

South Plainfield Observer

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60 CENTS

DECEMBER 3, 2010

SPHS Senior Signs With Univ. of Virginia

By Jane Dornick

They say practice makes perfect, and in Brandon Downes case it has paid off when the South Plainfield High School senior signed a National Letter of Intent to attend the University of Virginia next fall.

The talented baseball player had 15 home runs and batted .484 with 49 RBIs for the high school team this spring which finished the season ranked No. 8 in *The Star Ledger* Top 20. Their 25-3 record earned them the GMC White division title. Aside from being named *The Star Ledger* Middlesex County Baseball Player of the Year, Downes was also one of two juniors selected as All State. He was also selected by the *Home News Tribune* as an All-Area First Team pick and was the Greater Middlesex Con-

ference coaches selection for Player of the Year.

In August Downes attended the prestigious East Coast Pro Showcase in Lakeland, Fla., an avenue for premier youth baseball players across the Eastern United States to be evaluated by scouts from every major league organization.

Downes maintains a 3.958 GPA and is an AP math student. Head coach Anthony Guida said, "Brandon doesn't just stand out on the baseball field he also is a member of National Honor Society, student council and honor roll. He is an excellent student at the game of baseball and wonderful role model for the rest of the team due to his success in the classroom and on the field. He is a fantastic leader and captain."



Brandon Downes signs a Letter of Intent to attend the University of Virginia with (L-R) Athletic Director Mike Buggey, Mom Kathi, Dad Mike, Assistant Principal Joe Cirigliano and Head Coach Anthony Guida.

Youth Volunteers Honored

Cochrane and Plate Honored with Cappy Award

The South Plainfield Recreation Department and the South Plainfield Police Athletic League honored William Cochrane and Richard Plate as the 2010 Cappy Award recipients at a dinner held at the Senior Center on November 27.

Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Ray Rusnak and members of the Recreation Commission, along with family members and friends of Cochrane and Plate, were on hand to pay tribute to both men for their years of volunteering with the youth of South Plainfield. Master of ceremonies for the evening was Recreation Commission member Tom McCreesh.

Prior to dinner, guests were welcomed by Recreation Director Kevin Hughes followed by an invocation by Recreation Commission Vice President Calvin Gross.

The Cappy Award was presented by Robert Capparelli, on behalf of the Capparelli Family and Detective Chris Colucci, president of the Police Athletic League.

Richard Plate had coached Junior Baseball, Ponytail Softball, Pop Warner Football, served on the Recreation Commission for four years and was involved in tee-ball, fall ball and has umpired for the adult leagues.

Mike Dispenziere spoke about his 17-year friendship with Rich. He said that Rich has not only volunteered as a coach for his two girls as they grew up, but he is now coaching his five grandchildren. "Most grandparents teach their grandkids numbers and the alphabet, but all of Rich's grandchildren can spell the entire starting line up of the Yankees and they know each players number by heart," he commented.

Pat Tomasula, who has been Rich's friend since they were five years old, commented, "Growing up there was never a time Rich didn't have a ball in his hand-bouncing a ball, throw-



(L-R) Bobbie Capparelli, Cappy Award recipients William Cochrane and Richard Price and South Plainfield Police Detective Chris Colucci.

ing a ball, anything with a ball—he just excelled."

Bill Cochrane, now retired from the South Plainfield Police Department, has coached boy's baseball, girl's softball, served as a league director and commissioner of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club and was vice

president and an executive board member of the South Plainfield Pop Warner Football Association. He has been known as the "Voice of South Plainfield" for over 30 years. For many years, he has been the announcer at the annual Labor Day parade, the

(Continued on page 22)

Plainfield Firefighter Charged In Multi-Vehicle Hit and Run

South Plainfield Police responded to the 1900 block of Kenyon Avenue on the report of a hit and run crash at 10 a.m. on Tuesday. The suspect vehicle, described as a tan SUV, fled the scene heading north on Kenyon. Moments later Plainfield Police located a crash involving the same vehicle on Kenyon at Marsh Place.

The driver, Michael Gillette, 48 of Plainfield, was driving a 2004 Mercury Mountaineer southbound on Kenyon Avenue when he struck a 1998 Honda CRV owned by William Hartman. Gillette fled the scene, continuing northbound on Kenyon. He then struck a Mitsubishi Galant in front of 1406 Kenyon Avenue. The Mitsubishi, owned by Shaliqua Thomas of Plainfield, was pushed into a telephone pole by the force of the impact. All vehicles were a

total loss.

Gillette, a Plainfield firefighter, was transported to JFK Medical Center in Edison and treated for minor injuries.

It was also determined that Gillette was involved in two additional crashes in Plainfield prior to being involved in the crashes in South Plainfield. Gillette struck two parked vehicles in the 900 block of Park Avenue in Plainfield and fled the scene; one was a 2005 Mazda MPV owned by Lorian Eorio of Stirling and the other a 1996 Jeep owned by Andrew Giovine of Roseland.

Gillette was charged with driving while intoxicated, careless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident and operating a vehicle with no insurance.

Officer Richard Rogers investigated the crashes.



On November 13 and 20 the scouting units in South Plainfield concluded the Scouting for Food program by collecting over 940 bags of food for the needy in our area. In all, over 5,300 bags were put out to be filled, with over 300 hours of service time volunteered by scouts, parents and leaders. On behalf of Scouting in South Plainfield, we would like to thank all those who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Pictured above are members of Boy Scout Troop #207.

McCriskin's Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Caroling

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals kindly invites the public to the annual tree lighting and Christmas Caroling event on Saturday, Dec. 18 at 4:30 p.m. on the main lawn of the funeral home, 2425 Plainfield Ave.

The tree lighting ceremony is in memory of the men of Task Force 3-502 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles, who died on December 12, 1985 when their plane crashed over Gander, New Foundland on their way home from a tour of duty.

In addition to the tree lighting ceremony which will be lit by the

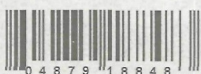
South Plainfield Pop Warner Eagle Midget Cheerleaders, members of the South Plainfield High School Marching Band along with members of the South Plainfield Middle School Chorus, will lead all in caroling from the funeral home down Plainfield Avenue ending at Flanagan's Restaurant where appetizers and sandwiches will be served.

The caroling event is a good-natured way for the community to come together and celebrate the holiday season. All are welcome to attend and participate.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the South Plainfield Observer.

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FYI

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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

December 6 December 6

December 20 December 20

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

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

Dec. 9.*

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Dec. 8.

2011: Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 2 and March 30.

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.): Dec. 15, 2011: Jan. 19,

Feb. 16, March 16, April 6.

BOE

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

BOE budget committee

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

library board of trustees

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7716

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. Dec. 21

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday) Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7621 Dec. 8, Jan. 12, 2011

business advisory group

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

For home delivery of the Observer, call 908-668-0010 or email spobserver@comcast.net.

South Plainfield Observer

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How to Reach Us



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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES
We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To get an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.



South Plainfield High School students from the Peer Leadership Helping Hands Program are pictured with the boxes they decorated and filled with food for Thanksgiving. The group delivered the boxes to needy families in the borough. The peer leaders will continue to work with Social Services Director Marge Ackerman throughout the holiday season to provide toys and gifts to local families. Gift card donations for teenagers would be welcomed by the group. Peer Leadership advisors are Marla Vandermark, Anthony Encinas, Jessica Marconi-Kraskowski and Anthony Emmons.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

The Capparelli Family would once again like to congratulate Mr. William Cochrane and Mr. Richard Plate as the 2010 recipients of the Cappy Award. Both of these men have each volunteered over 30 years a piece to the youth of South Plainfield.

Next, we would like to thank Recreation Director Kevin Hughes and the entire recreation commission for all the work they do for our youth in town. Finally, we would like to thank Detective Chris Colucci for all his tireless work as the liaison between the recreation commission and the police department. All of these individuals are the reason why the youth of South Plainfield will continue to be the towns' pride and greatest asset.

SINCERELY,
THE CAPPARELLI FAMILY

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation will be holding its telethon the week of December 6. Students from several groups in the high school will be making phone calls to the parents of every student in South Plainfield. The students will be asking for donation pledges to the Education Foundation. You will have the ability to designate where your pledge money will be directed.

This is our most important fundraiser of the year. Through this fundraiser we will be able to continue to award scholarships each June. We will also be able to continue our gold card program at the high school. There are several perpetual scholarships that we would like to continue as well.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit or-

ganization. We have been in existence since 1994. Please be advised: The South Plainfield Education Foundation is not associated with the South Plainfield Board of Education. We are not funded by your local tax dollars. We rely on private donations through our fundraisers. If you would like further information on the foundation, please log on to our website at www.vision2001.org.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community of South Plainfield for your continued support of the South Plainfield Education Foundation.

SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY
PRESIDENT, SOUTH PLAINFIELD
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the *Observer* for publishing the press release for our annual food drive.

This year's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive was phenomenal—our most successful food drive yet! All non-perishable food and money donations were given to the FISH Hospitality Program. FISH has been serv-

Submit Your Letters to the Editor:

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: 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.

ing homeless women and families since 1990, providing shelter and meals, as well as offering assistance locating employment and affordable housing.

On behalf of FISH and the homeless women and children who will benefit from your generous donations, I wish to sincerely thank all of you who have so graciously given food and money to this most worthy cause.

Again, thank you for assisting those who are so greatly in need. I hope all of you had a very happy Thanksgiving.

Thank you for caring and may God bless you.

DR. ANTHONY DECOSTA

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The Season For Giving

This Holiday season, we here at the shop will be blessed to have food on our tables but an alarming number of families will not be as fortunate. As the economy has floundered, food banks have seen the number of needy families skyrocket as donations have dwindled. To help, we are collecting food through Christmas.

Please consider dropping off non-perishable food items. You will be directly helping families here in our community. Donate 2 or more items and receive a \$10 gift card in recognition of your kindness.

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Limit one gift card per household. Gift card valid 1/1/2011-2/28/2011

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Paulo Simões accepts Glitter Award from CBA President Joseph Diegnan.

Paulo's Barbecue Wins CBA Glitter Award

Paulo's Barbecue Bar & Restaurant has received the South Plainfield Clean Business Association's Glitter Award. Owner Paulo Simões accepted the award from CBA President Joseph Diegnan on Tuesday at the Plainfield Avenue establishment.

Paulo's replaced Mr. Porky's Deli at 2341 Plainfield Ave. 12 years ago, introducing a new style of barbecued cuisine—Brazilian and Portuguese Churrascaria—to the neighborhood. It proved so popular that in 2007 Simões decided to expand. The complete renovation enlarged the restaurant, added a separate take-out section, bar and an outdoor dining patio, all in the Mediterranean style. A tour of the facility revealed an environment that is as clean as it is attractive. "I take care of my business the way I take care of my house," said Simões. His employees are busy throughout the day keeping the dining areas and restrooms clean. At least once a week they police the perimeter of the building, picking up

litter that blows in from the neighboring 7-11 and LaCosta Plaza.

Simões said he likes South Plainfield's residents, some of whom have been his customers for years. He said the town feels safe and his customers are comfortable coming in for take-out, even late in the evening, thanks to an excellent police force. He was happy to receive the recognition of the Glitter Award for his efforts in improving the property and the neighborhood.

The Clean Business Association gives Glitter Awards to South Plainfield businesses that are unusually well-maintained or have recently improved their appearance through renovation or landscaping. Membership in the CBA is open to all businesses that share its goal of enhancing the appearance of commercial districts through property maintenance and litter control.

For more information, call (908) 226-7621

SPBA Blood Drive to be Held In Honor of Gerald Bartolotti

By Jean Fultz

South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) members were in the planning stages of the blood drive they hold each year when a freak accident that seriously injured a South Plainfield resident was brought to their attention. Carl Adlassnig, SPBA member and chairman of the blood drive, received an email asking if the drive could be held in honor of Gerald "Gerry" Bartolotti. In his letter to the SPBA, family friend Brian Shaw stated that Gerry was the sole provider for his family that includes wife, Nicole and his seven year old son who attends Franklin School.

Bartolotti, 49, was injured on November 11 when he was pinned against a tree at a Long Hill construction site after his 1995 Peterbilt truck began rolling unoccupied down a hill. Bartolotti, who is an owner/operator, tried to jump into the truck on the passenger side in an attempt to apply the brakes. The truck lurched forward and rolled into a ditch, pinning Bartolotti between the truck and the tree.

A two hour rescue operation involved dozens of emergency services personnel and an emergency care doctor from Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Hospital in New Brunswick who treated Bartolotti at the scene. He was then flown to RWJ and has

undergone several surgeries to treat his injuries, which had been described as "crushing." He has required more than 100 pints of blood to date and will need several more surgeries and additional pints of blood in the near future.

