

Our Lady of Czestochowa's Feast of St. Anthony starts on Tuesday and runs through Saturday. Come out with your families and enjoy the rides, games and food!

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 9, NO. 39

50 CENTS

JUNE 2, 2006



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO FELL—U.S. Veterans were remembered at Memorial Day ceremonies throughout the borough this past Monday. Pictured above are members of American Legion and VFW at Veterans Park.

BOE Slashes Another \$540,000 from Budget

Middle School Sports Program Cut to Bring Back 2 Teachers

Anticipating a deficit in the 2006-2007 school budget brought about by the \$1.2 million in cuts made by the Borough Council, the Board of Education at a special meeting Tuesday made additional reductions of \$540,000.

After the \$1.2 million cut was made by the Borough Council, a comment was made by Councilman Charlie Butrico that even more cuts could be made to the budget. The Board met with the council on May 24 to determine what further areas the council might suggest, but none were found. The Board then decided to hold the special meeting on Tuesday to discuss its options—whether to accept the budget as it was or make further cuts to avoid a possible deficit during the 2006-2007 school year.

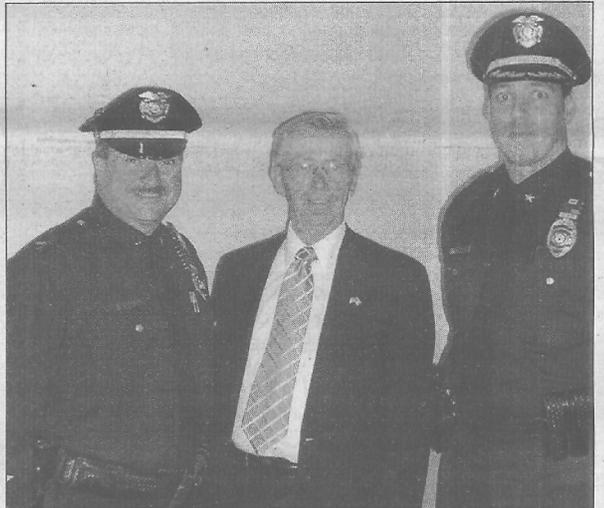
The cuts include the elimination of three teachers—a high school home economics teacher at \$60,000, a Middle School guidance counselor at \$75,000 and an elementary fourth grade teacher at \$55,000.

In addition, each school in the district, including the administration, will have 15% of its building budget cut \$150,000, and \$200,000 in capital improvements will be frozen.

The money will be on hand to cover the \$500,000 cut by the council from the special education budget. At its initial meeting with the council, the board detailed the number of special education students and their out of district tuition costs, along with the certainty of six additional autistic pre-school students the district would have to provide for, as well as other disabled students potentially coming into the district.

In addition, in a last minute deci-

sion, the board voted 6-3 to cut out the \$110,000 Middle School Sports program in order to bring back two of the six positions previously eliminated in the budget. These positions had been eliminated when the budget was introduced and were not part of the recommended Council cuts. The Board left the decision up to Dr. Rosado on what positions would be reinstated—computer teachers, SAC counselors or world language teachers. No decision was announced.



Mayor Dan Gallagher congratulates South Plainfield Police Lt. Kevin Murtagh (left) and Police Chief John Ferraro.

Eight Teachers Awarded with Governor's Teacher Recognition

The South Plainfield Education Association announced the award recipients for Governor's Teacher Recognition Program for the 2005/2006 school year. The recommended teachers are Lenore Kielblock, high school; Linda E. Schwebel, middle

school; Maureen Barnett, Grant School; Marie Stemmler, Franklin School; Mary Carole Bannon, John F. Kennedy School; Lori Meyer, John E. Riley School; Kathleen Simpson, Roosevelt School and Dorothy Ewing, Roosevelt Admin-

istration. The teachers were selected through a nominating process by their peers as well as interested parents.

A reception and luncheon for the Middlesex County honorees was held at the Pines Manor in Edison (Continued on page 10)

200 Club Honors Police Chief and Lieutenant

The 200 Club of Middlesex County honored two members of the South Plainfield Police Department at their annual awards banquet. Honored this year were South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro and Lt. Kevin Murtagh. This is the 33rd consecutive year the 200 Club has recognized those public safety officers who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional bravery and service to the community.

On Sept. 16, as Chief Ferraro was traveling south on Rt. 287, he received a radio transmission of a stolen truck which had just occurred. Chief Ferraro, who was driving in the vicinity, pulled over in his unmarked Dodge Durango police vehicle to monitor traffic. Approximately two minutes later, he observed a truck and advised headquarters that he would be following the vehicle which had just entered the N.J. Turnpike. The truck proceeded north on the Turnpike, but kept pulling over, slowing down, then continuing on. Each time Ferraro would also pull his vehicle over. Eventually the suspect pulled over in the Woodbridge area

and fled on foot, carrying a blue gym bag. The Chief identified himself and yelled for the suspect to stop, but he continued to run.

A short time later, Lt. Murtagh arrived, secured the stolen truck and was met by N.J. State Police Officer Col. Fuentes, in an unmarked police car. After receiving a description of the suspect from Chief Ferraro, Lt. Murtagh and Col. Fuentes observed someone matching the description of the suspect. Both gave chase on foot and apprehended the suspect on the shoulder of the roadway. A search of the suspect disclosed a 20 round box of .357 hollow point ammo, with the box missing five rounds. Additional ammunition was located in other pockets of his gym bag. A loaded .357 magnum was also recovered.

Because of their professionalism and dedication to duty Ferraro and Murtagh were commended.

The 200 Club provides financial assistance and comfort to families of law enforcement and public safety officials who are killed or disabled in the line of duty and awards scholarships to their



Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado joins the eight recipients of the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program as they prepare to depart in a limousine for a luncheon in their honor. The limo was provided courtesy of Dr. Rosado as his way of saying thank you to the teachers for their hard work.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
June 6	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
June 19 (Monday)	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
July 11	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.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
June 13, June 27, July 18*, Aug. 15*, Aug. 29*
Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 26.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
June 8, June 22, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 30* and Dec. 14.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20, Jan. 17, Feb. 21, March and April 4.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
June 20, July 18, August 15
Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
June 13, (No meetings July and Aug.) Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12
No scheduled meetings, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
June 14, July 12, Aug. 9, Sept. 13
Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 and Jan. 10.

business advisory group

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

traffic safety advisory commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall (No Meeting in August)

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.



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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 sobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: sobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 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.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

It is gratifying to see that finally people are taking notice of what has been happening with regard to our school budgets. It is something which must be carefully considered every time a new budget is proposed.

Distressing, however, are the threats by the education association that if budgets are voted down students will suffer because programs will have to be cut. How big a joke is that? The reality of cut budgets is that the education association will have to opt for a smaller percent of wage increase when they negotiate their contract with the board. Which, by the way, would probably be the most money-saving aspect of cutting a budget: freeze wages for the duration of a new contract and have the employees contribute toward the cost of medical, dental and prescription insurance. Every other working person does, retirees included. Another big chunk of change in the budget is the monies spent to provide medical insurance to retired employees at no cost to the retiree. How outrageous is that?

A board of education is elected to represent the school district, not the teacher's association. Unfortunately, in South Plainfield and other districts, the wrong people get elected to boards of education, namely, teachers, former teachers and administrators. Conflict of interest, don't you think? Why is it these people always favor voting in an outrageous budget? Is it because their pocketbooks will be affected also? Yep! Well how about the people on fixed incomes, or don't we count?

The tool we have to control what has been out of control for so long is our voting power. It is time that the education association in town be shocked back into reality. There is no money tree to be picked.

Hooray for the council for finally taking a real stand this time! Maybe our board of education will take a lesson from this and really consider for whom they work.

