

# South Plainfield Observer

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JULY 2, 2010

## SPHS Principal Retired July 1



Dr. Kenneth May

By Libby Barsky

For years, South Plainfield High School principal Dr. Kenneth May never tired of saying, "South Plainfield High School is Middlesex County's best kept secret." But the secret is out—the high school is not only known throughout Middlesex County but throughout the state—since its powerful wrestling team added the honor of becoming the N.J. State Champion Wrestling Team after 26 consecutive years as District 12 Champions.

In January the wrestling team was highlighted on the sports pages of the *Star Ledger*, who honored the team and coaches with a trophy presented by sports writer Bob Behre to Dr. May in a ceremony in the SPHS gym.

The sensational records piled up by the talented members of the sports teams, (including wrestling, basketball, baseball, soccer, softball, track, cheerleading, bowling, tennis, golf and lacrosse) are just a fraction of the honors SPHS students have racked up during Dr. May's tenure. Students have received recognition and awards in all areas of the curriculum including band, music, art, drama, woodworking and academic contests often with Dr. May present at many of these events to cheer on the students.

"Academic progress grew in the last 10 years resulting in 90% of students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of C (2.0) and 50% or higher earning a 3.0 grade, having the SAT scores improve from 950 to 1,010 and in the increasing number of students given the opportunity to go to college from 68% to 90% or higher and over 70% of the student body is involved in co-curricular activity the high school," said Dr. May, assessing the academic progress of students.

Dr. May, who is retiring as principal on July 1, attributes the school's enhanced reputation and academic advancement.

(Continued on page 18)



The 2010 South Plainfield High School Wrestling Team was honored at a joint legislative session of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey at the State House in Trenton on June 21. Pictured with the team and coaches are SPHS Athletic Director Michael Buggie, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan Jr. and Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron.



Captain James Parker (left) with his daughters by his side and Lieutenant Philip Aquilina (right), pictured with his wife and children, are sworn in by Council President Matt Anesh.



## Police Department Promotes Two Officers

Two South Plainfield Police officers were promoted during Monday's Borough Council meeting. James Parker was promoted to captain and Philip Aquilina was promoted to lieutenant.

Captain James Parker, a 17-year veteran of the police department, joined in August of 1993. He has served as a

patrolman and watch commander in the patrol section and as a detective and division commander in the service division. During his assignment as a detective, Parker completed a temporary assignment with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force in the State of New Jersey.

Captain Parker is a lifelong

resident of South Plainfield; he graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1987. He attended Kean University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked in retail sales. Captain Parker has been married to his wife June for 14 years. They have two daughters, Julia and Caroline.

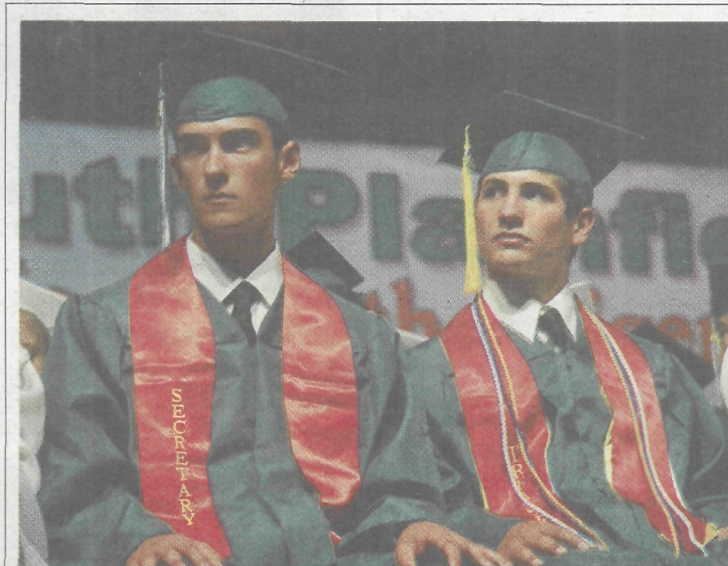
He is the son of James and Ellen Parker, and he has one brother, David.

Lieutenant Philip Aquilina, a 25-year veteran of the South Plainfield Police Department, joined in August 1985. He had previously been employed by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office as an agent for three years where he worked in the grand jury and trial sections.

Lieutenant Aquilina is currently assigned to the patrol division. He has received numerous letters of commendation and an Honorable Service Medal. Aquilina was a member of the South Plainfield Police Honor Guard and the New York City Police Honor Legion. He was also one of the department's field training officers, until his promotion to the rank of sergeant. He is currently a radar instructor and was recently certified in the use of hand-held radar.

Lieutenant Aquilina, a lifelong borough resident, holds an associate degree in criminal justice from Kean University.

Aquilina has been married to his wife Doris for 16 years. They have a son, Philip, and a daughter, Alexes. He is the son Philip and Madelyn Aquilina and has one brother, Steven.



Mark Benak (left) and Richie Szeliga at the SPHS Class of 2010 graduation. (See pages 11-18).

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## School Board Votes Nay on Negron Contract Renewal

The Board of Education voted against contract renewal for Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron, at a special meeting on June 29.

Before the vote was taken, Mayor Charles Buttrick, who worked with Negron developing shared service projects between the school district and the borough, credited the superintendent "as the most responsive superintendent" that he has dealt with.

Board member Carol Byrne reviewed Negron's record and

praised him especially for his efforts in establishing a full day kindergarten program in the district, completing what "decades of superintendents" had attempted but failed to accomplish.

There were two resolutions on the renewal of the superintendent's contract. The initial resolution to extend the superintendent's contract from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015 was voted down by board members Debbie Boyle, Christopher Hubner, Sharon Miller and Gary Stevenson. Steve Bohn, Jim Giannakis and Pio Pennisi abstained. BOE members

(Continued on page 26)



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Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?

# FYI

**Borough Council & BOE**

Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

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

## council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.

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

Agenda Meeting ..... Public Meeting

July 19 (moved from July 12) ..... July 19 (moved from July 12)

August 6 ..... August 6

September 7 (Tuesday) ..... September 7

All Agenda Meetings begin at 7 p.m. followed immediately by the Public Meeting, unless otherwise noted. Meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Ave.

## planning board

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

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

July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 9 Dec. 7.

## 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

July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, Aug. 26, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11\*, Dec. 9.\*

## board of education

Meets Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the whole meetings: July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15, Oct. 13,

Nov. 10, Dec. 8, 2011: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 2 and March 30.

Regular Public Meeting: July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 22, Oct. 20,

Nov. 17, Dec. 15, 2011: Jan. 19, Feb. 16, March 16, April 6.

## BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

Meets once a month on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

## BOE buildings & grounds

Meets second Monday of the month at 7 p.m., 2nd floor conference room, Roosevelt Administration Building

## 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 plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 21

## environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621

July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12 2011

## business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m.

## ad hoc alternative truck route committee

Questions? 908-226-7605



Students, staff and families of Creative Kids Academy of South Plainfield celebrated the annual Spring Fling and graduation on June 9. The students, who range in age from two to five, performed songs and dances for a very supportive crowd. For the children in the Creative Kids Academy pre-kindergarten program, this show marked their final Spring Fling. They wore caps and gowns and were rewarded with diplomas to recognize and reward the accomplishments. One of the highlights of the Spring Fling and graduation came when the children sang *One Small Voice*, which proved to be a real tear jerker. These children will now advance to kindergarten in South Plainfield and surrounding towns. Everyone involved did an outstanding job.

## In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

The Moretti Family would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who participated in the flag dedication ceremony on June 14 at Franklin Elementary School honoring the life, and death, of Sgt. Trista Moretti.

June 14th is Flag Day, but it is also Trista's birthday. This past Flag Day would have been Trista's 30th birthday and we were truly touched by the flag dedication ceremony put together by the staff and PTO of Franklin Elementary School.

We thank all of the students at Franklin Elementary School. You all did an amazing job, and looked very patriotic that day, as everyone wore red, white and blue! Through the tears

you also brought smiles to our faces as we listened to all of you proudly sing our national anthem. We also thank Girl Scout Troop 883 and their troop leaders, Madeline Christilles and Stacie Marish, for their participation. It couldn't have been a more perfect flag dedication ceremony.

Our family also thanks Mayor Charles Butrico, Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Heine, whose continued support throughout the years has also been much appreciated.

We would like to especially thank Barbara Rhoads, Franklin School PTO president, for making this event happen. We cannot thank you enough for all of your support and all of your

kind gestures over the last three years. Every time we hear you're involved in something we know that it will be beautiful and tasteful. You are a real asset to the Borough of South Plainfield and whatever school system you are involved in.

The emotional support our family has received from our friends, family and the South Plainfield residents has been overwhelming. A simple "thank you" barely says enough, but we thank you for honoring and remembering Sgt. Trista Moretti. We know our

(Continued on page 24)

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1110 Hamilton Boulevard, Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Ph: 908-668-0010 • Fax: 908-668-8819

Email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

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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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Mr. Kurt entertains to a near capacity crowd at the library.

## Mr. Kurt Sings His Signature Silly Songs at the Library

By Jean Fultz

Kurt Gallagher, better known as "Mr. Kurt," returned to the South Plainfield Library on June 21 to sing his signature silly songs to a standing room only crowd. More than 36 children, and twice as many adults, anxiously awaited the start of the free musical program.

Admission to the event was the donation of a non-perishable food item that will be donated to M.C.F.O.O.D.S. The Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services was established by the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1974 to help ensure that an adequate supply of nutritious foods and necessities are readily available to Middlesex County residents in need at all times. The collection box just inside the entrance of the library was nearly full.

Miss Linda, who many of the children knew from morning and afternoon storytimes, introduced Mr. Kurt

to the audience. Just before picking up his guitar to play the first song, Mr. Kurt exclaimed, "That was the best introduction I've ever had!" after which he received loud applause from the jam-packed room.

The crowd of tiny tots, ranging in age from toddler to eight years old, laughed, clapped, jumped up and down, flapped their arms like a bird, giggled and sang along with Mr. Kurt. The adults enjoyed the performance as much as the children, many of them laughing and clapping along to each song, some while holding infants on their laps.

The South Plainfield Public Library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave., hosts many children's programs and activities throughout the year. To find out more, read their weekly column, Bookmarks, in the *Observer* each Friday.

For more information on Mr. Kurt, you can visit his website at [www.KurtGallagher.com](http://www.KurtGallagher.com).

## Swim Team Members Appeal to BOE To Save Varsity Swimming Program

By Libby Barsky

Team members from the South Plainfield High School Varsity Swim Team used the public portion of the June 16 Board of Education meeting to ask the board to restore swimming to the varsity sports program.

Due to budget constraints for 2010/2011, the varsity swimming program was eliminated, along with winter varsity track, competition cheerleading, freshman sports and fall weight training.

Varsity swimming was initiated in 2007 as the newest sport at the high school with the intent that swimmers could continue in competitive arenas year round as well as develop their abilities beyond competition on the the community pool's swim team during the summer months.

This year two students received GMC recognition: Camilo Patino, 100M butterfly champion; and Emily Piekarski, runner-up in the 500M freestyle.

ski, runner-up in the 500M freestyle.

"Even though the team was young, the varsity swimming team grew every year," said Patrick Boyle, in his plea to keep the program. "Help us with our dream, and keep it in the winter sports program. Taking the team away is like tearing a family apart. Do what it takes to keep the family."

By eliminating the swimming program, the board is "taking away the opportunity to swim for a college team," said Maggie Valentino, adding that she didn't go to Bishop Ahr because South Plainfield offers a swimming team that competes in GMC events.

Cheryl Nagel-Smiley said that she sent her son, CalvinJohn, a talented swimmer, to St. Joseph High School in Metuchen so he could continue to compete on a competitive level year round. As a result, he received scholarships to Lehigh University, where he became All State. CalvinJohn is now working towards a Ph.D. at City Uni-

versity, and is working as a lifeguard.

"Swimming is a sport that doesn't end. Swimming is a lifelong activity," noted Nagel-Smiley.

Prior to the board approving the addition of the varsity swim team in 2007, parents of interested team members were asked to pay the amount of \$9,500 to cover the costs of the program. At that time, the board warned that if the budget failed, the swim team would be the first sport to be cut.

## Domestic Violence Team Needs Volunteers

The South Plainfield Domestic Violence Response Team is looking for interested volunteers to participate on the team.

A 40-hour training class will be

sponsored, along with team support and training. Interested parties can email [mackerman@southplainfieldnj.com](mailto:mackerman@southplainfieldnj.com) for additional details and specific requirements.

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# events

## Around Town

### Seventh Annual Art Muglia Golf Outing

July 9

The seventh annual Art Muglia Memorial Golf Outing will take place on Friday, July 9 at Heron Glen Golf Course in Ringoes. Proceeds will go to Art's favorite charity, The Matheny School, for children with disabilities. Cost for golf, continental breakfast, cart, prizes and barbecue lunch is \$125 per golfer.

To register, please call Jim Muglia at (973) 667-2466 or email [Artsmemorialgolf@yahoo.com](mailto:Artsmemorialgolf@yahoo.com).

### Pig Roast at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

July 10

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Orthodox Church will hold a pig roast on Saturday, July 10 from 12 to 5

p.m. Admission is \$20; eight and under are free.

Entertainment includes Jimmy De and the Happy Times Band, basket raffles, outside games for the kids.

For tickets, call Andy Olear at (732) 951-9134, Nadine Tirpak at (732) 248-1119, or Chris (Joc) Vakulchik at (732) 424-8746.

### Rescue Squad Car, Truck and Bike Show

July 11

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad will hold its third annual car, truck and bike show at the squad building, 2520 Plainfield Ave. on Sunday, July 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain date Saturday, July 18). Music by DJ Stick Shift Eddie. Food, 50/50 and trophies. Vehicle registration: \$20; general admission: \$5 (includes two hot dogs or two hamburgers).

For more information, call Dave Hackett at (908) 256-6110 or visit [www.southplainfieldems.org](http://www.southplainfieldems.org).

