

South Plainfield Observer

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MAY 30, 2008

HONORING THE SERVICE & THE SACRIFICE



Memorial Day ceremonies included the dedication of the Franklin School playground (left) in honor of Trista Moretti, attended by her parents, Fred and Judy Moretti and sister, Jennifer, as well as ceremonies at the VFW, the American Legion and local cemeteries.

A Community Honors Fallen Soldiers on Memorial Day

Memorial Day, honoring fallen soldiers, was initially observed 140 years ago on May 30, 1868 when flowers were placed on graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery.

The VFW and American Legion held their annual ceremonies on Monday. Attending were dignitaries, veterans and residents to pay homage to the members of the armed forces who served, were wounded or died while defending our country. The groups spent the week prior to Memorial Day placing more than 2,000 flags on the graves of local servicemen who are buried in South Plainfield.

Opening ceremonies began at the VFW with prayers and songs performed by the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir, under the direction of Tracy Murray. After flowers and wreaths were placed in front of the VFW building, everyone proceeded to the three local cemeteries and to the Veterans Memorial behind the Senior Center. At each stop a high school drum band led the procession into the cemeteries where a prayer was read, a wreath was placed, and the honor guard presented a four gun salute, followed by "Taps."

The closing ceremonies took place at the American Legion. Retired Pastor Rev. Charles Mingle opened with a prayer. Taylor Kurlew sang "God Bless America," and The Traveling Choir performed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

After the ceremonies, guests enjoyed a lunch donated by South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

SPHS Hall of Fame Candidates Named

A "Hall of Fame" was established at South Plainfield High School to honor graduates for achievements in business, government, academia, community service and the humanities.

Acknowledging these successful graduates recognizes them as leaders in their fields and also provides current high school students with positive role models from their own community. The candidates selected for this year are Kenneth Abbott, Charles Butrico, Thomas Gannon and Robert Jones.

The inductees will be honored on Tuesday, June 4 with a luncheon at Flanagan's. An induction ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. the same evening in South Plainfield High School Joseph A. Mondoro Auditorium.

When Trista Moretti attended Franklin School as a youngster, she always loved the playground. And so it was fitting last Thursday that the school's playground was dedicated to the fallen soldier in a ceremony honoring her memory.

Franklin School Honors Trista Moretti

The Franklin PTO recently refurbished the playground. A large memorial stone with a plaque was placed in the corner of the playground dedicating the playground in Trista's name.

Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys was master of ceremonies. Students from Franklin filled the gym, most dressed in red, white and blue, some carrying flags and wearing patriot hats. The student chorus sang "God Bless America" while the rest of the students saluted the flag.

Trista's parents, Fred and Judy, and sister Jennifer, who also attended Franklin School were



Sergeant Trista Moretti

(Continued on page 8)

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA and/or Other **SPECIAL** Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.

BOE meetings Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

(Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)



To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.

council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted. * All meetings begin at 7 p.m.

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

Agenda Meeting

Monday, June 9 (7 p.m.)

June 16

July 7

August 4

Public Meeting

Immediately Following

June 23

July 14

August 11

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

planning board

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

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

June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov 18*, Dec. 9*.

zoning board of adjustment

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

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

June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28,

September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30*, December 11*.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, January 21, February 18, March 18 and April 8.

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

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 plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

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

June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14.

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 on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

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.

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

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.

IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

My son, Brian Jr., sent us a thank you letter that we would like to submit to the *Observer*. He's currently deployed in Iraq and recently received care packages and wants to thank everyone. Below is Brian's letter. We would also like to submit a picture of him and some of his buddies in Iraq to go along with the thank you letter.

**THANK YOU,
BRIAN & VICKI SPISSO**

To Everyone in South Plainfield:

Hi, my name is Brian Spisso, Jr. I am a PFC in the United States Army,

never have enough support. We're at our halfway point and can't wait to get back home.

Again, thank you and Godspeed!
PFC BRIAN SPISSO, JR.

Dear Editor,

I recently read about the Dismal Swamp as a target for redevelopment.

Overdevelopment has already plagued New Jersey's natural landscape, changing it from a unique environment spotted with forests full of native species of animals and plants to an endless line of housing developments and shopping centers.



PFC Brian Spisso, Jr. (center) with fellow soldiers in Iraq.

and am presently serving in Iraq. The other day after coming off of a mission, I went into my room to find a bunch of large boxes waiting for me and my buddies. It was amazing. I had to write to everyone back home in South Plainfield to thank you from all of us.

I am a soldier in the 101st Airborne Division stationed out of Fort Campbell, Ky. and the guys and I can't thank you enough for what you do for us. You can't imagine what a moral booster this has also been. We especially want to thank Gary Prendergast and his daughter, Cassie; South Plainfield High School teachers Ms. Marconi, Ms. Zurka, Mr. Spolarich and Ms. Vandermark. We also want to thank the SPHS Student Leadership Group, the SPHS Girls Lacrosse Team and Ms. Vandermark's first period Spanish class.

Thank you so much for thinking about and supporting us. You can

As a student of Rutgers University, I have been able to frequently visit the Dismal Swamp Conservation Area. I know that destroying this natural habitat in my mind would be considered a tragedy. There are many species of wildlife including mammals, birds, fish, and plants that are native to New Jersey that can frequently be seen at the Dismal Swamp Conservation Area. In fact, bird watchers statewide

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the *Observer* does not publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the *Observer*, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

come to view the hundreds of species of birds, including some that are on the endangered species list.

Building over an area like Adams Farm in South Plainfield or the Visco site in Edison would only destroy this unique habitat that would be impossible to re-create. The Dismal Swamp also has an active outdoor ecological learning lab in the Edison Wetlands Association's Triple C Ranch. This environmental education center is used to teach students and residents of all ages about the important natural habitat that central New Jersey has to offer.

Since Middlesex County is mostly an urban and high-density suburban community, visitors are able to step out of this crowded area to experience New Jersey's wildlife by taking hikes on the numerous nature trails at the Dismal Swamp. It is imperative to preserve all the imperiled sites remaining in the Dismal Swamp so these activities can continue. I believe that it would be a disservice to the community if the Dismal Swamp were to be further destroyed in the hands of developers. Housing developments are not an uncommon sight around New Jersey. What is uncommon is a gorgeous natural area like the Dismal Swamp Conservation Area.

**SINCERELY,
GIANINE E. TOMPKINS
NEW BRUNSWICK**

The Voice of the People Must be Heard!!
Demand that Muhlenberg Remain Open as a Full Service Hospital

Come to the Public Hearing on MUHLENBERG HOSPITAL

Thursday, June 5

Protest 4:30 P.M. Hearing 6:00 P.M.

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South Plainfield Gas Price Check

Gasoline prices are rising every day. To keep our readers informed, the Observer will be publishing the latest price of gasoline at our local stations.

Station	Location	5/20/2008 6:00 PM	5/27/2008 6:00 PM	See Note
Jersey Oil	Park Ave & E. Golf Ave	\$3.599	\$3.739	1*
Citgo	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.599	\$3.739	
Raceway	Clinton & W. 7th	\$3.599	\$3.759	2*
Jersey Oil	Hamilton & Amboy	\$3.629	\$3.779	
Exxon	Maple & Park Ave.	\$3.639	\$3.779	
Enrite	Durham & Texas	\$3.599	\$3.789	
Shell	Plainfield & Lane	\$3.699	\$3.839	
Gulf	Front St. & Oak Tree Ave.	\$3.689	\$3.849	
Lukoil	Durham & 287	\$3.699	\$3.859	
Gulf	Stelton & New Brunswick	\$3.699	\$3.899	
Lukoil	Hamilton & Stelton	\$3.759	\$3.979	
1*	Jersey Oil Credit Card Price	\$3.699	\$3.839	
2*	Raceway Credit Card Price	\$3.689	\$3.849	

Bid for Open Space Funding for Dismal Swamp Properties

By Libby Barsky

A resolution was adopted at the May 12 Borough Council meeting requesting the Middlesex County Freeholders purchase two parcels of land located within the Dismal Swamp to be part of the open space inventory for the Borough.

The council resolution asserts the two parcels, if developed, would cause flooding, traffic, the need for additional municipal services and the destruction of habitat beneficial to the environment.

The 600-acre Dismal Swamp Conservation Area, covering sections of Edison, Metuchen and South Plainfield, are Federal Priority Wetlands designated by both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Robert Spiegel, executive director of the Edison Wetlands Association, the Dismal Swamp is one of the few clean sources of water for the Lower Raritan River Watershed and offers natural flood control while its forests—home to 175 species of birds, 25 species of mammals as well as two dozen types of reptiles and amphibians—produce oxygen and it's wetlands clean and purify water. The Edison Wetlands Association is an organization begun 20 years ago to preserve the swamp.

The two lots are Adams Gardens, Block 255, Lot 34 and Quincy Place Associates Parcel, Block 388, Lot 25.

Adams Farm history dates back to 2003 when Ferraro Construction applied to the planning board to subdivide the 9.7 acres on Delancey Street which borders Edison. The property would be divided into 20 lots, with Ferraro building 19 single family homes and a detention basin. When the Township of Edison vacated portions of three streets so there would be no through street adjacent to Delancey, the planning board denied the application because of lack of access. The board's ruling was appealed by Superior Court Judge James Hurley and sent back to the planning board.

When the application returned to the planning board in December 2007, Ferraro Construction received preliminary major subdivision approval.

The Quincy Place parcel, the former Visco property bordering Coolidge Street, is adjacent to a portion of the 69-acre wetlands tract the Middlesex Freeholders recently purchase for \$4.75M.

The application of the Quincy Place developers to build four homes and a Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall is currently before the Edison Planning Board and has not yet obtained approval.

Hamilton Blvd. Truck Ban Reversed

The Borough Council voted along party lines by a vote of 4-1 (Councilman Joe Scrudato was absent) to rescind the ban on trucks on Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue despite the last minute pleas from residents who live along the boulevard.

Mayor Charles Butrico immediately announced that he will veto the two ordinances and plans to lobby the Middlesex County authorities and ask them not to approve trucks returning to Hamilton Boulevard and Belmont Avenue. The mayor has 10 days to officially veto the ordinances. The council can override the veto with a three-fourth majority vote.

