

Everyone's Irish
at Riley School
Grandparents'
Day Celebration!
See next week



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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 8, NO. 28

50 CENTS

MARCH 18, 2005



Elks Past Exalted Ruler Art Sabino presents Citizen of the Year award posthumously to Salvatore Severini. Above, Lois Severini and family, accept on behalf of her husband who passed away in December.

Elks Name Citizen of the Year

By Patricia Abbott

On March 5 the South Plainfield Elks honored Salvatore "Bubby" Severini with their "Citizen of the Year" award. Accepting the posthumous award was Sal's wife, Lois. Prior to presenting the award, Past Exalted Ruler Art Sabino spoke of Bubby's 30 plus years of dedication to the youth of South Plainfield. Reading from a nomination, Art noted, "Sal's dedication, volunteerism and professionalism to youth programs over the past 30 years demonstrates true leadership and outstanding community service."

"Bubby," as he was affectionately known to friends, coached Pop Warner football for 30 years. He also coached

little league and girls softball for six years each. He was a member of the South Plainfield Booster Club for 15 years. He belonged to the South Plainfield Sunday Night Bowling League for 25 years, serving as president for 10. Bubby played semi-pro football in Europe for three years and won the 1950 European Championship. He served in the U.S. Army for four years and was honorably discharged as a corporal. He was Life Time member of the South Plainfield Italian American Progressive League and served as their president for five years. He was a member of VFW Post 13016 in Mountainside for 42 years.

Accepting the award, Bubby's wife Lois said, "On behalf of the entire Severini family, we would like to thank the Elks for honoring Sal (Bubby) as citizen of the year and thank Artie Sabino for

nominating him. It was an honor to be acknowledged along with so many other wonderful citizens of our community. Bubby's tireless dedication, especially to the children of our community was from his heart and he never expected anything in return. Thank you for this special honor."

Also in attendance was Sal's daughter Luanne, sons Sal and Steve, daughter-in-law Sandy and grandchildren Guy, Gina, Rocco, Zachary and Stevie Nicole.

Honorees are chosen by the Elks Central District Americanism Committee. The dinner was held at the Woodbridge Elks Lodge. Master of ceremony for the event was Dan Uken, Past Exalted Ruler of the South Plainfield Elks #2298. Citizen of the year awards were presented by several Elks Lodges, including Metuchen, Watchung Hills, Perth Amboy, Edison and others.

Tempers Flair, Sparks Fly at BOE Meeting

Accusations were exchanged between present and former board members during Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, and tempers soon flared on both sides. As the date (April 19) of the vote on the proposed budget and the election of three board members approaches, charges of who did what, and when did they know about some of the problems, were hot topics.

Board candidate Jeff Seider started by asking about the 21 teachers left off the 2003/2004 budget. He was a member of the board at that time, and produced a memo telling board members that even though 21 were left off; there was money in the budget to pay for them. He also questioned the board's statements that previous boards had ignored the need for fire

(Continued on page 4)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday



The annual Easter Egg Hunt at the PAL is Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m. at the PAL building. The Easter Bunny will be on-hand for pictures. All children who attend will receive a gift. The event is open to all South Plainfield children ages one to 10.



Rev. Nehemiah Thompson accepts a donation from local girl scouts at a special service to send off the Tsunami aid volunteers.

Wesley Methodist Sends Off Five for Tsunami Aid

A special send off service was held at Wesley Methodist Church on Sunday, March 6, for Jennifer GaNun, Shirley Kumar, Nicole Woo, Rev. Prince Singh and Rev. Nehemiah Thompson, who all departed on a 10-day mission to India to visit the tsunami-affected areas and refugee camps that were devastated recently.

In addition to visiting the affected tsunami areas, they will be helping to establish an orphanage in Kanyakumari, the southern most tip of India. Rev. Thompson refers to it as a children's home, rather than an orphanage. The name of the orphanage is Nesamony Institute Home for Children.

The moving service was attended by many dignitaries, including Mayor Dan Gallagher and Councilmen Ray Petronko and Ed Kubala, who presented the missionaries with a check donated by the mayor and council members themselves. Other area churches also presented checks from

their parishes and added their own prayers for the group.

The Wesley Methodist Sunday School children wrote their own special personal cards with messages of hope and love to give to the children who were victims of the tsunami. Candles representing all 12 countries that were affected were lit by children of the parish. Shirley Kumar sang as a slide show of scenes of the devastation of the tsunami were shown and everyone their sat stunned with the images.

The group left on March 10 and will return in 10 days. They promised to return with many stories and plenty of photos, which they will share with the public.

If you would to like make a donation to this group, please make checks out to Wesley UMC, noting Nesamony Institute, and mail it to Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Congratulations DARE Grads!

Story/photos by Jane Dornick

On Tuesday, March 8, Grant 5th/6th School graduated 289 fifth grade students from the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. Special classes were taught by South Plainfield DARE Police Officers Dave Franchak and Al LaMonda, who met once a week with the students for 17 weeks. The DARE program provides children with the information and skills needed to avoid negative influences, focus on their strengths and potential and to live drug and violence free lives.

The culmination of the program ended in a graduation ceremony held in the Grant School gymnasium



289 fifth graders graduate from the South Plainfield Police Department DARE program. See page 11 for DARE graduates.

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Mark Your Calendars

councilmeetings

Borough Hall Council Chambers

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
April 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
April 18	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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.

planningboard

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

March 22, April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28, July 5*, July 19*, Aug. 16*, Aug. 30*, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 29*, Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

zoningboardofadjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.

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

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

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. April 5

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—April 12.

2004/2005 Budget Working Meetings—Final Adoption of the Budget on March 29 at 8 p.m.

taxpayersadvisorygroup

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

siteplansub-committee

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

April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19,

Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

recreationcommission

Meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 7 and Dec. 13.

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

boardofeducationcurriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

March 21

To the Editor,

During our time of sorrow, the family of John A. Butrico Jr. learned how much our family and friends mean to us. We will always hold in grateful remembrance your kind expression of sympathy. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who came out to pay condolences to John, Sr. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has been overwhelming.

THE BUTRICO FAMILY

Dear Editor,

We have lived in town for 13 years and have been raising our children here. My husband, Chris, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 2, 2004. We sold our house in town the week before and were relocating that day for a job transfer Chris had been given. The morning that was supposed to be our closing, Chris unfortunately passed away from Dilated Cardiomyopathy. This heart condition was one he had for many years, but went undetected. Being a muscular disease, it is not caused by high cholesterol or triglycerides, and diet and blood testing did not detect his condition (Chris' were fine). It is a disease you are born with or caused by a viral infection that settles in your heart. Unless this condition runs in your family (it did not) or you are having symptoms (which he was not), an echocardiogram, sad to say, is not a routine test given and without detection causes "sudden death." We are a very close family and the loss of Chris has been devastating.

I want to thank everyone who stepped forward for us in our time of need. Thanks to all who helped find a house once the decision to stay in town was made. With their help, we were able to move five weeks after losing him. Thanks to what seemed like thousands who came to the wake and funeral to offer condolences. Thanks to the staff at Franklin School who made sure the kids had emotional support and were resituated into their original classrooms. Thanks to the cub scouts and fathers who stepped forward with their time. Thanks to everyone who helped out and created the fund for my children. I am grateful to all of you who donated. The money will be set aside for their college tuition.

I never would have been able to con-

quer as much as I have if it wasn't for our friends. Adjusting to life without Chris has been difficult and I never have enough time in the day to call everyone I would like to, but you are in my thoughts. I know Chris is watching us and is thankful to all who have helped take care of the family he loved more than anything. It is not often we have the ability to make such a difference for a friend and this community should be very proud.

TINA RUHNKE

Dear Editor,

In April, residents will vote on the school budget and the election of three board members. Three incumbents are seeking reelection and are opposed by three candidates who are Carol Byrne, John Markham and Jeffrey Seider.

Before you cast your vote, consider the actions of this Board in the last 2003/2004 budget year and the current 2004/2005 budget year, which we're in now. The 2003/2004 budget was presented and advertised with the proposed expenditure of \$42,771,797, the district's account total report on 6/30/04 showed actual expenditure of \$45,610,515. In that budget, taxpayers also approved \$900,000 to be used to improve safety at most elementary schools when parents dropped off or picked up their children. That project was not completed and those funds are no longer available. The 2003/2004 budget also required negotiation for a new labor contract. Chairman Dan Smith and the negotiation committee were well aware of the budget limitation, yet they negotiated increases of 4.95%, 4.5% and 4.5%. Healthcare premiums were projected to increase by 18%, but no changes were negotiated to minimize the impact of this increase. As a matter of fact, eligibility for coverage was accelerated and made eligible. You may remember that when the Board was to vote on approval of this negotiated contract, Dawn Jeffreys resigned because she felt the 2003/2004 budget could not absolve these costs. She was right!

When it became obvious that the 03/04 budget would be over-expanded, the Board placed the blame on previous Boards. Let me remind you that six of the current Board members served on previous boards.

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will not publish any anonymous letters until further notice. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 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.

Now let's look at the current 2004/2005 budget. You voted no on the advertised budget. After some minor changes, the budget was put in place. At meetings, the Board was reminded that there were significant defects and omissions in the budget, which tended to mislead taxpayers on the extent of a tax increase a credible budget would require. For example, budget line items for maintenance and operation, as well as for transportation, were being budgeted at less than what was actually spent two years ago for the line items. The capital budget line item was budgeted at 0. There has never been a time in the past 10 years that any Board budgeted 0 for this line item. As a result of the failure to adequately and properly budget, there is now a major deficit in the current budget. The budget was advertised at \$44,185,421 and the 1/31/05 account balance report shows expenditures running at \$46,435,729. To cover this deficit, the Board is borrowing \$1,675,000 via lease purchase of textbooks, using all of the recent audit surplus and the transfer of enterprise fund balance to cover same debt service. As a result, the 2005/2006 budget will start with a zero surplus.

The projected 2005/2006 budget, which was just approved, reflects a tax increase of \$375 for 2006 for a home assessed at \$117,300. Again, for this budget, the Board resorted to a process referred to as rollover of previous year cap balance. This means that in previous years when the budget was not to cap, the balances could be applied to increase this year's cap. Of course, all of these three additional ex-

(Continued from page 12)

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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., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number. You can subscribe or contact us at: spobserver.com.

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: spobserver@comcast.net 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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For information, please call (908) 753-3850.