Proceeds benefit the South Plainfield Volunteer Rescue Squad.

### SP Eagles Darren Gorman Football Clinic

July 12-15

The South Plainfield Eagles will hold its first annual Darren Gorman Football Clinic on Monday, July 12 through Thursday, July 15 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. (ages 8-14) and 5:30-6:15 p.m. (ages 5-7) at the Eagles football field. Learn the fundamentals and techniques of the game. Registration is \$35. Discounts for more than one child in a family.

For registration information, see ad on page 22.

### Historical Society Monthly Meeting

July 13

The next meeting of the South Plainfield Historical Society will be held on Tuesday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

The History Center is located within the Board of Education Administration Building. Entrance is in the lower level on Jackson Avenue. Details of the annual Labor Day quilt raffle will be discussed. Any one interested in helping to sell raffle tickets. New members are welcome.

### SPHS Class of 1984 25th Reunion

October 9

South Plainfield High School Class of 1984 will be holding its 25th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 9. The reunion will be take place at Leon's Catering Hall in Berkeley Heights. The cost of \$60 per person includes dinner and open bar. Dress is casual.

Organizers are attempting to reach out to all families and classmates in an effort to obtain current locations and addresses in the hopes to contact as

many graduates as possible. If you, or someone you know, is a member of the Class of 1984, please forward this information to Lisa Petroziello Carone at [lpetro@comcast.net](mailto:lpetro@comcast.net) or Bill Price at [bprice31@hotmail.com](mailto:bprice31@hotmail.com).

### — Out of Town —

### Grand Re-Opening Holiday Dance Party

July 3

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, July 3 at 8:30 p.m. at the newly renovated Crowne Plaza Edison, 2055 Rt. 27 in Edison. Admission: \$15; ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801 or email [info@steppinoutsingles.com](mailto:info@steppinoutsingles.com).

### Ride Thomas The Tank Engine

July 2-4, 9-11

Day Out With Thomas: The Celebration Tour 2010, to celebrate the 65th publishing anniversary of Thomas the Tank Engine, will be held July 2-4 and July 9-11 with a 25-minute ride via The Delaware River Railroad Excursions, 99 Elizabeth St. in Phillipsburg. Activities include arts and crafts, storytelling, video viewing, live music, model train exhibit, bouncy castle and a petting zoo. Tickets are \$18 for ages two and up.

For tickets, call Ticketweb toll-free at (866) 468-7630; for more information, call 877-train-ride or visit [www.877trainride.com](http://www.877trainride.com).

### A Strike Against Cancer

July 2-August 27

Prodigal Foundation, Inc. in conjunction with the Woodbridge Bowling Center is sponsoring "A Strike Against Cancer," beginning Friday, July 2 between 6 and 8 p.m., and each Friday until August 27. Any child or parent from Middlesex County affected by cancer may participate and will be entitled to three free games of bowling. Registration required.

To register, call the Prodigal Foundation at (732) 636-9200, email requests to [eprodical@comcast.net](mailto:eprodical@comcast.net), call

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

#### Coming Up....

July 7 Taj Mahal  
July 15 Bally's  
Oct 11-15 Indian Head Resort  
(Call the center for more info)

#### MONDAYS

(Closed Monday, July 5)  
Silver Sneakers ..... 8:45 am  
Crocheting ..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga ..... 10:30 am  
Art Class ..... 11:30 am

#### TUESDAYS

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

Aerobics ..... 8:45 am  
Computer...10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm  
Line Dancing ..... 10:30 am  
Crocheting ..... 1 pm  
Tai Chi ..... 2 pm

#### THURSDAYS

Active Seniors ..... 8:45 am  
Shopping Trip ..... 9 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer ..... 10 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm  
Exercise Class ..... 1:15 pm

#### FRIDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm

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the Woodbridge Bowling Center at (732) 634-4520 or register online at [www.woodbridgebowling.com](http://www.woodbridgebowling.com).

### Middlesex East WOWs Meeting

July 5

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers monthly business meeting will be held on Monday, July 5 at 7 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center, Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. All widows or widowers are invited to attend.

For more information, call (732) 969-2228 or (908) 757-0515.

### Country Western Night in Clark

July 10

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, is hosting a country western night on Saturday, July 10 from 3 to 10 p.m. Live music by Thunderhill Band. Music 6 to 9 p.m. Open to the public; donation \$5, children under 12 free. Outdoors (rain or shine); parking available. German American food available; no outside food or beverages permitted.

For information, call (732) 574-8600 or visit [www.deutscherclub.us](http://www.deutscherclub.us).

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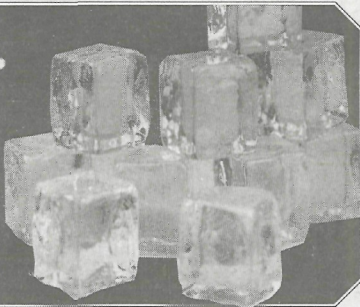
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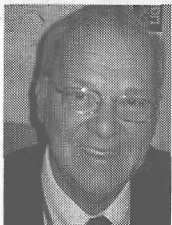
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## SPHS Science Team Leader Retires

By Libby Barsky

Tom Seiz is leaving the South Plainfield School District for the second time. He began teaching biology at the high school in 1968 and left after 10 years to operate a picture framing business, The Artist's Touch, which



Tom Seiz

he had started two years prior to leaving in 1976. He worked on a part time basis at The Artist's Touch after school and on Saturdays with his father and

former students. Sixteen years later, he returned to teaching.

"I chose to come back to teaching in 1994. Originally I had looked into teaching in Jersey City where my friend was a department chair and had asked me to apply, but high school gym teacher Nancy Erickson came into my framing store to have something framed and actually recruited me," he explained. She told him that she noticed that he had put in an application for Jersey City. "Why do you want to go there when there is a position right here?" she said.

Before he left in 1978, Principal Harry Lobby had said that if he ever wanted to come back to teaching the doors were wide open.

"I returned to SPHS and taught basic science and biology. I kept my shop and became a science team leader around 2000, taking over Bob Saul's position. As team leader, I managed the science department, am responsible for all the ordering and getting information to the other teachers at our team leader meeting as well as teaching four lab based classes.

### Class of 1961 Seeks Alumni for Reunion

SPHS Class of 1961 is soon approaching a 50 year reunion. Organizers are attempting to reach out to all families and classmates in an effort to obtain current addresses in the hopes to contact as many graduates as possible.

If you, or someone you know, is a member of the Class of 1961, please forward this information to Brenda Belardo Ribar, Nancy Kahora Dowd and Geri Trivigno Beyer via email to class1961sphis@gmail.com.

"Coming back 10 years later, I found the students were different. The discipline of the students wasn't quite as good as when I left. You had to earn their respect; before, just being a teacher gave you authority. I enjoy teaching very much," he said.

The new high school Seiz returned to back in 1994 was also different. "It was totally different than anything I had ever seen before. There were no walls between the work areas. The science area was wide open with little partitions between classrooms. It was so huge, we could throw a frisbee. The biggest difference coming back was the pay; my salary had tripled," said Seiz.

"When I returned to teaching, I learned I could share from my experience. I enjoy the students and I like the age level that I teach. They are basically sophomores. A lot are eager to learn. It's challenging. I enjoy their enthusiasm for the things I teach that are new to them," continued Seiz.

Seiz is very loyal to South Plainfield and to SPHS.

"This is the only place I've ever taught. I was born here and went to high school here. My children went through SPHS. I think they got a terrific education. All four went here and did well. My daughter, Kristen, is a speech pathologist working in a hospital near Philadelphia. My son, Eric, is a self-employed music teacher teaching privately and a musician playing in a band. Steven is an electrical engineer going for his master's and my youngest son, Martin, is a mechanical engi-

neer who took a year off to study art at the School of Visual Arts in NYC. He's back at school going for his master's in engineering, working as an engineer at Picatinny Arsenal and living at home.

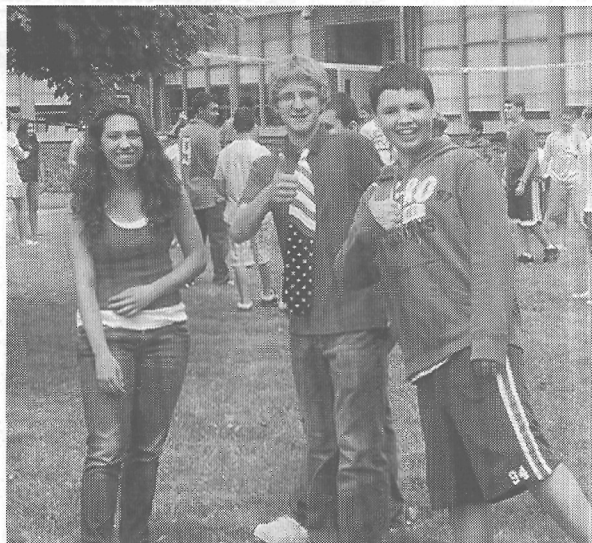
"My wife Linda has been a teacher in South Plainfield. She taught one year at Stoney Brook in North Plainfield, then three years at the old Grant School (before it was Keystone) and Franklin School," he continued.

Seiz paints mostly landscape scenes of water and houses, not portraits; however, a study of faces he painted hangs in the SPHS art class.

After teaching he says that he plans to go to Alaska and to continue entering art show competitions and spend time fishing.

He also plans to restart his business, The Artist's Touch Picture Framing, which he closed in 2002.

To view Seiz's work, visit [www.theartiststouch.com](http://www.theartiststouch.com).



Middle school students who maintained a "B" average and above during the school year were treated to an afternoon off with a picnic sponsored by the PTO on May 28. The Honor Roll Picnic featured lunch and snacks, and the students played games in the courtyard.

## Labor Day Parade Committee Seeking Nominations

South Plainfield's 53rd annual Labor Day Parade is upon us and the Public Celebrations Committee is seeking nominations for Honorary Grand Marshal. The theme of this year's parade is "Vision Family Industry."

The parade begins at the PAL on Maple Avenue and concludes on the front lawn of the Middle School, located on Plainfield Avenue.

If you know of an individual you feel has contributed outstanding service to the Borough of South Plain-

field, please send the Public Celebrations Committee a detailed letter stating your reasons why this person should be considered for Honorary Grand Marshal. Include the candidate's name, address, evening phone number, your phone number and a detailed list of volunteer activities and accomplishments.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, July 23. Send nominations to The Public Celebrations Committee, John Sorrentino, Chairman, 225 Hopkinson St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

The Labor Day Parade is a great opportunity to meet the community. If you or your organization is interested in marching in the parade, building a float, having a concession stand or informational table at the middle school at the conclusion of the parade, complete an application located in borough hall. You can also go online at [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com) and download applications for grand marshal, parade participation, parade marshals, vendors and sponsorship forms. Just print out and mail application to the Public Celebrations Committee, Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

For further information, contact Joe Scrudato at (908) 406-5920 or email [jascrudato@hotmail.com](mailto:jascrudato@hotmail.com).

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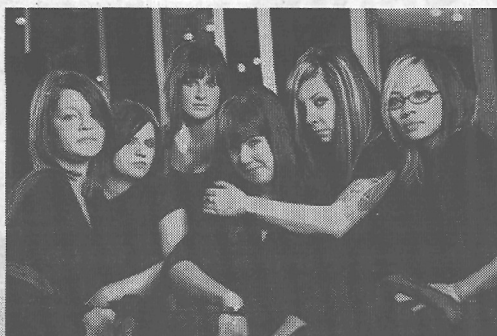
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## Kennedy Special Ed Teacher Retires After 36 Years

By Jane Dornick

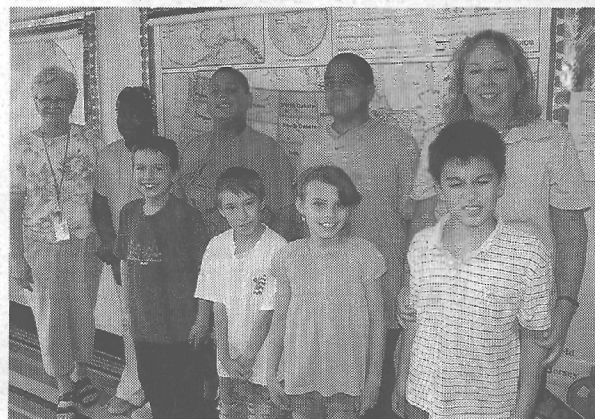
Barbara Friedman began her special education training at a very early age while growing up in Kenilworth. "After school, my friend and I would play in front of my house," said Friedman. "One day we were drawing on the sidewalk and a little yellow bus stopped across the street and dropped off a young boy. He threw his metal lunchbox on the driveway and ran across the street to us. We asked him if he wanted to draw. He had no speech and only grunted. We began to play. That was the beginning of my teaching career."

The little boy, whose name was Eddie, had Down's syndrome and eventually became her step-brother. She spent a lot of time teaching Eddie his letters and numbers and would even go to his classroom and watch the teacher work with the children. When Friedman graduated high school, she knew just what she wanted to do. She enrolled at Kean College (now Kean University) and graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree in special education.

In 1974, Friedman began her career teaching special education in Keypoint. She was let go due to budget cuts and was eventually hired by the Red Bank school system. "I loved teaching in Red Bank. We had an integrated approach to teaching special education and shared students and programs," said Friedman. It was there that she says she met and became attached to her "all time favorite student" named Michael Jackson. They are still in weekly contact to this day.

Friedman then married her husband, Bob, and had two boys, Michael and Steven. She did not return to teaching full time, but taught Baby Power and Toddler Time in South Plainfield. In 1991 she was hired to teach a special education class at Riley School. Fellow teacher Barbara Doerr became her teacher's assistant and still is today. The two spent four years together at Riley School, moved to Franklin School for one year and then to Kennedy School, where she has been ever since.

"The best part of teaching is the



Barbara Friedman (left) with her students and long-time assistant, Barbara Doerr.

students," said Friedman. "They have made me a better teacher and a better person and I have learned something from each student I have had."