PAT MCDONOUGH

Dear Editor:

In the past year, drug costs have increased at twice the rate of inflation. High drug costs deliver a difficult blow to those least able to afford it: the low-income and hundreds of thousands of New Jersey residents who lack health care coverage. Individuals who do not have health insurance pay the highest prices for their prescription drugs.

AARP New Jersey and Senator Barbara Buono are proud to support S1396. This bill requires pharmacies to compile drug retail price lists, which will then be posted on an Internet website developed and maintained by the State.

We know that this approach yields real benefits. A New York State website that allows residents to compare the prices of prescription drugs at pharmacies statewide saves patients an average of \$17 per prescription, reports the AP/Albany Times Union. The

website, nyagr.org, lists prices of the 150 most commonly prescribed medications at about 600 pharmacies throughout the state. According to the analysis of the administrators of the site in the office of the State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (D), patients who use the website obtain an average discount of 24% on prescription drug prices. However, in some cases, an even wider gap exists among the medications listed on the site: Depakote, a medication for bi-polar disorder, epilepsy and migraines, had the largest difference in price at \$85. The website was launched in August 2004 and, according to the AP/Albany Times Union, has since received about 3.5 million visits.

Knowledge is power. A prescription drug retail price registry will give all consumers the facts to help them make an informed decision when purchasing prescription drugs. New Jersey residents need to be given the opportunity to compare prices among prescription drugs just as they would for any other product in our free market economy. We can compare gasoline prices just by driving down the road. We can compare food and consumer products on every grocery store shelf. Why shouldn't we be able compare our prescription drug prices?

Urge your New Jersey State Assemblyperson and Senator to support this vital legislation. As we have seen in New York, it can really save money for our most vulnerable citizens and for all of us. Also, it will have a very modest price tag, both for the State and the pharmacies, especially when compared to other prescription assistance programs.

**AARP NEW JERSEY STATE
PRESIDENT SY LARSON AND SEN.
BARBARA BUONO**

To the Editor:

Thank you to Carol Byrne for

mentioning the six preschoolers with Autism Spectrum Disorder in your letter in last week's *Observer*.

These six preschoolers will need a special education teacher who has been specifically trained in one or more of the disciplines developed for teaching children with autism. I recently attended a lecture presented by the Yale Child Study Center that used eye-tracking technology which clearly showed that children with autism do not focus on the main point of what is being presented to them, whereas the children without any developmental disabilities did focus on the main point. Autistic children need to be taught in a definitive, specific way.

Not only does the BOE have to hire a kindergarten teacher for these six children for the 2006-2007 school years, but they will also have to be prepared to provide these students with a special ed/autistic teacher for each year at least through elementary school. The BOE will also have to consider providing more speech therapy. These preschoolers have been receiving just one hour per week. That is not enough for a four or five year old that is not yet speaking in complete sentences.

Lastly, I know that the parents of these preschoolers are prepared to hire an educational attorney, if necessary, to get what their children need. The cost for sending these students out of district for their education will be a burden that the taxpayers should not have to carry. One in every 166 children is born with Autism Spectrum Disorder and our school district needs to start providing for them beyond preschool.

Please don't overlook them and/or attempt to convince their parents that a regular special education class with "mainstreaming" is adequate. It is not.

MAUREEN TERHUNE

Honorary Grand Marshal Nominations Needed

Labor Day is just around the corner and the South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee is seeking nominations for the Honorary Grand Marshal of the 49th Annual Labor Day Parade to be held on Monday, Sept. 4. The theme of this year's parade is *Families: South Plainfield's Greatest Asset*.

If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to the Borough of South Plainfield, please send us a letter stating your reason why this person should be considered for Honorary Grand Marshal. Please include the candidate's name, address, phone number and accomplishments. The deadline for accepting nominations is July 28. Send your nomination to: The Public Celebrations Committee, John Sorrentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson St., South Plainfield, NJ

07080.

The Public Celebrations Committee is also seeking any nonprofit organizations interested in having a concession stand at the PAL grounds during the festivities. Please send your concession stand applications to: The Public Celebrations Committee, Kim Gallagher, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

In addition, parade marshals are needed to assist in the organization of the parade line, followed by walking with their unit the length of the parade. All marshals must be 18 years or older. Please submit your parade marshal applications to: The Public Celebrations Committee, Joe Scrudato, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

All applications can also be submitted online by visiting our website at www.southplainfieldnj.com.

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OPEN SUNDAY



The South Plainfield VFW Post presented a \$1,000 donation to the South Plainfield Police Department on May 5. Police Chief John Ferraro accepted the check on behalf of the department. The funds will be used to purchase specialized equipment to outfit a tactical team of officers, who will be called upon in emergency situations and critical incidents that require a tactical response.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

It's coming! On June 10 the library will be having its big annual book sale. Already people have donated a wonderful selection of new and used fiction and non-fiction books, as well as children's books and adult and children's videos. The sale will be in the library at 2484 Plainfield Ave. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity to pick up some great items.

Also for those who are looking ahead to college, the library will be presenting a program entitled *The Art Of Paying For College* by Education Funding Consultants Association on Monday, June 19 at 7 p.m. at the library. No registration is required for this program.

Looking ahead to the end of this month, the library will be starting its summer reading programs. This year we will have three different programs. There will be a children's, a young adult, and an adult. The theme is *Paws, Claws, Scales and Tails*. We are looking forward to a fun summer with lots of great activities for patrons of all ages. Please keep tuned to this column for further information on this topic.

The library has received the appli-

cations for the New Jersey Department of Personnel 2006 Examination for Firefighter. You can file the application now through Aug. 31.

Please don't forget the Library's link to *ListenNJ*. You can access this site from our homepage at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us to download audiobooks. You can then burn many of these books to CDs or download them to your MP3 player and listen to them in the car on the way to the beach or on your player while working in your garden. Of course we still have an extensive book-on-tape and book-on-CD collection in the library.

And our storytimes will continue through the month of June. For 3+ we have programs on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. On Friday mornings at 10:30 we have a Books-n-Babies Program and Wednesday mornings at 10:30 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday for our Time-for-2s programs. All of these programs are drop in so you can just come and enjoy an hour of stories (and crafts for the 3+ programs).

If you have any questions please feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885 and speak to any of our friendly staff.

NOTES FROM The Senior Center

by Joann Graf, Director of Office on Aging

In my capacity as Director of the South Plainfield Office on Aging and Senior Center, I have been able to identify a host of issues that our seniors face every day which need to be addressed. Our older population is growing and so are their needs. The Office on Aging works to help our seniors stay independent through services that support their well-being but there is so much more that needs to be done, especially for our most vulnerable elderly - the frail, homebound, isolated senior population.

I am looking to mobilize interested individuals, civic organizations and community groups to help my office implement a community outreach program to help meet the needs of our seniors. A Coalition for the Elderly will create a "circle of support" and bring people together who care about the older adults of our community. Our mission will be to provide care and service to our elderly resi-

dents and to assist them with their daily needs through a variety of volunteer programs. Our goal will be to improve our seniors' quality of life and to help them live with dignity and independence in a safe and caring environment within our community.

To begin with, I am seeking individuals who would like to serve on the organizing committee to help in the planning and development stage of the coalition. As a committee member you will be expected to attend a series of planning meetings and to assist the group with research, planning and program implementation. If you feel you have the time and interest to make a commitment to the organizing committee, we want to hear from you.

If organizing and planning is not for you but you want to be a part of the coalition, we want to hear from you too. Once the organizing committee completes the planning stage,

BOROUGH NOTES

Council News

The Council has entered into a contract with 1st Call Medical Transport at a cost not to exceed \$18,000 for the period ending Dec. 31, 2006.

The council authorized the hiring of employees for the Summer Parks Program, as well as the South Plainfield Community Pool.

The Borough has entered in a contract with Pinto Bros. Disposal to provide litter can service throughout the Borough for the period May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$445 per month.

The mayor and municipal clerk have executed a contract with Middlesex County for the purchase of Picometry Aerial Imagery Equipment, which was acquired by the County through a Homeland Security Grant.