Council President Rob Bengivena said that he did not expect trucks back on the boulevard before school ends. He said the borough will do all in their power to make the necessary safety upgrades around Roosevelt School which were suggested by Traffic Safety Officer Lt. Kevin Murtagh.

Fundraiser For Alyssa Ricciardi

Carrabba's Italian Grill, located at 200 U.S. Hwy. 22 West in Green Brook, is hosting a fundraiser to support The Ashley Lauren Foundation for Alyssa Marie Ricciardi on Saturday, June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Alyssa, a local four year-old child battling to stay cancer free, is currently awaiting a kidney transplant.

Tickets can be purchased by calling Maggie at (908) 464-0498 or Dana at (908) 755-6799. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$15 for children under 12, and are available for purchase through June 15.

Please make checks payable to: The Ashley Lauren Foundation. If you are unable to attend and would like to send a donation, please mail your donation to: The Ashley Lauren Foundation for Alyssa, 41 Hwy. 34, S Suite, 103 Colts Neck, N.J. 07722.



South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month Ashley Peterson, Assistant Principal Ralph Errico and Dana Alexa.

SPHS Rotary Students of the Month for May Named

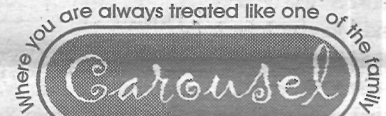
Dr. May, principal of South Plainfield High School, is pleased to announce the South Plainfield High School May Rotary Students of the Month are seniors Dana Alexa and Ashley Peterson.

Dana has been an active member of the Student Leadership Program since her freshman year. Dana volunteers her time with senior citizen events, Habitat for Humanity, Heroes and Cool Kids, visiting local nursing homes and Tiger 24. Dana has participated in the high school's cheer-leading program and holds two jobs while maintaining her honor roll status and GPA of 3.83.

Ashley is involved in student leadership, chorus, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Ashley has volunteered numerous hours with Adopt-A-Family, Heroes and Cool Kids, and Tiger 24. Outside of school, she is involved in dance. Ashley is an honor roll student and has a GPA of 4.84.

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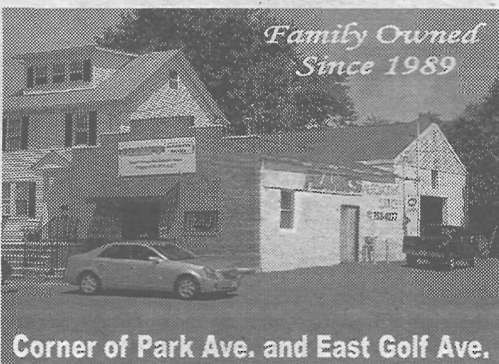
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Around Town

VFW Meatloaf Dinner

May 30

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a meatloaf dinner on Friday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Public is welcome.

Blackrose to Perform

May 30

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at The Stage House Inn, Park Avenue in Scotch Plains on Friday, May 30 at 10 p.m.

St. Stephen's International Festival

May 30-June 1

St. Stephen Antiochian Orthodox Church, 609 Lane Ave., will be holding its first international festival on Friday, May 30 through Monday, June 1. Admission is free. There will be a variety of delicious food such as backlava, funnel cake, spinach pies, tabouli, entertainment, music, dancing, sale items and a grand raffle featuring a 46" flat screen TV, a laptop computer, and a Wii system.

For more information visit www.StStephenChurch.net.

Summer Drama Workshop Auditions

May 30 & June 2

Auditions for the South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop 2008 production of "Damn Yankees" will be held on Friday, May 30 and Monday, June 2 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Middle School.

Auditions are open to all students who will complete sixth through 12th grade, and one year post-graduation.

Is your organization holding an event? Publicize it in

events

E-mail your event to spobserver@comcast.net.

What's happening at the

SENIOR CENTER

MAY/JUNE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 24 – Hunterdon Hills Summer Musical Luncheon, bus, show - \$65

August 7–Summer Picnic - Noon All You Can Eat; Live Entertainment; \$12

Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am

2 Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social Group 10am

3 Aerobics 8:30 am
Taj Mahal Trip 9am
Line Dancing 10am
Computer 10am, 11:30am, 1pm
Crocheting 1pm
Tai Chi 2pm

6 Pathmark Shopping 9am
Computer Class 10am, 11:30am, 1pm
Exercise Class 1:15pm

Bingo 10am-2pm

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

For more information, please call (908) 561-5255.

Mobile Shredding Event

May 31

Century 21 Moretti Realty, 225 Maple Ave., is hosting a mobile shredding event on Saturday May 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Recycle your old documents and confidential files safely and securely. This free service is sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

For more information, call (908) 755-5300.

VFW Country Breakfast

June 1

The VFW, located on Front Street, will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, June 1 from 8 to 11 a.m. Public is welcome.

GOP Comedy Night

June 7

The South Plainfield Republican Organization is hosting Comedy

Night on Saturday, June 7 at 8 p.m. at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Avenue. Three comedians will be featured. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$60 per person at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert are included. Cash bar.

For information, call Cynthia at (908) 447-6980.

AARP Chapter #4144 Installation of Officers

June 19

The AARP Chapter #4144 will meet on Thursday, June 19 at the Victorian Manor for a luncheon meeting. Installing the newly elected officers will be Sy Larson, state president of AARP, and his wife, Lee. All AARP members are invited regardless of chapter affiliation. To attend, contact Sylvia Boyd at (908) 561-1899. Cost is \$25.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. The group takes lap robes to Roosevelt Care Center and the N.J. Veteran's Home in Menlo Park.

— Out of Town —

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Carnival

Through May 31

Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish, located at 450 Drake Ave. in Middlesex, will host a carnival on Wednesday, May 28 through Saturday, May 31. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday 6 to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 6 to 11 p.m. There will be rides, Midway by Ace Amusements and a wide variety of food vendors.

For information go to olmv.net, click on "carnival" or call (732) 356-2149.

Red Cross Spring Tasting '08

May 31

The Tri-County Red Cross and Wine Country of North Plainfield Spring Tasting '08, a special wine, beer and spirits tasting, will be held on Saturday, May 31 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Anyone of legal drinking age is invited for a casual and informative walk-

around tasting at Wine Country of North Plainfield's location on Route 22 West. Come at any time during the five hour tasting to learn more about specialty drinks, and are welcome to stay for a few minutes or a few hours.

Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

June 2

The Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center located at Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. Light refreshments to follow. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend. For more information, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Lois at (908) 757-0515.

Lucky Ticket Tricky Tray Fundraiser

June 7

"The Lucky Ticket Extravaganza" tricky tray will be held on Saturday, June 7 at Franklin High School, Elizabeth Avenue in Somerset.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Admission includes cold buffet dinner and one sheet of raffle tickets.

For information, contact Christine at EASLuckyticket@yahoo.com.

64th Anniversary of D-Day Tour

June 17-29

Fraternal Military Association of USA will tour the Normandy invasion beaches from June 17-29 leaving from New York JFK Airport. Current and past military personnel, dependents, friends plus the general public are invited to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944.

For information, call Sy Canton at (561) 865-8495 or write him at 14130-C Nesting Way, Delray Beach, Fla. 33484.

Vacation Bible School at Mt. Virgin

June 27 to July 3

Our Lady of Mount Virgin School, 450 Drake Avenue in Middlesex, will offer "Son World Adventure Park" themed Vacation Bible School from June 27 through July 3. There will be crafts, songs, game time and snacks each day. Fees are \$25 for one child; \$35 for two; \$45 for three or more.

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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.

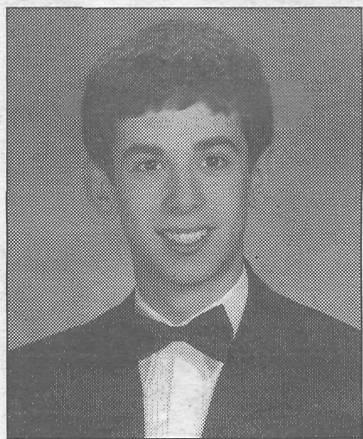
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South Plainfield Observer

southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Stellakis Named Senior of the Year



Stanley Stellakis

At their annual dinner on May 14, the Edison Rotary Club awarded Stanley Stellakis, a senior at St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, the honor of "Senior of the Year." The club pays tribute to seniors from local high schools for their outstanding academic achievement and service to the community, exemplifying the Rotary creed of "Service Above Self."

Stanley is the youngest of Eileen and John Stellakis' five children. John is the owner of Sherban's Diner and Eileen is the basic skills instructor at John E. Riley Elementary School.

At St. Joe's Stanley is vice president of the Audio Visual Club which involves running the school's TV network. He has also been JV track and field manager, a member of the freshmen track and field team, Campus Ministry, Jerseyman's Club and the Ski Club. He is the recipient of the St. Joseph's Award of Excellence in Religious Studies.

Stanley is an active member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Piscataway where he is the head altar boy, member of the Greek folk dance group and the president of the youth group. Stanley is a member of

The Hellenic Dancers of NJ, a professional Greek folk dance group that has appeared worldwide including performances at the White House and the closing ceremonies of the Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

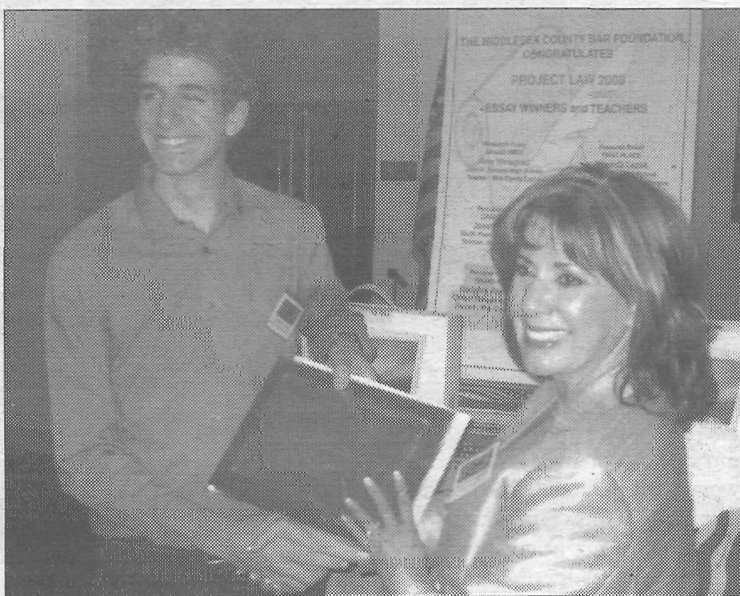
Community service has always been a very important part of Stanley's life. He has been involved in several activities including volunteering with the Special Olympics participants in South Plainfield, cooking for Elijah's Soup Kitchen in New Brunswick, regularly visiting The Children Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, organizing two "bridges" runs to Newark, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in Plainfield and participating in a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico. For the past two summers, he helped build homes for the needy through "Project Mexico."

