

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 12, NO. 16

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

DECEMBER 19, 2008

Community Honors 101st Airborne Division

By Patricia Abbott

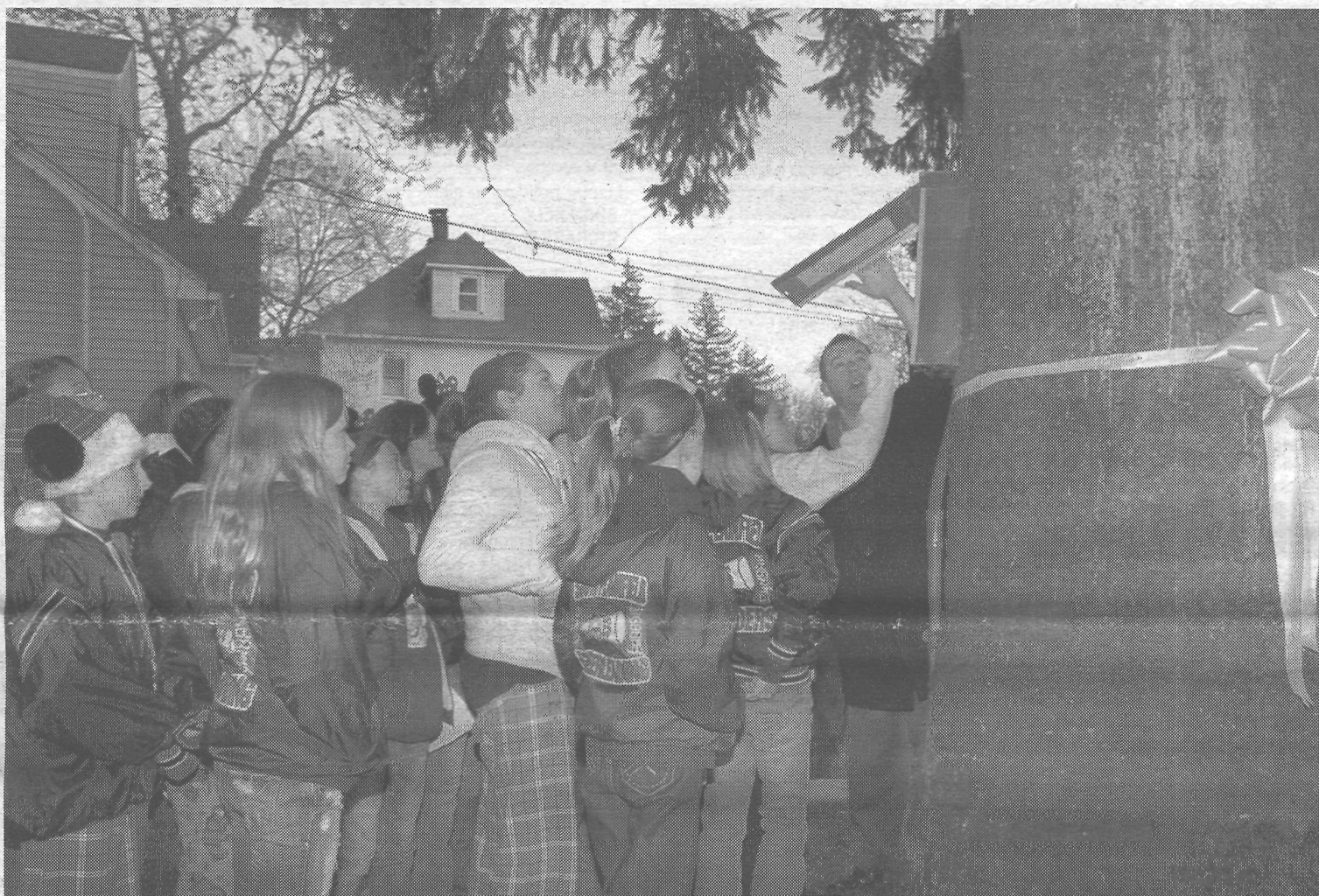
Funeral Home Remembers 248 Lives Lost With Annual Tree Lighting

Each Christmas for more than two decades the giant evergreen tree that graces the lawn of the McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals has filled the night sky with lights. While the thousands of twinkling lights add to the holiday spirit, many people are unaware of the true reason for the decorated tree.

The tree is a memorial for the 248 members of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division servicemen and women who lost their lives in a plane crash on December 12, 1985. The paratroopers were returning home from a peacekeeping mission in the Middle East. After a stop to refuel in Gander, Newfoundland, the plane crashed shortly after takeoff killing all aboard. It is considered the worst disaster in Canadian aviation history. The annual tree lighting ceremony has traditionally been held on or about December 12 and is led by members of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division of Screaming Eagles NJ/NY Chapter.

The McCriskin family decided to decorate the 85-foot tree for the first time in December of 1985. After they heard the news of the crash they decided to dedicate the lighting of the tree in memory of those who lost their lives in the accident. The huge tree holds 8,000 tiny white lights.

This year marked the 24th anniversary of the tree lighting and the ceremony was decidedly different. It was designed to make more people aware of the tree lighting and its origin. The tree lighting was combined with another South Plainfield tradition, Christmas caroling. In previous years,



Rick McCriskin assists members of Pop Warner Pee Wee cheerleaders in flipping the switches to light the tree.

members of the Borough Council, the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir under the direction of Tracy Murray, Santa Claus, who arrived atop a fire truck, and the newly crowned championship Pop Warner Eagles Pee Wee cheerleaders.

Attendance at the ceremony has declined over the years, but this year more than 100 were on hand to witness the tree lighting.

The ceremonies began with the Gander Memorial Honor Guard and the American Legion Post 261 Rifle Squad's posting of colors. The traveling choir sang "The National Anthem" and Pastor Charles Mingle

led the invocation prayer. General Anthony C. McAuliffe NY-NJ Chapter President George Fallon welcomed guests and gave a short history of the tree lighting and the 101st Airborne Division. Cpl. Bob Maslo read a poem dedicated to those who lost their lives in Gander entitled "Silver Wings."

Bagpiper Duncan McCaskill performed "Amazing Grace" and Rick McCriskin placed the wreath at the base of the tree. Then members of the cheerleaders took turns pulling the six

switches lighting the tree.

The Gander Memorial Honor Guard, followed by Santa Claus on a fire engine, led the way to the senior center. The traveling choir and

guests sang Christmas carols as they marched behind the parade.

Guests were treated to refreshments as they arrived at the senior center and Santa was on hand to greet children.

*"Their work is now finished,
 on earth they are no more.
 But we their comrades will
 continue to treasure them
 on earth and in heaven,
 God's eternal shore."*

— Excerpted from "Silver Wings Against the Sun" by Robert E. Maslo, Cpl. 101st ABN. MP CO. Vietnam-Post 261, Piscataway

the caroling was held in Spring Lake Park and included the arrival of Santa via a fire truck and concluded with refreshments at the senior center.

On hand for the afternoon ceremonies were many dignitaries and guests, including Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Charles Butrico and



You Better
Be Good...

Hopeful children express their Christmas wishes to Santa when they visited with him at the senior center last Saturday. Bottom row from the left—Meghan and Caitlin Hughes, and James Gregory Moore Jr. Top row—Alessandra Rosado, and cousins Adrianna Siedenbug and RJ Devlin. The children received candy canes and a gift from Santa.

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In My Opinion

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee their accuracy.

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Business Association would like to apologize to SRI Discount Liquors, Crystal Supply Company and RAB Enterprises for inadvertently omitting their names in the list of active members in our advertisement in the December 5 *Observer*.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Dear Editor,

This past Saturday our annual tree lighting was held on the front lawn of the McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals honoring the men of Task Force 3-502 101st Airborne who died back in December 1985, and what a nice event it was. This year's ceremony was somewhat different from years past. Nearly 100 people attended, Santa made a guest appearance, the

Pee Wee Eagles Cheerleaders turned on the tree and the South Plainfield High School Traveling Choir and South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department participated as well.

I am already putting thoughts together for next year, which will be the 25th Anniversary of the tree lighting. I do have some really neat ideas up my sleeve which I can't yet reveal and who knows what a great holiday event this could turn into? The ideas are endless and the sky is the limit.

What a better way to start off the holiday season here in South Plainfield than by having a giant tree light up our town with Santa Claus leading the way, followed by our residents signing Christmas carols?

I would like to thank Director of Recreation Kevin Hughes, Assemblymen Patrick Diegnan, the mayor and council, South Plainfield Police Department, Tracy Murray and SPHS Traveling Choir, the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department, the South Plainfield Pop Warner Eagles Pee Wee Cheerleaders, Glenn Della Sala of Della Sala Electric, Joann Graf, Robert Graf and all who attended to make the event a success.

Happy holidays to all.