The SPBA blood drive, in conjunction with the New Jersey Blood Center, will be held in honor of Bartolotti on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. All donors will receive a pair of NJ Nets basketball tickets and a Chick-Fil A coupon to the Woodbridge Center Mall. Monetary donations for the family will also be accepted that day, and will be administered through a bank account set up for the family at Columbia Bank on Oak Tree Ave. Check donations can be made payable to "Gerald Bartolotti Trust Fund" and mailed to Columbia Bank, 620 Oak Tree Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. There is no upper age limit for donors as long as they are in good health with no medical problems.

To make an appointment to donate blood, please call 1-800-933-2566 or for more information, visit www.nybloodcenter.org. Walk-ins are also welcome.

SPHS Music Boosters MUSIC NOTES

The Music Booster general membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the high school chorus room.

Important information will be discussed including the Marching Band/Orchestra Walt Disney World trip and the upcoming fundraiser, "When You Wish Upon a Star" dinner dance for students and their families. Current fundraiser orders are due December 7: The Popcorn Palace Gourmet popcorn and Life's Celebrations note cards. Order forms are still available to students; they are located in the band room or you may contact Donna for more information.

Canning Dates: December 3, 4, 10 and 11—Permission slips are due four days prior to canning.

Applebee's fundraiser: December 20—Don't forget your 10% donation flyer.

Submitted by Donna Teller

policereport

On November 10 Timothy Egerton was arrested for driving on a suspended license and two outstanding warrants.

On November 11 John Rutowski was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

On November 13 an Elissa Court resident reported that their mailbox had been damaged.

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events

Around Town

Stokes Trip Wine Tasting Fundraiser

December 4

A wine tasting fundraiser to benefit the Grant School Stokes 2011 trip will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wine Chateau, 1380 Centennial Ave. (behind Longhorn Steakhouse) in Piscataway. Sample fine wines, hors d'oeuvres. A variety of finger foods will be offered. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.

For more information, visit <http://stokes2011.webs.com/apps/calendar/> or call Diana Ryan at (732) 710-6464.

VFW Breakfast

December 5

The South Plainfield VFW Post #6763 on Front St. will hold a country breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 8 to 11 a.m. The public is welcome. For more information, call (908) 688-9751.

Knights Breakfast With Santa

December 4

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus annual Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the hall located at 334 Hamilton Blvd. The price for the breakfast (which includes eggs, bacon, French toast, pancakes and much, much, more) will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children; or \$15 for

a family of four or more. If you would like Santa to give your children a present, please bring it with you. Seats are limited; reservations requested.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Tom Berry at (908) 531-0428.

Grant School Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

December 10

Grant School PTO is hosting a pasta dinner to support the 2011 Stokes trip on Friday, Dec. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the school, 305 Cromwell Ave. Pasta, salad, bread, dessert and more. Cost: \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children, free for children under three. Advance ticket sales: \$5 all ages.

For more information, visit <http://stokes2011.webs.com/apps/calendar/> or call Sue Alexadrowicz at (908) 797-6218.

Coping with Grief During the Holidays

December 11

The McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals will be hosting a grief seminar entitled "Coping with Grief During the Holidays" on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 12 to 2 p.m. at Flanagan's Restaurant, 2501 Plainfield Ave. The program will be presented by Jessie Flynn, certified grief specialist.

Come join us and learn about steps for grieving which may ease your pain

and make the season more enjoyable. All are welcome. RSVP is requested by December 8.

For more information, call (908) 561-8000 or email info@mccriskinfuneralhome.com.

Rented Christmas, The Musical at EVP

December 12

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission presents, *Rented Christmas, The Musical* at the Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free. Reservations are required.

For information and to reserve tickets, call Ken at (908) 769-5938. Seating is limited. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. Leave detailed message with call back number.

Breakfast with Santa

December 18

The Borough of South Plainfield will hold a breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Tickets: \$6 per person. Complimentary pictures with Santa. Proceeds to benefit South Plainfield children who are less fortunate this holiday season.

Tickets are available by calling Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas at (908) 447-3466 or emailing christinebuteas@comcast.net.

— Out of Town —

UNICO Annual Pig Roast

December 3

Plainfields Chapter of UNICO annual pig roast will be held on Friday, Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Italian American Hall, Valley Avenue in Scotch Plains. Prepaid donation: \$40; \$50 donation at the door.

Blackrose to Perform

December 4

Blackrose, the band playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits will be performing at Rug's & Riffy's Bar and Grill, 493 Rahway Ave. in Woodbridge on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Holiday Sale

December 4

A holiday sale will be held at the Danish Home, 855 New Durham Ave. in Edison on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A large selection of holiday gifts, many Danish items, children's gifts and more will be on sale.

For more information, call DANE office at (732) 287-6445.

Willow Grove Family Christmas Celebration

December 4

The annual Family Christmas Celebration-Advent Festival will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

Make Christmas ornaments and Advent wreaths, decorate gingerbread houses and sing carols. Dinner of pizza, salad and dessert provided. Cost: \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Children age 5 and under are free.

For more information or to make reservations, call (908) 232-5678.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

Dec. 4-Senior Karaoke Lunch
Dec. 12-Ballys
Dec. 19-Christmas Luncheon, \$5

MONDAYS

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
Line Dancing 10 am
Computer 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm
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

Daily Activities: Morning coffee, pool, cards, board games, computer classes, exercise, art, Tai Chi, yoga and crafts.
Lunch Served Monday-Friday.
Call (908) 754-1047 for more info or visit www.southplainfieldnj.com

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.

Annual Miniature Art Show & Open House

December 5

duCret School of the Arts will hold its annual miniature art show and open house on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. featuring beautiful, hand-crafted and original art pieces created by the students. One-of-a kind, yet truly affordable gifts. Refreshments and warm conversation.



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Gatsby Salon Holiday Fundraiser

December 5

Gatsby Salon, featured on the Style Network's hit reality show *Jerseylicious* will be hosting a shopping extravaganza to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the salon in Green Brook. \$10 admission will benefit St. Jude's Hospital.

For tickets, call the salon at (732) 752-4247.

Holiday Dance Extravaganza

December 5

"It's a Wrap," a holiday dance extravaganza will be held at Metuchen High School Auditorium, 400 Grove Ave. in Metuchen on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$15. Sponsored by Edison Arts Society and featuring Yvonne's School of Dance, The Step In Time Studio and DanceForce Front & Center Dance Company.

For tickets, call (908) 753-2787 or visit www.edisonarts.org.

Washington's Visit at Olde Town Village

December 5

On Sunday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. journey back to 1783 and celebrate the anniversary of the day George Washington came to the Indian Queen Tavern at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd. in Piscataway. After the presentation, view the newly installed 1796 square piano made by John Broadwood of London around 1790.

For more information and to register, call (732) 745-3030.

Middlesex East WOWs Business Mtg.

December 6

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Monday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Carteret Community Center, located at Pershing and Cooke avenues in Carteret. All widows and widowers are invited to attend.

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

Depression/Bipolar Support Meeting

December 8

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 8 the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will feature Adam Cohen, M.D. at its monthly meeting at 7:45 p.m. using the facilities of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, 21 Normandy Heights Rd. in Morristown. The public is invited; a nominal donation is requested from non-members.

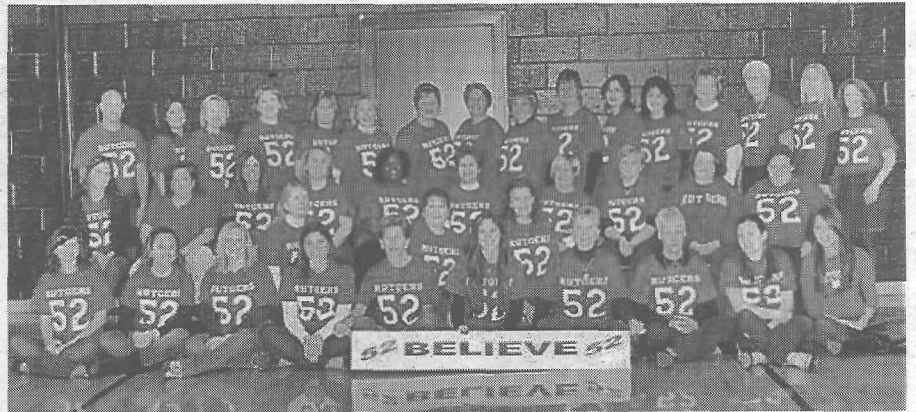
For local information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

Woodbridge WOWs Business Mtg.

December 8

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Children's Room of the Main Library, located at George Fredrick Plaza, Rt. 35 in Woodbridge. All widows and widowers are welcome to attend.

For more information, call (732) 381-3255 or (908) 757-0515.



Pictured are Kennedy School staff dressed in their jeans and red shirts on behalf of Eric LeGrand.

Schools Raise Money for Eric LeGrand

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield Athletic Department, along with the Athletic Booster Club, held a Jeans Day on November 12 to benefit injured Rutgers Scarlet Knight football player Eric LeGrand. The junior defensive tackle suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury on October 16 during their game

against Army.

Rutgers Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Tim Pernetti established the Eric LeGrand Believe Fund to support LeGrand, a Colonia High School graduate, and his family. Teachers and staff were asked to make a \$5 donation and wear jeans and scarlet red to support the injured football player. The Peer Leaders matched the high

school's contribution of \$445 and the booster club also donated the proceeds from their 50/50 raffle. In total, a contribution of \$2,520 was presented to LeGrand's former high school on behalf of the Believe Fund.

For more information on the Eric LeGrand Believe Fund, visit www.ScarletKnights.com/Believe. All proceeds will go to the LeGrand Family.

Business Association Elects New Officers

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) elected a new slate of officers at its November meeting. The new officers will be sworn in at the SPBA's annual holiday breakfast held at Sherban's Diner and Restaurant on Thursday, Dec. 16.

New officers are: President Nancy Grennier, Vice President Marge Reedy,

Secretary Tom Stillman, Treasurer Carolyn Allen and Financial Secretary Shannon Jefferys.

"It is my hope that the SPBA will increase its membership so it can continue to create a better business environment throughout the borough. I invite any and all businesses in South Plainfield to join in making our town

a great place for a business to prosper," stated President-elect Grennier.

The SPBA will be sponsoring a blood drive in honor of Gerald Bartolotti, who was seriously injured in an accident in November. The blood drive will take place at the Senior Center on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (See page 3 for story).

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the South Plainfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees will be holding a Special Meeting on Thursday, December 2 at 6 p.m. at the South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey. The purpose of the Special Meeting will be to discuss possible plans for the construction of a new library. Formal action may be taken at the meeting.

Eric M. Aronowitz, President
Board of Trustees

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December 3, 2010

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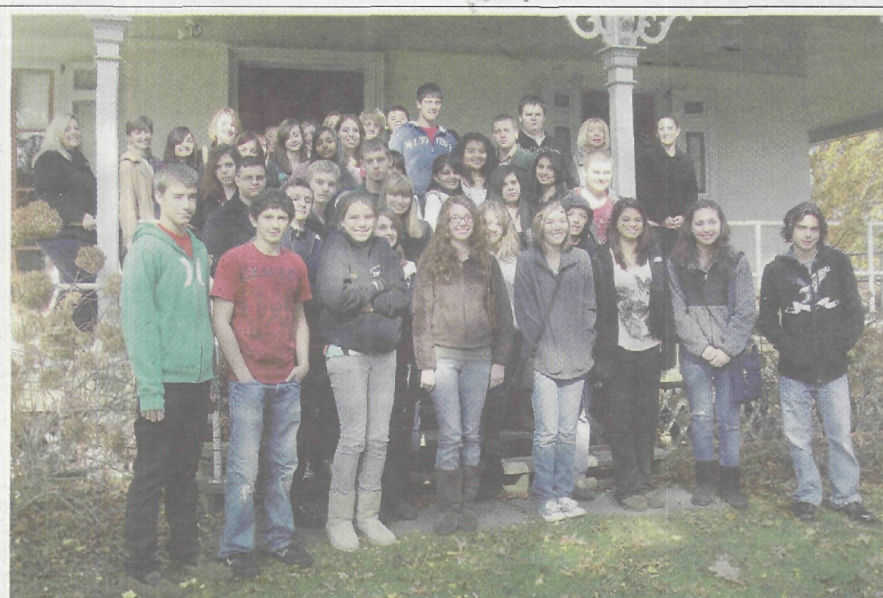
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The South Plainfield High School Jersey Club visited Paulsdale in Mt. Laurel on November 19, home of Alice Paul, 20th century feminist, suffragist and political strategist who dedicated her life to securing equal rights for all women. Ashley Robjohns, a winner in the Women's History Month essay contest sponsored by chairwoman and Councilwoman Chrissy Buteas and BOE member Debbie Boyle, wrote about Paul and expressed an interest in visiting the site. The cost of the trip was funded by the essay contest sponsors. The students spent the day learning of Paul's struggle in gaining women the right to vote. Pictured are the students standing in front of Paulsdale, along with club advisors Donna Timko, Fran Flannery, Buteas and Boyle.

