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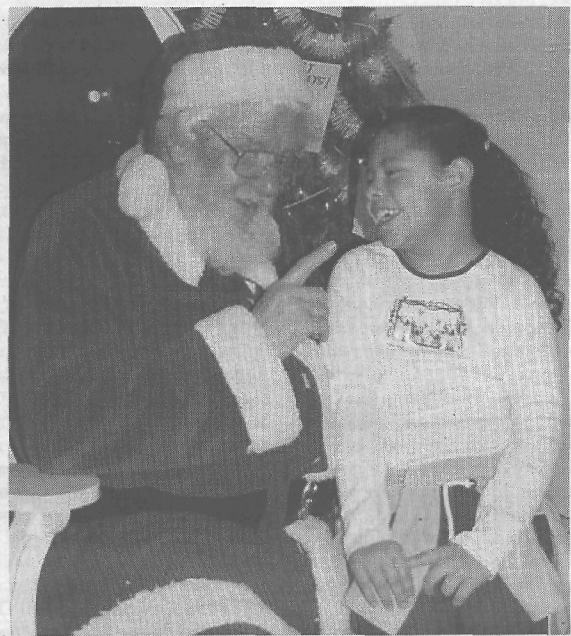
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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 19

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 26, 2003



Telling Santa All...

Councilman Ed Kubala enjoys his annual stint as Santa Claus for the Recreation Department's "Photos With Santa" event (above and at bottom). Each child had the opportunity to talk to Santa, and to receive a Polaroid photo, candy cane and gift. Pictured center, SPHS Choral Director Tracy Murray, SPHS graduate Dave Garatino and SPHS senior Chris Abbott enjoy the Recreation Dept. sponsored caroling in the park.



Council President Resigns

Councilman Jim Vokral has submitted a letter of resignation to Mayor Gallagher and the Borough Council, who are expected to



Jim Vokral

vote to accept his resignation at a special meeting to be held on Monday, Dec. 29, at 5 p.m.

Vokral has accepted a position

as administrator of the Middlesex County Board of Elections. He said that the job, a non-partisan position, cannot be held by an elected official. He starts his new job on Feb. 1, 2004.

Vokral has served on the

Borough Council for 10 years and was council president for the past eight.

Vokral, currently the administrator at Sacred Heart Church, will remain in that position, working on a part-time basis.

May Assumes SPHS Top Spot Novak Named New Assistant Principal

By Toni Maria Ciccio

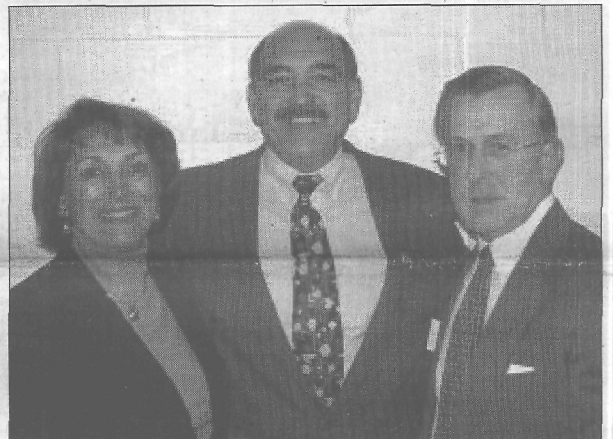
As of Jan. 5, Anthony Massaro will be leaving as Principal of South Plainfield High School to assume his new position as Assistant Superintendent of South Plainfield schools and Dr. Kenneth May will be replacing him.

One of Dr. May's first assignments was to recommend an assistant principal. Steve Novak, SPHS history teacher, was appointed assistant principal at last week's school board meeting. From the reaction from those in attendance at the meeting, he was the perfect choice.

Dr. May began his career as a math teacher at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. He also taught photography, and was a soccer, football, basketball and track coach. He was involved with the PTA as a liaison, as well as an AAU basketball coach. He taught in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district from 1971 to 1976.

In Sept. of 1976 he taught mathematics in the Rahway public schools until June 1985. He also coached football, girls' basketball and track.

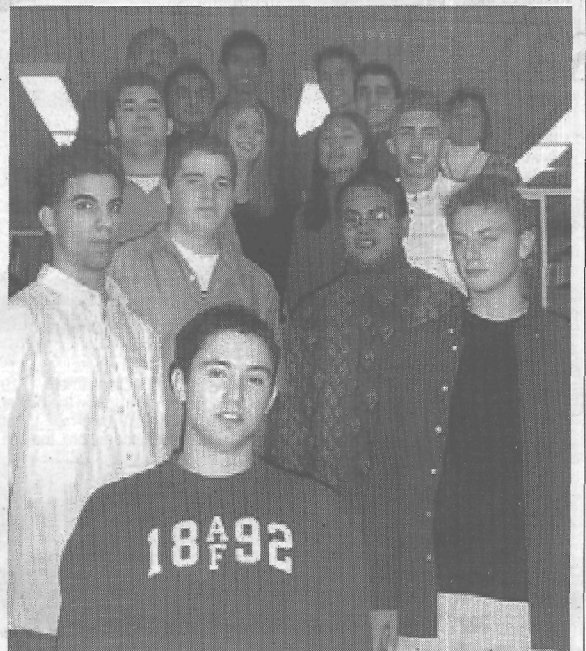
Continued on page 12



SPHS Assistant Principal Helen Gottlieb, SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May and Assistant Principal Steve Novak.

Bloustein Distinguished Scholars Announced

Thirteen South Plainfield High School students were recently named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars. These are students who place in the top 10% of their classes and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1260, or are ranked first, second or third in their class as of the end of their junior year. Principal Dr. Ken May and National Honor Society Advisor Eileen Boettger are pictured with Bloustein Scholars Jonathan Buggie, Michael Carmon, Ryan Decker, Wajdi Kanj, Kyle Kazimir, Wendy Kollarik, Pauline Lee, Anuj Patel, Ravi Patel, Josef Rodriguez, Michael Salerno, Daniel Sierzege and Adam Toth.



Burglars Nabbed In the Act

A Lucy Ct. resident was at home Monday night when two unknown black males broke down his front door and began ransacking his apartment.

At approximately 7:30 the occupant heard noises at his door. He looked through the peephole and observed two men trying to get in. He jumped from his third floor balcony to the balcony below as the suspects entered the apartment and immediately called police.

One of the suspects appeared on his balcony, was surprised by police and jumped to the second floor balcony. The second suspect jumped from the third floor to the ground and was apprehended after a foot chase.

Andy Steven Brazil-Williams, 28, of Orange and Kasin Thurston, 19, of Newark were both arrested for burglary. Bail has not been set. A gun was later recovered in the suspect's vehicle parked nearby.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the wonderful people and organizations that helped make my children's Christmas a little brighter this year with their generous donations.

Grace Bertucci of the St. Vincent DePaul Society of Sacred Heart Church is a special person. She is always there when I need her throughout the year and at Christmas time she works exceptionally hard to help in anyway she can.

Marge Ackerman, the director of South Plainfield Social Services, does an excellent job gathering gifts, putting bags together and making sure I am notified to pick them up. This year they received donations from the Wesley Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave. and I would like to thank them as well.

I would also like to thank the FISH organization in Piscataway for delivering gifts and even including wrapping paper and tape, United Families in Plainfield and the Kennedy School PTSO for their generous gift.

The biggest thanks of all goes to all the wonderful people in South Plainfield and the towns affiliated with these organizations who so generously donate to these causes.