**SINCERELY,
RICHARD W. MCCRISKIN II**

To the Editor:

Everyone knows these are challenging economic times; the newspaper headlines scream bad news at us each day. When the parents and board of the South Plainfield Eagles found out that their pee wee cheer squad, comprised of 20 girls in fifth and sixth grade, were advancing to the Nationals, there was joy and concern. How would we ever raise enough money to help these families pay for such an expensive trip in the midst of job losses and financial bailouts? But the businesses and people of South Plainfield came through. With your help, the South Plainfield Eagles were able to raise over \$18,000, enough to pay for each of the 20 girls and four coaches who had worked hard all season long and earned a spot in the National Cheer Competition.

South Plainfield is an amazing town, filled with generous, civic-minded people and businesses. The board of directors of South Plainfield Eagles Football and Cheer, the parents of the pee wee cheerleaders and the coaches and cheerleaders themselves would like to thank each of the businesses and individuals named below for their generous contributions. Without each and every one of you, our trip to the National Cheer Competition in Disney World would not have been

possible. It's not easy becoming National Champions, and we'd like to thank everyone who helped get us there. Thank you for helping to make the dreams of 20 young athletes come true.

Advanced Chiropractic Wellness, AKA, American Legion Rental, Angela Esposito, Anita Joseph, Ann LoBue, B&C Deli, Balistreri Family, Barbara Brinks, Barbara Kelley, Belter Osorio, Betty Reveal, Bill and Judy Hannah, Blazejowicz Family, Bucketheads Complete Lawn, Carmen's Trattoria-Tim Koehler, Carmine Cavaliere, Cathy Esposito, Cindy Michaels Jewellers, Cindy Switzer, Comprehension Publishing LLC, Coppola's Garden Center, Cynthia Villegas, Dante Enterprises LLC, Darwin Reveal, Dave Greenstein, Davis Family, DeCosta Chiropractic Office, DeVito Family, Di-Francesco Paving & Masonry, Di-Lex Trucking Inc., Donna Matos, Douglas Reed, Dr. Powderly, Eileen Carey, Falcone Family, Federal Metals & Alloys, First Class Travel, Frank Lando, Franklin School PTO, Geis Disposal Services LLC, Geoffrey White, George and Kathi DeLucca, Gabrielle's Restaurant, Hodge Family, Intl. Development Group, Italian American Progressive League, Ixim Heating Cooling, JAFCO, Jan George, Jim Schulkes, JNJ Sealcoating LLC, JoAnn Faulkner, Joanna Kudas, Joseph B. DeAndrea, Joseph Falcone, Joseph Sacco, Joseph Rutigliano & Sons, Judy Kelly, Justin and Shelley King, Keith Grober, Kenneth Lopez, Kimberly O'Toole, Kowalski Family, Krauszers, Lois Nelson, Lynn Busela, Mara McAuley, Marianne Gaudio, Mark Esposito, Marty Brambrinck, Matrix Hair and Nails, McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Mei Haus, Mike and AnnMarie Esposito, Mike and Kristen DeLucca, Monica Grabowska, Nails Plus, New Pak Inc., Nischwitz & Co, Nobil Petroleum Testing Inc., Ortiz Family, Penelope Teece, Peter Pan Pharmacy, Phil Dudak, Pinto Brothers, Pizza Stop, Polish National Home, Procure Physical Therapy, PA, Quality Auto

Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via E mail: spobsobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 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. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

Glass, Randy Brinks, Renata Dolinski, Rich's Pharmacy, Rodolfo's Pizza, Rose City Sani, Sal Liddawi, Sal's Spirit Shoppe, Sandy Severini, Scarpitto Family, Scotch Plains Music Center, Scott Connors, Sharon Tschopp, Silver Creek Landscaping, Smith Home Improvements, South Plainfield Elks, South Plainfield Observer, South Plainfield PAL, South Plainfield PBA Local 100, South Side Salon, SP Eagles coaches, SP Wrestling Club, SPJBC, Sportworld, Staats Auto Body Inc., Stagnato & Fox LLC, Stilo Excavation, Inc., Sue Pappagallo, Supreme Silk Screen, T. Farese & Sons Inc., Taylor Oil Co, The Brush Stop, The Next Level LLC, Thermal Service of NJ Inc., Thomas and Theresa Scholl, Tom Cavanna, Trans Electric Inc., Twin City Pharmacy, Victor and Laurie Kurlew, Victor Gerber, Victoria Beyerman, Virginia Reed, Yash Patel, Yesenia Montalvo, Zofia Grygo, American Panel Tec, Flanagan's Restaurant, Plainfield PBA, Southside Salon, J.T. Penyak Roofing, Flemington Car & Truck Country and Charlene Sheehan.

If there is any person or business we inadvertently left off the list, then my sincerest apologies. Please let us know who you are and be assured that we thank you.

**SINCERELY,
TERRY HOUSEL ON BEHALF OF
THE BOARD OF SOUTH
PLAINFIELD EAGLES, AND THE
EAGLES PEE WEE PARENTS,
COACHES AND CHEERLEADERS**

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Regular Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74 Mondays, 7:30 p.m. Agenda and/or Other SPECIAL Meetings air Saturday at 8 p.m.

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

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

Current BOE Meetings air on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

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

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Dec. 22 (regular meeting to pass ordinances)

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

zoning board adjustments

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

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

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.: Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11 and April 1.

Regular Public Meeting, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: Jan. 21, Feb. 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.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)

Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
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 encourage the submission of stories and photos. To get an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to the editor by mail, email or fax. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must include name and phone number, for verification.

To comment on the content or to suggest a special story idea, contact the publisher at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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According to a National Newspaper Association survey, local community newspapers are the primary source of information for both news and advertising in local communities by a 5-1 margin over the next most popular media. Enough said?

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Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24th: Christmas Eve

4:30pm Vigil Mass (with Children in Attendance)

9:30pm Caroling with the Choir

10:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Birth with Choir

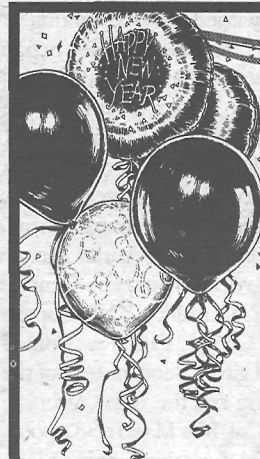
Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day

9:00am Christmas Shepherds' Mass

11:00am Solemn Christmas Day Mass



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Seatings 4:00, 6:30 & 8:30

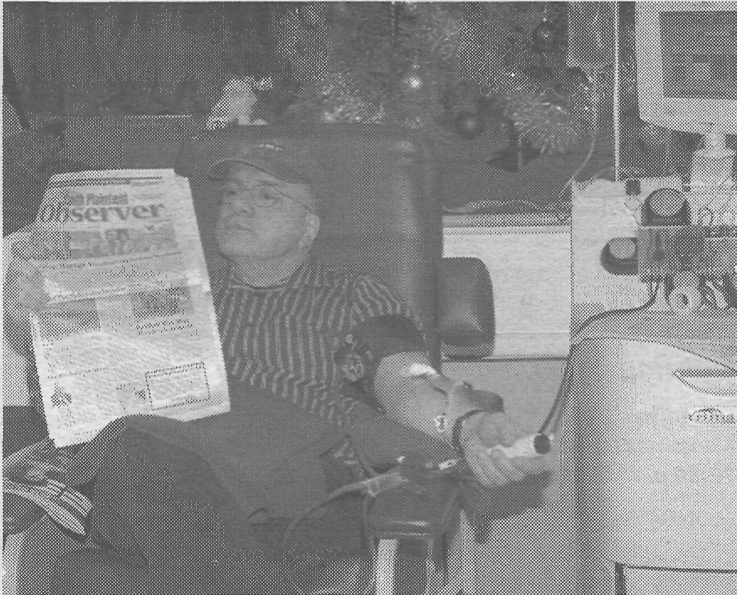
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BOROUGH NOTES

- The council awarded contracts to the lowest responsible bidders for the PAL Memorial Field Project
- The council authorized a professional service agreement with East West Fire Apparatus Consultants Inc., to review a fire truck bid specs at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.
- Council approved a waiver of fees in the amount of \$354 for the Old Timers Motorcycle Club fundraiser held in October.
- T & M Associates will continue to provide engineering services for the Borough until such time that the 2009 engineering firm is appointed.
- Authorize the renewal of licenses for coin-operated amusement devices, self-service laundromats and motor vehicle sales/exchange for 2009. Applicants met all Borough requirements and appropriate fees have been made.
- The community of Terno D'Iso-la, Italy was recognized as a "Sister City," establishing a relationship based on the many cultural and official exchanges over the past several years between our governing bodies and fire departments.
- Angelo Paradiso was appointed as building maintenance worker/omni bus operator.
- The CFO was authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$1,550 to Scott Del Vecchio for the refund of a road opening permit at 100 West End Avenue.
- The council approved the cancellation of the bid opening for the replacement of Engine #5, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4, pending a review and redrafting of the specifications by East West Apparatus Consultants, Inc.
- The council agreed to extend the scope of the Linden Avenue and East Hendricks Boulevard project to include installation of two speed tables on Oak Tree Avenue, two speed humps on Ritter Avenue, and mill and replace approximately 250 linear feet on Audobon Avenue, including all work and materials necessary therefore and incidental thereto.
- Approved two additional Borough Council meetings in 2008, December 18 and 22.
- The municipal clerk was directed to advertise a Request for Proposals for snow plowing services for the 2008-2009 winter season.



