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South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 22

50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 2, 2007

Tigers Claim 4th Consecutive GMC Title!

By Bob Hunter

The high school wrestling team made it four in a row this past weekend when they set themselves apart from the field after the semi-final round, by sending six Tiger wrestlers to the finals at the GMC, where they went 6 for 6. South Plainfield finished with 240.5 points, with Old Bridge coming in a distant second with 183.5 and JFK third with 158.

Leading the way for the Tigers by winning titles were Nick Heilmann 103, Patrick Hunter 112, Bryan Hunt 130, Billy Ashnault 135, Mike Jakubik 145 and Mark Wagner 160 who won

Outstanding Wrestler for the upper weights. Jonathan Conroy 171 and Preston Johnson 215 finished in the third place while Nick Dorey 140 and Sam Martin 152 each finished in fourth place and Danny Pompilio 189 finished fifth.

Nick Heilmann 103, the number three seed, got the Tigers going when he scored the first three takedowns on Tom Hogan of JFK. Heilmann cruised to a 7-4 decision for the first championship of the day. Heilmann is now 25-1 on the season.

Patrick Hunter 112, the number one seed, won his second consecutive GMC title with a 5-1 decision over

Mikey FrancoBandiero of Edison. Hunter scored the first two takedowns and added an escape point for the win. Hunter also won his 100th career win with a fall over Jairo Benal of Perth Amboy at 2:00 in semi-final round action. Hunter is 26-0 on the season.

Bryan Hunt 130, who placed third at last year's tournament, turned up the heat as the number one seed coasted to a 6-0 decision over AJ Hrabar of Piscataway. Hunt scored two takedowns and a reversal to claim his first GMC title. Hunt is 18-8 for the year.

Billy Ashnault 135, the top seed, was on a mission to secure his first

GMC title after reaching the finals the first three years. Ashnault wasted little time as he quickly took down Ramon Santiago of Sayerville. He pinned Santiago at the 2:50 mark for the win. Ashnault was dominant as he pinned his way through the tournament. Billy is now 24-2 on the season.

Mike Jakubik 145 won his second GMC with a 9-3 decision over Brandon Swift of Edison. Jakubik dominated Swift on his feet scoring four takedowns. Jakubik also had two pins to reach the finals. Jakubik is now 20-6 on the year.

Mark Wagner 160 won his first GMC title in convincing fashion when

he upset number one seed Michael Knight of Sayerville 7-2. Wagner scored a takedown in each period and added an escape to secure the win. In the semi-finals Wagner defeated last year's 152-pound champion Craig Batista of Woodbridge to advance to the finals. Wagner was also named Outstanding Wrestler in the upper weights. Wagner is now 21-1 on the season.

Nick Dorey 140 won his 100th career victory in the quarter-finals when he decisioned Will Buchan of Woodbridge 5-0 to reach the milestone.

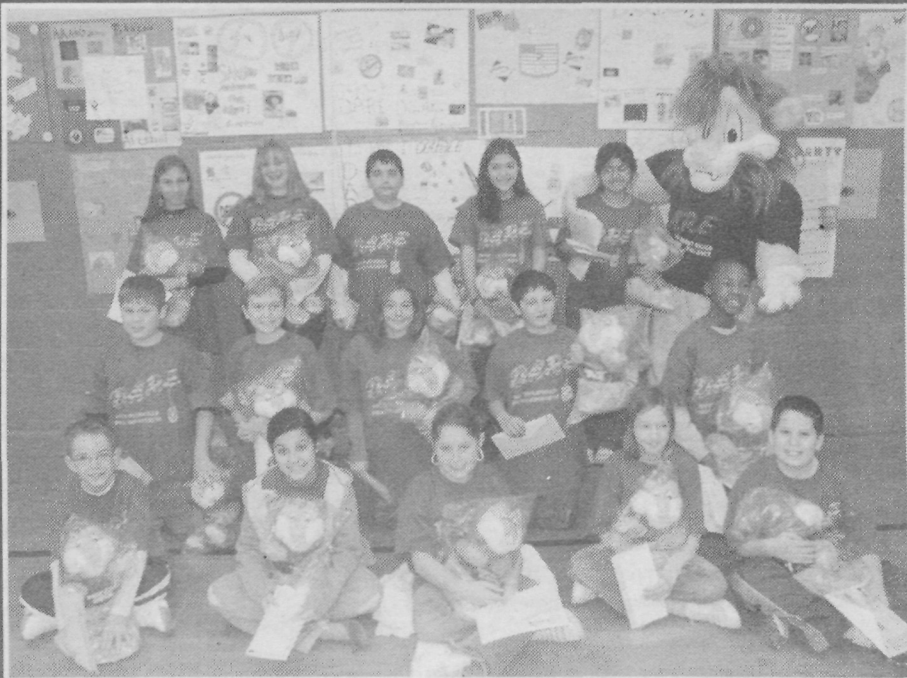
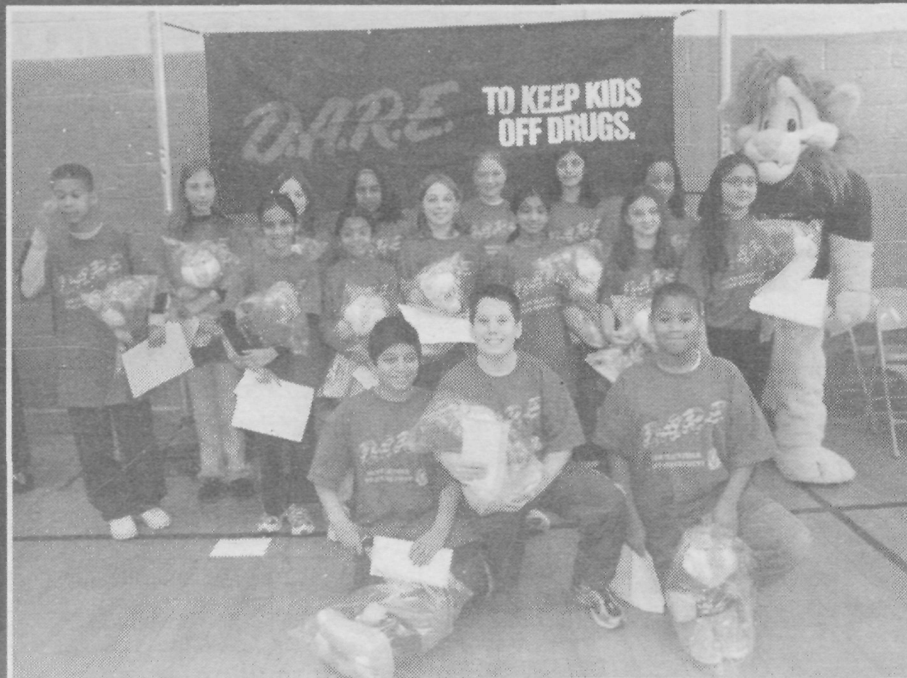
Congratulations to the coaches and wrestlers for a job well done.

D.A.R.E.

Annual police-sponsored program drug abuse awareness program boasts 304 graduates



South Plainfield Police Chief John Ferraro, Officer Alan LaMonda, and Daren the Lion with the Sacred Heart School poster and essay contest winners. Pictured at right are the Sacred Heart School 2007 DARE graduates.



Grant Elementary School DARE essay and poster contest winners (above, left and right). For DARE story and additional photos, see pages 6 and 7.



The Borough Council meeting will be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

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
February 6	7 p.m.	Immediately following
February 20	7 pm.	Immediately following

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

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

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

Feb. 8 and 22, Mar. 8 and 22, Apr. 12 and 26, May 10 and 24, June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 1 and 29 and Dec. 13.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-Feb. 14, March 14 and March 28.

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-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.

Feb. 20, Mar. 20, Apr. 17, May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

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

Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, July and August: No scheduled meeting

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

traffic safety advisory commission

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.

Residents of South Plainfield:

On Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006, our father, Edward A. Niemczyk, suddenly passed away in his home. He was a lifelong resident of South Plainfield and known by many in the town for his involvement in little league baseball, recreation programs, the recreation basketball league, the PAL building, Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, the South Plainfield Polish Home and his 47 years of employment with Harris Structural Steel of South Plainfield.



Ed Niemczyk

Viewing services were graciously arranged to be held at the PAL building to honor our father for his many years of youth involvement. The cooperation of the South Plainfield Recreation Department, the Police Athletic League and McCrisky Home For Funerals allowed family and friends of Ed Niemczyk to pay their final respects at the most appropriate location for our Dad.

A special thank you is extended to Director of Recreation Kevin Hughes, Bill Haus, Bob Boyle and Pete Rachwal of the recreation department for their efforts and time helping with our father's funeral services. Additionally, we would like to extend a special thank you to Chris Colucci, president of the Police Athletic League, for allowing our family to have the funeral services at the PAL building and to Jim Gustafson of McCrisky Home For Funerals for coordinating the services.

Special thanks go to the South Plainfield Police Department for their escort from the PAL building to the church and to Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

The last thank you is extended to the hundreds of friends and family members who said their final good byes to our father in his final days at the PAL building.

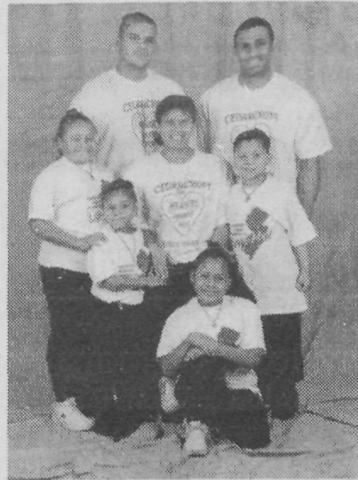
The family has established a memorial fund in our father's name which will offer an annual scholarship to a deserving South Plainfield High School graduating senior. Memorial donations can be sent to the Edward A. Niemczyk Memorial Fund, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

**SINCERELY,
THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
OF EDWARD A. NIEMCZYK**

To the Editor:

You were caught being extra special!

I would just like to thank all of the South Plainfield school staff, recreation PAL sport coaches, Pop Warner, junior baseball, ponytail softball and the South Plainfield Library staff for everything they do. Not only their



jobs, but the extra things they do and say to our children. I could not write them all down—there are so many—from the high fives, to tying the kids shoes. I just want to let you know I notice and appreciate it all. It's a wonderful thing to see you treat all the children as if they are your own. It's a hard job; many are volunteers. You make the experience perfect for the children by being so kind and caring. I have been involved in all of these activities for 20 years now and this is something South Plainfield can be proud of. As a mother of six, I appreciate all you do! It makes my life so much easier to enjoy.