The favorite part of her classroom is the alumnus board where she hangs pictures of former students who come to visit or posts the letters they have sent. "I love looking at the pictures of them and I am very proud of them all."

Friedman would like to give special thanks to Eddie; her husband, Bob; sons, Michael and Steven; late mother,

Jean and step-father, Edward Tomczyk; Barbara Doerr and her entire family and all of her friends for their support over the years. In her retirement she plans to relax in her backyard and do some traveling around the United States.

"I have loved teaching in South Plainfield," said Friedman, "and I want to wish everyone the best for the coming school year. Remember the group Bon Jovi lyrics—every new beginning is some beginning's end."

## Knights of Columbus Host Luncheon for Menlo Park Vets

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 held a luncheon on June 6 for veterans from the Menlo Park Veterans' home who served in World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. Each year the Knights celebrate Flag Day by inviting veterans to the luncheon; however, this year they wanted to celebrate the freedom that the veterans have given to us, as well as the anniversary of D-Day.

The veterans were served a lobster and filet mignon surf and turf lunch. Co-organizer Joe Scudato was informed by the veterans' home that they do not get a chance to eat lobster, steak or fresh baked potatoes and green beans. Fresh pies were served for dessert. The Knights would like to

thank Irene Butrico, Marie Dolinski and Rose Marie Pelton for baking and donating these pies.

Co-organizer Bill Butrico also set up a very special magic show for the veterans featuring South Plainfield resident and Knights of Columbus member John Bundy and his assistant, Morgan. After the magic show, the Knights donated clothes and many every day items to the veterans.

The organizers would like to thank the following Knights for their help: Joe McGeehan, who cooked all of the food, and servers Dan Ratti, Rob Richkus, Bob Walker, Neil Towney and Joe Wilkowski. Without their help this event would not have been as successful as it was.

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From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Today, we celebrate the adoption of the Congressional resolution on Independence in 1776. Two days from now, we'll celebrate the formal approval of the Declaration of said Independence. At this moment, though, let's take time to check on the latest news from the South Plainfield Library.

First, we'll be closed on Sunday, July 4 and Monday, July 5 in observance of Independence Day. (Yep, the holiday is so important that it takes two days to celebrate it.)

Following the Monday closing, we'll follow the rest of our usual schedule of children's programs. "Story-time," for children ages 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 "Baby Time," for children ages two and under, will be held on Friday at 10:30 a.m. Each of these programs last about an hour and feature stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. No pre-registration is required.

For gamers, there's the summer chess club on Fridays from noon to 2 p.m. It's for young players of all ages, from beginner to advanced. You may bring your own chess set (even the ones with those monster holograms), or use one of ours. And, starting on Saturday, July 10 we'll have Wii gaming for all ages from 10 a.m. to noon. You don't need to pre-register for these programs, either.

Starting this Thursday, we'll be offering movie presentations for young adults each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The movies will be open to young people in grades five and over. No pre-registration is required; contact the library for title and rating information.

Meanwhile, our summer reading club, "Make a Splash-Read!" is now up and running. You may register for the club throughout the month by stopping by the children's room. There's also our young adult summer reading club, "Make Waves @ Your

Library," for young people in grades five through 12. In conjunction with these programs, we'll be featuring a lot of special programs throughout the summer. (See the accompanying article in this issue.) For more details, please call us and ask for Miss Linda or Miss Mija.

So as not to slight adults, we also have an informal Knitters & Crocheters Club on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. It's an informal group; participants of all skill levels may work at their own pace on their own projects. No pre-registration is required.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, July 13 at 7 p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend and learn more about the library's current and future plans. The meeting will include discussion on proposed library budget cuts and improvements to the library building. There will be a public comment time early in the meeting; no pre-registration is required.

Here's a note we've mentioned before, but we should probably run through it again. Earlier this week, we switched to a new computer system to handle our circulation and our public computers. We're still getting the hang of it, so please bear with us. Also, please be advised that our system may run slowly during times of peak usage. We're working on straightening out this problem, and hope to have things improved very soon. As always, we really appreciate your understanding on this.

While we're at it, here's a heads up: in the very near future, we'll be instituting a number of changes to library policy, particularly regarding charges and loan periods. When these go into effect, we'll make sure the information is posted and published. You might want to keep your eyes open for these announcements.

That's all for now. For the latest information, call us at (908) 754-7885 or check the website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). And we wish you a happy and, above all, safe Independence Day. (Leave the fireworks to the licensed professionals.)

## Middlesex County to Celebrate Independence Day

The Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and East Jersey Olde Towne Village invite you to celebrate our nation's independence with Christian Johnson from the American Historical Theatre performing as Charles Willson Peale, perhaps Philadelphia's most famous portrait painter on Sunday, July 4 beginning at 2 p.m. at the Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway. Peale, a contemporary of George Washington, was commissioned in 1780 by Martha Washington to paint our first president.

Patriot, archaeologist, showman, scientist, taxidermist, zoo manager, collector of curiosities, entrepreneur, bridge-builder, pioneer polygrapher and fireplace patentee, Peale searched for truth in his environment and in the lives of the people around him. Caring about his subjects, he elicited their stories, their emotions and their truth.

Christian Johnson's Charles Will-

son Peale shows us a man who constantly questioned and continuously quested; a great painter who always sought to become an even greater painter. Peale's world will be revealed and shared through slide projections of his masterpieces.

For more information and to register for this free program, call, (732) 745-3030.

## County's Free Outdoor Concert Series Begins

The Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders' free summer concert series continues this year with performances in the Spring Lake Park Gazebo on Sundays, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

### July Free Concerts

July 11: The Joe Monchek Quartet

July 18: The Live Sounds of Magic-Rich Aiello, conductor

July 25: The Scott Michaels Quartet presents: Pop Music through the Years-Bob Slonim, leader

### August Free Concerts

August 1: The Billion Dollar Sound-Andy Madajewski, leader; Sandy Sasso, vocalist

August 8: Mark Heter and his Band

August 15: The Great Rootin' Tootin' High Falutin' Puttin' on the Ritz Novelty Band

August 22: Garden State Symphonic Band-Chris Pedersen, leader

August 29: Brass Pops

All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jackie Neill, recreation supervisor, at (732) 745-3936 or visit [www.co.middlesex.nj.us](http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us).

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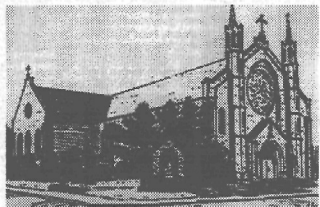
Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

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

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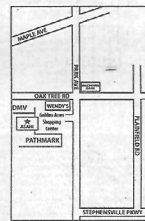
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# Michael Mocharski Achieves Scouting's Highest Rank

Michael J. Mocharski, a member of Boy Scout Troop 207 of South Plainfield, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award offered by the Boy Scouts of America. He was officially awarded his Eagle rank from the Boy Scouts of America, Patriot Path Council Eagle Board on March 14.

An Eagle Court of Honor ceremony was held on June 12 at the South Plainfield American Legion Post #243, to award and honor Michael's achievement. The American Legion is the troop's sponsoring organization.

The award ceremony included the presentation of colors by members of the troop, followed by Rev. Charles Mingle giving the invocation. Don

Duquette was the master of ceremony, Advancement Chair Rich Franzon, along with members of the troop read the significance of the ranks a scout must earn through his scouting years. Mark Spaldo, director of field services, read the Significance of the Eagle. Troop 207's first Eagle Scout, Dan Lahey, lead the eagle charge along with Eagle Scout Dan Zalinsky, the troop's most current Eagle Scout, Mark Spaldo from Patriot Path Council, Jim Miller from the Free Masons and Michael's uncle, Joseph Scalera.

Patriot Path Council District Executive Carolina Gongra presented Michael with his Eagle Scout Award. Mayor Charles Butrico, the American Legion, VFW, Elks, Knights of Columbus, The Free Masons, local Ma-

rine Corp League and Middlesex County Freeholders presented Certificates of Achievement. Chrissy Buteas, councilwoman and neighbor to Michael, read a resolution sent by the state and general assembly.

Chris Duquette, Assistant Scoutmaster presented his Eagle neckerchief and the traditional troop plaque. Dan Zalinsky presented Michael with the troop's traditional embroidered Eagle neckerchief, which is past from the current Eagle Scout to the new Eagle Scout. Both items have the names of the troop's Eagle Scouts on them.

Michael also received numerous achievement certificates and letters from President Obama and First Lady Michele Obama, Vice President and Mrs. Joseph Biden, former U.S. Presidents, our Armed Services, senators, congressmen, Pope Benedict XVI, Governor Chris Christie and his favorite sports teams, The New York Yankees, New Jersey Devils, New York Giants and Dale Earnhardt, Jr. to name just a few.

Michael began scouting in 1998 as a Cub Scout in Pack 224, sponsored by J.E. Riley School. He advanced through the ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos, earning the highest award in Cub Scouts, the Arrow of Light and then crossed over to join Troop 207 in 2004 where he progressed through the Boy Scout ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and finally Eagle. While a Boy Scout, he held several leadership positions in the troop including assistant patrol leader, patrol



Michael J. Mocharski

leader, assistant senior patrol leader and senior patrol leader. He has been an active participant in many of the troops camping and activities and has earned over 30 merit badges.

In addition to earning the 21 required merit badges, serving in leadership positions and actively participating in his troop, a scout must also develop, direct and complete an Eagle Scout Leadership project to attain the rank of Eagle. Michael's project was to install carbon monoxide detectors in the homes of senior citizens within town. To accomplish this, he organized several teams consisting of members of his troop and members of the fire department. With their help and donations from local businesses, 23

detectors were installed with the remaining detectors being donated to the fire department.

Michael would like to thank the following for their help on his project: James and Edward Setnick, Joseph Ifrach, Andrew Yon, Alex Kelly, Zach Henderson, Christopher Duquette, Glenn Harding, Sara Wilson, Anthony Tomacheck, Anthony Muccigrossi, Mr. Richard Franzon, Ms. Lee Anne Leo, Mrs. Linda Kelly, Mr. Don Duquette, Mr. Glenn Harding, Fire Chief Larry DelNegro, Fire Official Joseph Abbruzzese, John Mocharski, Jr., Halls Warehouse, Home Depot, Fire and Safety, Nicastro Garage and Foremost Fire.

A special thanks goes to his parents, John and Pam Mocharski, along with his brother, John Jr., for all their help and support in accomplishing this award.

Michael will be entering his senior year at South Plainfield High School in September. He is also a member of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Departments Junior Program and hopes to join their senior department in the fall. He plans on attending college after high school to earn a degree in fire science.

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Paige Herriott (left), a fellow Manhattan Free School student awards Holly McDede (right) her Manhattan Free School diploma.

## McDede and Klapper Graduate From the Manhattan Free School

Graduating from South Plainfield High School must have been fun, but the Manhattan Free School (MFS) graduation was a costume party. This should be considered when comparing levels of "cool." Both Holly McDede of South Plainfield and Christopher Klapper of Edison graduated from Manhattan Free School on June 15.

Because MFS allows students a voice, the graduates designed their own graduation costumes. McDede dressed as a prisoner, wearing a boa, blue mustache and hat featuring grapes and oranges, because prison is quite the party. Klapper was a serial killer. Both graduates walked down the hallway, three times, because three is an appropriate number. *God Bless America* and the Soviet National Anthem played as they strode.

After written performances by the graduates, the audience, as instructed, made monkey noises before shouting, "Hip, hip, hooray!"

Head of the Alternative Education Resource Organization, Jerry Mintz, commented that the graduation was

"even better than Brooklyn Free Schools graduation." Yes, there are lots and lots of other free schools, all across the globe. Now that Klapper and McDede have completed their time at MFS learning and being free, they will receive a high school diploma.

## Thomas Berry Publishes First Novel

South Plainfield resident Thomas Berry recently published his first novel, a historical fiction mystery titled, *Lewis and Clark: Murder on the Natchez Trace*.

The story, four years in the making, chronicles the westward expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark through the Louisiana Territory in the early 19th century, and explores a fictional investigation into the real-life death of Lewis along a dangerous and remote Indian trail known as the Natchez Trace in Tennessee during the War of 1812.

The novel is available for purchase at the publisher's website, [www.Booklocker.com](http://www.Booklocker.com), as well as area bookstores, at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and on the Barnes & Noble website.

Thomas is scheduling a book signing at the South Plainfield Library in September.



Cub Scout Pack 207 presented two framed autographed portraits and letters from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to Franklin School Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys on June 24. The letters and autographed portraits were a gift from First Lady Michelle Obama to the scouts in response to letters sent earlier this year by the tiger cubs. Pictured presenting the two portraits are Pack 207 Cubmaster Thomas Berry, Franklin School Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys, Den Mother Kim McLeod and her son, Tiger Cub Danny. Kim did the framing for the portraits and the scouts appreciate her efforts!

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## Congratulations to the South Plainfield High School Class of 2010

### The South Plainfield Democratic Organization

**Michael English**  
For Mayor

**John Sorrentino & Jeffrey Williams**  
For Council



# CONGRATULATIONS





Scholarship winners with Grand Knight Bill Butrico and Scholarship Chairman Joe Scrudato.

## Knights Award Scholarships

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus held a Communion breakfast on Sunday, June 13 and presented their end of year awards and yearly scholarships.

The 2010 Catholic School and College Scholarships were given to the following Knights of Columbus members children and grandchildren. All money raised for these scholarships came from running the Somerset Patriots concession stand throughout the year.

**\$500 Catholic High School Scholarship Awards:** Dylan Thompson, son of Knight Walter Thompson, who will be attending St. Joseph High School in Metuchen; Charlie Butrico, son of Knight Vinny Butrico, who will be attending St. Joseph High School in Metuchen; Julia Zipp,

daughter of Knight Joe Zipp, who will be attending Mt. St. Mary's Academy in Watchung and Christina Sheedy, granddaughter of Past Grand Knight Bill Sheedy, who will be attending Bishop Ahr in Edison.