SPHS Hall of Fame is Seeking Nominees

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

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from South Plainfield High School, or a designated school at least 15 years prior to nomination. They must also have achieved a prominent position in their careers with a significant contribution in academia, business, community participation, service to humanity or unique accomplishments.

Those candidates selected will be have their photographs and biographies displayed on the "Hall of Fame" at the entrance of the high school. They will also be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on June 1.

Parents and friends are welcome to



Pictured are Anthony Cotoia, co-chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee, and Frances Flannery, SPHS History teacher, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2004 and Dr. Kenneth May, Principal at SPHS and co-chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee.

submit candidates for this prestigious recognition.

Nomination forms for this award can be obtained from: Dr. Kenneth

May, Principal, South Plainfield High School, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, NJ 07080, (908) 754-4620 ext. 248.

Recycling Center Good Friday and Spring Schedule

The Recycling Center on Kenneth Ave. will be closed on Friday, March 25, for Good Friday. It will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 24.

Regular hours at the Recycling Center are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Yard Waste regular winter hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Yard Waste will go on its spring/summer schedule the week of March 21, open from noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays

Both facilities will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 26.

The Recycling Center will be accepting used paint for recycling from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 19. Sort latex-based paint from oil-based paint.

2005 Yard Waste/Compactor Decals are available in the Municipal Clerk's office in Borough Hall. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

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

Work Begins on Edison Valley Playhouse Renovations

Last Saturday turned out to be a great day for volunteers at the Edison Valley Playhouse. They got a good start on the work needed to be done and were glad to see that people stopped by for the sale and some just stopped to see what was happening with the place. People were glad to see the work begin to return the theatre to activity. A few even mentioned they had an interest in the historic aspects of the

building as well as the theatre work. The volunteers will be there again this Saturday and if the weather holds out, construction should start sometime this week or next. They still need volunteers for any amount of time they can lend a hand. They will supply the gloves, tools, coffee and a great project to get involved with. The Edison Valley Playhouse is on its way back!

VFW Pup Tent Installs 2005-2006 Officers

By Michael Duquette

Last Friday, the "Sewer Rats" Pup Tent No. 41 of VFW Post No. 6763 installed their officers for the 2005-2006 season at a spirited reception at the post. Past Grand Commander Otto Sodoma presided over the installation of the 11 elected officers.

The VFW Officers are: Commander Julius J. Peterson of South Plainfield, Senior Vice Commander Robert E. Debbie of North Plainfield, Junior Vice Commander Frank J. Chupko, Sr. of Scotch Plains, Quartermaster Carl Zakzeuski of Somerville, Advocate Philip Cortese, Jr. of South Plainfield, Chaplain Rudy Poczak of South Plainfield, Surgeon George Jepson of Edison, Historian Anthony Nelson of South Plainfield and Trustees Metro Kopchak of South Plainfield, Otto Sodoma of Manchester and Luther Taylor of Somerville.

The Post will continue to provide

activities for the public, notably their monthly breakfasts and dinners held to raise money for hospitalized veterans at the Lyons VA Hospital. Breakfasts are held on the first Sunday of each month from 8-11 a.m. and din-

ners are held the third Friday of every month from 5-8 p.m. Please show your support for the men and women who have done so much for our community and our nation.

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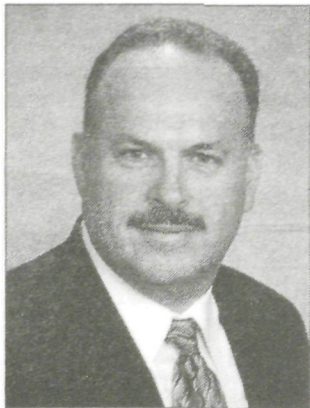
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Chinese Acrobats Perform at Roosevelt

By Patricia Abbott

Riley and Roosevelt School PTOs sponsored a visit from an extraordinary group of Chinese Acrobats. Roosevelt School used the event as a fundraiser holding an evening performance. Riley's presented the show as a cultural event for the entire school.

The theatrical event consisted of four acrobats and one presenter. The acrobats dressed in elaborate bright costumes and thrilled the audience with their amazing routines that featured balancing, contortionist movements and flexibility. The presenter offered a glimpse of Chinese culture between each routine.

Acrobatics is one of the oldest art forms in China. Although their show offers a circus-like atmosphere, they

are highly revered performers in China. Training in this rigorous ancient art form begins as young as four. The basics: balancing, tumbling, dancing, flexibility and strength are taught over the first two years. The next three years are spent perfecting their acts. Actual public performances don't take place until the acrobat is about 16 years old.

One mother described a few of the routines. "A girl flipped a square table top to bottom, side to side, spun it on one leg, spun it on its top. She did the same with a very large vase. The boy did cartwheels and flips and juggled hats, squeezed himself into a barrel and hopped around like a frog with only his ankles showing. I've never seen anything like it!" Parents and students alike said it was one of the best programs they had ever seen.



Sparks Fly at Board of Ed Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

doors, saying he spoke to fire officials and they disputed that fact.

Frank Mikorski then questioned Superintendent Dr. Rosado about a meeting they had on the 21 teachers where they had gone over each item to ensure that there was enough money, and both were assured by then Business Administrator Ed Izbicki there was enough money in the budget.

It has since been disclosed that there was not enough money in the 2003/2004 budget. Mikorski continued on that subject until Board President Pio Pennisi asked him to pose a new question and stop making statements. After a heated exchange, Mikorski was asked to sit down.

Board member Mike English then questioned why Dr. Rosado, who at that time had only been in the district for six days, should be drilled on something in which he had not been part of creating. He added that if Mikorski wanted to criticize someone, he should criticize the person who was the board president at that time, himself, Frank Mikorski.

Board member Dan Smith ended the evening reading a prepared statement which included accusations about several former board members. Smith was blunt and did not mince

words. He asked John Markham to explain how the delayed three month insurance payment occurred, since he was on the board at that time. Markham, who was not present at the meeting, is a candidate for the board this year.

He went on to accuse Mikorski of holding back from other board members advice from board attorneys about a contract entered into with Vision Impact. The contract was supposed to save the district money on

utilities and the attorneys had advised against it. The BOE has not realized the savings it was promised.

Smith went on to accuse Mikorski of pushing the fight in the teacher's salary arbitration, which ended in costing the district three quarters of a million dollars.

Smith has told the *Observer* that he will provide his statement to us. Readers can see next week's issue for that complete statement.

Knights of Columbus Crown Free Throw Champions

Six boys and girls from South Plainfield, ages 10 to 14, were named 2005 Knights of Columbus Local Champions and earned the right to compete at the district level competition. The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 sponsored the local competition at Sacred Heart School on Jan. 30. All youngsters ages 10 to 14 were eligible to participate.

In the 10-11-year-old division the girls' champion was Alexis Cargill and in the boys' division the champion was Nicholas Tuyp. In the 12-year-old bracket, the winner for the girls' division was Katie Muglia and in the

boys' division the winner was Michael McCue. The 13-year-old boys' division winner was Doug Avery. Fourteen year old champion for the boys' division was Michael Muglia. Each contestant was allowed 15 free throw attempts in the contests.

Each of these winners moved on to the district competition that was held at Sacred Heart School on Feb. 13. We are also proud to announce that Alexis Cargill and Michael Muglia won their respective divisions at this competition. Alexis and Michael will now move onto the state level of competition to be held at a later date.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

The library offers many programs for kids, but did you know that we have classes for adults too? Crafting instructor Ronda Wisniewski leads an adult "Make and Take" Craft session each month. The next scheduled session is for a hand painted flower pot on Monday April 4. There is a \$2 materials fee for this craft and registration is required. If you would like more information please call us at (908) 754-7885. If you would like to register, we ask that you please do so in person.

You may have noticed a new face in the children's room recently. Danya Romaner-Schussler is our new library intern. A former elementary school teacher, Danya is now working towards her MLIS at Long Island University. She will be leading a "Time for 2's & 3's" program beginning in April, and looks forward to working with children and their parents. The next time you visit the library, please remember to stop by the children's room and say hello!

In honor of National Nutrition Month, local nutrition student Aimee Goyette has put together a wonderful display that includes many handouts to help parents make healthy choices for themselves and their children. Aimee will also be visiting us during storytimes this month to talk to the children about eating healthy and the importance of good nutrition. She is also holding a coloring contest through the end of the month. Children of all ages may stop by the children's room and pick a picture of their favorite fruit/vegetable to color. All entries must be received by 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday March 30.

An often overlooked collection in the children's room are our parenting books. Parents who need to discuss sensitive topics with their children may find some of the books in our parenting collection helpful. These books cover a broad range of subjects, including such issues as adoption, divorce, death, and coping with a serious illness in the family. The picture book format of these books makes the issues that they address accessible to children from three to 12 years. The library also has books for parents helping children deal with issues in the adult nonfiction collection. Please see a librarian for help finding these or any materials you need.

Just a quick reminder that the library offers several services for the convenience of our patrons! We sell stamps (by the book or individual), send/receive faxes (\$2 for the first page, \$1 each additional page) and offer notary services (\$1 per page). If you plan to use our notary, please call ahead to make sure he is available.

Please note that the library will be CLOSED next Friday, March 25 in observance of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, March 27. For access to online databases and helpful homework links you can visit our website at <http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us> 24 hours a day 365 days a year!

Medicine Shoppe is Changing It's Name

The Medicine Shoppe, located on Maple Ave. next to Cicico's Pizza, will be changing its name on April 10 to Rich's Pharmacy.

Rich's Pharmacy still has the same friendly owner/pharmacist, Richard Polack, R.Ph., who continues to serve the community in the same friendly, personal way he has for the past 22 years.

In today's busy world, the pharmacy business has created mail-order prescriptions and phones that are answered by machines. This isn't true at Rich's Pharmacy. Their valued clients are very important and so is their time.

Doctors' prescriptions are filled accurately and a 10-minute prescription service is guaranteed. Rich's job doesn't end in just filling your prescription, but puts importance in talking to you about the drug, therapeutic

monitoring, disease management and healthy habits for wellness. Phone calls are still answered by a friendly staff.

Rich's Pharmacy accepts assignment from Medicare. Thus, you can receive diabetic testing supplies, medications for the nebulizer, canes, wheelchairs and much more for little or no

out-of-pocket expense.