A GRATEFUL NEIGHBOR AND FRIEND

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Shirley Affinito and myself, as chairpersons of the 2003 Riley School Breakfast with Santa, we would like to thank the following persons whose diligence and hard work made our breakfast, Holiday Booklet and Placemat a huge success:

Tom Lanza for your major part in the Holiday Booklet/Placemat, food donations and Christmas trees; Tom and Rich Little for setting up the kitchen and your fabulous cooking; Ann Schiavo and Kelly Buttrick for all your craft ideas and running the

craft tables; Karen Kozak for all your help pasting the booklet and placemats together, your auction donations and helping to organize; Karen and Shirley for scrambling eggs; Kathy Skwait and Maggie Temple for shopping and taking all the pictures; Beth Bors for all your help, along with Diane Heilman and the Riley PTSO for your support. Thank you to Donna Teller (ticket person), "Sally Boy" Sal "HoHo" Severini, you're the best dressed in red with your great big smile and charming the children and our wonderful elves and helpers, Mykhal and Patrick Boyle; Natalie Kozak; Joey and Lisa Affinito; Ryan and Brett Temple; Casey, Mark and Christopher Buttrick; Tyler Schiarvo and Ryan Bors. Also, thanks to Kathy Flanagan and Vesta Harvey for being everywhere; Al Rue and Mike "Shotman" Lanza for all your printing of the booklets and pamphlet placemats; Artie Sabino for opening at 5:30 a.m. and cleaning up and closing at 2 p.m. and all your knowledge; Bob Boyle, vice president of Roma Food for all your generous food donations and paper goods, as always; Haischi's Bakery, Sherban's, Home Depot and the Bagle Pantry for all your donations and to all the booklet and pamphlet supporters. Without the above mentioned "peeps," this wonderful breakfast would not have been possible. Have a happy and healthy New Year in 2004!

**DEBBIE BOYLE,
CHAIRPERSON**

Dear Friends,

As the year 2003 draws to an end, the South Plainfield Historical Society wishes to thank all of you for your continued support. We hope you enjoyed the programs that were offered throughout the year.

This year's big event was, of course, the inauguration of Town History Day. So many people contributed to

its success. With a tip of the hat to our hard working and dedicated membership, we would also like to recognize the contributions of others in the community: Spotlight on Dance Studio, the Monroe Family Irish Stepdancers, Mark Stasio, the South Plainfield High School Chorus and Orchestra directed by Bruce Mikolan; the antique car exhibitors, the South Plainfield Elks, Polish National Home, VFW, rescue squad, police department, fire department, and Our Lady of Czestochowa; Richard Veit, model-maker John Petronella, Ken Morgan of the Public Library, Joann Graf and the Senior Center; the South Plainfield Cake and Bagel Shop, and all those who baked something for the day. TH Day II is in the works, and we promise it will be bigger and better.

Happy holidays to one and all as we look forward to a stupendous 2004.

**KATHY HORVATH, PROGRAM
CHAIRWOMAN, SOUTH
PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

To the South Plainfield Community and Beyond,

Please accept this letter as my rambling attempt to sincerely thank all the many kind hearted, charitable and deserving people who have given of themselves to me, my wife and boys, since the death of my darling, sweet daughter, Abigail. I realize that I will fail to mention or thank someone, some organization or some entity, but please understand that that omission is purely unintentional.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. However, in order to send a beautiful twenty-two (22) month old little girl back to our Creator, that task mandates a plethora of family and friends in conjunction with a community like South Plainfield.

As many of you know, my family has recently been house hunting. During that process, I have consistently suggested to my wife that we move to a community where we might get more "bang for our buck." On the other hand, my wife, Lisa, has consistently rejected that suggestion and was opposed to our moving out of town. Lisa felt this way given her fondness for South Plainfield and the close personal relationships she has developed since I "dragged" her from the Pennsylvania Dutch country to the place of my birth, South Plainfield, New Jersey, when we married in 1991.

However, my desire to move evaporated on Nov. 5, 2003 and in the days shortly thereafter. But I can't talk about Nov. 5, 2003 without discussing my activities on Nov. 4, 2003. On Election Day, I went to work to prepare an eight-year-old homicide case. I worked until about 3 p.m. when I called home to see if my children wanted to attend "family swim" at our local gym, Richochet Health and Racquet Center. Well, you know the response that I received to that call and I began to head for the door. In doing so, I hesitated and debated with myself, "You're going on vacation beginning the 9th, you should really stay and work straight

through," vs. "Life is too short, go home, be with your family and come back after the children are in bed." I am forever grateful that the latter position prevailed.

I went home and brought all three children swimming. Given her age (22 months), Abigail monopolized my time and attention. She proudly strutted around the pool with her flotation device (better known as her "swimmie") on, showing me who was in charge. She then gleefully giggled as she was able to swim a short distance from and return to the entrance steps. The outing culminated with Abigail maturely wanting out of her swim diaper because she had pooped. Today, I am so thankful that I went home and left work to spend time with my children, especially Abigail.

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2003, I went to work as I have done on so many other occasions. I was returning to my office with a box of evidence when I got "that page." I called home only to hear my wife screaming in the background and someone on the phone indicating that I should get home. "It's bad, Abbie has been hit by a bus." I could have died right there. The whole ride home I was hoping for the best until a cell phone call was made and it was indicated that my daughter was not going to make it. I still did not believe it, not my sweet, dear, child, Abigail Michaela. My hopes were snuffed out when I arrived home only to see the tragedy 50 feet from my front door. The ambulance, police officers, our neighbors, my wife. I will never forget that scene and I sincerely apologize to our neighbors and friends for having to experience that part of our nightmare.

Shortly thereafter, my wife was taken to the hospital and you would have thought that Hinckley shot Reagan all over again. In moments, the hospital contained countless

numbers of friends, neighbors and even the Chief of the South Plainfield Police Department. That outpouring of support, guidance, love and friendship continued until sweet Abbie was laid to rest on Saturday, Nov. 8. More accurately, it has continued to this very day with the prayers, phone calls to our home, cards, fruit baskets, flowers and plants, the provision of meals, offers to babysit and various other gestures of good will. This outpouring of good will has been overwhelming and the glue that has kept our broken hearts together.

The wake of my dearest Abbie was only made bearable by the continued and extensive expressions of kindness that my family and I were shown by our friends within the South Plainfield Community and beyond. I would have never envisioned the number of caring and concerned people who attended. The line seemed to never end. You were all there and we will never be able to thank you enough for your support, guidance, love, friendship and mere presence. As Father Alvarado said during the Funeral Mass, "Words are so meaningless, so empty, so incapable of providing any degree of comfort." Your mere presence was the best that anyone could have given and you all gave enormously. In our case, there are no answers, no words of comfort that could have been spoken and your mere presence said it all and said it loudly. Thank you all so very much!

On Nov. 6, 2003, we met with Richard McCrisky, the Funeral Director, who despite being the "new kid on the block," we can't say enough about. At that time, we did not know how the funeral expenses were going to be paid. In lieu of flowers, a request was made for donations to be made to the family in order to cover the expenses. Again, our friends within the South Plainfield Commu-

Continued on page 8

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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www.spobserver.com

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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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: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 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: ggnan@aol.com or fax 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. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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Father Igor Jendruch (center) celebrates his final mass at Sacred Heart with Father John Werner and Father John Paul Alvarado.

Sacred Heart Bids Farewell To Father Igor Jendruch

By William Tuthill

Father Igor Jendruch, who spent this past year at Sacred Heart Church as Associate Pastor, celebrated his last Mass there on Sunday, Dec. 15. Father Igor is returning to Slovakia.

Following the Mass, a farewell reception was held in Sacred Heart

School cafeteria. The event was attended by many parishioners. He received many farewell gifts from the guests.

If you would like to keep in contact with Father Igor Jendruch, his new address is: Father Igor Jendruch, Lipova 2, Spisska Nova Ves 05201, Slovak Republic - Europe.

Adult School Brochures Mailed to Residents

Brochures have been sent to all area residents for the upcoming Winter 2004 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you did not receive a brochure and would like one, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620 ext 213.

