

Special Borough Council meeting, Thursday, Dec. 27, to interview for professional services for FY 2008, 7 p.m. in council chambers.

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South Plainfield Observer

DEC 21 2007

VOL. 11, NO. 16

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SOUTH PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY DECEMBER 21, 2007

Slick Ice, Not Nice



Roosevelt School parking lot at 9 a.m. on Monday morning was a sheet of ice.

Weekend Storm Creates Hazardous Conditions

The after effects of last Sunday's storm that dumped sleet, rain, snow and subsequently slush, left roadways, sidewalks and parking lots slick with ice after temperatures dropped Sunday night. Those driving children to school early Monday were faced with dangerous, ice covered roadways and school parking lots that were not safely navigable.

Four police cars were stationed at borough schools to help ease the congestion from backed up traffic caused by the icy conditions. Police Officer Dave Franchak was seen helping SPHS teachers and students traverse the dangerous parking lot. Many students were late for school due to the heavy backup that occurred. High school students were not allowed to go out for lunch and an early dismissal was called at 2 p.m. so that busses could remain on schedule district-wide.

The area around Grant School was equally dangerous. Cromwell Place,

in front of the school where a crossing guard is stationed, was not plowed and was extremely icy.

According to Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron, the general manager of Sodexo was contacted on Sunday afternoon to find out the condition of the school grounds. He assured Negron that they were clear and safe. He had no further communication with them.

At 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Negron received a call from BOE President Jeff Seider saying that the parking lots were sheets of ice and very dangerous. Negron explained that by that time busses were already out and it was too late to call for a delayed opening. To complicate matters, school phones were not functioning. He immediately called the police department to alert them to the icy conditions and they immediately dispatched officers to the schools.

Negron also contacted Sodexo (Continued on page 11)

Council Schedules Special Meeting

For the first time in more than a decade, the Republican Party will gain the majority control of the Borough Council in 2008. As a result, new professional contracts will be awarded.

To fill those professional vacancies, the borough advertised the 12 categories

to be awarded contracts during the reorganization meeting to be held on January 5. The borough received more than 108 applicants.

Mayor Charles Butrico announced that he was forming a committee to sift through the applicants. He

appointed Councilmen Rob Bengivenga, Matt Anesh and Ray Petronko to review the applications and choose three from each category. They will be interviewed at a public meeting next Thursday, Dec. 27 at 7 p.m. and if needed, Friday, Dec. 28. These meetings will be open to the public.

Butrico said he was disappointed to find out that Republican Chairman Bob Jones, Republican Councilmen Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga, along with Councilmen-elect Ray Rusnak and Tim McConville were already interviewing applicants on their own. He added that even though it is not against the Sunshine Law, the other members of the council should

(Continued on page 11)



Reward vs. Risk

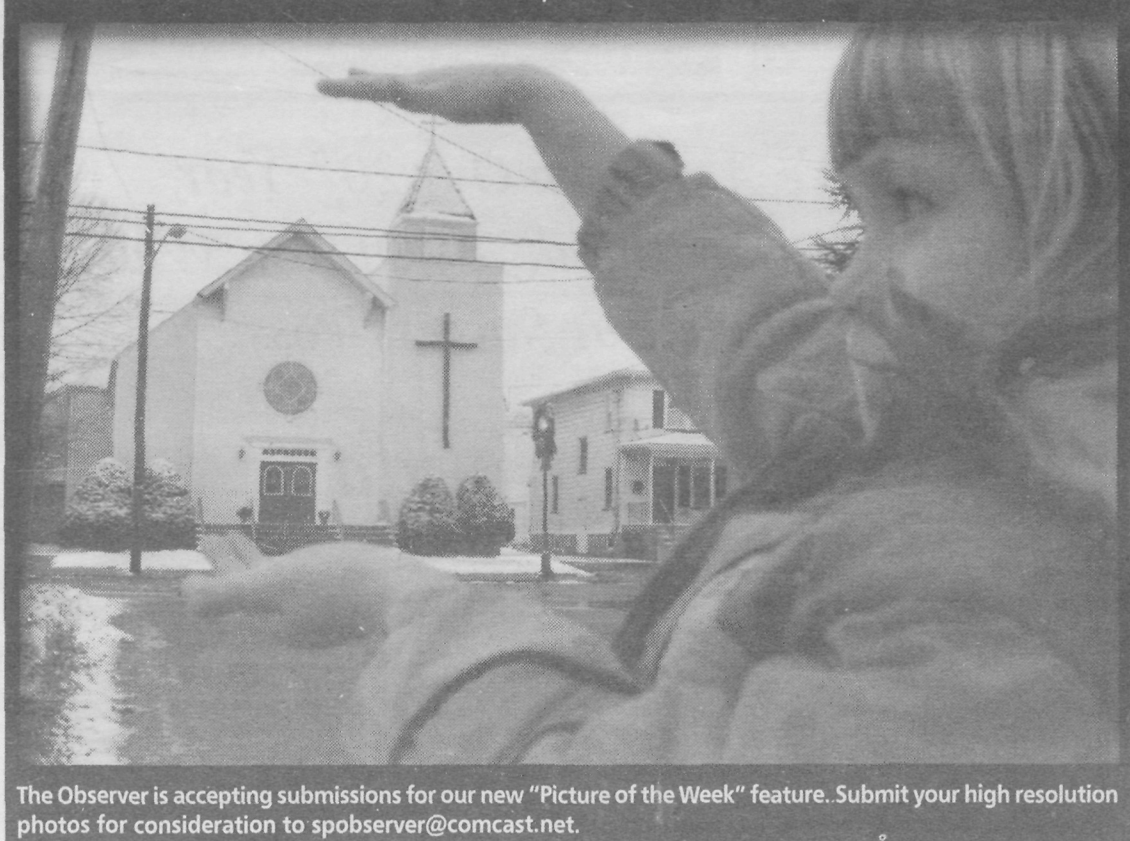
A local youngster approaches Santa with trepidation when he visited the Senior Center last weekend. More than 30 local kids took the opportunity to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. For more photos, turn to page 8.



Tyler, Megan and Alyssa helped to set up the spectacular light display at their home on George Street.

No Small Feat.....

Four-year-old Heather A. Braun, daughter of Rev. D. Gordon Braun and Claire N. Braun, cradles in her hands First Baptist Church of South Plainfield.



The Observer is accepting submissions for our new "Picture of the Week" feature. Submit your high resolution photos for consideration to spobserver@comcast.net.

Spreading Cheer, One Bulb at a Time

By Jean Fultz

The Observer received calls during the past few weeks alerting us to a George Street home that is decorated with spectacular holiday lights synchronized to music. Every night between 5 and 10:30 p.m., visitors can stop by the house (off Sampton Avenue), tune car radios to 107.3 and be mesmerized by the display of Christmas lights.

Homeowners Anthony and Sarika began preparations back in October while the weather was still warm. It was a family project; their three children helped set up the display, which numbers between 12,000 and 15,000 lights and more than 2,000 feet of extension cords.

Nick Cremona, a visitor to the "light show," sat in his car with his wife, Marion, for nearly an hour, and commented that he was unable to get even one string of lights to work this year. Carloads of high school students pulled up outside

the house and hung out with friends while watching the light show.

"I could not believe that I found a couple of young children sitting on my front lawn with their parents standing behind them watching the show; the sparkle in their eyes and the smiles on their faces just gave Christmas a new meaning for me," Anthony said. "For me, I just wanted to spread a little Christmas magic and I just hope that everyone has enjoyed it."

Anthony said that he usually decorates the house with lights, but wanted to "take it up a notch" this year. What started out as a small-scale display turned into a bit more costly project when he decided to computerize the light show. He said it took about two months to set up and program the computer sequences and the lighting controllers.

The light show will run through January 7. It can also be viewed on the Internet at www.youtube.com and search for "George Street & Lights."



Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

The Nov. 28 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

councilmeetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday

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

Date **Agenda Meeting** **Public Meeting**

Dates to be announced at the Borough Reorganization meeting on Jan. 5.

2008 Council Reorganization Meeting Saturday, January 5 at noon All are invited.

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planningboard

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

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

zoningboardofadjustment

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

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

boardofeducationmeetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12, April 2

Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-an. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

recreationcommission

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

taxpayersadvisorygroup

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

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

siteplansub-committee

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

environmentalcommission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

businessadvisorygroup

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)

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

trafficsafetyadvisorycommission

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

in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

boardofeducationcurriculum/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.



With the help and guidance of class mother Joanne Boettcher, Mrs. Doyon's Kennedy School first grade class made blankets to donate to children in the pediatric unit at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. As a part of the character education program, the students are concentrating on "caring" as the pillar during the months of December and January. Earlier this year, classmate Ryan Boettcher was a patient at the hospital and received a blanket which meant a lot to him. The class wanted to show that they "care" and hope to give other pediatric patients the comfort that Ryan received.

IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

To the Mayor, Council and Citizens of South Plainfield:

In the December 7 issue of the *Observer* it was announced that the effort to extend Helen Street was to be abandoned. Even though I am a member of several environmental groups, I was very disappointed in this decision and particularly disappointed in Councilmen Rusnak and McConville, who were so supportive of the project in the November 2 issue of the *Observer*.

I believe they were correct in what they said then, that Helen Street is essential to the solution to our town's congestion problems.

South Plainfield is at a crossroads. What we do or don't do now determines what our town will be like 10, 20 and 50 years from now. If we don't have the determination to continue this fight, then how can we expect to be heard or taken seriously? If we walk away from this issue now we will have

decided that the health, safety and quality of life of the children of this town are not worth the investment of time and money asked of us.

Please Mayor Butrico, consider the long term effects and reconsider this decision. I would ask the people of South Plainfield to contact the mayor (cbutrico@yahoo.com) and council, as well as State representatives by going to the N.J. State Legislature Web site and choose any one of the three (Patrick Diegnan, Barbara Buono or Peter Barnes) from the alphabetical listing. Once you are on their page, click on "Contact your Legislator(s)." Be sure to check off all three so they all receive your letter. Let them know that not everyone has given up on South Plainfield.

JANET MOYERS BOWMER

Dear Editor,

Last week, the *Observer* printed our letter of thanks. We publicly thanked local businesses that provided generous monetary donations which helped offset the cost of printing the program for the 2007 Fall Football/Cheerleader Dinner. Unfortunately, a donor was omitted. Inadvertently, the name of South Plainfield Funeral Home was left out of our letter of thanks. We regret that this occurred and would like to thank Frank Rainear and South Plainfield Funeral Home for their substantial donation. We wanted to do the "right thing" and give the South Plainfield Funeral Home equal kudos for their kindness and support!

Again, we regret the omission.

**WITH TIGER GRATITUDE,
THE 2007 FOOTBALL/
CHEERLEADING BANQUET COMM.**

South Plainfield Observer

The South Plainfield Observer is published every Friday

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

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www.sposerver.com
(updated each Thursday)

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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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 sposerver@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: sposerver@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.

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As We Approach Our 20th Year,
We Wish To Thank All Of You Who
Have Made Our Success Possible.

Happy Holidays
from

FRANK'S

Automotive Service



Sal Esposito of Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association (WHYBA) presents a check for \$1,500 to Social Services Director Marge Ackerman to benefit the South Plainfield Social Services Holiday Fund. WHYBA is an organization that raises funds to benefit the less fortunate youth in the tri-county area. For more information, please visit www.whyba.org.

Coalition Of Cultural Diversity Inauguration

Mayor Charles Butrico will inaugurate the newly formed Coalition of Cultural Diversity on Martin Luther King Day, January 21, 2008, at the South Plainfield Senior Center in the presence of the Borough Council and other elected officials from the borough and State of New Jersey.

The event will start at 4 p.m. with various displays of cultural artifacts and music, followed by a brief tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The mayor will inaugurate the coalition after greetings from council members, elected officials and community leaders.

There will be several cultural dances

and entertainment by ethnic communities (African American, Hispanic, Polish, Hungarian, Indian, Chinese and others).

If you can sing or dance, please register your name with Chris Sienkiewski, vice president of the coalition at (908) 561-8057. If you have ethnic artifacts you would like to display, register your name with Chris as well. There will be ethnic food available for a modest donation.

The coalition invites everyone to come and enjoy the evening. For more information, contact any of the following coalition members:

Nehemiah Thompson (908) 251-3992; Althea Hollis (732) 248-8784; Jen GaNun (908) 756-8361; Nikki Woo (908) 227-4233; Clark Olson-Smith (908) 757-2775; Phoebe Andes (908) 753-7343; Sharon Gannesch (908) 755-6822; Lisa Hahn-Gould (908) 769-9116; Keri Gould (908) 769-9116 and Pamela Stefanek (908) 754-2381.

Recycling Center Closed Christmas, New Year's Day

The South Plainfield Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 25 for Christmas Day. Recycling will be open instead from noon to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Recycling will also be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 1 and open from 12 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The yard waste site is on winter hours and will only be open on Saturdays until March 16. Both the recycling center and the yard waste site will be open as usual from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 22 and 29.

Regular recycling drop-off center hours are noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Regular winter yard waste hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.

2008 yard waste decals are available in the municipal clerk's office in Borough Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Bring the registration of the vehicle you will be using.

For updates, call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620.

Funeral Home Sponsoring Food Drive

Franklin Rainear, owner and manager of The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home, is sponsoring a holiday/winter food pantry drive for the needy within the South Plainfield community. All donations will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Society of Sacred Heart R.C. Church and the borough's food pantry for distribution to the needy.

"My commitment and dedication to South Plainfield continues in full force. Although I am relatively new to this town, I am proud to say that it gives me great joy to give back to the community by helping in every way I can," Rainear said. "We will have an open door policy where people can drop off non-perishable items from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. seven days a week now through March 1, 2008. The drop-off area is clearly marked and located in our flower room on the right side of the funeral home by the mailbox. This door will be unlocked during the specified times to make drop-offs convenient for everyone. I believe that we as a team can work together to create an uplifting holiday/winter season for everyone by helping those who are less fortunate."



Franklin School Student Council held a toy drive the week of December 3. Students collected almost 300 toys that will be donated to a local homeless shelter. Pictured left to right are Student Council officers Tomasz Tarnawski, corresponding secretary; Olivia O'Leary, recording secretary; Stephanie Velez, vice president and T.J. Scott, president.

County Personal Assistance Services Receives Record Funding

The New Jersey Division of Disability Services has awarded \$736,000 to Middlesex County for the operation of the 2008 Personal Assistance Services Program (PASP), a funding increase of \$121,000 and a record high in funding for the program.

This increased funding will allow the county to continue to add new participants to the very successful PASP program.

The PASP provides assistants to help individuals who are physically disabled, but able to supervise their own care, with activities such as bathing, meal preparation, light housekeeping, laundry and chores. PASP also provides some self-care type services for eligible individuals.

"The Personal Assistance Services Program has helped many of our residents with disabilities live independent and productive lives," said Middlesex County Freeholder Blanquita B. Valenti, chair of the county's Human Services and Aging Committee. "We are delighted to be able to add people to this important program and are grateful for the additional funding."

The major focus of the program is to assist individuals not able to secure personal care assistant services through

other programs. The PASP regulations require that participants be New Jersey residents, under the age of 65 and actively engaged in community activity, such as work or schooling. County PASP funds must be used for county residents.

PASP participants credit the program with helping them to live independently and safely in the community. "PASP makes it possible for me to work full-time and live in my own home," said John Fig, a project analyst at Wakefern Corporation, and a member of both the New Jersey and local PASP Advisory Councils.

Debbie Hehir, Middlesex County PASP coordinator, noted the wide range of activities PASP participants complete. "We have a variety of people, including teachers, telemarketers, several college students and volunteers participating in our program."

For information about PASP, contact Debbie Hehir, PASP coordinator, Middlesex County Department of Human Services, at (732) 745-2587 or via E-mail at Debbie.hehir@co.middlesex.nj.us. Hehir is also available to visit organizations to discuss the program and answer individual questions.

Observer to Publish One Day Late

Next week's *Observer* (Dec. 28) will be delivered one day late so that our employees may enjoy Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Look for the *Observer* in your mailboxes on Saturday. However, stores will still have the *Observer* for sale on Friday.

WANTED



Volunteers needed to help South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission celebrate its 25th anniversary. Must be imaginative, eager & willing to help raise community awareness of the commission.

For information, call the Municipal Clerk's office at (908) 226-7606.

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Around Town

VFW Roast Pork Dinner

December 21

The VFW, located on Front Street, will be holding a "come home for the holidays" roast pork dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. The South Plainfield Traveling Choir will be performing. For information, call (908) 561-9570.

Christmas Eve Services at Wesley

December 24

Wesley Methodist Church's Christmas Eve family service will feature the Children's Christmas Pageant and candlelight singing starting at 7:30 p.m. Christmas carols accompanied by hand bells will bring additional charm to the Christmas celebrations. There will be cookies and cider in the fellowship hall after service. The community is cordially invited to attend.

Children who would like to participate in the pageant must report to the assembly hall at 7 p.m. sharp. At 11 p.m. there will be carols and lessons with Holy Communion. All services are open to the community. We invite all to celebrate God's love that came at Christmas.