Major prescription plans are accepted, children's medications are flavored and they have free delivery and 24-hour emergency service is included.

Rich's Pharmacy is located at 144 Maple Ave., or you can call (908) 754-0707.

District Music and Art Festival

The 36th Annual All-District Music and Art Festival will be held on Thursday, April 7 at the high school at 6:25 p.m. The festival will feature performances of instrumental and vocal ensembles, as well as displays of art created by the district's talented students.

The music performances will take place in the auditorium, while the displays of art will be located in the gym-

nasium. The concert will be performed in three segments.

Tickets are available on a limited basis to the families of the performing students and then will be available to the general public starting.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Veiss, the District Music Team Leader, at aveiss@spnet.k12.nj.us.



Future Stars Registration Underway

Registration for Future Stars Preschool, which is a tuition-based program, is underway for the 2005/2006 school year. We still have openings in all of our classes. Classes are available for children ages two, three and four.

We also have openings in The Inclusion Preschool Program, which is for four-year-old children who reside in South Plainfield. This program is for children who are four-years-old who are developing typically to serve as role models for children with special needs. There is no cost for this program, after the initial \$125 registration fee. Selection for the program will be by lottery and will take place at the end of March. We offer two sessions: Morning sessions, Monday-Thursday, 8:45-11:15 a.m. and Afternoon sessions, Monday-Friday, 12:15-2:45 p.m.

We are also offering the Early Launch to Learning Initiative—ELLI Program—which is a free preschool for low income families of four-year-olds. This meets five afternoons a week.

Applications and information may be obtained for the following programs by calling the Adult School Office at (908) 754-4520, ext. 215.

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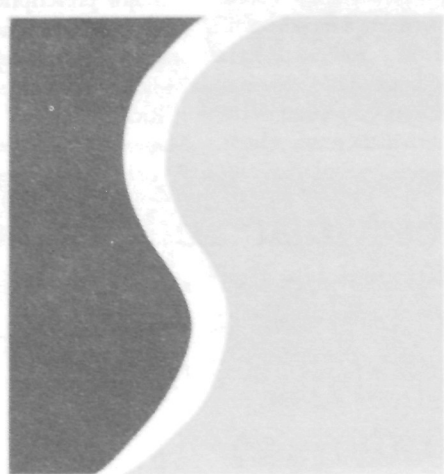
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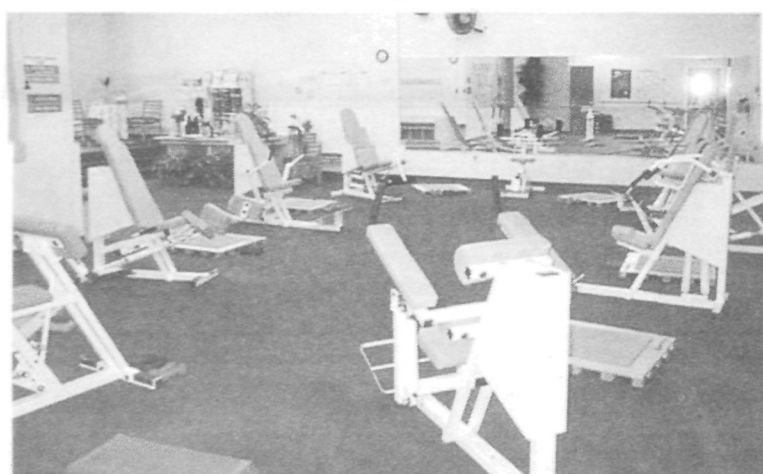
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Events

VFW to Hold Dinner

March 18

The VFW Post 6763, located at 155 Front St., will be holding a corned beef and cabbage, (or cabbage and noodles-\$6) dinner on Friday, March 18 from 5-8 p.m. Price is \$8. Children under 12 years of age are half price. The public is welcomed. For more information, call (908) 668-9751.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dance

March 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will hold a St. Patrick's Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 19. Come enjoy an evening of fun, food and entertainment from 6 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person. Proceeds benefit the American Legion Post Scholarship Fund.

Franklin School PTA Auction/Raffle

March 19

The Franklin School PTA is sponsoring their Ninth Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 19 at the high school gym. Prizes include a 52" TV, 7-day trip to Disney, electronics, gift certificates and door prizes. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

For tickets, call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Terry at (908) 753-2864. No one under 18 will be admitted. A complimentary grand prize ticket will be given with every advanced ticket sale.

Lions Palm Sunday Breakfast

March 20

The South Plainfield Lions will hold their very popular Gourmet Palm Sunday breakfast on Sunday, March 20 from 8 a.m. until noon in the SPSHS

Send your events to: The Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; fax (908) 668-8819; email: spobserver@comcast.net

What's happening in MARCH

UPCOMING EVENTS

Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am 21
AARP Mtg. 12:30pm
Drawing Class 11:30am

March 19-St. Patrick's Dance
Corned Beef and Cabbage
6 to 10 p.m. tickets \$5

April 7... Oklahoma at NJPAC
\$40 Includes Transportation

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social 10am 22

Exercise 8:30am 23
Line Dancing 10am
AARP Crafts 1pm
Computer Class 10 am
11:30 am, 1 pm
Listening to Children 10am

Weekly Shopping 17
Pathmark 9am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class 11 & 1pm

Weekly Shopping 24
Pathmark 9am
Practical Crafts 10am
Computer Class
11am & 1pm

Bingo 10am-2pm 18
Pizza lunch
available

Good Friday 25
Center Closed

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The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Senior Center EVENTS

cafeteria. Tickets are \$6 and are available from any Lions Club member or by calling (908) 753-3850.

Ponytail Parents Monthly Meeting

March 22

The South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 in the Middle School Library. The association will be holding a free coaches clinic on March 19 at the PAL for anyone interested in coaching or helping out. All are welcome!

UNICO Meeting for Interested Members

March 30

UNICO- the Plainfields is inviting anyone who may be interested in joining their group to a special meeting planned to explain what UNICO is all about and answer questions. The meeting will be held at the American

Legion, located on Oak Tree Ave., on Wednesday, April 30 at 7 p.m.

For information call Bob Benjivenga at 743-0247.

SPHS Music Boosters Trip to Atlantic City

April 2

The SPSHS Music Boosters are sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City on Saturday, April 2. The bus leaves the SPSHS parking lot by the gym at 9 a.m. and returns at approximately 8 p.m. The cost is \$30 with a cash back of \$15 per person from the casino.

For information or to reserve your seat, call Julie at (908) 791-0294.

Hawaiian Luau

April 2

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission invites you to an evening of dancing and music at our first annual

Hawaiian Luau featuring Mele Kini Polynesian Dance Troupe and Baby Grand DJ Entertainment's Chris Waryn on Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Admission is free, as are refreshments. Dress in your island best!

VFW Blood Drive

April 2

The VFW Post 6763 will be holding a blood drive on Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at the VFW located on Front St. For information, call (908) 668-9751. Please come out and donate for this worthy cause.

Beach Boys' Revival

April 3

Good vibrations are back! Rec is sponsoring a trip to "Beach Boys' Revival" on Sunday, April 3. Cost is \$90. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

Oklahoma at NJPac

April 7

The Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma* at NJPac on Thursday, April 7. Bus leaves the Senior Center at noon. Cost is \$40.

Purchase tickets at the Senior Center.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

April 10

The Polish National Home will sponsor a bus trip to the Taj in Atlantic City on Sunday, April 10. The cost is \$20 with a \$17 coin return. Bus leaves the Polish Home at 10 a.m. For tickets or information call (908) 668-9442 or (908) 757-8432.

Cahal Dunne Concert

April 17

Cahal Dunne, singer, songwriter, pianist and comedian, will be performing once again at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, April 17, at 3 p.m. General admission is \$20 and seniors and students are \$15. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (908) 756-0632 ext. 10, (732) 549-9633, or (908) 755-6416.

Rainbow Academy Open House

April 19

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located on Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Wednesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Rainbow Academy offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. Limited space is available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten and summer camp programs. Register on or before the open house and receive free registration and two free months of ParentWatch. Offer is for new customers only and expires April 19. Just men-

(Continued on page 13)

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Junior Journalist Corner



Rebecca Moskal, Kennedy School Fourth Grader, Named "Junior Journalist"



Junior Journalist Rebecca Moskal with Kennedy School teacher Cynthia Severino.

Rebecca Moskal, Kenedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in

Big Bumblebee Learns a Lesson

By Rebecca Moskal

One day Big Bumblebee and Little Ant were walking in the flowerbed. Big Bumblebee asked Little Ant if he wanted to fly with him.

"Big Bumble Bee, you know I can't fly like you," exclaimed Little Ant.

"That is true. I guess you weren't supposed to because you don't have any wings," Big Bumblebee cackled slyly.

"Well I don't care.....," Ant started.

All of a sudden Big Bumblebee and Little Ant saw a small piece of food. Bee tried and tried to get it, but his wings were too big. Little Ant fit perfectly and exclaimed, "You can fly with your wings, but you can't get what you want."

Moral: Don't think you are better because you can do something or have something others don't.

Author/Illustrator To Visit Franklin

Award winning author/illustrator Mo Willems will visit Franklin Elementary School on March 22. Mo will give three presentations at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m and 1:30 p.m.

Mo has a diverse background. He is a six-time Emmy-award winner, *New York Times* bestseller, and the 2004 and 2005 Caldecott Honor recipient. Mo Willems spent nine years as a scriptwriter and animator for *Sesame Street*. He is the creator of Cartoon Network's *Sheep in the Big City* and Nickelodeon's *The Off-Beats*. Mo currently serves as head-writer for Cartoon Network's number-one rated series, *Codename: Kids Next Door*.

Mo earned the 2004 Caldecott Honor for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* His newest books include *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog* and *Knuffle Bunny*, which was recently awarded the 2005 Caldecott Honor.

If would like to attend this event, call Franklin School at (908) 754-4620. For questions, contact Linda Wilson at LDZX4@aol.com or 908-791-3372.

Heading out the door to do some shopping?

Why not try the local businesses that support the Observer?



Weekly Worship

A guide to local houses of worship

Pilgrim Covenant Church—3121 Park Ave.—Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. *Palm Sunday*—8:30 a.m.—Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast. All are welcome. *Maundy Thursday*—7:30 p.m. Service. *Good Friday*—7:30 p.m. Ecumenical Service at Sacred Heart Church. *Easter Sunday*—6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Service at Spring Lake Park.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church—3145 Park Ave.—During Lent, Wednesday night services at 7:30 p.m., preceded by an optional 6:30 p.m. Soup Supper.