Earning the rank of Eagle Scout has been one of the most significant contributions he has made to his community. For his project, Stanley decided to solicit donations, prepare, organize a caravan and, along with members of Troop #309, distribute 300 bagged lunches, clothing and necessities to the many homeless of Newark. The overall goal of this project was to help the people that need it the most and to promote fellowship.

Last summer Stanley attended an accelerated class at Trinitat Hospital in Elizabeth and earned his NJ EMT-B (emergency medical technician) certification. He is a volunteer for the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, where he holds the positions of vice president and liaison of the Cadet Corp.

In September, he will attend The College of New Jersey where he hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

For information on the Rotary Club of Edison and the "Senior of the Year" program, please visit: <http://edisonnjrotary.org>.



Jon Cursi with Karan Oleckna, chair, essay contest committee and past president of the Middlesex County Bar Association.

Project Law Essay Winner Jonathan Cursi Earns a Grand Prize

Jonathan Cursi from South Plainfield High School earned a grand prize for his persuasive essay, "Life-Without Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" in the 2008 Middlesex County Bar Foundation's Project Law Essay Competition.

Six high school students were named winners of the competition. More than 750 students from 33 Middlesex County high schools wrote essays about one of three issues: capital punishment, the right to privacy or a

personal narrative on First Amendment rights. The competition provides an opportunity for high school students to assume the roles of attorneys, witnesses and jurors for a day during a countywide competition sponsored by the MCBF and the New Jersey State Bar Foundation.

Project Law is co-sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation and made possible through funding from the IOLTA Fund of the Bar of New Jersey.

Vincent Carubia Named to Dean's List at The Savannah College of Art and Design

Vincent Carubia of South Plainfield was named to the dean's list at The Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. for Winter Quarter 2008. Carubia is a film and

television major.

Full-time undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter receive recognition on the dean's list.

Suchomel Receives Scholarship

Alannah Suchomel of South Plainfield has accepted a scholarship for the President's Leadership Program (PLP) beginning Fall 2008 from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va.

The PLP attracts bright, well-rounded individuals desiring to lead and shape their communities, the nation and the world.

Falato Performs in Rock Concert

Jack Falato, a South Plainfield resident and Grant School student, performed in his second rock concert on May 16 and 17 with the Paul Green School of Rock, Monmouth County.

The performance took place at the Brighton Bar in Long Branch and featured Southern Rock music. Jack played drums on such favorites as "Long Train Running" by the



Jack Falato

Doobie Brothers, "Hard to Handle" by the Black Crowes and many more great songs.

Jack is an accomplished drummer and hopes to one day be a part of the Paul Green Allstars and tour with such greats as Jon Anderson and Yes.

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An Address to Rutgers University College Class of 2008

By Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr. (D-Middlesex)

Congratulations

Class of 2008. In a few minutes, you will be holding a diploma from Rutgers University—one of the finest institutions of higher learning in the country. You are living proof that dreams really do come true.

In the words of renowned poet Carl Sandburg: "Nothing happens unless first a dream."

Today I am not going to encourage you to work to end world hunger or to bring about peace and justice among centuries old adversaries—I am simply going to ask you to dream.

Because when you get down to it all of those worthy goals can be accomplished only by those who have the capacity to dream. It's OK to dream about personal things—a bigger home, a better job, another baby. Because it would be irresponsible for you not to work to make those dreams a reality for you and the ones you love. But don't stop there—dream big—as the playwright Goethe said: "Dream no small dreams for they have no power to move the hearts of men."

I graduated law school 35 years ago, in 1973. There was one African American and three women in my graduating class of 250.

If the commencement speaker at my graduation had commented that in our lifetime an African American and a woman would be the leading candidates to become president of the United States we would all have thought "dream on." Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton did dream on. They didn't just accept things as they were and say "why." They dreamed things as they should be and said "why not?" Their dream is now a reality, not just for them, but for every man, woman and child who will benefit from their ideas, their successes, their dreams.

When you pick up the newspaper or watch CNN and see oil prices approaching \$200 per barrel, or hear about a worldwide rice shortage or genocide in Darfur or a failure to predict the severity of a hurricane, cyclone or tsunami leading to the unnecessary death of thousands don't just get depressed or angry or think there is nothing you can do about it because there is—you can dream! Dream of bringing divergent talents and technologies and approaches together to come up with solutions to end these nightmares—

which when you come down to it are really the flip side of dreams.

In my 59 years on earth, I have witnessed many dreams become realities. The dream to end the scourge of polio, the dream to tear down the Berlin Wall and bring about the end of communism, the dream to put a man or woman on the moon, the dream to bring about peace in Ireland, the homeland of my parents, and especially moving to me—the dream of a little known Baptist preacher to lead a civil rights movement that would not only change this country but the world, culminating in his receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

No one ever captured the essence of the dreamer better than doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. His dreams are forever emblazoned on the conscience of America. Remember his words—"I have a dream today. A dream of equality of opportunity; a dream of a land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines the content of his character; a dream of a nation where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity."

True dreamers like Dr. King don't hide their dreams. They share them with others and work to make them reality.

Don't make excuses to avoid dreaming. You now possess the tools that millions of potential dreamers around the globe do not have. You have a college education. Your degree is your passport to the land of limitless dreams. You have proven here at Rutgers University College that you have the ability, perseverance, strength and courage to change the world. The future is in your hands—don't be an observer—be a dreamer.

In the words of one of the finest song writers of my lifetime, John Lennon: "Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will live as one."

Start dreaming!



Middle School musical ensembles took home 10 trophies from the Music Showcase Festival in Allentown.

Middle School Music Department Takes Home Ten at Dorney Park Competition

By Jane Dornick

On May 16, members of the South Plainfield Middle School participated in the Music Showcase Festival in Allentown, Pa. and walked away with 10 trophies for the music department. The musical ensembles played in Allentown's Center City and then spent the rest of the day at Dorney Park.

It was a cold and rainy day, but the students performed exceptionally well. The Gems won second place in the choral division with a rating of superior, the highest rating any group can achieve. The wind ensemble also took second place in the concert band division with a rating of superior and won a section award for low brass. Trumpeters Shianne Martinez and Brendan Berry also achieved soloist awards. The

orchestra and jazz band both placed first with superior ratings. In addition, violinist Allison Wagner and flautist Casey Butrico, took home awards for best soloists and Jesse Masters, playing the cello, received a soloist award.

All of the music directors are proud of the students' accomplishments and expect them to continue to do well in the future.

Pulomena Appointed County Administrator

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders has appointed former Freeholder John Pulomena to the position of county administrator.

"My 20 years of service in local and county government, along with my extensive business experience in the private sector, have given me the confidence to serve as a county freeholder and have prepared me to take on the responsibilities of county administrator," said Pulomena, who took the oath of office while his wife, Maha, and daughter, Megan, held the Bible. He also has a son, Matthew, who was unable to attend the meeting.

"John has displayed an in-depth knowledge of all aspects of county

government and has become a valued colleague and friend," said Freeholder Director David B. Crabel. "I am confident that John's proven management skills, his commitment to hard work, together with his intimate knowledge

of our county government will serve him well as the county administrator."

Pulomena, of South Plainfield, resigned his elected position as freeholder in February to pursue the county's top administrative post.