The mayor and municipal clerk were authorized to execute the Inter-local Agreement with Middlesex County for the 2006 road resurfacing program. Roads to be resurfaced are: Redding Ave., Revere Rd., Cedarbrook Ave., Lewis Pl., Bullard Pl., Wells Dr., Meadow Terr. and Chambers St.

The council endorsed the Borough's Recycling Tonnage Grant Application for 2005.

A place-to-place transfer of liquor license #1222-33-013-006 was issued to American Foods at South Plainfield, LLC. This is being activated and issued to Block 528.01, Lot 46.10 (6200 Hadley Road).

A professional services contract was awarded to CME Associates to prepare the design, survey and bid documents for the improvements to the intersection of Belmont Ave. and Metuchen Rd.

Debranello Contracting, LLC has received a contract to perform storm sewer improvements along the Maple Ave. section of the Borough at a cost not to exceed \$448,143.

The Borough received a \$1,000 Grant from VFW Memorial Post #6763 to be utilized for police helmets/body armor.

Telecommunicators Eric Milstein and Christine Abbatemarco have resigned. Brian Nodes and Morgan Harrington were hired as public safety telecommunicators effective May 22.

Laserspeed received a contract to service fourteen printers located throughout the Borough at a cost of \$2,645 for the period April 8, 2006 to April 7, 2007.

George Deluca's employment has been extended for a six month period starting May 16 for a maximum of 19 hours per week.



There's a New Lawyer in Town

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volunteer opportunities will be plentiful. A few examples of the programs we are developing for our frail and homebound seniors include visiting seniors in their homes, hospitals or nursing homes; shopping and running errands for seniors; making a daily telephone call of reassurance to a senior; helping out with a household chore; balancing a senior's checkbook or help filling out forms.

The effectiveness and success of the coalition greatly depends upon the level of involvement of the community. Volunteering your time and expertise is an invaluable way to give back to the community and share your knowledge. Residents of all ages are welcome to reply. If you have the time and the interest to make a real difference in the life of our seniors, please contact us either by email at joanngraf@hotmail.com or call the Senior Center at (908) 754-1047. Thank you for your consideration.

Events

Around Town

Grant Vendor Night

June 2

The 2007 Stokes Committee will host a vendor night on Friday, June 2 at Grant School from 5 to 9 p.m. Vendors include Avon, Longaberger, Home Interiors and much more.

Rainbow Open House

June 3

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located at 2177 Oak Tree Rd., will hold an open house on Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, visit our website at www.rainbowacademy.com or call (908) 769-3224.

Sacred Heart Parish Mission Announced

June 4-8

Christians in the Eyes of Jesus, directed by Rev. Richard J. Kehoe, CM of the Vincentian Parish Mission Apostolate, will begin on Sunday, June 4 at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church. Fr. Richard will preach at all Masses on June 3-4, the Feast of Pentecost. The same presentation will be given at two daily sessions June 5-8 at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Bowling Fundraiser

June 4

The SPHS Music Boosters are sponsoring a bowling "fun" raiser on Sunday, June 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Brunswick Edison Bowl, Oak Tree Rd. in Edison. Cost of \$10 includes two hours unlimited bowling, shoe rental and a pitcher of soda per lane. Families, friends and groups of all ages welcome. Bumpers available upon request.

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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> UPCOMING EVENTS </div>	* * * Overnight trip to Baltimore w/Dinner Theatre (Date Changed to September 30-October 1) * * *			Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available	2
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am	5 Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am Lunch Available Ladies Social Group 10 am	6 Exercise 8:45am Computer Class 10am, 11:30am & 1pm Tai Chi Class 2pm Line Dancing 10am Atlantic City trip 9am	7 Shop Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	8 Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available	9
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.					

For information or to reserve a space, call Julie (908) 791-0294.

VFW Breakfast

June 4

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will be hosting a breakfast on Sunday, June 4 from 8-11 a.m. The public is invited. For information call (908) 668-9751.

Yankees vs. Orioles

June 4

The South Plainfield Recreation Department is sponsoring a trip to see the Yankees vs. Orioles at Camden Yards on Sunday, June 4. Tickets are on sale now. Call the Recreation Department at (908) 226-7713 to make reservations.

Feast of St. Anthony

June 6-10

Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church's Annual Feast of St. Anthony will be held June 6-10 on the church grounds on Hamilton Blvd. Hours are Tues. through Friday 6 to 11 p.m. and Saturday 1 to 11 p.m.

Advance ride tickets worth \$18 can be purchased for \$10 after all masses,

or at the church. Tickets will also be on sale at Bagel Pantry, Corner Deli, David's Stationary, Oak Tree Farms and Sal's Spirit Shoppe.

Rides, licensed games, traditional homemade Polish/Italian food, hot dogs, burgers, french fries, beverages, desserts, Caribbean booth, pizza frite, special food concessions, zeppoli, calzone, shish ka-bob, roast beef, clams/shrimp, bar-be-que.

Hunterdon Hills Trip

June 6

AARP Chapter #4144 is planning a bus trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Tuesday, June 6 to see *Born Yesterday*. Cost is \$65 per person. You need not be a member to take this trip. For information or to purchase tickets, call Lee at (732) 968-6616.

AARP Needlecrafters

June 7

AARP needlecrafters will meet on Wednesday, June 7 and every Wednesday at the Senior Center from 1-3 p.m. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join, call Jean at (732) 752-0358.

Court of Honor and 10th Anniversary

June 11

South Plainfield Boy Scout Troop 207 invites all alumni scouts and leaders and the public to their Court of Honor and 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 11 from 2 to 6 p.m. in Veterans Memorial Park. R.S.V.P. Scout Master Jim Donalson at (908) 917-8034.

VFW Dinner

June 16

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763, located on Front St., will be hosting a dinner on Friday, June 16 from 5-7 p.m. The public is invited. For information call (908) 668-975.

— Out of Town —

Blackrose to Perform

June 3

Blackrose, the band, performs classic rock 'n roll music and today's hits at Rugs & Riffs in Woodbridge on Saturday, June 3 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Decode "The DaVinci Code" at Willow Grove

June 3

The Men's Group of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains invites all to join them on Saturday, June 3 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for a free breakfast and discussion of the book and movie "The DaVinci Code."

For more information or to make reservations, please call the church office at (908) 232-5678.

XL Band To Perform

June 3

XL Band will perform June 3 at 11 a.m. in front of the Scotch Plains Music Center on Park Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Based in central New Jersey, XL has been together since 1990 and incorporates the best of today's contemporary jazz, funk, R&B and dance music, and provides a repertoire that appeals to dancers and listeners alike. With a mailing list of hundreds of fans, it grows with each performance. The band seeks to perform in venues that cater to a diverse audience of all ages.

Lions Chili Cook Off

June 4

The North Plainfield Lions Club will be hosting their annual Chili Cook Off on Saturday, June 10 from noon to 4 p.m. The Cook Off is being held in conjunction with the North Plainfield Street Fair on Somerset St.

For more information, call (908) 754-2754.

Family Fun Day

June 4

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Middlesex County, Inc. and the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Coalition will hold the first annual "Pedaling for Prevention" Family Fun Day on June 4.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. in Grove 4 in Johnson Park. Activities start at 9 a.m., rain or shine. Registration \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For information call (732) 254-3344 or register online at www.ncadd-middlesex.com/biketour.html.

"Swingin' With The Big Bands"

June 7

A bus trip is planned to the Wayne Manor in Wayne on Wednesday, June 7 to see "Swingin' with the Big Bands." Price includes bus transportation, lunch and show. Call Fran at (908) 722-9025 for complete details and trip flyer.

9/11 Workshops

June 7

Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex County will hold a collaborative program with Jewish Family Service of Bergen County for individuals and families affected by Sept. 11 on Wednesday, June 7 from 4-8 p.m. at "The Living Room" located within the JFS office building, 1485 Teaneck Road in Teaneck.