Volunteer Fire Department "Project Santa" Underway

It is that time of the year again when Santa will be travelling around town by fire truck, visiting the children and helping to raise money for the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company. Can you imagine a fire truck with lights and sirens playing Christmas carols pulling up in front

of your home with Santa Claus?

Here's how it works: We are requesting a \$20 donation from each family who would like Santa to deliver their gifts by fire truck. All you need to do is bring the completed form that was mailed to every home along with a small, inexpensive wrapped gift and a

check made payable to "SPVFD" to the firehouse on Maple Avenue. Then just sit back and relax and leave the rest to us. Please make sure that you mark your child's name and address in big letters on the package.

Drop off dates to bring the gift and order form is Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5 from 12 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. Please note: Packages brought after December 9 will be charged \$40. All families must reside within South Plainfield.

Santa will be delivering the gifts to various school districts December 13-16 between 6 and 9 p.m. Delivery schedule will be announced at a later date.

If you need a blank form, call Santa's hotline at (908) 412-8868. Leave a message and we will get back to you ASAP.

The South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank you and wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season!

2010-2011 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Samantha Williams Named Junior Journalist

Samantha Williams, Grant School fifth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem entitled, "Teachers," has earned Samantha dinner for her family, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

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

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2011.

For more information, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010.



Junior Journalist winner Samantha Williams with teacher Elizabeth Mills.

Teachers

By Samantha Williams

Teachers are cool

Teachers are fun

Teachers are always number one

They teach us new stuff everyday

They help us learn in many ways

Teachers are tall

Teachers are small

But you should always remember to love them all

No matter what you should listen to them so

That you could be successful and comprehend

Teachers are like superheroes

And they will always be your friend

Till now and forever and till the end

A Night of Remembrance

The Middlesex, Piscataway and South Plainfield Funeral Homes would like to help you pay tribute to your loved one during this holiday season. Please join us for a Night of Remembrance on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 485 Hoes Lane in Piscataway. (Please note: The location selected was chosen as a place of public accommodation, not for its religious affiliation.)

We invite you to join other families who will be honoring the memory of those that they have lost in the past year through prayer, reflection and a celebration of their lives. A personalized ornament will be presented to each family, and following the service, there will be light refreshments in the church hall.

R.S.V.P. to (732) 968-2828 by December 8 with the number of family members who will attend.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Alexis Pornovets Named First Place Grand Champion

Alexis Pornovets, daughter of Robert and Sally Pornovets of South Plainfield, was invited to attend the Central Jersey Horsemen's Association 2010 Annual Awards Dinner at the Sheraton in Eatontown where she was awarded First Place Grand Champion.

Alexis competed in a series of shows throughout the summer at C.J.H.A. in Freehold, riding Ima Goer Cowboy for owner Kathy Sims, in the pre-children's hunter division, including jumping and flat classes, which earned her points for each show judged on her performance and placement.

Alexis continues training and plans to compete with Cowboy next show season.



Alexis Pornovets

SPHS Senior Justin Lesky Plays Trumpet for All State Orchestra



Justin Lesky

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Pictured (L-R) are Colin and Ryan Carey who were inducted into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Carey Brothers Recognized as Mayflower Descendants

Colin and Ryan Carey were inducted into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants during a brief ceremony on November 20. Any person able to document their descent from one or more of the Mayflower Pilgrims is eligible to apply for membership in the Mayflower Society.

Colin and Ryan are 13th generation direct descendants of John Alden, who landed in Plymouth, Mass. aboard the Mayflower.

Sometimes the stories of a Mayflower heritage are true and it is easy to document a descent. More often the documentation is missing and must be researched and supplied to prove your line. The good news is

that advanced research techniques, improved genealogy library collections and computerized resources have made it easier to track down Pilgrim roots.

The best documentation to look for is vital records such as the birth, marriage and death certificates for each person. Other documentation may be published genealogies, family documents and other official records.

Ryan and Colin's grandfather, Will Carey, has kept genealogy records dating back hundreds of years and conducted most of the background work and research in the mid-1970s. Scott Carey, Ryan and Colin's father, put their applications together using the information that's been sitting in a binder on a family shelf for many years.

The induction ceremony coincided with the holiday and made Thanksgiving come alive for the boys.

Today there are tens of millions of individuals descended from the Mayflower Pilgrims. It is the goal of The Mayflower Society to join together people who share this heritage and to carry on the memory of our Pilgrim ancestors.

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Alba Has Record Breaking Season

South Plainfield resident Alexis Alba had a rough start this year. After just coming back from torn ligament surgery, she reinjured herself in the beginning of the season. While she took some time off to rest, she managed to attend every practice and every meet.

Soon after returning, she tied the school bar record previously held by Kim Dziomba (9.6). (Kim still holds the beam and floor records.) She broke the vault record with a 9.575, previously held by Michelle Kobilis. She went on to beat her own school record for the All Around with an impressive 37.65.

Alexis then placed third AA at the GMCs with a 37.65, third with a 9.6 for bars (tied with Corri Greis from BGA), attained a fourth place finish on vault with 9.525, and achieved her first team all county on bars.

Although feeling more confident entering sectionals, she was still not at full strength. Alexis was able to secure a spot in states, earning an AA score of 36.475 for 11th in central two, while also capturing third place in both vaults with a 9.4 and bars with a 9.45.

She was well prepared and completely focused entering the state meet. She placed second on bars with a 9.575 (tying with Jessica Powell from Washington Twp. and Kendall Valentine of Holmdel) despite it being her first event. She maintained a consistent meet, earning her the twelfth spot in



Alexis Alba

the AA for the state finish, where she earned a spot on the First Team All State given by the New Jersey Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association.

Kyla Vacchio of BGA was the state AA all around winner with an impressive 38.025. Additionally, the South Plainfield girls tied with Piscataway for the Sportsmanship of the Year Award. Gina Longo placed seventh on the vault at sectionals.

Congratulations to Alexis and all of the girls and their accomplishments.

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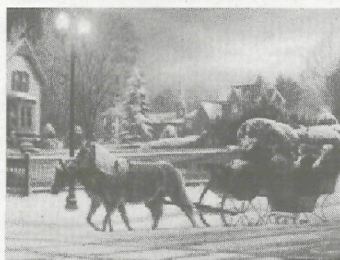
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Toys for Tots—A Holiday Tradition

Carone Family Chiropractic will be participating in the collection of Toys For Tots, once again helping children in need.

According to the U.S. Marine Corps website, the objectives of Toys For Tots are to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to play an active role in the development of one of our nation's most valuable resources—our children; to unite all members of local communities in a com-



mon cause of three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future. Dr. Carone is honored to be a part of this annual tradition.

All members of the community are invited to bring a new, unwrapped toy to 1110 Hamilton Boulevard, South Plainfield, before December 17.

For more information, call (908) 757-2330.

Assembly Approves Diegnan Measure to Control School Superintendent Contracts

Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr., Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan and Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt that would help control school superintendent contracts was approved 78-0 by the assembly.

"Superintendents' contracts should be fair, consistent and, most importantly, transparent. Taxpayers shouldn't be required to hire an actuary to determine the effect of unusual clauses or contract provisions for superintendents in different school districts throughout our state," said Diegnan, the Assembly Education Committee chairman. "This legislation will level the playing field for all involved in the process of negotiating a contract."

The bill (A-406) requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the New Jersey School

Boards Association and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, to develop a model employment contract for superintendents of schools.

The contract will address, but need not be limited to, salary, health insurance, pension benefits, sick days and vacation leave.

The provisions of the model contract must ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations including recent enactments regarding travel restrictions, the nullification of the employment contract in the case of certification revocation, restrictions on the payment of supplemental compensation for accumulated unused sick leave and restrictions on the use of vacation leave.

"This is a cost-saving measure, but more importantly, it's a common sense measure," said Cryan (D-Union). "With schools facing steep cuts in state aid, we need to make sure that resources are maximized and focused on the classroom experience."

The bill requires a school district to use the model contract for the employment of a superintendent of schools. The mandated model employment contract may be altered by the school district and prospective superintendent of schools only with the prior approval of the commissioner.

Wristbands for LeGrand Draws Local Support

By Jean Fultz

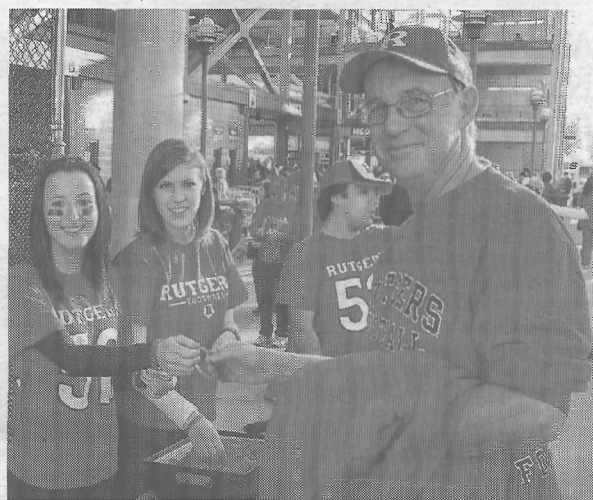
Erica Bowden has been overwhelmed by the response to her fundraising efforts in her hometown of South Plainfield for longtime friend and fellow Rutgers student, Scarlet Knights' defensive tackle Eric LeGrand. The story was featured on the front page of the October 29 issue of the *Observer*.

Eric, who was paralyzed from the neck down on October 16 during the Rutgers/Amy football game at the Meadowlands, was recently moved to the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange. In a statement released last week by the LeGrand Family through the Rutgers athletic department, Eric was removed from the ventilator and is breathing on his own for the first time since being injured. In other positive news, Eric's spinal cord injury was reclassified from complete to incomplete, leading to a better prognosis overall with "significant progress" in his recovery being reported.

The good news will not stop Erica from continuing to raise money for the "Eric LeGrand Believe Fund" that has been set up by the university. To date, the sale of the black and red wristbands with "Eric LeGrand" on the front and "#52 Believe" on the back has raised almost \$75,000. A total of 19,000 wristbands have been ordered, with most being sold through the efforts of many volunteers, businesses and organizations in South Plainfield.

"Since the article I have received calls and emails from people around South Plainfield," Erica said. "I had dinner with a councilman to discuss ways to raise money for Eric. The South Plainfield Soccer Club sold wristbands at their snack stand, and The Brush Stop Salon has asked for some to sell at the shop. Many teachers from the schools have purchased them as well as students, and we sold them at the South Plainfield High School football game on October 29."

The fundraising efforts are a family affair for Erica. Parents Bill and June Bowden and brother Tommy have taken an active role in the selling of the wristbands. Erica was also helped by many friends, including her room-



Erica Bowden and roommate Rachel Goding sell wristbands outside the stadium before the November 13 game. Photo courtesy of Debbie Esposito.

mate Rachel Goding and parent volunteers at the Rutgers home game on November 13 where they sold 3,700 wristbands before the game. That same day, Pilgrim Covenant Church in South Plainfield sold wristbands at the yard/craft sale they held.

"My family and I have been involved in keeping the publicity going to continue to make people aware of Eric's situation and the need for financial assistance, and thoughts and prayers," Erica said. "I did a segment on radio station 98.3 and also on WCTC for the pre-game show. I want to accept every opportunity to get my message out regarding the wristbands and about Eric."

Erica, who has received drawings in the mail from children including one from a 10-year-old boy who sent a picture of himself in his football uniform with a note that read, "I hope your friend gets better soon," is glad that "people are starting to know Eric not as a great football player, but as a great person. That is what I wanted."

Erica planned to sell wristbands at the November 26 home game at Rutgers Stadium, and after being contacted by a student from West Virginia University, she is hoping to make the trip to Morgantown to sell them before the game against the Scarlet

Knights on December 4.