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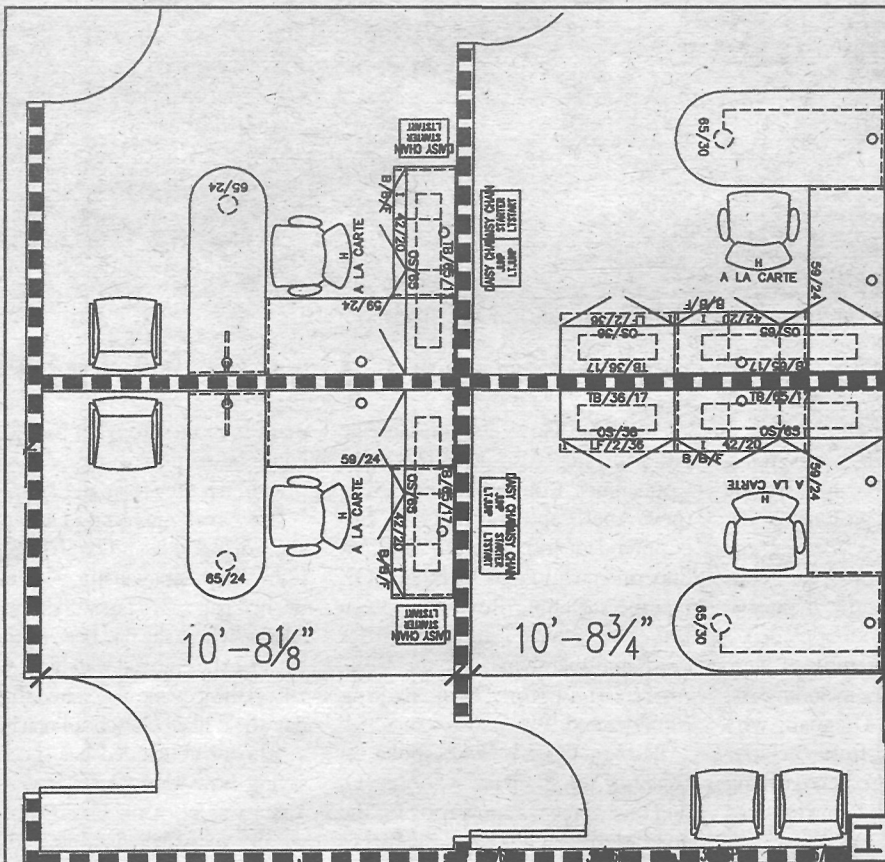
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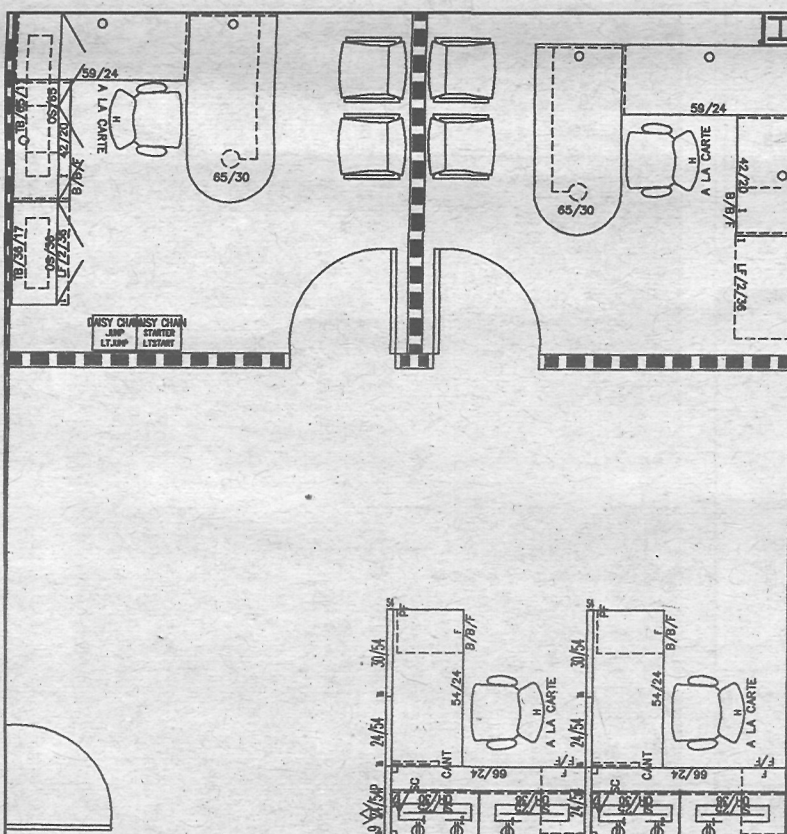
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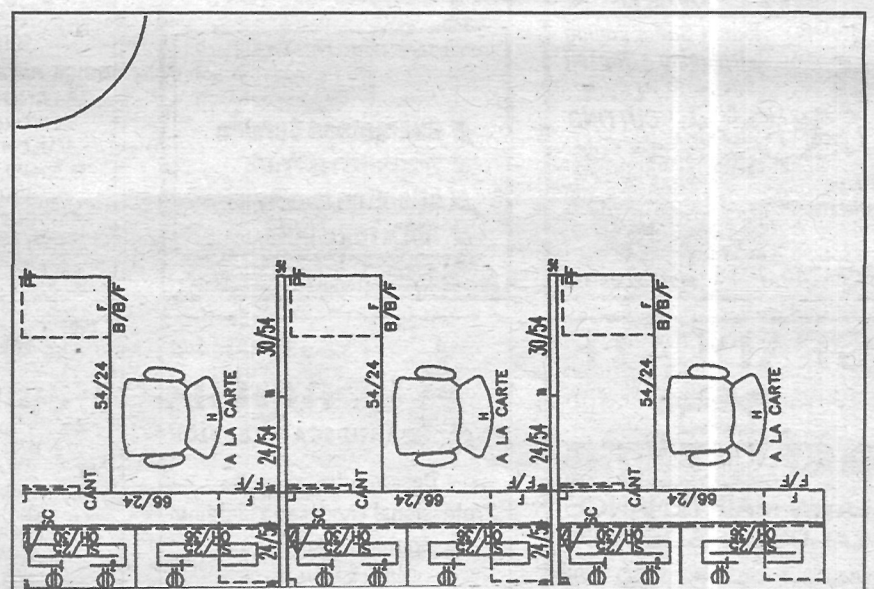
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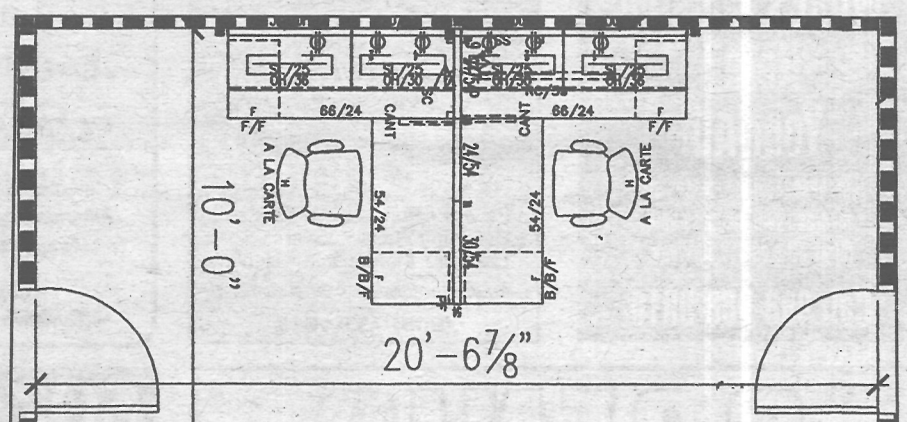
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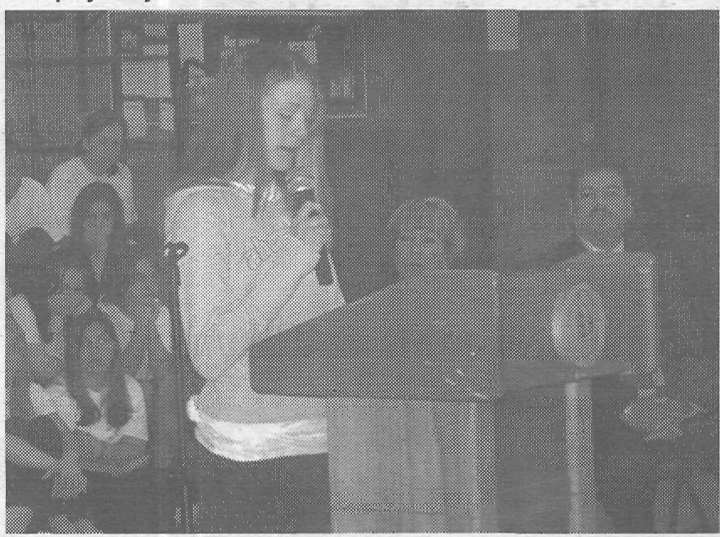
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Middle School students held Memorial Day services last Thursday. Student Council Advisor Joe Blondo served as master of ceremonies. VFW members Julius Peterson and Metro Kopchak (above) were special guests. Also attending were Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron and Assistant Superintendent Fred Oberkher and BOE member Debbie Boyle. Student Council President Casey Butrico (below) presented a short history of Memorial Day's origins. The choral group was led by Donna Markiewicz and the band was directed by Andrew Veiss. "Taps" was played by student Shianne Martinez.



Veterans attend the ceremony dedicating playground to Sgt. Trista Moretti.

Franklin School Honors Trista Moretti

(Continued from page 1)

joined by more than 70 special guests. The ceremonies were held inside due to the inclement weather. At the completion of the ceremonies, the weather cleared enough for the guests to go out and view the memorial stone and the surrounding garden.

Attending the ceremonies were many local dignitaries including Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who read a proclamation from the state assembly and senate recognizing Trista. Mayor Charles Butrico read

a letter from Governor Jon Corzine honoring her. Also attending were Councilmen Rob Bengivenga, Matthew Anesh and Ray Rusnak, Superintendent Jose Negron, Assistant Superintendent Fred Oberkher, BOE members Debbie Boyle and Steve Bohn, Roosevelt Principal Charles Ford, and members from the VFW, American Legion, Elks, Rolling Thunder and PBA 200 veterans.

Barbara Rhoads, who spoke on behalf of the Franklin School PTO, said that as she was preparing for the dedication, she got to meet Trista's parents. She also "Googled" Trista and got more than 600 hits. She found that her MySpace page has

many messages from her friends who continue to post to this day saying how much they miss and love her.

After reading some of the posts, she learned how much Trista loved life. When answering a question on her page, Trista said she missed Alaska, where she had been stationed, because she enjoyed watching people fall on the ice. She also stated that one day she'd like to be a school teacher.

Rhoads concluded her speech by saying how appropriate it was that Trista was born on Flag Day, a day we all honor the red, white and blue. "There is no greater sacrifice than to fight for one's country and freedom," said Rhoads.