The program is being offered free. For information, contact Felene Weinstein at JFVS at (732) 777-1940.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Veinott Named NJ National Teenager Pageant 2006 "Supermodel with Style" Winner

This past spring, when she was selected as a state finalist to compete in the New Jersey National Teenager Pageant, Amanda Veinott, 17, of South Plainfield had no idea what the weekend would have in store for her. Along with 40 other teens from all across the Garden State, she competed in various categories during the three-day event. The contestants vied for top honors in events ranging from Application, Interview, Gown and the Expression/Style category, which featured the contestants wearing jeans they had personally decorated in a style that showcased their creativity and individuality. During the fun-filled weekend, the state delegates enjoyed a pizza party, ice cream social, autograph session, preliminary Talent, Essay and Evening Gown Competitions and the opportunity to walk the runway during the competition. A professional set featuring silhouetted illusions screens, elevated runways and high-tech lighting, created a visual affect that electrified the audience.

During the SuperModel competition, contestants modeled outfits of their choosing as they walked the runway in hopes of catching the judge's eye. Amanda not only impressed the judges, she was selected as the SuperModel with Style Winner. She received a beautiful custom SuperModel crown and banner, and will be featured in an upcoming issue of SuperModels Unlimited Magazine. "It was obvious from the moment she first stepped on the stage; Amanda had the perfect combination of beauty, charm and natural talent to become a top notch model," says NJ State Director, Candy Brenner. Along with capturing the prestigious Supermodel Crown, Amanda was also selected as the third runner-up in the senior division.

Amanda will be a 2006 graduate of South Plainfield High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, President of Habitat for Humanity, French Club Treasurer, FCCLA, Announcers Club, Peer

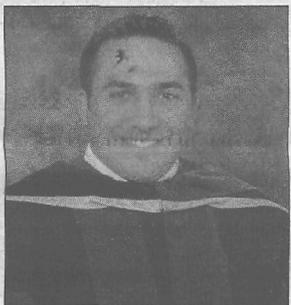


Amanda Veinott

Leaders and the Jerseyan History Club. She served as captain of the volleyball team, was a member of the softball and basketball teams and was an active equestrian competitor with numerous titles in show jumping. This straight "A" student was recognized by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council for her Academic Achievements and Leadership Abilities and was inducted into the National Honor Roll in 2005 for maintaining honor roll status throughout her high school career.

Amanda is also a dedicated volunteer in her community, volunteering her time with numerous charitable organizations, including Somerset Hills Handicapped Riding Association, Royal Blue Farm, hosting numerous senior citizen luncheons, visiting elementary schools at Christmas and participating in the South Plainfield Community Cleanup Day. Amanda also helped raise thousands of dollars for the victims of the Tsunami through Habitat for Humanity, and serves as an after school tutor for elementary school children.

Christopher Atcachunas Graduates from Barry University School of Law



Christopher Atcachunas

Christopher Atcachunas, graduated from Barry University School of Law in Orlando, Florida with a Juris Doctor degree on May 20, 2006.

Christopher graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1999 and the University of Tampa in 2003.

He is the son of Karen and Scott Linick of South Plainfield and John Atcachunas of Metuchen.

Christopher has accepted the position of an assistant state attorney for the State of Florida, 9th Judicial Circuit—Felony Division.

Matthew J. Peloquin Graduates from Marietta College

Roderick G.W. Chu, the former Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, delivered the Commencement address to the Class of 2006 at the College's 169th graduation ceremony on May 20 in the Dyson Baudo Recreation Center. More than 290 students received diplomas.

Among those honored was South Plainfield High School graduate Matthew J. Peloquin, who completed requirements for the Bachelor of Sci-

ence in Petroleum Engineering, graduating summa cum laude. Peloquin was co-winner of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Outstanding Senior Award, sharing the honor with Nicholas R. Tinnell. Peloquin is the son of Linda and Thomas Peloquin of South Plainfield.

Located in Marietta, Ohio, at the confluence of the Muskingum and Ohio rivers, Marietta College is a four-year liberal arts college. Tracing its roots

to the Muskingum Academy begun in 1797, the college was officially chartered in 1835. Today Marietta College serves a body of 1,300 full-time students. The college offers more than 40 majors and has been listed among Barron's Best Buys in College Education and Peterson's Competitive Colleges, and has been recognized as one of the top regional comprehensive colleges by U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review.

PBA Softball Tournament to Benefit Two-Year Old

This year's recipient of the profits from the South Plainfield Police Annual Athletic League Softball Tournament is Alyssa Ricciardi, a two-year old South Plainfield resident diagnosed with neuroblastoma cancer.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, July 29 beginning at 8 a.m. at the South Plainfield High School ball fields, located on Lake St. Rain date is Sunday, July 30.

The softball tournament will consist of two divisions and runs as follows:

Open Division—a men's slowpitch, double elimination. Entry fee is \$250, \$500 prize for first place and \$250 prize for second place.

Charitable Division—a co-ed slowpitch, single elimination, limited homeruns. Entry fee is \$250.

Deadline for registration is July 21. Teams can register by contacting Gary Cassio at (908) 966-2947, or Kevin Hughes at (908) 226-7714 or at the South Plainfield PAA on Maple Ave.

All other donations will be greatly appreciated to help defer all costs of the lab fees and medical costs for Alyssa Ricciardi.

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Three SPHS Juniors Eagerly Anticipate Governor's School

By Libby Barsky

Three South Plainfield High School juniors, Amanda Harzula, Tony Joe and Wael Kanj, are eagerly anticipating spending four weeks of their summer attending college classes.

The three will be attending the Governor's School of New Jersey Program. Harzula will attend the School of the Environment at Richard Stockton College from July 2 to July 29, Joe will attend the School of Public Issues at Monmouth University from July 2 to 29 and Kanj will attend the School of Engineering & Technology at Rutgers University, New Brunswick from June 25 to July 22.

The Governor's School Program also includes the School of the Arts, the School of International Studies and the School of the Sciences with 100 students at each school. The program was established 22 years ago to bring top New Jersey students together in their areas of interest for a four week period living on campus. There are usually 2,400 applicants, but only 600 get a spot in a Governor's School.

Guidance Counselor Dr. Mylissa Bauman said that this was the first time in the four years that she has been at SPHS that there are three students selected. "It's a great honor," said Principal Dr. Ken May of the program.

In March students were told by teachers that they were being nominated for Governor's School. Because only one student is selected to be a nominee for each Governor's School, the students were told to put any plans



Seated from left are Amanda Harzula, Guidance Counselor Mylissa Bauman, Wael Kanj; standing Dr. May and Tony Joe.

for the summer on hold so they would be able to be in the program if accepted. For Wael Kanj that posed a bit of a problem because his family travels abroad to visit relatives during the summer.

But the bigger problem was, that before spring break, the students were told that there would be no Governor's School. Because of state budget constraints, Governor Jon Corzine cut the \$1.9 million amount funding Governor's Schools Program which covered the \$3,500 cost per student.

"When I learned of the cut, I wanted to march on Trenton," said Harzula at that upsetting time.

But former Governor's School

students and others began a campaign fundraising to continue the program from corporate and other private donors. With the funding not entirely collected, Joe was relieved and elated when notified by letter (which also asked for a donation) as were Harzula and Kanj when they received their confirmation by email.

Harzula said the program outline in her packet were very intensive with the warning "You can't be late for ANYTHING!"

And with receiving their course selections from their school and information about night lectures, trips and recreational activities information, all three students are ready for anything.