The Adult School offers a variety of classes, including typing, computers, scrapbooking, yoga, exercise, painting, calligraphy, volleyball, Spanish and golf, as well as an extensive range of exercise and swimming classes for adults

and children offered through The Club at Ricochet.

You may register over the phone with a credit card or come to the Adult School Office, Room 2 of the Middle School, 2201 Plainfield Ave.

Evening in-person registration will take place in Room 2 of the Middle School on Tuesday, Jan. 13 and Wednesday, Jan. 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Most classes begin the week of Jan. 26.

New 4-H Cookie Cutters Club Forming

Hey kids, do you like to have fun in the kitchen? Then maybe the newly formed Cookie Cutters 4-H Club is for you. The focus of the club will be baking.

Baking has long been one of the traditional program areas of 4-H. Members will get together to share ideas and items for cookies, cakes and candy, or whatever new members think they would like to learn how to make. It's something you can pick up quickly and once you learn the decorating skills there is plenty you can cook to enjoy with your friends and family or give away as a great gift.

As with other 4-H clubs, children will be expected to keep record books and give public presentations. The club will also participate in the full range of 4-H activities, including the Middlesex County Fair. The club plans to meet the first Saturday of each month at the Middlesex County 4-H Center in East Brunswick.

To be a part of this new club, contact the 4-H office at (732) 745-3446 or e-mail maemorgan@verizon.net. Learn about Middlesex County 4-H programs in general by visiting the County's online headquarters at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/extension-services/4hclubs.asp or call the 4-H office at (732) 745-3446.

ALERT

MEETING NOTICE

Council Announces Ordinance Meeting

The Borough Council announced they will hold a special meeting on Monday, Dec. 29 at 5 p.m. to pass Ordinance #1641 and vote on several resolutions.



Middle School Student Council members finish packing boxes of toys for the Marine Corps Reserve's Gifts for Kids program.

Middle School Student Council Collects Gifts for Kids

By Jane Dornick

For the past five years, the Middle School Student Council has collected toys from students to be sent to the Marine Corps Reserve 1st Division Association Gifts for Kids program.

The students began asking for donations from classmates on Dec. 1.

Since then the students and teachers, they have amassed the largest shipment of toys ever. The toys will be distributed by the Marine Corp to needy children in the Central Jersey area.

Student Council President Ashley Sacks said, "It's a great program. It's nice to do something for kids who are not as fortunate."



Mayor Dan Gallagher was made an honorary member of the South Plainfield Business Association during last week's holiday luncheon, hosted by Sherban's Diner.

Season's Greetings

Wishing You a Happy Holiday



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It's Time for the
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.... Second Annual Holiday
House Decorating
Contest

HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING

Deck the
Halls, Trim the
Trees...

The Observer, along with
Recreation Dept., is sponsoring
a Holiday House Decorating !

Enter your house or nominate another. Include photos, if possible. Entries must be received by Dec. 26. Winners will be announced in January. Grand prize: One year individual membership to the PAL, a year's subscription to the Observer, and more. Winner's house will be pictured on page one of the Observer. Second prize: a year's subscription to the Observer.

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS OF HOUSE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

First place winner's house will be pictured
on the front page of the Observer!



Send your entry to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Events

Jr. Baseball Club Trip To Hall of Fame

December 29

South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is planning a bus trip to the Major League Baseball Hall Of Fame on Monday, Dec. 29. Tickets are \$65 per person and include deluxe bus transportation, admission to the Hall of Fame and a buffet dinner.

Family New Year's Eve Party

December 31

Bring the whole family to Cafe Everest for a Pre- New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5-8 p.m. Enjoy a warm up countdown, sparkling cider champagne, balloon animals, streamers, party hats and much more. Price for adults is \$24.95, children \$14.95, which includes complete dinner.

Life Line Screening at Czesochowa

January 5

Our Lady of Czesochowa Church, 120 Kosciusko Ave. is holding health screenings on Monday, Jan. 5.

Life Line Screening Radiology, LLC provides non-invasive, completely painless screenings using Doppler ultrasound technology: Stroke Screening/Carotid Artery (\$45), Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening (\$45), Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Screening (\$45) and Osteoporosis Screening (\$35). Buy the Complete Vascular Package (first three screenings) for \$99, or buy all four and pay

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:

South Plainfield Observer,
1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B,
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fax (908) 668-8819; email ggnan@aol.com.

What's happening in DEC/JAN

Daily Events
9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month				
EVENTS January 7 - Atlantic City Trip Jan 19 - Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Best of Branson" March 17-Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"				
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Computer Classes 12pm & 2pm Men's Forum 1:30pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 Line Dancing 10-11:30 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am-1pm	Center Closed for Christmas 25 Center Closed New Year's Day 1	Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Bridge Club 12:30pm 26 Bingo 10am-2pm Pizza Lunch Bridge Club 12:30pm 2
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE PAL BUILDING ON MAPLE AVE.				

\$125.

Pre-registration is required. Call (800) 407-4557 if you have any questions or to register.

AARP Chapter Trip to Hunterdon Hills

January 13

The AARP Chapter #4144 is planning a bus trip on Jan. 13 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for lunch and to see "The Rainmaker." The cost of \$60 covers all expenses, including transportation from South Plainfield.

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

Tickets For Harlem Globetrotters

February 14

Tickets to the Harlem Globetrotters

at Continental Arena on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. game are \$22 each. The tickets are Section 211 upper tier lower. (Seating will be filled on a first ticket purchase availability.)

Make checks payable to Cub Scout Pack 224 and mail to 201 Lane Ave., South Plainfield. Everyone must have a ticket. Tickets are for admission only, you must provide your own transportation. Admission includes a two hour meet-and-greet prior to the game, Globetrotter University and a badge. You can only attend the meet and greet through a group purchase.

Rec Plans Trip To See Hairspray

February 22

South Plainfield Recreation is sponsoring a trip to Broadway to see "Hairspray" on Sunday, Feb. 22. Bus will leave the PAL at 10:30 a.m. and

return around 7 p.m. There will be plenty of time to shop and eat before the show. Tickets are \$100 per person and are available at the PAL between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. Only 45 tickets are available, so come and get yours now!

Out of Town

Moonrakers Club's "Meet and Greet"

January 13

The New Jersey Moonrakers Tall Club, Inc., a social and community service organization serving people of "taller-than-average" stature in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area, will hold its monthly "Meet and Greet" social at the Saddle Brook Marriott, located between Rt. 80 and the Garden State Parkway in Saddle Brook on Tuesday, Jan 13 at 8 p.m.

Prospective members are encour-

aged to inquire. Prospective members must meet certain criteria. Women: 5'10" and taller and men, 6'2" and taller (in stocking feet) and over 21.

For further information about the club, or for a schedule of our social events, call out 24-hour hotline service at (973) 267-3648 or visit the website at <http://www.njtall.org> or email at ncwjersey@tall.org.

SingleFaces January Dances Announced

Month of January

The following is a list of dances planned by SingleFaces for the month of January.

Friday, Jan. 2 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 494-6200.

Saturday, Jan. 3 at the Shadowbrook, Rt 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 747-0200.

Friday, Jan. 9 at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. at 9 p.m. in Edison. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 549-2859

Saturday, Jan. 10 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For directions call (732) 494-6200.

Friday, Jan. 16 at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. For additional information call (732) 542-2200.

Friday, Jan. 16 at the The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12

Saturday, Jan. 17 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 8 p.m. Free Dance Lessons 8 p.m.-9 p.m. Dance 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 18 at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. in Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m. Cost is \$12. No Work Monday, always a great crowd.

Friday, Jan. 23 at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin at 9 p.m. Cost is 12.

Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Ramanda Plaza, 3050 Woodbridge Ave. in Raritan Center in Edison at 8 p.m. Cost is \$12. Chinese New Year.

Friday Jan 30 at the The Historic Old Bermuda Inn, 2512 Arthur Kill Rd. in Staten Island at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Shadowbrook, Rt. 35 in Shrewsbury at 9 p.m. Cost is \$12.