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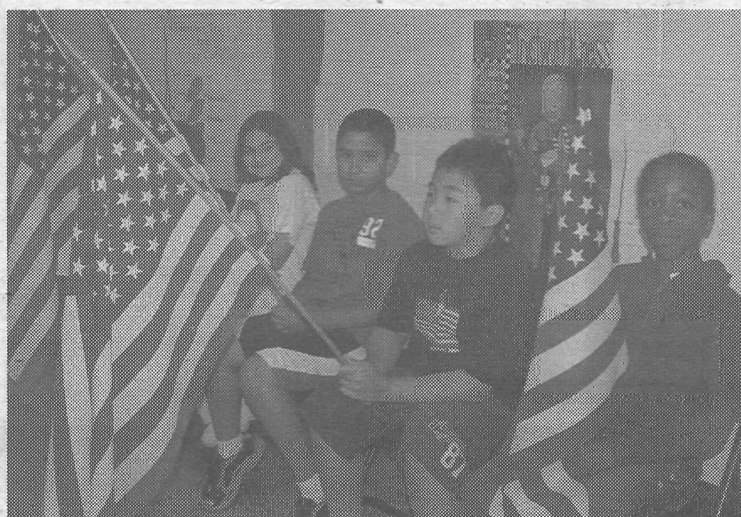
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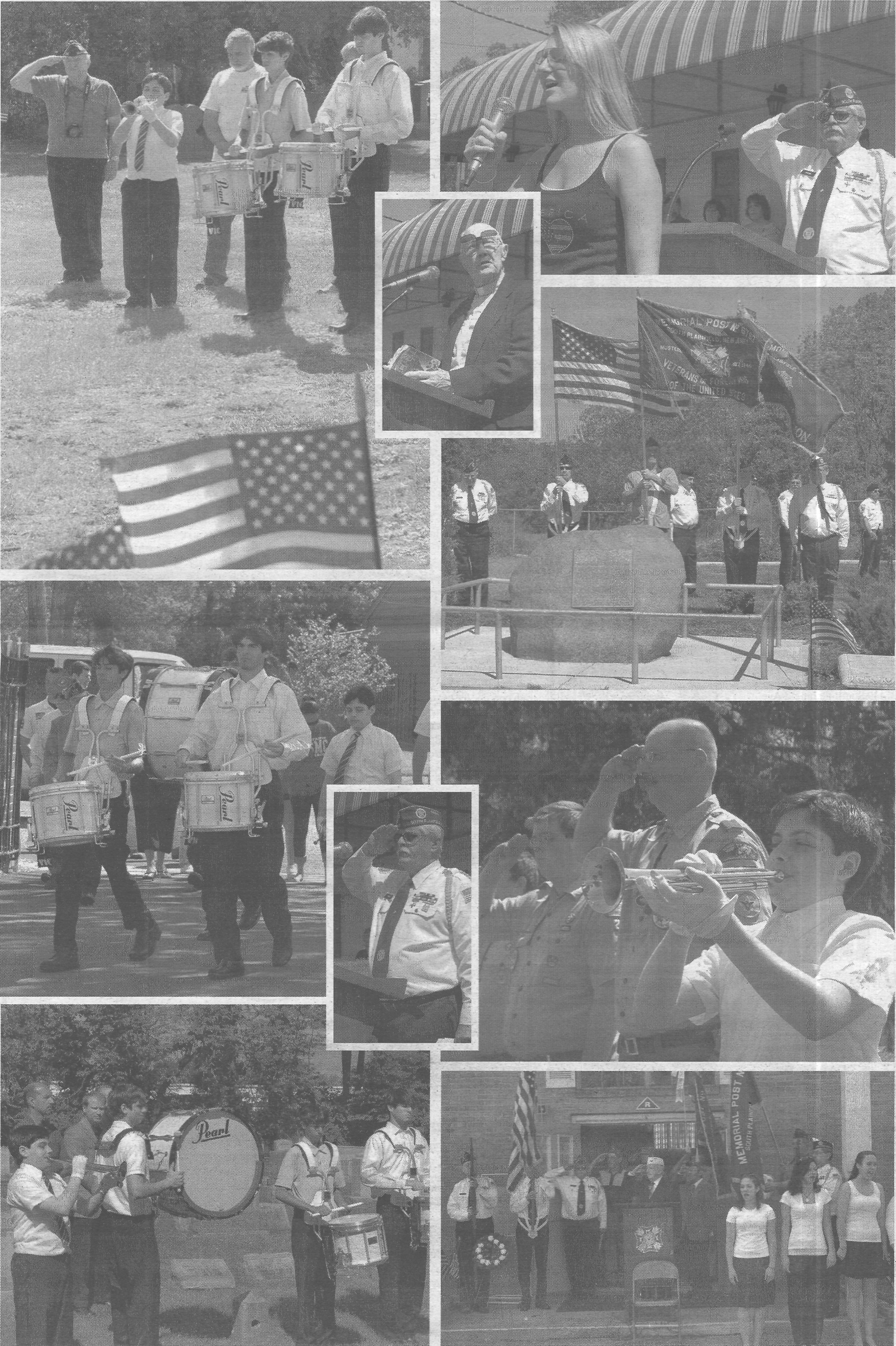
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Borough Students, Citizens, Dignitaries Join Veterans in Honoring Fallen Soldiers on Memorial Day



Sports



Seated (L-R) are Steven Wiczorek, Zach Olim, Robbie Hoffman, Richie Szeliga and Vinnie Padula. Standing are Andrew Gray, JR Licato, Brad Martin, Riley Hubner, Matt Lytle and Kyle Pompilio.

SPHS GOLF

Submitted by Mike Kavka

Golf Team White Division Champs

The South Plainfield High School Golf Team finished the season 19-4. With a 141-147 win over Watchung Hills, the golf team finished another winning season. Watchung Hills won the first match early in the season. Led by senior Brad Martin's even par 33 and Vinnie Padula's 1-over par 34, the GMC division champs won their last match of the season. Richie Szeliga chipped in with a 36 and JR Licato and Andrew Gray shot 38's.

On May 22, in the wind and rain,

the golf team finished second to East Brunswick in the GMC Tournament held at East Brunswick's home course. The Tigers were led by JR Licato's 83.

Fine rounds were also turned in by Richie Szeliga who shot an 84, Vinnie Padula and Andrew Gray had 87's and Brad Martin's 94.

With only eight teams qualifying for the tournament, 15 teams were eliminated by a playoff system. The team and coach were pleased with the results. South Brunswick, St. Joe's and

Middlesex were all close to South Plainfield's 341 with 344 and 346. The White Division champs will be looking to repeat this year's showing with a new cast as JR Licato, Vinnie Padula, Brad Martin, Andrew Gray and Zach Olim all graduate in June.

Recreation to Host Cheer Clinic

The South Plainfield Recreation Department will be hosting a cheer clinic at the PAL on Sunday, June 8 from 12 to 2 p.m. for girls ages 7-9 and 12-14 and 2 to 4 p.m. for girls ages 5/6 and 10-12. Cost is \$15 per girl, cash only due the day of the camp.

Sneakers and shorts or sweatpants are required. Bring water bottle. Pre-registration is required. RSVP to cheerskills247@yahoo.com by June 4.

For information, E-mail cheerskills247@yahoo.com. No parents will be allowed in gym.

Submitted By Bob Nilan

At the end of last season, someone from the Hackers must have uttered that old Brooklyn Dodgers cry, "Wait 'til next year" and what do you know—for the Hackers, this is next year. Sparked by their captain, Kevin Boyce, who fired a 35, the Hackers gained their fourth victory in a row by downing Witty's Liquors, 13-7. This is a complete turnaround from their dreadful 0-4 start in 2007.

Buy-Rite kept pace with the red-hot Hackers by defeating Pornovets, 13-7, in a well-played match. Irish Danny Griffin's lucky green cap continues to work its magic as Griffin won the medal for his team with a nice 3-over 36, and Al Szumski came through with a 37. Efran Solis of Pornovets shot a very impressive 1-over 34 and Marty "Mr. Amazing" Van De Vaarst had a 39 in a losing effort.

Buy-Rite and the Hackers remain the only undefeated teams in the league, both sporting 4-0 records, and are tied for first place in the American Division.

After getting walloped last week by KC's Korner, 19-1, Unique Sports Accessories bounced right back and upended Plainfield Animal Hospital, 11-9. Jack Todaro posted a sparkling 2-over 35, Chris Dillon had a 36, and Jay Bertleson shot a 39 as USA evened their record at 2-2. Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar's 39 was the only score below 40 for PAH.

Over in the National Division, B-Datt Squad ran into one of the un-

usual features of the handicap system. Andrew Hurley, of the B-Datt Squad, eagled the eighth hole and birdied the ninth to complete a beautiful even-par round of 33. Playing without an established handicap, Hurley's terrific round of 33 meant he got no strokes. KC's Korner gained the benefit of the handicap scoring system and won the match, 12-8, even though no one on their team broke 40.

Fred Kirchofer filled in for the Roughriders and showed that, in addition to being called "Catfish," he could also be called "Superman." While his playing partner was shooting the highest round of the night, Kirchofer tied Andrew Hurley for the medallist honors for the league by carding a superlative even-par 33. Frank Weingart pitched in with a nifty round of 35 as the Roughriders gained a 13-7 victory over a struggling 2 Buds, 2 Dubes.

Twin City put on a splashy demonstration of its firepower by overwhelming Sport & Social 18-2. Jay Coppola and Joe Diller led the way with a pair of 37's and Guy Severini registered a 38 as Twin City evened its record at 2-2 and now sits in a three-way tie for second place with the Roughriders and KC's Korner.

Low scores for the night: Fred Kirchofer, 33; Andrew Hurley, 33; Efran Solis, 34; Kevin Boyce, 35; Jack Todaro, 35; Frank Weingart, 35; Danny Griffin, 36; Chris Dillon, 36.

LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Buy-Rite Liquors	4	0	0	B-Datt Squad	3	1	0
Hackers	4	0	0	KC's Korner	3	2	0
USA	2	2	0	Twin City	2	2	0
PAH	1	3	0	Roughriders	2	2	0
Pornovets	1	2	0	2 Buds, 2 Dubes	1	3	0
Witty's	1	3	0	Sport & Social	1	3	0

Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:

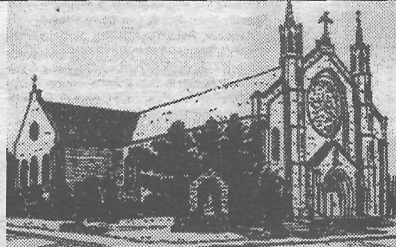
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.

Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.

Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



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Sports



Blaire Houston, mom Donna Houston, Athletic Director Michael Buggey, Principal Dr. Kenneth May and Girls Head Basketball Coach Maureen Barnett.

Blaire Houston is Recognized For Her Many Accomplishments

Blaire Houston is an amazing student-athlete for South Plainfield High School. Throughout her years at the high school she has excelled on the court as well as in the classroom.

Blaire has a 3.56 GPA, a 1,510 SAT score, a 22 ACT score, and has been an honor roll student during her high school years.

She has reached many goals and great feats while playing for the Tigers. A four-year varsity starter, she has been named first and second team by several local newspapers during her first three years. She was a major contributor to the North Jersey, Section II and Group 3 Sectional Champion

team in her junior year.

In her senior year, she was named first team all conference, all area, all Group 3 All State, All County and All Tournament Team (GMC) by the local newspapers. She was named MVP for her team, averaging 20.1 points per game, 3.4 rebounds per game, 2.6 steals per game and 2.4 assists per game. She racked up 1,247 points for her entire career and led the area with 502 points in this season alone.

Blaire is also a McDonald's All-American Nominee, played in the North-South All Star game, and is a GMC All-Star Selection. Aside from basketball, Blaire is very involved in school and the community. She is an active member in the Student Leadership Organization, the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. Also for her great achievements, Blaire has been named a 2007 New Jersey Rising Scholar and a Rotary Club Student of the Month.