**SINCERELY, DIANE PENDER,
PROUD AND GRATEFUL MOM OF
DOMINIQUE JR., THOMAS,
DIAMOND, DIANA, DION, DIVON**

A World of Thanks....

Thank you! These two small words can't begin to express my gratitude to everyone who sent flowers, cards, fruit or offered prayers and support during my recovery. I truly believe the outpouring by all of you helped me get through a very difficult time. You have all confirmed my feelings about South Plainfield. It is still the best place in the world to live and raise a family.

I would like to thank the police and rescue squad for being there in my time of need. I also want to thank the nurses at Muhlenberg Hospital, both in the emergency room and on the fifth floor, for their dedication and kindness.

A special thank you to my staff at the South Plainfield Observer. I don't know how to begin to express my thanks for all you did. Sue Kaneps, Jane Dornick and Jean Fultz, along with Patricia Abbott and Libby Barsky,

banded together to fill the void. Together they worked long hours, covering and reporting on the various meetings I usually attended, and they published an Observer each week during my absence. They all did a great job and I will be forever grateful to each of them.

Thank you to all of my family, who were there for me each and every day. Your love and support were the bright lights during my darkest hours. To my husband, Wayne, who stepped up to the plate during my two accidents, I can only say, I love you. You were forced to endure so much as you took

on the responsibilities of helping me recover. Your daily newsletter also helped keep everyone updated on my condition. (Wayne, I know I owe you hundreds of chits.)

I am now on the road to recovery and back to work part time. I am facing a great deal of physical therapy before I am fully recovered and I look forward to that day.

Again, I thank all for the kindness and concern. I hope that someday I can repay all of you with the same kindness and love you showed me.

**NANCY GRENNIER, PUBLISHER
SOUTH PLAINFIELD OBSERVER**



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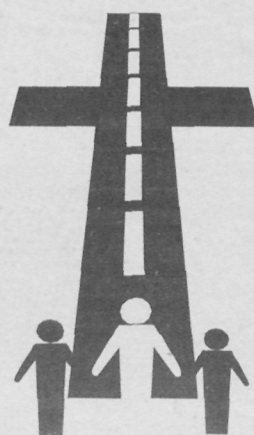
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11:00 am Worship Celebration

For more information,
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The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

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(under construction)

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

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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week, by G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. POSTMASTER: Forward change of address orders to G&G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$25 per year in South Plainfield; \$30 per year out of town. To subscribe: 908-668-0010.

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.

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 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.

Car Flips, Leaves Piscataway Man Critical

The South Plainfield Fire Dept. was called to extricate a man from a flipped over vehicle on Coolidge St. early Sunday morning.

The driver, Darryl Quinio, 27, of Piscataway, was traveling northbound when, according to authorities, his 1994 Buick Regal went off the road into a wooded area, sideswiped a small

tree and became airborne. The car then traveled across a drainage culvert, struck another tree, overturned and landed upside down in the water, which was about 18 inches deep. A bicyclist noticed the vehicle and called the South Plainfield Police Dept. at approximately 11:45 a.m., but it is believed that the victim had been there

for several hours.

Quinio was treated by Mercy 6 and transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital with serious head and neck injuries. Anyone with additional information about the accident is asked to contact Lt. Kevin Murtagh at (908) 226-7679.

Knights to Hold Annual Lenten Fish Dinners

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring the annual Lenten Fish Dinners on Friday, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Dinners will be served in the Sac-

red Heart School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave., 5 to 7 p.m.

The menu will feature filet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan) cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf,

french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

For more information call the Parish Center, (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or Tony Moskal at (732) 727-4841.

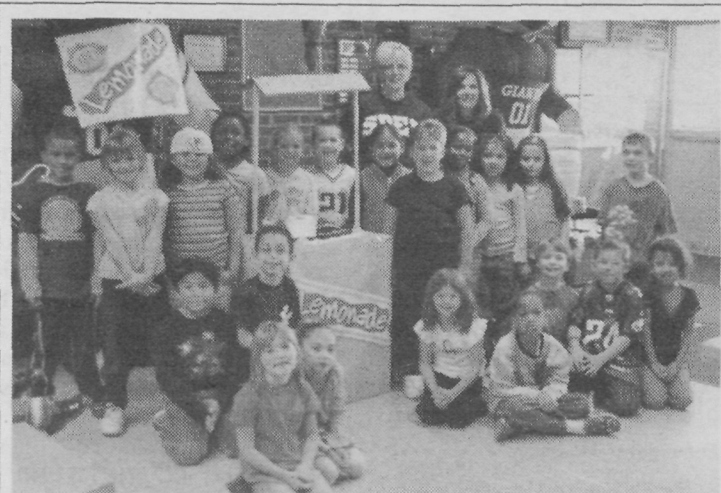
Students Get Technology Lesson At Lucent Visit

A select group of eighth grade Middle School Science AE students visited Alcatel-Lucent Technologies in Murray Hill. The group, along with teacher Dana Marotto, toured a museum containing Bell Laboratory memorabilia and made engravings of the Statue of Liberty on gold and chromium silicon wafers.

"It was interesting to see the variety of nationalities employed there. We were able to stand in the room where the first transistor was invented. I look forward to other fun science activities throughout the rest of the year," said student Patrick Landy.

Lucent is best known for their invention of the transistor and is currently one of the top global providers of communication technology.

Marotto said, "This was the best trip I have ever been on. Students had fun 'doing' science and working alongside five doctored scientists. It opened their minds to technology careers."



Riley School Second Graders Learn How to "Run" a Business

After reading a story about a group of boys and girls selling lemonade to raise money to build a clubhouse, Linda Elster's second grade class decided to give the idea a try. The children, with the help of Alicia Torchia, built a lemonade stand. During the November parent/teacher conferences, the second graders, along with Mrs. Elster and Mrs. Torchia, made lemonade and sold it to students at Riley School during snack time. The money raised was donated to the Riley School PTSO scholarship fund. Not only did the class have fun making and selling the lemonade, they learned a valuable lesson in how working together can accomplish a common goal.

Assembly to Honor Scarlet Knights' Historic Season

The NJ State Assembly passed legislation sponsored by assembly members Upenda Chivukula, Craig Stanley, Patrick Diegnan, John Urzichelli and Jeff Van Drew to honor the Rutgers football program.

The Scarlet Knights finished their 2006 season with an 11-2 record and

a big win over Kansas State in the Texas Bowl, the first bowl victory in the school's 137 year history.

"New Jersey couldn't have been more pleased for the university, fans and student athletes with the outcome of this record setting season," said Chivukula (D-Somerset).

The resolution (AR-23) was the assembly's official recognition of the team's excellent season.

"The young Scarlet Knights impressed nationally televised audiences with their skill, determination and heart," said Stanley (D-Essex).

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, that's one month down in 2007 (though you're probably still writing "2006" on your checks), and now it's February, and soon we'll be celebrating a saint and two presidents. Right now, though, it's time for more news from the library (maybe not a cause for celebration, but a good thing nonetheless).

Next week, we'll stay with our usual slate of children's programs. Our "Storytime" programs for children age three and over are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. "Time for 2's & 3's," for children age two and three, is held on Wednesday morning at 10:30 and twice on Thursday, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. And "Books 'N' Babies," for children under age three, is held on Friday morning at 10:30. Each program lasts about an hour; no pre-registration required. For further details, please call and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

Here's advance word about an upcoming program. Author Angelo Saverino will appear at the library on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. In addition to his writing career, Saverino is also an actor and operates a sports representation agency with clients in both baseball and football. He'll be speaking about his life and career. Copies of his latest book, "The Heart of the Order," will be available for purchase and signing. We're presenting this program free of charge; no pre-registration is required. For more information on Saverino, please visit his website at www.angelo.saverino.com.

This column isn't usually printed

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Win Dinner for Two complete with a
Dozen Long-Stemmed Roses
& a Box of Chocolates

Deadline for
entries is 2/9/07
Drawing to take
place 2/10/07.

Enter by filling
out an entry form at
either location!

No purchase necessary.
Only one entry per person.

Dinner will include:

~Appetizer~
Antipasto tray-Mozzarella,
provolone, genoa & hard salami,
pepperoni, olives, tomatoes & peppers
~Main Course~
Chicken Picatta & Angel Hair Pasta
~Dessert~
Chocolate Mouse Pie

Winner will be notified by phone and can
receive prize on Valentine's Day or following Saturday.



Feature Home

Nice split level located in a wonderful neighborhood, all with-in walking distance to schools and park. Offers 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, garage and a large yard with an addition that is perfect for extended families. Home needs some tender loving care but a true value you can't pass up. Asking \$399,000.



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Around Town

Super Bowl "Lucky Football" Breakfast

February 4

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 will host a Lucky Football Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 8-11 a.m. Find the lucky football and win two free breakfasts. The cost is \$5 per person. Public welcome.

Music Boosters Meeting

February 7

The SPHS Music Boosters will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. in the Chorus Room. All chorus, band and orchestra parents are welcome to attend. The Hershey fundraiser is still in progress, so get your candy to sell! Also, don't forget to sell tickets for the Outback Steak House fundraiser. Help raise money for the student's expenses!

Knights of Columbus Italian Dinner

February 9

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus is sponsoring their annual "Don't Cook on Friday" Italian Dinner on Friday, Feb. 9 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. from 4 to 7:30 p.m. The price is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$4 for children under 12. Dinner includes pasta, sausage, meatballs, salad, bread and dessert with coffee or tea. All proceeds benefit the Knights of Columbus local charities fund. Please come out, have a delicious meal and support this worthy cause.

For more information, contact Bill Butrico at (908) 561-8128.

Kennedy School Dinner and Bingo

February 9

Kennedy School will hold a scoop dinner and candy bar bingo night on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.; seniors welcome 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Candy Bar Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Cost is 25 cents a scoop.

Anyone willing to volunteer to make a dish, call Jill Quadrel (908) 227-4060.