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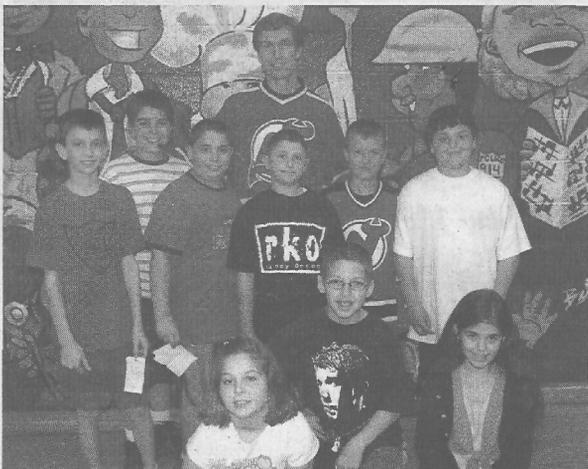
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Kennedy Students Learn Life Lessons from Devils Star

By Jane Dornick

NJ Devils radio broadcaster Randy Velischek visited with Kennedy Elementary School students on May 5 as part of the hockey teams "Devils Advocate" program for children. The goal of the program is to have players spread the word about the perils of drug and alcohol use, the values of education and a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of desire, dedication and determination.

A brief movie was shown to students about how to be successful and what dangers to avoid. Velischek then took questions from the audience which were primarily about hockey and his career and then signed autographs for the students. Velischek, who is from Montreal, Canada, played for the Devils from 1985-1990 and is currently their radio announcer.



NJ Devils radio broadcaster Randy Velischek pictured with fans Louis Gerardi, Raymond Jazikoff, Inan Sikel, Samuel Persad, Dominick Penevolpe, Brian McCarthy, Taylor Donato, Julianna Reo and Greg Sutton.

Senior Citizen Identification Card Program

Elaine M. Flynn, Middlesex County Clerk, would like the public to be aware of a program that is being offered through her office.

"Due to the increased security at airports and the need for government issued photo ID's, many senior citizens have expressed to me their concern for obtaining this type of identification," Flynn said. The Middlesex County Clerk's Office, passport division, has a mobile senior ID program which is being offered to all towns in Middlesex County. The staff will go out to senior citizen groups and centers on a pre-arranged date. Flynn added that the use of the new digital identification card system has increased the security features of the program.

According to Linda Dashuta, supervisor of the program, the "icing on the cake for the seniors is that they do not have to be concerned with getting a ride into the county office in New Brunswick - we virtually come

right to their doorstep." Dashuta also added that the regular price for the identification card is \$16, but seniors age 60 and older get a discounted price of \$6.

Flynn said she is very pleased in the response from the towns in the county who have called to set a date for the program to come to their senior facility.

The service will be at South Plainfield Senior Center on Friday, June 16, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Registration for the ID cards must be done in

advance by calling the center at (908) 754-1047.

Applicants must present a certified birth certificate, US passport, or naturalization certificate. If an applicant is not a US citizen, they must present a valid foreign passport with proof of legal entry or a permanent resident card. A social security card is needed along with proof of name and address in Middlesex County. If an applicant is a married female, the certified birth certificate must be presented as well.

Almost Famous Players Seek Donations

The theatre troupe that brings the Haunted Woods Tour to Putnam Park each year has once again been asked to entertain for the St. Peter's Hospital Cancer Survivors Day picnic. This year's theme is western.

They are seeking donations of cowboy hats, bandanas, overalls, any

type of western style shirts or skirts, vests, toy stick horses, cowbells, wooden gavel, spittoon (both for the courthouse), heavy rope, or any western related item that can be used for a costume, set or game. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Call (908) 346-2290 for pick up.

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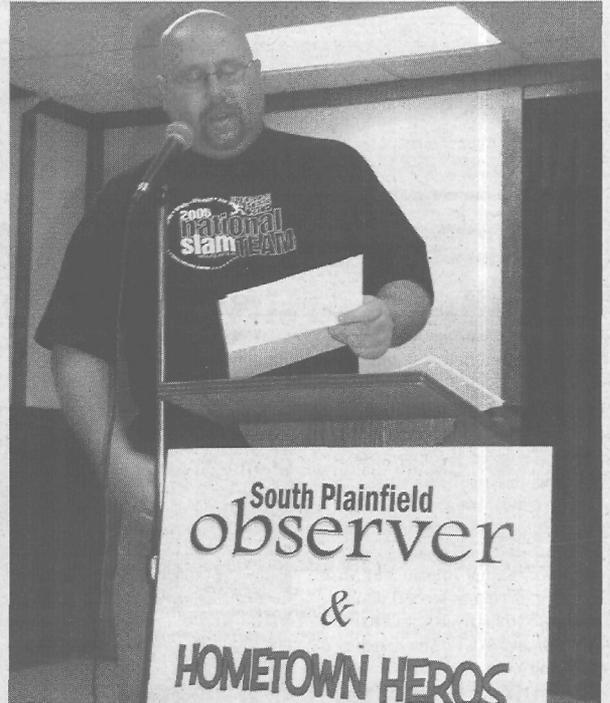
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The Junior Journalists from 2005-06 with Charlie and Debbie Kurland and Nancy Grennier.



Roosevelt third grade teacher Michael Bertram shares his own poetry.



Hometown Heros displays the t-shirts presented to them.

Write On!

Junior Journalists Honored at Year End Banquet

Twenty-three Junior Journalist winners and their families were honored at a banquet held at the Knights of Columbus on May 24.

This year's winners are Mike Eosso, Jared Agee, Divya Budhan, Charlotte Macchia, Morgan Miller, Emily Mazzellan, Madison Miller, Nicole Sotiriou, Mike Olano, Holly McDede, Andrea Muglia, Tiffany Harvey, Sarmad Rizvi, Amy Ramjatan, Danielle SchAAF, Dylan Thompson, Shauniqué Cisson, Kevin Buschan, Alyssa Kelly,

Sarah DeLair, Joanna Marston, Sang Le and Alexandra Fee.

On hand to congratulate the winners were Mayor Dan Gallagher, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado, Councilman Charlie Butrico and Roosevelt School Principal Charles Ford.

Each week during the school year, winners, their teachers and school administrators were featured in the *Observer* along with their winning essays or poems. Hometown Heros then delivered a complimentary dinner to the winners and their families.

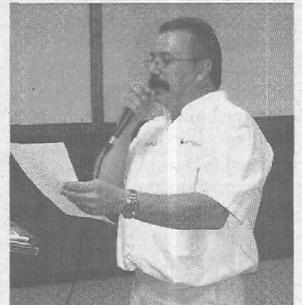
The Junior Journalist contest is sponsored by Hometown Heros and the South Plainfield *Observer*. Winners were chosen from the hundreds of entries submitted by students from all borough schools, as well as from Sacred Heart School.

At the banquet catered by Hometown Heros, the winners received a booklet containing all of the winning poems and essays. Each journalist was awarded a certificate from Hometown Heros and will receive a proclamation from the State of New Jersey from Assemblyman Patrick Diegan.

Much to the delight of the audience, Roosevelt teacher Michael Bertram read some of his own original poetry. Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros also read a poem inspired by the Junior Journalist contest.

Each winning student was asked to read their essays or poems; all did superb jobs!

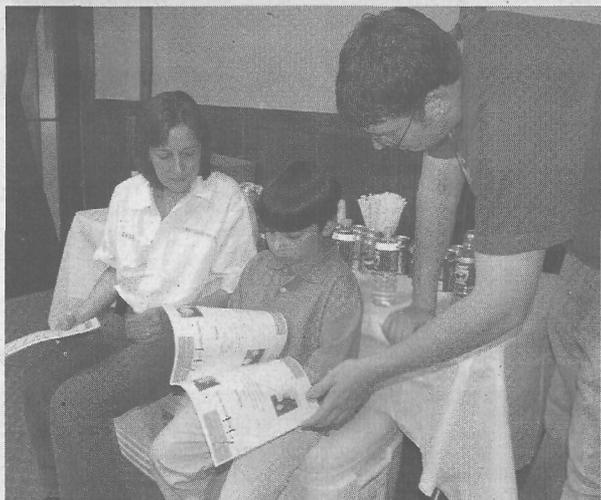
Nancy Grennier, publisher of the South Plainfield *Observer*, presented



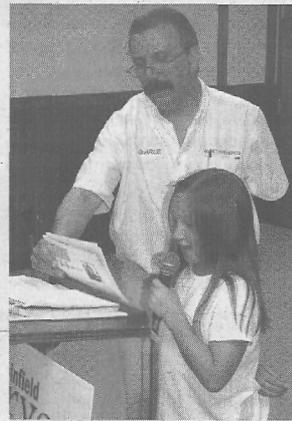
Charlie Kurland recites his Junior Journalist-inspired poem.