"I am very proud of my daughter for wanting to help a friend in need by starting Wristbands for LeGrand," said June Bowden. "It is a simple, yet effective, way to make Eric's situation known and to raise funds that the LeGrand Family will need for his care. It is amazing to us how our community and others from around the area have contacted us to volunteer their time and we want to thank each and every one of them. Eric will always hold a special place in our hearts because of the person he is and the way that he treated my daughter and my son."

The LeGrand Family, in the statement that was released on November 23, said, "We want to thank everyone for all of the love and support for Eric, it has really been beneficial to his recovery. Please continue to keep Eric in your prayers."

If you are interested in making a donation or purchasing a wristband, email Erica at ebowden14@verizon.net or call and leave a message at (908) 755-8068. You can also search for "Wristbands for LeGrand" on Facebook. The bands are \$5 each, and if you would like them mailed to you, please add \$1 more per band.

Old Fashioned Country Christmas Sale

December 3 – 5 to 9 p.m.

December 4 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

December 5 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Model United Nations Club Hosts a 4v4 Soccer Tournament

The Model UN Club at South Plainfield High School hosted a 4 v 4 soccer tournament at the PAL Memorial Turf Field on November 20. It was the second annual tournament for the club, where 11 teams competed for a large cash prize.

Spectators, who ranged in age from very young to old, enjoyed the opportunity to watch the talented players compete. Many who came out to show their support were from neighboring towns as well as South Plainfield.

The players on the teams came from all around the area, with most being either current or former high school soccer players. With at least one game to watch, spectators always had constant entertainment. Viewers also had a choice of refreshments and snacks while watching the games. Soccer t-shirts were available for purchase to allow fans to show their support for the teams as well as for the club.

Toward the end of the day, the cham-

pionship game took place. After a heated game, the number one seeded team prevailed by a score of 3-2. The team consisted of SPHS alumni Christian Villava, senior Edwin Molina and juniors Sammy Tejada and Jeff Giron. Coming in close second was the number two seeded team of juniors Shaun Alers, Steve Lanza, Mike Zelasko and Danny Lyew.

Excitement was present throughout the tournament, as the soccer culture of this town, in large part encouraged by Coach Anthony Perfilio, was on display. The SPMUN Club would like to thank Bryan Rovayo, Albert Vill and its club members, for making the day a success and Kevin Hughes at the PAL for being supportive of all the sports tournaments the Model UN Club has had in the past.

If you would like to participate in the spring tournament or buy a t-shirt, please contact club advisor Miten Shah at the high school.

—Submitted by Jennifer Tercek

Model UN Club Goes to Rutgers to Debate the World

The South Plainfield Model United Nations (SPMUN) club embarked on their eighth conference at Rutgers University on November 11. After a month of preparation and long, sleepless nights spent researching, three students, juniors Devang Patel and Payal Sindha, and freshman Zach Goldberg, along with their advisor, history teacher Miten Shah, were eager to attend the Rutgers University Model United Nations (RUMUN) conference.

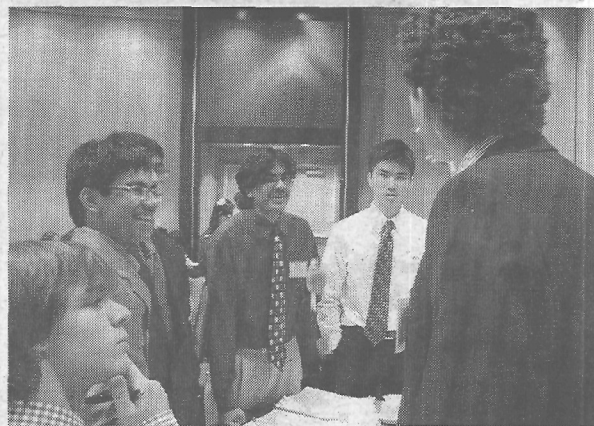
The students and Shah stayed at the Holiday Inn in Somerset and commuted to the Heldrich Hotel in the heart of Rutgers University's New Brunswick campus every morning to debate and resolve topics ranging from the current global counter-terrorism strategy to the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The club received a special opportunity to listen to Manuel Montes, chief of the United Nations Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit, as he spoke about the impact of the global financial crisis on developing countries today. However, perhaps the greatest benefit of RUMUN 2010 was a chance to mingle amongst 1,200 high school students from across the nation, all assuming the roles of diplomats, from their manner of speaking down to their clothes.

After 20 hours of grueling debate, the students were treated to a delegate dance on Saturday night where high school students were given the opportunity to socialize by dancing, playing games and singing karaoke. Taking time out of their fun night, the SPMUN Club delegates also attended a special screening of an Invisible Children documentary which reveals the truth about the abused child soldiers in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A night of letting loose, while also enlightening themselves, is not that of the typical high school student.

Before coming back to SPHS on November 14, the students attended the closing ceremonies where they were congratulated and awarded for all their hard work and effort. While all three students did a phenomenal job, Payal was honored with the Position Paper Award for the two research papers she wrote in preparation for the conference. She stated, "The conference gave me hope for the future



Junior Devang Patel

of the world. It's rewarding to see students, very similar to myself, wanting to do something to make the UN more effective and take steps to make the world a better, more peaceful place to live in."

When Devang was asked about his first conference, he said, "It was a very new and educational experience for me. It was a lot of fun and improved my public speaking skills."

Freshman Zach Goldberg said, "I'd recommend the experience to anyone and everyone, and I absolutely can't wait for the next conference."

Lastly, Shah said, "To actually be with students who are engaged in this activity just to learn and improve themselves is refreshing. It gives me hope for South Plainfield High School's academic future."

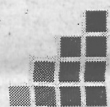
While the return back to the high school reality awaited them Monday morning was bittersweet, all three students and their advisor eagerly had many experiences to share from their

weekend, hoping to spark a similar passion in their peers.

On the whole, the club has been very involved this year with many more events to come. While a dedicated senior class departed last year, a new class of students has joined bringing with them a unique energy and spirit.

So far this year, SPMUN has collected \$133 for the UN Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) through Halloween trick or treating and donated suitcases of clothes to poor women in India. On November 20, they hosted a 4 v 4 Soccer Tournament at the Memorial Turf Field at the PAL building.

Over the course of the year they hope to celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10, sell holiday cards, have events with club alumni and attend three more conferences, one of which will be out of state. It's a goal of the club to put the "UN" in fun.



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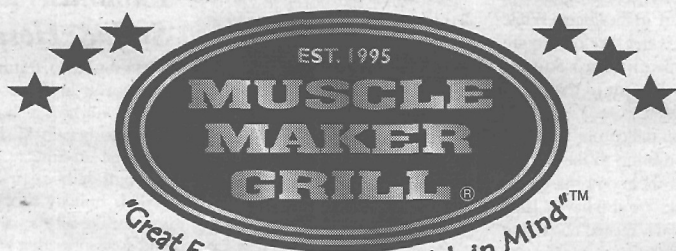
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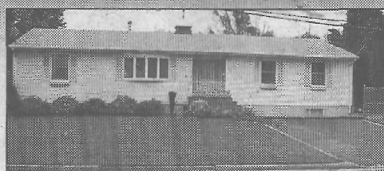
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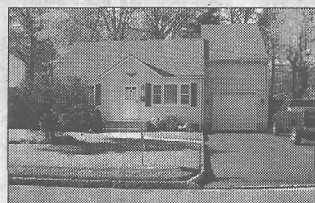
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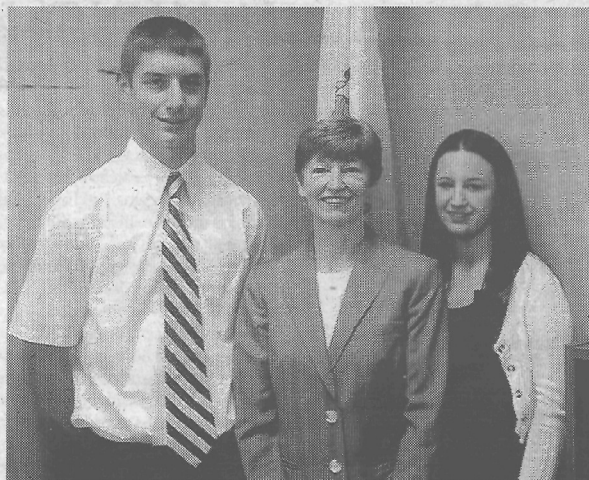


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Charlie Huber, Fran Flannery and Danielle Schaa

Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month for November are Charlie Huber and Danielle Schaa.

Charlie is a lector at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield. He is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Help Darfur Now and Jersey History Club. Charlie is also involved in our athletic program in baseball, soccer, basketball and football. Charlie, who also takes five AP courses this year, continues to volunteer his time to his clubs, church and other activities.

Danielle has volunteered her time with Special Olympics, Heroes and Cool Kids, Student Leaders, Jersey History Club, and is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Danielle also takes AP and Honor courses, while volunteering time to many clubs and organizations. In addition, she has raised money and participated in a breast cancer walk, helps with "Hands of Hope" and is a trophy-winning third degree Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Lay-Away Plans

-Submitted by Kingsley Bach, Cedarcroft Bible Chapel

Since our economy is still struggling to recover during this Christmas season, and so many people are delinquent on their credit payments, a lay-away plan is always an alternative.

In a lay-away plan, you buy a treasured item by paying for it in installments. The store keeps it until you have finished your payments; and your ability to enjoy what you bought is therefore delayed.

The best lay-away plan is the one that God offers, which Jesus calls a "Lay-Up" plan.

"... Lay-up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." -Matthew 6:20

First, He gives you the means and ability to "buy" your treasures totally free of charge! They cost you nothing!

"... For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given to You." -1 Chronicles 29:14

"... For without Me you can do nothing." -John 15:5

Second, He stores them up for you in a guaranteed safe place where no one can steal them and where they remain in perfect condition:

"In heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal." -Matthew 6:20b

Third, you use the means and ability He has provided to make installments, which, depending on how many you make and how long it takes you, determine the value of your treasures! Think about that!

"Now if anyone builds on this foundation [Jesus Christ] with gold, silver, precious stones... If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward." -1 Corinthians 3:12a,14

"But when you do [good work], do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your [good work] may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you." -Matthew 6:3,4

As you can easily see, no other lay-away plan can begin to compare to God's "Lay-Up" plan.

Have you received from God the means and ability through Jesus Christ to lay up treasures in heaven? Are you, out of love for the Lord Jesus, laying up treasures in heaven by doing the kind of good that pleases Him?

Remember: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." -Matthew 6:21

Fundraiser to Benefit St. Jude Hospital

Gatsby Salon, featured on the Style Network's hit reality show *Jerseylicious*, will host a shopping extravaganza to benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the salon in Green Brook.

This holiday shopping boutique will feature all the fabulous fashions and accessories that were featured on the show. Guests will have a chance to mingle with members of the cast and shop until they drop with special offers and discounts for this one day.

A \$10 admission to the event will benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

For tickets, contact Lindsay via email: Lindsay@gatsbysalon.com or call the salon at (732) 752-4247.



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From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

Good news! Mr. Kurt is back! Because the library lacks a large meeting room, his program will be held at the Senior Center on Monday, Dec. 13. His program is for all ages and begins at 6:30 p.m. While there is no charge for the program it is requested that you bring an unopened can of food as a donation for the South Plainfield Food Pantry.

On Monday, Dec. 6 the library will be hosting an adult craft, marbelized paper ornaments, for adults and young adults (we request that no small children be brought since the craft can be messy). The program will start at 6:15 p.m. in the library. While the craft itself is free, we do require registration as space is limited. So come and make an ornament to remember this holiday season.

We have also pulled out audio-visual materials relating to the holiday season and put them on carts by the circulation desk. We also have a large selection of holiday related books that range from cookbooks, to storybooks, to decorating books. If you stop by the reference desk we can help you find them. Just think of the library as a one-stop resource for all your holiday needs (even for ideas on making your own presents).

A reminder: Even though we are coming up on the holidays and the

library will be closed, we are accessible online 24/7 at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You can renew materials, request interlibrary loans, place holds on materials (please remember that all holds involve a .50 charge) and check the library's holdings. Also, there are a wide variety of databases available including EbscoHost, Chilton's Car Repair, Legal Forms, and Testing and Education Reference Center (where you can take practice tests for everything from HSPT to SAT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT, MCAT, to NCLEX). There are a wide variety of library related activities that you can do even when we are closed.

Miss Mija and Miss Linda will have all their regularly scheduled programs next week. Storytime and craft for four year olds and up is Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday at 1:15 p.m. Times for 2s and 3s are Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and Babytime is Friday at 10:30 a.m. Again, parents/guardians are requested to be at the program ahead of the start time so the children can get their name badges.