Knights of Columbus Youth Free Throw

January 13

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus are sponsoring their annual youth free throw championship. Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Registration will be held on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008 at 1 p.m. at the Sacred Heart School Gymnasium. Competition starts at 1:30 p.m. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants

What's happening at the South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

DECEMBER

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| UPCOMING EVENTS January 10 - 1 p.m. Foot Health for Diabetics-With Dr. Ben Gurjal ... January 28 - Noon Presentation of Pre-Arrangements by McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals with lunch | | | | Bingo 10am-2pm 21 |
| Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am 24 | CENTER CLOSED 25 | Aerobics 8:45 am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm 26 | Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p- 27 | Bingo 10am-2pm 28 |
| TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER. | | | | |

are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For information, contact Greg Gaydos at (732) 762-5003

"Stroke? R.E.A.C.T." Support Group Meet

January 16

AristaCare at Cedar Oaks will sponsor a new stroke group, "Stroke? R.E.A.C.T." on Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 6 to 7 p.m. at Cedar Oaks, located on Durham Avenue.

RSVP to Kathy Sherry, admissions director, at (732) 287-9555, ext. 123.

Inauguration of Coalition of Cultural Diversity

January 21

Mayor Charles Butrico will inaugurate the newly formed Coalition of Cultural Diversity on January 21 at the South Plainfield Senior Center.

The event starts at 4 p.m. with various displays of cultural artifacts and music, followed by a brief tribute to

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ethnic food will be available at a modest cost.

For more information, call Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

SPHS Class of 1982 25 Year Reunion

April 5, 2008

Save the date! The SPHS 25-year reunion is set for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Piscataway from 7 p.m. to midnight. Overnight rooms will be available at a discount rate. Register/update your contact information with classmates. com or contact Rosanne Demicollardo directly at jrlardo@roverusa.com.

— Out of Town —

Stamp Collectors Open House

December 22 & 23

AALL Stamps and Collectibles, 38 North Main St. in Milltown, will hold a Stamp Collectors Open House on

Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information, call (732) 247-1093.

Christmas Eve at Willow Grove

December 24

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, invites the community to a worship service of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

For information call the church at (908) 232-5678, E-mail us at info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit our Web site at www.willowgrovechurch.org.

35th Annual Stamp And Postcard Show

January 4-6

The New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association 35th annual Garden State Stamp and Postcard Show will be held on Friday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

at Frank Pombo's Bethwood, located at 38 Lackawanna Ave. in Totowa. Admission and parking is free.

For information, call N.J. Stamp Dealers Association at (732) 247-1093.

2008 Bucks County Dinner Theater

January 11

The Bucks County Playhouse winter schedule opens on January 11 with "Beehive, The 60's Musical," a fast paced and nostalgic look back at the girl groups and soloists of the time.

Ticket prices are \$55 for the evening dinner and show and \$49.50 for the matinee brunch and show. Discounts are available. For tickets and reservations, call (215) 862-2041.

16th Annual Taste of Somerset Tickets

April 28

The 16th annual Taste of Somerset, the area's original public tasting event, will provide a more extensive culinary experience than ever before according to Marie Hughes, executive director of the PeopleCare Center, promoters of the event. The event is scheduled for April 28, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Palace at Somerset Park, located at 333 Davidson Ave. in Somerset, the area's premier catering facility.

The 2008 Taste of Somerset will feature more than 40 of the region's best restaurants and more than one dozen beverage providers. Guests will stroll through the Palace, sampling the finest fare from the area's finest restaurants while interacting with the chefs and owners of these first rate establishments. Entertainment will be provided by a live jazz combo, a harpist and other quality entertainers.

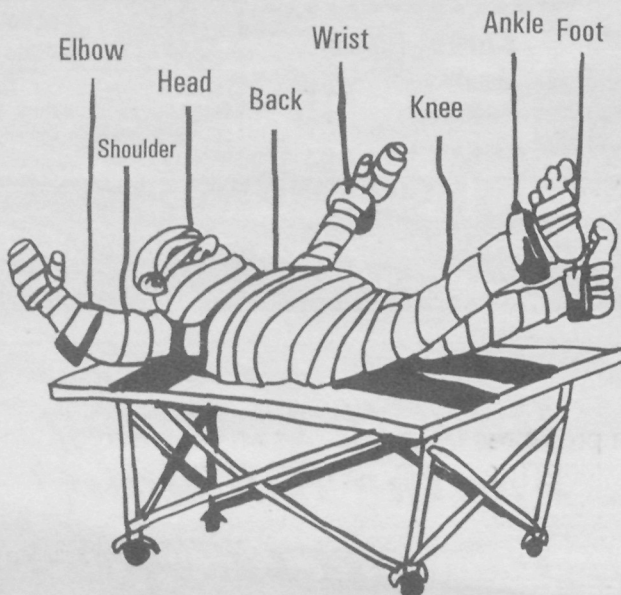
Tickets, normally \$75, are available at \$65 if purchased prior to December 31 for this all-you-can-eat event. Purchases may be made at the PeopleCare Center office at 120 Finderne Ave. in Bridgewater, online at www.peoplecarecenter.org or by calling (908) 725-2299.

Proceeds support the PeopleCare Center and the non-profit tenants that call the facility home.

Is your organization holding an event? Publicize it in "EVENTS AROUND TOWN."

Send your event to us at spobserver@comcast.net.

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SUBMIT LETTERS TO THE EDITOR to allow readers to discuss and react to issues.

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.

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South Plainfield Observer



Quick Chek Souper Chef contest finalists Devon Delaney, Ellen Sweeney, Monica Garcia, Stacey Palermo and Alison Bond.

Quick Chek Announces Souper Chef Winners

Quick Chek has announced that Monica Garcia of Rahway has been declared the company's first-ever Quick Chek Souper Chef contest champion.

Following a month-long submission process calling for original recipes incorporating one of Quick Chek's 14 fall menu soups as a main ingredient, Garcia, along with four other finalists, were chosen to compete in Quick Chek's Souper Chef contest cook-off at its South Plainfield location on Durham Avenue. Each contestant prepared and presented their dishes to a team of four culinary experts from the Center for Food Development and Manufacturing Technology at the School for Environmental and Biological Science of Rutgers University and the H. J. Heinz Company.

Quick Chek's first-ever Souper Chef contest winners are:

First Place: Monica Garcia, Rahway. Grand prize winner of a set of gourmet All-Clad cookware valued at \$750, Garcia created pancetta tomato and garlic using Quick Chek's roasted tomato and garlic soup.

Second Place: Stacey Palermo, Middlesex. Palermo won a \$500 gift card to Bed Bath and Beyond for her scrambled breakfast wrap using Quick Chek's creamy cheddar broccoli soup.

Third Place: Ellen Sweeney, Hillsborough. Sweeney created carrot nut

muffins using Quick Chek's roasted tomato and garlic soup and won Quick Chek's Soup for a Year prize package valued at \$250.

Runners-Up

Alison Bond, North Bergen. Bond created roasted tomato and spinach risotto incorporating Quick Chek's roasted tomato and garlic soup. She was presented with a \$50 Quick Chek gift card.

Devon Delaney, Princeton. Delaney's warm brie and mushroom steak sandwiches incorporated Quick Chek's mushroom with brie bisque soup. She was also presented with a \$50 Quick Chek gift card.

In addition to the prizes each contestant won during the competition, all finalists' original recipes will be published in a Quick Chek brochure to be available at each of the company's retail locations.

Devoted to providing convenient shopping blended with an expansive range of fresh products and services, Quick Chek is a market leader in food service with an exceptional fresh coffee and fresh food program. Operating more than 100 retail locations in New Jersey and Southern New York, Quick Chek's retail locations include 12 pharmacy stores and 14 locations with fuel. For more information, visit the company's Web site at www.quickchek.com.

Red Cross Shares Tips for a Happy Holiday

The Tri-County Red Cross wants you to keep in mind—the best holiday is a safe holiday. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year. Time to let food, revelry, presents and merriment meld into another happy and healthy holiday.

"While you are preparing for holidays," said Chapter CEO Nathan Rudy, "It's easy to plan a happy and safe holiday if you follow these simple Red Cross tips."

- Be a lifesaver during the holidays and always. The Red Cross recommends at least one person in every household should be trained and certified in first aid and CPR/AED. The Tri-County Red Cross has conveniently scheduled courses in both the Plainfield and Elizabeth locations; and attendees can be trained and certified in a few hours.

- Make sure your sitter's safe. Babysitters are at a premium during the holidays, but you still want to make sure you are leaving your little ones in capable hands. Look for a sitter that is Red Cross certified. Red Cross sitters are trained in basic care, how to spot an emergency, safe play, first aid and some are certified in CPR. If your favorite sitter is not Red Cross trained, consider giving her or him a gift certificate to one of our

courses as an early present.

- Declare the kitchen a safety zone. Keep the kitchen off-limits to children while cooking. Turn pot handles inside and keep hot pans away from counter edges. Help prevent choking by making sure children don't walk, run, play or talk with food in their mouths.