Sacred Heart Church—149 South Plainfield Ave.—Last fish dinner this Friday, 5 to 7 p.m., sponsored by Saint Vincent de Paul and members of the Knights of Columbus. *Palm Sunday*—Saturday Vigil 5 p.m.; Sun. 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Solemn procession and blessing begins at 9:30 Mass. *Monday of Holy Week*—7:30

p.m. Chrism Mass (St. Francis of Assisi). *Holy Thursday*—7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper, Eucharistic Procession/Adoration; 11:30 p.m. Closing Night Prayer. *Good Friday*—Morning Prayer 9 a.m., Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death 7:30 p.m. *Good Friday Ecumenical Service. Holy Saturday*—9 a.m. Morning Prayer, 12 noon Blessing of Easter Food, 8:30 p.m. The Solemn Easter Vigil.

Wesley Methodist Church—1500 Plainfield Ave.—Celebrate five weeks of Lenten Love during the 9 and 10 a.m. worship services. This concludes with a Prayer Vigil on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and is open to all friends, guests and members of Wesley Church. *Easter Worship* begins at 9 and 10:30 a.m. times. It is our prayer to see you there. Our "Five Weeks of Lenten Love" will conclude with the March 19 Prayer Vigil.

Girl Scout Cookies Available At Local Stores

It's Girl Scout cookie time! Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council are now delivering cookies ordered earlier, and selling additional cookies at booths throughout the area.

Scouts will be selling cookies at Bagel Pantry on Plainfield Ave. on March 19, 10 a.m. to noon and April 23 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; A&P on Oak Tree Rd. on March 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; CVS on Plainfield Ave. on March 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., April 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and April 3, 12 noon to 4 p.m. and at Quick Chek on Sampton Ave. on March 26 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and April 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

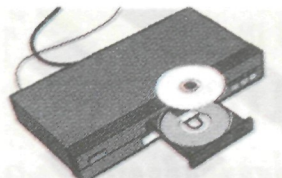
Proceeds from the cookie sale support the activities of the troops selling the cookies and programs of the council, as well as local activities for girls and training for volunteers. Girl Scouts helps girls build character and learn skills that empower and enable them to succeed.



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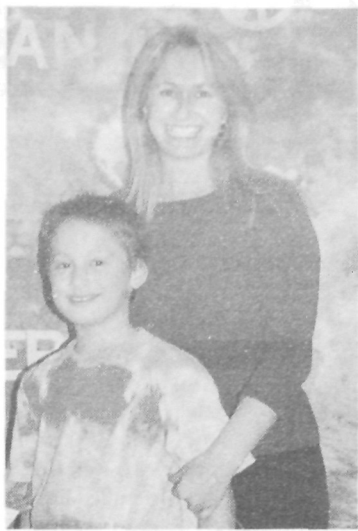


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Boys and their mothers enjoy a night out at Riley School's Mother-Son Dance.

Photos by Patricia Abbott

Moms and Sons Enjoy a Special Evening Dance Chair Offers Thanks For a Great Event!

The Riley Mother/Son Dance was held on Friday, March 4. The theme was picked and the mood was set for Memories of the 70's. Over 50 boys and their moms arrived to make the night a HUGE success. Thanks to all for coming and we hope you had a "groovy" time.

The Mother-Son Dance was led by a great committee who truly outdid themselves. Laura Conrad, Debbie Boyle, Jen Curitis, Debbie Abood and Cate Bonnano worked so hard to make sure that everything went smoothly, right down to the gym being transformed into a disco ball room. Way to go ladies! I could not have pulled

this off without any of you.

As the moms and sons arrived wearing bell bottoms, tie-dyed shirts, jumpsuits and those white suits reminding us of John Travolta, they were greeted by Joey Teller and Kristen Gualano, who both did a great job. Toni Teller worked hard to present each son a disco ball keepsake to start the night off with the 70's theme.

I thank both Lori Esposito and Joan Rochott who made sure that every mother and son went home with a keepsake picture of their special night.

Dads Ken Curtis and Russ Teller did a great job watching over the boys for the evening.

I truly thank Kelly Butrico for her last minute run for the keepsake guitars for the boys. They were a big hit, and that could not have been possible without Kelly picking them up. Thanks to Jackie Vill for all of the pre-

arrangements, your time is truly appreciated. Thanks to our custodians, Mr. Bill and Mr. Artie, for helping us with setting up and cleaning. A special thanks to Patty Abbott for jumping in at the last minute; the kids loved getting their pictures taken by you.

As the DJ played the best dance music, the night seemed to fly by too fast for everyone. Wonderful Mr. Artie belted out two songs for all to enjoy (we love ya Artie). At the end of the night, two lucky boys went home with a special gift—two movie tickets and a voucher for the snacks. Way to go Danny Sprenger and Ryan Temple.

On a personal note, this was my last Riley mother-son dance. After 13 years of coming with my two sons, Joey and Rusty, I truly will miss being a part of this experience.

It was a pleasure working with all of you.
—Donna Teller

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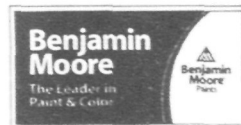
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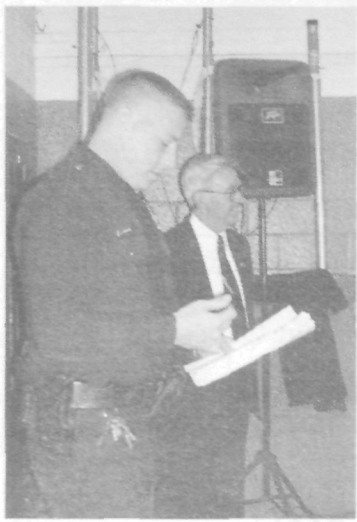
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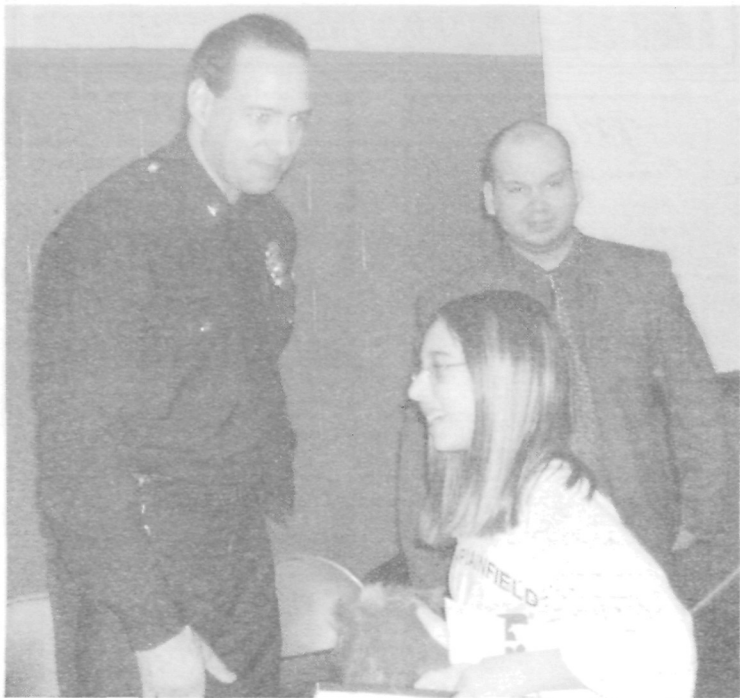
Congratulations to the 2005



(Continued from page 1)
honored in a graduation ceremony held in the Grant School gymnasium where students were recognized for their participation in the class. The ceremony was led by Officers Franchak and LaMonda who encouraged students to practice the skills they have learned. Mayor Dan Gallagher, as well as Borough Council members Kathy Thomas, Ray Petronko and Laura Callahan, investigator from the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office were on-hand to congratulate everyone for their success. Police Chief John Ferraro also addressed the audience as well as Lt. Chuck Seidenburg, who reiterated the importance of the skills the students

learned.
As a final project, students were asked to write an essay and draw a poster reflecting what they had learned in DARE. Thirteen essay and poster winners were chosen from the class. Poster winners were displayed in the gymnasium and each essay winner read their selection to the audience. All of the winners were greeted by Darren the Lion, played by Jeff Kurtis and received their own stuffed DARE lion and two complimentary movie tickets to Regal Cinema presented by Manager William Cintron.

Principal Janis Burchell concluded the ceremony by reading each graduates name and asking them to stand.



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DARE Graduates

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Samantha Cangas, Gina Cannalunga*, Danielle Caputo, Alexis Cargill**, Hailey Carone, Jamie Caruso, Kenneth Cavanagh, Ranier Giles Cespedes, Roshni Chiluka, James Cianfrocca, Jena Cianfrocca, Tracey



Cihanowyz, Shenja Clark, Tyler Clinedinst, Janine Colicchio, Michael Connolly, James Conrad, Joseph Cornelius, Brittany Coupe, Ken Crilley, Thomas Daly**, Nicole Daubert**, Marvin DeLaCruz, Nicolas DeMarco, Miguel Delgado, Sabrina Delpiano, Amylin DiDario, Jake Dingler, Dylan Dorey, Jesse Doyle, Christopher Duffy, Jose Duran, Andrew Feeley-Hicks, Christina Ferrer, Vincent Fierro, Mariella Figueroa, Erica Fisher*, Kevin Flanagan, Christian Fortuno, Antoni Franczak, Nabil Gallegos*, Keven Galvis, Miranda Garcia**, Stephanie Gaviira, Chris-

tine Geczy, James Gerber, Jessica Giallanza, Matthew Giordano, Jamie Glavasich**, Jessica Gomes, Bryan Gonzalez, Pablo Gonzalez, Navnett Goraya, Shawn Gorman, Angelica Grasso, Jack Green, Jyneer Green, Michael Grzenda, Joshua Guirguis and Joshua Guzman.