Rescheduled: Stokes Pasta Dinner

February 15

A little bit of Italy in South Plainfield! Please join us for a delicious pasta dinner at Grant Elementary School on Thursday, Feb. 15. Doors open to seniors at 5 p.m.; general public from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Raffle baskets and other surprises! Seniors \$5, adults \$7, children 11 and under \$5. Dessert

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

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

What's happening in FEBRUARY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS <i>Trip to Taj Mahal in Atlantic City February 7</i> <i>Trip to Claridge in Atlantic City February 22</i>				Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am Board Meeting 4:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am	Aerobics 8:45am Taj Mahal Trip 9am Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1 pm Crocheting 1 pm Tai Chi 2 pm	Pathmark Shopping 9 am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am, 11am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm	Bingo 10am-2pm Lunch Available
5	6	7	8	9

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

included; dinners to go available.

Purchase tickets in advance by calling Tree Olano at (908) 412-1757.

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinners

February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on Friday, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Dinners will be served in the Sacred Heart School cafeteria, 149 South Plainfield Ave. from 5 to 7 p.m. The menu will feature filet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan) cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza; fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, french fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea, or cold drink, plus dessert.

For more information please call the Parish Center at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10 or Tony Moskal at (732) 727-4841.

Actor/Writer Saverino to Speak at Library

February 25

Author Angelo Saverino will speak at the South Plainfield Library on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m.

In addition to his writing career, Saverino is also an actor with experience in film, television and theater. Saverino will speak about his life and career. Copies of his latest book, the autobiography "The Heart of the Order," will be available for purchase and signing.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. For information about Saverino, visit his website at www.angelosaverino.com.

— Out of Town —

Blackrose to Perform

February 3

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at Rugs and Riffy's, located in Woodbridge on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

NAACP Celebrates Black History Month

February 3

The NAACP Metuchen-Edison Area Branch celebrates Black History month with the 31st Annual Freedom Fund Awards on Saturday, Feb. 3, at Graycliff in Moonachie at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and awards ceremony. Tickets for this black-tie affair are \$75. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 and door prizes.

For information call Monique Brice at (908) 561-9539.

Paper Mill "Summer and Smoke"

Through February 11

"Summer and Smoke" will play through Feb. 11. Single tickets on sale from \$19 to \$68. Student rush tickets are \$16 and available the day of performance with current student ID.

Purchase tickets by calling (973) 376-4343.

Advertise every week in the Observer.
Call 908-668-0010.

Stewardship Symposium

February 3

The Diocese of Metuchen will host a Stewardship Symposium on Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway beginning with morning prayer at 9 a.m., including a hot buffet brunch.

There is no fee. To register, call (732) 562-2432.

Paper Mill Auditions

February 3 and 10

Paper Mill Playhouse will hold auditions for the 2007 Summer Musical Theatre programs on Saturday, Feb. 3 and 10, at Millburn Middle School in Millburn. Call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2133, to schedule an appointment. Visit www.papermill.org for audition guidelines and other information.

Monday Afternoon Club Meeting

February 5

The Monday Afternoon Club will present Feather Schwartz Foster, author of "Garfield's Train" at their meeting on Monday, Feb 5, at 2 p.m. in the Guild Room of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield. Tea and refreshments will follow the program. All are invited to attend.

For more information call Millie Colley at (908) 756-3476 or Margie Messemer at (908) 322-9504.

Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

February 5

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center in Carteret. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers invited to attend.

For more information contact Lou at (732) 969-2228 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

JFVS Workshop

February 6

The Women's Center at Jewish Family and Vocational Service (JFVS) of Middlesex County is hosting a free workshop for women on "Developing a Spending Plan" on Wednesday, Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. This workshop is open to all women interested in learning how to take control of their finances. Light refreshments will be provided.

Registration required; contact Noreen Noel at (732) 777-1940.

MCRCC Seminar

February 6

The Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Development Center presents "How to Survive When Your Business Faces a Crisis" on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

For more information call (732) 821-1700, email info@mcrcc.org or visit www.mcrcc.org/.

Metuchen Women's Club Meeting

February 7

The Metuchen Edison Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m., at The Heritage at Clara Barton, 1015 in Edison. The program, Master of Mind Power, will be presented by Flavian. Guests welcome. Light refreshments will be served. For information, contact Diana at (732) 548-0925.

Basket Bingo/Raffle

February 9

Come out for an evening of fun at St. Helena's HSA on Friday, Feb. 9, for a Longaberger Basket Bingo and Raffle night. Doors open at 6 p.m.; bingo starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission \$15.

For tickets call (732) 735-2364.

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SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it is impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Electronic photos should be 150 dpi or higher

HOW TO CONTACT US. By mail: 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080; By phone: 908-668-0010; By fax: 908-668-8819; By email: spobserver@comcast.net.

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High School, College Students Sought For County Youth Conservation Corps

Applications are being accepted for the Middlesex County Youth Conservation Corps, whose mission is "to protect and preserve natural areas from misuse, polluters and the forces of nature" at the more than 6,000 acres of Open Space owned and maintained by Middlesex County.

Conservation Corps crew members earn \$8.50 per hour and will work Saturdays from March 24 to June 16. Work will take place primarily at the 1,700-acre John A. Phillips Preserve in Old Bridge, although projects are planned at other county open spaces. High school and college students are encouraged to apply.

Spring activities include reforestation projects, trail building, litter clean-up, brush removal and wildlife habitat improvements. Applicants should be enthusiastic, self motivated and willing to work and learn as a part of a team. Additional qualifications include the capacity to walk several miles and stand for extended periods of time, willingness to get dirty and work outdoors in various weather conditions and the ability to

use a variety of hand tools.

Spaces are limited. Applicants should send a cover letter and application for employment to Rick Lear, Middlesex County Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 661, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. Applications can be downloaded at www.co.middlesex.nj.us/personnel/index.asp. Deadline to submit applications is Feb. 19.

For information or to obtain a complete job description and application, contact Rick Lear at the Middlesex County Parks and Recreation Department, (732) 745-5988.

Red Hat Society Holds "Roaring Twenties" Brunch



Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Red Hat Society members.

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, in conjunction with the Red Hat Society, held a "Roaring 20's" brunch on Jan. 27 at their council hall.

The Knights served the Red Hat ladies a full course breakfast. Upon finishing their breakfast, the Red Hat ladies watched the classic movie, "Some Like it Hot," starring Tony Curtis, Jack Lemon and Marilyn Monroe. More than 100 ladies from

South Plainfield, Dunellen and other local towns attended in their 1920's clothing.

All proceeds from this event will go towards the Knights of Columbus charity and building fund.

The event was chaired by Past Grand Knight Joe Scrudato, Deputy Grand Knight Billy Butrico and Queen Bee Bernadette Barraso, with the help of many Knights of Columbus members.



Kenneth Krystopik, Jr. and Lisa Marie Wilkes.

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Wilkes Announce Engagement

Joanna and Robert Wilkes of Colonia have announced the engagement of their daughter, Lisa Marie, to Kenneth Krystopik, Jr., son of Susan and the late Kenneth Krystopik, Sr. of South Plainfield.

Lisa Marie graduated from Colonia High School in 1995. She is

employed by Modern Handling Equipment of New Jersey.

Her fiancé graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1995 and is currently employed by KLK Trucking in South Plainfield.

The wedding will take place in October of 2007.

Corner Deli, Mohn's Partner To Sweeten Your Valentine's Day



The Corner Deli and Mohn's Florist are partnering to present a free Valentine's Day raffle.

Enter to win a dinner for two, complete with a dozen long stem roses and a box of chocolates! Fill out an entry form available at either location.

Winner will also receive a dinner that will include an appetizer—an antipasto tray of mozzarella, provolone, genoa and hard salami, pepperoni, olives, tomatoes and peppers. The main course will be chicken piccata and angel hair pasta. Dessert is chocolate mousse pie.

The winner will also receive a dozen long stem roses beautifully arranged and a box of chocolates. The prize will be delivered to the lucky winner!

The deadline for entries is Feb. 9. Drawing takes place Feb. 10. Winner will be notified by phone and can choose to receive their prize on Valentine's Day or the following Saturday. No purchase necessary.

police report

- On Jan. 23, Ravinder Singh, 32, of Randallstown, Md. was arrested for speeding and an outstanding warrant.

- Dana L. Acree, 32, of Plainfield was arrested for eluding an officer, maintenance of lamps, reckless driving and speeding.

- On Jan. 24, Timothy P. Blue, 38, of Newark was arrested for hindering apprehension and several outstanding warrants.

- Karla J. Battle, 49, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

- An employee of New Millenium Research on Davis St. reported a glass window block on the front of the building had been smashed.

- On Jan. 25, a So. Plainfield Ave. resident reported the theft of a bike from their unlocked basement.

- On Jan. 26, Barry Holmes, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, driving on a restricted road and two outstanding warrants.

- On Jan. 27, Christopher Stephen Trawick, 22, of South Plainfield was arrested for obstruction and an outstanding warrant.

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Congratulations Anthony!!!

2006 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Anthony Muccigrossi, pictured with his mom, Gina; his dad, Gary and grandmothers Margaret Muccigrossi and Kathleen Ferraro.

Grant Fifth Graders *DARE* to Avoid Illegal Drug Use

By Jane Dornick

During its tenure in both the South Plainfield school system and Sacred Heart School, the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program has graduated nearly 4,500 street-wise youngsters. The program is taught to fifth grade students by specially trained South Plainfield Police DARE Officers Al LaMonda and Dave Franchak. They spend 17 weeks of one-hour classes preparing them with the skills they need to avoid negative influences, focus on their strengths and potential and to live drug and violence free lives.

A graduation ceremony for Grant Elementary School students was held on Jan. 23 in the gym. The event always brings out borough officials, school administrators and members of the police department to show their support. Those attending were Mayor Charlie Butrico, Borough Council members Kathy Thomas, Matt Anesh and Dennis Cerami, Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado and Asst. Superintendent Kaye Crown, Police Chief John Ferraro,

Capt. Paul Brembt and Lt. Ray Jazikoff. The DARE officers also invited several sponsors of the programs as guests including Our Town Deli owner Bob Ward, Physical Therapy Center owner Ron Sward and Art Sabino representing the Elks Lodge.