Tom Stillman reads the latest edition of the *Observer* as he donates blood during the SPBA blood drive on December 5.

First SBPA Holiday Blood Drive Reaps 52 Units

The South Plainfield Business Association, along with New Jersey Blood Services held their first blood drive on December 5 and by all accounts the event was a huge success. The event was held in the senior center. All donors received two tickets to a New Jersey Nets basketball game and some opted to donate their tickets back to the "Toys for Teens" drive.

A total of 52 units of blood were donated, 30 units whole blood, 15 collected on the alyx machines and six platelet units collected.

Raffle winners were John Kirchner-gift basket, Tom Sniscak-power drill and Christine Buteas-gift card. Toys, monetary donations and food were also collected for programs sponsored by local charities.

Adult School Brochures in the Mail

Brochures have been sent to all area residents for the upcoming winter 2009 semester of the South Plainfield Adult School. If you have not received a brochure, and would like one, please call the adult school at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213. We welcome all area residents.

The adult school offers a variety of classes including typing, computers, tai-chi, yoga, exercise, painting, volleyball, golf and dance classes. There is also an extensive range of exercise and swimming classes for adults and children offered through The Club at Ricohet.

Register over the phone with either a Visa or MasterCard or come to the adult school office in the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Evening in-person registration will

take place on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please use the Jackson Avenue side of the building and enter through the door to your right. The adult school is located on the top floor. Most classes begin the week of January 29, 2009.

There are also tickets available for the Philadelphia Flower Show on Sunday, March 1. Cost is \$66 and includes transportation and admission. Also, orchestra seats for the Broadway show "Jersey Boys" on March 25, 2009. Cost is \$141.

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When do you have enough stuff? Some will say never, while others wish they had less stuff, and still others are jealous because they envy the stuff others possess.

With Thanksgiving behind us and the holiday shopping season well under way, our unpredictable global economy has the retail market more determined than ever to entice us into their stores. What sacrifices are we willing to make to be able to buy more stuff? Is it working another job to make extra cash? Or waking up early to be the first in line for the best sales?

Recently a store employee lost his life when shoppers broke down a retailer's door while trying to take advantage of an early morning sale. Even while EMT officers tried to revive him, they too were pushed around by more shoppers entering the store, eager and determined to buy. Was the sale worth the sacrifice?

Sometimes the older Christmas classics provide a message that needs to be heard, perhaps even more loudly, in today's world. In "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," after a lifetime of hating all the Christmas fanfare, we see the Grinch standing on Mt. Krumpet, surrounded by all the "stuff" he has stolen from Whoville. The bewildered Grinch sees that, even without all the trimmings, Christmas still comes! Suddenly he has a revelation that opens his heart to the true meaning of the holiday season—being physically present with each other is the real Christmas present. Giving of yourself is the best gift you can give.

There is a message this holiday season that needs to be heard—less really

can be more. The gifts that we give do not have to be expensive purchases. These gifts can come from the heart. How about showing a younger relative how to make a traditional family favorite? Or planning a movie night at home with the little ones, complete with popcorn and cartoon "previews"? As a family, organize your own collection for the local food pantry or volunteer at a soup kitchen or animal shelter. And let your kids invite their friends along! These gifts, unlike the retail kind, will leave a lasting impression on your hearts and make your holiday season one to remember.

LifeLines is a monthly Observer column written by area churches. This article comes from members of Sacred Heart Church.

Correction

In the December 12 issue, in the article entitled "Students Garner \$5,585 at Education Telethon," Bob Boyle was omitted as a member of the foundation.

We regret the error.

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Around Town

“Striking 12” at EVP Through December 31

Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, presents the New Jersey premiere production of the new holiday musical, “Striking 12” on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19, 20, 26, 27 and New Year’s Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 31 (includes a special New Year’s Eve party; call for details.) Great for all ages and even better as a pre-New Year’s Eve party primer event! Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 students/seniors; dinner package available.

For tickets, call (908) 755-4654 or visit www.evplayhouse.com to order online. Visa/MC accepted.

Breakfast with Santa December 21

Bring your cameras to the South Plainfield Elks for breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 21, 8 a.m. to noon at the lodge at 1254 New Market Ave.

Pancakes, French toast, bacon, sausage, eggs to order, coffee, tea, milk and juice will be served.

Adults, \$6; children ages 5-12, \$4; under 5 free.

Pancake Breakfast at American Legion December 21

American Legion Chaumont Post #243, located on Oak Tree Avenue, will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 21 from 8 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome. Adults \$5, children \$3, under six free.

Candlelight Service at First Baptist Christmas Eve

First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, 201 Hamilton Blvd., is holding a candlelight service on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Also, join us on Sundays for worship from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Pastor Gordon Braun and Asst. Pastor Michele Lewkow; Sunday School 9:30 to 10:20 a.m., preschoolers through high school.

For more information, call (908) 753-2382 or visit our Web site at www.fbcsouthplainfield.com. Every-

one is welcome.

Sacred Heart New Year’s Eve Gala December 31

Sacred Heart Church will hold a New Year’s Eve celebration in the school cafeteria on Wednesday, Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cost is \$40 and includes a hot buffet, setups, dessert, coffee, champagne, party hats, noise makers and streamers. Bring your choice of beverage (BYOB). DJ music for dancing by The Filos. Big band and Broadway tunes will be performed live by Allan Castro. Champagne toast at midnight. Maximum seating at tables is 10. Reserve early.

For tickets, call Virginia at (908) 562-1550 or Lisa at (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

Boy Scout Troop 125 Monster Truck Show January 31

Boy Scout Troop 125 is sponsoring a trip to the Monster Truck Show at Izod Center on Saturday, Jan. 31. There will be a pit party on the arena floor from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. before the 2 p.m. show. Pit party pass is \$5 and available to guests with 2 p.m. show tickets (one pass per show ticket). Children under two do not require a pass if accompanied by an adult with ticket and pit pass. Pit party pass allows guests to walk the track, meet competitors and get photos with the monster trucks. Seating will be assigned once tickets are purchased. Tickets: \$25-adults; \$14.50-children under 12; \$5-pit party passes (while supplies last). Price does not include parking or transportation.

Checks should be made out to Boy Scout Troop 125. Mail to Marie Markey 201 Lane Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Paypal is also available; add \$2 to each ticket price to cover fees. Paypal address is markey@comcast.net or drop off orders on Monday nights at the VFW on Front Street from 7:30-9 p.m. Tickets may not arrive by Christmas; put a note in a card. Makes a great gift.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up.....

December 21
Christmas Luncheon,
12:30 p.m. \$5 per person

MONDAYS
Silver Sneakers 8:30 am
Crocheting 9:30 am
Yoga 10:30 am
Art Class 11:30 am

TUESDAYS
Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Ladies Group 10 am

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, crafts.

WEDNESDAYS
Aerobics 8:30 am
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Crocheting 1 pm
Tai Chi 2 pm

THURSDAYS
Closed Christmas December 25-28
Pathmark 9 am
Crafts Class 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
Exercise Class 1:15 pm

FRIDAYS
Bingo 10 am-2 pm
Lunch Served Monday-Friday.

908-754-1047

Center open daily 9 am - 12:30 p.m., Saturdays 9 am - 12:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays

— Out of Town —

Shabbat Play ‘n Pray December 20

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, Martine and Lagrande avenues in Fanwood, invites members of the community with children ages four and under to a special Shabbat Play ‘n Pray featuring music, maracas, puppets and parachutes on Saturday, Dec. 20 at 11:15 a.m. Free bagel brunch in our playroom.

For information, call (908) 889-4900, E-mail sholom@sholomnj.org or visit www.sholomnj.org.

American Legion Holiday Party December 20

American Legion Post #401, 148 Major Rd., Monmouth Junction, will host their annual holiday party at the post hall on Saturday, Dec. 20, with dinner served from 6-8 p.m., dancing until midnight and great door prizes. The event is open to the public, 21 and older. Tickets are \$12.50. Only 80 will be sold. If available, tickets at the door will be \$15.

For information, call (732) 329-9861. Tickets available now at the post hall.

Growin’ Up Broadway at Kids Theatre Works December 20, 21 and 23

A review of Broadway songs featuring kids. Last three performances are Saturday, Dec. 20, Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$9 for students and seniors. Group rates also available. VFW Hall, 701 Lake Ave., Asbury Park. Please call (732) 610-0533.