Celebrate the New Year FAMILY STYLE

Join us at Cafe Everest Diner on Wednesday, December 31, 5-8 p.m. for a Pre-New Year's Eve Family Celebration!



- Warm up countdown at 7 p.m.
- Sparkling cider champagne
- Balloon animals
- Streamers
- Party Hats, and much more

Adults: \$24.95, Children: \$14.95
(Includes complete dinner)

Cafe Everest Diner
2002 Park Avenue
South Plainfield
908-755-2811



Send Us Your Events:

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

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Holiday Giving for Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is still accepting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop-off box at the animal hospital, 2201 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Food will be distributed to a local non-profit organization. For more information, call (908) 755-2428 or visit our website at www.plainfieldanimalhosp.com.

We will also be accepting monetary donations for the NJ Veterinary Foundation. Monies will be used towards spay/neutering of stray and abandoned animals, abandoned animal care and scholarships.

Donations will be accepted until Monday, Dec. 29.



The lucky winner of the library's "Snow" quilt was Grace Ochoa, pictured with her mother Gladys.

Storytime Kids Create a Snow Quilt at Library

The South Plainfield Library was awarded a \$350 grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation to be used for a project that would "inspire children's creativity and encourage them to explore the diversity and literature their community offer."

The Storytime children's reading program used Keats' book, "The Snowy Day," to inspire two- to six-year-olds to draw a snow picture to be used in a quilt.

The library utilized the expertise of local quilter Kay Denton, who determined what they needed to buy and how to put the project together.

Each child was given crayons and white squares of fabric. Winter scenes and the word "snow" was written in 11 different languages, which repre-

sented our diverse community. Denton pieced the top layer together and it was then sent to a professional quilter for the finishing touches.

Once completed, the quilt was raffled off and the lucky winner was Grace Ochoa.

Elks Are Selling Entertainment Books

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30. Contact Lou Peralta, (908) 756-6406.

Last Chance



to enter our House Decorating Contest! See page 3

Middle School Announces 1st Marking Period Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

8th Grade—Brooke Denitzio, Robert Harrington, Przemyslaw Lasota, Raymond Lee, Robert Moreira, Lauren O'Day, Ashley Peterson, Sarah Schulte, Rachel Senz and Anthony Simone.

7th Grade—Daphne Aguinaldo, Audrey Cupo, Jeannine DeAndrea, Rebecca Deffler, Caitlin Herriott, Catherine Krawiec, Anthony Louise, Lyndsey Murtagh, Allyson Paterek, Kara Thomas, Victoria Tran and Kristen Yorkanis.

8th Grade—Francis Alfano, Ashley Alvarado, Mirna Arevalo, Scott Barton, Kristin Billich, Rebecca Bosse, Nicole Brooks, Paolo Cantarella, Grey Coppi, Jonathan Cursi, Joseph Dacchille, Dorothy Anne DeLeon, Christopher Delaney, Joseph Delgenio, Danielle Dembia, Christopher DeOliveira, Karan Desai, Elizabeth Diamant, Christopher Duquette, Timothy Durnak, Kaitlin Egan, Jamie Ensel, Daniel Espin, Christopher Esposito, Brian Fabino, Meredith Ferguson, Elizabeth Flannery, Sydney Gentile, Tara Goitandia, Katherine Gorman, Andrew Gray, Jessica Gray, Steven Guevara, Hakim Hardy, Taylor Harris, Matthew Helgesen, Blaire Houston, Theresa Huber, Christian Johansen, Dale Johnson, Mantesh Kaur, Taylor Kurilew, Danielle Lennon, Erica Linick, Andrea Lozarito, Joanna Luzny, Jonathan Marcoux, Kellie McLean, Angel Mera, Diana Naser, Christina Nieves, Katie Nuber, Sarah Oglesby, Jamie Okosko, Michael Oprysk, Vincent Padula, Kristen Partesi, Anjani Patel, Vinal Patel, Shivani Patel, Christopher Pennisi, Phillip Perrette, Rocco Petriello, John Polizzano, Daniel Pompilio, Hosnia Qayum, Mitul Rana, Kelly Remsing, William Rickert, Ashley Sacks, Simone Sealy, Aakruti Sheth, Jasmine Silas, Samantha Smith, Olivia Smith, Alison Smith, Chelsea Soisson, Christopher Spayder, John Steger, Stanley Stellakis, Kathleen Sullivan, Stephanie Szeliga, Ryan Szumski, Amanda Thorn, Anh-Phuong Trinh, Brandon Ullom, Elizabeth Valentino, Mark Wagner, Gregory Watts, Katiejean Zacek, Julia Zappi and Vina Zychlinski.

Honor Roll

7th Grade—Alvarez, Jorge, Arielle Armand, Samantha Barthel, Francesca Bayak, Cori Black, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael Boyle, Kyle Buck, Michael Bumback, Michael Burton, Maxwell Butler, Danielle Butrico, Ashley Caparelli, Ashley Cardinale, Kurt Carlson, Jared Christopher, Alex Cihano-wyz, Allison Clawans, Sean Coffey, Ian Collins, Christina Cornelius, Jared Czech, Ann Dang, Taylor Deskins, Taylor Michael Dezmin, Stephanie Dicinidio, Justin Ditmars, Quynhhu Doan, Courtney Easterday, Tina Foscolo, Sara Frazzano, Lindsay Fredericks, Kelliann Friday, Jaime Gian-nakis, Maricela Gonzalez, Jonathan Gray, Ashleigh Gray, Richard Guarraci, Jessica Handwerker, Richard Harzula, Alba Hernandez, Terry Ho, Nicho-las Jeglinski, Garrett Kelly, Jaclyn Kukuch, Alexa Kunch, Joseph Lacerda, Stephanie Lanza, Jacqueline Laverne, Zane Lesky, Christopher Lesniak, Nicholas Levendusky, Jeremiah Magpile, Daniel Maistickle, Kelly McCormack, Alyssa McCreesh, Joseph Mennuti, Stephanie Milicia, Jessica Murtagh, Britany Musolino, Patrick Noltz, Krister Nuber, Eric Nuber, Nosavoen Og-bevoen, Brittany Okosko, Timothy Oppelt, Emily Orlandini, Michael Pachytel, Dominic Papa, Parth Patel, Priya Patel, Kathryn Paterek, Nicholas Pauls, Sandra Pleeter, Douglas Porzio, Parvatan Sami, Saira Sheikh, Richard Sierzega, Tahcem Smith, Rachel Smith, Christine Snogans, Nicole Soisson, Nora Stasio, Heather Stloff, Spencer Stubbs, Scott Suleski, Alyssa Sutherland, Susan Tian, Loan Tran, Elizabeth Tran, Anthony Usuriello, Andrea Vedutis, Isabel Vordzorgbe, Erik White, Steven Wiczorek and Paul Zushma.

Edison Arts Offering Classes

The Edison Arts Society is pleased to announce the offering of daytime Adult art classes for Winter 2004. All classes will meet in the main meeting room at the North Branch of the Edison Library, located on 777 Grove Ave.

Classes offered will be in botanical watercolor techniques, taught by Linda Trella and in Basic Realistic Drawing, taught by Ray Skibinski.

Please contact the Edison Arts Society if you would like to register for art classes

Or for more information, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (908) 753-ARTS.