As a final project, students are required to write an essay and create a poster based on what they have learned. Without regard to the students names, one winner in each category is chosen from each class by the officers. Winning essay writers had the opportunity to read their work at the graduation. The posters were displayed on the gymnasium walls for viewing. The poster winners were Jordan Lackey, Ryan Harris, Amberlee Adams, Kaitlyn Sheedy, Luis Santos, Ryan Temple, Cody Decker, Natasha Jani, Austin Daly, Raymond Jazikoff, Daisy Castro, Michelle Keane, Brianna Swanson, Jennalee Jenkin and Carly Kensey. Essay winners were Layne Cribb, Lenae Mondesir, Meghna Mendu, Malcolm Keith, Anjali Patel, Taylor Donato, Kate McLaughlin, Christina Montgomery,

Malina Mohtadi, Maria Funes, Abhi Borad, Vincent Gray, Nina Bavosa, Jenalee Jenkin and Sabershah Syed.

Officers Dave Franchak and Al LaMonda would like to recognize and thank the following people for their continued support in making the DARE program a success each year: Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, Mayor Charlie Butrico and former Mayor Dan Gallagher, Council members Dennis Cerami, Matt Anesh, Rob Bengivenga, Ray Petronko, Joe Scrudato and Kathy Thomas, Regal Cinema Manager William Cintron, Our Town Deli owner Bob Ward, Court Administrator Pat Vargo, Elks Lodge #2298, Hall's Warehouse owners Bruce, William and Dale Jayne, Chief John Ferraro, Captains Robert Barone and Paul Brembt and Lt. Charles Siedenburgh. Also, thank you to Jeff Kertes for dressing up as the DARE mascot, Daren the Lion, who is a big favorite with the youngsters. All graduates are invited to attend a special picnic at the South Plainfield Community Pool in June.



Police-Sponsored Program Help Kids Say No to Drugs

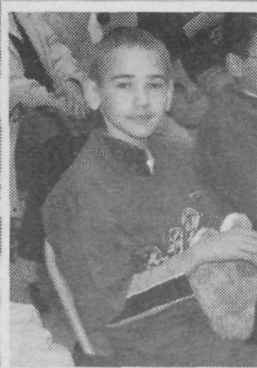
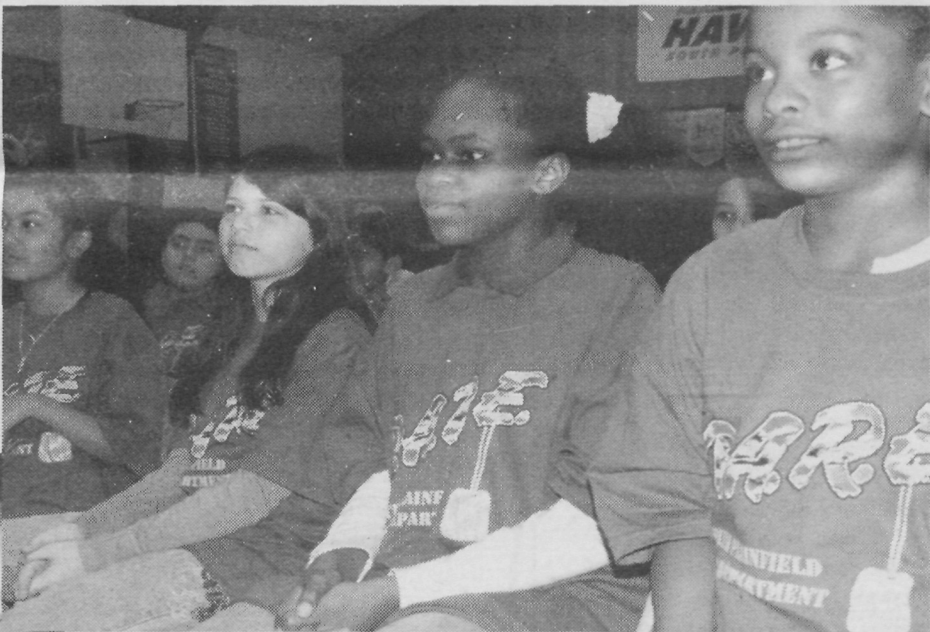
Sacred Heart School held their DARE graduation for 29 fifth grade students on Jan. 24 in the gymnasium. South Plainfield DARE Police Officers Al LaMonda and Dave Franchak teach the DARE program to students at the school one day a week.

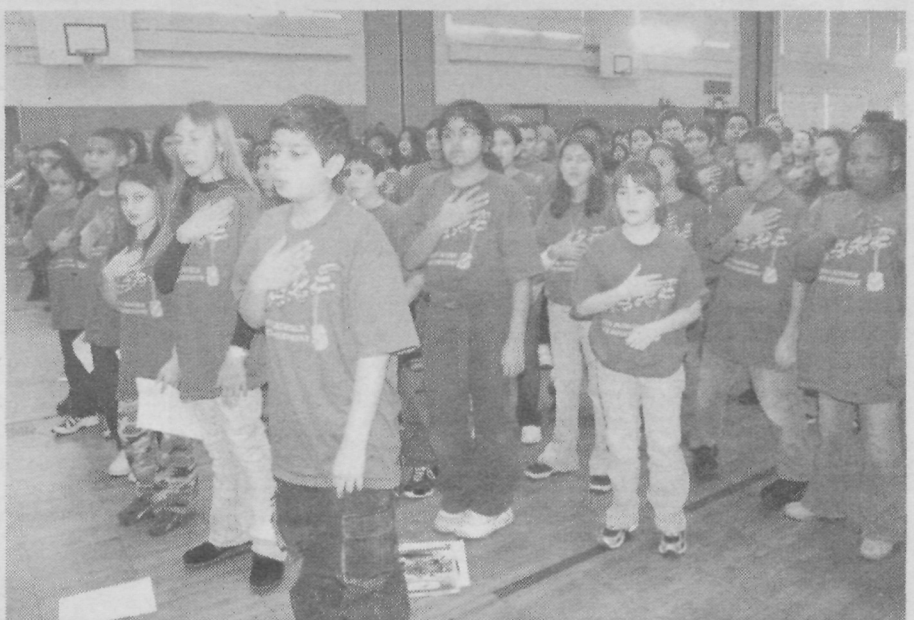
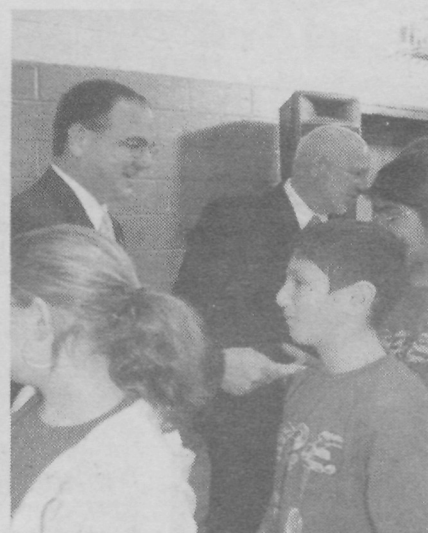
Attending the ceremony were Mayor Charlie Butrico, Borough Council members Rob Bengivenga and Kathy Thomas, Police Chief John Ferraro and Capt. Paul Brembt, Borough

Court Administrator Pat Vargo, and Bob Ward, owner of Our Town Deli, who donates to the DARE program throughout the year, as well as DARE mascot, Daren the Lion, played by Jeff Kertes. Officer LaMonda noted that Councilman Bengivenga was among his first class of DARE graduates 16 years ago.

The graduates are Megan Amirault, Rose Bach, Patrick Bogart, Laura Boyce, Richard Buckley, Anna Caruso, Matthew Ciandella, Juliana Degutis,

Devine Eke, Idris Erinjogunola, John Fee, Erick Garcia, Catherine Gbogi, Shaney Gibbs, Rugayyah Hicks, Sabrina Inigo, Iyanea Joyner, Alexander LeGrand, Mia Mathis, Brandon Ozbalik, Allyson Piersanti, Elijah Ridley, Kerri Salvatore, Jessica Thomas, Dylan Thompson, Aryanna Torres, Michael Vella, James West and Arthur Wright. The winner of the essay contest was Matthew Ciandella and the poster contest winner was Dylan Thompson.





304 Say 'No' to Drugs

Grant School DARE Graduates Pledge To Honor Commitment

And the DARE graduates are:

Sara Abdeljaber, Bryant Acosta, Amberlee Adams, Amberlee Adams, Robert Adams, Jared Agee, Dionne Agnew, Aspen Akunne, Courtney Allocco, Brianna Aponte, Oscar Arboleda, Melissa Arguello, Shawn Bangaroo, Josselin Barahona, Dante Barden-Lowery, Cameron Bashner, Claudia Bashner, Nina Bavosa, Issac Behne, Otonye Benjamin, Colin Berry, Jessica Bishop, Jonathan Black, James Boettcher, Jamie Bohn, Kaitlyn Bonanno, Abhilasha Borad, Alexandra Bosse, Hydeia Bradley, Christopher Brechka, Nora Bruno, Najee Brunson, Christopher Burton, Kristiana Buschan, Adam Butrico and Charles Butrico.

Lukas Cabanas, Kristen Calderoni, Renee Callanan, Breanna Calvin, Stania Calvin, Paul Cano IV, Danielle Caruso, Jennifer Alfaro Castillo, Daisy Castro, Jenna Chabok, Pamela Castro Chacon, Valentina Castro Chacon, Ryan Chadwick, Malik Cisson, Maria Coreas, Efrén Correa, Kimberly Corsino, Taylor Crews, Layne Cribb, Javier Cruz, Sean Cullen, Garrett Cusick and Crystal Custodio.

Austin Daly, Katreen Darwish, Leanna Dass, Adam Daubert, John Gilbert DeLaCruz, Nikole DeSclafani, Mitchell Dean, Cody Decker, Xavier

Deida, Conal Delaney, Joseph Demico, Amanda Dolan, Taylor Donato, Uyen-Vi Dong, Amanda Driscoll, James DuHamel, Shenne Dugtong, Robert Eggert and Joshua Eghelshi.

Bhrianna Farmer, Nicholas Fasullo, Kaitlyn Faustini, Talia Ferrigno, Sean Flanagan, Natalie Fontana, Christopher Fowles, Andrew Franco, Marques Franco, Yubini Fuentes, Maria Funes, Antonio Garcia, Luigi Gerardi, Malik Gilmore, Thomas Ginda, Alyssa Gómez, Carlee González, Vincent Gray III, Jonathan Grennier, Matthew Gruver and Subham Guha.