- Remember "five-and-five" for choking. If the person is conscious and cannot cough, speak or breathe, ask them if they are choking and if you can help them. Once you have consent to help, remember, give them "five-and-five." Lean the person forward and give five sharp back blows between the shoulder blades. If the object does not dislodge give five quick abdominal thrusts. Continue the cycle

of back blows and abdominal thrusts until the person can breathe or cough forcefully, the object is dislodged or the person becomes unconscious. If the person becomes unconscious call 9-1-1 or local emergency number right away. For more information on the new five-and-five procedure for choking, contact the Tri-County Red Cross.

For more safety tips or to register for one of our classes, contact Rosemary Nunez at Tri-County Red Cross at (908) 353-2500 or visit www.tricountycross.org.

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross has headquarters in Plainfield and Elizabeth and provides health and safety, disaster response and military communications programs.

FYI: Medicare Mobility Benefit

All Medicare recipients should be aware that if they suffer from conditions such as respiratory disorders, arthritis, cardiovascular disease, have a mobility limitation and difficulty in propelling a standard wheelchair, they may be eligible to receive a power wheelchair or scooter paid for with the assistance of Medicare.

This wonderful Medicare benefit assists tens of thousands of people per

month regain independence.

If you have a condition that prevents you from functioning within your home and you are covered by Medicare Part "B" and private insurance, you could receive a powerchair or scooter with little or no out of pocket expense.

For more information about this Federal Government assistance program, call 1 (866) 631-3022.

AristaCare at Cedar Oaks announces its new Stroke Support Group: "STROKE? R.E.A.C.T."

HOLD THE DATE

Wed., January 16, 2008
6:00pm—7:00pm
(with Dr. Michael Merkin, Neurologist)

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Our support group for stroke survivors, stroke patients, family members, and friends, features noted speakers who are extremely knowledgeable in the area of strokes. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and recovery of strokes, ranging from mild to severe, in an informal, friendly setting. Various rehabilitation topics related to strokes and stroke awareness will be presented by the Doctors and followed by a question and answer period. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT CEDAR OAKS.

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EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We would appreciate RSVPs as we will be preparing a meal for all attendees. Kindly call Kathy Sherry, Admissions Director at (732) 287-9555, ext 123 to make a reservation.

Wesley's Christmas Eve Service Feature Pageant

Wesley Methodist Church's Christmas Eve family service will feature the Children's Christmas Pageant and candlelight singing starting at 7:30 p.m. Christmas carols accompanied by hand bells will bring additional charm to the Christmas celebrations. There will be cookies and cider in the fellowship hall after service. The com-

munity is cordially invited to attend.

Children who would like to participate in the pageant must report to the assembly hall at 7 p.m. sharp. At 11 p.m. there will be carols and lessons with Holy Communion. All services are open to the community. We invite all to celebrate God's love that came at Christmas.

Hot Christmas Dinner

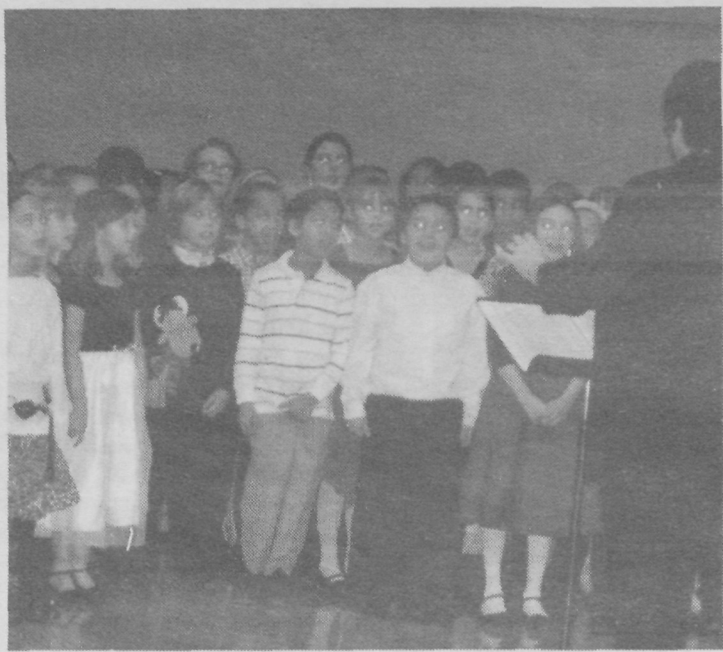
to any elderly or disabled person residing in South Plainfield.

We will deliver to your home on Christmas Day at no charge.

If you would like dinner or know of someone who is in need of dinner,

CONTACT:
Shirley Thompson
131 Montrose Ave., South Plainfield
(908) 756-7686

Please call between 10-12 Monday through Friday by December 21.



Music teacher Joanne Gurske conducts Riley School students in a holiday concert they performed at last month's Board of Education meeting. The students also performed their holiday concert at Borders in Watchung on December 6.

County Ensuring Gasoline Meets Octane Levels

The Middlesex County Department of Consumer Affairs is performing random checks to the more than 200 gasoline stations within the county to ensure that the octane level of the gasoline coming out of the pump is the same as what is posted.

Freeholder Christopher D. Rafano, chair of the County Law and Public Safety Committee, said inspectors are using a recently purchased octane analyzer to determine if drivers are getting fuel with the proper octane rating, which is free of water, silt or other contaminants. Fuel not at the proper octane levels could cause extensive engine damage.

"Gasoline prices are at or near all-time highs and it is incumbent upon us to make sure that consumers are getting what they pay for when fueling up," Rafano said. "The mobile analyzer enables us to perform this worthwhile task effectively and efficiently."

Until the county purchased the Zeltex Octane Analyzer, inspectors would collect samples and take them to a laboratory for testing, which proved time consuming and costly. Rafano said numerous consumer complaints are received each year.

As a result of the random testing, several stations have been found to be selling fuels with octane levels significantly different from the values posted on the pumps.

Rafano said stations found to be in violation would be prosecuted under State Weights and Measures Law and the New Jersey Consumer Affairs Fraud Act and would be required to pay steep fines.

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Caitlin Wyckoff is Junior Journalist!

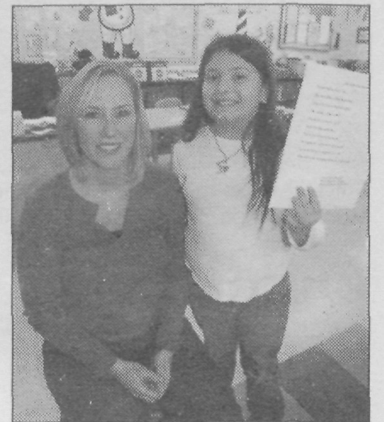
Caitlin Wyckoff, Roosevelt School second grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield Observer sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her poem, "A Sparkly Christmas."

Caitlin will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children in South Plainfield, the Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students can submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their Language Arts teachers, who will submit them to the Observer.

If you have any questions, call the



Teacher Maureen Wilson with Junior Journalist winner Caitlin Wyckoff.

Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

A Sparkly Christmas By Caitlin Wyckoff

White night, snow falls
Window shop, Christmas dolls.
Trim the tree, twinkly lights
Star on top, angel white.
Jammies on, sleepy eyes
Time for bed, lullabies.
Wake up! Did Santa come?
Are presents here, did I get some?
Surprise for me, surprise for you
May all your Christmas dreams come true!

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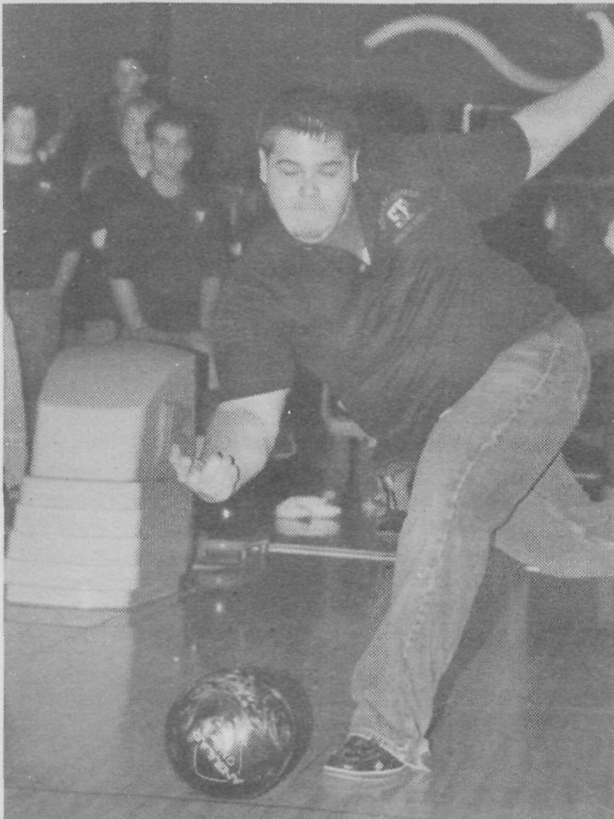
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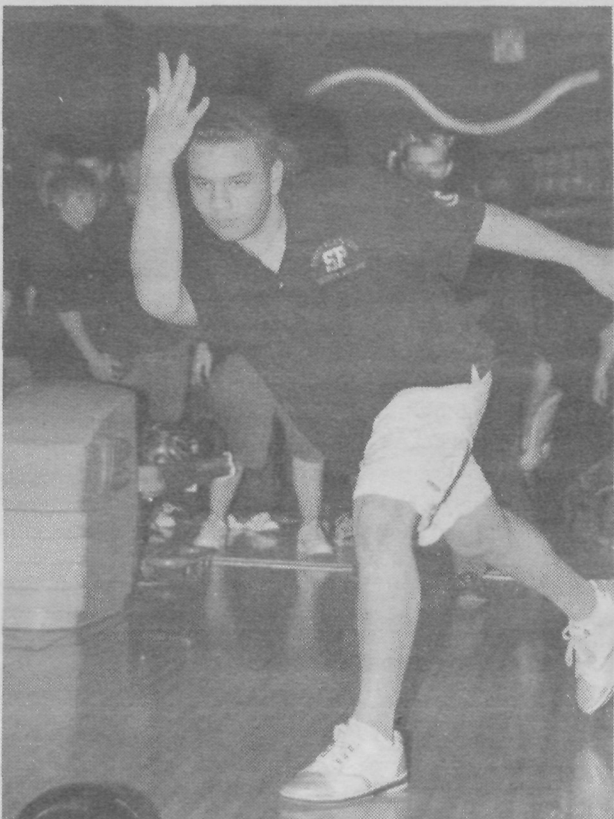
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Sports