Blaire has signed a Letter of Intent to play for Division I North Carolina Central University. She intends to major in marketing with a focus on advertising. She is very excited and eager to start a new phase in her life playing for the Fighting Eagles.

Joe Oranchak Named Umpire of the Year

Joe Oranchak was named baseball umpire of the year by the National Federation of High School Officials. A longtime South Plainfield resident, Oranchak was honored along with other officials in each high school sport. His dedication and expertise in officiating make him one of the best umpires in the country.

Obituaries

Sam Oliner, 84

Sam Oliner died on Thursday, May 22 at the Genesis Care Center in Westfield.

The son of Aaron and Freida Oliner, Sam was born and raised in Newark until he married and moved to Hillside, residing there for 40 years.

Mr. Oliner had owned and operated Tops TV which, for over 20 years, was located in Irvington. After closing his store, he moved his business to his home where he operated until his retirement four years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Harriet (Tevelow); two daughters, Gayle Flora and husband Dave of Wyomissing, Pa. and Marci Gittleman and husband Mark of Elizabeth; a sister, Floraine Miller of West Orange and three grandchildren, Alyssa, Matthew and Jared Flora.

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

Surviving are his loving wife, Carol (Kappeler) and two daughters, Michelle Provaire of South Plainfield and Allison Provaire of Boston.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The American Heart Association, 2550 Route #1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

Robert J. Sadlowski, 57

Robert J. Sadlowski died on Friday, May 23 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Elizabeth, Robert spent most of his life in Edison before settling in Dunellen eight years ago.

Robert had been employed as a Union Electrician with the IBEW Local 675 which is now Local 102 of Parsippany. He had worked for most of his career with Triola Electric.

A very handy person, Robert enjoyed restoring automobiles, attending classic and muscle car shows, gardening and woodworking. He was a fan of the New York Yankees and spent time coaching for his daughters softball teams. In addition, he enjoyed spending time with his companion, Cheryl Izzo and watching Nascar at Zupko's Tavern in Dunellen.

Robert was predeceased by his parents, Victoria and Matthew Sadlowski; a sister, Victoria Sadlowski and a brother, Richard Sadlowski.

Surviving are two daughters, Cheryl and Michelle Sadlowski; his companion, Cheryl Izzo; his former wife, Judy Triola; a brother, Casey Sadlowski; his beloved pet cat, Mandarin and two sisters, Regina Schaffer and Mary Ann Kovacs.

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

Dorothy G. (Greco) Bellew, 87

Dorothy G. (Greco) Bellew died on Thursday, May 22 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mrs. Bellew had resided in South Plainfield for the past 60 years.

Prior to settling in South Plainfield, Dorothy worked as a dental assistant in New York for 10 years.

A longtime and highly active communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church, Mrs. Bellew was a member of the Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society where she held various officer positions. For several years Dorothy participated in Sacred Heart Church bingo and was also a member of the Sacred Heart School PTA. In addition, Mrs. Bellew volunteered in many other church functions.

She served as past president of the Federated Women's Club in South Plainfield and was also a volunteer for the former South Plainfield Youth Employment Services.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Francis, who died in 1999 and by all her brothers and sisters.

Surviving are three daughters, Dorothy Bellew, Paulette Bellew and longtime companion Eileen Gerety and Francis Bellew, all of South Plainfield; a son, Joseph Bellew and wife Linda of Piscataway; two grandchildren, John Drangula and wife Amanda and Jason Bellew. Also surviving is a niece, Michele Smith-Newhouse.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 28 Kennedy Blvd., East Brunswick, N.J. 08816.

In Loving Remembrance

Edward A. Slicner of South Plainfield

Born January 25, 1917

Passed away May 31, 2007

A truly great husband and father.

We miss him more each day.

His family - wife Mary, daughters Carol Dripps (PA) and Nancy Slicner, son Keith (NJ), 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren, sister Helen Bulla of Edison and brother Leon Slicner of Fords.

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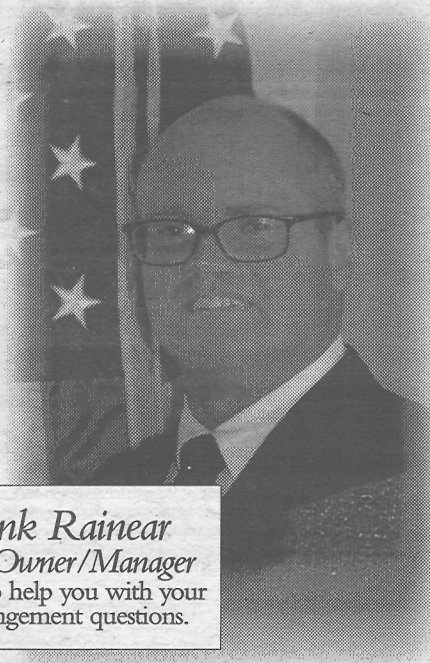
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Middle School English as a Second Language students enjoying a multicultural day with teacher Samia Guirguis.

Middle School ESL Students Learn About Each Other's Cultures

By Jane Dornick

"Countries and Cultures of the World" was the title of a thematic unit completed by English as a Second Language (ESL) students at the Middle School. Countries researched were Morocco, India, El Salvador, Ecuador, Puerto Rico and Vietnam, which are all representative of the students' native countries.

A variety of teaching techniques, learning styles and ESL strategies were used to accommodate the different academic levels, meet each student's need and ensure a meaningful learning experience. They included technology, music, art, visuals, artifacts and several visits to the library. Team learn-

ing was another effective teaching tool used which created a harmonious environment and a high level of retention of the information researched.

In addition, the project was a combined effort between parents, students and the teacher. Parents were greatly involved and shared in their children's projects by providing food, costumes and artifacts. Students dressed up in native country costumes while presenting their projects at a multi-cultural event held recently. The ethnic food was provided and shared by the students.

This project promoted self-esteem and pride in the students' heritage as they enjoyed and share the different aspects of their culture.

Volunteers Still Needed for Stream Restoration Project

Join your neighbors on the west side of the Borough in restoring the Walnut Street Park creek to a healthier, cleaner-running stream. Local residents will be working on Saturday, June 7 to clear weeds and plant native shrubs and wildflowers along the stream banks. Volunteers will get hands-on instruction in restoration planting techniques. Contact Alice Tempel, environmental specialist at (908) 226-7621 or E-mail at atempel@southplainfieldnj.com.

The Walnut Street Park Irregulars had a successful planting day on May 24. Invasive weeds filled three large bags and 53 shrubs were planted in Walnut Street Park. Sedges, grasses and wildflowers are waiting to be planted along the stream banks.

This workday continues a project started last spring. A storm last April raised the water table so high that basement sump pumps were running non-stop for weeks. The stream channel had been choked for years by Japanese knotweed, an invasive, alien species that crowds out native plants. The stream was badly backed up last year when residents in the neighborhood organized to clear it out.

Bound Brook Tributary 14-14-2 flows from the Plainfield border, under Tompkins Avenue, past Franklin School, through Walnut Street Park, behind Fox Place and out across New Brunswick Avenue to Piscataway's New Market Pond. It is piped through storm sewers part of the way and opens out into a creek again where it enters the park near McDonough Street. The banks have been eroding badly, partly because the Japanese knotweed does not hold soil well.

The WSP Irregulars are asking everyone who enjoys the outdoors and cares about the Borough's environmental quality to lend a hand in this ongoing effort to reclaim the stream corridor from invasive weeds and trash.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Okay, wait a minute. What's all this about last weekend being the start of summer? I don't know about you, but my calendar says it doesn't start until June 21. So, here's some spring news from the South Plainfield Library.

The library's notary public will be unavailable today (May 30) and on Monday and Tuesday, June 9 and 10.

Next week, we'll follow the usual schedule of children's programming. And, because you just can't get enough of it, here's that schedule again: "Storytime" for children age three and over will be 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 ages two and three will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. And "Books & Babies" for children ages three and under will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. (Sense a pattern here?) Each program lasts about an hour and features stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. No pre-registration is required. For more information, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

A couple more children's notes: First, children's programs will be cancelled the weeks of June 16 and 23. Secondly, our summer reading club will be starting up soon. At last report, registration is slated to begin on Monday, June 30. We'll pass along more details as soon as they are set.

There's still time to sign up for this month's knitting classes. Continuing from a series started in May, knitting instructor Cheryl McCray will lead participants in knitting a scarf or pot-holders. The classes will be held on June 12, 19 and 26, with each program starting at 7 p.m. They are being presented free; space is limited, so pre-registration is required. Partici-

pants should bring their own supplies; details will be provided upon registration.

We have room for a couple of general reminders. First of all, when you return A/V items (videos, DVDs, etc.), please check to make sure the item is actually in the case. Sometimes, it can be easy to miss that the cases are empty, so please double-check. It will save all of us a lot of hassle (and you some much-needed gas, if you avoid an unneeded trip to the library).

Next, we make sure to have announcements about our upcoming programs listed here in the *Observer*. Unfortunately, there are people who don't purchase this paper and, thus, don't hear about events on the horizon. So, here's an alternative: just stop by the library itself. We've always made sure to post flyers about our programs throughout the building (like our main doors, bulletin boards, etc.). We try to put as much relevant information as possible on these flyers to keep you informed. And, if you have questions, just ask at the main desk.

That's about all for now. To find out more, just call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our Web site at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. See you next Friday. And we hope you enjoy your summer (when summer actually rolls around, that is).

Feast of Saint Anthony Starts Tuesday!

The Feast of Saint Anthony will take place June 3-7 at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. There will be plenty of homemade Italian and Polish food as well as games, rides etc.

Hours for June 3-6 are 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, June 7, hours are until 11:30 p.m. The feast is best known for its great food (homemade pierogies, stuffed cabbage, kielbasa

sandwiches, sausage and pepper and meatball sandwiches, zeppolis, shish kabobs, etc.).

There will be more than 14 games and wheels, great beverages, 50/50s, a super 50/50 and many more fun activities.

Contact the chairperson, Al Musmanno, at (908) 753-5970 for more information.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1822

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PUBLIC AUCTION HELD BY THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD was adopted on first reading and advertised in The Observer on Friday, May 30, 2008 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ORDINANCE NO. 1822

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING AND AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY PURSUANT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PUBLIC AUCTION HELD BY THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD.