Ryan Harris, Joseph Hart, Jonathan Heilman, Sabrina Hemming, Lauren Hill, Haley Hlavka, Glenn Hollaway, Erika Holtermann, Peter Horvath, Jenna Howarth, Michael Huber, Kaitlyn Hughes, Shannon Hughes, Matthew Hurst, Christy Itwaru, Shawn Itwaru and Eric Ivaniuc.

Tara Jackson, Natasha Jani, Zachary Janiszewski, Taylor Jankoski, Ania Januszko, Veronika Jastrzebski, Raymond Jazikoff, Jenalee Jenkin, Gabriella Jimenez, Jarad Jirari, Shanequa Johnson, Brandi Jones, Roweena Kanj, Michelle Keane, Journey Keats, Malcolm Keith, Alyssa Kelly, Carly Kensey, Carolyn Kowalski and

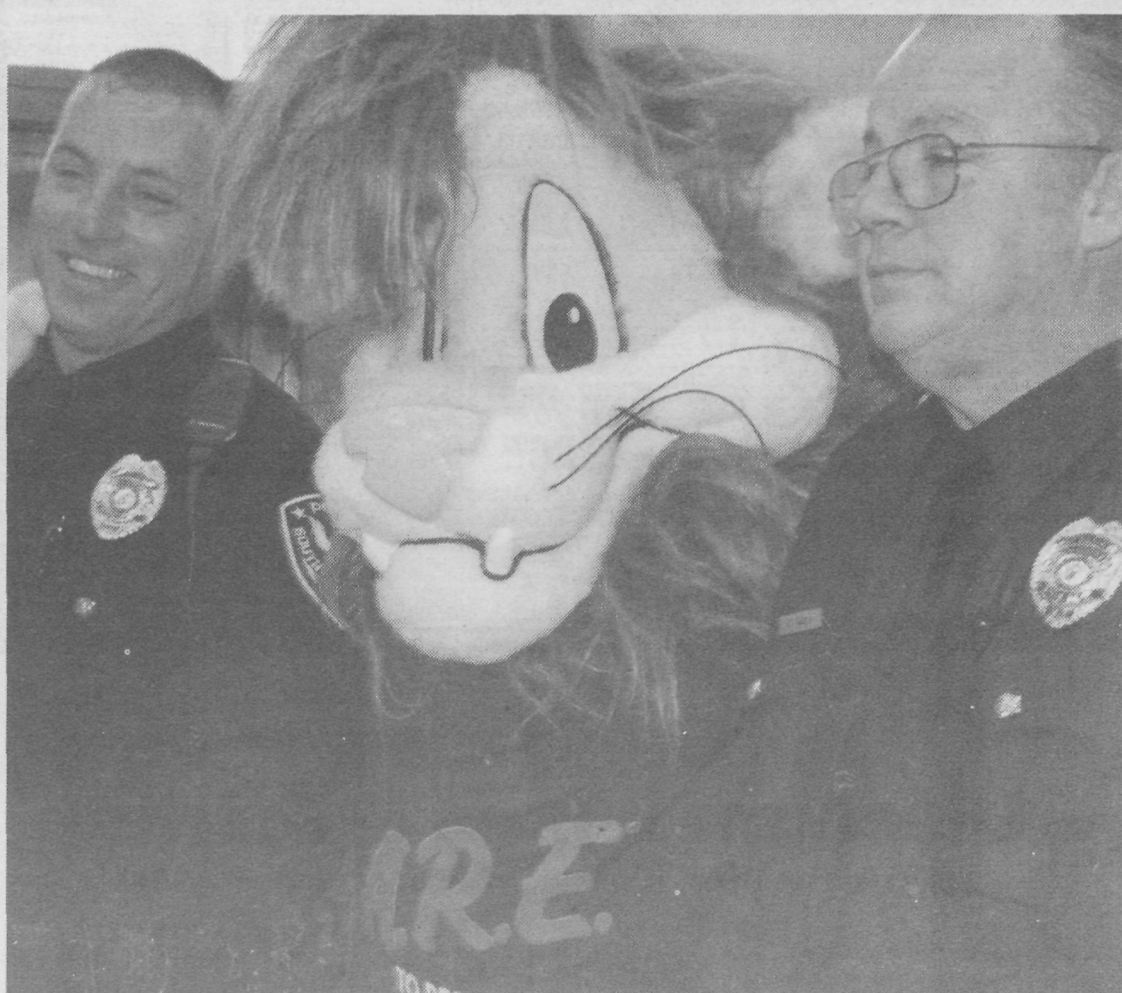
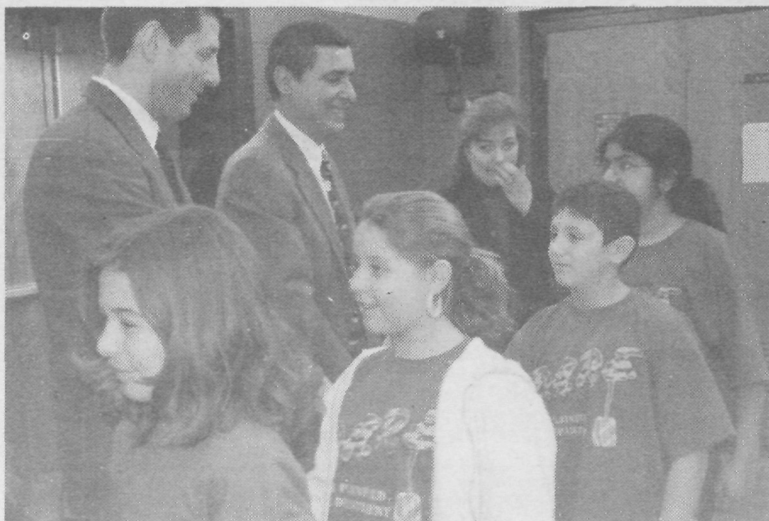
Natalie Kozak.

Jordan Lackey, Mai Lam, Marie Lanza, Lindsey Lara, Loi Le, Thoa (Theresa) Le, Heather Lee, Alyssa Liszewski, Emily Lubach, Collin Lynch, Thomas Magnani, Meredith Malara, Julia Maritz, Justin Marks, Tiffany Marrero-Fierro, Charles Marsh, Joanna Marston, Christopher Mathis, Brian McCarthy, Zea McCray, Aidan McDermott, Kate McLaughlin, Tyler McVeigh, Mamta Mehta, Ernest Mejias, Meghna Mendu, Steven (Tucker) Merkler, Yasmeen Mighty, Christopher Miller, Nicole Miller, Samara Mintah, Isiah Mitchell, Malina Mohtadi, Melissa Molano, Lenae Mondesir, Christina Montgomery, Kyle Moroney, Vanessa Mosquera, Sarah Mott and Vincent Mulhearn.

Kenny Neto, Imani Nettleford, Chloe Ng, Holly Nhan, MaryAnn Novak, Cody O'Connor, Kayla O'Neal, Chukwuma Obadike, Steven Oehler, Thomas Olah, Michael Olano, Jennifer Ortiz, Shawn Palathinkal, Brittney Papa, Nicholas Papianni, Anjali Patel, Harsh Patel, Ishti Patel, Raj Patel, Tanvi Patel, Vinay Patel, Andrew Pawelczak, Gabrielle Payne, Donte Peoples, Jason Pelaez, Vito Pelliccia, Diamond Pender, Dominic Penevolpe, Brooke Penik,

Kristy Percario, Samantha Pereira, Samuel Persad, Annemarie Pezzolla, Kelly Pierce, Jessica Pietschker, Heidi Pilla, Danielle Pisano, Michael Polizzano, Nancy Portillo, Jonathan Prins and Stavan Purohit.

Brandon Quadrel, Maggie Quintanilla, Scott Quiroga, Amy Ramjatan, Cesar Lopez Ramos, Juliana Reo, Matthew Resende, Austin Rivera, Nisa Rizvi, Zara Rizvi, Brian Roesch, Miguel Rojas-Argueta, Henry Romero, Lizbeth Romo, Courtney Ross, Amanda Rowlands, Samson Ruhnke, Daniel Ruiz, Tony Russell, John Rutowski, Andrew Sanchez, Luis Santos, Dominick Scalera, Robert Schools, Heather Scofi, Kaitlyn Sheedy, Shannon Sheedy, Chakane Shegog, Ashley Shumaker, Inan Sikel, Olivia Simpson, Tatiana Smith, Monica Spooner, Emma Sprigle, Marc Stasio, Gregory Sutton, Brianna Swenson, Sabershah Syed, Olivia Tarnawska, Ryan Temple, Brittany Titus, Marcos Toapanta, Bryan Toca, Dakota Uhl, Jessica Uhl, Ashley Valencia, Joseph Valentino, Daniel Vargas, Melissa Vargas, Joseph Waldrop, Christopher Wallace, Connor Wallace, William Walsh, Kristen Wong, Sarriyah Wright, Amy Zinski, Julia Zipp and David Zychlinski.



Sports

JV BASKETBALL

Tigers Take Another Loss Against Sayreville

By Kelvin Randolph

Last Friday, the South Plainfield High School Junior Varsity Tigers suffered a loss against the Sayreville Bombers. In the first half, Mike Muglia and Tremane Miller led the team scoring six points each. With the game slowly cooking and the pressure rising, the Tigers kept their heads in the game. Christian Cole, a junior varsity and varsity player was injured before the game and unable to play.

During halftime the team was highly frustrated. "We need to step up our defense," explained Statician/JV Manager Ashley Sacks. Halftime was a time to talk over the first half of the game, and the coaches did just that. Mike Muglia was the leading scorer with 15 points, while Tremane Miller's jump shots totaled 12 points.

