DeAndrea (135), got the Tigers rolling with a 1-0 decision over Abraham Lugo.

Paul Ritchey pinned Pedro Rodriguez at 3:48. Guy Severini (152), kept things going with a 3-0 decision over Louis Correa. Glenn Gross (160), score a 6-0 tech fall over Ross Santana at 4:43. Steve Johnston (171), put the Panthers away with a fall over Franklin Andujar at 1:45. Joe DeBiase (189), had to default due to injury, who was winning the match at the time of the injury.

Middle School Wrestlers Win League Title

The South Plainfield Middle School wrestling team ended their New Jersey Grade School Wrestling League schedule with three big league wins over North Hunterdon, Phillipsburg and Kittatiny. They finished at 15-0-1 and are now 22-0-1 on the season.

On Sunday the Tigers faced Phillipsburg in the first of three matches and came away with a 57-18 win over the State Liners. Winning matches were Robert Gentile (75), Patrick Hunter (80), both by forfeit. Billy Ashnault (90) by fall at 3:24. Bryan Hunt (95) decision 6-3. Nick Dorey (108) fall at 1:09. Mike Jakubik (113) fall at 1:26. Mark Wagner (119) fall at 1:14. Sam Martin (132) by fall at 1:58. Travis Noll (140) by fall at

1:24 and Rocco Petriello (175) by fall at :27.

Next up was Kittatiny and the Tigers came out roaring with Robert Gentile defeating Joel Bach 6-3. Patrick Hunter (80), won by tech fall 17-1 against Nick Bach. Nick Vertuschi (85), won by forfeit. Billy Ashnault (90), went on to win by tech fall 17-2 over Scott Hernandez. Mike Jakubik (113) wasted little time pinning Jason Velenti at :20.

Mark Wagner (120), pinned Tom Weinrich at 1:59. The remaining bouts were forfeited by Kittatiny.

The Tigers ended league competition with North Hunterdon and went on to rout them 81-3. Nick Pauls (70), wrestling an exhibition match defeated

Jason Woll by fall at 0:56.

The match started with Robert Gentile (75), winning by forfeit. Patrick Hunter (80), pinned Chris Coles at 1:09. Billy Ashnault (90), defeated Brian Levandowski by major decision 9-0. Bryan Hunt (95), scored a tech fall over Kevin Catullo 17-1. Danny Pompilio (101), pinned Kyle Charo at 2:32. Nick Dorey (108) and Mike Jakubik (113), both won by forfeit. Mark Wagner (119), pinned Jeff Hastes at 0:30. Brad Martin (124), pinned Ron Shear at 4:10. Sam Martin (132), pinned John Huschke at 1:32.

North Hunterdon then forfeited the remaining matches. Next Sunday the Tigers travel to Phillipsburg for the league tournament.

Recreation Wrestlers Now 4-0

The Recreation Wrestling Team is now 4-0 on the season after beating Middlesex 58-16, North Plainfield 55-21 and Flemington 51-21. Winning for the Tigers were Anthony Ashnault (50) forfeit, Scott Whalen (57) a fall

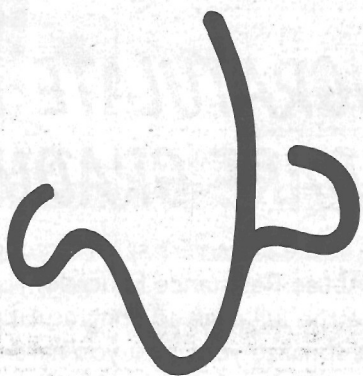
at 1:22, Tyler Hunt (60), tech fall 15-0, Jeff Conroy (63), forfeit, Ryan Sacco (67), decision 6-0, Nick Heilmann (70), decision 4-0, John Wylam (85), fall :39, Mike Wagner (90) forfeit, Nick Valone (102) fall :35, Jonathan Conroy (110) tech fall 15-0 and Mike Dandola fall 1:34.