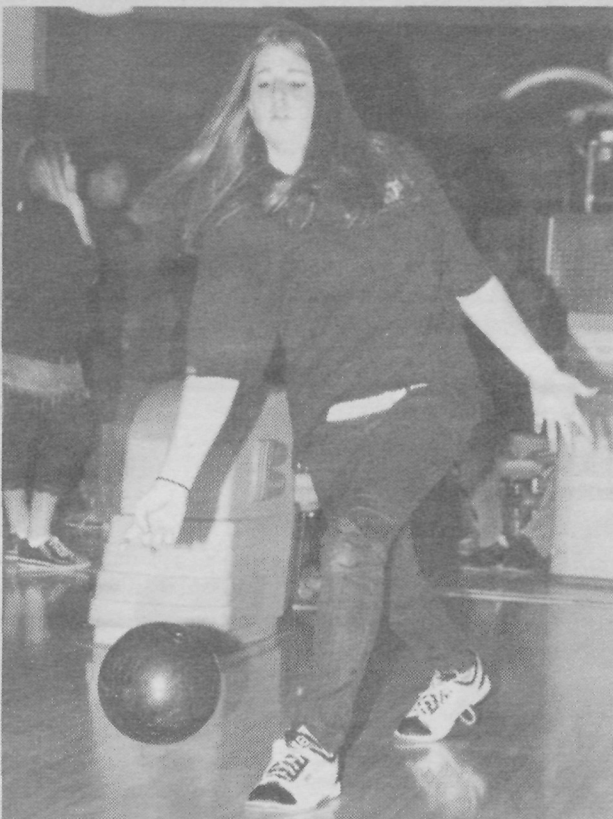
SPHS BOWLING



Jr. Mike Dandola hit a booming 691 set on games of 212-234-245. Mike is averaging 203.2.



Currently averaging 202.2, Sr. Capt Chris Esposito crushed the pocket for games of 218-199 and a 256 for 672 set.



Jr. Jackie Kukuch fired games of 177-224-232 for a sparkling 633 set. Jackie's average currently stands at 176.0.

Tiger Bowlers Sizzle in Monroe

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------------|
| 4 | SPHS | 863-1032-956—2851 |
| 0 | Monroe | 728-718-761—2207 |

The boys bowling team jumped out of the starting gate and never looked back as they swept all three games as they plastered Monroe. Taking scoring honors for the Tigers was Mike Dandola with games of 185-265-229 for a whooping 679 set. Teammates Ryan Pauls 205-204-215—624 and Chris Esposito 214-234 and 615 added more fire power. Dylan Papa chipped in with a 181 game. The Tigers' record stands at 2 and 3.

Tigers Clobber New Brunswick

| | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| 4 | SPHS | 840-910-940—2690 |
| 0 | New Brunswick | 744-623-767—2134 |

The Tigers took charge in the opening game and were never threatened by the Zebras.

- Mike Dandola 212-234-245—Booming 691 set
- Chris Esposito 186-223-187—596
- Tim Moskal 169-166-164—499

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------------|
| 0 | SPHS | 906-886-848—2640 |
| 4 | Sayreville | 912-984-1027—2923 |

The Tigers threw a scare into Sayreville's 22-match winning streak, but then the Bombers found their groove.

- Mike Dandola 222-223-172—617
- Chris Esposito 215-193-169—577
- Tim Moskal 188-191-162—541
- Dylan Papa 170

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | SPHS | 886-875-793—2554 |
| 3 | North Brunswick | 1010-963-982—2955 |

The undefeated Raiders sizzled from the start against the short-handed Tigers.

- Chris Esposito 189-192-192—573
- Ryan Pauls 203-203-184—590
- Mike Dandola 191-185-179—555

| | | |
|----|----------|------------------|
| 1½ | SPHS | 854-928-910—2693 |
| 3½ | Carteret | 941-881-910—2732 |

A single pin in the third game was the difference between a tie match and a loss to the Ramblers.

- Chris Esposito 218-199-256—Sparkling 672 set
- Ryan Pauls 192-225-152—573
- Kevin Reviello 168-161
- Mike Dandola 195-182

RECREATION WRESTLING

Submitted by Joe Sacco

Wrestlers Win Against Plainfield, Place in Chatham

The Recreation Central Jersey Wrestling Team opened the 2007-2008 dual meet season on Sunday with a 45-29 win over neighboring Plainfield.

Winning by pin for the young Tigers were Jacob Painton, Jake Hoffman and Antunee Adams. CJ Maszczak won a 6-2 decision, while Joey Heilmann, Joey Penyak, Desmond Santos, Danny Hedden and Dakota Pauls received forfeits.

At the Chatham Holiday Novice Tournament held the same day, the young Tigers took home eight medals. Winning second place medals were Brenden Hedden, Michael Marrero, Anthony Barge and Jeff Plungis. Third place medals went to Peter Marotta, Mitch McKee, Conner Schunk and Divon Pender.

Lady Tigers Hammer New Brunswick; Edged by Sayreville, North Brunswick and State Champion Carteret

| | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| 4 | SPHS | 712-755-814—2291 |
| 0 | New Brunswick | 594-530-575—1699 |

The girls bowling team overwhelmed New Brunswick, sweeping all three games to complete the shutout.

Katie Yon's 203 high game and 543 set paced the Tigers. Teammate Jackie Kukuch added a 188 game and 518 set.

| | | |
|---|----------|------------------|
| 0 | SPHS | 817-770-801—2388 |
| 4 | Carteret | 866-888-826—2580 |

The girls bowling team gave the Group Two State Champions all it could handle, dropping two close games to the undefeated Ramblers of Carteret. Leading the way for SPHS was Freshman Kelly Pauls with games of 151-171-176 for a solid 498 set. Excellent performances were turned in by teammates Jackie Kukuch, Lyndsey Murtagh, Katie Yon and Gina Curcio.

| | | |
|---|------------|------------------|
| 1 | SPHS | 654-715-649—2018 |
| 3 | Sayreville | 740-666-759—2165 |

The Lady Tigers, after splitting the first two games, let the season opener get away.

- Katie Yon 189
- Freshman Kelly Pauls 172
- Lyndsey Murtagh 167
- Gina Curcio 157 Game

| | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| 1 | SPHS | 757-687-807—2251 |
| 3 | No. Brunswick | 804-750-780—2344 |

The Lady Tigers could not get it together and managed to win just the final game to a hot-shooting Raider squad. Capt. Katie Yon took scoring honors with a solid 494 set on games of 167-189-169. Teammate Gina Curcio's 206 high game and 488 set and Jackie Kukuch's 479 set helped to keep it close.

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Happy Holidays

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South Plainfield
Observer

Holiday Week Mini-Camps at TBSA

If your children are bored and looking for something to do, or if you have to go to work and would like to know that they are in good hands, why not bring them to TBSA? Mini-Camp hours run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on December 26, 27 and 28.

The staff will keep the children busy with fun-filled activities throughout the day. Come for one, two or all three days. If you just need a few hours for the kids to unwind or want to go to the mall and exchange a few things, you can always drop the kids off for a couple of hours at a cost of just \$10 per child for a two-hour time period. They can join in on the all-day sports camp activities, such as baseball, bas-

ketball, soccer, football, dodge and kick ball. TBSA has purchased two brand new bounce houses for the 10-year-old and under crowd to enjoy.