**\$1000 College Scholarships Awards:** Conner Keane, son of Knight Kevin Keane, who will be attending Rowan University; Victoria Gaydos, daughter of Knight Greg Gaydos, who will be attending Rutgers University; Philip Longo, son of Knight Bob Longo, who will be attending Temple University; Alyssa Scrudato, daughter of Past Grand Knight Joe Scrudato, who will be attending Coastal Carolina University and Nicholas Pesta, grandson of Knight Joe Rea, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania.

## Sukenick and Aya Compete For 2010 Top Spot

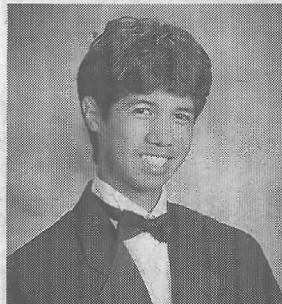
By Libby Barsky

On their way to graduating in the top two spots in the Class of 2010 Valedictorian Jonathan Sukenick and Salutatorian Ashley Aya challenged each other from the time they entered their freshman year at South Plainfield High School. As they began seeing each other in the same AP classes, and as members of the tennis team, both regarded each other as friends not competitors.

Jonathan was on the math team and attended the American Regional Math League at Penn State in his junior and senior years. He was also president of the chess club as a sophomore.

Both are members of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society and they shared their academic ability with other students as tutors. Ashley started tutoring students in their homes or at the library once a week. Jonathan started coaching tennis players and tutoring physics after school, and then began giving tennis lessons in the park while on the tennis team. During the past year he offered physics lessons after class to any student who needed help.

"Every day after school during my senior year I would go to the physics class and stay from 30 minutes to two hours helping other people to understand how to do things and find different ways to approach a problem. Instead of giving the answer I would ask them questions. I'm trying to teach them how to think and how to approach the situation on their own later on. I also held open classes at the



Jonathan Sukenick



Ashley Aya

park in tennis. I trained one student for 200 hours with tennis help. When he began he wasn't on the varsity team but this year he took second singles only losing to me. That's how much I was able to improve him," said Jonathan, who received the NHSAA Scholar Athlete Award for participation in tennis.

Both had the same reaction to the tutoring they did.

"I love tutoring. I feel good when they understand what they didn't get at first. I know I helped them and I feel accomplished myself," said Ashley.

"I feel good when I tutor and see the results," said Jonathan, who plans to pursue a teaching career.

Where Jonathan and Ashley differ are in their outside interests.

"I like competitive small sailboat sailing in Raritan Bay," said Jonathan. "I've been doing this six or seven weeks every summer, three days a week since fourth grade through the Raritan Yacht Club in Perth Amboy. I got 'Sailor of the Summer' for a couple of years. I love sailing and get more exercise sail-

ing than tennis."

He is also a fan of the trading card game Magic: The Gathering, and is a professional Magic Player rated 72 in the world. He went to a tournament held in Hawaii the first week in June and returned home before finals.

Ashley loves to dance. She has been a student at Jo-Ann's Dance Studio-The Performing Arts Center in South Plainfield where she received a scholarship. Her favorite form of dance is Jazz and Hip Hop.

Both students will be attending Rutgers University in the fall.

Jonathan, the son of Steven and Karen Sukenick, will enter the five-year teaching program where his sister, Sara, is in the six-year pharmacy program.

Ashley, the daughter of Eduardo and Nelia Aya, will be taking pre-med courses with a goal of becoming a cardiologist or pediatrician. She also has an older sister, Len-Len Martinez, whose daughter Shianne Martinez (Ashley's niece), just finished her sophomore year at SPSHS.

## policereport

- On June 8 a Michael Street resident reported the theft of a Milwaukee reciprocating saw from their shed.
- Robert W. Brooks, 38, and Steven G. Jones, 31, both of Plainfield were arrested for burglary.
- On June 9 Gavin G. Callum, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.
- On June 10 Shamone Melissa Fisher, 29, of Irvington was arrested for a defective right headlight, failure to inspect and an outstanding warrant.
- Carlos A. Zavala, 45, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.
- On June 11 a resident of Spain reported that the lock on their locker at LA Fitness had been tampered with and three credit cards and cash were

taken from a wallet.

- On June 13 William E. Hauver, 29, of Allentown, Pa. was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- Darren C. Blair, 29, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- A Hogan Drive resident reported observing two males rummaging through their unlocked vehicle. Nothing was taken.
- On June 14 Saravanan Balasubramaniam, 36, of South Plainfield was arrested for failure to exhibit a valid registration and an outstanding warrant.
- Beatrice Home Fashions on Helen Street reported the theft of towels worth \$8,220 from their open trailer.
- On June 15 LA Fitness reported that the locks on several lockers had been broken and assorted clothing and a gym bag were missing.
- On June 17 Christopher M. Serra, 26, of Dunellen was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- A Thomas Street resident reported the theft of an air compressor, car battery charger, bicycle and hedge clippers from their unlocked garage.
- On June 18 Zorina N. Darby, 32, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and three outstanding warrants.
- A Pomponio Avenue resident reported that the cable and telephone lines to their house had been cut.
- On June 19 Robert A. Yulick, 49, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.
- Anthony D. Brown, 38, of Bound Brook was arrested for driving on a suspended license, improper backing up and four outstanding warrants.
- On June 20 Rajeshbha R. Patel, 45, of Edison was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and refusal to take a breath test.
- Robert A. Yulick, 20, of South Plainfield was arrested for a minor in possession of alcohol.



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Steven Acosta



Isabel Afonso



Juliana Agrillo



Andrea Aguilar



Eman Ahmed



Tobechei Alemezohu



Jenna Alexander



Stephanie Alexander



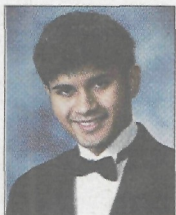
Lily Altamirano



Brittany Alvarado



Stephen Alvarez



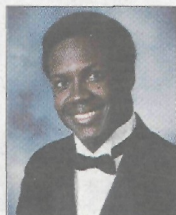
Shyam Amin



Jhemarr Anderson



Angela Ang



Malcolm Austin



Ashley Aya

# The SPHS Class of 2010

Two hundred and eighty-seven members of the South Plainfield Class of 2010 received their diplomas on June 22 at graduation ceremonies held in the South Plainfield High School auditorium.

High School Principal Dr. Kenneth May welcomed members of the Board of Education, guest speaker Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Jr.; Mayor Charles Butrico and Borough Council members, as well as the family and friends of the graduates.

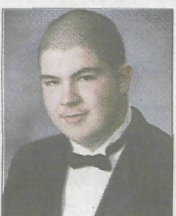
Student Council President Leiloni Chepulis, Valedictorian Jonathan Sukenik and Salutatorian Ashley Aya addressed the student body. Class President Andrew Nguyen presented the Class of 2010.



Yawo Baah



Brian Babinetz



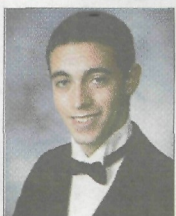
Kristopher Baker



Anthony Baldassarre



Elizabeth Balon



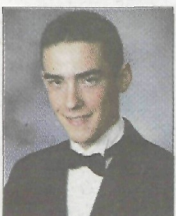
Stephen Balzer



Maria Barahona



Keshwar Behari



Mark Benak



Morgan Bethea



Jimmy Bijlani



Zachary Bishara



Scot Bishop



Aleksandra Blazejowicz



William Bori



Megan Brady



Matthew Brazza



Mark Brindley



Jeremy Brown



Lisseth Calderon



Alisa Calderone



Danielle Campanella



Cassie Capparelli



Michael Carrion



Lenny Casiero



Luisa Cepeda



Amanda Cerini



Megan Cerini



Matthew Cesare



Leiloni Chepulis



Christine Christian



Alyssa Cirilli



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2010



Katyah Cisson



James Coccaro



Kevin Coffey



Ray Coletta



Linda Colocho



Natalie Colucci



Maria Comayagua



Jacqueline Conte



Matthew Cooper



Stephen Coppi



Ian Crawford



Kristie Criley



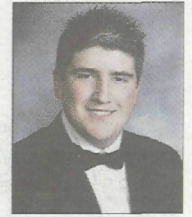
Marilyn Cruz



Tiyai Culver-Curry



Frank DeBiase



Lawrence Delaney



Francis Delgado



Jennifer Deligne



Tyler DelVecchio



Justin DeOliveira



Francisco Dias



Luigi Diaz



Christian DiCarlo



Bianca DiDolce



Meghan DiFrancesco



Jasper Dimayuga



Lynn Do



Thuy Trang Doan



Lina Donate



Katherine Douglas



Tyler Driscoll



Bria Edmonds



Devin Evans



Rosamaria Farfan



Michael Farrell



Elizabeth Fasullo



Gary Ferguson



Ryan Flanagan



Darrec Fonti



Alana Franco



Matthew Franzson



Amanda Freitas



Kyle Freuler



Amanda Fritze



Jennifer Gallegos



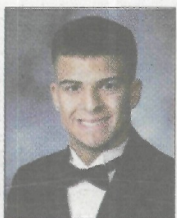
Samrin Ghai



Dheeraj Girkala



Genaro Gonzalez



Joseph Gonzalez



James Gorman



Logan Green



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Jessica Gregorio



Candice Grevions



Steven Grzenda



Christopher Gualano



Michael Guarraci



Michelle Gustafson



Teresa Gustafson



Lea Hafner



Jaimie Handwerker



Ryan Harrington



Zachary Haupt



Corey Hay



Jenna Heckel

*imagine...*



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Nicholas Heilmann



Gregory Herbster



Eric Hernandez



Nicole Herrador



Paige Herriott



Sheena Higgins



Christopher Hoagland



Lacey Hogan



Richard Hogan



Alyia Hollis



Alexander Horn



Kyle Hughes



Rachel Jakaria



Kyle Junge



Conner Keane



Jenae Keith



Megan Kerper



Maher Khan



Kelly Kline



Alexander Knight



Jurrien Kratz



Daniel Lang



Nicholas Lanza



Christian Lee



Christian Leguizamon



Frank Licato



Melissa Loiacono



Jayce Lombardi



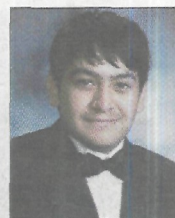
Philip Longo



Evelyn Lopez



Kevin Lopez



Cesar Luque



Samantha Maiorino



Meghan Makowski



Karthik Marpadga



Christopher Marrone



Elizabeth Martin



Jacquelyn Mascolo



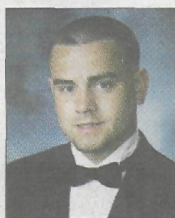
Jennifer McClary



Holly McDede



Nicole McDonough



Michael McHugh



Javon McMillon



Shane Melanson



Zachary Melanson



Shayna Melendez



Pierrette Mendez



Matthew Miceli



Patrick Millard



Amber Miller



Parin Mody



Nichole Molinaro



Kenny Moncada



Christina Montalvo



Michelle Monticchio



Nicholas Montuori



Katelynn Morgan



Kaitlin Muglia



Andrew Muhlgeier



Felicia Mulhearn



Amil Mussaffa



Jessica Napolitano



Kellen Naranjo



Samantha Naranjo

What lies ahead is a future  
of endless possibilities.





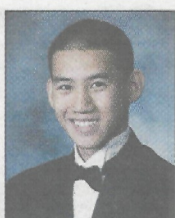
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2010



Christine Nau



Chelsea Ng



Andrew Nguyen



Ashley Nguyen



Thang Nguyen



Stephanie Nieves



Richard O'Kane



Paul Obando



Ethan Ockay



Iyanosa Ogbevoen



Jessica Olah



Christopher Oprysk



Kristina Palazzo



Brian Palma



Dylan Papa



Kairav Parikh



Shawn Parisi



Brittany Pasquarella



Robert Pasternak



Aesha Patel



Hiral Patel



Krupal Patel



Kelsey Pelliccia



Kimberly Percario



Emily Piekarski



Ashley Pierce



Alyssa Pileggi



Amanda Plum



Trey Powell



Dequanda Price



Kayla Prins



Michael Pryor



Frederick Reichert



Kimberly Relyea



Katelyn Rems



Ricardo Reyes



Ryan Rhoads



Donta Rice



Andrew Ritchie



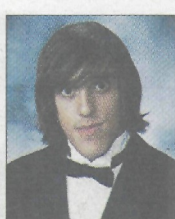
Natalie Rittinger



Valeria Rivera



Ricardo Robles



Filipe Rodrigues



Amber Rogers



Michael Romano



Emily Roseo



Lucille Roseo



Carlos Ruiz



Jillian Rutowski



Ryan Sacco



Robert Sacks



Gabriella Samayoa



Katherine Samul



Alexandria Santos



Mathew Santos



Jonathan Saravia



Carla Scala



Courtney Schaefer



Matthew Schaefer



Robert Scott



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2010



Alyssa Scrudato



Justin Sealy



James Seyffart



Raza Shafqat



Kevin Simms



Manraj Singh



Alexandra Skula



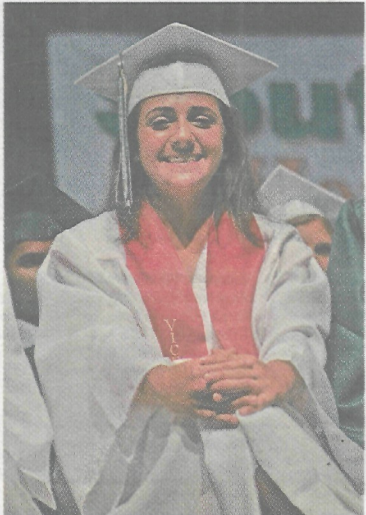
Nicole Slatky



Daniel Smith



David Smith



Evelyn Soto



Julie Stilo



Nicholas Smith



Ryan Smith



Stephen Smith



Dharam Soni



Evelyn Soto



Julie Stilo



David Stogoski



Lee Stranzenbach



Jonathan Sukenik



Michael Sullivan



Richard Szeliga



Gareth Teece



Bria Thomas



Rudacia Thomas



Pravin Thompson



Monica Toca



Syngien Toro



Cuong Trinh



Jennifer Urrutia



Johnny Urrutia



Luis Valladares



Joseph Vedutis



Joseph Vetusch



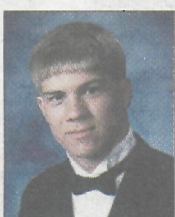
Christian Villalva



Bryant Villamarin



Nina Visaggio



Michael Wagner



Courtney Wedderburn



Kimberly Werner



Briana Williams



Brittany Williams



Sara Wojewodka



John Wylam



Hena Yagnik



Seth Yocum



Heba Younes



Timothy Yuill



Wilfredo Zavala



Thomas Zazzara

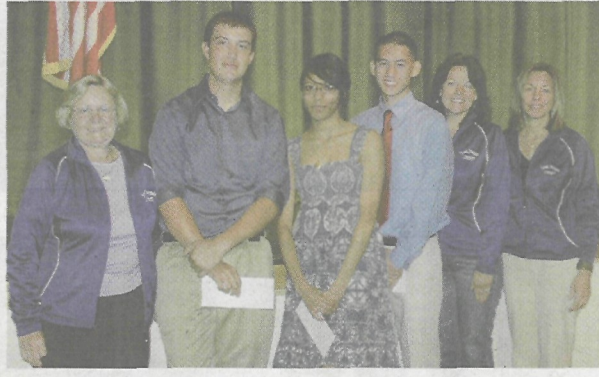


Kaitlyn Zielinski

*Congratulations... we wish you the  
best in all your future endeavors.*  
**SPHS Class of 2010**