Advent Taizé Prayer December 21

Advent Taizé Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament will be held at Ca-

thedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen on Sunday, Dec. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Alliegro will be the homilist. This meditative candlelight service will be prayed before the Blessed Sacrament and includes simple chants sung repeatedly, rich silence and prayer of praise and intercession.

For more information, please call (732) 548-0100.

“Video Games Live” at the NJPAC

December 27

“Video Games Live” will be presented at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Saturday, Dec. 27 at 2 and 8 p.m. An entertaining new way to celebrate the holidays—featuring a symphonic celebration of classic video game scores—and interactive audience participation, this show combines the power and excitement of a rock concert with the energy and emotion of a symphony orchestra—spiked with the cutting-edge visuals, technology, interactivity and immersive fun that only video games can provide.

For tickets visit www.njpac.org or call 1-888 GO-NJPAC.

AALL Stamps and Collectibles Open House December 27 & 28

AALL Stamps and Collectibles of 38 North Main St. in Milltown, will hold an open house on Saturday, Dec. 27 and Sunday, Dec. 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. A huge selection of collectors’ supplies and accessories, as well as numerous lots and collections at special sale prices will also be available.

Further information can be obtained by calling (732) 247-1093.

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From the left, Lyndsey Murtagh, Ashleigh Gray, Assistant Principal Ralph Errico, Tramane Miller and Michael Boyle.

SPHS Names Rotary Students for October and November

Principal Dr. Kenneth May has announced the South Plainfield High School October and November Rotary Students of the Month.

October students were seniors Ashleigh Gray and Michael Boyle.

Ashleigh has been an active member in the Peer Leadership Group since her freshmen year. She has participated in Tiger 24, Heroes and Cool Kids, Fight Against Breast Cancer and Adopt-a-Family. Ashleigh is secretary of the student council, a varsity cheerleader, a member of the drama club and Spanish Honor Society. Ashleigh has maintained a GPA of 3.5 while participating in co-curricular activities and working part-time jobs.

Michael has been an active mem-

ber of the Peer Leadership Group since his freshmen year. He has participated in Tiger 24, Heroes and Cool Kids, Adopt-A-Family, Toys for Tots and senior citizen luncheons. Michael is also a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Jerseyan History Club and the Environmental Club. Michael is the president of the Class of 2009 and served as vice president the past three years. Michael has participated in boys soccer and swim team.

November students were seniors Lyndsey Murtagh and Tramane Miller.

Lyndsey has been an active member of the Student Leadership Program, student council, Heroes and Cool Kids and the Jerseyan History Club. She has volunteered her time mentoring other students with issues dealing with peer pressure, substance abuse, bullying and sportsmanship. She has been a volunteer coach for the South Plainfield Recreation field hockey, lacrosse and softball programs. She has maintained high honor roll status throughout her high school career, while being an active community member and participating on the bowling and field hockey teams.

Tramane has been an active member of the Student Leadership Program, Heroes and Cool Kids and the Jerseyan History Club. He has volunteered time to participate in Toys for Tots, Adopt-a-Family, senior citizen luncheon, Buckets for Bob, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Tiger 24. Tramane has maintained honor roll status throughout his high school career while participating in varsity football, basketball and track, lettering in all three sports.

Time for Seniors to Sign Up or Switch Medicare Drug Plans

Seniors who are eligible for Medicare can sign up for prescription drug coverage or change their existing plan through December 31. Peter Pitts, president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest, is urging seniors to jump at this opportunity to sign up or switch.

"Qualified seniors should not delay," said Pitts. "With hundreds of private plans competing to provide the best deals, Medicare Part D has more options and better coverage than ever before. That's really a healthcare choice we can believe in."

Most public health programs are funded and managed by the government. Part D is different because it's administered by private insurance companies. In other words, taxpayer dollars operate as a subsidy, but then seniors are allowed to select the drug benefit that best suits their needs.

"According to a recent Harris Interactive Poll, an overwhelming 87 percent of Part D enrollees are happy with the program," continued Pitts. "This makes sense. By leveraging market forces, Part D has both lowered costs and increased choices for seniors."

In fact, the program has reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for the average enrollee by 17 percent, according to a study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. And the projected cost of Part D to taxpayers over the next decade has dropped \$117 billion since last summer—from \$915 billion to \$798 billion.

Pitts did have some words of caution: "Some plans—especially the more popular ones—will be more expensive in 2009, so even seniors who are pleased with their existing drug coverage should examine their options."

Adopt Boo Boo This Weekend

People for Animals, a nonprofit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor pet adoption events on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 20 and 21, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the PetSmart store in Bridgewater's Promenade Mall, intersection of Route 28 and Route 287. Cats and kittens will be available both days; dogs will be available only on Sunday.

For low cost spay/neuter information, call the People for Animals Clinic at (973) 282-0890.

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Brenda Doyle Engaged to Jared Noordyk

Mrs. Louise Doyle of South Plainfield has announced the engagement of her daughter, Brenda Doyle, to Jared Noordyk, son of Mrs. Linda Noordyk of Totowa.

Brenda is a graduate of Bishop Ahr High School and is in her senior year at Kean University, majoring in special education.

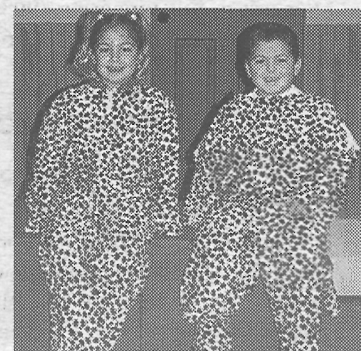
Jared is a graduate of Passaic Valley High School in Little Falls, and the University of Pennsylvania. He is employed by Moody's Corporation in NYC.

The wedding will be held on March 26, 2010.



Brenda Doyle and Jared Noordyk

Brianna and Johnny Padovano to Perform



Brianna and Johnny Padovano

Brianna and Johnny Padovano will be performing with Kaleidoscope Theatre for Youth in a production of Disney's "101 Dalmatians Kids" at the Summit Playhouse. Brianna, 6, will play the role of the puppy named Lucky and Johnny, 5, will play the role of the puppy, Scamp. The show opens on Saturday, Dec. 20 and runs through Tuesday, Dec. 23.

For more information or tickets, visit www.summitplayhouse.org or call the box office at (908) 273-2192.

Spayder and Zushma Graduate E. Stroudsburg

A total of 547 students will receive degrees from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania at two commencement exercises this weekend.

Graduate students, depending on their fields of study, will be awarded

master of education, master of science, master of public health, and master of arts degrees.

South Plainfield graduates are: David E. Spayder, B.S., Physical Ed. and Robin L. Zushma, B.S., Biology.

Toys-for-Tots Collection for Needy Children

Drs. Peter A. Wishnie, Dana Waters, Amit Shah and Robert Kosofsky of Family Foot and Ankle Specialists announced that to keep with the fun spirit of the holidays and to help those who are less fortunate they will hold a Toys-for-Tots program for the community.

Come help contribute to Toys-for-Tots this holiday season. Bring in new, unwrapped toys to their Piscataway or Hillsborough offices by December 20 during regular office hours.

Let's put smiles on the faces of the less fortunate this holiday season!

For more information, please call Heather at (732) 968-0573.

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Carefree Maintenance



A collage of 12 black and white photographs from a 1998 yearbook, depicting a Veterans Day assembly. The photos show students in winter attire, some holding American flags, and several men in military uniforms, including one saluting and another playing a trumpet. A fire truck is also visible in the background of one photo.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Happy holiday to everyone! The South Plainfield Public Library will be open on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and closed on Christmas day.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26 and is celebrated until January 1. For more information on Kwanzaa, check out the library's Web site www.south-plainfield.lib.nj.us or come into to the library and check out some books.