Happy 18th Birthday

JESSE COLBY!

from the Gang -
Chris, Jel, Shannen, Kaitlin and Pattie

Our Lady Of Czestochowa R.C. Church

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Dec 28 - 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Feast of Holy Family

Dec 31 - 5:30 p.m. - Solemnity of Mary - New Year's Eve

Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Jan 1-10a.m.-Solemnity of Mary-New Year's Day

Regular Weekend: Sat. eves.5:30pm, Sunday 8am & 11am

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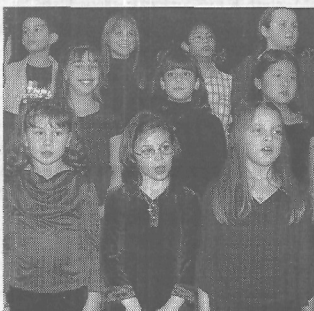
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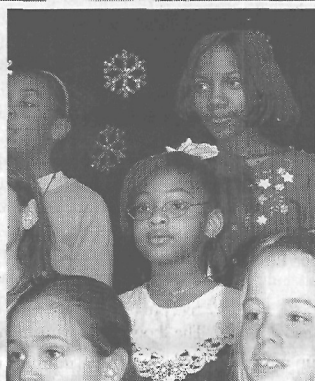
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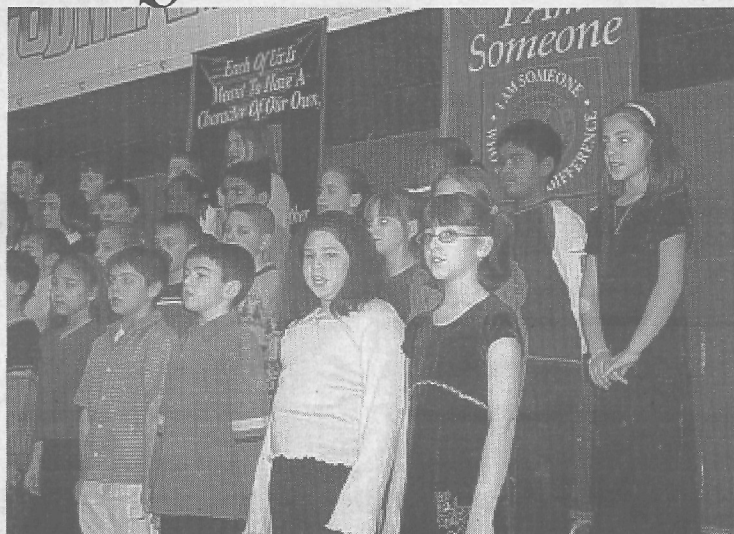
Roosevelt School

The Roosevelt Elementary School Holiday concert featured the school's third and fourth grade string ensemble and chorus. The string ensemble, conducted by Mr. Bruce Mikolon, performed five selections, *Jolly Old St. Nick*, *Beginner Medley*, *Twinkle Variations*, *Allegro* and *Open String Samba*. The chorus, directed by Miss Sharon Perez, sang *We'll Dress the House*, *In Our Town in December*, *Somewhere in My Memory* and *Home for the Holidays*.

—Photos by Patricia Abbott

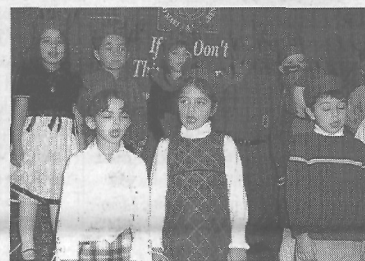
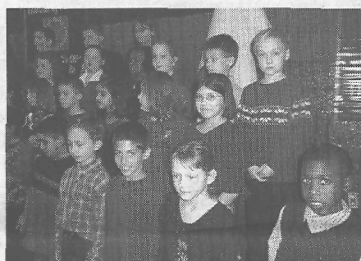
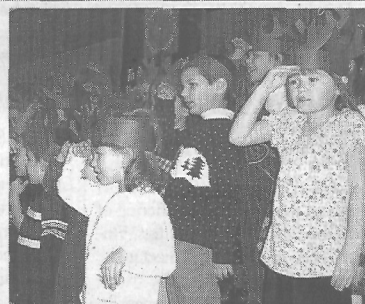


Holiday Concerts resound with

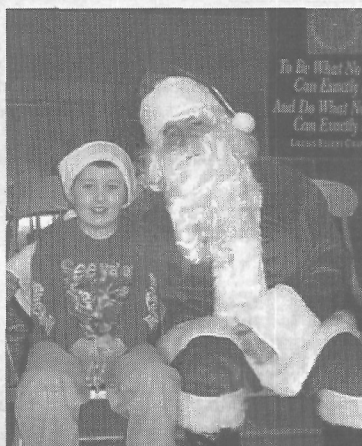


John F. Kennedy School

J. F. Kennedy Elementary Schools students all participated in a holiday concert directed by Barbara Habeeb. Each grade took to the stage and performed wintertime and traditional holiday tunes to a standing room only crowd.



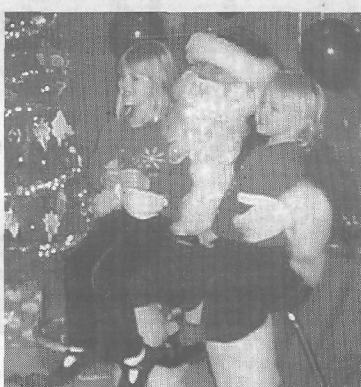
Elementary and Pre School Children Share Secrets



Santa (Don Ardito) listens to Christmas wishes at Future Stars Preschool's Breakfast with Santa.



Santa (Jeffrey Pauls) listens to Christmas wishes at Kennedy School's Breakfast With Santa, while others create holiday crafts.



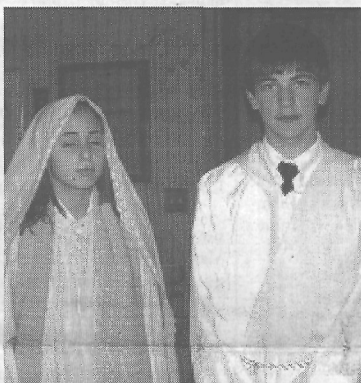
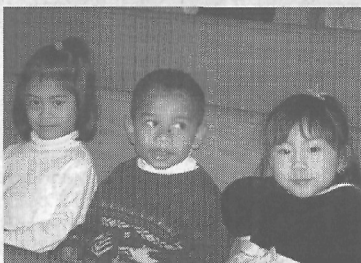
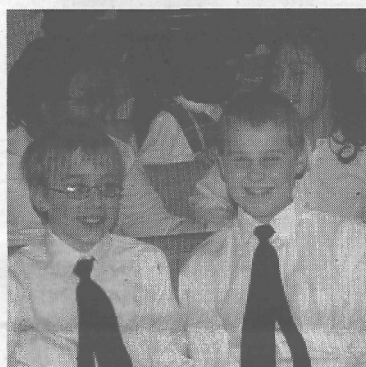
All I Want for Christmas

e Sounds of the Season



Sacred Heart School

This year's Christmas concert involved all the students at Sacred Heart School, including classes from pre K-3 through eighth grade. Students, under the direction of Danial Mahoney, Director of Sacred Music, filled the church with songs, solos and readings. Jonathan Abel and Camille Romans portrayed Mary and Joseph.



John E. Riley School

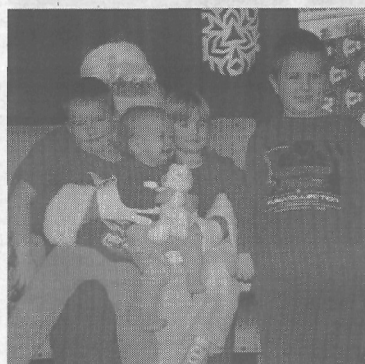
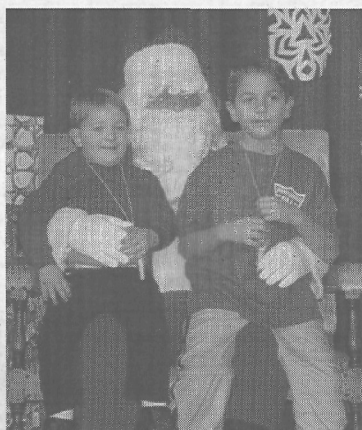
Change is good and Riley School's Holiday show was the perfect example of moving on.