Fantastic Fridays (just \$10 for four hours of activity) is a nice Friday night option for you to go out and have a nice quiet dinner and have your children enjoy many different activities at TBSA. It is also a great time for dads or moms to get together with the kids and have some good indoor athletic and recreational fun.

If your children attended our summer camp programs, you are already familiar with the fantastic time children have inside our 42,000 sq. ft. facility. Don't forget, it's not too early to start thinking about which camp you want your children in for the summer.

For those who are a little more sports specific minded, TBSA offers an elite basketball shooting camp from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for those able to shoot a basketball comfortably at a 10 ft. basket, as well as a baseball hitting

camp during the three days after Christmas. Check our holiday camp schedules on our Web site at www.tbсанj.com or call (732) 650-1224 for information. These camps are informative, fun and tailored towards individual improvement.

Don't forget the basketball skills program is held Sunday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon at a cost of \$10 for children ages five through nine. The winter basketball program is stepping into high gear. There are programs for children from five through age 14 which are great instructional programs that teach children to learn basketball fundamentals in a team format setting. Don't let your child play with little or no instruction. The game will be more fun for them if they have some good, basic instruction. Call and see the great programs for aspiring players.

TBSA is located in nearby Edison at 76 Carter Drive just off of Talmadge Road. For more information, visit the Web site at www.tbсанj.com or call (732) 650-1224.

South Plainfield Observer

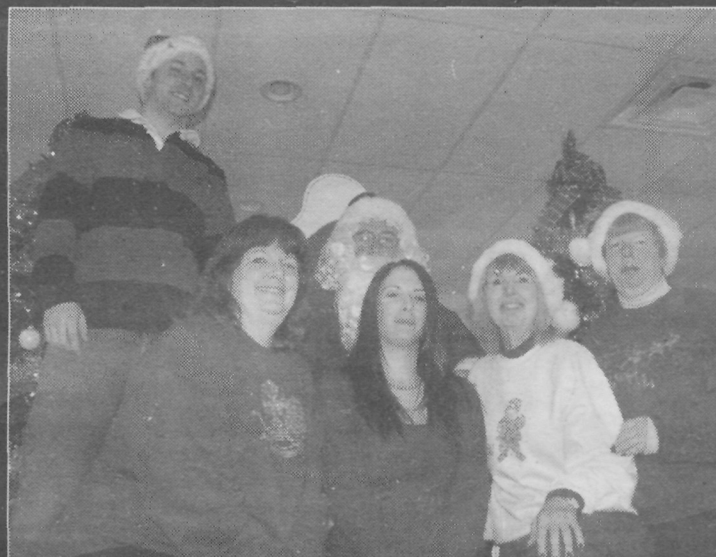
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Santa Listens to Christmas Wishes at the Senior Center

On December 15 more than 30 children visited the South Plainfield Senior Center for photos with Santa. Each child had the opportunity to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. In addition to a Polaroid photo, each child received a candy cane and a gift from Santa. The annual event is sponsored by the Recreation Department. This year's Santa was played by Robert Graf.



Santa's helpers were at the Senior Center on Saturday.

OAK TREE BUY-RITE DISCOUNT WINES & SPIRITS

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SUNDAY 12/23
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|---|--|
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| MILLER LITE 30-pack 12 oz. N.R. Bottles \$18.99 | |

Holiday Liquor & Cordial Specials...

| | |
|---|---|
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| SEAGRAM Extra Dry Gin 1.75 liter \$15.99 | GRAND MARINER Gordon Rouge Cordial 750 ml \$29.99 |
| CANADIAN CLUB 80 Canadian Whisky 1.75 liter \$16.99 | DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL Scotch Whisky 750 ml \$29.99 |
| SEAGRAM 7 CROWN Whisky 1.75 liter \$16.99 | STOLICHNAYA Vodka 80° 750 ml \$31.99 |
| MALIBU Rum All Types 750 ml \$16.99 | TANQUERAY Dry Gin 750 ml \$32.99 |
| JIM BEAM BLACK 8 Year Old Bourbon 750 ml \$18.99 | GLENLIVET 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky 750 ml \$33.99 |
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Holiday Wine Specials...

| | |
|--|---|
| BLACK OPAL All Types 750 ml \$6.99 | ROBERT MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet 1.5 liter \$10.99 |
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| RANCHO ZABACO Dancing Bull All Types 750 ml \$7.99 | FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA Diamond Series Chard. 750 ml \$10.99 |
| SMOKING LOON All Types 750 ml \$7.99 | YELLOW TAIL All Types 1.5 liter \$11.99 |
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| FREIXENET Cordon Negro Brut 750 ml \$7.99 | ALTAMUTA Pinot Grigio 750 ml \$11.99 |
| HANDO Chard. Pinot Grigio 750 ml \$8.99 | FRANCIS FORD COPPOLA Cabernet 750 ml \$12.99 |
| BARFOOT CELLARS Cab. Merlot 750 ml \$8.99 | PULENTE ESTATE Cabernet 750 ml \$12.99 |
| CARLO ROSSI Cab. Merlot 750 ml \$8.99 | FONSECA Pinot Noir 750 ml \$13.99 |
| ROBERT MONDAVI Private Selection Coastal Cab. Merlot 750 ml \$9.99 | SERENITY Pinot Noir 750 ml \$14.99 |
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| M & R All Squares 750 ml \$9.99 | PERRIER JOUET Grand Brut 750 ml \$31.99 |
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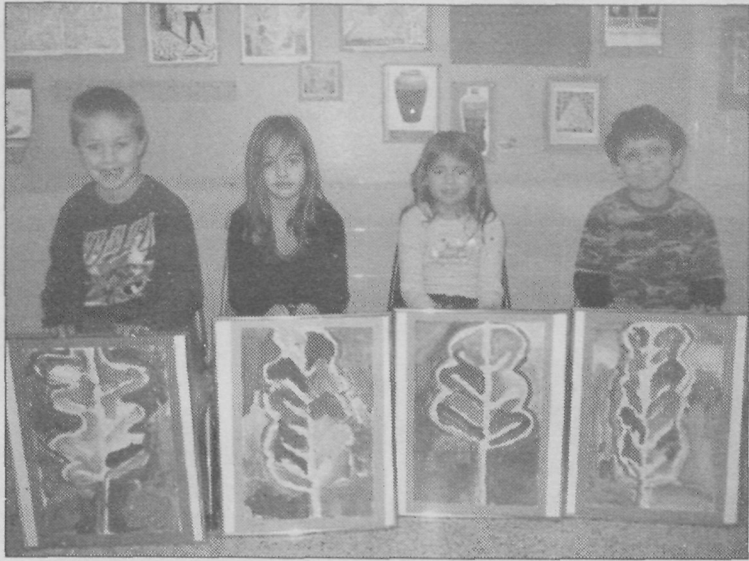
Congratulations!
2007-08
JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Kristi Maher, her mom Cindy, dad Donald and brother Matthew.

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Sun 10-6

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Riley School featured artists (L-R): Gavin, Jade, Isabella and Noah.

Student Works Featured in "Art On Display"

Barbara Harris, art teacher at Riley School, has selected four new student artists for Riley's "Art for the Main Office" program. Colorful, supersized leaf paintings by second graders Gavin Apgar, Jade Orth, Isabella Ardito and Noah Lynch have been framed and hung for display. They will remain on view for several months. This art project combined many of the "Elements of Art" and "Principles of Design" including experimental color mixing, lines, shapes, rhythm, texture and space.

Red Cross Offering Lifeguard Training

The Tri-County Red Cross in collaboration with the JCC of Middlesex is offering a Lifeguard Training Course. Individuals who are 15 years or older can register for the course. The course teaches individuals the skills and knowledge needed to prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies and provides them with a Lifeguard Certificate upon successful completion. It also includes certification in CPR/AED for the professional rescuer and first aid. The course will be held at the JCC of Middlesex, 1775 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison and costs \$215 to participate.

There is a great need for lifeguards in different pools in the summer and throughout the year. Don't miss this opportunity to be trained as a lifeguard.

The session will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 27, Friday, Dec. 28, Saturday, Dec. 29 and Sunday, Dec. 30. You must complete all sessions.

Call Rose at (908) 756-6414, ext. 10 or call JCC at (732) 494-3232 to register or for more information.

Obituaries

Vincent H. Trindell, 83

Vincent H. Trindell died on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the East Orange Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Born in Morristown, he had resided in Summit before settling in South Plainfield in 1950.

He was a WWII veteran of the United States Army, serving in the European Theater before his discharge in 1946.

A builder by trade, Vincent worked as a local self-employed building contractor for many years before retiring 20 years ago.

Vincent has been a long time, faithful parishioner of Our Lady of Czesochowa Church where he also assisted with the Feast of St. Anthony. As a past post commander, Vincent was also a member of the South Plainfield Veteran of Foreign Wars Memorial Post #6763 and enjoyed spending time golfing for many years.