If you have any questions you can call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to Borough Hall). Our hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1:30 to 5 p.m.

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Volunteering time to assist neighbors who are in distress is a daily reality for the South Plainfield Emergency Medical Services (EMS) squad. Investors Savings Bank recognizes this reality and wants to aid those efforts.

To honor the emergency medical technicians and their backup teams, Investors is contributing funds to support the South Plainfield EMS unit's important work. Residents, small businesses, local community organizations and families will play a key role in the fundraising project.

On Saturday, Dec. 4, Investors Savings Bank will mark the grand opening of its South Plainfield branch at 2449 Plainfield Ave. with a "Winter Wonderland" celebration. As part of Investors' commitment to making a difference in the communities it serves, the bank will donate \$25 each time a new account is opened at the South Plainfield branch between December 3 and 18.

In announcing the alliance between the EMS squad and Investors, South Plainfield Branch Manager Daniel Eatman said, "The selfless men and women who volunteer their time to the EMS unit are ready to 'Answer the Call' to serve their community every day of the year. We salute their dedication to continually improving their emergency medical skills and, most importantly, saving lives."

Investors' South Plainfield "Winter Wonderland" celebration will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on December 4. All are welcome to attend, and there will be free refreshments and giveaway



Pictured (L-R) are: Investors Savings Bank Market Manager Tino Fontes, Supervisor of Customer Service Associates Gabriela Flores, South Plainfield EMS Deputy Chief Steven Morales, Customer Service Associate Kim Butler and Branch Manager Dan Eatman.

Photo courtesy of Margot Cochran items. Men and women 18 years of age or older can enter a drawing for an iPad® and step into the Investors' Money Machine.

For more details about the bank's grand opening, contact the South Plainfield branch at (908) 222-1221 or visit isbnj.com.

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For more information about Investors Savings Bank, call 1-800-252-8119 or visit www.isbnj.com.

Welcome Back, Doctor Kudrick

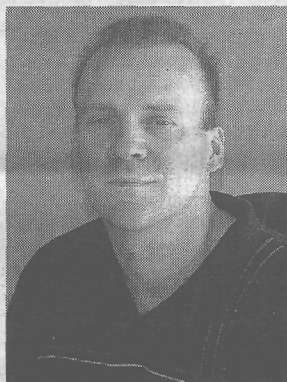
Dr. John Kudrick, South Plainfield's hometown chiropractor, has returned home to South Plainfield. Dr. Kudrick was born and raised in South Plainfield and lived and practiced here until 2001.

While growing up in South Plainfield, he participated in numerous youth sports programs including recreation basketball, golf and eight years with the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. Dr. Kudrick attended South Plainfield High School where he was a three sport varsity athlete which gained him numerous scholarship offers, eventually carrying him to Rutgers University. He played baseball for the Scarlet Knights, but unfortunately suffered an injury which ended his baseball career.

While achieving his degree at Rutgers, the rehabilitation process of his baseball injury took him in the direction of studying healthcare and more specifically chiropractic. After receiving his B.S. degree from Rutgers, Dr.

Kudrick attended Life University in Marietta, Ga. where he earned his Doctorate of Chiropractic and his certification in physiological therapeutics. Dr. Kudrick has been practicing for 15 years and has obtained numerous sports injury certifications, most recently completing his level II certification at the Titleist Performance Institute (TPI) in Oceanside, Calif. TPI is the world's leading authority in golf health and fitness education. These certifications allow him to perform everything from simple fitness programs to full functional movement and digital golf swing analysis using slow motion cameras.

Dr. Kudrick recently opened his business at Carone Family Chiropractic on Hamilton Blvd. He is currently treating patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays. He is excited about giving back to the community which has given so much to him and his family. In addition to his specialty in sports injuries, Dr. Kudrick also specializes in



Dr. John Kudrick

complete family care, auto injuries and headaches.

Please call or stop in to receive a complimentary consultation and see how Dr. Kudrick can help you with whatever your health and treatment goals might be. You can call the office at (908) 757-2330. Dr. Kudrick is looking forward to seeing familiar faces, as well as new ones.

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First and second grade students from Roosevelt Elementary School sing patriotic songs under the direction of music teacher Sharon Perez (pictured below).

Roosevelt School Students Pay Tribute to Veterans

By Jane Dornick

Roosevelt Elementary School's first and second grade classes spent the month of October learning about the

United States Armed Forces. Their hard work culminated on November 6 in a tribute to war veterans that was attended by more than 200. Principal Robert Diehl welcomed

the audience and led a salute to the American Flag. The first grade classes, led by music teacher Sharon Perez, sang *America, Air Force Blue, Marine Hymn, Semper Paratus* and *Anchors Away*. Second grade students sang *America the Beautiful, Brave Americans, When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again, Over There, The Army Goes Rolling Along* and *Heave Ho, My Lads, Heave Ho*. Veterans Day and *Taps* were performed together by both grades. The entire audience sang *God Bless America* and the program ended with closing remarks by Principal Diehl.

Student council members, along with the help of advisor Margaret Mosley, put together a "Wall of Honor" as they have done for many years. The entire student body was asked to submit the names and history of past and present family members who have served their country. The information was placed on stars and exhibited in the hallway. This year, a new "Gallery of Honor" displayed photos of current South Plainfield servicemen and women and veterans.



New Gallery of Honor photo display in hallway of Roosevelt School.



Veteran Joe Penyak at Roosevelt's tribute to Veterans program.

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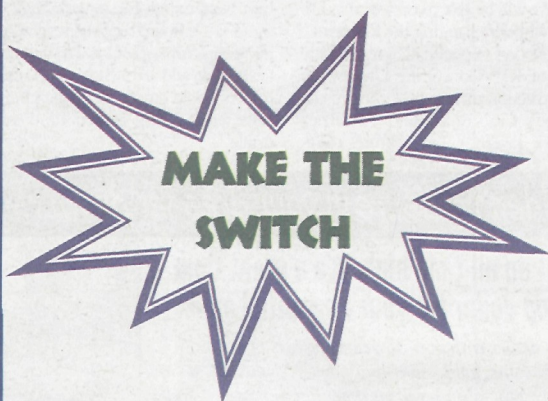
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MCC Inducts 85 Students into Local Chapter of International Honor Society

The Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, recently inducted 85 new members at Middlesex County College, including four students from South Plainfield. The students were recognized for their academic achievement, leadership abilities and service to their community and college.

"We are very pleased to recognize the accomplishments of this distinguished group of students," said Professor Yvonne Sisko of the English Department, one of the three faculty chapter advisors. "Membership in Phi Theta Kappa may entitle these students to apply for millions of dollars of scholarship aid awarded by four-year institutions throughout the United States, scholarship money that is specifically reserved for Phi Theta Kappa students who have graduated from two-year colleges."

Membership in Phi Theta Kappa is open to students who have earned at least 12 but not more than 42 degree



Students from South Plainfield who were honored for excellence (L-R): Allen Garcia, Kaleigh White, Matthew Carringer and Lory Jackson.

credits and have a grade point average of at least 3.5.

"There are limitless opportunities for our students who earn member-

ship in this honor society," Professor Sisko said. "Phi Theta Kappa membership is the reward for academic achievement and service."

BOE Names Pedersen SPHS Principal

The Board of Education appointed James Pedersen principal of South Plainfield High School. Pedersen replaces Dr. Kenneth May, who retired in June after holding the position since January 2004. Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen stated, "With his experience both as a high school teacher and administrator, enthusiastic personality and curriculum development background, including special education services and his nearly completed doctoral studies, I am optimistic that Mr. Pedersen will provide the leadership excellence expected by the South Plainfield community."

Pedersen has been employed by the East Orange Board of Education as a high school assistant principal at East Orange High School since 2004. His position as assistant principal has afforded him a wide array of experience in the areas of guidance, English, testing, dropout prevention, student enrollment, intervention and referral services, PTA liaison, school leadership council, scheduling, student activities, budgeting and others.

Prior to this position, Pedersen was an English teacher for the East Orange School District at Clifford J. Scott High School where he received the Teacher of the Year Award in 2001. In addition to his experience as a high school teacher, Pedersen has taught at the post-secondary level at New Jersey City University, Felician College, Hudson County Community College and Passaic County Community College.

Pedersen received his bachelor of arts degree in secondary education and English at New Jersey City University in 1996. Pedersen also holds two master's degrees from New Jersey City University in special education and educational leadership. Currently, he is completing his doctoral work at Seton Hall University for an executive Ed.D. in K-12 administration.

Pedersen enjoys spending time with his wife, Faith, and their six month old daughter, Emily. He is also an avid reader and recently finished his fourth year as a volunteer EMT.

"I am very excited to be a part of the South Plainfield community. I look forward to working with our students,

parents, faculty and community members to ensure that our children receive the best education possible. I am aware of the high expectations that this community requires from its schools and I will work diligently to make sure that this occurs. I take my role as an educator very seriously. We are responsible for helping to shape the future of our country," said Pedersen.

Bowen said that he is hopeful for Pedersen's release from his contract in East Orange so as to open the new calendar year with him in place if possible. In the meantime, Anthony Massaro, retired South Plainfield High School principal, has been serving as SPHS interim principal.

Planning Board Approves Enclosure for Joe's Crab Shack

By Libby Barsky

A request by Joe's Crab Shack to provide outside dining all year round by enclosing its current outside dining area with glass walls and radiant heated cement floor was unanimously approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment at its November 4 meeting.

"We will be able to enclose the outside without changing the footprint," said Robert Poppelman, a representative of RJP Consulting Group, the construction managers of the project.

Joe's Crab Shack and The Brick House Tavern + Tap, ventures of Ig-

nite Restaurants, are located side by side in Hadley Center on Stelton Road.

When the two restaurants were constructed in 2008 outside dining spaces were central to the design of both, although provisions for that use were not included in the RHD zoning ordinance.

Once approval was granted to Ignite Restaurants for outside dining, the Zoning Board received several applications from other local restaurants desiring to add an outside area so customers could smoke or make phone calls while being served food and drinks.

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- All foreign coins and paper money
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On November 7, 15 Boy Scouts from Troop #309 completed the Carpentry Merit Badge. The Carpentry Merit Badge was introduced to Scouting in 1911 and was discontinued in 1952. It was brought back under the Historical Merit badge program to help celebrate the Centennial anniversary of Scouting in America. Pictured are Willaim Walsh, Troy Kurilew and Douglas Veit.

College Funding Seminar at SPHS on Dec. 9

The South Plainfield High School Guidance Department will host a college funding seminar for parents of high school students on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. During this one-hour program entitled *Ultimate Money Skills College Funding*, parents will gain an understanding of how the college financing process works, including:

- How to plan for and manage college costs;
- Types of financial aid that are available;
- Options your family has in developing a college funding strategy;
- How colleges and universities look at a divorced household;
- How to send your child to college without risking your family's financial future; and
- An introduction to the FAFSA, its availability and deadline dates.

For more information, visit www.ultimatemoneyskills.com/collegefunding or contact the high school guidance office at (908) 754-4620.

BOE Appoints Interim Business Administrator

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education appointed Nicholas C. Puleio interim business administrator to replace Richard Guarini, the current business administrator. Guarini, who has been with the district since March 18, 2008, has accepted a position with the Ridgewood Board of Education. His last day in the district will be today.

Puleio started on November 29 at a salary of \$600 a day. The board also appointed him Affirmative Action

Officer for Equity in Employment Practices and Public Agency Compliance Officer, the liaison official with authority to make corrections to the district's Affirmative Action contracting procedures for matters concerning P.L. 1975 C127. He was also appointed custodian of school records, purchasing agent, food service representative and special education-Medicaid initiative co-coordinator.

A graduate of Parsons College with a degree in business administration, Puleio received a masters in education

from the College of New Jersey (formerly Trenton State College) in 1976. Most recently, Puleio was the interim business administrator/board secretary for the Branchburg Board of Education and from December 2006 to January 2009 he was state fiscal monitor for the Camden City School District. His prior experience includes 25 years as business administrator/board secretary in four districts: Brick Township, Laurence Township, Neptune Township and Spotswood.

Santa to Visit Parker Gardens

The holiday season is full of traditions, including the annual holiday open house at Parker Gardens in Scotch Plains. "Every year our customers and their families are invited to enjoy the beautiful sights and scents of the holidays during this special weekend," states owner Steve Parker. The open house is Saturday, Dec. 4 and Sunday, Dec. 5.

The favorite highlight of the weekend is none other than Santa himself. Santa will be at Parker's both days from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and, as usual, is

eager for children to visit with him. Families are encouraged to bring their cameras to take their picture with Santa. Refreshments will be served both days as well as live holiday music for all to enjoy.