## • South Plainfield High School Class of 2010 Receives Scholastic Awards & Scholarships •



# Excellence Has Its Rewards

**South Plainfield Suburban Woman's Club Scholarship** (\$1000) Bianca DiDolce  
**Sonia Berentsen Memorial Scholarship** (\$1000) Emily Piekarski  
Presented by Lucy Hudson and Frieda Walker

**P.E.A.R.L.S. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority** (\$2000) Morgan Bethea  
Presented by Debra Turner and Rita Butler Holliday

**"Cappy" Memorial Scholarship** (\$1000) Emily Roseo  
Presented by Brian Capparelli and Donna Capparelli-Hanley

**Claire and John Graf Family Foundation** (\$500 each) Elizabeth Martin and Nick Heilmann  
Presented by John Graf and Robert Graf

**South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop** (\$500 each) Kelly Kline and Emily Roseo  
Presented by Joan Stasio

**South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Co.** Joseph Delaney Memorial Scholarship  
Katie Morgan, Jurrien Kratz, Nicholas Smith and Richard Hogan  
Presented by Gary Stevenson

**Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO** (\$1000 each) Katie Muglia, Dylan Papa, Frank Licato and Philip Longo  
Presented by Anthony Bengivenga, Robert Bengivenga, Sr., Robert Bengivenga, Jr., Deborah Boyle and Renato Biribin

**South Plainfield High School PTA** (\$1000) Jenae Keith (\$500) Emily Piekarski

(\$250 each) Teresa Gustafson, Mark Benak and Michelle Gustafson  
Presented by Sharon Miller and Sue Barry

**South Plainfield Education Foundation** (\$1000 each) Parin Mody, Elizabeth Balon, Andrew Nguyen and Logan Green  
Presented by Marjorie Reedy, Deborah Boyle and Ralph Errico

**Umicore** (\$2000) Richard Szeliga  
Presented by Richard Schultz

**Leporino Family Scholarship** (\$1000) Jhemarr Anderson  
Presented by Deborah Leporino

**James Painton Award** (\$250) Alyssa Cirilli  
Presented by Mara Walter and Herb O'Brien

**Edward A. Niemczyk Memorial Scholarship** (\$1000) Brittany Alvarado  
Presented by Ed Niemczyk and Arlene Heyeck

**Doug Tackach Memorial Scholarship** (\$250 each) Megan Cerini and Christopher Oprysk  
Presented by Stephanie Tackach and Doug Tackach Jr.

**Nancy Santy Scholarship** (\$500 each) Sheena Higgins, Michelle Gustafson and Teresa Gustafson  
Presented by Judy Krieg and Jack Kirchner

**Anthony Cotoia Scholarship** (\$1000) Malcolm Austin  
Presented by Donna Timko

**South Plainfield Soccer Club Scholarship** (\$500 each) James Seyffart and Jenna Heckel  
Presented by Dominic Cirilli

**The Grant School PTO** (\$500 each) Ryan Harrington and Rudacia Thomas  
Presented by GERALYN NUBER

**Ken LaFreniere Memorial Scholarship** (\$250) Mark Benak  
Presented by Nadine, Jorden, Jenna Sacco and Christine LaFreniere

**South Plainfield V.F.W. Memorial Post #6763** (\$1000 each) Elizabeth Martin, Scot Bishop and Jimmy Bijlani  
Presented by Vincent Perry and Tom Walter

**Domestic Violence Response Team** Diane Hunterton Memorial Scholarship (\$500 each) Ryan Harrington, Andrew Nguyen and Rudacia Thomas  
Presented by Marge Ackerman, Sandi Severini and Barbara Gillen

**Tiger Shark Swim Team Scholarship** (\$350 each) Teresa Gustafson, Michelle Gustafson and Emily Piekarski

**Patty McLaughlin Memorial Scholarship** (\$250) Emily Piekarski  
**Robin Cone Memorial Scholarship** (\$125 each) Michelle Gustafson and Teresa Gustafson  
Presented by Barbara Valentino and Jennifer Otlowski

**Franklin School PTO Scholarship** (\$750) Andrew Nguyen  
Presented by Barbara Rhoads and Sue Aleksandrowicz

**Trista Moretti Memorial Scholarship** (\$500) Katie Muglia  
Presented by Frances Flannery, Judy Moretti and Fred Moretti

**South Plainfield Middle School PTO** (\$250 each) Michelle Gustafson and James Seyffart  
Presented by Deborah Boyle

**Boyle Memorial Foundation** In Memory of James and Doris Boyle (\$1000 each) Emily Piekarski, Dylan Papa, Nick Heilmann, Katie Muglia, James Seyffart and Joe Gonzalez  
Presented by Deborah, Megan, Michael and Patrick Boyle

**Chad Cook Memorial Scholarship** (\$500) Seth Yocum

**P.D. Foundation** (\$100 each) Ashley Aya, Jonathan Sukenik and Alex Horn

**William Beegle Scholarship** (\$1000) Marilyn Cruz

**Robustelli Family Foundation** (\$3000) Richard Szeliga

**Middlesex County Fair Association** (\$250) Christopher Marrone

**Pink Socks Foundation** Joanne Vargas Memorial Scholarship (\$500) Christopher Gualano  
Presented by Christine Dispenziere and Karen Pinkham

**American Legion Chaumont Post #243** (\$1000) Frank Licato  
Presented by Jim Yednak, Richard Doerr and Doug Viola



**Sons of American Legion** (\$500 each) Nicole McDonough and Anthony (Thang) Nguyen  
Presented by Mark Zeliff

**South Plainfield High School Leadership Program** MaryEllen Martko Leadership Award (\$500 each) Jenae Keith and Richard Szeliga  
Presented by Marle Vandermark and Erik White

**John E. Riley School PTSO John E. Riley Teachers' Memorial Scholarship** (\$500 each) Ryan Harrington and Joseph Gonzalez  
Presented by Stephanie Wolak

**John F. Kennedy School PTSO** (\$500) Logan Green  
Presented by Rande Brown and Danielle Mendez

**Kennedy School Variety Show Scholarships** Joyce Papp Memorial Scholarship (\$500 each) Jenae Keith and Jimmy Bijlani

**Betty Bogeatzes Memorial Scholarship** (\$500 each) Manraj Singh and Rudacia Thomas  
Presented by Sherry Lawrence, Sandra Doyon and Greg Papp

**Loretta Cooper Memorial Scholarship** (\$500) Brittany Pasquarella  
Presented by Sandra Doyon

**South Plainfield Football Eagles** (\$1000) Nick Heilmann  
Presented by Valerie Hunterdon and Kim Poggio

**Rotary Club Adele deLeeuw Scholarship** (\$1000 each) Juliana Agrillo and Elizabeth Fasullo  
Presented by Richard DeAndrea

**South Plainfield Golf Association** (\$500 each) Richard Szeliga and Ryan Smith  
Presented by Richard DeAndrea

**South Plainfield High School Field Hockey Association** (\$350 each) Katie Muglia, Michelle Gustafson and Teresa Gustafson  
Presented by Pat DeSantis

**South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Dive Team** (\$100 each) Logan Green, Philip Longo and Elizabeth Fasullo  
Presented by Nicole Moretti

**South Plainfield Wrestling Club** (\$500 each) Mike Wagner, Kyle Hughes, Elizabeth Martin, Ryan Sacco, Frank DeBiase, Seth Yocum, John Wylam, Nick Heilmann, Joe Vetuschi and Richard Szeliga  
Presented by Nick Heilmann and Joe Sacco

**South Plainfield Parents' Poyntail Association Recreation Scholarship** (\$500 each) Brittany Alvarado and Katie Muglia  
**All-Stars Scholarship** (\$500 each) Bianca DiDolce and Kristy Criley  
Presented by Nancy McMahon





## • South Plainfield High School Class of 2010 Receives Scholastic Awards & Scholarships •



# Excellence Has Its Rewards

### South Plainfield High School Boosters of the Musical Arts

**Daniel A. Spisso Memorial Scholarship** (\$1000) Emily Roseo  
Presented by Tracey Hartmann

**Fulvio C. D'Alessio Award** (\$500) Jillian Rutowski

**SPHS Boosters of the Musical Arts Scholarships** (\$200 each) Matt Braza, Jhemarr Anderson, Kayla Prins and Chelsea Ng  
Presented by Joanne Oltowski

### South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club

**Edward J. Devine Memorial Scholarship**  
Dylan Papa  
Presented by Mike Pellegrino

**Roosevelt School PTO** (\$250) Christopher Marrone  
Presented by Eileen Boettger



**Eastern Bergen County Local 45 State Policemen's Benevolent Association** (\$1000) Jacquelyn Mascolo

**Middlesex County Association of School Business Officials** (\$1000) Emily Piekarski

**South Plainfield Education Association** (\$1000 each) Jonathan Sukenik and Ashley Aya  
Presented by Eileen Boettger

**South Plainfield Senior Citizens** (\$500) Elizabeth Balon

**Metropolitan Window Fashions at Fabricland of North Plainfield**  
Fabricland Textile and Design Award  
\$100 Gift Card to Fabricland  
Jessica Gregorio

**Italian American Progressive League** (\$500 each) Ryan Sacco and Alisa Calderone

**South Plainfield Elks Lodge** (\$1000) Jenna Alexander

**National Merit Scholarship**  
A Letter of Commendation was awarded for outstanding performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test: Alexandra Skula, Michael Sullivan, Jonathan Sukenik and Maher Khan.

### Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars

A Bloustein Scholar must demonstrate academic achievement based upon high school record and SAT scores at the end of the junior year.  
Ashley Aya, Jimmy Bijlani, Matthew Braza, Stephen Coppi, Steven Grzenda, Alexander Horn, Maher Khan, James Seyffart, Manraj

**Marines: Athlete-Richard Szeliga and Scholastic-Jonathan Sukenik; Navy-Charles Merryman and Joe Vedutis.**

**President's Education Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement**  
Recognizes students who show educational growth, commitment or improvement.  
Matthew Braza, Fred Reichert, Daniel Smith, Courtney Schaefer, Paige Herriot, Donta Rice, Cesare Luque, Hena Yagnik, Linda Colocho, Julie Stilo, Lynn Do, Jenae Keith, Heba Younes, Alana Franco, Michael Sullivan, Megan Kerper, Parin Mody, Christopher Oprysk, Hiral Patel, Joseph Gonzalez, Dharti Patel, Lea Hafner, Ricardo Robles, Andrew Nguyen, Alexandria Santos and Kelly Kline.

### Department Awards

(Presented by team leaders and teachers)  
**Outstanding Achievement:** Jonathan Sukenik in mathematics; **Michael Sullivan** in computer science; **Ashley Aya** in English; **Brittany Alvarado** in journalism; **Jonathan Sukenik** in chemistry; **Courtney Schaefer** in biology; **James Seyffart** in environmental science; **Jonathan Sukenik** in physics; **Jonathan Sukenik** and **Chelsea Ng** in physical education; **Ricardo Robles** and **Alex Horn** in social studies; **Christine Nau** in French; **Cesar Luque** in Spanish; **Jacqueline Conte-Answorth** and **Alyssa Cirilli** in art; **Juliana Agrillo** Youth Art Month State Finalist; **Shane Melanson** graphic arts; **Richard Szeliga** in wood shop; **Ryan Smith** in machine shop; **Anthony Baldassarre** in electronics; **Andrew Nguyen** in drafting; **Brittany Alvarado** in home economics; Performing and Fine Arts Wall of Fame (picture plaque to be placed on Wall of Fame); **Michael Sullivan** and **Angela Ang** Outstanding Artistic Achievement; **Kelly Kline** Outstanding Achievement and Commitment to Drama.

**President's Education Award For Outstanding Academic Excellence**  
Students with a 4.0 GPA on our scale through the fall semester with SAT scores in the 85th percentile in both critical reading and math or by recommendation:  
Ashley Aya, Maher Khan, Alexander Horn, Manraj Singh, Alexandra Skula,

Steven Grzenda, James Seyffart, Jonathan Sukenik (received a perfect score of 800 on the math section of the SAT)

**Principals Award:**  
Donta Rice

**Honor Roll**  
Academic Letter is awarded a student who is on the honor roll three out of four marking periods in one year:  
Keshwar Behari, Lea Hafner, Stephanie Alexander, Shane Melanson, Olga Colon, Charles Merryman, Jennifer Deligne, Christina Montalvo, Gaganjot Dhalliwal, Michelle Monticchio, Meghan Di Francesco, Jessie Olah, Joseph Fierro, Alyssa Pileggi, Ryan Flanagan, Emily Roseo, Dheera Girikala.