Charlie and Debbie with t-shirts with the winners' photos printed on them. Congratulations to all the winning students, the teachers and the parents who encouraged them.

We also thank all the students who submitted entries and encourage you do so again this fall. If you didn't win this year, don't be discouraged. Watch the *Observer* for contest starting dates.



Mike Olano prepares to read his short story, "Is There a Monster Under My Bed?"



Charlotte Macchia reads her poem, "Fall."



Morgan Miller reads her winning entry, "Alison and the Book."

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Sports

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

By SEBASTIAN LASOTA

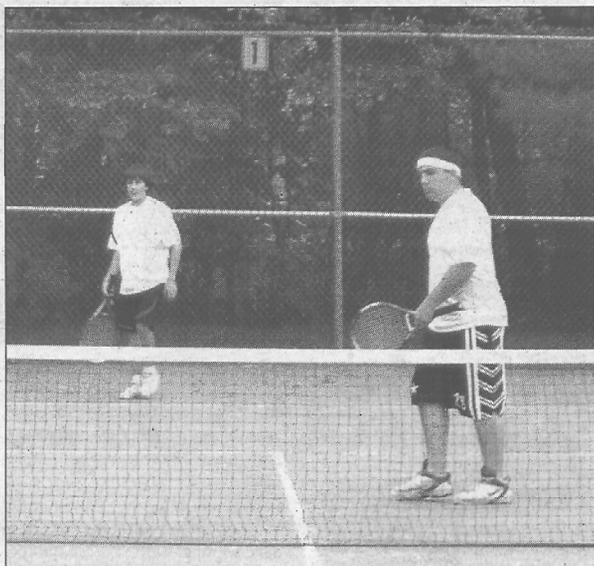
Excellent Varsity Tennis Debut by Kenny Breslau and Mike Dezmin

The 2006 season proved to be a challenging one for the SPHS Tennis Team. However, throughout hardships there were still moments of joy.

One of those moments would be a recent game against Perth Amboy, which exposed fresh talent growing in our town. Kenny Breslau and Mike Dezmin, playing as second doubles, dominated their rivals with a score of 2-0 (6-0 and 6-1). The match was their first ever varsity game, and it clearly turned out to be a great start to their careers. "We both really tried our best to defeat the opponent. I think this is a good start," said Mike Dezmin right after the game.

South Plainfield's first doubles, Joe DeNitzio and Bobby Harrington, performed just as well. Their rivals from Perth Amboy were defeated 2-0 (6-1 and 6-1).

The performance of our singles players was not as solid as that of our duos. The star player of SPHS, Gabe Avalos, put up a tough fight against Perth Amboy's Adams Miranda. Although Avalos made many amazing comebacks which kept his rival in check, he failed to win a set. "My positioning wasn't on point, and I



Joe DeNitzio and Bobby Harrington playing as first doubles against Perth Amboy.

wasn't focused," commented Avalos. "My opponent was a consistent hitter, with nice placement of the ball." Keith Dezmin, second singles, lost

to talented Yoandry Delgado. The game ended in favor of the opponent 0-2 (6-7 and 6-1). Delgado, who played with great consistency and control, proved to be too much for Keith Dezmin to handle. According to Delgado, Dezmin was a strong rival in the first set, but gave up completely in the second.

The only singles player to come out victorious was Steve Breslau, who won the third singles match 2-0 (6-2 and 6-0).

Coach Zeno is very satisfied with the players. She believes the current struggle for wins is caused by the constantly increasing skill level of competition in our area. However, with many young and talented players, Coach Zeno is looking forward to upcoming seasons.

With a cumulative win over Perth Amboy, the Tigers are moving closer to achieving a positive record by the end of the season.

Submitted By Bob Nilan



After giving the VFW a sound thrashing, 15-5, the Hackers ascended into a position they have not been in for several years—first place in the National Division. There are now five teams that sport the same

2-2-0 record in the National Division, but the Hackers hold the top spot by virtue of their total victory points. In posting their impressive win over the VFW, Bill Mann fired a 37, Jeremy Szoc had a 38, and John Cacciatore shot a 39 for the Hackers. Bob Nilan's 43 was the best score for the VFW.

Twin City socked it to Patti's Construction, 16-4, as Guy Severini earned medalist honors for his team with a fine 2-over 35; Joe Diller had a 36 and Jay Coppola chipped in with a 39. Iron Mike Behr's 35 was the low score for Patti's.

Sport & Social bounced back after getting pounded by Plainfield Animal Hospital last week to earn a narrow victory over Buy Rite Liquors, 10-1/2 to 9-1/2. Todd Gregory led the way for Sport & Social with a 39 while Irish Danny Griffin continued his superb play for Buy Rite with a beautiful even-par round of 33.

There is also a tight race over in the American Division with three teams now tied for first place. Howard "The Bomber" Adler's terrific even-par 33 sparked Witty's to a 12-8 triumph over 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, to move his

team into a first-place tie with KC's Korner and Pornovets. In a losing effort, Jim Gash had a 39 to earn medalist honors for his team.

Mike "I Have Found My Game" Sikanowicz played wonderfully well again for Plainfield Animal Hospital, and his one-over 34 was enough to lead PAH to a 13-7 win over Pornovets. Mary Van De Vaarst had a 36 and Frank Oades recorded a 39 for Pornovets.

Eddie's Grinders finally broke into the win column by upending previously unbeaten KC's Korner, 12-8. Eddie Banach had a solid round of 36, and long-ball hitters Chris Dillon and Jay Bertleson came through with a pair of 39's. Mark "The Spark" Dugan of KC's Korner is really in a zone and lowered his handicap once again in firing a beautiful 2-over 35. Teammate Dan Conti had a 39 in a losing effort.

Jeremy Szoc of Hackers recovered from his nightmare on the first hole to win the weekly closest-to-the-pin competition on the third hole, and Marty Van De Vaarst of Pornovets earned the luncheon-for-two award at KC's Korner for his fine tee shot on the fifth hole.

Low Scores for the Night: Danny Griffin, 33; Howard Adler, 33; Mike Sikanowicz, 34; Mike Behr, 35; Mark Dugan, 35; Guy Severini, 35; Ed Banach, 36; Marty Van De Vaarst, 36; Bill Mann, 37.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN DIVISION				NATIONAL DIVISION			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
1 Pornovets	3	1	0	Hackers	2	2	0
2 KC's Korner	3	1	0	Twin City	2	2	0
3 Witty's	3	1	0	Patti's Const.	2	2	0
4 2 Buds, 2 Dubs	2	2	0	Buy Rite Liquors	2	2	0
4 PAH	2	2	0	Sport & Social	2	2	0
5 Eddie's Grinders	1	3	0	VFW	0	4	0

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

The SPJBC Executive Board would like to thank all of the volunteers which helped make the Memorial Day Tournament a success. A special thank you goes out to the Woman's Auxiliary and all of those volunteers that assisted in the snack stand and on the fields. Tournament winners were: 10U-South Plainfield; 11U-Northern Burlington; 12U-Wilmington and 14U-Jersey Mustangs.