His beloved wife, Gisela, died in January of 2006. He was also predeceased by a brother, Bernard "Bud" Trindell.

Surviving are two dear daughters, Gisela T. Matthews and husband Tony and Katherine Kalba and husband John, all of Florida; a sister-in-law, Joan Trindell; a niece, Judy and two nephews, Jimmy and David.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2600 U.S. Highway #1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902 or to Our Lady of Czesochowa Church, 807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

NOTES from the Suburban Woman's Club

*"Peace on earth will come to stay,
When we live Christmas every day."*
Helen Steiner Rice

The South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club celebrated Christmas for a brief time on December 6, when the Madrigal Singers of Franklin High School in Somerset performed for them. Under the direction of Ms. Demonie and costumed in the fashion of the Shakespearean age, they regaled us with familiar and unfamiliar carols. Their performance

was superlative!

On January 3, Mary Padavano of "The Happy Paintbrush" will visit with us and demonstrate plaster mold painting and other ingenious arts. We will surely have our creative talents challenged and are looking forward to this experience.

As we await the first real winter blast let us in loud voices say: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! See you in 2008.

—Submitted by Gloria M. Breunings,

Unclaimed IRS Refunds

The Internal Revenue Service is looking for nine South Plainfield residents to claim their share of undeliverable refund checks. The IRS will re-issue the checks, which average \$938, after taxpayers correct or update their addresses with the IRS. In some cases, there is more than one check waiting.

The "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov enables taxpayers to check the status of their refunds. A taxpayer must submit his or her social security number, filing status and amount of

refund shown on their 2006 return. The tool will provide the status of their refund.

Taxpayers can access a telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

South Plainfield taxpayers due refund checks are: Amit R. Desai, Hugo Herbas, Yetibeth Muniz-Toro, Nery A. Ortiz, Jagannath V. Pakala, Pill Pavitra V., Cynthia Rivera, Roopesh Sukhram, George E. and Rita C. Vanhouten and Anita Vythiengam.

In Loving Memory-Seventh Anniversary

I see the countless Christmas trees, around the world below, with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow. The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I hear the many Christmas songs, that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring for it's beyond description, to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart. But I am not so

Sadly Missed, Mommy & Daddy, The Singh, Guzinski, Spohn, Rafalko, Pullen, Kurilew & Harkey Families



ANTHONY EDWARD SINGH
7-19-1997 • 12-25-2000

far away, we really aren't apart. So be happy for me loved ones, you know I hold you dear. And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year!

I send you each a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you each a memory of my undying love. After all, "love" is the gift, more precious than pure gold. It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do. For I can't count the blessings or the love he has for you! So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear. Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Michael Jackson; and Pacific Insurance Company, Ltd., Subrogee of Jose Portal t/a El Girasol

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO serve upon GOLDBECK McCafferty & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Independence Center; 701 Market Street; Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532, phone # (856) 858-3242, an answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. For the Benefit of UBS Real Estate Investments Inc. is plaintiff, and Jose Santos a/k/a Jose F. Santos and Joao Soares is/are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-19010-07 within thirty-five (35) days after December 21, 2007 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (i) foreclosing a mortgage dated February 12, 2007, made by Jose Santos a/k/a Jose F. Santos and Joao Soares as mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for New Century Mortgage Corporation recorded on February 21, 2007, for Middlesex County in Book 12187, Page 849 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, UBS Real

Estate Securities, Inc., by Assignment which has been sent for recording with the Middlesex County Clerk's Office; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 60 Woodshore West, Old Bridge, NJ 07735.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7600.

YOU, Michael Jackson, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered against Jose Santos in the Superior Court of New Jersey known as DJ323909-1997 and Case No. DC-004737-96 for a debt amount of \$4,094.28 plus costs and interest, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Pacific Insurance Company, Ltd., Subrogee of Jose Portal t/a El Girasol, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered against Jose Santos in the Superior Court of New Jersey known as DJ-028410-1987 and Case No. 86D-10498 entered on July 7, 1987 to secure a debt in the amount of \$4,125.51 plus costs and interest, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Theodore J. Fetter
Theodore J. Fetter, Clerk
Superior Court of New Jersey

\$96.70

December 21, 2007

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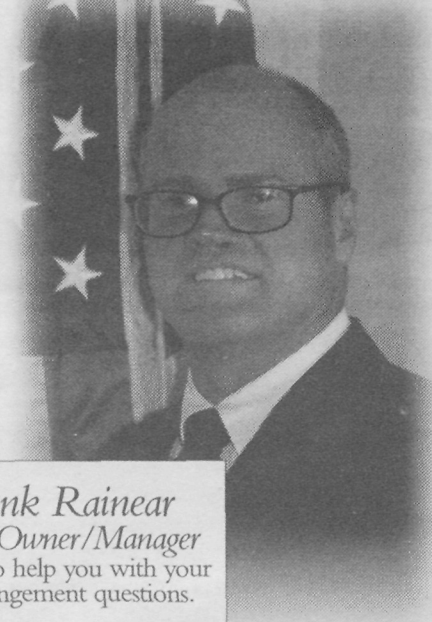
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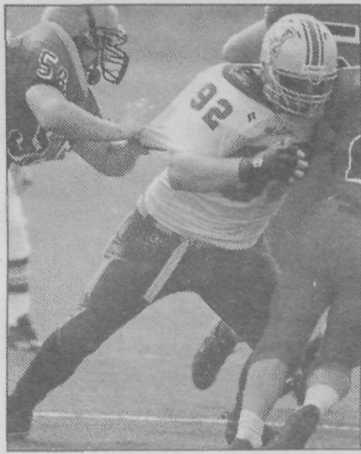
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Moates Helps Mules to Best Ever Season



William Moates

Junior nose tackle William Moates of South Plainfield helped the Muhlenberg College football team to their best season in school history. Moates earned second-team All-Centennial Conference honors after making 34 tackles as part of a unit that ranked in the top 10 in Division III in five defensive categories. He also recorded five tackles for loss, including four sacks and broke up four passes. Moates twice won the "Dig In" Award from the Mule coaching staff for unsung contributions. Muhlenberg won its first outright Centennial Conference championship in 2007. They were undefeated in the regular season for the first time in the 106-year history of the program. The Mules advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs and finished with a record of 11-1.

SPPD Crime Statistics November

The South Plainfield Police crime statistics for November 2007 are:

| Crime Classification | No. of Cases |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Homicide | 0 |
| Agg. Sexual Assault | 0 |
| Robbery | 1 |
| Agg. Assault | 2 |
| Burglary | 15 |
| Theft | 32 |
| MV Theft | 0 |
| Simple Assault | 16 |
| Arson | 1 |
| Forgery/Counterfeit | 3 |
| Fraud | 5 |
| Embezzlement | 0 |
| Stolen Property | 0 |
| Criminal Mischief | 13 |
| Weapons | 0 |
| Prostitution | 0 |
| Sex Offenses | 0 |
| Narcotics | 6 |
| Gambling | 0 |
| Offense Against Family | 0 |
| DWI | 7 |
| Liquor Laws | 2 |
| Drunkness | 0 |
| Disorderly Person | 8 |
| Vagrancy | 0 |
| All Others* | 38 |
| Runaway JV's | 0 |
| Total | 149 |
| Year to Date | 1,583 |

*Includes found and lost property, harassment, missing adults, assists, general accidents, squad call, etc.

Cookie College a Rousing Success

Nearly 250 brownie, junior, cadette and senior girl scouts hailing from all over the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council's 25-community jurisdiction turned out to Cookie College held on November 17 at Union Catholic Regional High School. The day was broken up into two sessions, with the morning geared towards brownies and the afternoon meant for juniors, cadettes and seniors. The event featured a number of workshops, including how to make change, role playing, cookie tasting, sales techniques and much more. The purpose of Cookie College was to prepare its Class of 2007 for the upcoming cookie sale. Last year, those who attended the event saw a marked (average of 100-plus box) increase in their sales results.

Once again GSWRC will partner with ABC Bakers to present a delectable and appetizing line of eight cookies. The family and friends portion of the sale will get underway on December 21, while the order taking period will start on January 1. All participants came away with Cookie College diplomas along with the Smart Cookie Brownie-Try-It, Cookie Biz Junior Badge and Cookie and Dough IPP for girls ages 11-17.

In the midst of celebrating its 50th Anniversary, GSWRC proudly delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults. To learn more about girl scouting or the upcoming cookie sale, be sure to consult www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.