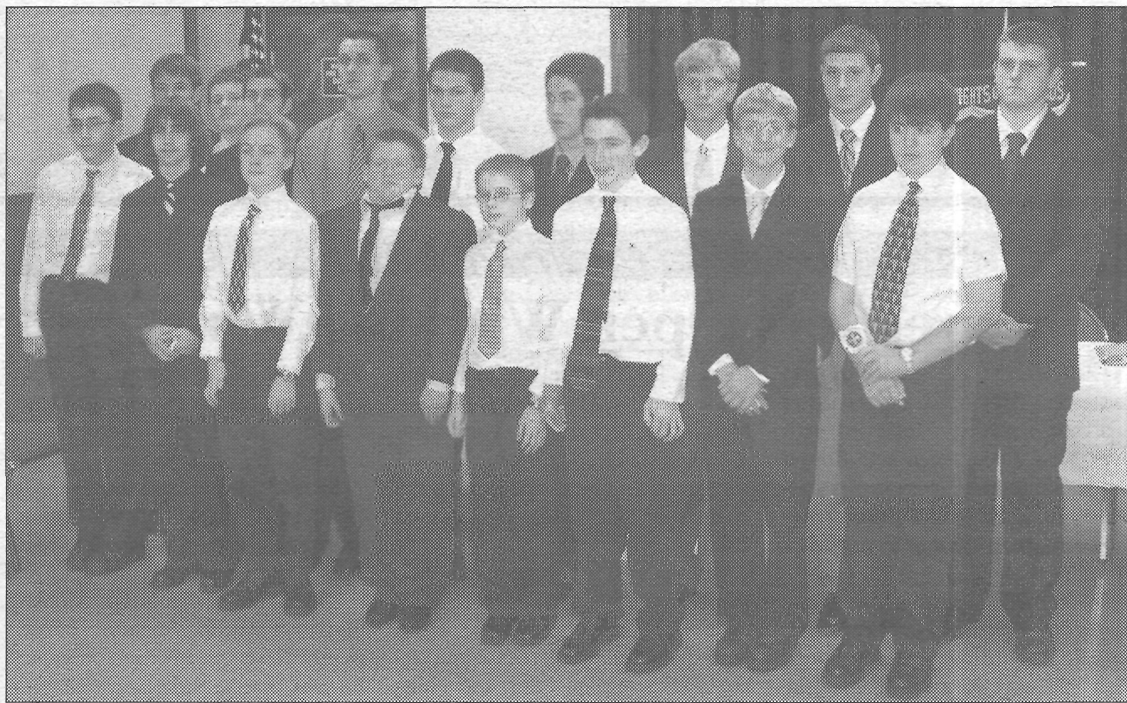
There will be a free tax seminar by H&R Block at the library on Sunday, Dec. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. In these economic times, almost everyone can use some helpful hints before filing their income taxes. There will also be tax information concerning loss of employment.

If you are planning a party over the holidays, the library has books and magazines with party ideas—recipes, party favors, table settings and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

If the weather gets really bad and you can't get to the library during the winter, please call the library and ask about the Edith Goodrich Homebound Delivery program. This

program is funded by a generous gift from a former library employee. A volunteer will drop off books at your house. When you are finished with the books, just call the library and a volunteer will bring more books and pick up the books you have read. You can leave the book bags on your front porch for pick up. The library has more volunteers to deliver books than people who need books delivered. This is a free service to residents of South Plainfield. Call the library for more information and to sign up. This program does not mean that you cannot visit the library yourself and get books. It is for those times when you can't get to the library because of health or weather concerns.

The library is looking for anyone who has a collection they would like to display in the library's display cases. Do you collect salt shakers, bird houses, stamps, old books, cigar boxes, etc? We would love to have you display your collection at the library. Please call the library and ask for Michelle if you would like to display your "collectibles" at the library.



Members of the newly formed Knights of Columbus Squires.

Knights of Columbus Induct Squires

An induction ceremony was held on November 23 at the Knights of Columbus for the recently formed Squires. The Columbian Squire Chairman for New Jersey, Peter Briody, along with Squires from another council, performed the ceremony.

The charter members of the South Plainfield Squires are Ryan Aguiar,

Kevin Belanger, Matt Belanger, Adam Butrico, James Butrico, Ryan Bundy, Kevin Flanagan, Shane Flanagan, William Hartmann, Austin Jenkin, Shane McCoid, Ryan Riccardi, Tommy Riccardi, Joe Skwiat, Luke Sprenger, Brandon Pauls and Albert Vill.

In the short time since the group was formed, the Squires have already contributed much to the community. Some of their projects include building a patio, replacing a dangerous sidewalk, major clean up of the landscaping area

around Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, assisting an Eagle Scout candidate with a playground restoration, and assisting the Knights of Columbus in their charitable works.

The boys are active in their schools in sports, music and other activities, yet find time to participate in many worthy projects. The Knights are very proud of the Squires' dedication and desire to help others, and look forward to great accomplishments from this group.

Submitted by Bill Butrico, Grand Knight

Christmas Cantata at Wesley Church

Wesley Church will host its annual Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome.

Other Christmas service schedules are as follows: Christmas Eve Children's Pageant and candlelight sing-

ing at the 7:30 p.m. service. There will be Eucharist at 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. There will be a Watch Night service with Eucharist at 11:30 p.m. on December 31.

The community is invited to all services.



Kennedy students act out a play based on the folktale Stone Soup where a village of people show they care by sharing their food with another starving village.

Kennedy Kids Care

By Jane Dornick

The "Character Counts" trait for month of November at all of the K-4 elementary schools was about caring. Teachers reinforced the idea of caring and to be kind, show care, express gratitude, forgive others and help people in need.

Kennedy Elementary School held a pep rally for students which featured Cynthia Severino's fourth grade class presenting a "mini" play based on the Russian folktale, "Stone Soup." "Stone Soup" is a Brothers Grimm tale in which strangers trick a starving town into giving them some food. The fable of the stone soup is about cooperation and caring amid scarcity. The book is also a part of their folk stories and fairytales curriculum in language arts class.

College Students Can Earn Three Credits in Three Weeks

Wintersession at Middlesex County College will feature three weeks of concentrated courses beginning on December 22.

Wintersession offers students the opportunity to take a one-semester course that earns full credit and can transfer back to their own college. Wintersession is perfect for students looking to accelerate their academic

progression or get back on track.

Classes meet daily from December 22 through January 12 (no class December 24-26 and January 1). Courses include public speaking, psychology, management, history, literature, English composition, economics and criminal justice. The complete list, along with easy registration information, appears on the

college Web site: www.middlesexcc.edu/wintersession.

Students who are matriculated at colleges other than Middlesex must present a Visiting Student Letter from their home college giving them permission to enroll and transfer credit back to their home college. Details are available in the "visiting student" section on the Web site or by calling (732) 906-4243. Early registration is recommended as courses fill quickly.

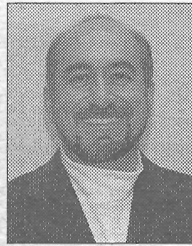
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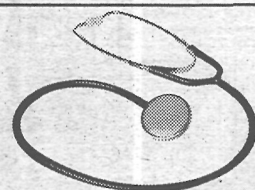
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Sports

Wrestling

By Joe Sacco

Rec Wrestlers Open With Big Wins

Last Saturday the South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team opened its dual meet season with impressive wins over New Providence and Bound Brook. The team competes in two separate leagues, the Central Jersey Wrestling League and the Raritan Valley Wrestling League.

In Central Jersey action, the visiting Tigers outscored host New Providence 58-15. Recording pins for South Plainfield were Joey Heilmann, Jake Hoffman, Michael Marrero and Joe Penyak. Winning by decision were Tommy Fierro, Jake Giordano and Ryan Walsh. Winning by forfeit were Jacob Painton, Danny Hedden, Christopher Maszcak and Christian Gonzalez.

The Raritan Valley Team had an equally impressive win outscoring Bound Brook 61-33. Recording pins

for the Tigers were Divon Pender, Franko Savoca, David Loniewski, Joseph Sacco, Alex Amato, Kyle Davidson, Brendan Hedden, Vinnie Vetuschi and Michael Lampasona. Scoring decisions were Richard Marcovecchio and Ben Lundy.

Both teams are home at the PAL this weekend with the Raritan Valley team wrestling Watchung Hills on Saturday at 9 a.m. and the Central Jersey team wrestling Clark and Hillsborough on Sunday at noon.

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club also hosted its third Annual Pee Wee Bantam Tournament this past weekend at the PAL. Over 130 wrestlers from around the state participated. Finishing in the top four were:

First Place: Alex Amato, Joseph Anesh, Jacob DelVecchio, Zack DelVecchio, Dominic Faustini, Tommy

Fierro, Jordan Hamberg, Brendan Hedden, Joseph Heilmann, David Loniewski, Anthony Massaro, Divon Pender and Joseph Sacco.

Second Place: Chris Born, Cody Hunterton, Peter Marotta, Joshua Obregon, Louis Quintanilla, Joey Walker and Anthony White.

Third Place: Sebastian Alonso, Harrison Anesh, Anthony Barge, Kenny Clevenger, Michael Clevenger, Patrick Corsello, Nicholas DellaSallam, Mitch McKee, Xavier Santos, Tommy Sikanowicz, Zachary Villares, Lamont Watson and Kairhi Williams.

Fourth Place: Marcus Czarunchick, Nicholas Loniewski, Darius Mullens, Troy O'Connor, Gabriel Painton, Anthony Penyak, Sebastian Santos and Joseph Sottiriou.

Submitted by Joe Sacco

SHPS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

Lady Tigers Stun North Brunswick, Jolt Mother Seton Reg... Kukuch (590)

SPHS North Brunswick 777-874-794-2457 829-822-727-2378

The girls bowling team rallied from a 52-pin deficit in the first game and coasted to a 3-1 triumph against a tough North Brunswick squad.