The 2006 regular season is coming to a close. Round robin playoff games have already started. Keep an eye on the brackets and potential games days. This weekend's field duty assignments are as follows: Small Fry A Mets and Yankees on Saturday, June 3 at 7 a.m. and Small Fry C Blue Jays and Cardinals on Sunday, 4 at 8 a.m.

The SPJBC is preparing for its

Father's Day Baseball Classic. The club is looking for volunteers to work the snack stand as well as the ever important snack stand captains. Also, the SPJBC is still looking for other tournament teams that may be interested in playing in SPJBC tournaments. Please contact the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 if you are interested.

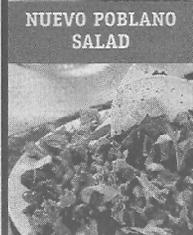
The SPJBC is looking still looking for volunteers for the 2006 season. In particular, snack stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail the club at www.southplainfield-jbc@yahoo.com. Also, visit the SPJBC website at www.leagueline-up.com/spjbc.



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FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

State of New Jersey residents, please contact your senators, legislatures and assemblymen who you voted into office and let them know how you feel about property tax reform for our school systems for the very near future and for the well being of our children.

The South Plainfield High School Peer to Peer Leadership program "Heroes and Cool Kids," under the direction of Mrs. Martko, Mr. Baker, Mr. Hajduk, Ms. Vandermark, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Encinas and Ms. Raimondo, visited the Grant Elementary School on May 25 to discuss the dangers of alcohol, tobacco and drug use with the sixth grade students. The students were so receptive to this program and asked the high school students so many interesting questions. This program informs students about the perils of becoming involved with an unhealthy lifestyle.

Thank you to all of the Grant School parents who helped with the book fair on May 23, 24, and 25. The book fair, sponsored by the Grant PTO, was a huge success and the school will obtain many books stemming from those sales.

The SPHS Gold Card luncheon was held on May 24 at the high school under sunny skies. There was lots of food, desserts and music. Thank you to all those people involved in sponsoring this lunch.

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club still needs volunteers to work during the upcoming track meets on June 2, 3 and 7. These track meets attract a

large amount of participants and spectators and the monies obtained from the snack stand are used to purchase equipment for all the sports programs. Please try to volunteer some time. Thank you to all the parents and Carol Byrne, who volunteered in the snack stand this weekend.

The SPHS senior scholarship event will take place on June 6 in the high school auditorium. The senior letter winner dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 14, at the North Plainfield Italian/American Club. Please watch for the invitations. Also, watch for the Spring Sports certificate and letter winner assembly in June.

The Grant 2007 Stokes Wall Ball Tournament will take place on June 3 at Riley School. There will be 60 students involved in this first annual tournament. Any questions, contact Bill Cochrane, chairman. The Grant 2007 Stokes Car Wash will take place on Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Grant School parking lot.

The Grant 2007 Stokes used clothing collection will take place on Saturday, June 17 from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m., in the Grant School parking lot.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Cotone family.

Grant 2007 Stokes Vendor Night will take place on June 2 at Grant School from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Baked goods and munchies are requested from the fifth grade parents. Please contact Debbie at (908) 561-2320. Food items can be dropped off at Grant School.

Girl Scout Day Camps On Tap

It's never too early to plan for summer as Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council will once again offer four weeks of Summer Day Camp at four locations throughout Union County.

Girl Scout Summer Day Camp will take place in Elizabeth (Westminster Academy), Hillside (A.P. Morris School), Plainfield (Cedar Brook School) and Roselle (Camp Letico). Camp runs daily during the week from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and includes lunch. The camp provides educational and fun programming for girls entering grades 1-8. Interested girls do not need to already be Girl Scouts but must pay the \$10 Girl Scout registration

fee along with the \$75 per week registration fee. To receive an early bird registration fee (\$275 for all four weeks), campers must attend all four weeks of camp and have all registration fees to council headquarters by May 15. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify. Camp runs from July 10 to Aug. 4 and transportation is not provided.

Cost of camp includes daily snacks, program supplies, program consultants and day trips. The four theme weeks for this summer are Designer's Week, Flying High, GSI: Girl Scout Investigation and Lights! Camera! Action!

To request a brochure, receive more information or register for Girl Scout Summer Day Camp 2006 please call (908) 232-3236 or email contact@gswrc.com.

More information on the camps and council can be found online at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.



Two new South Plainfield businesses, LA Fitness, located on Hadley Rd. and Bear Rock Cafe, located in the Hadley Center Shopping Center across from Target had representatives at Regal Cinemas last Saturday handing out free coupons and literature. Also on hand was South Plainfield Police Officer Dave Francek and the Daren Lion promoting the police departments childrens fingerprinting program.

Obituaries

Faith Frances Gaul

Faith Frances Gaul of Leisure World, Silver Spring, Md. died on Sunday, May 14 at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC.

Faith was born in Perth Amboy, reared in Port Reading and was a resident of South Plainfield for 35 years before moving to Silver Spring five years ago.



Faith Gaul

Mrs. Gaul received her Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State College, where she majored in home economics and her AA degree from Kean College, where she majored in pre-school education. She was instrumental in establishing the Future Stars Pre-School program in South Plainfield, where she taught from 1982 to 1991.

Mrs. Gaul and her husband, Tom, also established the Services Plus store in South Plainfield, which they ran from 1993 until 2000.

She is survived by her loving husband of 40 years, Thomas J. Gaul of Silver Spring, Md.; two devoted daughters, Renee Gaul of Keansburg and Dana Rainer of Bristow, Va.; a

son-in-law, Daniel Rainer, adored grandson Jason Rainer and a granddaughter due in June. She is also survived by a host of dear friends, including Cheryl Zweeres of South Plainfield.

A memorial service to celebrate her life was held on Saturday, May 20 in Silver Spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The National Capitol Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, 2021 K Street NW, Suite 715, Washington DC 20006-1035.

and nephews. Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, P.O. Box 301, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0301.

Kathryn (Lyons) Flaherty, 93

Kathryn (Lyons) Flaherty died on Saturday, May 27 at the Woodlands Genesis Eldercare in Plainfield with her grandson, Walter Jr., at her side.

She retired from Circle Lighting in Somerville and Circle Electric in Plainfield and was past president of the Business and Professional Women's Club of Plainfield. She was also a volunteer at the Villa Maria in North Plainfield and McAuley Hall in Watchung.

Kathryn is predeceased by her first husband, Raymond Thompson, who died in 1971, second husband, Stephen Flaherty, who died in 1985 and by her brother, Harold Lyons.

She leaves behind a son, Walter Thompson, Sr. and his wife Marie; two grandsons, Walter Thompson, Jr. and his wife Lisa and Jeffrey Thompson and his fiancée, Michelle and two great grandsons, Dylan and Shaun. She also leaves behind cherished loved ones, especially Maryann Szymanski and her husband Len, Miriam Warfel and Rita, Michael and Matthew Mullin.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9:15 a.m. at the McCriskin Home For Funerals, followed by a 10 a.m. funeral mass at Sacred Heart Church. Visitation will be held on Friday, 6 to 9 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to McAuley Hall, US Hwy. 22 and Terrill Rd., Watchung, NJ 07060 or to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Ave., 6th Floor, NY 10010.

Rose A. Yannotta, 90

Rose A. Yannotta died on Saturday, May 27 in the Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Plainfield and lived there before moving to South Plainfield in 1965.

Rose was employed as a secretary for Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill before retiring in 1980. She was a graduate of St. Mary Commercial School in Plainfield.

Rose is predeceased by her parents, two brothers, two sisters and one nephew.

She is survived by seven nieces and nephews as well as four great nieces

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Eight Receive Governor's Teacher Recognition

(Continued from page 1)
on May 24.