"I'm excited to see how the game is going to end. Every time we play the Bombers it's a close call. The Bombers are a tough team, but I believe we

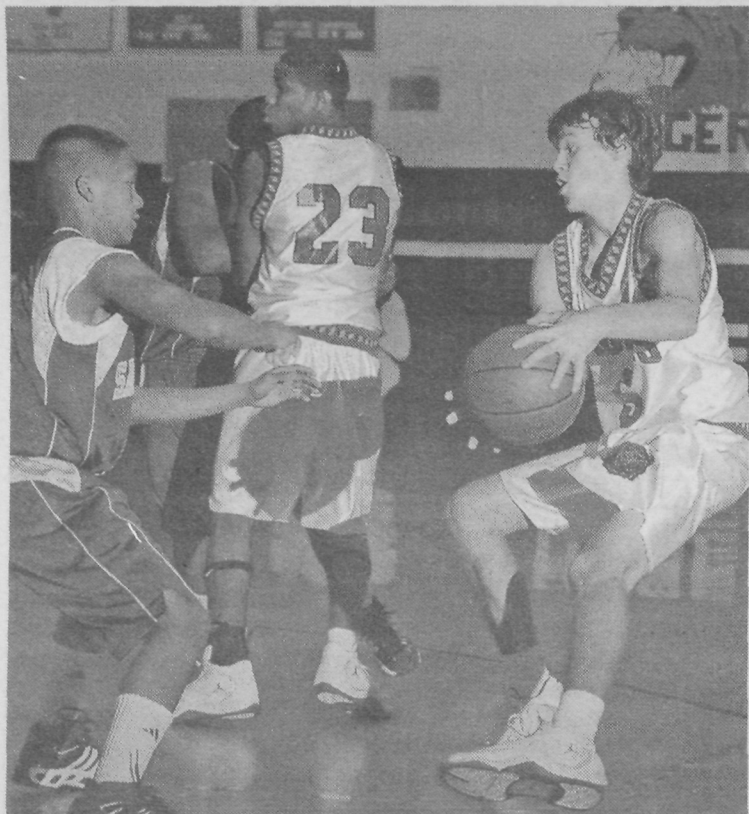
can pull off a win. I'm going to have to rest during the last quarter because I don't want to have a heart attack and fall over!" said Assistant Coach Mr. Greco.

Aaron Wright ended the game scoring nine points. Following him was Greg Burton, who ended up with four points. Chris Lesniak scored three points and Kenny Luckey scored two

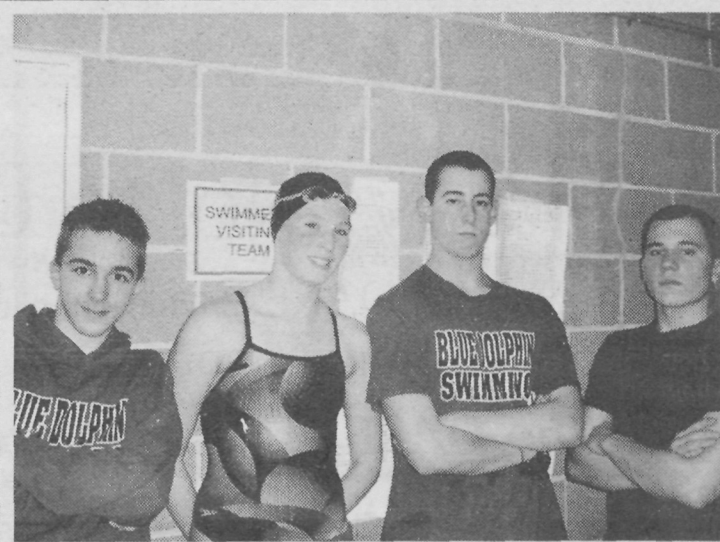
at the end of the game.

"We played well, but when it came down to the end of the game, the players got frustrated and we lost," Tremane Miller explained at the end of the fourth quarter. The final score was 45-49. The Tigers have a record of 6-8.

Good luck Tiger's. Their next game is at home, Feb. 2, at 5:15 p.m.



SPHS Junior Varsity basketball player, Mike Muglia, who scored 15 points for the team, is about to pass the ball to a teammate.



Tiger Sharks and Blue Dolphins Compete at GMC Championship

Seven swimmers from the South Plainfield Tiger Sharks and Middlesex County Blue Dolphins represented South Plainfield High School at the Greater Middlesex Conference Swimming Championships held at Princeton University on Jan. 27. Michael Boyle, Matthew Moates, Emily Piekarski, Teresa and Michelle Gustafson, Alan Kasmer and Brian Babinetz, along with 294 athletes, competed. Emily Piekarski placed fourth in the 500m freestyle and Matt Moates placed sixth in the 100m backstroke, securing two medals. Thanks to Principal Al Czech for volunteering his time to attend the GMCs as coach.

RECREATION WRESTLING

Recreation Wrestlers Busy in January

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team enjoyed a busy month participating in three different tournaments—the Monroe Mid-Season Tournament, Madison Novice Tournament and Middlesex Novice Tournament. All their hard work at practice paid off as everyone wrestled well and had a lot of fun.

At the Monroe Mid-Season Tournament both Christopher Maszczak and Joseph Sacco finished in second place. At the Madison Novice Tournament, Zachary Delvecchio was the lone champion finishing in first place with Alex Amato and Joseph Sacco finishing in second place. Third place went to Michael Marrero Jr. while Anthony Barge, Brendon Hedden, David Loniewski, Michael McCormick and Ricky Pellegrino all finished in fourth place.

Finally, at the Middlesex Novice Tournament, the young Tigers really cleaned up winning 17 medals. Striking gold and finishing in first place was Zachary Delvecchio, Brendon Hedden and Joseph Sacco. Silver medals went to Michael Marrero, Divon Pender, Kyle Bythell and George Pittenger. Bronze medals went to Alex Ardito, Anthony Barge, Michael Clevenger, Dylan Kolvites, Ryan Boettcher, Brian Sesta, Darius Mullens, Tommy Fierro, Josh Stasenko and Brandon Wizda.

Congratulations to all our wrestlers and best of luck the rest of the season.

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TERRAZAS Malbeco Mendoza 2005 750 ml 8.99 This Malbec has an alluring nose of mocha and spice, with a rich texture that carries raspberry and boysenberry fruit to a creamy finish. Drink now through 2007. — Rated by the Wine Spectator on July 31, 2006.	YELLOW TAIL RESERVE Shiraz 2003 750 ml 9.99 This wine is generous, but not heavy. It shows very ripe cherry, sweet spice and toasty oak flavors that persist on the plump finish. — Rated as a Best Value by the Wine Spectator on October 15, 2005.	CHATEAU SOUVERRAIN Chardonnay 2004 750 ml 13.99 This Chardonnay is sleek, with well-defined green apple, lemon-lime, mineral and citrus flavors. Turns subtle and elegant on the finish. — Chosen as a top value of the 2004 Vintage by the Wine Spectator on July 31, 2006.	PIPER HEIDSEICK Brut Cuvee NV 750 ml 29.99 This is creamy, enticing and bursting with honey, vanilla, hints of coffee and candied berry flavors, all matched to a rich texture and firm structure. Fine length and harmony, with time to give. Drink now through 2010. — Rated by the Wine Spectator on November 15, 2005.	
JEST RED Red Blend 750 ml 5.99	RANCHO ZABACO DANCING BULL All Types 750 ml 7.99	TERRA DEL SOLE Montepulciano D'Abruzzo, Pinot Grigio 750 ml 6.99	BLACK OPAL All Types 750 ml 6.99	
ANTINORI Santa Cristina 750 ml 8.99	BRANCOTT Sauvignon Blanc Classic 750 ml 8.99	TERRAZAS All Types 750 ml 8.99		
BERINGER FOUNDER'S Cab., Merlot, Chard. 750 ml 7.99	SERENITY Chardonnay 750 ml 9.99	SERENITY Cabernet, Merlot 750 ml 11.99	YELLOW TAIL RESERVE All Types 750 ml 9.99	
IL PRINCIPE Montepulciano D'Abruzzo, Pinot Grigio 1.5 liter 9.99	YELLOW TAIL All Types 1.5 liter 10.99	MEZZA CORONA Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio 1.5 liter 11.99		
FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA DIAMOND SERIES Cabernet, Merlot, Syrah, Zinfandel 750 ml 11.99	SERENITY Pinot Noir 750 ml 16.99	FONSECA Bin 27 Port 750 ml 12.99	PIPER SONOMA Brut Cuvee 750 ml 10.99	
PIPER HEIDSEICK Extra Dry 750 ml 29.99	EXCEPTIONAL VALUES	LIVINGSTON CELLARS Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 3 liter jug 8.99	PETER VELLA Burgundy, Deep Red, Chablis, White Grenache 5 liter box 10.99	
ZELKO Vodka 1.75L 10.99	BENTLEY'S London Dry Gin 1.75L 11.99	CLUB 400 Blended Whiskey 1.75L 12.99	ALMADEN Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay, White Zinfandel 5 liter box 12.99	
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LIQUOR & SPIRITS	SAUZA Gold or Blanco Tequila 750 ml 12.99	LICOR 43 Cuarenta Y Tres Cordial 750 ml 18.99	BEER SPECIALS	
STOCK Dry or Sweet Vermouth 1.75L 4.99	GRANTS Scotch 1.75L 19.99	SKYY Vodka 80° 1.75L 24.99	MILLER LITE or MGD REGULAR or LIGHT 2/12 Packs 12 oz. Cans \$4 Rebate Available 14.99 Case	
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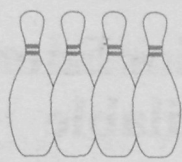


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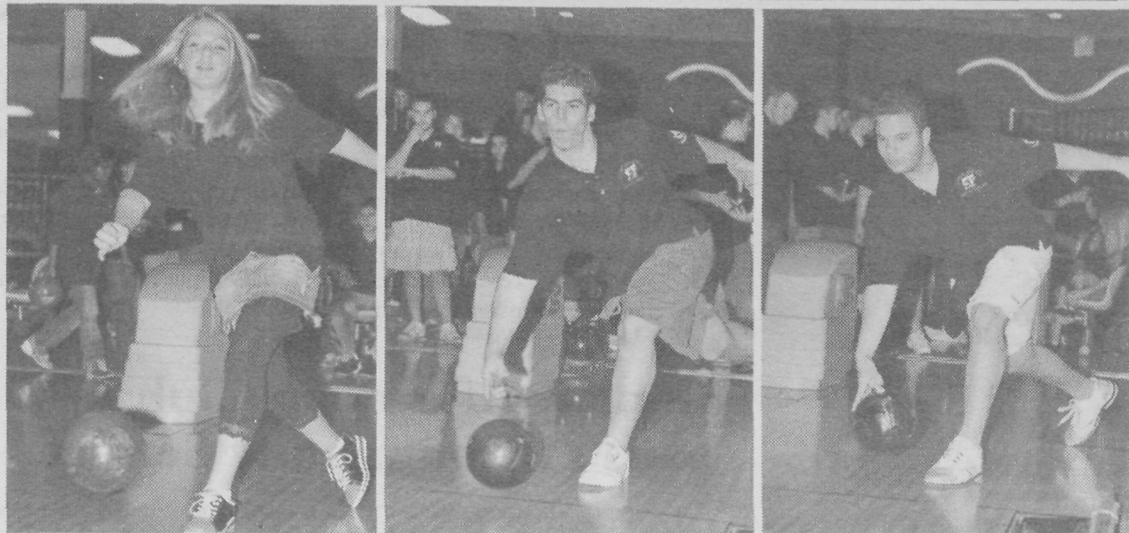
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Sports

SPHS BOWLING

By Ralph Fech



Sophomore Lyndsey Murtagh (left) fired sets of 506, 498 and 501 in this week's action. Senior Rob Parillo (center) (246 high game; 680 high set; 191 avg.) and Chris Esposito (right) averaged 201 this past week with a high game of 248 and high set of 701.