The absence of the fifth grade students in the elementary schools has made a marked change in the recent holiday concerts. This makes for a much shorter concert which features each school's string ensemble and chorus. However, the band was noticeably missing. Fifth grade students who would have represented the most experienced band members are now housed at Grant School. The concerts ran about 30 minutes instead of the normal hour.

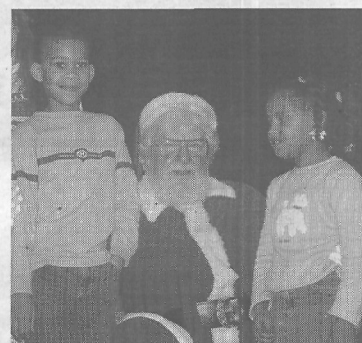
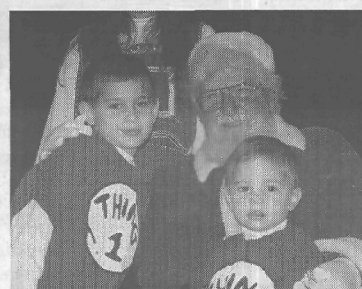
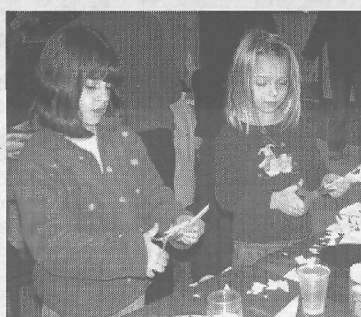
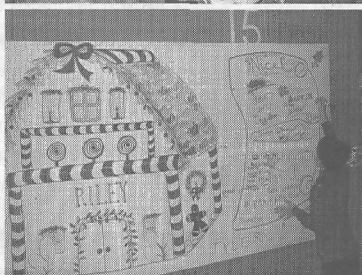
Riley chose to break away from the mold and offered a 'mini musical' called 'December Gifts by Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse.' The show featured stories about the three major holidays in December: Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanzaa. Working with the third and fourth grade chorus, groups of students spoke about the holidays and each specific holiday was also represented in song.

There were five presentations, *On My List*, *Spin The Dreidel*, *Celebrate Kwanzaa* and *Santa, Can You Hear Me?* The show closed with an instrumental by student Ryan Hughes, musically summing up the "Best Gift of All," a gift from the heart. The show was orchestrated and produced by Alan Billingsley and directed by Joanne Gurskey, Music Teacher.

with Santa at Breakfasts



Santa (Sal Severini) gets help from his elves at Riley School's Breakfast with Santa. At right, a Santa "visitor" signs in.



Santa (Ed Kubala) listens intently to the wishes of children at Roosevelt School's "Breakfast with Santa." Children also had the opportunity to create ornaments and holiday decorations.

IN YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 2

reasonable expectations. The funeral expenses and related costs were covered by many contributors and the good will of the McCrisky brothers, a police lieutenant from South Plainfield and the South Plainfield PBA. In our wildest dreams, we would have never expected such widespread generosity, but that is what this letter is trying to highlight, recognize, and compliment. To everyone who made financial contributions to my family, thank you. Any funds received in excess of the related funeral and burial costs, with your permission, will be placed in a memorial fund in order to support my boys' college education.

If my wife and I uncharacteristically gain weight during this difficult time, we are not to blame. Your generosity with the provision of countless meals and various foodstuffs was and continues to be extraordinary. Our freezer is packed and every cupboard is full. Again, thank you very much!

On Nov. 9, after the funeral, my family and I went away on a trip that I had researched for and booked months ago. It was a decision that caused me great consternation, given the circumstances. However, after much reflection, it was decided that we would go. It was one of the toughest decisions my wife and I have ever had to make. Although a tough decision, it was the right one. It was a decision made easier with the knowledge that our dear friends and neighbors would care for us and our home during our absence. It allowed us to talk, plan on a limited basis and to lessen the trauma to our boys. Lessening the trauma to our boys was of a paramount concern, especially when contending with Christopher's questions, "Daddy, was it my school bus that hurt Abbie? Daddy, is Abbie with Belle (our Rottweiler who previously died)?" Our college psychology courses were of no assistance to us in answering these questions. The trip did have a downside and that was prolonging the inevitable, i.e., entering our house for an

extended period of time without Abbie.

I cannot express to you the pain that my wife and I are experiencing, attempting to come to grips with the fact that we will: 1) never enter our house again with Abbie running towards us happily screaming; 2) never be dragged to the refrigerator by Abbie in order for her to demand a piece of cheese or a yogurt; 3) never have our faces aggressively pulled in order for Abbie to make us look at what she wanted us to see; 4) never see Abbie ever so cutely point to her face in order to solicit a kiss. The list could go on forever, but you get the picture; we miss our daughter, Abigail Michaela, tremendously.

Recently, we have attempted to go back to our everyday routines. That process has only been made "bearable" given the support, guidance, love and friendship that our friends and neighbors within the South Plainfield Community and beyond have shown my family. I was only able to go back to work with the knowledge that my wife and children would be adequately cared for and monitored. This community has risen to the challenge and quelled my fears about going back to work. Sacred Heart Church, the priests, sisters and staff, various school personnel and teachers, parent organizations, mothers and fathers who knew our children, high school friends, football coaches, law enforcement officers, merchants, complete strangers—and people from all walks of life have contributed to easing our excruciating pain. Moreover, you have all facilitated the commencement of the very long healing process.

When you see us out and about, please do not ask, "How are you doing?" We might answer the question honestly and we hate being negative. In the alternative, simply ask if we are getting by, we will be able to answer that question in a positive fashion.

During this trying ordeal, we have also had the opportunity to interact with emergency medical personnel and police officers. Their performance was beyond reproach. Today, it is common place to hear complaints about public servants (I being one of them). The citizenry rarely takes the time to acknowledge and/or thank public service that went above and beyond. This letter attempts to take the time to thank the emergency medical personnel and law enforcement officers who cared for my family on Nov. 5 and have contin-

ued to care to this very day. In short, they treated my family, like their family, and for that I am truly appreciative. In the future, when a public servant is not the epitome of diplomacy, try to remember that they have very difficult and dangerous jobs. Moreover, they may have just come from the scene of a tragedy similar to ours and may not be too inclined to hear explanations for unacceptable behavior.

Since Nov. 5, when we deal with our boys, we are far more tolerant and possess a greater degree of patience. Furthermore, we kiss, hug and tell them how much we love them for no apparent reason other than because we do. We do this in memory of Abigail and invite you to do the same with other children. In addition, do not dismiss those instances when you believe Abbie is connecting with you, they are real. Abbie is our angel and she is forever watching over us.

So many of you have related how difficult it has been for you to convey your condolences in words. Similarly, I have found it equally as difficult to convey my gratitude in a cogent non-rambling fashion. In this letter, I hope I have been marginally successful. I had hoped to address you at the funeral mass, but I simply lacked the strength.

It is abundantly clear, given the way that EVERYONE has charitably come together over the past several weeks for the benefit of my family, that we are proud members of a close knit South Plainfield Community, a community that I do not see myself leaving in the foreseeable future.

On behalf of my wife, Lisa, my boys, Christopher and Caleb, as well as our own angel in heaven, Abigail, we are extremely indebted to you all. In addition, to those who have exhibited the same support, guidance, love and friendship to Abbie's grandparents and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, your efforts are appreciated as well.

Before concluding, please recognize that we will need you all far into the future, especially around Abigail's birthday, Dec. 18 and during the Holiday Season. We know that our friends within the South Plainfield Community and beyond will be there for us.

Again, thanking you for your support, (emotional, financial and otherwise), guidance, love, and friendship, I am...

**FOREVER GRATEFUL,
CHRISTOPHER L. C. KUBERIET**

Sports

Tigers Win At Morris Knolls



South Plainfield High School Tiger wrestlers were winners at Morris Knolls.