William Hafner, Kaylin Harbin, Kansas Harmon, Justin Harris, Laine Harris**, Crysta Hay, Peter Hemming, Michael Hensperger, Alice Hernandez, Tyler Herriott, Samantha Hoang, Tyler Holoboski, Ryan Hughes, Tyler Hunt, Randall Hurst, Ehilea Jainarine, Monika Jastrezebski, Austin Jenkins**, Tamar Johnson, Tanya Joshi, Kenneth Kaczka, Amber Kato, Jordan Katowich, Daniel Kelly, Rajath Kenath**, Esa Khan, Brianna Kizmann, Joseph Krawiec, Christopher Kukuch, Nicholas Kukuch, Moriah Kunch, Troy Kurilew**, Eric Lake, Amanda Jordan (Lamonea), Stephen Lanza, Aimee Le, Vivian Lee, Gabriella Lewis, Ashley Linick*, Gina Longo, Guillermo Lopez, Stephanie Lopez*, Kimberly Lozarito, Alexander Lundy, Daniel Lyew, Shweta Mahajan, Frank Malecki III, Emely Mallqui, Jerry Mangra, Matthew Manning, Ryan Marcoux, Shianne Martinez, Shane McCoid, Victoria McKay, Kelly McLaughlin, M. Gael McManus, Austin Melendez, Joseph Miller, Michael Miller, Nii Sackey Mills*, Michael Molinaro and Anthony Muccigrossi.

Aubrey Nastarowicz, Christopher Neal, Kirsten Newman, Brian Nguyen, Vyvian Nguyen, Kyesha Nietzer, Francesca Noriega, Katherine O'Brien**, Christopher O'Keefe, Kyle O'Keefe, Michelle O'Sullivan, Marc Paez, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Tanner Painton, Joseph Palazzo, Nicholas Paprocka, Lauren Parello, Melissa Pasternak, Devang Patel, Pooja Patel, Roma Patel, Shivam Patel, Shivani Patel, Samantha Pattison, Ida Peery, Joshua Peery, Daven Persaud, Stephen Petriello, Kimberly Petronko, Robert Piltz, Melissa Plasse, Nicholas Pleeter, Kathrine Podlovits, Shukhib Popal, Alexis Pornovets, Christopher Pornovets, Shane Powell, Devyn Przewoznik, Rohina Qayum, Jamie Quail**, Allison Quintanilla, Alyssa Ragno, Kripa Rajan, Alex Rajkuma, Jessica Rapatski, Ryan Riccardi, Erika Ritchie, Nieko



Rivera, Maurice Roach, Jordan Robinson, Laura Rodriguez, Taylor Rorke, Bryan Rovayo and Elizabeth Rue.

Daniel Saganome, Angela Sami, Andrew Sanchez, Jose Santiago, Zachary Sbordone*, Rachel Scrudato*, Emily Sella, Asma Shafqat, Brandon Shea, Darien Shelton, Christopher Siedenburgh, Jack Siedlecki, John Silas, Daniel Sims, Aston Sinclair, Payal Sindha*, Joseph Skwiat, Stephen Slatky, Christopher Sloan, Daniel Smith, Imani Smith, Marissa Smith, Daniel Snogans, Michael Soriano, Raven Sperr, Luke Sprenger, Katherine Staynings, Samuel Steingart, Tyler Stranzenback, Robert Suriano, Rachel Sutherland, Michael Tangorra, Olga Tarnawska, Jennifer Tercek, Amanda Tjong, Mark Tomei, Jade Tompkins, Juliana Torres, Huyen Tran, Kimberly Tran, Sarah Tufaro*, Matthew Valencia, Margaret Valentino, Alex Valladares, Brielle Valle, Lisa Vallone**, Michael Vega, Queenly Ventura, Albert Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Jonathan Viola, Allison Wagner, Kelly Walsh, Chelsea Watson, Travis Weber, Allison M. White, Allyson E. White, Evan Willis*, Zachary Wilson, Meagan Yanick, Aaron Yarussi, Sara Yocum, Andrew Yon, Danielle Zelasko, Michael Zelasko, Samantha Zelasko, Joseph Zipp and Daniel Zwatschka

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Jeffrey Yingling and Phillip Repella, owners of Graphix One, recently opened their full service printing shop.

Graphix One Opens Full Service Printing Shop

Graphix One, a full service printer, opened for business this month at 1110 Hamilton Blvd., next to the *Observer*. The owners are Phillip Repella and Jeffrey Yingling.

Graphix One can fulfill a variety of your printing needs. In addition to printing, they are equipped to make signs of all sizes, including large banners. They also provide copying in

either black and white or full color, as well as wide format digital output and four color processes, window lettering and vehicle lettering are some of their other specialties.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 2)

penditures are funded by you, the taxpayer. To the best of my knowledge, this practice has never been used by any previous Board in this district.

I do not support any of these enabling processes that have been incorporated to permit expenditures beyond the advertised and approved budget. These practices, in my opinion, bring into question the credibility and integrity of the budget process.

Therefore, I am supporting candidates Carol Byrne, John Markham and Jeffrey Seider for election to the Board and I ask that you join me. Each one of them has previous experience as board members and never resorted to lease purchase borrowing to cover regular budget items. This election is critical, because unless you and members of the community come out to vote, the special interest will retain control. Vote Line 1 Jeffrey Seider, Line 3 John Markham and Line 4 Carol Byrne.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

To my fellow taxpayers,

The Board of Education, at its meeting on March 8, approved the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005/2006. Not one Board member had a question or comment before the vote was taken. No great surprise there. This is the same Board that were aware of financial problems within the district as far back as May or June 2003.

What did they do to try and resolve the problems? First, they blamed prior

Boards of Education. Then they blamed past administrators, who are no longer employed by the Board. During this critical financial period, they somehow determined it was necessary to extend the contract of the Superintendent of Schools and also granted him a 10 percent raise. The Board also approved a new contract with the SPEA for an increase of 4.95 percent, when only three percent was factored in the budget. Where did they get the extra money? Perhaps this was the reason that all purchase orders for supplies for students and staff were suspended early in fiscal year 2005.

Remember, most of the present Board members have been seated for more than four years. Is it not time for them to accept responsibility for the financial problems, instead of passing the buck?

If elected, I will work to restore the confidence of South Plainfield taxpayers. During my nine years on the Board of Education from 1979-1988, I recognized the need to negotiate in good faith with the Board's employees, while representing community educational goals and financial interest. I did it then and I can do it again! Help me accomplish this by voting Line 3 on April 19.

JOHN S. MARKHAM

To the Editor:

Now that the other shoe has fallen, it has become glaringly clear that the residents of South Plainfield can no

longer afford their own school system. We have been taken down a muddy path by a school administration that shows little respect for the people who pay their bills. We have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for superintendents that supposedly know how to administer to the needs of the kids and to the needs of the taxpayer. We have paid for golden parachutes over the years for these supposed experts and what has it gotten us?

The person responsible for the last budget has quit; no explanation given. Made a few mistakes he did. That's a given! No accountability for his actions was levied his way. Why not? Would not a full and public disclosure of his actions be warranted? Line item by line item. Is/was it an honest mistake?

To all the teachers and administrators of the school system I would say this: "No raises this year, no new teachers, no teachers' helpers, no sports programs, band programs or field trips. No capital improvements except for repairs. Spend your time teaching, which is what we are paying you for." That is your mission objective.

If that raises hackles, I could care less. Enough is enough already. Our test scores are some of the lowest around. Talk about bang for the buck. Also our kids and parents are reportedly disrespectful of others at sporting events. I for one don't need to read that in my local paper. Take sports out of the picture. Save a few bucks. Cool some attitudes. It would seem that it is

(Continued on page 16)

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Events

(Continued from page 6)

tion the *South Plainfield Observer*.
You are also invited to visit the center during normal hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday-Friday). For directions and information, visit their website at rainbowacademy.com.

Spring Fest '05 at First Baptist Church

April 23

A celebration of arts and crafts will be held Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Henderson Hall at First Baptist Church on Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening circle. For information, call Linda at (908) 754-2386.

— Out of Town —

CJJDA Job Fair

March 17

The 21st Annual Job Fair of the Central Jersey Job Developers Assoc. (CJJDA) will be held on Thursday, March 17, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rutgers Labor Education Center, Ryders Lane and Clifton Ave., New Brunswick. Free admission. For info, call Donna Silverman, New Brunswick Public Schools Adult Learning Center, (732) 745-5300 ext. 4201.

Pro Wrestling Benefit

March 18

The Manville Cub and Boy Scouts have found a partner with the likes of National Wrestling Superstars as they team up to bring a night of bone jarring excitement to the Manville VFW Hall in Manville. Bell time is 7:45 p.m. for this Friday night affair. Adults, \$15 and children, \$12. To purchase tickets, call (732) 888-1704.

Singles Dinner

March 19

An evening for singles dinner will be held for young single profession-

als, ages 20 to 39 on Saturday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Jimmy's in Morristown. Cost is \$5 service fee, plus dinner.

RSVP to (732) 764-9073 or angelicbutterfly@iwon.com.

WOWs Dance

March 20

The Woodbridge Area Chapter of Widows or Widowers (WOWs) will hold an open fundraiser dance/social on Sunday, March 20, 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Elks' Hall in Woodbridge. Live music by the Jimmy Ray Group. Admission is \$8. Homebaked refreshments available. All are welcome. For information, call (732) 297-1775.

American Legion Holds Breakfast

March 20

The Dunellen American Legion Post 119, 137 New Market Rd., Dunellen, will hold a Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, March 20, from 8 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$6 per person. All are welcome. For information, call (732) 752-3808.

Job Lead Workshop

March 23

The second Career Enrichment Series will be held on Wednesday, March 23 in two sessions. Pre-registration is preferred/walk-ins are welcome.

First session is 10-11:30 a.m. and second is 1-2:30 p.m. For information, contact Diane Markovitz at (732) 777-1940 or email d.markovitz@jfs.org.

Poetry Workshops

March 23-May 25

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) will offer a Spring Poetry Workshop Series at North Brunswick High School in North Brunswick. Workshops will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 23 to May 25. The program is taught by Gha'il Rhodes Benjamin. This program is offered free and

open to ages 16 and over. For information, call (732) 745-3885, or info@vsanj.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support

March 30

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) monthly lecture meeting will be held Wednesday evening, March 30, and will feature Jeffrey T. Apter, M.D.

For more information, visit their website at dbsanewjersey.org/morristownarea For local information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

Literary Reading Honoring NJ Authors

April 2

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) is proud to announce the winners of the 11th annual Joyce Indik Wordsmith Competition. The winners will have their submissions read at the Joyce Indik Readers' Theater at the Plainsboro Municipal Building. The event has been rescheduled for April 2, 2 p.m. A dessert reception will follow.