New toys were donated by South Plainfield High School students for the toy drive for Christmas spearheaded by the SPHS Athletic Department. Students who made donations of toys received a free ticket to upcoming sport meets. Pictured, left to right are Brian Fabiano, Chris Pennisi and Brandon Ullom.

police report

- On December 11, Sharell O. Gaddy, 18, of Piscataway, an employee of Home Depot, was arrested for credit card theft for using a customer's credit card to make purchases at the store, as well as other clothing stores.
- On December 13, a Day Street resident reported receiving numerous harassing phone calls on their cell phone.
- A Plainfield Avenue resident reported the theft of an AM/FM/CD player

from their vehicle and that the Christmas lights in their front yard have been repeatedly cut over the last two years.

• On December 14, a Wenzel Court resident reported the theft of two Honda vehicle seats worth \$10,000. A hole had been cut in the soft convertible roof.

• An employee of Cedar Oaks Care Center on Durham Avenue reported the theft of \$800 from their wallet that was in the laundry room.

• A Park Avenue resident reported that three Christmas decorations on their front porch had been broken.

• A Plainfield resident reported the theft of a World Nav 3000 XL GPS and unit and \$10 in change from their unlocked vehicle parked at the A&P.

• On December 15, a Hamilton Boulevard resident reported that a hole had been cut in the convertible top of their 2000 Honda S2000.

• On December 15, an Edison resident reported the theft of a pocketbook that was left in a fitting room at Macys.

• On December 17, William J. Svarada, 36, of Piscataway was arrested at Napa on New Durham Road for the theft of \$17,500 in assorted car parts.

• On December 18, Richard J. Manfre, 25, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

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Hazardous Conditions

(Continued from page 1)
to get their trucks out to the schools immediately. They had trucks in the school parking lots sanding and salting, but not until after school was in session.

Late Monday afternoon Negrón reached out to Mayor Charles Butrico to ask for the borough's help with the school parking lots. All school property had been salted and sanded on Monday, but with the anticipated drop in temperatures predicted that night, he wanted to make sure there would be safe conditions on school property Tuesday morning. At 5:30 on Tuesday morning, the Department of Public Works trucks were out sanding and salting school property and it was clear when teachers and students arrived at school. The borough will be reimbursed by either the BOE or Sodexho.

Negrón said he would like to personally thank the police department, the mayor and council and the employees at public works for their help during this emergency. He also wanted to thank the teachers, parents, students and the members of the community for their help and cooperation. He commented on how pleased he was to see everyone in the community work together during this emergency. He

added that despite the dangerous icy conditions, no major injuries occurred, but there were incidents of people who slipped on the ice.

Negrón has already held a meeting with the general manager and regional manager of Sodexho and the school board business administrator to assure that this never happens. They now have a detailed plan in place for the future.

Special Meeting

(Continued from page 1)
have been invited. He added that one of the frequent comments made by Republicans during the past few years was they were not included in decision making. Councilman Joe Scrudato also said he would have liked to have been included. Jones responded that they had considered inviting members, but didn't do so.

According to Councilman Rob Bengivenga, they talked to four professionals, three engineers and one attorney, all of whom reached out to them. No decisions resulted from the meetings and in no way were they doing anything illegal. He added that holding meetings to interview professionals is something no other municipality has done in public thus far.

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Kravet Furniture
Regularly \$2500
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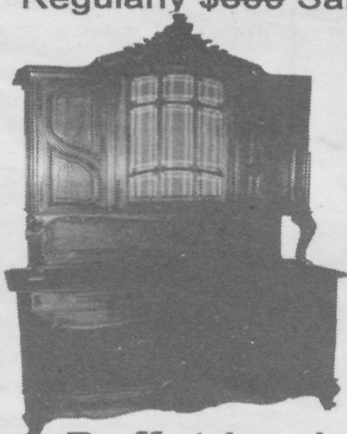
Porcelain
Regularly \$130-Sale Price \$65



KAZAK RUGS
Regularly \$265-Sale Price \$65



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Over 2000 Different Fabrics in Stock
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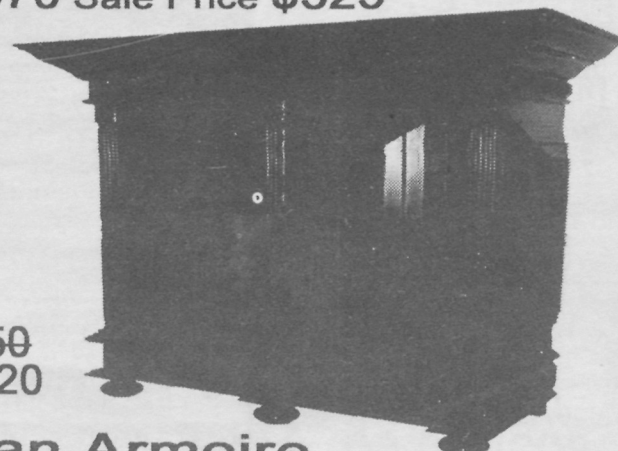


Buffet Louis 16 w/ Beveled Glass
Regularly \$20,000 Sale Price \$5,500

Exclusive D'Angelico
Regularly \$2250
Sale Price \$895

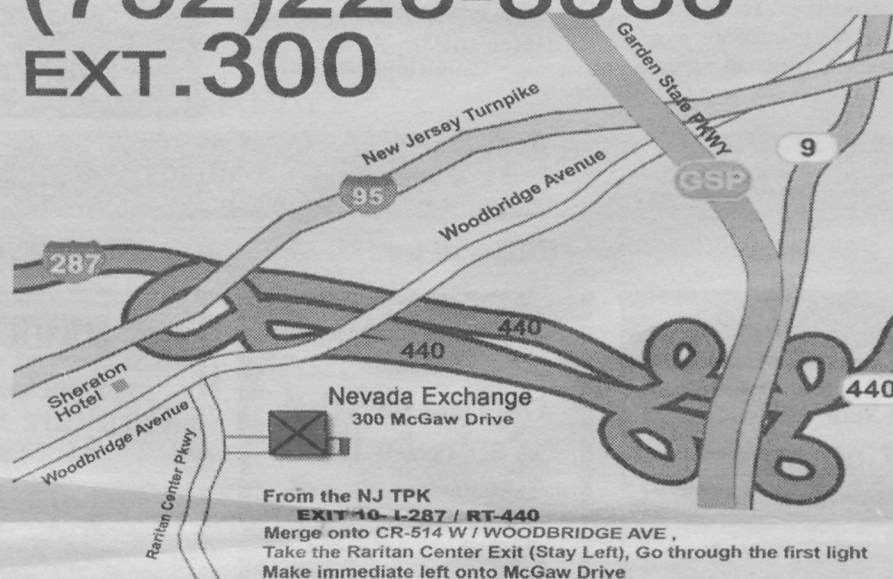


Pillow
Regularly \$650
Sale Price \$120



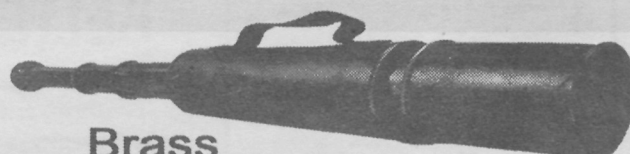
Belgian Armoire
Regularly \$9650 Sale Price \$700

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FROM ROUTE 287
Take 287 South till it becomes NJ-440N
Exit CR-514 W / WOODBRIDGE AVE
toward BONHAMTOWN (1st exit after NJ TPK)
Take the Raritan Center Exit (Stay Left)
Go through the first light
Make immediate left onto McGaw Drive

FROM THE GSP
EXIT 127- RT-440/ toward I-287.
Bear right and merge onto
CR-514 W / WOODBRIDGE AVE.
Take the Raritan Center Exit (Stay Left)
Go through the first light
Make immediate left onto McGaw Drive
Follow McGaw to end in cul de sac



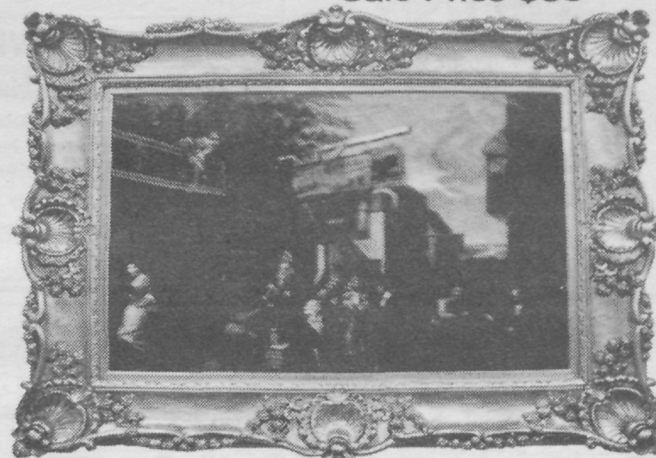
Brass
Regularly \$265-Sale Price \$65



Urn
Regularly \$325
Sale Price \$165



BRASS
REGULARLY \$120
SALE PRICE \$25



Oil Painting in a Gold Metal Leaf Frame
Regularly \$2570 Sale Price \$325



Kravet Furniture
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