By Bob Hunter

A lot of questions were answered this past weekend when the Tigers rolled through the Morris Knolls Tournament, racking up 217 points and out scoring second place Seton Hall Prep by 59 points. The Tigers claimed six individual champions and two second place finishes four thirds and one fourth place medal.

Winning titles were Jimmy Conroy (103), winning by a fall over Dan Traglia of Morris Hills at 0:57. Freshmen Billy Ashnault (112), also won by a fall over Mike Goldsworth of Morris Knolls at 1:58. Senior Ryan Elliott (275), also won by fall over Vinnie Lusardi of Morris Hills at 1:49. Sam Martin (130), also a freshman, won his title by winning by a major decision over Mike Powers of Seton Hall Prep 15-5. Paul Ritchie (145), wrestled smart and won by a decision 3-0 over Mike Antonucci of Seton Hall Prep.

Guy Severini (152), also won by a decision 3-1 over Taylor Maytrott of Montvale.

Freshmen Mike Jakubik (119), had a great tournament, but came up short in the final. It appeared that Jakubik had Tom Edel of Seton Hall Prep pinned, but did not get the call and had to settle for second place. Joe Debiase (171), was in a tough match with Ricky Keenen of Bogota, dropping a 3-1 decision for second place.

Third place winners where Nick Dorey (125), Nick Curcio (135), Peter DeAndrea (140) and Kevin Criley (189). Frank Demarest (215) finished fourth. Travis Noll (160) did not place, but did a great job losing to the eventual champion, Angelo DiLeo of Seton Hall Prep in the opening round.

So, with many questions answered about this years freshmen, the outlook for the Tigers is very promising for another outstanding year. Good job guys.

South Plainfield Recreation Discount Ski Tickets

Discount tickets may be purchased at the PAL Building for the following places and rates.

Montage Weekend/Holiday	\$36	Jack Frost/Big Golder	
Montage Midweek	\$29	Discovery Package	\$52
Shawnee Weekend	\$36	Camelback Weekend/Holiday ..	\$46
Shawnee Midweek	\$29	Camelback Midweek	\$33
Shawnee Skiers Choice Pkg.	\$57	Camel Night	\$25
Jack Frost/Big Boulder		Blue Mountain Weekend	\$41
Weekend/Holiday	\$40	Blue Mountain Weekday	\$34
Jack Frost/Big Boulder		Mountain Creek	
Midweek	\$31	Weekend/Holiday	\$43
JF/BB Night	\$20	Mountain Creek Weekday	\$33



**Last Chance
to enter the
House
Decorating
Contest!
See page 3**

Dining Out!

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P70 99

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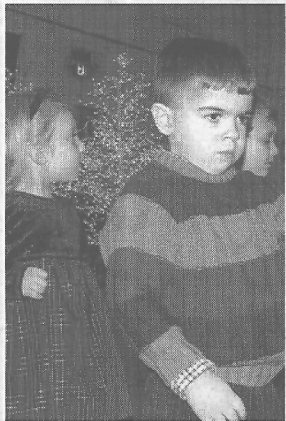
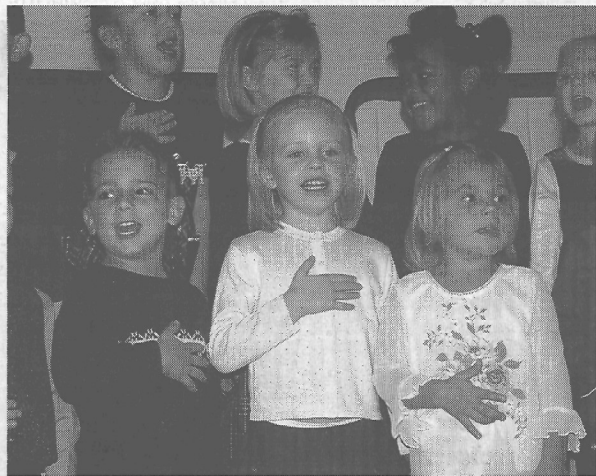
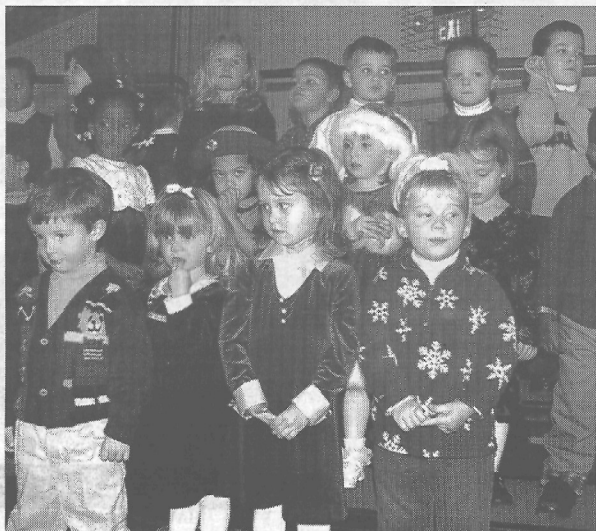
Creative Kids Youngsters Steal the Show

Story/photos by Patricia Abbott

Creative Kids Academy held their exciting annual concert on Dec. 9 at Franklin School. Decked out in their holiday best, the youths waited for the event to begin with varying degrees of anticipation which ranged from timid tears to charging the stage ready to sing.

Video cameras silently whirled and flashes filled the air as parents sought to capture their precious "Kodak" moments. The song list included *Jingle Bells*, *Frosty the Snowman* and other holiday favorites.

By the end of the concert huge smiles could be seen throughout the audience, while some performers dried their tears, others just beamed. The children and their guests ended the evening by enjoying refreshments.



From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, we're in the home stretch of 2003 and looking forward to 2004. But, we still have a few things to clear up before we have to switch calendars. One of those things is the latest news from the Library:

The Library will be closed Sunday, Dec. 28. It will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31 and closed on Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

Our children's Storytime programs have been cancelled next week, as Miss Linda will be away. They'll start up again on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

We're between groups on both the Video Circuit and the Large Print Circuit today. The next group of videos should be available late next week, while the new LPC books will be ready soon after that. Meanwhile, Wednesday will be the last day of availability for the current group of Circuit Audiobooks. Titles in this group include *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Curtains for Three* by Rex Stout, *Turbulence* by John J. Nance, *The Wedding* by Danielle Steel, and, on CD, *Blue at the Mizzen* by Patrick O'Brien. Audiobooks may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Not too long ago, we let you know that we'd rearranged parts of our collection. More recently, you may have noticed a few other differences in the Library. We have not rearranged the walls of the building. We've merely had some walls repainted and others wallpapered. The work is more or less done now, though touch-ups may be needed. We hope you like the new look.

It's a bit early for spring cleaning (or a bit late, depending on your perspective), but we'd like to straighten up our Lost & Found area. It's gotten pretty full recently. So, if you believe you've lost an item here at the Library, stop by the Circulation Desk and ask. Be advised: Unclaimed items will eventually be discarded.

Here's a request from both the Library and the Library staff member who's writing the column this week. You will note that items from our various Circuit collections are checked out using a special bar-coded card, normally kept in a pocket attached to the item. We ask that you make sure that, when the item is returned, the card is also returned in usable condition attached to the proper item. When Circuit items are returned without their cards, it causes unnecessary problems and can result in a Circuit item being briefly (we hope) removed from circulation. Keeping good track of those cards is a big help in that respect. As always, we thank you for your consideration.

That's about all for today and for 2003. Thanks for your attention. See you next year.

Obituaries

George Vakerich, 77

George Vakerich of South Plainfield died on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

George was born in South Plainfield and was a life long resident.

He was an accounting clerk for Bethlehem Steel at the Buffalo Tank Division in Dunellen for 24 years before retiring in 1982. He was also the maitre'd for the Club Diana in Union for many years.