Natural beauty surrounds you, holiday spirit fills you and inspiration finds you while visiting Parker Gardens during the holiday season.

For more information call (908) 322-5552 or visit www.parkergardens.com.

Holiday Giving For Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and used to purchase pet food for those in need. Thank you for your generosity and may you have happy and healthy holidays.

For more information, call (908) 755-2428.

Volunteers Sought For Superintendent Selection Committee

A committee to select the next South Plainfield Schools superintendent is being established by Board of Education President Jim Giannakis.

Giannakis is requesting parents, teachers, administrators, former members of the Board of Education and other community members to send their resumes to: Theresa Tempe, Human Resources Secretary, South Plainfield Public School, Roosevelt School Administration Bldg., 125 Jackson Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or tempe@spnet.k12.nj.us.

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Mission Schedule
December 4-8, 2010

Sat., Dec 4 4:30pm Vigil Mass
Sun., Dec 5 8:00am Mass
11:00am Mass (followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Procession)
Mon., Dec 6 8:00am Mass
7:30pm Prayer Service with Veneration of the Cross (Confession to follow)
Tue., Dec. 7 8:00am Mass
7:30pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Confession to follow)
Wed., Dec. 8 8:00am Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
7:30pm Mass - Feast of the Immaculate Conception

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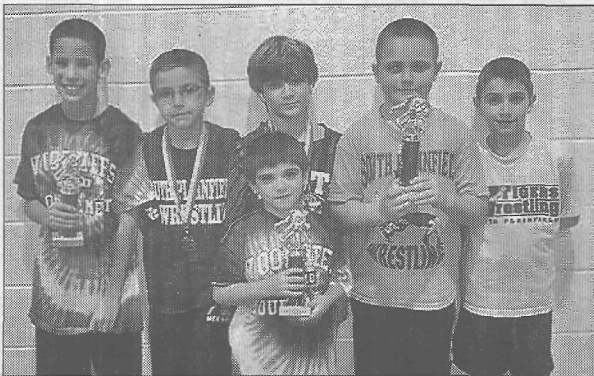


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Sports



SP Recreation Wrestlers Kick-off Season at Voorhees Turkey Day Tournament

Pictured: Justin Bell-first place, David Loniewski-second place, Joe Sacco-third place, Luke Niemeyer-first place, Jack Campagna-second place, Jacob DelVecchio-first place. Not pictured: Alex Amato-fourth place and Anthony Penyak.

Elks 38th Annual "Hoop Shoot" Set for Dec. 10

The local competition for the 38th Annual Elks Hoop Shoot®, the national free throw shooting contest for youngsters ages eight through 13, will be held at Riley School on Friday, Dec. 10. Registration will begin at 6 p.m. A copy of the contestant's birth certificate or passport is required. Trophies will be presented to the first, second and third place winners in each age/gender group.

Over three million youngsters from throughout the country entered last year's competition for boys and girls in age categories 8-9; 10-11; and 12-13. Each contestant has 25 shots at the hoop. The boy and girl in each age group with the best scores will advance to the Central District Contest to be held on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2011 at the PAL Building.

District winners will go on to the state contest, which will be held at South Plainfield High School on Sunday, Feb. 13. From the state, the winners will go on to compete in the Regional Contest and then National Contest, which will be held in Springfield, Mass. Names of the national winners will be inscribed on the Elks National "Hoop Shoot" plaque, on permanent display in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Any questions, please contact Bill Reuter at (908) 380-4863.



Pictured (L-R) are Kurt Manz, Joseph Celentano, Jimmy Geis and Michael Jazzikoff. Together, they completed the race in 2 hours and 46 minutes together as a part of a team of seven men. A proud moment it was to see them cross that finish line!

Four Compete in Tough Mudder Race

Four local South Plainfield residents competed in and completed the Tough Mudder endurance race which consisted of 18 obstacles in 12 miles of mud on November 20. Some of the obstacles were jumping off a 15-foot plank into freezing water to swim under floating barrels, cross over freezing water on monkey bars and balance beams, running through fire and smoke,

crawling under barbed wire, running up and down mud hills, crawling under mesh ropes in the mud, carrying tires up and down the mud hills, crawling through tunnels, scaling walls, and lastly, the surprise obstacle to run through electrified wires to be shocked while running. It is rated one of the toughest competitions on the planet.

—Submitted by Lisa Manz

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL NOTES

Final Spring Registration—Our final registration for the spring season will be held on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 to 4 p.m. at the clubhouse. Be sure to bring your child's birth certificate, if they are new to the SPJBC. Also, registration forms can be downloaded from the website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc. Once completed, just mail it to the address on the form. Registrations received after December 31 will incur a \$20 late fee. Timely registration is vital to identifying team needs and a smooth start to the baseball season.

Sign Sponsors—Attention all South Plainfield businesses! Want a great way to attract local patrons to your business? Become a sign sponsor with the SPJBC. Your name in front of thousands of local residents—just download the forms from our website or contact Gary Rohrer at (908) 380-3346 for more information.

General Meeting—Our next general meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Come on out and find out what's going on!

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SPHS Girls Volleyball Team Holds Awards Dinner

The South Plainfield High School Girls Volleyball Team held its annual awards dinner on November 12. The volleyball team competed in 25 varsity matches and 22 junior varsity contests this year. The varsity team finished with a record of 12-13 and the junior varsity team's record was 8-14.

There were 26 girls who participated in the program, with 16 receiving varsity letters. This was the best record ever for the varsity team which included its first ever state tournament game.

The team was led by senior captains Jenae Goodson and Veronica Ruiz. The statistical leaders were: best server-junior Asia Acevedo at 94%; most serving aces-Jenae Goodson with 74; most digs-Asia Acevedo with 78; most kills-Veronica Ruiz with 55; best hitting percentage-Nicole Disch at 22%; most blocks-Nicole Disch with 13; and most assists-Sofia Abd-Elhady with 178 (season high record). The team's most effective passer was Asia Acevedo with 71 passing percentage.

The team's co-MVPs were senior captains Jenae Goodson and Veronica Ruiz. Rookie of the Year was junior Alexis Cargill. Jenae Goodson, Veronica Ruiz and Sofia Abd-Elhady were named to the All White Division Team in the GMCs.

The coaching staff would like to thank the Board of Education, high school administration and the athletic department for their support as well as the support of the volleyball teams' parents and numerous fans who attended all of our matches. The team would also like to thank the South Plainfield Booster Club for all their help and support, as well as the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus for allowing us to use their facility for the annual awards dinner.

The SPHS Girls' Volleyball Team conducted a fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation in support of breast cancer awareness at their last home game, which was also its Senior Game. The team sold t-shirts, had a bake sale, sold key chains and collected donations prior to the game. The team collected \$1,086 and the varsity team wore pink jersey tops to help raise awareness. This effort was led by senior captain Veronica Ruiz. The team would like to thank all those in attendance and the Parsippany Hills Volleyball Team for supporting their effort. The team would also like to thank the South Plainfield Booster Club who supplied a pizza party for both teams at the conclusion of the match.

Submitted by John Ferguson, Head Coach-SPHS Girls Volleyball

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Sports

ARSENAL

By Mark Resende

Arsenal Wrap Up 2010 Fall Season

The South Plainfield Soccer Club U-12 Boys Team Arsenal completed their fall 2010 campaign with a record of 4-5-1. With the exception of two losses that were by more than three goals, every game was closely contested and with a few lucky bounces they easily would have won a few more games. Arsenal scored a total of 15 goals while surrendering 18, and allowed two goals or less in eight games, including three victories by shutout.

The final win of the season for Arsenal came on November 12 at home against the South Brunswick Thunder by the score of 2-0 in what would be the only night game of the season.

The first tally of the game came in the seventh minute off the foot of Dylan O'Connor when he redirected Jake Hoffman's pass from outside the box into the net for his first career goal. The second goal was scored only one minute later by Hoffman off of a pass from Jason Belanger.

All of the kids played well during

the season and never gave up even in the games they lost. Arsenal team members are Jason Belanger, Cristian Butrico, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jack Cochrane, Tyler Curtis, Jake Hoffman, Caleb Kuberiet, Jared Marks, Dylan O'Connor, Alec Pacz, Ricky Pellegrino, Nick Plate, Mason Resende, Jake Smith and Ryan Stankan.

Arsenal's coaches David Cieszkiewicz, Greg Hoffman and Steve Belanger treated the boys to dinner at Gabriele's Restaurant in Piscataway on November 19 to show their appreciation for the hard work that was put in during the season. The players and coaches would like to thank all of the parents and families for their dedication and support.

The spring portion of the schedule will start in March of 2011, when Arsenal will look to improve upon its record. Until then, we wish everybody happy holidays, and a safe, healthy and prosperous new year. Go Arsenal.

MS Football Vikings Beat Lehigh Valley Cardinals, 28-6

The South Plainfield MS Vikings beat the Pennsylvania Lehigh Valley Cardinals by a score of 28-6 on November 13 at the South Plainfield Eagles Football Field. This pivotal game was the wildcard game in the first round of the Big East Football Federation's Minor League playoffs.

The Vikings rushed for an outstanding 220 yards. Rasheem Clarke rushed for 66 yards and scored two touchdowns before suffering a minor injury. But that didn't stop the Vikings. They didn't miss a beat as fullback Kweku Lynch played the superb role and rushed for 11 carries totaling 72 yards. Inside linebacker Mark 'Doby' Dobiszewski not only led the team in seven tackles, but played fullback and cleared the way for Lynch on several runs.

The night's stars of the game were the entire Viking offensive line. Quarterback Shaun Thomas threw a 20-yard

pass to Lynch for a touchdown. Defensive linebacker Clarence "Murda" Goodman also had an outstanding night with six tackles and one sack as well as defensive end Jerome Smith with two sacks.

Many of these players have had both outstanding high school as well as college football careers. The sentiment around the field was unanimous; it is amazing to see this caliber of football played up-close and in our own backyard. The South Plainfield Eagles feel very fortunate to have forged such a relationship with this club.

The Vikings took on top-seeded and undefeated Division Champions Bridgewater in the semi-final round. Read next week's *Observer* for all the details of that game.

Knights Trivia Night Benefits Make-A-Wish Foundation

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 Fall Trivia Night Fundraiser was held on November 13 at the South Plainfield Senior Center. More than 100 people attended the event to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This is the fifth trivia night the Knights have held, raising about \$2,500.

Thirteen teams with eight to 10 people on each team competed for the coveted first place spot. The evening can best be described as individual parties that culminate in one big party.

Teams brought their own mini feasts, and after setting up their tables, the game began. There were 12 very diverse categories. Each team was asked 10 questions from each category. The team who answered the fastest in each round chose the next category. The questions were written by Knights members who were not participating in the game. The team with the most points at the end of the game was declared the winner. This year's prize amount was \$500.

The winners, the "Green Machine" headed by Scott Carey, defeated the reigning champs, "Joe and the Mamas." Green Machine team members consisted of Lisa Petroziello-Carone, Tom (Klu) Kaylen, Rich Veit, Jeff Pelton, Joe Kelly, Jeff Cantamessa, Dan Moran and Captain Scott Carey. The team generously donated the \$500 prize money back to the Knights of Columbus.

Carey noted, "Some friendly taunts ensued over a Cub Scout campfire in October. Joe Scudato, the team captain of the three year reigning champions of the trivia night fundraiser, began talk of a fourth championship title. I informed the captain that I would be doing my best to end his team's dominance and reign over this annual event by drafting a trivia 'dream team.'"

The Green Machine team, comprised of a panel of "experts" from a variety of fields, are all SPHS 1980s graduates.

"I had a blast drafting the team. I don't think the team members had ever been in the same room together and I did my best to cover a variety of subject areas. In the end, the combination of talents and backgrounds proved to be a winning one. Despite the 20+



(L-R) The Green Machine—Scott Carey, Dan Moran, Jeff Cantamessa, Tom (Klu) Kaylen, Lisa Petroziello-Carone, Rich Veit, Joe Kelly and Jeff Pelton

years away from SPHS, it felt great to win one for our hometown. We're looking forward to defending our title during the next trivia event."

The Knights have sponsored trivia night once or twice a year for the past three years, donating over \$8,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation which grants terminally ill children and their

family special wishes.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was Bill Butrico, and Charlie Butrico served as judge. Knights member Bob Walker helped ask the questions and verified the answers. Oak Tree Buy-Rite Liquors owner Dan Ratti donated a case of wine to be used as door prizes.