In the North Plainfield match the Tigers took the early lead when Anthony Ashnault (50) pinned Brandon Rosalo at :58 and they never looked back. Scott Whalen (57) followed with a 8-1 decision. Tyler Hunt (60) won by forfeit, while Jeff Conroy (63) won by decision 5-0. Ryan Sacco (67) was winning 7-0 when Jeff Folk had to default due to injury. In a close match Randy Jakubik (70) got the early takedown, which was enough for a 2-1 victory. Nick Heilmann (73) won by major decision 10-0. Corey Hay (77) won by fall at 2:02. John Wylam (85) by fall 2:36. Justin Smith (95)

fall :25 and Jonathan Conroy (110) by fall.

Flemington, which always has a solid team, gave the Tigers a run for their money early on, but the Tigers got rolling at the half way point and never looked back. Anthony Ashnault (50) again started off with a fall at :59. Tyler Hunt (60) got the Tigers back on the score board with a 4-3 decision over sixth grader Spencer Parcell in the most exciting match of the day. Jeff Conroy (63) kept things rolling winning by decision 7-2. Ryan Sacco (67) won a 5-2 decision. Nick Heilmann (73) won by tech fall 16-0. Corey Hay then won by major decision 9-1 in the 77-pound bout. John Wylam (85) won by fall at 0:35. Mike Wagner (90) also won by fall at 2:45. Justin Smith (95) won by major decision 12-0. Nick Vallone (102) won by tech fall 15-0. Jonathan Conroy (110) closed with a fall over Billy Smith at 1:57.

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Are Psychics For Real?

By Jane Dornick

After spending time getting to know South Plainfield's resident ghost hunter Jane Doherty, this reporter thought it might be interesting to try a one-on-one psychic reading with her.

The *Observer's* ghost sighting coverage recently catapulted Doherty's name into numerous newspapers and TV news programs. Her ghostly interpretations of the phenomenon at Liquid Assets, located on New Market Ave., has brought notoriety to Doherty, Liquid Assets and South Plainfield.

This is a good time to see what she's really made of and then report back in future articles as to her accuracy. Doherty says most of her predictions become a reality, usually within six months.

Doherty performs her psychic readings, hypnosis and an occasional seance in a modest office located at 2325 Plainfield Ave., across from CVS.

My reading began with Doherty closing her eyes and saying a little prayer while holding my hand. A church-goer who believes in God, Doherty was told by a priest that God had given her this special gift for a reason. She squeezes what she calls ancient crystal skulls from Mexico in her other hand, which are supposed to have healing abilities and aid her in seeing the future. She busily scribbles the vision she sees on a piece of paper, while I wait in anticipation to hear what she has to say.

After several minutes and two pages of scribble later, she begins telling me that she was focusing on a ball going up toward the ceiling and down. "Things have been going up and down. Now they will be going up," Doherty says. The ball, she said, might also represent one of my children being hyperactive. (She hit the nail on the head with that one!) She added that fortu-

nately this should be settling down.

She sees a trip to Disney World in two to three years, a vacation to Maine in two years, and frequent trips to Pennsylvania.

The names Paul, Raymond and Maria come to mind. I do have a friend Paul, whom she says will ask for my help. As to Raymond and Paul, I will know shortly who they are. And I will have the opportunity to marry again in another five to six years. She asked for the birth dates of my children and myself, and gave a description of our personalities.

I asked Doherty for names of some clients as references and she gave me two South Plainfield residents. Karen Wolosowski was a frequent caller to Doherty's radio show on WCTC and has dealt with her for the past six years. "She's magnificent," Wolosowski exclaimed, and she was "blown away" with the predictions she has made. In a call to her radio show, she asked about a missing ring of a co-worker. Doherty said that it was in a drawer and sure enough that's where it was found. Wolosowski said she has been right every single time and she loves her.

Shirlee Heron had a quite different experience with Doherty. She has attended two seances in the past year, one with a friend and another for a bereavement group she was involved with. Heron was definitely a non-believer, however she now says, "Jane is incredible." The seances were incredible experiences. Doherty could not have known names and information that she spouted out.