Contact VSA Arts of New Jersey at (732) 745-3885, or info@vsanj.org.

Auditions for Guys and Dolls

April 3, 9 & 16

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Summer Musical Program and the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) will hold auditions for the classic Broadway musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls*, on April 3 and 9; final callbacks on April 16. The show premieres on Friday, July 15 and runs through Saturday, July 24.

For complete details call (973) 353-8051.

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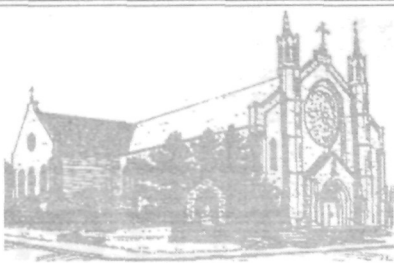
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Sports

Ashnault and Conroy Finish Second in AC Wrestling Tournament

By Ryan Hunter

The 2005 wrestling season came to an end this past weekend at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City with South Plainfield sending seven wrestlers to compete, while advancing two into the finals Sunday afternoon.

The weekend began for the Tigers with freshman Patrick Hunter (103) facing off against TJ Urbanek of Egg Harbor Township in the preliminary. Hunter came back from a deficit of 5-3 late in the third period to score an 8-6 victory.

Hunter was directly followed by Billy Ashnault (112) wrestling Ryan Fullam of Emerson Park Ridge, scoring a fall at 5:27. Ashnault, in turn, was followed by last year's 103 pound state champion Jimmy Conroy wrestling at 119 pounds. Conroy took care of Brick Memorial's Sean Quinn by a major decision of 14-3.

At 145 pounds, senior wrestler Paul Ritchey dropped a 10-6 decision to Chris Floyd of Lawrence. Kevin Crilley (189) also lost a close 5-2 decision to Colin Nagy of Lenape Valley to end his season.

The last Tiger to compete in the preliminary round was senior Rob Maistickle, who advanced by pinning Voorhees' Zach Voyce in 1:25.

The Tigers now had six wrestlers in the pre-quarterfinal round, beginning again with Patrick Hunter. In a hard-

fought match, Hunter dropped a 6-4 decision to Filberto Colon of Belleville. The next match for South Plainfield saw Billy Ashnault avenging two earlier losses against Pat Stritzki of Hunterdon Central 1-0. Jimmy Conroy then pinned Josh Means of Glassboro in 2:28 at 119.

At 135 lbs, Eddie McCray, who received a bye in the preliminary round, was ahead 6-2 with 30 seconds left before being taken down and put on his back, losing a 7-6 decision. Rob Maistickle squared off against eventual state champion Dave Zibriskie of High Point. Maistickle kept the match close going into the third period, but Zibriskie took control, scoring the fall.

In the first round of wrestlebacks Patrick Hunter faced Mike Sarfati of North Plainfield for the third time this year and again went on to win by decision 8-1. Eddie McCray, not having a good tournament, lost his wrestleback match to Shacoi Berry of Millville 7-3. Rob Maistickle kept his chances of placing alive with a pin over Chris Birchler of Seton Hall Prep at 3:19.

In the quarterfinal round, Billy Ashnault kept his momentum moving when he beat Kyle Packer of Cherokee by a 9-0 major-decision to gain a spot in the semifinals and a guaranteed medal. Minutes later, Jimmy Conroy also advanced by defeating Andrew van Dyk of Ramapo Valley 7-2. In the second round of wrestleback action, Patrick Hunter dropped a difficult 3-2 decision to Fred Santea of Northern Highlands to end his season. Rob Maistickle's hopes ended when he was pinned by Keith Dobish of Lodi at 3:12. Both Maistickle and Hunter were one victory away from placing in at least the top eight.

The semifinals saw the Tigers' only two remaining wrestlers in action. In a 112 pound weight class which was rife with upsets all weekend long, Billy Ashnault dominated his matchup with Jim Airey of Point Pleasant Boro 14-3. Ashnault's memorable performance this weekend in the first four rounds earned him a coveted spot in the finals against Rahway's Ryan Wilson, who had defeated him a week earlier in the Region 3 finals. Jimmy

Conroy also earned himself a return engagement in the state finals by defeating Kris Sigafos of Delaware Valley 4-0. Like Ashnault, Conroy would have a rematch of the Region 3 final in the state championship against Delbarton's Mike Grey.

The introduction ceremonies prior to the finals were highlighted by a parade of the place winners and awards to officials and coaches. In that respect, great pride must be taken in the fact that South Plainfield coach Kevin McCann was named the 2005 NJSIAA Wrestling Coach of the Year for leading the Tigers to an undefeated, state championship season, much like his predecessor Bill Pavlak, who won that recognition in 2000. The Tigers did not, despite their difficult victories and unbeaten record, finish as the number one team in New Jersey. That award went to Camden Catholic, with the Tigers finishing at number two.

The arena was packed, the introductions were made and it was now time for the finals. Billy Ashnault, who had the tournament of his young career,

was back at center stage in a rematch of last week's Region 3 final against Ryan Wilson of Rahway. Ashnault (31-7) was more aggressive early in the match this time, but gave up the first takedown then an escape to trail 3-0 and that's how it ended. Billy had a great tournament and wrestled his heart out. Our congratulations to him on a job well done.

Conroy was next wrestling in the 119 pound final against his old nemesis Mike Grey of Delbarton. Grey defeated Conroy 10-5 in the Region 3 final a week ago. The match went the same as last time, with Grey taking an early 4-1 lead. But in the second period Conroy escaped again, then hit Grey with a takedown on the edge of the mat, but Grey prevailed 9-4. Those were the first offensive points Grey gave up all year to a New Jersey wrestler. Conroy has now placed three times in the state tournament with a first, second and third place finish.

Congratulations to all of the state tournament qualifiers. We are all proud of you for the way you represented South Plainfield!

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Sports

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

We have filled all eight teams in C-League with a total of 96 children. Two more players are still needed in B-League to bring it to a total of 96. A-League is filled and will have 66 players. This makes a total of 386 registered players this year.

Managers are now set in all leagues, with a total of 32 teams in five leagues. All players should have heard from their managers or coaches by now. If you haven't heard, call the baseball club and leave a message for Lee Flanagan at (908) 754-2090.

This Saturday, March 19 is our second pre-season work detail at the SPJBC. I would like to thank the many parents who attended our first work detail. They were out in the mud working on the field and in the clubhouse addressing the needs of the facility. We are asking all parents of our nine-year-old and 14-year-old players to attend this weekend. The work

detail begins at 8 a.m.

Reminder: On Wednesday, March 23 from 6 to 9 p.m., you can sign up for your snack duty at the clubhouse. Executive board members will be there to greet you. Check your personal schedules and your son's game schedule to meet your snack stand requirement. This is on a first come, first serve basis.

Selection of managers for our SPJBC traveling all-star teams will be made by the April monthly meeting. If you would like to manage one of our traveling all-star teams, drop the commissioner a note by March 28.

We have tickets on sale for a new Mercedes. Michelle Kunie and First Class Travel are sponsoring the second prize. Tickets are available from Nancy Salici or any Executive Board member. Call the SPJBC for tickets at (908) 754-2090.

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Ponytail Softball Batters BOX

By Tom Gratta

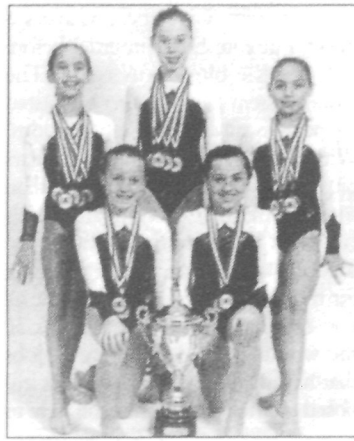
The next South Plainfield Parents' Ponytail Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 22, at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Library. The association will be holding a mandatory free coaches clinic for all recreation coaches on Saturday, March 19 at the PAL.

Anyone interested in coaching or just helping out are welcome! Time will be posted later.

Gymnastic Team Wins in Florida Competition

The American Gymnastics Academy Level 6 team took the first place trophy in Florida during a gymnastics meet. The Level 4 team placed third at the American Twisters Invitational meet held President's weekend in Fort Lauderdale. Several team members took first place in individual and all around events. The 9-11 year old girls practice 16 hours per week. The entire team has traveled to Pa. and Md. in the last few weeks to compete.

Pictured at right (left to right) are: Alexis Gabel, 10; Shannon Bell, 11; Casey Sabino, 9; Kelly Walsh, 10 and Megan McHale, 10.



Rec and Middle School Wrestlers Qualify for States

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield Rec and Middle School wrestlers will be well represented this year at the Kids USA Wrestling State Championships. South Plainfield will be sending 21 wrestlers to test their skills against New Jersey's best.

Wrestlers must first place first

through third at a regional qualifier to be eligible to wrestle in the state tournament. Qualifying at Randolph were Anthony Ashnault Midget (60) and Scotty Whalen Midget (70), who both placed first place. Troy Heilmann Midget (70) placed first at Union.

Qualifying at North Hunterdon in the Midget division was Dylan

Painton in first place. In the Junior division, Tyler Hunt (70) placed third, and Rich Szeliga (80), Ryan Sacco (90), John Wylam (95), Corey Hay 100 and Mike Wagner (119) all placed first. Billy Whitefleet (Hwt) placed second. In the Intermediate division, winners were Nick Heilmann (85) placing first, Nick Pauls (95) placing third and Jonathan Conroy (160) placing first. In High School Intermediate, Jake Smithline (125) placed second and Danny Pompilio (130) placed first. Also placing at the Lodi qualifier were Bobby Benwell and Ryan Walsh.

In other Recreation wrestling news, Ryan Walsh Bantam (52) and Scott Whalen Midget (73) both qualified for the South Jersey States by placing at a qualifier in Kenilworth. Walsh was first and Whalen was second. At the South Jersey States, Walsh finished in second place, while Whalen finished in fourth place. Good Job!

Pavlak Named To Hall of Fame

William Pavlak, physical education teacher at Franklin School, was selected to the Regents 3 Hall of Fame for Wrestling. His award was announced at the Regents 3 Finals last Saturday. Pavlak, along with two other wrestling coaches, will be inducted at a dinner at L'Affaire Restaurant on March 22. Pavlak is the youngest coach ever to be inducted into this institution.