Tiger Excel, Edged by South Brunswick and Colonia, South Amboy Ripped

SPHS	912	1,059	974-2,945
So. Brunswick	940	1,082	994-3,016

The boys bowling team ran into an ambush as a red-hot sizzling South Brunswick squad won three close games, all decided in the final frame, despite high scoring efforts by the Tigers. Ryan Pauls again led the Tigers with a blistering, 683 set on games of 194-257-232. Mike Dandola added 197-213-222 for a 632. Also chipping in were Chris Esposito 225, Rob Parillo 214 and Freshman Dylan Papa with games of 187 and 183.

SPHS	1,012	1,004	929-2,945
Colonia	1,131	1,072	1,061-3,264

The boys bowling team crushed the pocket with Rob Parillo firing games of 200-202, Ryan Pauls adding 210-214-200 for a solid 624 set, teammate Mike Dandola firing games of 238-226-225 for a superb 689 set and Chris Esposito churned out 245-248-208 for a booming 701 display. It was an outstanding performance by the young Tigers, but it was not enough to overcome an unbelievable display by a Colonia squad that handed the Tigers a 4-0 loss.

SPHS	812	970	929-2,711
South Amboy	892	879	830-2,661

The boys bowling team found themselves trailing South Amboy by eighty pins after the first game but then stepped it up a notch on the strength of Mike Dandola's 231-216-228-675 set, Chris Esposito's 235-211, and Ryan Pauls' 210 and 203 games.

The Tigers also received clutch bowling from the trio of Trevor Rastelli, Tim Moskal and Dylan Papa. The boys team improved its record to 9-6-1.

Lady Tigers Fall to South Brunswick and Colonia, Rebound to Slam South Amboy

SPHS	775	708	766-2,249
So. Brunswick	851	882	878-2,611

The girls bowling team try for an upset never materialized as the Vikings coasted to a three game sweep. Lyndsey Murtagh fired games of 180-158-168 for a solid 506 set. Jackie Kukuch's high game of 196 and Katie Yon's 189 were the only other bright spots for the Tigers who dropped to 9-5.

SPHS	711	741	815-2,267
Colonia	918	929	802-2,649

The girls bowling team had to take on once beaten division champion Colonia and managed to win one of three games from the powerful Patriots.

A solid 503 set by Jackie Kukuch on games of 170-179 led the young Tigers. Lyndsey Murtagh added games of 192-166 for a 498 set, Katie Yon's 195 high game and 468 set coupled with Jessica Vasquez's 175 game rounded out the scoring.

SPHS	765	778	823-2,366
South Amboy	622	612	579-1,813

Lyndsey Murtagh led the girl's bowling team with a 191 high game and 501 high set as the Tigers coasted to their tenth win against six losses over So. Amboy. Teammates Jackie Kukuch fired games of 180 and 173, Katie Yon added 182 and 169, Gina Curcio stroked a 184 game and Katie Salvatore posted games of 150 and 146.

It's that time again... the March 30 Observer will be mailed to more than 10,000 homes and businesses in South Plainfield.



For advertising information, call 908-668-0010.

Obituaries

Greg T. Danik, 58

Greg T. Danik died Tuesday, Jan. 23, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tucson, Ariz.

Born in Elizabeth, he grew up in Roselle Park before moving to South Plainfield in 1960. He entered the United States Air Force in 1967 where he earned the rank of sergeant before being honorably discharged in 1971 after four years of service. He left the military and resided in Phoenix, Ariz., working briefly before returning to New Jersey, where he entered The Citone Institute in Edison.

After graduation from Citone, Greg worked for Colgate Palmolive of Piscataway, National Starch in Raritan and later for IIT in Clifton. At IIT, his experience and technical skills quickly lead him to advancement. After a number of years in the corporate field, Greg's love for the desert

lead him back to Arizona where he became a self employed cat fish farmer. He demonstrated his technical skills and artistic abilities by designing and digging his own ponds and filtration system. He also designed and built dome structures that were admired by many. With constant improvements, Greg began to enjoy success with his best season being last year.

His father, Frank Danik, died in 1992.

He is survived by his mother, Betty C. (Collins); three sisters, Maryellen and husband Julian Strauss, Paula and husband Phillip Ryan and Diane Danik and a brother, Steven and wife Lynne.

Also surviving are nine dear nieces and nephews, Joshua, Jordan, Samara, Aaron, Colleen, Kerri, Jay, Christopher and Benjamin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In Loving Memory - First Anniversary

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That the hills were hard to climb,
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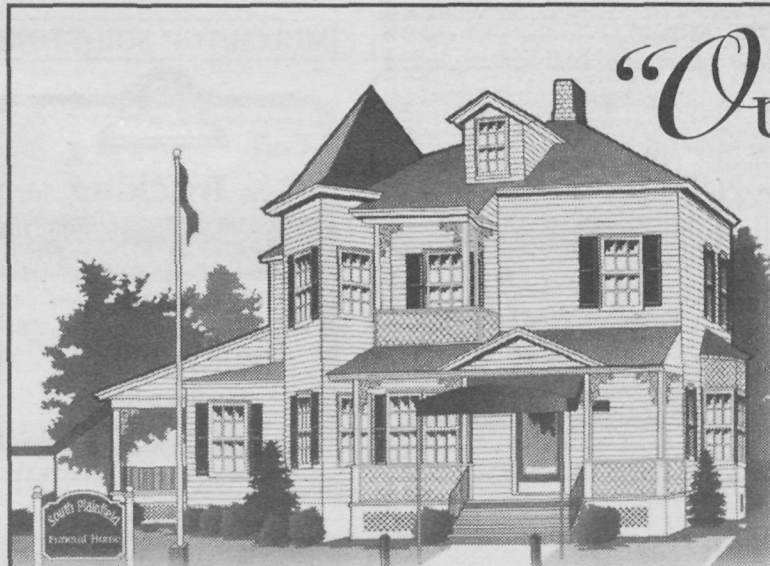
JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club's next monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m. The club is still finalizing teams for the 2007 season. We hope to announce team managers, coaches and team names for the 2007 season. Information regarding the 2007 season, try-outs, umpiring classes, memberships and certification classes will all be discussed.

The SPJBC is still looking for volunteers, particularly snack stand captains, for the 2007 season.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please call the SPJBC at (908)754-2090.



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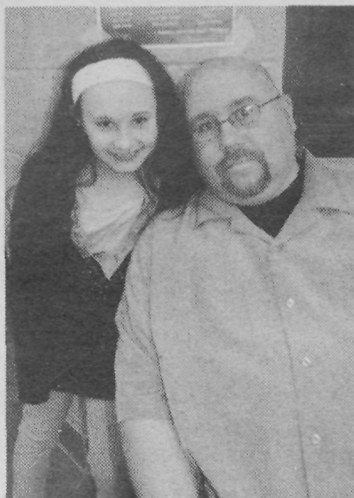
Jessica Ortiz Named This Week's Junior Journalist

Jessica Ortiz, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her efforts have earned her dinner, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the Observer office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2007.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.



Jessica Ortiz, a third grade student at Roosevelt School, with teacher Michael Bertram.

Applications for Senior Energy Assistance Now Available

Senator Barbara Buono (D-Middlesex) has announced that applications are now available for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Universal Service Fund (USF). Both programs are designed to help senior citizens manage their energy costs during the winter months.

LIHEAP provides assistance through direct payment of heating bills while USF lowers costs by applying a credit directly to monthly utility bills. Seniors receiving Lifeline may be eligible for assistance from

these programs as well, and some individuals may be eligible for benefits from all three.

"Rising energy costs present a challenge to seniors, especially during the winter months when more energy is required to heat homes," said Senator Buono. "These programs provide piece of mind to individuals and help ensure their health and safety."

If you have any questions or would like to request an application, contact Senator Buono's office at (732) 819-8141. The application deadline is March 31.

Monday Afternoon Club - 119 Years of Community Service

The Monday Afternoon Club of Plainfield, in its 119th year of community service, was organized in 1888 and became a charter member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1894.

Its founder, Elvira Eliza Kenyon, is known as "First Lady" of Plainfield.

She founded the Monday Afternoon Club that was located at the Ginna House on Watchung Ave. The mansion was a focal point for social and cultural activity and service oriented activities in the community. Plainfield was a great cultural center and it appealed to New Yorkers as a fashionable place.

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Catholic School Parents Gain New 'Power'

This week marked the celebration of Catholic Schools Week throughout the country. As schools showcase their achievements, programs and services during the week, this year, 14 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Metuchen will tout their new status as a "PowerSchool." The web-based student information system is a gift given to them by Metuchen Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski to commemorate the diocese's twenty-fifth anniversary. It is a gift the bishop is giving to the diocese's 44 schools. It will benefit over 15,000 students and 1,300 teachers and administrative staff in the schools located in the diocese's four counties.

"Technology plays a critical role in creating strong Catholic schools," Bishop Bootkoski said. "PowerSchool is enabling us to meet the needs of this new millennium and putting us on the cutting edge of technology. It will strengthen the bond between administrators, teachers and parents, facilitate administrative tasks, and in a very real way, create community among us."