Only time will tell if the same is true for me. I am a skeptic, and maybe this will make a believer out of me.

For more information on Jane Doherty, log on to www.janedoherty.com. Her website also contains a short clip of the ghost videotape from Liquid Assets.

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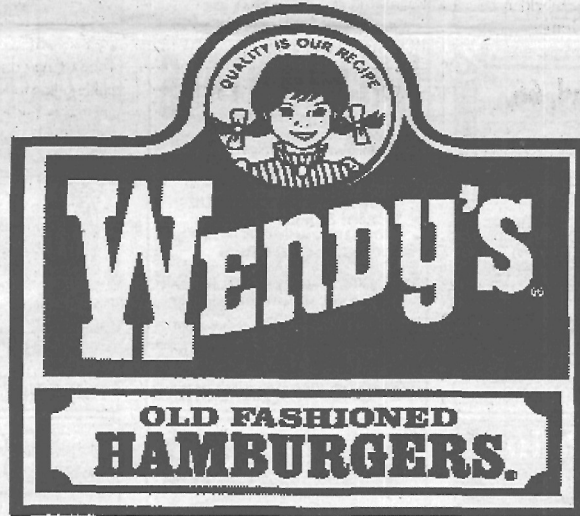
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EEOC

Unity Bancorp Reports Record Annual And Quarterly Earnings

Unity Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: UNTY), parent company of Unity Bank, reported a net income of \$3.7 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, for the year ended Dec. 31, 2002, an 81.7% increase compared to \$2.0 million for the year ended Dec. 31, 2001. Earnings for 2001 were benefited by approximately \$1.0 million due to the recognition of tax benefits. Net income before taxes in 2002 was \$5.8 million, a 250.8% increase compared to \$1.7 million reported in 2001. Return on average assets and average common equity for 2002 were 0.91% and 13.95%, respectively.

Net income for the 2002 fourth quarter was \$1.0 million, or \$0.19 per diluted share, flat from the prior year's comparable quarter due to the recognition of tax benefits in 2001. However, on a pretax basis, earnings for the fourth quarter of 2002 were \$1.6 million, a 175.4% increase from the \$589 thousand in the prior year's

comparable quarter. Return on average assets and average common equity for the fourth quarter of 2002 were 0.94% and 15.12%, respectively.

"We have closed out 2002 with another quarter of continued revenue growth and increased earnings, and are looking forward to further improvement in earnings for 2003," said Unity President and Chief Executive Officer, Anthony J. Feraro. "We are pleased at what we have accomplished to date, however we recognize that we have yet to reach our full potential."

Net interest income was \$4.1 million for the fourth quarter of 2002 compared to \$3.5 million in the comparable quarter a year ago. Net interest margin was 4.06% for the quarter compared to 4.04% a year ago. Lower rate environment, reducing the Company's overall cost of funds.

Total non-interest income for the fourth quarter of 2002 increased to \$2.1 million, an increase of 45.2%

compared to the same period last year. Gains on SBA loans amounted to \$1.0 million for the quarter, as compared to \$477 thousand for the same period last year.

"We have had terrific growth in our branches in 2002. In 2003, I am committed to expanding our branch franchise to grow our customer base and provide more retail outlets for our existing depositors," said Feraro.

Total shareholders' equity was \$27.1 million at Dec. 31, 2002, a 9.1% increase from the prior year. The increase in equity over the prior year was due to retained profits and the exercise of common stock warrants, somewhat offset by the buyback of common stock for general corporate purposes.

Unity Bancorp, Inc. is a financial service organization headquartered in Clinton, with \$433 million in assets and \$383 million in deposits.



Joe Zekas presents a plaque to Mayor Dan Gallagher on behalf of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, who wanted to express their appreciation for his part in getting the new Senior Center built. Mayor Gallagher said he felt he was in office at the right time and everything just came together to make it all possible. Since its opening last summer, more than 450 seniors have become members.

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