**Academic Pins**  
Academic Pin is awarded to student on the honor roll three out of four marking periods in each of two years.  
**First Academic Pin:** Maria Barahona, Scot Bishop, Fanuel Uliacia, Thuy Doan, Katelynn Morgan, Kyle Junge, Ashley Nguyen, Elizabeth Martin, Ricardo Robles, Hiral Patel, Melissa White, Dharti Patel, Briana Williams, Lucille Roseo, Hena Yagnik, Kimberly Relyea, Thomas Zazzara, Julie Stilo.  
**Second Academic Pin:** is awarded a student who is on the honor roll three out of four marking periods in each of three years.

**Second Academic Pin:** Brittany Alvarado, Angela Ang, Anthony Baldassarre, Mark Benek, Danielle Campanella, Ray Coletta, Katherine Douglas, Logan Green, Michelle Gustafson, Jaimie Handwerker, Ryan Harrington, Jenna Heckel, Nicholas Heilmann, Gregory Herberster, Sheena Higgins, Kyle Hughes, Corner Keane, Kelly Kline, Philip Longo, Kevin Lopez, Meghan Makowski, Jacquelyn Mascolo, Nicholas Montuori,

Kellen Naranjo, Christine Nau, Chelsea Ng, Andrew Nguyen, Brian Palma, Brittany Pasquarella, Robert Pasternak, Kishan G. Patel, Kimberly Percario, Emily Piekarski, Ashley Pierce, Kayla Prins, Natalie Rittinger, Mathew Santos, Courtney Schaefer, Justin Sealy, Michael Sullivan, Michael Wagner, Tyler Delvecchio, Sara Wojewodka.

**Academic Plaque**  
Academic Plaque is awarded to seniors on the honor roll three out of four marking periods in each of four years of high school.

**Academic Plaques:** Juliana Agrillo, Jenna Alexander, Shyam Amin, Ashley Aya, Stephen Balzer, Morgan Bethéa, Jimmy Bijlani, Aleksandra Blazejowicz, Matthew Braza, Cassie Capparelli, Leilani Chepulis, Kevin Coffey, Jacqueline Conte, Stephen Coppi, Kristie Crilley, Marilyn Cruz, Justin DeOliveira, Bianca DiDolce, Tyler Driscoll, Elizabeth Fasullo, Alana Franco, Amanda Freitas, Candice Grevious, Steven Grzenda, Christopher Gualando, Teresa Gustafson, Paige Herriot, Alexander Horn, Jenae Keith, Frank Licato, Cesar Luque, Karthik Marpadga, Christopher Marrone, Nichole McDonough, Amber Miller, Parin Mody, Kaitlin Muglia, Andrew Muhlgieir, Jessica-Napolitano, Jacquelyn Mascolo, Nicholas Montuori, Kellen Naranjo, Christine Nau, Jessica Napolitano, Christopher Oprysk, Dylan Papa, Frederick Reichert, Alexandria Santos, Matthew Schaefer, James Seyffart, Manraj Singh, Alexandra Skula, Nicole Slatky, Daniel Smith, Dharam Soni, Jonathan Sukenik, Richard Szeliga, Bryant Villamann, Heba Younes and Kaitlin Zielinski.





# High School Principal Dr. Ken May Retired July 1

(Continued from page 1)

ment to a number of factors including applying current techniques in shared decision making and working with a team approach.

"None of these successes could have developed without a cohesive, working relationship between the faculty, staff and the administration that focused on a 'working with' ethic rather than a 'working for' edict," he said. Dr. May came to SPHS as assis-

tant principal in 1987 after working for 16 years as math teacher, math department head and K-12 supervisor. He also coached football, soccer, basketball and track in three different districts—Scotch Plains, Rahway and Westwood-Washington Township Regional Schools in Bergen County.

Dr. May joined with Principal Anthony Massaro to promote many initiatives to move South Plainfield forward in academics, athletics,

student activities and the arts with the goals of getting students more involved with athletics, afterschool co-curricular clubs and activities. They also raised school grade averages and SAT scores by focusing on Massaro's concept of 'ownership' by students in the school and in each aspect of student life.

Bringing down earlier high absentee and tardy rates was basic when Dr. May began as assistant principal, and

enforced even more so when he became principal in 2004 with Massaro's retirement.

"We are absolutely determined to provide the best learning environment for the kids. And first things first—kids have to be in school and they have to be on time to class and ready to do school work," said Dr. May, whose methods have brought current attendance rates to around 97% and brought reductions in daily tardies to single digits compared to a previous annual total in 2005 of 2,500 tardies.

Many academic initiatives were introduced by Dr. May including updating the mathematics curriculum, and the Advanced Placement curriculum. Through an agreement with Seton Hall University, Dr. May developed Project Acceleration where students can take an AP class in math, chemistry, biology and physics, and if they pass the AP class with a three or higher, the AP course will provide them with credits transferable to Seton Hall at \$60 a credit. He encouraged integrating language arts with every subject across the curriculum program resulting in higher language scores. SPHS became a Heliophysics Associated School with NASA through an application made by Kevin Hajduk enabling six teachers to learn about weather and the ocean. Even as he is leaving, Dr. May is working to put in place a new program that will tap into an online weather system and developing curriculum for the program with SPHS science teacher Kathleen Del Vecchio.

Dr. May also started community service projects to involve students with the community. He brought local senior citizens into the high school for Thanksgiving and Christmas luncheons with students serving



Dr. Kenneth May

and providing entertainment with performances by the SPHS chorus and orchestra. He implemented TIGER 24, an all day/night walking/running activity to raise funds for local charities. He encouraged students to volunteer in the borough's annual community cleanup and to visit local

nursing homes and received many letters of thanks from the recipients. To bring the attention to students who were involved in community service, he implemented the Edison Rotary Club "Student of the Month" Program and received the Rotarian Award for SPHS's involvement in the student of the month program.

Dr. May is considering his options in retirement. He could consult and give presentations as he did several times at NASA Summer Institute for Administrators or continue researching trends in education. The research he did for his Ph.D. dissertation, "An Investigation into the Role of the Privatization of Non-Instructional Services Provided by New Jersey Public School Districts," was published by the Mackinac Center in *A School Privatization Primer for Michigan School Officials* and can be viewed at [www.mackinac.org/8691](http://www.mackinac.org/8691). He hasn't decided what he will do next but he rejects the idea of becoming an "interim principal" (one who steps into a school when there is a need for a principal for a limited time).

"I've been a principal already. It's become my job, my hobby—but to me I've been given a responsibility to do my best," he said.

When he told the students he would retire at the high school awards ceremony, all rose and give him a standing ovation.

## Gold Card Holders Enjoy End of Year Picnic at SPHS

The South Plainfield Education Foundation sponsored high school Gold Card picnic was held on May 20.

The Gold Card Program is an incentive to encourage students to reach their fullest academic potential. Students who maintain a 3.5 GPA without "Ds" or "Fs," who are in compliance with the school's attendance policy, who have no more than three tardies for the year, have no in school or out of school suspension for the entire school year, and are involved in two or more extra co-curricular school activities are eligible to be a member.

Local businesses made the following donations: Sodexo, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, chips and drinks; Hometown Heros, a 6' sub; Roma Foods, two large trays of sausage and Italian ice; B & C Deli, two trays of wings; Imperial Deli, two three-foot subs; Haisch Bakery, donuts and pastries; Rita's Italian Ice, two coolers of Italian ice; Salerno Pizza, two pizza pies; Bruno's Pizza Factory, three pizza pies; Tony's Pizza, two pizza pies; Mr. Subs, two trays of wings; and Pizza Stop, four pizza pies.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010 GRADUATES!

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## Summer Programs at the Public Library

By Kenneth Morgan

The South Plainfield Public Library will be offering a variety of programs for children and young adults throughout the summer.

"Storytime" for children ages three and over, will be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 p.m. "Time for 2's & 3's" for children ages two and three, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. And "Baby Time" for children ages two and under, will be held on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. The story programs each last about an hour and feature stories, songs and a craft activity for older children. These programs are presented free of charge; no pre-registration is required.

Registration for the library's summer reading club, "Make a Splash-Read!" will be open throughout July. The club is open to children up to grade four. There is also a summer reading club for young adults, "Make Waves @ Your Library," for those in grades five through 12. Weekly prizes will be offered for participants. Details are available in the children's room.

In conjunction with the summer reading club, kidcraft programs will be offered on consecutive Monday nights (July 12, 19 and 26, and August 2). Each program will start at 6:30 p.m. and is for children ages six

and over. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required. There is a \$1 materials fee, payable upon registration. There will also be a t-shirt painting program with Brenda McRae on Wednesday, July 21 at 1 p.m. This program is open to those 10 and over. The program is being presented free of charge; participants should bring a clean t-shirt for the program, while the library will provide all other materials. Pre-registration is required.

The library will also offer two special children's programs in July and August. On Thursday, July 15 there will be a children's magic show, "Hocus Pocus with Joe Fisher" and on Wednesday, July 28 there will be a music program, "Sing Along with Mr. Scott." On Wednesday, Aug. 11 there will be a reptile program featuring the Lizard Guys. Each program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be held at the South Plainfield Senior Center, located at 90 Maple Ave. The July programs are open to children ages four and over, while the Lizard Guys program is for children ages five and over. No pre-registration is required. In lieu of an admission charge, attendees should bring non-perishable food items for the Middlesex County community food drive.

Special programs for young adults will also be offered at the library. On consecutive Thursday evenings (July 9, 16, 23 and 30), movies for young adults will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Title

and rating information will be posted at the library. On Saturday, July 17 there will be a program on the Japanese language at 1 p.m. Led by Jun Yu, the program will serve as an introduction to the language, including writing systems and basic phrases. And on Saturday, July 31 Manisha Menon will lead a program on the art of Mendhi. Participants will learn about the traditions of the art and how to apply the designs; the library will provide needed materials. All of the young adult programs are for those entering grades five through 12. They are offered free of charge; pre-registration is required for the Japanese and Mendhi programs.

The library will once again offer a summer chess club for children and young adults. The club will meet on Fridays 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be open to players of all ages, from beginner to advanced. Players may bring their own chess sets, or use one belonging to the library. Also, Wii gaming for all ages will be available at the library on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon beginning July 10. No pre-registration is required.

The South Plainfield Free Public Library is located in the South Plainfield Municipal Complex at 2484 Plainfield Ave. For more information or to check on the latest schedule, call (908) 754-7885 or visit the library's website: [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us).

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## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



Michael Verga of St. Rose gets ready to launch the javelin during the Non-Public B South Sectional Meet at Buena High School. Verga took third place in the event with a personal best throw of 150-2. Michael Verga is the son of John and Deborah (Beyer) Verga of Sea Girt. His mother, Debbie, graduated from South Plainfield High School in 1977. He is the grandson of Lorraine Beyer of South Plainfield and the late Walter L. Beyer.

### G. Bjorn Delacruz Accepted for West Point Summer Leaders Seminar



G. Bjorn F. Delacruz

G. Bjorn F. Delacruz of South Plainfield, a junior at South Plainfield High School, was selected to be among 1,100 attendees at West Point's prestigious Summer Leaders Seminar (SLS).

More than 4,000 juniors nationwide applied to SLS, which offers outstanding high school juniors the opportunity to experience life at West Point, the "Best College in the Country," according to *Forbes Magazine*. SLS attendees live in the cadet barracks (dormitories), eat in the Cadet Mess, and participate in academic, leadership, athletic and military workshops. The one-week seminars are designed to help juniors with their college selection process, while giving them an idea of the importance of leadership and sound decision-making in their education, careers, and lives in general.

All SLS attendees participate in virtual-reality war simulation, military and physical fitness training and, in addition, each student selects three of the 15 workshops offered: Leadership and Ethics; Civil and Mechanical Engineering; Systems Engineering; History; Physics; Electrical Engineering; Human Behavior; Social Sciences; Geography/Environmental Sciences; Chemistry; Mathematics; Legal Trial; Computer Applications and Programming; Foreign Language and English.

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federally-funded undergraduate college located 50 miles north of New York City. The world's preeminent leader development institution, it was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering.

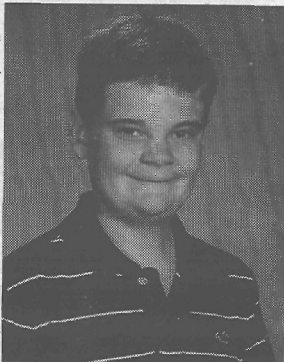
### Broderick to Attend National Player Development Camp

Colleen Broderick, a junior at South Plainfield High School, has been chosen for the USA Ice Hockey National Player Development Camp in Minnesota for the third year in a row.

In Colleen's age group, only 80 girls are chosen from across the United States to participate. Out of these 80 girls, the USA Hockey Women's National U18 team will be chosen to represent the United States in international competition. This camp is run by USA Hockey along with the USA Olympic Committee. Colleen is a defenseman.

### Aquilina Recognized As Student of Excellence in Science

The United States Achievement Academy has announced that Philip Aquilina from South Plainfield has been recognized by the United States Achievement Academy as a student of excellence in Science. This is a presti-



Philip Aquilina

gious honor very few students can hope to attain. In fact, the academy recognizes fewer than 10% of all American high school students.

Philip Aquilina, who attends South Plainfield Middle School, was nominated for this honor by Geraldine Heim, a science teacher at the school. Philip will appear in the United States Achievement Academy's Official Yearbook which is published nationally.

"Recognizing and supporting our youth is more important than ever before in America's history. Certainly, United States Achievement Academy students should be congratulated and appreciated for their dedication to excellence and achievement," said Dr. George Stevens, founder of the United States Achievement Academy.

The academy recognizes students upon the exclusive recommendation of teachers, coaches, counselors and other qualified sponsors and upon the standards for selection set forth by the academy. The standards for selection include academic performance, interest, aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve, attitude and cooperative spirit, dependability and recommendation from a qualified sponsor.