WHEREAS, the Borough of South Plainfield in the County of Middlesex is the owner of the property identified as Block 404.03, Lots 1.03 and 1.04, and Block 404.04, Lots 1.03 and 1.04, after subdivision, located within the Borough of South Plainfield (hereinafter referred to as the "Property");

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield determined that said Property is no longer needed for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council determined it to be in the public interest to sell said Property by open public sale at auction to the highest bidder in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a); and

WHEREAS, on or about July 17, 2007, the Borough Council adopted a Resolution authorized the sale of the Property by open public auction, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Notice of Sale of Land, which was posted and published in accordance with law; and

WHEREAS, the open public auction for the sale of the Property was conducted on August 7, 2007; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2007, the Borough Council adopted Resolutions authorizing the sale of the Property to the highest bidders as follows:

Block 404.03, Lot 1.03, to [did not received any bidders],

Block 404.03, Lot 1.04, to Hekmatul Amini, in the amount of \$255,000.00,

Block 404.04, Lot 1.03, to Hekmatul Amini, in the amount of \$275,000.00, and

Block 404.04, Lot 1.04, to Hemlesh Patel, in the amount of \$255,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Borough entered into Contracts for Sale of Land with the respective purchasers, dated August 7, 2007, which included the terms and conditions of the sales, which included the requirement that the purchaser obtain the required land use board approval to perfect the subdivision of the Property into the identified Block and Lot designations, with all such costs and expenses being born by the respective purchasers; and

WHEREAS, the Borough received the required

deposits pursuant to the terms of the Contracts for Sale of Land from the purchasers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Contracts for Sale of Land, the respective purchasers applied to the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield for subdivision approval, bearing application no.s 08-01, 08-02, 08-03, and 08-04, and received subdivision approval pursuant to Resolutions of the Board adopted on April 8, 2008 and April 22, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the purchasers are ready to close on the respective land transactions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Deeds have been reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, and the Borough Attorney;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Council declare the Property to be surplus and not needed for public use.

2. The sale of the Property to the respective purchasers shall be pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Notice of Sale of Land and Contract for Sale of Land as follows:

Hekmatul Amini for Block 404.03, Lot 1.04, for the amount of \$255,000.00, Hekmatul Amini for Block 404.04, Lot 1.03, for the amount of \$275,000.00, and

Hemlesh Patel for Block 404.04, Lot 1.04, for the amount of \$255,000.00.

3. The Mayor, Borough Acting Clerk, Borough Attorney or such other Borough officials as the law may provide, are hereby authorized to prepare and execute such documents as may be required to close and the transfer of title to the Property to the successful bidders.

4. The Property is sold subject to all easements and restrictions of record, in addition to any and all conditions of subdivision approval granted by the Planning Board of the Borough of South Plainfield.

5. If any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance and they shall remain in full force and effect.

6. In the event of any inconsistencies between the provisions of this Ordinance and any prior ordinance of the Township of Bedminster, the provisions hereof shall be determined to govern. All other parts, portions and provisions of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Bedminster are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms hereof.

7. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication according to law.

ATTEST:
Joann L. Graf, Acting Municipal Clerk

\$153.90 May 30, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

May 23, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on May 22, 2008.

A. Case # 06-02/S—Dennis Hado, Jr. Inc. Block 284; Lot 25; Dover Place. The applicant's request that a fire hydrant not be installed was hereby GRANTED.

• Amendment to previously granted resolution.

B. Case # 34-05/S/V—D'Annunzio & Sons. Block 255; Lots 16-20; Park Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Zoning Board of Adjustment

\$28.50 May 30, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1819

Ord. 1819 entitled: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS PROHIBITING "ENGINE-BRAKING" THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center, 90 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

\$27.55 May 30, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1794A

Ord. 1794A entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1794

ESTABLISHING THE REGULATIONS OF THE OPERATION OF TRAFFIC

CONTROL DEVICES IN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY

OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS REVISED JANUARY 16, 2008

was presented for adoption after a public hearing was held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South Plainfield on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Senior Center, 90 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

ATTEST:
Joann Graf/Acting Municipal Clerk

\$28.50 May 30, 2008

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Sports



South Plainfield Fire is Too Hot to Handle

South Plainfield U-16 boys soccer team has been hot all season. The boy's team plays in a very competitive traveling league—MNJYSA (Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer Association). Their current record is 8 wins and 0 losses. This weekend the Fire had to play a doubleheader. Not only did they have to protect their undefeated MNJYSA record, but they had a National Championship Series State Cup game.

The Fire has been playing well all season. The offense has scored 48 goals, averaging six goals per game. Offensive players Kenny Breslau, Paul Figueroa, Alan Garcia, Brendan O'Shea, Felipe Rodriques, Mat Santos, Bryant and John Villamarin have all contributed to a real scoring machine.

The defensive team has been relentless, not allowing goals scored against

them. The Fire has allowed less than one goal per game. The defensive team of Anthony and Nick Baldassarre, Scot Bishop, Jared Christopher, Joe Lacerda, James Seyffart and Ryan Cherepanya have allowed the fewest goals to be scored in their prospective flight.

The Fire's two goalies, Steve Coppi and Nick Jeglinski, have been unstoppable. During the State Cup, Steve Coppi, along with the defense, was able to stop a penalty kick to help us win our state cup first round.

The Fire has two home games remaining before going into any play-off rounds. Anyone interested in watching some very exciting and high quality soccer are welcome to attend our last two home games. Attendance is free and you can get game times by visiting our team Web page at www.soplfdsoccerclub.com/Fire.html.

Submitted by Danielle Gray



South Plainfield High School Boys and Girls Winter Track members were recognized by the Board of Education recently. Boys track members are Kurt Carlson, Steven Diaz, Nathaniel Eliassen, Joseph Grennier, Richard Harzula, Alex Kahonu, Cornelius Mootoo, Alex Nieradka, Patrick Nolty, Michael Pachytel, Parth Patel, Douglas Prozio, Brandon Yellock, Kyle McMahon, Stephen Balzer, Jimmy Bijlani, Matthew Cesare, Luigi Diaz, Darrec Fonti, Samrin Ghai, Alexander Horn, Conner Keane, Frank Licato, Christopher Marrone, Frederick Reichert, Andrew Ritchie, Filipe Rodrigues, James Seyffart, Manraj Singh, Daniel Smith, David Stogoski, Lee Stranzenbach and Edward Sullivan. Girls track members are Brooke DeNitzio, Kristie Crilley and Jamie McLean. Coaches are Rich Fonti, who was named GMC White Division Boys Coach of the Year and Christopher Fish.

Swimming Areas Open in New Jersey

With New Jerseyans eager to welcome the unofficial start of summer, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa P. Jackson announced that all of the state's parks, forests and other recreation areas are open and ready for visitors.

"Given the considerable challenges we face, I'm particularly delighted this year to invite residents and visitors to swim, fish, hike, wildlife watch or simply picnic in our scenic parks, forests and recreation areas," Commissioner

Jackson said.

The swimming areas are open at Bass River State Forest, Cheesequake State Park, High Point State Park, Hopatcong State Park, Island Beach State Park, Parvin State Park, Ringwood State Park, Spruce Run Recreation Area, Stokes State Forest, Swartwood State Park, Wawayanda State Park and Wharton State Forest.

The swimming area at Round Valley Recreation Area will be closed this weekend because no lifeguards will be

on duty.

It is not immediately known whether Belleplain State Forest's swimming area will be open. Before making the trip, the public is asked to call the park office at (609) 861-2404 for the most current information on its status.

In addition, all other state parks and forests without swimming areas will be open to the public this weekend.

For more information before you go, visit www.njparksandforests.org.

Tee Up for Savings at County Golf Courses

Play golf after work or tee it up on Thursdays to receive deep discounts on green fees this spring at two of Middlesex County's golf courses.

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Enthusiastic Readers Announced

John F. Kennedy Elementary School Library Media Specialist Amy Carlos has announced Kennedy School's Enthusiastic Readers for 2008. The students demonstrated respect (one of our character pillars) for the library by returning their library books on time, finding their own library books and being excited about what they're reading.

Each student who returned a permission form was entered into a statewide drawing of Enthusiastic Readers, sponsored by the New Jersey Association of School Librarians and the New Jersey Reading Association. Six students from each region in New Jersey, (North, Central and South), were chosen at random (two from each grouping of K-5, 6-8 and 9-12) to receive a framed certificate, savings bond and other prizes, including autographed books, at a ceremony on April 12. One of Kennedy School's fourth grade students, Matthew Waters, was selected in a statewide drawing to represent over 2,000 Enthusiastic Readers for the Central New Jersey region, grades K-5.

In addition, each Kennedy School student nominated by Miss Carlos received a certificate, Reading is Magic bracelet, and had lunch in the library

with author Audrey Penn.

Penn spoke at Franklin and Kennedy Schools about her books and the writing process. She was partially sponsored by the South Plainfield Arts Council and each school's PTSO.

Fourth grade Enthusiastic Readers are Jacob Alba, Brian Cullen, Katherine Dolinsky, Amanda Duffy, Marianna Fahmy, Matthew Gallant, Nicole Gerardi, Robert Gwiazda, Paul Melillo, Jr., Melissa Novak, Timothy Nuber, Jason Petriello, Nicholas Polizanno, Samantha Ratti, Emma Regan, Maximilian Rohrer, Sydney Shaw, Nicholas Spadavecchia, Matthew Waters, Lea Wietrzykowski and Emily Zawadski.

Third grade Enthusiastic Readers include Amanda Cavaliere, Sydney Christian, Nicholas Farinella, Gregory Forbes, Melissa Gallant, Christa Iazzetta, Hamza Jadoon, Christopher Jefferys, Chace Jones, Phillip Malavara, Megan McDermott, Heather Melendez, Claire Nagel, Grace Ochoa, Meagan Praul, Joseph Reo, Samantha Reo, Scott Riccardi, Kayla Santiago, Cody Soper and Kevin Soper.

Second grade Enthusiastic Readers include Michael Behr, Cara Capone, Austin Feltham, Sarah Regan, Jack Scrudato and Brandon Wiza.