Jackie Kukuch took scoring honors as she posted games of 176-201-213 for a solid 590 set. Katie Salvatore added 201-175 for a 512 set, while teammates Gina Curcio and Lyndsey Murtagh shot 470 and 450 respectively. Nikki Disch chipped in with a 180 game.

SPHS Mother Seton Reg. 665-730-848-2243 720-697-668-2085

The girls bowling team staged a great comeback in the deciding game and coasted to a 3-1 victory over perennial nemesis and Blue Division champion Mother Seton Regional.

Jackie Kukuch led the green and white with a solid 514 set as she fired games of 160-176-178. Teammates Katie Salvatore 185, Lyndsey Murtagh 171-163, Gina Curcio 156 and rookie Michelle Hernandez 166. All took control down the stretch as the Lady Tigers won their third straight match.

Tiger Bowlers Defeated by North Brunswick And St. Joseph's, Dandola 710 Set

SPHS North Brunswick 911-801-697-2409 941-961-949-2851

The Tigers played North Brunswick tough in the first game, but eventually fell to the more talented and veteran Raiders of North Brunswick.

Mike Dandola scorched the lanes with games of 255-265-190 for a booming 710 set.

Tim Moskal's 232 game was the only other bright spot for the young Tigers.

SPHS St. Joseph's 778-819-769-2366 931-930-1003-2864

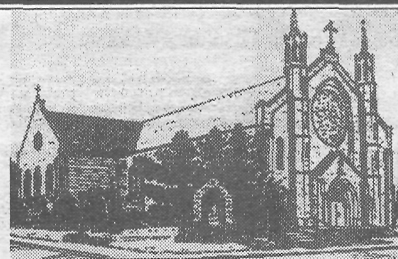
The boys bowling team was no match for the Falcons of St. Joseph's, dropping all three games in a 4-0 drubbing.

Mike Dandola's 202 game and 550 set led the Tigers, while freshman Andrew Yon posted games of 192 and 182.

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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12 Pack 12 oz. Cans

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12 Pack 12 oz. Cans

Natural Light & Ice 12⁹⁹
30 Pack 12 oz. Cans

Busch Reg. & Light 13⁹⁹
30 Pack 12 oz. Cans

HOLIDAY SPIRIT SPECIALS...

Martini & Rossi Dry or Sweet Vermouth 750 ml 5⁹⁹

Wolfshmidt Vodka 80° 1.75 liter 13⁹⁹

Clan MacGregor Scotch Whisky 1.75 liter 15⁹⁹

Seagram Extra Dry Gin 1.75 liter 16⁹⁹

Seagram 7 Crown Whisky 1.75 liter 17⁹⁹

Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum 1.75 liter 17⁹⁹

E & J Gallo Brandy VS 1.75 liter 18⁹⁹

HOLIDAY WINE SPECIALS...

Il Principe Chianti 750 ml 6⁹⁹

Chat. Ste. Michelle Gewurztraminer Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml 7⁹⁹

Dr. Loosen Riesling "Dr. L" 2007 750 ml 8⁹⁹

Yellow Tail Sparkling 750 ml 8⁹⁹

Livingston Cellars Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay 1.5 liter 8⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Woodbridge White Zin. 1.5 liter 8⁹⁹

Il Principe Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 1.5 liter 9⁹⁹

Barefoot Cellars Cab. Merlot, Chard. 1.5 liter 9⁹⁹

Cockburn Ruby or Ewiny Port 750 ml 9⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Woodbridge Cabernet, Chard., Merlot 1.5 liter 10⁹⁹

The Crossings Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml 10⁹⁹

Almaden Mountain Burg. Chablis, Rhine, Sangria 3 liter Box 11⁹⁹

Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry 750 ml 11⁹⁹

Lindemans All Bins 1.5 liter 11⁹⁹

Ravenswood Chard. Sonoma 750 ml 11⁹⁹

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Yellow Tail All Types 6⁹⁹
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Covey Run All Types 7⁹⁹
750 ml

Sebek All Types 7⁹⁹
750 ml

Placido Rosso di Montalcino 750 ml 13⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Fume Blanc 750 ml 13⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Napa Chard. 750 ml 14⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Napa Merlot 750 ml 15⁹⁹

Robert Mondavi Napa Pinot Noir 750 ml 17⁹⁹

Sterling Vintners Collection Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Sauv. Blanc, Shiraz, Zin. 750 ml 18⁹⁹

Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 750 ml 19⁹⁹

Moet & Chandon Brut Imperial 750 ml 33⁹⁹

Knob Creek
9 Year Old Single Batch Bourbon
27⁹⁹
750 ml

The Singleton
12 Year Old Single Malt Scotch
34⁹⁹
750 ml

Don Julio
Silver Tequila
36⁹⁹
750 ml

Johnnie Walker Green
Premium Scotch Whisky
44⁹⁹
750 ml

PLENTY AROUND \$20

Dekuyper Pucker All Types 8⁹⁹
750 ml

Smirnoff Vodka 80° 9⁹⁹
750 ml

Di Amore Amaretto & Sambuca 9⁹⁹
750 ml

Johnnie Walker Red Scotch Whisky 17⁹⁹
750 ml

Captain Morgan Spiced Rum 17⁹⁹
750 ml

Kahlua Coffee Liqueur & Flavors 17⁹⁹
750 ml

Absolut Vodka 80° & All Flavors 19⁹⁹
750 ml

Baileys Irish Cream Liqueur & Flavors 20⁹⁹
750 ml

1800 Tequila Reposado or Silver 21⁹⁹
750 ml

Plymouth Gin 21⁹⁹
750 ml

Greg Norman Shiraz Limestone Coast 2006 11⁹⁹
750 ml

Pulenta Malbec Mendoza 2006 14⁹⁹
750 ml

Solabal Rioja Crianza 2005 16⁹⁹
750 ml

San Felice Chianti Classico Riserva Il Grigio 2005 19⁹⁹
750 ml

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Obituaries

Dorothy (Doris) Bartlett Ryan, 88

Dorothy (Doris) Bartlett Ryan died on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Roosevelt Care Center in Edison.

She was born in New York City and grew up in the Annandale Section of Staten Island where she graduated in 1938 from Tottenville High School.

Her working life spanned over 45 years, beginning in 1940 in New York City working as a secretary for the Cavendish Trading Co. and later for Bethlehem Steel on Staten Island. She then worked as a telephone operator for N.Y. Telephone for five years and then resumed her secretarial career working for Commercial Union Assurance, The N.Y. Port Authority, the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin and Travellers Insurance Co. The concluding years of her career included her position as a legal secretary for a law firm on Staten Island and finally as an administrative assistant and proofreader for EBASCO Engineering in New York City. She retired in 1985.

Dorothy was a parishioner of St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen, where she was a member of the Rosary Altar Society and the Legion of Mary in Metuchen. She also was a member and past president of the Stolzholder Council of Columbiettes in Staten Island.

She was predeceased by her husband, Dennis Bartlett, who died in 1963; her second husband, Joseph Ryan; three sisters, Veronica Ross, Anna Wood and Theresa Gobel and a brother, Michael Doris.

Surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Kathleen Betsch of North Brunswick, Eileen and Gerald Nihan of New York City and Noreen and Fred Noel of South Plainfield; two sisters, Margaret Matthews of Columbus, Ga. and Eileen Heinlin of Margate; a

brother, Daniel Doris of Staten Island; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals

Paul Konsig, 86

Paul Konsig died on Saturday, Dec. 13 in Boca Raton, Fla.

Paul served in the Army Air Corps during WWII; afterwards he was a civil service employee for 27 years in Harrison. He also managed the Polish National Home in Harrison.

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Laura Cicchino; a daughter, Barbara Konsig, associate director for admission at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale; two sons, Paul (Maria) Konsig, president/CEO of GMS Group and Robert Konsig, a first vice-president of RBC Dain. He is also survived by five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on December 16 at the Kraeer Funeral Home in Boca Raton, Fla.



Paul Konsig

Joseph Samsel, 56

Joseph Samsel died on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Carcone in the Highlands in Edison.

Born in Newark, Joseph grew up in Woodbridge, spending most of his adult life in South Plainfield.

He was employed by David Smith Steel Company in South Plainfield where he worked in steel fabrication. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #3639 in Iselin and a member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Helen (Springfield) Samsel; a son, Robert Springfield and wife Vivian; a granddaughter, Mary and a sister, Linda Samsel of Colonia.

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

Linda G. (Conti) Ventriglia, 65

Linda G. (Conti) Ventriglia died on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville after a long battle with cancer.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Linda had lived in North Plainfield and settled in South Plainfield where she lived for most of her life.

Employed with Nabisco for over 30 years, Linda worked in the administrative office initially in Dunellen and later in Raritan Center before her retirement. She later continued to work part-time for New England Motor Freight of South Plainfield in the same capacity.