Philip is the son of Philip and Doris Aquilina of South Plainfield and the grandson of Philip and Madelyn Aquilina of South Plainfield and Richard Benson of Edison.

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**CORRECTION**  
In last week's story, "BOE Votes Against Raises for Two Administrators," it incorrectly stated that Steve Bohn was absent. He was present and voted for the raises, hence the final vote was 4-3; however, five affirmative votes were needed for passage.



## southplainfieldpeople Milestones



(L-R) American Legion Chaumont Post 243 First Vice Commander Douglas Viafora, Bjorn Delacruz, Brandon Downes, Post Commander Jim Yednak and SPSHS Principal Dr. Ken May.

### Delacruz, Downes Selected as Delegates To American Legion Jersey Boys State

Two delegates from the Class of 2011 at South Plainfield High School have been selected to attend the 65th annual American Legion Jersey Boys State program by Chaumont Post 243. Bjorn Delacruz and Brandon Downes attended the educational program at Rider University during the week of June 20.

Bjorn has been the drum major for the SPSHS Marching Band, and has been active in school activities, including the Spanish National Honor Society. Last month he attended a seminar at the United States Military Academy at West Point with the hope of securing a nomination to the cadet corps.

Brandon is a member of the National Honor Society and the student council. A former player in American Legion baseball, he would like to become an electrical engineer.

The ALJBS program consists primarily of functional "hands on" activities that promote learning by doing.

Known as "citizens" at Boys State,

### Theodore Skwiat Named to Montclair State Dean's List

Theodore J. Skwiat, South Plainfield High School Class of 2009, has been named to the dean's list for the spring semester at Montclair State University. To achieve this honor students must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Teddy just finished his freshman year and is majoring in physical education and health teaching. In addition he is employed by the Montclair State Campus Recreation Center as an intramural sports official and facilities attendant.

Teddy is the son of Kathy and Ted Skwiat, and grandson of Elizabeth Mack of South Plainfield.

### Dontae T. Johnson Graduates from Pennington School

Dontae T. Johnson of South Plainfield was among the 101 seniors who graduated from The Pennington School on June 5.

### Rayho Named to Mount St. Mary's Dean's List

Scelene Rayho of South Plainfield was one of 503 students who was honored to be placed on the dean's list for the spring 2010 semester at Mount St. Mary's University.

Mount St. Mary's University, founded in 1808, is the second oldest Catholic university in America.

Scelene, a junior, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rayho.

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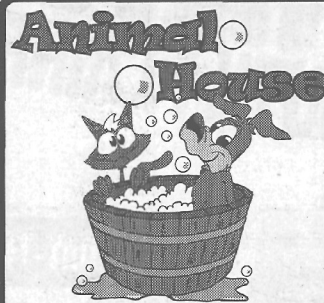
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE 1896

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$73,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF RADIO AND RELATED COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD FIRE DEPT. LOCATED WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY was adopted after a Public Hearing and final reading were conducted on Monday, June 28, 2010 at the Public Meeting of the Governing Body which began at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 and is being advertised in The Observer on Friday, July 2, 2010.

ATTEST:  
Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$29.45

July 2, 2010

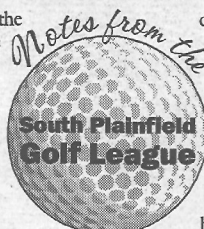
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# Sports

Submitted By Bob Nilan

It's always fun to hear the banter and watch the sparks fly when Jay Coppola and his talented Twin City Pharmacy squad tee off against 2 Buds, 2 Dubs, led by Captain Dale "The Needler" Dube.



complete the last hole so their scores were based on an 8-hole match.

Matt Ward played the full nine holes and shot a 36 for the Roughriders who saw their record drop to 2-5. Captain Bob Nilan will hold a roundup at the OK Corral for his boys to inspire

them to come on strong next week and gallop to the finish line a winner.

Over in the National Division, the Italian American Club brought KC's Korner 6-match winning streak to an abrupt halt as they upended the previously undefeated division leader by a surprising score of 18-2.

Jeff Gross of the Italian American Club showed the way for his team with a nice round of 39. Captain Tony Cotone, Jr. struggled to a 40 for KC's Korner while his teammates, unfortunately, did not have their A-games last week.

Alfie's Boys got excellent performances from Mike Gokey who had a 35, and from Mike King who shot a 39 as Alfie's Boys defeated the Polish National Home, 12-8.

Last season's Player-of-the-Year, Ray Starnick, had another gem, a beautiful even par 33, for the Polish National Home who remain in second place despite the loss.

In another rain-shortened match, Captain Frank Matthews of Sport & Social shot a 39 to spark his team to a 15-5 win over McCriskin's Home For Funerals. Steve Schock's 36 and Mark "Mr. Steady" Chichvar's 39 were not quite enough to turn the tide for McCriskin's.

**Low Scores For The Night:** Jay Coppola, 32; Chris Dillon, 32, Ray Starnick, 33; Guy Severini, 34; Sean Brooks, 35; Mike Gokey, 35; Joe Diller, 36; Steve Schock, 36 and Matt Ward, 36.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS:

### American Division

	W	L	T
Twin City Pharmacy	6	1	0
Oak Tree Dental	5	2	0
Unique Sports	4	3	0
Witty's Liquors	4	3	0
Roughriders	2	5	0
2 Buds, 2 Dubs	1	6	0

### National Division

	W	L	T
KC's Korner	6	1	0
Polish Home	4	3	0
Alfie's Boys	3	4	0
Sport & Social	3	4	0
Italian American Club	2	5	0
McCriskin's Home	2	5	0

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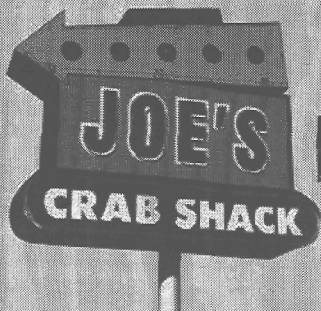
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5:30 – 6:15 (5 to 7 yr. olds)

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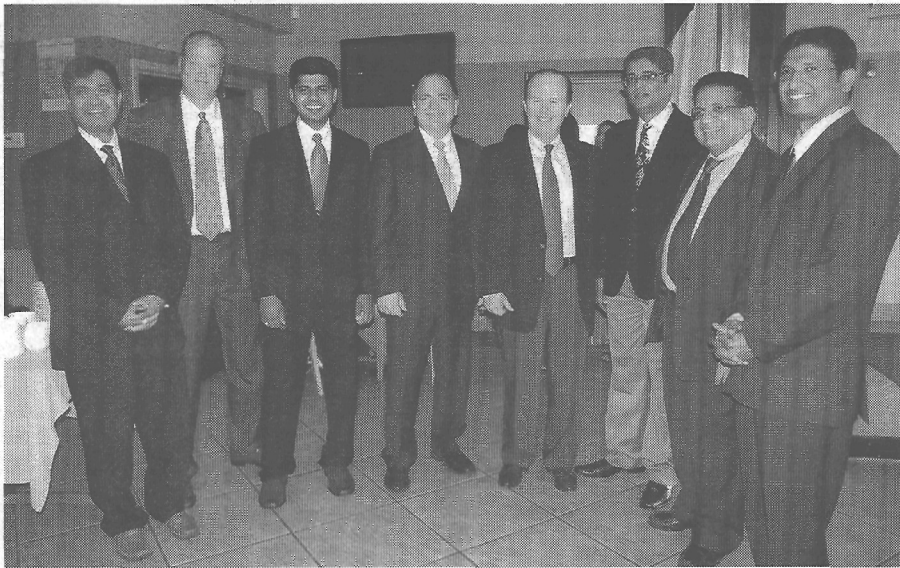
Should you have any questions or to pre-register, please contact the following board members:

Anthony Cangialosi, [acangial@gmail.com](mailto:acangial@gmail.com), Cell 908-285-0462

Bob Ginda, [bob.ginda@verizon.net](mailto:bob.ginda@verizon.net), Cell 908-294-1422

Kevin Dunn, [kdunn1@verizon.net](mailto:kdunn1@verizon.net), Cell 973-219-0731





Sankalp Red A Taste of India held its grand opening ribbon cutting on June 26. Attending the event were (L-R) Prayosha Restaurant Group CEO Suresh Patel, Assemblyman Peter Barnes, III, General Manager Vince George, Mayor Charles Butrico, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Sankalp India International Projects CEO Chander Sarvagam, Edison Indian American Community Leader Peter Kothari and Prayosha Restaurant Group President Vishnu Patel. The restaurant offers North Indian, Tandoori, South Indian and Pan-Asian dishes which are both vegetarian and non-vegetarian and Halal, which are permissible according to Islamic law. Sankalp has been awarded the Times Food Award for Best South Indian Restaurant by the *Times of India* in 2008 and 2009. Their innovative side has landed them in the Guinness Book of World Records three times for preparing the world's largest dosa, a crepe made from rice and black lentils. Located at 684 Oak Tree Avenue in the Golden Acres Shopping Center, Sankalp Red is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. They can be reached at (908) 226-5544 or visit them online at [sankalpusa.com](http://sankalpusa.com).

## BOROUGH NOTES

- The final vote on the borough's 2010 budget has been delayed because the state has not given its approval.
- The council authorized the tax collector to prepare and mail estimated third quarter tax bills.
- The chief financial officer will issue refund checks in the amount of \$2,437.03 to Elisabeth Garguilo, 226 Christopher Ave. and \$1,180.48 to Lisa M. Heim, 602 Franklin Ave. for overpayment of taxes.
- Richard Ritchey and Richard Zekas were promoted to supervisor at public works and Leo Appolloni

was promoted to heavy equipment operator at salaries commensurate with the current salary ordinance.

- Katie Stilo has been hired as a seasonal employee at the South Plainfield Community Pool from July 1 to September 6.

• Margaret Dillar was hired as a temporary van driver for senior center for the period of June 28 through July 1.

- The council voted to waive the building and plumbing permit fees for the Board of Education's bathroom remodeling project, including asbestos removal and disposal at the

middle school, Kennedy, Franklin, Grant and Riley Elementary Schools.

- The council agreed to waive the applicable fees (excluding electrical fees) for the Board of Education's fire alarm replacement project at the middle school.

• The council renewed the street sweeping services contract with Stilo Excavating, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$40,985 from July 1 through June 30, 2011.

## Curves Member Tells of Weight Loss Success

*Curves of South Plainfield is honored to share Jennifer's after photo and her inspirational story about her weight loss/fitness journey. She has worked hard and continues to do so to reach her long term goal.*

My name is Jennifer and I am 30 years old. My weight has been a constant struggle for me as long as I can remember. I first joined Curves over five years ago, while completing my master's degree. After finishing and finally taking my board exam, my weight had shot up to 240 lbs. That is when I trained for the Curves Smart system and joined Weight Watchers.

I made a commitment to myself that I was going to take the weight off so I could feel better physically and mentally. I love going to Curves. I burn approximately 420 calories in each 30 minute workout. This is typical for my workout based on my current fitness level. I have lost 49 lbs. to date, and have no plans on stopping until I hit my goal. It has been an amazing experience for me. Once I started to see results in the first two weeks, I was ecstatic. I began to notice

an increase in my energy level at work, and I became friends with many of the women who were at Curves at the same time as me. Now I enjoy going for my self as much as seeing my friends and saying "hi" to them. I would recommend the system to anyone who is looking to lose weight, tone up, or just move more!

Curves invites members of the South Plainfield Community to do its \$30 for 30 days special and let them reach their goals as well. Call us at (908) 757-4422 and let us help you get started!



Jennifer

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# Obituaries

## Angel Kenvin, 55

Angel Kenvin passed away suddenly on Monday, June 21 at her home at the young age of 55.

Born in Bound Brook, she grew up in Piscataway and resided in North Plainfield before settling in South Plainfield seven years ago.

She attended Jersey City State College, studying health care management.

Angel was an accomplished medical office facility manager, working in the field for many years, most recently as the facility manager for Associated Radiology in Bridgewater. She was currently serving as the president of the Professional Association of Health Care Office Managers, was a certified practice manager with the Professional Organization of Medical Managers Association and in addition, the past president of the American Association of Medical Assistants.

Angel is predeceased by her dear husband, Richard, who died in 2005.

Surviving are a son, Richard Jensen; a daughter, Heather Jensen; and by two God children, Austin and Jenalee Jenkins. She is also survived by many dear friends and several extended family members.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 28 Kennedy Blvd., E. Brunswick, N.J. 08816 or Haven Hospice, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.



Pictured (L-R): SPHS Assistant Principals Joseph Cirigliano, Ralph Errico and Kelly Richkus; Class of 2007 Vice President Ashley Little; American Legion Post #243 members Douglas Viafora and James Yednak; 2007 Class President Michael George; Assistant Superintendent Dr. Lorraine Cella; BOE member Sharon Miller; SPEA Vice President Diana Joffe; Superintendent Jose Negron and (kneeling) SPHS Principal Dr. Ken May at the June 15 flagpole dedication.

## In My Opinion

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

(Continued from page 2)

ter, sister, friend and hero is loved and missed more than words can say.

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JENN, JUAN AND MATEO CRESPO**

You can also contact us directly: Mike English (908) 755-1282, John Sorrentino (201) 312-1041 and Jeff Williams (908) 591-7025.

**MICHAEL ENGLISH,  
CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR**

### To the Residents of South Plainfield:

The Democratic team of Mike English for Mayor and John Sorrentino and Jeff Williams for Borough Council are asking residents what they think about the future of South Plainfield. Tough choices have to be made if our community is going to meet the financial and economic challenges of the next decade. We all refuse to be part of the usual political campaigns that are nothing but an exercise in criticizing your opponents.

As a candidate for mayor, I believe towns can no longer function without five-year financial plans that will include fact-based projections of municipal expenses and revenues. I've said repeatedly that every year should not produce a budget crisis. We all realize that municipal taxes and expenses must be reduced, and we plan on reviewing every department, program, salary and position, and reinstitute zero-based budgeting.