Pavlak has been a wrestling coach for 24 years, 21 of them in South Plainfield. His last year of coaching was in 2002. He has received numerous coaching awards and distinctions. His teams accumulated many District GMC Conference titles and in 2000, the year South Plainfield went undefeated, Pavlak was chosen State of NJ Coach of the Year for wrestling. His teams won two Group State titles and his career record stands at 110-14-2. In addition, he has coached one State Champion, Matthew Anderson and many state place winners. Pavlak himself was an All-American wrestler.

When asked his reaction upon hearing the news, Pavlak commented that he was "very pleased."

Pop Warner Scholarships Offered

The South Plainfield Football Eagles will again award four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to a former South Plainfield Eagles participants of football and cheerleading. Applications can be obtained in the guidance office of South Plainfield High School under the titles South Plainfield Football Eagles and Pop Warner, or can be downloaded from our website www.speagles.com. The deadline for applications is April 8. There will be no exceptions.

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IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 12)

not having the desired results anyway. The long and short of it is that we are paying top dollar per student and are getting something less than low dollar results. Give the taxpayers a break. Put your house in order before you put the bite on us again. The school system can no longer be trusted to make fiscally responsible decisions. With a budget of 45 million dollars plus, they control more money than some medium sized companies who cut when they need to. So should the school system. Don't come begging for money when you haven't done all you can do. You haven't. Just ask all the working people who are in jobs that have had 30 percent job cuts imposed on their staffs. They still have to

get the job done. So should the school system.

ROBERT MESSER

To my fellow residents,

On April 19, South Plainfield will vote on a proposed \$47.5M budget for the next (2005/2006) school year. The proposed budget is 7.6% higher than the Board-presented budget of a year ago and requires a \$375 tax increase on the average South Plainfield house. How did this insane increase come about?

To understand that, it's enough to read and follow Mr. Smith's letters to the South Plainfield Observer. Smith is a six-year veteran of the School Board and is once again a candidate for it.

In April 2004, Smith wrote of the 2004/2005 budget: "It is honest (no fat budget), lean by design, out of the Board's consideration for the tax payers of our community." On March 11, 2005, Smith wrote: "On a state-wide basis, we (South Plainfield students) outperform the state average result scores in every category" and "that instead of listening to slanted propaganda, we (South Plainfield taxpayers) should form our opinions based on accurate information."

Unfortunately for Mr. Smith, this accurate information is easily available online in the form of the Department of Education NJ School Report Card, just posted for the 2003/2004 school year. (A copy is also available at the South Plainfield Public Library.)

Under the heading "Teacher Salaries and Benefits," the reader can find where the budget increases are coming from: the teachers' salaries and benefits increased 7% last year.

Please compare that with the inflation rate of 2.2% and the increases you—the reader—got recently.

Under the heading "Scholastic Assessment Test Results," the average test results for South Plainfield are 488 Verbal, 497 Math, for a total of 985. Statewide, the average is 500 Verbal, 516 Math, for a total of 1016.

What is even more galling is that for districts with a comparable socioeconomic status to South Plainfield, the average SAT scores are 506 Verbal, 521 Math, for a total of 1027.

The above average scores are for districts like Dunellen, Middlesex, North Brunswick, Old Bridge, etc. It excludes Metuchen (rated I), Edison (GH) and East Brunswick (I). Unfortunately for South Plainfield School system pologists, it also excludes New Brunswick (rated A, with

total SAT 854) and Newark (rated I, with total SAT 801).

On April 19, 2005, we, South Plainfield residents, can vote for continuous tax increases and student underachievement as represented by Messrs. K. LaFreniere (six year board veteran), D. Smith (six years) and T. Morgan (three years) or for a new slate, which will include Messrs. C. Byrne J. Markham and J. Seider. The choice is yours.

**BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN,
NON-MEMBER OF SP BOARD OF ED**

To the Editor,

Why am I running for the Board of Education? I have been asked that question repeatedly since putting in my petition. To be truthful, I've asked myself that same question. My answer is that I am unhappy with the course of events that have taken place in the last several years. I don't like the fact that the district has been brought to the brink of bankruptcy. This terrible situation has put our educational stability at risk.

Our staff is extremely uneasy, our students don't know if they will have the education they will need to go on with their plans for the future and our citizens now have to pay for the mistakes made with our tax dollars.

How much can I do to alleviate this situation? I don't have an easy answer. I do know that the boards I served on delivered a decent wage, a clean, safe, working and learning environment, sufficient monies to pay our bills, and all of these things while keeping our books in the black. We were vigilant and at times very picky about budgetary matters. We asked questions and insisted on answers.

It seems that current members

don't wish to take the responsibility for the actions they have taken or not taken, or for the personnel they have hired. When repeatedly told that there were problems, they chose to ignore the warnings. When faced with the reality, they blamed everyone but themselves. The day of reckoning is now at hand and the taxpayers are the ones who will bear the brunt of the solution.

I'm asking that you, the voters, support my candidacy. I want to bring back the pride, the stability and the solvency of the South Plainfield School District. Please vote Line 4 on April 19.

CAROL M. BYRNE

To the Residents of South Plainfield,

My name is Jeff Seider and I am a candidate for the Board of Education, for which elections will be held on April 19, 2005. This will be the only information regarding my candidacy that you will see, as I have chosen not to place signs around town, nor provide any campaign literature through mailings.

The issues will be discussed within this writing. A \$375 increase in property taxes on a house assessed at \$117,000, a 10 percent pay raise and extension of the contract for the superintendent of schools, a 4.9 percent raise for each year for the teachers, plus family health coverage. These raises were given, despite the districts' financial picture being cloudy and bleak.

In regards to the \$900,000 approved by voters in 2003 for children's safety regarding parking lot improvements, this project was not started as the money was spent elsewhere.


I don't begrudge raises to anyone, teachers or superintendents, but the financial picture should have been resolved first. The district was warned many times by a former board member as well as a sitting board member, who ultimately resigned as a result of the financial concerns. As a result, it will be the CHILDREN who are affected as well as district employees who will be laid off.

There are many more issues, too many to mention, but as a former running mate of mine and current board member and candidate Dan Smith says, "The end outweighs the means," translation....say and do anything to get elected. Show the incumbents the end and vote them out on April 19. Vote Jeff Seider, John Markham and Carol Byrne.

JEFF SEIDER

Junior Journalist

WINNER



Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to this last week's Junior Journalist contest winner Maggie Mclean, pictured here with her parents Lora and Bill, and sisters Kellie and Jamie.

Congratulations Maggie!

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Obituaries

Theresa "Terry" Fiore Walko, 68

Theresa "Terry" Fiore Walko passed away on Monday, March 7, at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Brooklyn, Terry was raised in Port Washington, NY. After marrying, she moved to NJ and resided in South Plainfield for the past 36 years.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was an avid walker, meeting her friends in the park every day. Terry was also a passionate baker, always trying new recipes and perfecting her old favorites. She loved sharing her confections with family and friends. Terry and her husband were active members of the USS Rushmore Association.

Terry will be sadly missed by her husband, Joseph, of 46 years; five grandchildren, Joseph and his wife, Deborah of Long Island, Tina Dolan and her husband, Robert of Hillsborough, Tom of NYC and St. Louis, Glenn of NYC and Melinda Walko of Cranford and five grandchildren, Lindsey, Jenna, Kyle, Bryan and Ian. She was also a grandmother to her great nieces and nephews, Joe, Nick, Ann and Sarah Fiore of Long Island. She is also survived by a sister, Joanne Jankowski and a brother, John Fiore.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Memorial donations can be made to Helpers of the Mentally Retarded, a charity close to her heart, 2626 Fulton St., San Francisco, CA 94118.



Aloysius "Al" E. Zalewski, 87

Aloysius "Al" E. Zalewski, died on Saturday, March 12 at home in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Dickson City, Pa., Al moved to New Jersey in 1940, living in Newark and Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield in 1970.

He was employed with Alcoa Inc. for 35 years as a supervisor. Mr. Zalewski was an honorary member of the Elizabeth Gun Club in Hillsborough and he was also a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church.

An avid fisherman and hunter, Al was especially devoted to his family.

He is predeceased by his wife, Bella M., who died in 1990; a son, Allen, who died in 1980; two sisters, Mary Kotchkowski and Victoria Rafalko and two brothers, Edward and Stanley.

Surviving are a daughter, Elaine Quarantiello and her husband, Al. Sr. of South Plainfield; two sisters, Sophie Markowski and Blach Zabiegala, both of Ohio; a brother, Anthony Zalewski and his wife, Eleanor, also of Ohio and four grandchildren, Robin Jabour, Albert Quarantiello Jr., Theresa Calabrese and Allen Zalewski. Also surviving are eight great grandchildren, Amanda, Melissa, John Jabour, Tyler and Samantha Quarantiello, Matthew and David Carella and Nicholas Tufaro.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Charles Devich, 84

Charles Devich died on Saturday, Feb. 26 in the NJ Veterans Memorial Home, Edison.

Born and raised in Johnstown, Pa., he resided in Highland Park for 53 years before moving to South Plainfield in 1999.

He was the former owner and operator of the Highland Park Chevron for 18 years and in the 1970s, he was the owner of No. Stelton Chevron.

Charles served in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of the VFW, Moose Lodge and the BPO Elks, all of Edison. For many years he was active with the Highland Park Pop Warner Football League and the Job Corps. Organization of Edison.

Surviving are his wife, Mary (Graci) Devich; a daughter, Deborah Boehm of South Plainfield; two sons, Dimitri of Jacobs, Pa. and Charles Jr. of South River; a sister, Stella of Johnstown, Pa. and two brothers, Nick and Pete, both of Johnstown, Pa.. Also surviving are six grandchildren, Bret, Kristy, Stephanie, Conor, Kendell and Katie

and two great grandchildren, Spencer and Garrett.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 19, in the First Reformed Church of New Brunswick, 9 Bayard St. in New Brunswick.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park, c/o Edward Weisenhorn, P.O. Box 3013, Edison, NJ 08818.

Arrangements were made by McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Herbert E. Hunt, 84

Herbert E. Hunt died on Saturday, March 12, at his residence.

He was born in Plainfield and lived the rest of his life in South Plainfield.

He was a self-employed plumber for 45 years, retiring in 1987. He owned J.M. Hunt and Son Plumbing in South Plainfield.

Herbert was a WWII Army veteran and served under General Patton. He was a member of the South Plainfield VFW Post 6763.