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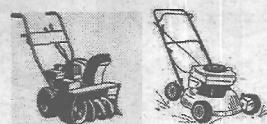
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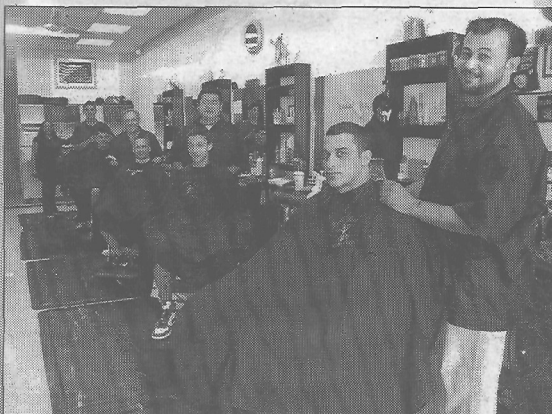
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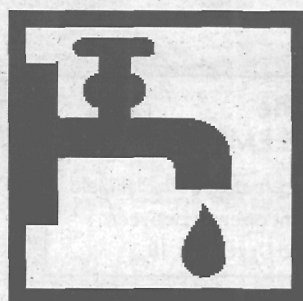
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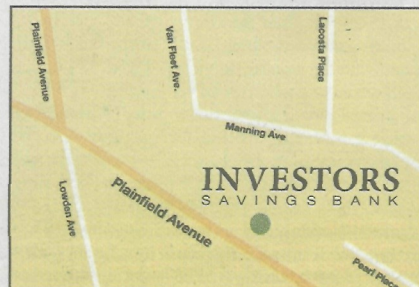
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Member FDIC

Franklin School students Abigail Lapp and Brianna Slover read their essays honoring veterans at the school's annual Veterans Day program on November 11.

To Thank a Veteran

By Abigail Lapp-Grade 3

Our Armed Forces help give us freedom and keep us safe. Veterans come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The one thing that they all have in common is bravery. They fight night and day for their country.

I give them all a big thank you from the bottom of my heart. I would like to serve my country because both my grampas were veterans. One was in the Army and one was in the Marines.



Veterans

By Brianna Slover-Grade 4

Brave, heroic and helpful are all things that describe our troops. Our troops fight battles in the air, on land and overseas every day. That's why I am proud to be an American. Our troops are out there risking their lives trying to end wars and make fair rules, like our country. Did you know not all countries are fair? In some countries women are not allowed to go to school or learn how to read. We are lucky to live in this country. If our troops were not by our sides, our country would be turned upside down; rules would be left and right. That's why I took time out to do this—just like troops do every day to fight wars—and to think about what they have done for us and what we can do for them! I am very proud of them.



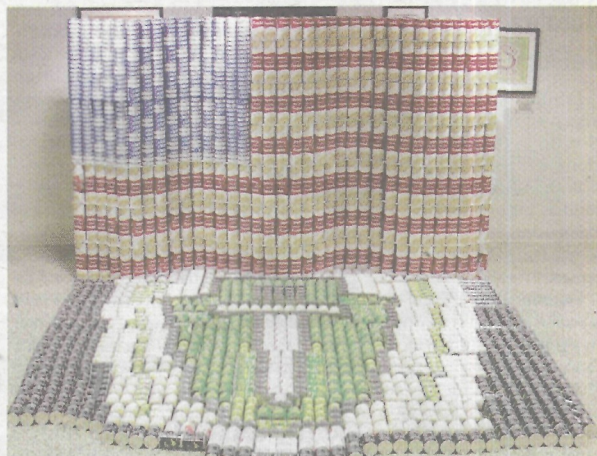
Cornerstone Architectural Group Participates in CANstruction Competition

For the second year in a row, Cornerstone Architectural Group participated in the 12th annual AIA-NJ CANstruction competition held at the Prudential Center on November 11.

Teams consisting of local architecture and construction firms designed and built sculptures out of canned food items. The entries are built in one day and judged based on their design and execution. The canned food is later donated to local food banks.

Cornerstone designed a structure in keeping with the theme of "Newark, NJ" and also honoring Veterans Day. The final sculpture was a 10 foot long American flag flying over Newark's Military Park. Completed in 1661, the park originally served to recruit and train local troops. Military Park will soon be undergoing extensive rehabilitation as part of the continued revitalization of downtown Newark.

Cornerstone's design, titled "Join the Fight," was a massive structure. The overall design incorporated 3,188 cans weighing over 1.5 tons. The flag consisted of 810 cans of Campbell's chicken noodle soup, 920 cans of Starkist tuna, and 425 cans of Bumble Bee tuna. The park consisted of 240 cans of corn, 313 cans of Tostitos tomato sauce, 161 cans of green



"Join the Fight" structure designed by Cornerstone Architectural Group.

beans, 85 cans of Carnation condensed milk, and 234 cans of artichoke hearts. The total donation from all nine teams was a record 45,001 pounds of canned food, all of which was donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Cornerstone Architectural Group would like to thank all of the sponsors who helped to support this year's event: Unity Construction Services Inc., Harrison-Hammnett, Shop-Rite

of Hunterdon County, Finelite, Alexandria and Mark Goggin, SHI International Corp., Becht Engineering, Ankur International Inc., The 2E Technology Group LLC, Associates in Cardiovascular LLC, Structural Concepts Inc., Charles Mann General Contractors Inc., Jeff Maglietta, Robert Bryant, Jeffery Beeden, Corporate Environmental Services Inc., Anthony and Cheryl LaTrelli, Vino's Custom Millwork and Pella Windows.

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel to Celebrate Christmas


Your friends at Cedarcroft Bible Chapel cordially invites the South Plainfield community to celebrate Christmas with them on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.

On Sunday morning, the Cedarcroft choir will present an inspiring message through the selected music of two cantatas, *One King* and *One of Us*. Let your soul be refreshed as you hear, once again, about the "miracle and the mystery" of the birth of Jesus Christ who was born "to save His people from their sins."

On Sunday evening, the Sunday School children will present their an-

nual Christmas program through a play centered around a live nativity scene. Come at 6 p.m. to get a close-up view of the animals at the manger and be part of the program as the children present the Christmas story at 6:30 p.m. Following the program, refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall of the chapel.

Cedarcroft is located at 1715 Kenyon Ave. All are welcome! In case of inclement weather, the evening program will be postponed until Sunday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. Consult our website, www.cedarcroft.org, for any change of date because of weather.



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Obituaries

Dorothy M. (Burleigh) DeFrance, 83

Dorothy M. (Burleigh) DeFrance passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Nov. 16 at the Woodlands Nursing Home in Plainfield.

Born in Rahway, she was raised in Linden before moving to South Plainfield in 1961, then moved back to her family home in Linden with her sisters.

Dorothy was a TV and movie buff who also enjoyed crossword puzzles. As a young girl, she was introduced to dance and singing and performed at theaters in Elizabeth. She danced with Bill "Bojangles" Robinson in her youth. She was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother and aunt who will be sadly missed.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband of 52 years, William Paul, who passed away in 1999; her mother, Mae, and her father, David.

Surviving is a loving son, William and wife Dawn of Alpha; a cherished granddaughter, Miranda; a brother, David Burleigh and wife Marge of Katonah, N.Y.; two sisters, Mae Jane McGinty of Linden and Nikki Lynn Burleigh of Linden.

Dorothy was also a devoted aunt to two nieces, four great-nieces, three nephews, four great-nephews and one great-great niece, Brittany, with whom she had a special bond.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Raul R. Martinez, 53

Raul R. Martinez passed away at his residence on Sunday, Nov. 14 surrounded by his family.

Born in Huanuni, Bolivia, Mr. Martinez immigrated to the United States in 1966 and resided in Hoboken since the time he was nine years old.

He was formerly employed as a project manager with Able Laboratories, Inc. of South Plainfield for seven years and previously worked as a draftsman with NJ Machinery for 12 years.

Mr. Martinez was a devout Jehovah's Witness and an avid sports enthusiast who enjoyed reading, spending time with his family and taking many family trips with his wife and son.

He was the beloved husband of 33 years to Gloria (Wong); devoted father of Joshua B.; cherished son of Eduardo and the late Francisca; dear brother of Gladys, Jorge, Edwin, Walter and Nancy. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Private arrangements were under the direction of The South Plainfield Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family.

Frederick J. Sonnenfeld, 88

Frederick J. Sonnenfeld passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at JFK Medical Center in Edison after a brief illness.

Born in Rutherford, he grew up in Newark and settled in South Plainfield in 1956.

A WWII veteran, Fred joined the Merchant Marines in 1943 and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944. He served overseas in the European Theater and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his heroic actions prior to his honorable discharge in 1946.

Initially employed as a shipping clerk for Tungsol in Newark from 1946 until 1962, he joined the United States Postal Service, South Plainfield branch, as a letter carrier and later worked as a distribution clerk before his retirement in 1984.

He was a longtime faithful communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. Fred was a master bird carver. He spent many hours detailing his wooden birds and showing them at various local craft shows. In addition to his passion for bird carving, Fred also enjoyed refinishing furniture, picture framing and gardening. He often donated many of his vegetables from his extensive garden to St. Mary's Church and the Salvation Army's soup kitchens.

He is predeceased by two sisters, Evelyn Johnson and Janet Gesell.

Fred is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Mary (Floro); two daughters and their husbands, Kathy and Michael Wozniak of South Plainfield and Joan and Brian McCormack of Bound Brook; a son and wife, Mark and Maryann of East Windsor; and a brother, Henry Sonnenfeld. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Jennifer Luizza and husband Charlie and Caitlin McCormack; and three great-grandchildren, Julianna, Charlie and Sofia.

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

Memorial donations in his memory may be made to Plainfield Salvation Army, 615 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or to the Disabled American Veterans, Attn: Gift Processing, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301 or www.dav.org.

Frank A. Schneider, 76

Frank A. Schneider passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at Care One the Highlands in Edison.

Born in Union, he had lived in South Plainfield since 1960.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1956 aboard the USS Fiske as a torpedo man.

Frank worked for Jacobson & Co. in Elizabeth as a carpenter until opening his own business, Quality Interior Systems in South Plainfield, before retiring in 2002.

He was a member of the Carpenters Local #715 and was past president of Drywall Interior Systems Contractors of N.J. for four years. He was also a member of the South Plainfield Building Board of Appeals.

Frank held a private pilot license flying out of Hadley Airport and later owned his own Cessna based at the former Kupper Airport, now Central Jersey Airport in Manville.

He is predeceased by his father, Frank; his mother, Emma and a sister, Charlotte Wisert.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Kay; three daughters, Kimberly Jeanette, Stacey O'Neill and Laurie Schneider; and four grandchildren,

Tyler, Aimee, Ryan and Katelyn.

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

Donations may be made to the Alzheimers Association, Northern N.J. Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251 Denville, N.J. 07834.

Norene A. (Richardson) DeCaro, 80

Norene A. (Richardson) DeCaro died on Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Bernardsville, Mrs. DeCaro resided in Morristown and spent the majority of her life in Piscataway before moving to Edison nearly nine years ago.

She worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Karlsberg in Piscataway for a few years.

She is predeceased by her husband, Vincent; a sister and a brother.

Surviving are three daughters, Debra DiGiovanni and husband Raymond of Lebanon, Barbara Ward and husband Stephen of Edison and Norene Thomson of North Plainfield; a son, Arthur DeCaro and wife Jeanne of Florida; a sister, Kay Philhower of Morristown; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

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

Anna D. (Ballome) Caruso, 87

Anna D. (Ballome) Caruso died on Wednesday, Nov. 17 at her son's home.

Born in Plainfield, Anna resided in Middlesex and North Plainfield for a short time before settling in Plainfield where she lived for most of her life.

She was employed with Sav-On Drug stores for 23 years where she worked in Plainfield, Blue Star Shopping Center in Watchung and the Carteret store before retiring at 65.

Mrs. Caruso did the ever so important behind the scenes work for the Dough Boys Band and the Caruso Big 5 Basketball Team.

Anna is predeceased by her husband, Michael Caruso, who died in May 2001 and a sister, Angelina Orłowski.

Surviving are three sons, Michael J. (Gretchen) of Pittstown, Frank R. of South Plainfield and John T. of Phillipsburg and three grandchildren, Ryan, Kelly and Angela.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105.

Walter Kurilew Sr., 89

Walter Kurilew Sr. died on Saturday, Nov. 20 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Volgograd, Russia, Walter entered the Russian Army during WWII and served as a sergeant. He was wounded during battle, captured by the German Army and forced into a concentration camp where he met his wife, Cecilia, who was a nurse's aide in the same camp.