Council candidate Williams understands that the dramatic reductions in state municipal aid and aid to our schools have forced everyone to spend money prudently and wisely. The municipal budget proposed this year relies on over \$1M more in municipal taxes to cover expenses. We all refuse to accept a budget with those kind of numbers.

Council candidate Sorrentino is committed to finding a bigger space to house our community library. He knows that everyone will have to work together to achieve this.

John, Jeff and myself want to make sure that the traffic conditions in town are improved. A lot has already been done to make our town safer but a permanent solution will guarantee that our residents and our local businesses will continue to grow and be successful. We all realize that the people of South Plainfield are smart and probably have the best answers to our town's problems. We want to hear from you.

Please visit the new South Plainfield Democratic website and leave your input and thoughts. That is what democracy is all about. Tough choices have to be made and ultimately the best interest of our residents, not the political agenda of a political party, should be the determining factor. That is why we are asking everyone regardless of party affiliation to go to our website and tell us what you think.

### Dear Editor,

With rampant partisanship in Washington and Trenton, the last thing people want is the same lack of cooperation in South Plainfield. This is something residents have been telling me for the past three years, and it's something I agree with wholeheartedly. We need to work together, and we need to put party politics aside once elected to office.

Keeping that in mind, when my Republican colleagues and I became the majority on the council this year, we decided to try to do things differently. We knew we would have our share of disagreements with the Democrats, but we also wanted to find places where we could work together.

We started out small. For example, in February we reached out to Democratic Councilman Frank Salerno and asked him to work with us on some by-laws revisions. Councilman Salerno has shown a real desire to work across party lines, and recently he even crossed party lines on several votes.

And just last month we asked Democratic Councilwoman Christine Butteas to get more involved in shaping the budget. Attitudes don't transform over night, and in the past it was taboo for the majority party to seek input from the other side, so I can understand any skepticism.

While these were small steps, we were able to achieve significant bipartisan cooperation on the school budget. Councilman Ray Rusnak led the team that looked at that budget, and before presenting it publicly, he brought the mayor to the table and tried to make sure the reductions to the board's proposed tax rate would be something the Democrats could endorse.

To his credit, the mayor got behind the plan, as did the entire council. In fact, he and Republican Councilman Rob Bengivenga even took to the podium together at a recent Board of Education meeting, presenting a united front when talking about a school budget issue. In the past that would have been unheard of.

I can't begin to recount all the positive comments I've received about the bipartisanship that surrounded the reductions to the school budget. The results are even better. Rather than seeing a \$100 tax increase, school taxes will go down slightly this year. And it looks like the board will be bringing back staff and programs.

## Water Gardening Essentials from Parker Gardens

With the heat of summer now upon us, a great way to "feel" cool is with the sounds and look of a water feature in your landscape. Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains is singing the praises of this delightful landscape enhancement, while providing a variety of water gardening options to customers.

Steven Parker, co-owner of Parker Gardens, says the summer season is ideal for establishing and maintaining

a healthy water garden. "Water plants and warmer weather go perfectly together," he said. "It's just a matter of customers choosing the right water feature and appropriate plants to fit their individual preferences and landscaping and we're here to help them do exactly that." The Parker team is on hand to assist customers in all aspects of water gardening, from plant selection and designs to maintenance.

The 14-acre facility features a variety of different plants and containers conducive to water gardening functions, explained Parker. "We have everything to create and maintain an attractive water garden in stock right now," he said. Among the available water plants are water lilies, water lettuce, water hyacinths, lotus, rushes and grasses.

Parker also features the "hard goods" necessary to create a successful water garden, including preformed ponds and liners, as well as bird baths and water gardening accessories. Parker Gardens is located at 1325 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains. For more information, call (908) 322-5552 or visit [www.parkergardens.com](http://www.parkergardens.com).

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## In My Opinion

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

I'm sure Republicans and Democrats in South Plainfield will still disagree; that's the nature of politics, and disagreement is often a good thing. I hope, however, that we've set a new tone, one where we can work together more often. This is something that would benefit us all.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT,  
MATTHEW P. ANESH**

Dear Editor:

Last September charges were filed by the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission against the South Plainfield Republican Organization for repeated violations of state law. At that time the Democratic Party of which I proudly serve as chair, demanded that Bob Jones and council candidates Robert Bengivenga and Matthew Anesh come clean with the residents of the borough and disclose the facts concerning those charges.

Days before the election, the Republicans mailed one of the nastiest campaign pieces you could imagine. They labeled the disclosure of their illegal finance activities "filthy campaign lies" and claimed there were no charges against them. The Anesh/Bengivenga flyer said, and I quote, "Of course, it's not true. It's a lie they made up and sent to South Plainfield mailboxes at the last minute, hoping nobody would have time to respond." In the end the truth usually prevails. On May 26 the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission issued a final decision imposing a fine against the Republicans for the violations contained in last fall's complaint. In fact Bob Jones represented the South Plainfield Republican Organization in the proceedings. Therefore he was ac-

tually the lawyer for the Republicans when they sent out their campaign flyer which denied everything and called the Democrats liars.

I encourage everyone to go to the state election law website and read the facts: [www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation.htm](http://www.elec.state.nj.us/publicinformation.htm). Mr. Jones, Mr. Bengivenga and Mr. Anesh owe everyone an apology for their attempted cover-up. What do you think the chances of that happening are? South Plainfield deserves better.

**DANIEL GALLAGHER**

Dear Editor,

Recently I attended a town hall meeting on how New Jersey can control property taxes. Many of the speakers from the audience talked about the need for reform, while others talked about how their town's property taxes were skyrocketing with no end in sight.

I got up and spoke about something very different: South Plainfield's success in cutting costs and how we're beginning to get taxes under control. I can't be more pleased with what's happening, and I was proud to share it with everyone in attendance.

I know of no other council in the State of New Jersey that was able to do what South Plainfield's did with their school board's budget. After voters turned down the board's proposed budget, the council was able to find the funds to not only keep school taxes flat, but also to give the school board suggestions for bringing back teachers and programs.

The result? We will not see an increase in school taxes, and the school board has the option to bring back teachers and programs that were cut in April (freshman sports, swimming,

track, etc.).

Next on the council's agenda is its own budget. We've been hearing a great deal about the council's efforts to cut spending. As it looks now, that effort will result in a tax decrease this year. In fact, we're looking at taxes going down by about \$175 for the average homeowner.

I don't know of any other town with this type of results. I want to thank Councilman Ray Rusnak, head of the finance committee, along with Council President Matt Anesh for their leadership and non-stop work on our town's finances. It is refreshing to see our elected officials working hard and achieving results that benefit us as taxpayers.

**DERRYCK C. WHITE**

To the Editor:

On June 25 the *South Plainfield Observer* carried a letter about the South Plainfield High School yearbook.

The letter was submitted by a concerned parent of one of SPSHS students because his son was named, in the yearbook, as a "Class Troublemaker."

I am not going to discuss the merit of the parent's complaint. After all, what do we ordinary mortals know

about the extremely complicated subject of education, which requires an advanced educational degree? Only professional pedagogues, tenured teachers and members of South Plainfield Education Association are qualified to discuss such subject.

At the end of the letter the parent asks: "Who's responsible for publishing such literature? Is there any staff oversight at such projects and if so why would staff allow this?"

Dear author of the letter: Was that a rhetorical question or are you not aware that the SPEA will not lift a finger without extra compensation for any additional responsibilities beyond about three hours in the classroom per day?

From the Board of Education minutes meeting of January 20, 2010, Page 16: "resolved, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the following extra curricular appointments, effective January 21, 2010, for the 2009/10 school year: Andrew Casano, yearbook co-advisor-\$821.25; Collen Ranney, yearbook co-advisor-\$2,463.75 effective February 1, 2010."

How much the advisors were paid for the period September to January,

### Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 18, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@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.

I do not know.

If you are not satisfied with the advice given by the duo, the question is: What do you expect for the measly \$3,300 paid for the four months of advising? Apparently the best and the brightest of SPEA members are grabbing money in sports coaching. From February 17, 2010 Board of Education minutes: "Effective March 5, 2010 through June 5, 2010-head baseball coach \$7,383; assistant no. 1, \$6,507, assistant no. 2, \$5,605; assistant no. 3, \$4,909." The list goes on and on. There are 26 coaching positions for these three spring months.

**BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN**

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This year marks the ninth state budget that I have voted on. Without doubt it was the most difficult. In my mind a budget reflects the principles of those who support it. I believe that the fiscal year 2011 state budget fails to adequately provide needed support for all levels of education, municipal government, senior citizens, women, and those most in need. I therefore voted against its adoption.

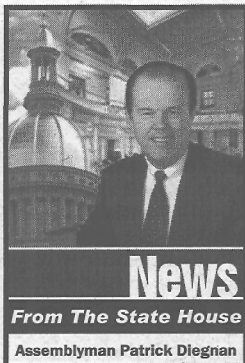
When Governor Christie first introduced his proposed budget back in March, it included the closure of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital which is located in Glen Gardner. Hagedorn is the only geriatric facility in New Jersey. One hundred eighty-four of its 273 residents are 65 years of age or older. It is recognized for its high level of care at a relatively low cost.

Some residents of the hospital have resided there for 20 years or longer. It was the governor's intention to relocate them to other facilities, such as Greystone and Ancora, which already have waiting lists. Can you imagine taking away the only home which these elderly mentally ill individuals have known for an estimated savings of \$7 million in a \$30 billion state budget?

This abomination was brought to my attention by a good friend of mine (and former South Plainfield resident) Roz Metzger. Roz's sister, who is 64, was a resident of Hagedorn and she knows that closing the facility would potentially destroy the lives of its patients. I'm sure the same can be said for many of the other 272 residents of Hagedorn. I simply could not stand by and let this happen without putting up a fight.

I am proud to say that Dick Codey and Mike Doherty sponsored legislation in the senate and I sponsored companion legislation in the assembly to stop the closure of Hagedorn. Because of our efforts, Governor Christie agreed to put enough money back in the budget to keep it open for one more year. We will use this time to develop a plan to permanently protect the hospital.

I am still disappointed with the priorities in this year's budget but at least we were able to protect a small number of our most vulnerable citizens.



**News**  
From The State House  
Assemblyman Patrick Diegman

## SDW Performance of Suessical Opens July 29

The Dr. Seuss character, The Cat in the Hat, and all his wild and wonderful friends are preparing to visit South Plainfield in the Summer Drama Workshop's 2010 production of *Suessical*. The fast-paced show incorporates elements from Dr. Seuss's books. *Suessical* follows the adventures of Horton in *Horton Hears a Who*. Along the way we meet the Grinch, a slew of Whos, Yertle the Turtle, Mayzie LaBird, Gertrude McFuzz and more.

The cast will sing about their distaste for *Green Eggs and Ham*; a war will ensue about the correct side to butter bread, and Horton will remind us that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

The Cat in the Hat is played by Mark Piltz; Kevin Lopez is the curious little boy Jojo. Rocco Severini is Horton the Elephant; Sour Kangaroo/Young Kangaroo is Christine Nau. Gertrude McFuzz is played by Jade McDonough. Kelly Kline is Mayzie LaBird. Stephen Wagner is General Gengus Khan Schmitz. Yertle the Turtle is portrayed by Will Mott. The Mayor is Cory Singer. Mrs. Mayor is Erin O'Connor. The mean green one, the Grinch, is played by Joey Palazzo. The Wickersham Brothers are Will Mott, Ryan Lind, Danny Sims and Tyler

Holoboski. Bird Girls are Casidhe Holoboski, Christine Ferrer, Danielle Tramutola and Katie Salvatore. Filling out the cast are ensemble members Richard Duong, Emily Reineke, Allison Wagner, Kaitlyn Kenny, Rachael Pedersen, Becky Birath, Chris Sees- selberg, Brett Temple, Lacey Hogan, Nicole Heilmann, Michael Petritsch, Miranda Bourbeau, Kara Slattery, Katherine Dolinski, Christina Kasmer,

Shannah Conway, Tim Ratti, Andrew Ritchie, Rusty Teller, Sabrina Gonzalez, Kelsey Prins, Tanya Joshi, Georgetown Zagarra, Kim Lozarito, Sarah Mott, Allyson Piersanti, Joanna Marston, Sam Schulkes, Noelle Rutowski, Thalia Alfaresa, Kristiana Buschan, Rosalind Heim, Edward Sheaffer, Tim Nuber and Sean Piersanti.

Show dates are July 29, 30 and 31 and Sunday matinee on August 1.

## Negron Contract Renewal

(Continued from page 1)

Byrne and Seesselberg voted in favor of the four-year contract.

The second resolution was to extend the current contract for another year to June 30, 2011 with no salary increase and to pay 1.5% towards health insurance. Hubner, Stevenson, Byrne and Seesselberg voted yes; Boyle and Miller voted no. Bohn, Giannakis and Pennisi abstained. Five affirmative votes were needed for passage.

Before the vote on the superintendent's contract was taken, the board voted to renew the reappointment of Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Operations Lorraine Cella at the annual salary of \$142,100 from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Business Administrator Richard Gua-

rini was also reappointed at the annual salary of \$134,589 until June 30, 2011 when he will be retiring.

The board also reappointed Russell Mattoon as Supervisor of Technology at an annual salary of \$114,624 for the 2010/2011 school year. Mattoon's position had previously been eliminated when cuts were made after the school budget was voted down in April.

High school Spanish teacher Araceli Gil-Pedreschi was also reappointed at an annual salary of \$45,496.

The board appointed Rancee Abbruzzese as high school social studies teacher at \$48,146 as replacement for Heather Jorgensen who will be on a leave of absence. Middle School math teacher John Limyansky will retire effective July 1, 2010.

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Members of the South Plainfield High School Class of 2010 enjoy the activities at the all-night Project Graduation held at The Club at Ricochet on June 22. The event was sponsored by the SPSHS PTSO.



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# observer Classifieds

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