Herbert is predeceased by a son, Dean Hunt in 1973 and two brothers, Forrest and Mervin Hunt.

He is survived by his wife, Marguerite Hunt of South Plainfield; a son, Bruce E. Hunt and his wife, Millie K. Hunt of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Dana Marie Hunt, Daniel E. Hunt and Rusty Hunt.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Glenn A. Tillou, 57

Superintendent of Clark Public Schools Glenn A. Tillou died on Thursday, March 10, at JFK Medical Center in Edison.



Glenn A. Tillou

Born in Newark, Glenn resided in South Plainfield for over 50 years. Prior to joining Clark Public Schools as Superintendent, Mr. Tillou was the County Superintendent of Schools for Union County, a position that he held for three years. He was also Interim County Superintendent of Schools for Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Mr. Tillou's career in Education began in 1997 as Business Administrator for the Wood-Ridge School system in Bergen County.

Glenn earned his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. In 1971, he earned his MBA in Economics and International Business

from Seton Hall University in South Orange, where he was a Doctoral Candidate in Education.

Mr. Tillou had an unusual career path prior to the education field. His early employment encompassed the manufacturing sector, including Lee Filter, Sandvik Steel, Wilkinson Sword and General Motors. Soon after, Glenn entered the banking world as an Information Systems Specialist for CitiBank, New York and City Federal and Hansen Savings Banks in New Jersey.

He was later selected by the Federal Government's Resolution Trust Corporation as an administrative liaison charged with the responsibility of reorganizing many of the failed Savings and Loan institutions in the late 1980's. This led to another job with an offshoot of the RTC; B.E.I. Ritz in South Plainfield.

Glenn was active in several organizations in Union County, including the Union County Association of School Administrators, Union County Alliance, Crime Stoppers, Workforce Investment Board, Human Relations Commission, Department of Human Services, Interagency Coordinating Council, Division of Youth and Family Services, Child Protection Council, Youth Service Commission, Case Assessment Resource Team, Juvenile Officers Association, Parent-Teacher Association, School Board Association, Professional Development Board, The Anti-Bullying Coalition, Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Homeland Security, The Union County College Board of Trustees, Union County Vo-Tech School Board, The New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the School Master's Association of New Jersey and a member of Anchor Lodge F and A.M. of Plainfield.

In Dec. 2003, Mr. Tillou received the *Union County Voice* "People of the Year" Award for making a difference in Union County public education. In April of 2004, Glenn was the recipient of an award based on his contributions for education against bullying and harassment. The award was presented at the annual forum, "Stand Tall

Against Hate and Bias," in memory of Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruotolo, Jr.

An avid gardener, Glenn and his wife of 30 years, Sharon Kehrler Tillou of South Plainfield, was a Master Gardener for the State of NJ and was Treasurer for Friends of the Rutgers Gardens. He also enjoyed traveling, reading and he had a passion for the theater.

He is predeceased by his father, Stanley Tillou, who died in 1997.

In addition to his wife, also surviving are his mother, E. Marjorie Tillou of South Plainfield and a brother-in-law, Craig Kehrler, also of South Plainfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Glenn's memory to Friends of Rutgers Gardens, c/o Cook College, 112 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 or The Clark Education Association Scholarship Fund, c/o Clark Board of Education, 365 Westfield Ave., Clark NJ 07066.

Susan (O'Melia) Holbrook, 40

Susan (O'Melia) Holbrook died on Sunday, March 13, in her home.

Born in Neptune, she had been a lifelong resident of South Plainfield.

Sue was employed as a real estate agent with Century 21, Moretti Realty of South Plainfield for the past three years. Previously, she was an in-home child care provider for many years.

Sue was an avid gardener. She was a loving and caring person and will be dearly missed by all of her family and friends.

Her father, James O'Melia, died in 1998.

Surviving are two daughters, Jennifer Ericson and Sara Holbrook, both of South Plainfield; her mother, Betty O'Melia of Spring Hill, Fla.; a sister, Sharyn Munn of Hudson, Fla.; a friend, Michael Holbrook of South Plainfield and two nephews, Jason and Christopher.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

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Congratulations to all
SPHS State Wrestling Qualifiers!

Way to go Jimmy Conroy,
Billy Ashnault and Patrick Hunter!!



This Friday is the last time to enjoy the fish fry at Sacred Heart. The fish fry is held in the cafeteria and you can even take a chance on a 50-50.

Get Ready for the Spring Curbside Pickups

The spring curbside pickup is about to begin. Starting the first week in April and running for four weeks the Public Works department will visit each of five districts.

Every resident should have received a flyer in the mail listing the scheduled pickup and a map of five districts. If you did not, you can pick one up in

the Borough Clerks office.

Pickups are for any large household items except concrete, recyclable items, yard debris and automotive items are acceptable.

Debris should be placed at the curb in front of the residence on the Sunday night prior to the week in which the collection is to occur. When possible, items should be either tied or boxed and be neatly placed at the curb. The amount of waste cannot exceed 12 ft. x 3 ft by 3 ft.

Apartments and condominium/townhouse complexes are not included in the curbside pickup program.

The existing compactor and yard waste facilities will remain available for residential use. Compactor coupons and yard waste decals are available at the Municipal Clerks officer during the following times: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday between 1 and 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Fire Dept. Grant Awarded to SP

Senator Jon S. Corzine announced that the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department will receive \$144,364 for operations and firefighting safety. The grant is part of an ongoing effort to fund first responders at the local level.

The grants are for various aspects of firefighting and firefighting safety. The allocations will be used for operations and firefighting safety, such as new air packs, compressors and hoses to funds that will defray the local cost of a new firefighting vehicle.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received by the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey on March 31, 2005 at **10 a.m.** prevailing time in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey, at which time and place bids will be opened and reading public for:

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL

Specifications and other bid information may be obtained at the Municipal Clerk's office in the Municipal Building at the above address during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Only bidders who have picked up specifications will be allowed to submit bids. All bids must be submitted on the Proposal Forms furnished by the Borough. A bid bond in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond payable to the BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD in the amount equal to 10% of the highest bid amount, including alternates, if any, but not to exceed \$20,000 and a duly executed Consent of Surety. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c.127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27 et seq.), the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25. Employment on Public Works N.J.S.A. 10:2. EOE, ADA

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$40.25 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS the Borough has awarded a contract to DeMaio Electrical Contracting, Inc. to perform improvements to the Cedarbrook Pump Station; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to perform the construction administration associated with said improvements at a cost not to exceed \$3,950.00; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a); and

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in the FY 2005 Sewer Utility Budget, account # 5-07-55-515-001-235.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to perform construction administration for the improvements to the Cedarbrook Pump Station at a cost not to exceed \$3,950.00.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$38.50 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

WHEREAS the Borough wishes to submit an application for the FY2006 New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund Grant; and

WHEREAS the Borough has received a proposal from CME Associates to prepare the said application at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00; and

WHEREAS this contract is being awarded without competitive bidding as "Professional Services" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1) (a); and

WHEREAS funds have been certified by the Chief Financial Officer and will be made available in the FY 2005 Engineering Budget, account # 5-01-20-165-000-235.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of South Plainfield that authorization is hereby given to enter into a professional services contract with CME Associates to prepare the application for the FY2006 New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund Grant at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$34.25 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1689

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1689 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 67 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "LIQUOR LICENSES" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

March 14, 2005

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on March 10, 2005.

A. Case #06-05—William Ashnault, Block 379; Lot 9; 845 Delmore Ave. The applicant's request for a rear yard setback variance in order to construct a deck and three season room to the first floor of his existing single family residence was hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dawn Hunteon
Secretary Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$21.00 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1690

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1690 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 26, ARTICLE III OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "FIRE DEPARTMENT - LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1691

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1691 entitled: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTERS 801.2 AND 801.3 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD ENTITLED: "BUSINESS ZONES" AND "INDUSTRIAL ZONES" was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$22.75 March 18, 2005

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE No. 1692

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, THAT:

Ordinance #1692 entitled: A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$210,400 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF DECORATIVE LIGHTING ALONG HAMILTON BOULEVARD, REPAVING AND NEW SIGNAGE AT THE RECYCLING CENTER AND EQUIPMENT TO BE USED BY OUR EMERGENCY SERVICES was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held thereon by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

ATTEST:
Vincent Buttiglieri/Municipal Clerk

\$23.50 March 18, 2005

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LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Turado requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit construction of a second floor addition with a 2'-0" cantilever encroaching into front yard setback. Proposed addition lacks 24' required front yard setback, 22' being proposed and also lacks the 8' required side yard setback, 6' being proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 119 Pine Street on Block 200, Lot 22 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 14, 2005 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

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

\$35.00

March 18, 2005

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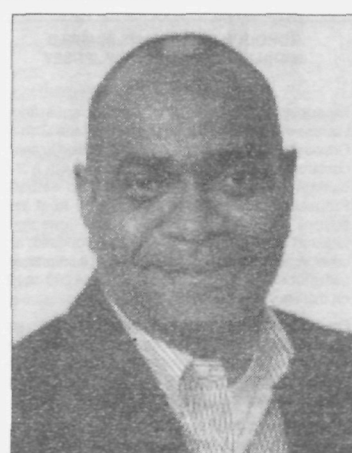
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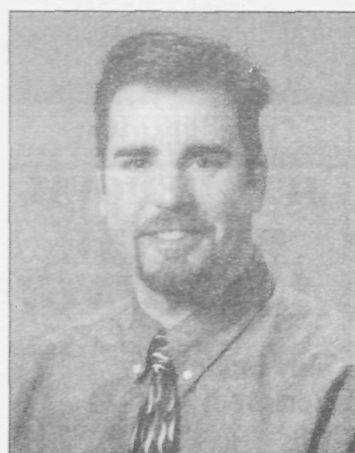
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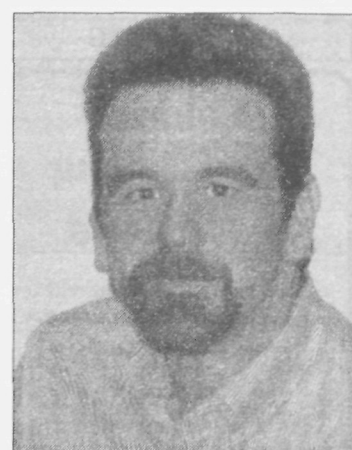
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