Mary Carole Bannon has been the school nurse at Kennedy School for 17 years, which is also the total number of her years in education. She is a member of I&RS, which is a committee of staff members who meet regularly to recommend appropriate assistance for students with special needs. Bannon graduated from the Somerset Hospital School of Nursing and received a BS in School Nursing/Health Education from Jersey City State College. She was also a staff assistant head nurse and head nurse in maternal/child health, mainly in labor and delivery, for 30 years. She currently also works at an ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens) summer camp for the handicapped, ages five-65. She is a member of the Middlesex County School Nurse Association and NJEA and is also active in her church organizations. At school she has participated in the JFK Variety Show, which raises money for the Papp/Bogatzes Scholarship Fund.

Maureen Barnett currently teaches fifth grade physical education at Grant Elementary. In the past she has also taught sixth grade health and PE and seventh/eighth grade PE. Barnett has spent her entire 20 year teaching ca-

reer in South Plainfield. She is a graduate of Kean University, with a degree in physical education and health. As varsity girls' tennis coach for 22 years, she has been honored as Coach of the Year. She has also served as Middle School girls' basketball coach for 15 years, assistant softball coach for 10 years, and varsity girls' basketball coach for one year. Other school service includes membership on the PAC and Scheduling committees.

Dorothy Ewing is a previous honoree, having received the Governor's Teacher Recognition award in 1993. She currently teaches the preschool inclusion class, which she co-developed in 2000, and is presently located at the Roosevelt Administration building. She has taught in South Plainfield for 26 years, and earlier was a speech therapist in Belleville for four and a half years. Ewing received her undergraduate degree in Speech, Drama and Speech Therapy from Montclair University and her Preschool certification from Kean. She has also received additional training in the "Tools of the Mind" curriculum, which she introduced to the preschool inclusion class in 2004. Prior to her current position as the preschool inclusion teacher, she also served as team leader and preschool teacher in the Future Stars pro-

gram at Grant School. She was also one of the creators and volunteer teachers of the "Introduction to Kindergarten Preschool Program." This program was started at Franklin School and expanded by Ewing to Grant School. A playground was dedicated to her in 1994 by the Future Stars Parent Group at a ceremony in her honor.

Lenore Kielblock began her career in education 30 years ago and arrived in South Plainfield two years later. She graduated from Trenton State College with a degree in mathematics. In the past she taught at the Middle School, but is currently a member of the Mathematics Department at SPHS where she is team leader. She has also been class advisor and math team advisor there. Kielblock is a member of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ, NEA and NJEA, and is listed in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers."

This is Lori Meyer's fourth year as a teacher. She began her first year teaching fifth grade at Riley and then switched to fourth. She is a graduate of Monmouth University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. She serves as a safety patrol advisor and is a coordinator and facilitator for Riley's

Family Math Program. Meyer is a member of NJEA.

Linda F. Schwebel, the Middle School honoree, has been an educator for 24 years, 16 of them in South Plainfield, where she has been an eighth grade mathematics teacher. She received her undergraduate degree in Mathematics and English from Radford University in Radford, Virginia. Schwebel has also done graduate work at Jersey City State University. She is a member of the New Jersey Association of Mathematics Teachers, and has performed community service as a CCD teacher at St. Helen's Church as well as a volunteer at Children's Specialized Hospital.

Kathleen Simpson has taught fourth grade at Roosevelt School and has been a part of the South Plainfield teaching staff for 14 years. She received degrees from Kean University and Middlesex County College in Elementary Education and English and Early Childhood Education respectively. At Roosevelt she has been a fourth grade team leader, family math instructor, a new teacher mentor and a great books instructor, as well as a member of the leadership, curriculum and sunshine committees. She is also a member of SPEA, NJEA and NEA. Simpson was recently recognized in "Who's Who

of America's Teachers" for 2006.

Marie Stemmler began her teaching career more than 35 years ago, but for the past 28 years has been a member of the Special Education Department in South Plainfield. She previously taught at the High School, Middle School and Kennedy, but lately has been teaching a self-contained special education class at Franklin.

She received her undergraduate degree from Jersey City State College, majoring in Mentally Retarded, General Education, Speech Therapy and Teacher of the Handicapped. She later received a graduate degree from Kean College in Administration and Supervision. Stemmler is a member of several professional organizations including Arc, Council for Exceptional Children, Special Education Parent Association, NJEA and SPEA. She was formerly an SPEA chief building representative. At school she has been a cooperating teacher for college student interns and a member of the Baking (formerly Sunshine) Committee.

At Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church she volunteers on the hospitality committee, working with the homeless and developmentally disabled. Stemmler has been included in "Who's Who of America's Teachers" in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

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police report

- On May 24 a Hinsdale, NH resident reported that the drivers side window of their vehicle had been smashed and a Garmin GPS unit was taken.
- On May 25 August Bennett, 28, of Maywood was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and two outstanding warrants.
- Leslie Ann Hill, 40, of Somerset was arrested at Best Western for hindering apprehension.
- On May 28 Donald R. Crudup, 50, of Newark was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- On May 27 a Hudson St. resident reported that their house had been shot with paint balls.
- On May 28 Vijay Harkindes Patel, 41, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, speeding and failure to comply.
- Jazmin N. Haskett, 25, of South Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended

- license and an outstanding warrant.
- Sean A. Hitchman, 20, of Somerset was arrested for resisting arrest, careless driving and two outstanding warrants.
- Oscar Mauricio Perez-Andrade, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated.
- On May 29 Charles Carrington Bowles, 28, of Edison was arrested for no insurance, no registration and an outstanding warrant.
- Christian Dewitt Washington, 19, of Richmond, VA was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- Wayne Fredrick White, 38, of South Plainfield was arrested for obstruction of the administration of the law and four outstanding warrants.
- A Brennan Ct. resident reported the theft of a 2002 Honda motorcycle that was parked in the street.
- A Fairmount Ave. resident reported the windshield of their vehicle had been cracked.

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Memorial Day Services Honor Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice

On Monday South Plainfield residents, including many veterans, attended the annual Memorial Day ceremonies sponsored by the American Legion and VFW. They were there to pay homage to the members of the armed forces who have served, were wounded or died in the numerous

wars our country has fought during our short history. Memorial Day, once called Decoration Day, was designated as a day to decorate the graves of veterans from all of the branches of the service. The day has since been renamed Memorial Day.



The following letter was sent to Commander Rudy Poczak, of the VFW Memorial Post #6763. Along with the letter was a check in the amount of \$100.

An Open Letter to the VFW:

On September 28, 1950, when Seoul was liberated by the U.S. 7th Infantry and the U.S. Marines, I was 19 years old. During 90 days under communist army and party control, from June 28 through September 28, I was hiding from them. It was the worst memory of my entire lifetime. My life was saved by unknown American soldier's sacrifice and bloodshed.

November of that year, I joined the ROK Army. I served 18 years thereafter. Three times during the Vietnam War period in the years 1965-1967 I participated in the combined U.S. Korean Special Forces field exercises. I retired in 1968 as an army captain.

Now I am a naturalized U.S. citizen. I would like to support the local VFW chapter annually from now on to express my gratitude for those who dedicated their lives for the noble cause.

Many thanks to Commander Rudy Poczak for allowing me to have this wonderful opportunity. God bless you all, my wartime buddies!

TRULY YOURS, WON YOO

Monday's services began at the VFW with the chaplain reading an opening prayer, followed by the *Star Spangled Banner* sung by the South Plainfield High School Chorus. Rudy Poczak welcomed everyone and introduced Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Dan Gallagher and other dignitaries who attended the ceremonies. A wreath was placed in front of the VFW flag pole, *Taps* was played as well as a gun salute before the group proceeded to the three cemeteries in town and ending in Veterans Memorial Park. At each cemetery wreaths were placed, a prayer was read, "Taps" was played and a gun salute took place.

The closing ceremonies took place at the American Legion Post on Oak Tree Ave., where another wreath was laid and several guest speakers were heard.

The South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir ended the ceremonies by singing an inspiring rendition of the "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The ceremonies concluded with a lunch prepared by members of the American Legion.



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