Launched late last year as a pilot project, PowerSchool is a comprehensive information system which has a wide range of features that will be

implemented over the coming months in each of the diocese's schools. Initially it will enable parents to track student attendance, grades and performance. It also features a variety of bulletins, and allows a school's staff to communicate quickly and effectively with parents, who can access information in real time and also choose to receive automatic email notifications.

Leo Cortelezzi, diocesan director of Information Systems, who will maintain the PowerSchool servers, said, "Parents today are very computer savvy and use technology throughout their day to keep informed. They are welcoming PowerSchool as a natural way to keep connected with their child's school."

Cortelezzi noted that he was impressed with PowerSchool's ability to help not only parents and teachers, but the administration. "Principals and the diocesan staff will be able to study and analyze test scores, as well as have access to one centralized database which can be used to review data such as demographics," he said.

Adele K. Ellis, diocesan assistant superintendent for schools, said parents have been enthusiastic and excited about the new communications tool.

While it is expected that PowerSchool will improve student performance, Ellis said it will be a gradual process. "If parents use the program effectively, there is going to be a change in habits. We are hoping that it will improve some children's organizational skills, which would actually improve their academic performance."

In order to ensure all parents learn how to utilize PowerSchool, Ellis said the system is being introduced gradually. At Sacred Heart, St. John Vianney in Colonia and St. Philip and James School in Phillipsburg, parents have been introduced to the system and can log on.

Schools which have PowerSchool installed and are preparing to go live during the next few months include: Immaculate Conception, Annandale; St. James, Basking Ridge; School of St. Elizabeth, Bernardsville; St. Joseph, Carteret; St. Bartholomew, East Brunswick; St. Augustine, Kendall Park; St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen; St. Peter the Apostle, New Brunswick; St. Thomas the Apostle, Old Bridge; St. Matthias, Somerset and Sacred Heart, South Plainfield. The other schools in the diocese will receive PowerSchool within the next two years.

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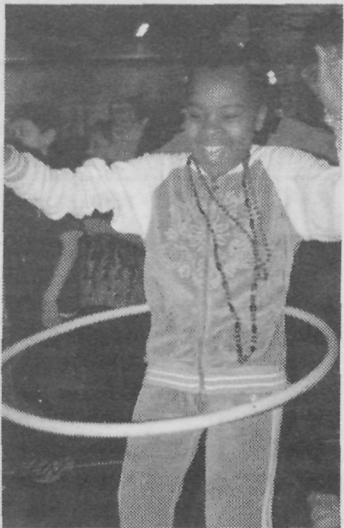
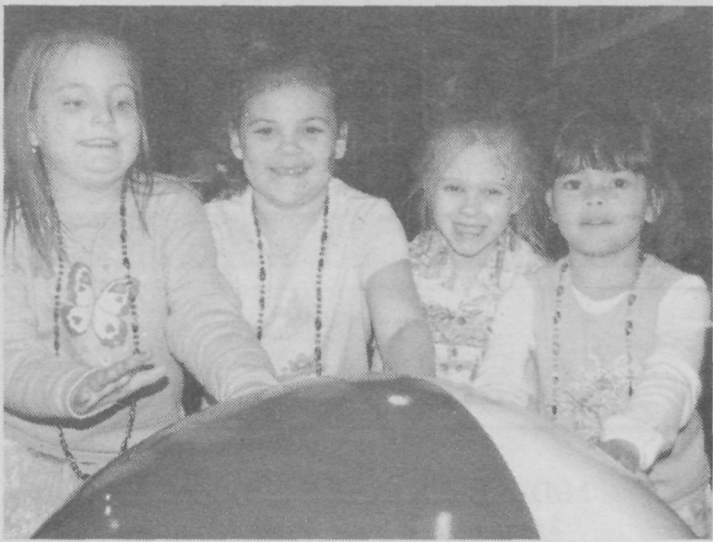
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Riley Students Enjoy Some Summer Fun in Mid-Winter

By Patricia Abbott

On Jan. 26, Riley School students forgot the chilly weather and enjoyed a night at the beach. Under warm winter gear the children sported beach attire ranging from bathing suits and sandals to Hawaiian shirts and shorts.

Each student received tickets to play the various boardwalk-type games that were set up along the gym walls. There were games of chance and games of skill. Participants ran from booth to booth playing bean bag toss, ring toss, mini basketball hoop shots, golf, bowling and more. They also bounced in

a moonwalk. Like any good boardwalk, there were a myriad of prizes to be won.

Students participated in a hula hoop contest, best beach attire contest and a limbo contest. They also enjoyed assorted snacks, beverages and feasted on ice cream sundaes. Those not at the booths had a great time with beach balls including two giant-sized balls.

The two hours flew by. At evening's end the children returned to winter and bundled into coats to head home tired but happy.

The event, sponsored by the PTSO, is an annual 'fun night' for the students.

Annual Catholic Scout Gathering

The 24th Annual Catholic Scout Gathering will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church in Middlesex on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Blessed Are They."

Participants will receive instructions on how to earn medals for "I Live My Faith," "Marian Medal" and "Spirit Alive." The program is open to jun-

ior, cadette and senior girl scouts in the Diocese of Metuchen, which includes Hunterdon, Middlesex, Somerset and Warren counties. Medals are presented by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi, Metuchen in the spring. Registration fee is \$1. Program books will be available for purchase. Call (732)-562-1990, ext. 1630 to register.

FROM THE DESK OF DEBBIE BOYLE

South Plainfield High School students Emily Piekarski, Michael Boyle, Matthew Moates, Michelle and Theresa Gustafson, Alan Kasmer and Brian Babinetz, along with Principal/Coach Al Czech, attended the Greater Middlesex Conference swimming championship on Jan. 27, at DeNunzio Pool at Princeton University. In attendance were 294 swimmers and 20 teams participating in the GMCs. Congratulations to Emily Piekarski for placing fourth in the 500m freestyle event and Matt Moates for placing sixth in 100m backstroke event. Both received medals. (See photo on page 8). Congratulations to all the participating high school students; Gracie Piekarski and Katie O'Brien, future high school swimmers; South Plainfield's Chelsea Cullen, who swims for Bishop Ahr, and all the parents who attended to support the students.

Congratulations to all the Grant Elementary students who received letters of invitation from John Hopkins University to participate in advanced math testing and to those students who have registered for the Grant School Academic Bowl.

The 2007 Stokes Pasta Dinner has been rescheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15, at Grant Elementary. Tree Olano will chair the rescheduled dinner. For further information, please see Tree or Angel Jazikoff. The Grant Elementary PTO and the Grant 2007 Stokes Committee are two separate entities. The Grant PTO provides support and oversees many of the programs at Grant Elementary, and the Stokes Committee is comprised of fifth grade parents and provides fundraising for the sixth grade class Stokes trip.

A used clothing collection will take place on Saturday, May 19, in the Grant School parking lot to benefit the 2007 Stokes trip.

The second build for Habitat for Humanity was performed on Jan. 27, at two locations in Plainfield. SPHS Student Leadership directors, Mary Ellen Martko and Mr. Encinas par-



Mr. Encinas, peer advisor, and SPHS student Daria McCall, working hard.

ticipated, along with students Nicole Benak, Liz Rodger, Rachel Millron, Daria McCall, Dorothy Cameron, Mrs. Miller, Jackie Miller, Patricia DeSantis, Fran Flannery and Jesse Wilson, who painted finishing touches on the walls and windows. Thank you to all those teachers and student leaders who participated and gave so much of themselves to help those in need.

Please continue to support the Helen Street Project which will redirect truck traffic away from our main thoroughfares. This project is one of the top priorities for the Borough Council for 2007. Continue to sign letters to the DEP in support of the Helen Street Extension Project.

On Jan. 27, the SPHS Girl's Varsity Basketball Team won a very exciting game against Scotch Plains. The next important game will take place on Monday, Feb. 5, at home at 7 p.m. against New Brunswick. Please come out and support the girls' basketball team. Also, congratulations to our junior varsity team on a great season.

During a recreation basketball game last Saturday, an absurd situation took place between a coach and a referee. The coach repeatedly entered the court shouting nose to nose with the ref-

eree while spectators and children stood watching the disgraceful scene. Recreation basketball is a teaching and learning experience for all involved. This league is about the children, not the self-serving satisfaction of coaches' egos. The same drama happens during the seven- and eight-year old program. This situation is out of control and needs to stop. What example are these coaches setting for children? Are they teaching them that it is okay to scream and yell at the referees because they do not like a call made by the referee and that their team must win games no matter what they have to do to win? Each child needs to be encouraged to play fair. The coach should involve the entire team in each game, giving every child the chance to put up a shot. Recreation programs offer the ability for every township child to participate in sports and to have an enjoyable learning experience. Do not forget that it is all about the children.

Please watch for the upcoming Board of Education budget presentations so you can ask questions and understand what is being proposed that will affect your child's education during the upcoming year.

The used clothing drive to benefit the high school indoor bleachers, supported by the SPHS Athletic Booster Club, will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24. The Roma Foods truck will once again be located in the Grant School parking lot, circle side, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The used clothing company will pay the Booster Club 10-cents a pound for all used men's, women's and children's clothing, ties, belts, bedding, purses and shoes, which are in turn sent to Poland and Russia for use by less fortunate families.

PROPERTY TAX BILLS ALERT

Property tax bills have been mailed to residents. The grace period for the Feb. 1 payment has been extended to Feb. 13. Reminder: Borough Hall will be closed on Monday, Feb. 12, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday.

South Plainfield Observer

The Observer can be purchased at the following locations:

- 7-11 Plainfield Ave.
- K-Foods Park Ave.
- Designer Bagels ... Oak Tree Ave.
- Krauzers Oak Tree Ave.
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- Wittys Liquors Plainfield Ave.
- Hometown Heros .. Hamilton Blvd.
- Bagel Pantry Plainfield Ave.
- Paul's Stationary .. Hamilton Blvd.
- B&C Deli Belmont Ave.
- H&S Stationary South Clinton Ave.
- Corner Deli Hamilton Blvd.
- Quick Foods Park Ave.
- David's Stationary .. Sampton Ave.
- The Little Store Clinton Ave.
- Mohns Florist Plainfield Ave.
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