Linda enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, family and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents, Samuel and Jeanette Conti.

She is survived by two children, Christina Ventriglia of South Plainfield and Darrell Ventriglia and wife Suzanne of Piscataway; a sister, Diane Engarto of Columbus and three grandchildren, Gilbert McKimm, Sabrina Ventriglia and John Ventriglia.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 2600 U.S. Highway #1, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

Edith M. (Miller) Goodrich, 93

Edith M. (Miller) Goodrich passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 11 at her home.

Born in South Plainfield, Edith was

a lifelong resident and along with her late husband, George, had a great love for South Plainfield Borough and contributed greatly to many of the local organizations.

Mrs. Goodrich was employed as an assistant director for the South Plainfield Public Library for 19 years before retiring in 1982.

Edith, along with Mr. Goodrich, participated in square dancing and ballroom dancing for many years in the Middlesex County area and Florida. She was a longtime member of the Wesley United Methodist Church in South Plainfield, AARP, the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, and a former member of the Suburban Woman's Club.

In addition to her husband George, Edith was predeceased by her sister and brother-in-law, Emma M. and Wesley J. Murray.

Surviving is a son and daughter-in-law, George and Marty Goodrich; a grandson, Christopher and wife Kelly Goodrich and two special great-granddaughters, Abigail and Emma, all of Bordentown.

She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews; good friends, Marc, Tony and Stanley Makowski, Emma Demarest, Jeanne Loupassakis, Bella Aboagye and a special thank you to Florence Agyei for her care and compassion.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funeral. Memorial donations in her memory may be made to the Haven Hospice,

65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818 or to Wesley United Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Frances C. Kuhl, 90

Frances C. Kuhl of Toms River passed away on Saturday, Dec. 13 at home.

Mrs. Kuhl was born and raised in South Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains where she resided for 40 years. She later moved to Toms River.

She was a homemaker who enjoyed taking care of her family and will be sadly missed.

Mrs. Kuhl was predeceased by her beloved husband, George W. Kuhl, who passed away in 1988.

She is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Joseph Kuhl of Dunellen and Timothy and wife Dawn Kuhl of Brick; a sister, Gertrude Kilgannon of Toms River; five grandchildren, Michael, Kenneth, Shaun, Kevin and Joshua Kuhl and five great-grandchildren, Bryan, Dylan, Gianna, Ashlee and Christopher Kuhl.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the ENTERTAINMENT BOOK for \$25.
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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 far



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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.

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

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Kean University student volunteers.

Keystone Residents Enjoy Lunch Sponsored by UNICO

The residents of the Keystone Community attended their monthly Mass at Sacred Heart Church on December 13. Following Mass, a luncheon was sponsored by the UNICO Foundation in the school cafeteria where "Santa Claus" presented Christmas gifts to each resident.

Sixteen students from Kean University helped serve the lunch. They are studying social studies in the elementary school, under the mentorship of Dr. M. Ann Walko, professor in the elementary/bilingual program

in the School of Education.

Accordion music was supplied by Linda and John Gibriano, who led the singing of seasonal songs.

Kean University student volunteers were Maxine Johnston, Amanda Nelson, Kimberly DaSilva, Kerry Sasu, Josephine El-Raheb, Liz Lanigan, Elizabeth Garcia, Heather Caldora, Ryan Devaney, Sarah Kovacs, Christine Plummer, Daniel Pabon, Patricia Strazzula, Jennifer Degrau, Sarah Moskel and Cathy Mirendu.

Middlesex County College Open Saturday

Students and future students who need enrollment services may take advantage of Saturday hours on December 20 from 9 a.m. to noon.

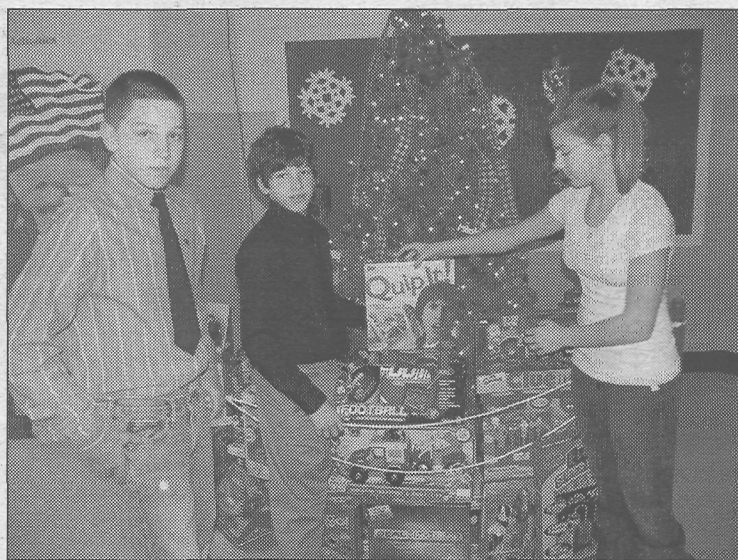
"This is a convenience for adult students and others who might work during the day and find it easier to take care of registration on Saturdays," said Marla Brinson, interim dean for enrollment and student support services. "We tried it in the past and found it was very popular."

Students could enroll in Winter-session classes at that time. Winter-session begins Monday, Dec. 22 and runs to January 12. They could also enroll in classes for the spring semester, which begins on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Offices that will be open on those days include the Enrollment Center, Financial Aid, Testing, Admissions, the Registrar's Office, Academic Advisement, Counseling and Career Services and Student Activities.

Search the
MLS at

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Pictured with the toys that were donated are Student Council members Patrick Boyle, Anthony Ashnault and Danielle Butrico.

Middle School Gives Gifts for Kids

By Jane Dornick

South Plainfield Middle School Student Council held their holiday Gifts for Kids toy drive sponsored by the U.S. 1st Marine Division. Students were asked to bring in a new unwrapped toy beginning November 24. Through the generosity of the students and their families, the council was able to provide 12 needy borough families with toys and donated the remainder to the U.S. 1st Marine

Division in New Brunswick.

Math teacher Linda Schwebel's classes pitched in with monetary donations to purchase, as well as toy, and collected \$200 to purchase gift cards for Kohl's and Old Navy. The enormous amount of toys were gathered and loaded onto the U.S. 1st Marine Division truck for distribution to needy families in the Central Jersey area. This could not have been possible without the help of teachers Joe Blondo, Jeff Spezio and Bill Mosca.

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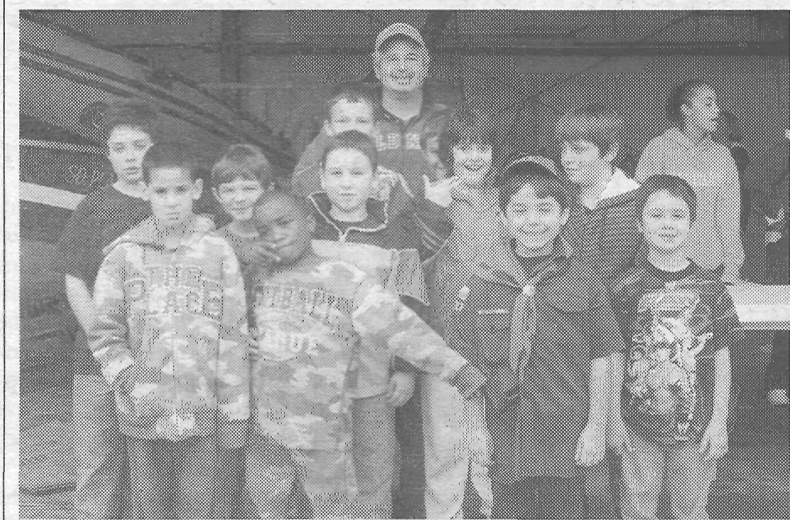
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Cub Scouts from Pack 207 (left) worked very hard on the Scouting for Food drive on November 15, collecting 54 boxes of food and dozens of used cell phones for the South Plainfield food pantry. They gathered over 300 bags of food in the Franklin School area and collected dozens of used eyeglasses for the needy and will donate them to the Lion's Club.

On November 16, the scouts visited the Franklin Mineral Museum in Franklin where they earned the Geology badge. They collected rock samples from the mine, including fluorescent minerals and rare stones, and enjoyed a guided tour of the museum and learned a lot about the state's geological history.



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South Plainfield High School student Andrew Nguyen (kneeling) at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. with students from all over the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico. Andrew attended the conference in November to learn leadership skills and was able to sit on the floor of the House of Representatives and met Sen. Bob Menendez, Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Congressman Mike Ferguson.

2008-09 JUNIOR JOURNALIST McDermott Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Megan McDermott with Principal Kelly Richkus and teacher Cynthia Severino.