Science Lesson Sheds Light on Solar Energy

By Patricia Abbott

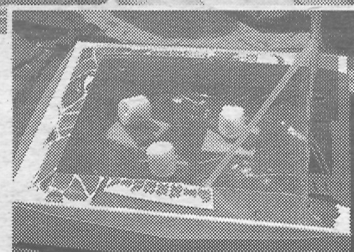
The Franklin School Science Club recently did some experimenting with solar energy. With the help of club advisor Janet Donnelly, the students made solar ovens out of pizza boxes.

The fun began during lunch period when club members took their ovens outside and faced them toward the sun where they began to absorb the heat while the children ate their lunch.

Donnelly and fourth grade teacher Mrs. Moritz began handing out graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows—the ingredients that would become a tasty experiment, cooking s'mores in the pizza box ovens. When the children first placed the crackers inside the box they noticed a distinctive change in temperature. Within a few minutes the chocolate pieces began to melt. The students watched as their s'mores began to cook. By the end of their lunch break they had a better understanding of solar energy.

Before returning to class they put water in a pan in one of the ovens. They were amazed to discover that the temperature had increased 25° F in the two hours the ovens sat in the sun.

Donnelly noted, "There are several Web sites that give instructions for



making solar ovens. I had copied instructions and gave them to the students, in case they wanted to make one on their own at home. I also gave them several Web sites for more activities and information on solar energy."

The Franklin School Science Club is normally open to third and fourth grade students; however, the turnout was much larger than expected. Donnelly said, "Out of 74 fourth graders, 39 are in the club. I couldn't open the club to the third grade. They will get their turn next year. In June we will be discussing and looking at sunspots and I have reserved a sunspotter from CJMS to use. That will prob-

ably be June 12, 13 and/or 16, depending on the weather."

Previous experiments include making bracelets in an experiment with baking soda and vinegar, a chemical reaction which creates a gas. They also discussed optical instruments and used a telescope, binoculars and a spyglass outside.

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OBSERVER PHOTOS TAKEN BY Patricia Abbott from 2007 graduations, plays, concerts and other events are available for purchase. All photos are in color. 2007 photos will be deleted as of the end of June. Call (908) 346 2290 or E-mail angelonly@aol.com.

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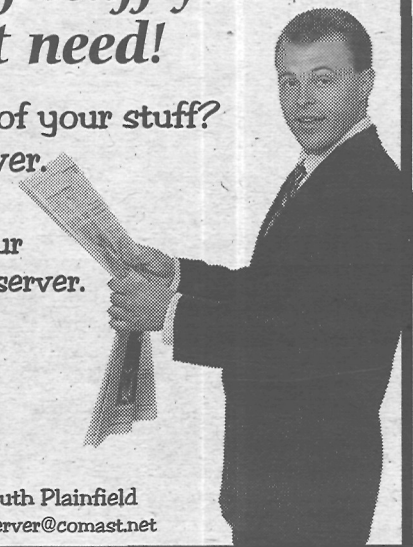
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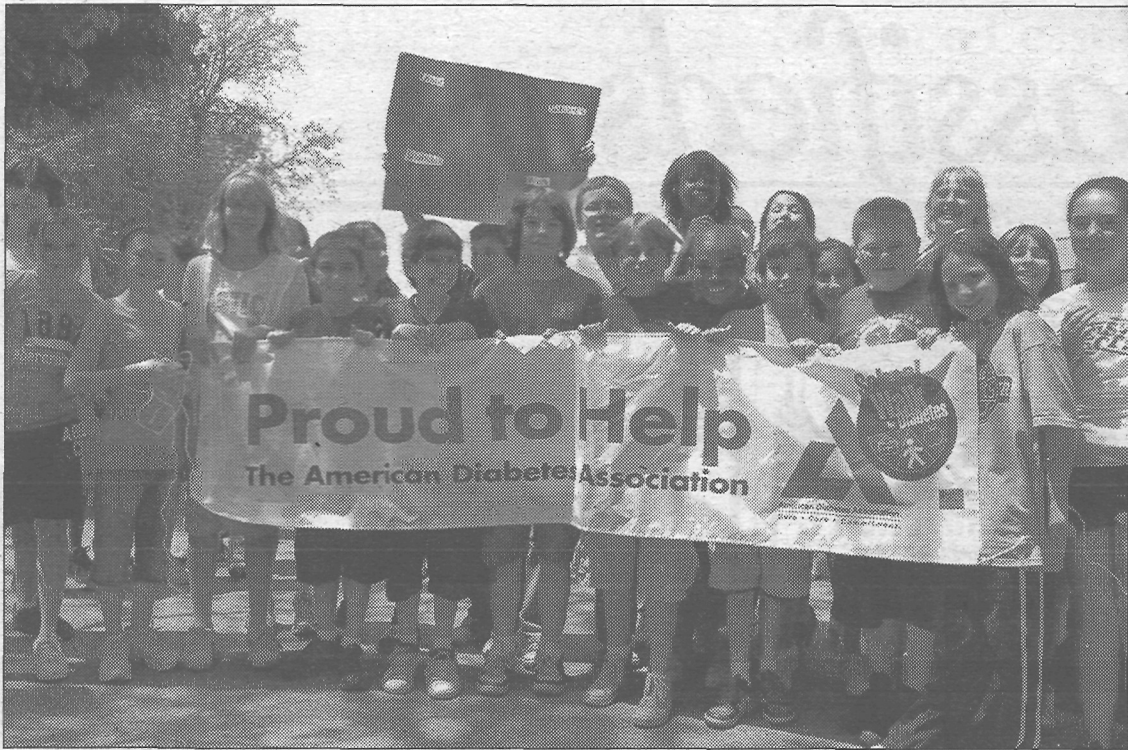
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Students at Grant Elementary prepare to walk for diabetes fundraiser.

Grant Students Walk for Diabetes Foundation

By Patricia Abbott

On May 14 the student body of Grant Elementary School participated in a Diabetes Walk around Spring Lake Park. The day was bright, sunny and warm—perfect for their eighth annual walk.

Students were escorted to the park by a police car, and along with numerous teachers and faculty members, made two circuits around the lake, approximately two miles.

Fundraising plans started a month prior to the walk. The school will be donating approximately \$10,000 to

the Diabetes Foundation.

Top fundraisers were Valerie Cecchetti with \$390 and Amanda Harper with \$375.

Student Council Advisor Allison Schneider had the full support of Principal Leo Whalen and Assistant Principal Rob Richkus.

SCHOOL BOARD Notes

- Congratulations to the South Plainfield Middle School Track Team who took second place in the Greater Middlesex Conference on May 21 and to Joe Squait who was a silver medalist.

- The spring choir and orchestra concert took place on May 21 in the gymnasium. The concert was amazing thanks to Choir Director Donna Markiewicz, Orchestra Director Sarah Bruce, Andrew Veiss and, of course, the talented students.

- The annual Memorial Day ceremony took place on May 22. Thank you to Principal Steve Novak and teacher and student council advisor Joe Blondo, the veterans who attended

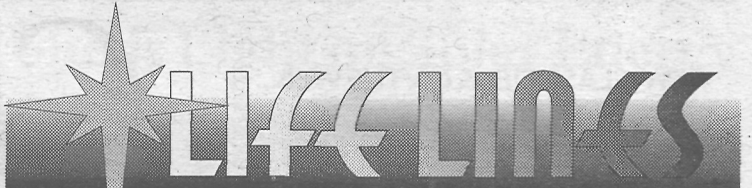
and administration for a truly motivating program that taught the students the meaning of the holiday.

- The Grant Elementary School Drama Club presented “Oklahoma, Jr.” on May 21 and May 22. The play was directed and choreographed by Joan Stasio and Lizbet Arriola. The presentation, singing and dancing were extraordinary. Thank you to all those involved and to the parents and guardians who volunteered their time.

- Franklin School PTO dedicated the playground at the school on May 22 in honor of Sergeant Trista Moretti, a former student, friend and patriot. A plaque mounted on a large white stone was donated in Trista Moretti’s

name. Thank you to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Charlie Butrico, Councilmen Ray Rusnak and Matt Anesh, Superintendent Jose Negron, Dr. Fred Oberkehr and BOE members for attending. Thank you to principal Ellen Decker-Lorys, Mr. Parisi who played “Taps” and the children who sang and looked on in awe.

- Thank you, once again, to Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan for taking time to acknowledge the children of South Plainfield by sending letters of commendation to those who go above and beyond what is expected of them in various situations. It is an honor for the children to receive your acknowledgment.



In today’s world, drugs, disease and violence fill the streets with potential death for our children. With the break down of moral codes, the invisibility of the lines that separate right from wrong and the pressures that only peer groups can lay on one another, there are few places that the youth of our communities can find sanctuary. As more families leave the traditional church, the erosion has left voids in the foundation of our future. We must work together to ensure that our churches are one place to which our children can turn for safety without the fear of judgment and guilt. We must open the doors and invite them in by way of new and innovative ideas, with messages that “turn them on” and music that “lifts their spirits up to God.”

This will be difficult, for we are ensnared in our own traditions that we hold on to with such strength, faith, and fortitude. The young

people have resisted this hold we attempt to put on them, and their desire to implement change in things that they cannot connect with. They are the answer to the future of these institutions that we so desperately love, yet will die if we do not revitalize them with new thoughts, ideas and people.

We must find a way to include them in what we do at our services and worship, involve them in every aspect of what is conducted within the walls of our beloved houses of worship. We must invade their minds and extract ideas that will inspire all of us to become stronger in our faith. Let’s involve them in “their” church. Our purpose is to please God, and we can only do this by involving all of his children—our children.

LifeLines is a monthly Observer column, written by area churches. This article comes from Debbie and Lou Johansen of Pilgrim Covenant Church.

policereport

- On May 20, Paulo A. Dealmeida, 38, and Vasillios D. Giannakaris, 50, both of Edison were arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting two pair of sunglasses and two boxes of shampoo.

- On May 21 a Woodland Avenue resident reported the theft of a “lawns cut” sign that was chained to their fence.

- On May 22 a John Street resident reported that a brick had been thrown at their vehicle leaving a large dent in the rear of the vehicle and a broken tail light lens.

- A Clarke Avenue resident re-

ported that \$5 was taken from the glove compartment of their unlocked vehicle.

- On May 23 a Dayton resident reported that the passenger side window of their vehicle had been smashed while parked on South 9th Street.

- On May 24 Alpeshkum S. Patel, 41, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

- On May 25 a Pomponio Avenue resident reported that a rock had been thrown through their living room window.

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