George was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield.

He served his country during WWII in the United States Army as a Tec-5.

He was predeceased by three brothers, John, Michael and Charles Vakerich and three sisters, Mary Pellegrino, Helen Eodice and Elizabeth Nowkowski.

He is survived by his brother, Frank Vakerich of South Plainfield; a sister, Anna Percevault of South Plainfield and many nieces and nephews.

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

Alex Nagy, 83

Alex Nagy died on Thursday, Dec. 18 at his home in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Woodbridge, Alex entered the Army in 1942, serving three years in the Pacific during WWII until his discharge in 1945. Upon his discharge, he moved to Warren for 23 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1969.

He was an exempt firefighter from the Mt. Bethel Fire Company, a member of the Italian American Progressive League of North Plainfield and a member of the South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298. He was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens.

An avid builder who built his first home, Alex was a gunsmith and enjoyed carpentry work.

He is predeceased by all of his brothers and sisters.

Surviving are his wife, Rose (nee DeBisco) of 57 years; his daughter, Sandy Lombardo and her husband, Michael of Branchburg and two grandchildren, Cassandra and Carly.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the JFK Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Katherine M. (Fauerbach) Auer, 82

Katherine M. (Fauerbach) Auer died on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

She was born in Jersey City and has resided in Philadelphia, Highland Park and in Plainfield before moving to South Plainfield in 1962.

Mrs. Auer had held the position of vice president and treasurer of the former Mason Candlelight Co., which had been located in Green Brook and later in Middlesex. She was with the company for 20 years before retiring in 1970.

During WWII, she had worked for the American Type Founders Co., where she was a munitions inspector.

She was a member of the former St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Plainfield, which is presently St. Francis Episcopal Church in Dunellen.

In her earlier years, she was a member of the Midnight Rollers, a roller skating competition team of Plainfield.

Surviving are her two sons, Robert D. Auer of South Plainfield and John W. Auer and his wife, Sol of North Plainfield; three grandchildren, Solen Smith and Shari and Stacy Auer and two great grandchildren, Connor and Brianna Smith.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Rose Marino, 98

Rose Marino of Edison died on Friday, Dec. 19 at the Rahway Hospital in Rahway.

Rose was born in the Bronx and was a former resident of North Plainfield before moving to Edison nine years ago.

She worked as a seamstress her entire working life and retired from the former Middlesex Dress Company in South Plainfield. She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 149 in New York.

Rose was an active communicant of St. Luke's Church in North Plainfield where she was a volunteer worker for the parish Bingo. She was also a member of the Rosary Society.

Her favorite pastime was cooking for her family and her specialty was baking and making ricotta cheese cake.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Matthew Marino, who died in 1929.

She is survived by two sons, Angelo and his wife, Antoinette Marino of Edison and Frank and his wife, Yolanda Marino of Somerset; a daughter, Jennie Barra of Malcrest, Fla. and seven grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

December 19, 2003

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on December 18, 2003.

Case #46-03—Armedo Bruno; Block 318; Lot 6. The applicant's request for lot area, lot width and rear yard setback variances in order to construct a single family home on an undersized lot was hereby DENIED.

Case #53-03—John Matwijew; Block 335; Lot 2. The applicant's request to dismiss this case without prejudice was hereby GRANTED.

Case #71-03—Joann & Anthony Zelek & Lori Ann White; Block 429; Lot 7. The applicant's request for lot area, lot width and low coverage variances for the structure was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

Case #78-03—Luke & Diane Canestri; Block 162; Lot 9. The applicant's request for a front yard setback variance to allow the construction of a second story with a 25.24 foot front yard setback was hereby GRANTED.

Case #82-03/TU—New Era Development; Block 308; Lot 12.04. The applicant's request for a temporary use permit for American Fence System, Inc. was hereby GRANTED with voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Knidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment
\$35.00 December 26, 2003

LAST CHANCE

to purchase OBSERVER photos by Patricia Abbott

The following photo files will be deleted as of 1/31/04: SP Fire Dept. 1902 and 1903 FD concerts, FD Circus, 1903 fifth grade class pics, 1902 and 1903 high school and middle school graduations, 1902 and 1903 Jr and Sr. Proms, election 1902 and 1903, Girl Scout Gold Awards, 1902 and 1903 Bike Rodeo, All District Concert, SPHS Anything Goes, SPMS Yearbook, Grant's ANNIE Jr., MS girls basketball, Grant 6th basketball, Kennedy Grandparents day, bands for Riley, Skatepark, school concerts and events, National Honor Society inductions, Franklin K&J, Franklin Suess, Dare Graduations, 1902 and 1903 Labor Day, MS Peer to Peer and many other files. For more detailed info or to see PROOF sheets please call (908) 756-8011 or email Pattie at angelonly@aol.com

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May Assumes SPHS Top Spot

(Continued from page 1)

He was a National Honor Society advisor and Supervisor of Mathematics for grades seven through 12. In 1985 he was appointed Supervisor of Mathematics for K-12.

In October of 1987 Dr. May came "home" to South Plainfield, and since then has served as the high school's assistant principal, working with Principal Anthony Massaro, Assistant Principals Helen Gottlieb, Steven Katz and Donna Ship to bring the school to where it is today.

Some of May's plans include "providing seniors with continuing support." He anticipates raising the HSPA and SAT scores. He also wants to provide more opportuni-

ties for graduates, continuing Massaro's idea of encouraging all seniors to apply to college.

Dr. May has mixed emotions about Massaro leaving. "He's an educator, a colleague, but most of all, he's my friend," May stated. He plans on focusing on the fact that Massaro will not be gone; he will just be in a different office. "Mr. Massaro has always treated me like a co-principal," May offered, going on to say that the transition from assistant principal to principal should be smooth because Massaro has always shared his responsibilities with May and regarded him as an equal. He feels that he, Superintendent of Schools Robert Rosado, and Massaro will work well together.

Novak Named Assistant Principal

Steve Novak has been teaching in South Plainfield since 1969. From 1984 to 1987, he was assistant principal at SPHS and in 1989 and 1990 he served as coordinator of discipline. In 1990 he returned to teach Social Studies. He was SPHS baseball coach from 1974 to 1994 and was named Baseball Coach of the Year six times. He was soccer coach there from 1974 to 1983, and is a recipient of the Governor's Teacher of the Year Sward.

In his hometown of North Plainfield, Novak served as mayor from 1974 to 1988, councilman from 1971 to 1974 and has served as assistant Recreation director from 1989.

policereport

• On Dec. 16 H.K. Truck Service on Hamilton Blvd. reported that on two different occasions money was missing from some business transactions.

• On Dec. 17 Rima Klodt, 53, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving on a revoked license and leaving the scene of an accident.

• A Cutchogue, NY resident reported the theft of a laptop computer from his vehicle which was parked at the Holiday Inn on Stelton Rd. The rear door window had been smashed out.

• On Dec. 21 Edward Percel, 40, of Irvington was arrested for posses-

sion of a controlled substance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop. Passenger Tracy Lynne Martin-Coca, 23, of Somerville was also arrested for outstanding warrants.

• On Dec. 22 Franklin School reported that a 5 1/2 foot evergreen tree in the front of the school had been cut down and taken.

• The High School food service reported that the gear shift of their van had been broken off. Nothing was taken.

• A Calderone St. resident reported that his door jam had been cracked. A repairman advised him that someone tried to use a screwdriver to gain access to the apartment.

We, at the Observer, welcome the privilege of following the ups and downs of South Plainfield, and continue to celebrate the generosity and selflessness abundant here in this small corner of the world, not only during this holiday season, but throughout each and every year.

We thank those who continue to support the newspaper.

May you find peace, health and happiness in the coming year.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*Nancy Grennier, Publisher
& the Staff of the South Plainfield Observer*

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