Megan McDermott, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the 2008-09 Junior Journalist program for her poem, "Holidays Are Special." Her efforts have earned her dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original written works to their teachers, school principals, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or

the *Observer* at 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Winners receive a catered dinner for their families from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May 2009, where they will be recognized for their efforts. Junior Journalist winners also have the opportunity to win the Ruth Kurland Memorial \$1,000 savings bond which will be awarded at the banquet.

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

Holidays Are Special

By Megan McDermott

It's the holiday season,
It has just begun,
There is so much excitement,
And so much fun.
The snow is fluffy like a little cotton ball,
As it falls around the little carolers that call.
You hear a ring of silver bells,
Then jolly old Santa yells,
"Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas!"

South Plainfield Middle School Announces Honor Roll

7th Grade High Honor Roll

Cameron L. Bashner, Claudia R. Bashner, Jessica A. Bishop, Abhilasha (Abby) M. Borad, Crystal Custodio, Kaitlyn C. Faustini, Collin R. Lynch, Melissa S. Molano, Michael J. Olano, Anjali A. Patel, Raj A. Patel, Tanvi V. Patel, Heidi A. Pilla, Brian A. Roesch

7th Grade Honor Roll

Aspen B. Akunne, Daniel J. Argueta, Colin J. Berry, Jamie A. Bohn, Alexandra Bosse, Nora K. Bruno, Kristiana Buschan, Adam J. Butrico, Charles J. Butrico, Kristen E. Calderoni, Breanna M. Calvin, Anna E. Caruso, Pamela Chacon Castro, Valentina Chacon Castro, Austin R. Daly, Leanna A. Dass, Cody Decker, John Gibert E. DeLaCruz, Joseph Demico, Taylor M. Donato, Uyen-Vi L. Dong, Shenne H. Dugtong, James J. DuHamel, Nicholas R. Fasullo, Talia A. Ferrigno, Christopher W. Fowles, Andrew C. Franco, Marques C. Franco, Antonio J. Garcia, Jonathan M. Grennier, Ryan Harris, Sabrina M. Hemming, Lauren M. Hill, Erika J. Holtermann, Shannon L. Hughes, Christy Itwaru, Eric S. Ivaniuc, Veronika R. Jastrzebski, Raymond J. Jazikoff, Jenalee R. Jenkin, Gabriella M. Jimenez, Roweena M. Kanj, Michelle A. Keane, Carly E. Kenney, Jordan M. Lackey, Marie A. Lanza, Thoa (Theresa) H. Le, Julia E. Maritz, Justin H. Marks, Brian R. McCarthy, Yasmeen C. Mighty, Christopher N. Miller, Malina M. Mohtadi, Chloe E. Ng, Holly Nhan, Steven W. Oehler, Jennifer P. Ortiz, Brittney A. Papa, Harsh S. Patel, Ishi K. Patel, Jaykumar J. Patel, Vinay V. Patel,

Gabrielle M. Payne, Jason A. Pelaez, Kristy N. Percario, Annemarie K. Pezzolla, Jessica M. Petschker, Danielle R. Pisano, Michael J. Polizzano, Jonathan G. Prins, Maggie A. Quintanilla, Matthew M. Resende, Zara B. Rizvi, Andrew S. Sanchez, Heather M. Scofi, Sarthak D. Shah, Spruha D. Shah, Shannon Sheedy, Inan Sikel, Olivia Y. Simpson, Monica L. Spooner, Emma E. Sprigle, Sabersah Syed, Olivia K. Tarnawska, Ryan E. Temple, Dakota R. Uhl, Jessica L. Uhl, Ashley Valencia, Daniel J. Vargas, Khizra Waheed, William J. Walsh, Kristen E. Wong, Amy H. Zinsky, Julia A. Zipp

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Charles T. Anyamene, Robert J. Benwell, Rina G. Bhalodi, Danielle J. Butrico, Michael DelGenio, Caitlyn Driscoll, Nicholas G. Graves, Andrea A. Guerrero, Troy J. Heilmann, Samantha J. Hunteerton, Jade A. McDonnough, Maggie McLean, Christina A. Naphor, Ankoor H. Patel, Katherine G. Piekarski, Alison D. Ratti, Gerianne Scarpitto, Joshua D. Siepmann, Gabrielle E. Smith

8th Grade Honor Roll

Alyssa K. Adamson, Joseph M. Affinito, Anthony Ashnault, Kevin P. Belanger, Nicole A. Benwell, Rachel M. Billich, Patrick T. Boyle, Kyle J. Brady, Kristel Buschan, Samuel S. Butler, Christopher W. Butrico, Kayla Carigma, Andrew M. Catalina, Kendall L. Christ, Jenna N. Clemente, Quinn W. Cochrane, Meghan A. Collins, Christina A. Conroy, Shannah L. Conway, John E. Corone, Joshua L.

Coupe, Tyler A. Cruz, Jesse D. Deffler, John D. Didolce, Alexa G. Douras, Tara A. Dunn, Richard D. Duong, Erik N. Elsmann, Catherine M. Emery, Taylor M. Estevez, Rebecca P. Eustice, Kristin E. Forbes, Matthew J. Frank, Nathanael L. Ganthier, Cassidy L. Gillis, Allison N. Gorman, Briana M. Gratta, Taylor G. Hagy, Christopher C. Harrell, Meghan A. Heim, Jasmin Hernandez, Alec P. Hing, Zoya C. Hodge, Nicholas J. Huber, Kevin J. Jakaria, Khylah N. Jean, Sarah J. Johnson, Christina M. Kasmer, Samuel J. Knight, Nicole A. Kopchak, Paula E. Lasota, Viet (Victor) Le, Michelle L. Lesniak, Gina M. Louise, Rian A. Lukacs, Deirdre D. Macchia,

Marah Angelica O. Magpile, Nicholas A. Marrone, Gavy D. Marroquin, Liam T. McDermott, John R. McDonough, Shannon M. McMahon, Madison R. Miller, Rebecca M. Moskal, Samantha N. Murtagh, Timothy J. O'Leary, Kelly J. Outeiral, Renee M. Parisi, Brandon J. Pauls, Joseph J. Pellegrino, Eduardo A. Perez, Emily A. Pittenger, Hiren B. Rana, Emily P. Reineke, Erin L. Remsing, Thomas J. Riccardi, Karen N. Rivera, Ashley L. Robjohns, Hayley A. Robjohns, Sarai Rodriguez, Brianna M. Ross, Jessica M. Saffold, Daniel J. Sanko, Niari N. Santiago, Raymond Santos Jr., Kira N. Schoen, Jacob R. Seider, KimberLee A.

Serrano, Paul E. Seyffart, Brandon S. Shaw, Trevin M. Singh, John F. Sottiriou, Angela N. Spadavecchia, Nicole R. Stanczak, Corey G. Stasenko, Nicole T. Tetreault, Steven M. Timmerman, Anthony R. Torchia, Jennifer D. Tran, Erik O. Veliz, Caroline F. Vill, Steven R. Vincent, Vera V. Viran, Wahid Walli, Jennifer N. Wolak

Real Estate Questions?

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
Middlesex County
DOCKET NO. F-40737-08
(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:
Fernando Verissimo

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Independence Center; 701 Market Street; Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532, phone # (215) 627-1322, an answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. is plaintiff, and Fernando Verissimo and Vera Costa, h/w, et al are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-40737-08 within thirty-five (35) days after December 19, 2008 exclusive of such date or if published after December 19, 2008 (35) days after the actual dated of such publication, 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 governing the courts.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated June 04, 2001, made by Fernando Verissimo and Vera Costa, h/w as mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Countrywide Home Loans, Inc. recorded on June 26, 2001, for Middlesex County in Book 6715, Page 548 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., by Assignment dated December 17, 2007; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 30 Jeffrie Avenue, South River, NJ 08882. Lot: 13 Block: 284.

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, Fernando Verissimo, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the record owner of the mortgaged premises and because you executed the bond or note and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency thereon, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, or against the mortgaged premises.

Jennifer M. Perez
Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey

\$92.90

December 19, 2008

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

December 10, 2008

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 9, 2008.

- Housing Element of the Master and Fair Share Plan: The Planning Board hereby ADOPTS the December 2008 Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- Case #715/Ssite/V-Jayne Enterprises, LLC. Block 255; Lot 10.01; 401 Kentile Road. The applicant's request for (3) waivers and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.
- Case #07-05/Minor-Julie and Peter Yackel. Block 215; Lot 1; 3008 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for an extension of time to perfect the minor subdivision deed was hereby GRANTED subject to the previous imposed voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary/Planning Board

\$49.40

December 19, 2008

Business Owners: Want to be noticed?

Advertise in the most read newspaper in South Plainfield.



For information, call 908-668-0010.

2008-09 Junior Journalist Winner



Congratulations!

2008-09

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Frankie Savoca with dad, Paul; brothers, Nick and Vinnie; and mom, Debbie.