Upon his release from the concentration camp, Walter and his wife resided in Germany and had two daughters, Renata and Nina. In 1951 the family immigrated to the United States arriving in New Orleans and for a short time lived in Oklahoma. The following year in 1952 Walter moved his family to Millville and in 1953 finally settled in South Plainfield.

He worked for the Hood Chemical Company in South Plainfield and later for the Reheis Chemical Company in Berkeley Heights.

Mr. Kurilew was an avid sportsman and loved the outdoors. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons, was an outstanding gardener and a member of the Polish National Home in South Plainfield.

He is predeceased by his wife, Cecilia; a sister and two brothers.

Surviving are six children, Renata Cervati and husband Leo of South Plainfield, Nina Pavao and husband Ronald of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Victor Kurilew and wife Laurie, Walter Kurilew Jr. and wife Gwenn, Michael Kurilew and wife Nancy and Eugene Kurilew, all of South Plainfield; 14 grandchildren, Michael Kurilew and wife Michelle, Marla Geis and husband Jimmy, Mathew Kurilew and wife Jennifer, Shelley King and husband Justin, Victor Kurilew and wife Dana, Kristen DeLucca and husband Michael, Natasha and Alyssa Kurilew, Stefanie Pavao, Brad Pavao and wife Beth, Joseph Cervati and Donna Sabbagh and husband Michael, Taylor and Troy Kurilew.

Also surviving are 10 great-grandchildren, Michael Jr., Ava and Deacon Kurilew, Madison and Mason Geis, Benny and Sophia DeLucca, Rylee and Jaxon King and Mason Pavao.

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

Mary A. (Coppola) Curtis

Mary A. (Coppola) Curtis passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, Nov. 24.

Born in New York City, she was one of nine children born to the late Assunta and Biaggio Coppola. She was raised in Plainfield and later resided in North Plainfield for many years before recently moving to South Plainfield.

(Continued on next page)

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Congratulations Anthony! #1 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Anthony Barge, mom Nicole, and sisters Autumn and Ariana. Anthony's dad, Jaimie, is not pictured.

Obituaries

Mary attended Plainfield Schools and was employed by the former Howell Electric Company in Plainfield for 40 years prior to her retirement.

She is a former member of the North Plainfield Italian American Club's Women Auxiliary and St. Joseph's RC Church.

She is predeceased by two sisters, Angie Viano and Fortune Weber, and three brothers, Michael, Frank and George Coppola.

Surviving are her husband of 62 years, David; a daughter, Susan and husband Dominick Costabile; a sister, Rose Carroccia; and two brothers, Anthony and John Coppola.

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

Margaret "Marge" A. (Reid) McCarthy

Margaret "Marge" A. (Reid) McCarthy died suddenly on Wednesday, Nov. 24 in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Marge settled in South Plainfield in the mid 1960s.

She was employed as a manager for AT&T in Bernardsville for 14 years before her retirement. In addition, Marge had served as the president of the women's auxiliary of the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

Her son, Michael McCarthy, died in 2006. She is also predeceased by two brothers, Harold and Frank Reid.

Surviving are her husband, Bill; a daughter, Kelly Villares and husband John of South Plainfield; a son, Shawn McCarthy and wife Tara of Florida; a sister, Ellen McCarren; and four dear grandchildren, Lauren, Zachary, Connor and Julianne.

Private funeral services were under the direction of McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

LindaMarie Ann (McCaffrey) Poczak, 52

LindaMarie Ann (McCaffrey) Poczak died suddenly on Thursday, Nov. 25 at her residence.

Born in New Brunswick, Linda lived in Edison before moving to South Plainfield six years ago.

Linda graduated from Rutgers University with a B.A. in accounting in 1982 and was a member of their basketball team in 1981-82. She was employed by Nischwitz Company in South Plainfield as an accountant and was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. She was an avid Rutgers and N.Y. Jets fan.

Linda is survived by her husband, Allen Poczak, and by a half-sister and half-brother, Terry and William of Edison.

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

Eugene Rinker, 88

Eugene Rinker died on Sunday, Nov. 28 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Union, Mr. Rinker grew up on a farm in Whitehouse and lived in North Plainfield and Scotch Plains prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1950.

Eugene served with the Navy during WWII from 1942 through 1946.

He was a carpenter by trade and was a member of the Local Carpenter's Union #155. Mr. Rinker enjoyed trips to Atlantic City where he kept up with horse racing and also played poker and rummy. During his spare time along with his carpentry background, Eugene built whirly gigs, wishing wells and dog houses.

He is predeceased by the love of his life Doris, who died in 2007; four sisters, Bucla, Blanch, Audrey and Shirley; and three brothers, Milton, Edward and Donald Rinker.

Surviving are a daughter, Robin Rinker of South Plainfield; a son, Glenn Rinker and Marica Van Demark of N.Y.; a sister, Hazel Nargi of N.Y.; and three brothers, Jerry of Florida, Arnold of Florida and Merrill of N.Y. Also surviving are two grandchildren, Charlotte Kaplan and husband Adam and Brandon Rinker; and two great grandchildren, Madison and Aidan Kaplan.

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

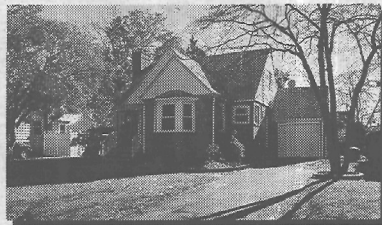
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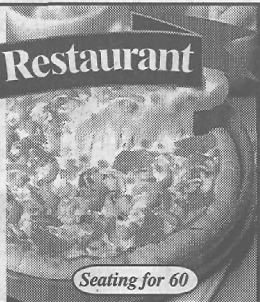
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Girl Scouts Clean up Stream—South Plainfield Girl Scout Troop 14 trudged through the stream between the high school and Spring Lake Park on November 20 in an effort to clean up the garbage that accumulated there. The girls discovered large amounts of trash along the edge of the stream behind the tennis courts. Alice Tempel provided garbage reachers, and the girls brought nets to scoop trash from the stream. Due to the heavy rain the week prior, much of the trash ran downstream into Spring Lake and beyond, but the girls were able to collect five large bags of trash along about 50 feet of the stream.

To Promote & Protect Public Health & Welfare

MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Ronald G. Rios, Chair, Committee of Public Health & Education

Holiday and Winter Flu Prevention

The holiday season is a good time to spread cheer, but not germs. As we shop, travel and get together with friends and family to celebrate, we also increase our chances of being exposed to germs and flu. Since no one wants to spend the holidays sick in bed, here are a few simple tips to avoid spreading or being exposed to viruses, bacteria and other germs.

To kick off a healthy holiday season right, December begins with National Handwashing Awareness Week (December 5-11). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, handwashing is the single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading germs to others. It is best to wash hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds. If soap and clean water are not available, use an alcohol-based product like hand sanitizer to clean your hands.

When should you wash your hands? Before preparing or eating food; after going to the bathroom; after changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has gone to the bathroom; before and after tending to someone who is sick; after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; after handling an animal or animal waste; after handling garbage and before and after treating a cut or wound.

For more information on National Handwashing Awareness Week, please visit www.cdc.gov/cleanhands.

Another important way to protect yourself, your family and friends this holiday season is to get a flu vaccine. Dr. Susan Walsh, deputy commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, recently received her flu vaccination at the Middlesex County Public Health Department seasonal flu clinic in Metuchen and encouraged residents to get vaccinated. The Middlesex County Public Health Department has added adult flu clinics in the municipalities of Perth Amboy, Sayreville and New Brunswick, and three pediatric flu clinics in New Brunswick.

For the times and locations of the county's clinics, visit www.co.middlesex.nj.us/publichealth/flu-clinics.asp or call (732) 745-3100. Residents can also search for flu clinics sponsored by other local health departments throughout the state by visiting www.web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/flu/flu_schedules.aspx.

In addition to washing hands often and getting a seasonal flu shot, residents can practice other healthy habits to prevent the flu and other illnesses. Cover coughs and sneezes. Stay home if you are sick. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and clean and disinfect shared objects.

Following these simple tips can help you and your family have a germ-free holiday season. I wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday.

Youth Volunteers Honored

(Continued from page 1)

Homecoming Pageant and many high school sporting events. He served as president of the N.J. State Federation of Umpires and was plate umpire for several state final games. He has served on the Recreation Commission since 1984 and was president for over 22 years.

Bills' son, Brian, recalled the early years when his dad was a police officer and how many times they were just ready to sit down and eat and he had to leave. He added that his father's volunteerism has already begun to rub off on him. For years, he has been his dad's right hand in the booth at the high school football games, helping to spot the players and keep time. "I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for not only what you've done and the time you've given to this community, but also instilling in me a strong sense of community and instilling in me a strong sense of pride," he concluded. Speaking about her dad, daughter Michelle said, "Serving the commu-

nity and family and affecting others; not for the thank you's, not for the recognition and not for the pat on the back; for him it was about giving back to your community. And that is my dad!"

The Cappy Award is named in honor of Deputy Chief of Police Tulio Capparelli. The inscription on a plaque hanging at the PAL reads:

"This site is dedicated to Deputy Chief Tulio 'Cappy' Capparelli, a man devoted to his family, his community and the youth of South Plainfield. Through his efforts generations of South Plainfield children have been able to expand their horizons and further develop their physical and mental potential..."

A plaque honoring Cochrane and Plate will hang on the wall at the PAL alongside former Cappy Award winners Ed Niemczyk, Charles Decker, Salvatore "Buddy" Severini, Philip Aiello, Richard Curcio, Armando "Artie" Fiore, Owen Kelly, Nancy Pauls, Jack English and Art Devine.

The SPHS Athletic Booster Club is hosting a toy drive to benefit area students. Toys and gift cards, such as gas and clothing cards for teens, will be accepted through the first week of December. Please help our less fortunate neighbors this holiday season.

The high school girls' soccer team's 31 athletes marched in the Brain Aneurism Awareness program to support Head Coach Danielle Chiera, who survived a brain aneurism in May 2007.

The high school varsity volleyball team participated in a game against Parsippany/Troy Hills for Coach Rich Fonte to support breast cancer research. The Booster Club supplied pizza for both teams. The Booster Club is also in need of volunteers for the indoor winter games to set up, take down and sell snacks. Contact Mickey Wrublevski in the athletic office. Middle school parents are also welcome to assist.

The boys soccer team dinner will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Senior Center from 6 to 10 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

Cost is \$25 per person. Gift cards and basket donations are being accepted.

The Middle School PTO is still in need of the \$30 per child activity fee that helps sponsor the cultural arts program, Battle of the Books, Battle of the Teams, honor roll and seventh grade picnics, eighth grade dinner/dance and a portion of the Washington, D.C. trip. The Yankee Candle fundraiser should arrive this week. The Joe Corbi fundraiser will arrive the second week of December. Check the PTO website at spmiddle-schoolpto.webs.com for updates.

Thank you to Carolyn Allen of TD Bank for helping to open an account in support of Eric LeGrand, the injured Rutgers football player. Contact Erica Bowden to purchase wristbands in support of Eric.

The South Plainfield Business Association will hold a blood drive in honor of resident Gerald Bartolotti who sustained serious injuries

in a truck accident in November. The drive will take place on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the Senior Center from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For information, call Carl Adlassnig at (908) 757-1933.

Don't forget to donate unwanted high school green and white graduation gowns to Debbie Boyle which will be given to the Guidance Department at the school for students in need. Call her at (908) 803-1573.

Congratulations to the middle and high school students involved in athletics and music programs for their sportsmanship and team support. Your show of sportsmanship is noticed by the coaches and is promoted in the school system. Unsportsmanlike conduct, bullying and disruptive attitudes are not tolerated by the athletic director and coaches.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation telethon calls will begin on Monday, Dec. 6. For information, call Marge Reedy at (908) 561-5800. High school students are welcome to join in and help.

School Board Bids Farewell to Richard Guarini

By Libby Barsky

Members of the Board of Education gave a warm goodbye to Richard Guarini who leaves the district today for a similar position as business administrator/board secretary for the Ridgewood School District.

"I couldn't let him go off to greater endeavors without publicly thanking him for his service to our schools as business administrator and board secretary," wrote former BOE member Bob Jones, who served as chair of the Finance Committee and often worked closely with Guarini in that capacity.

"Richard Guarini has always been, and will always be, a gentleman. It's

not easy dealing with nine board members. Despite the difficulty of that, Richard was always a smiling and polite face, even when he disagreed with you. Indeed, there were plenty of times Richard and I saw things from opposite points of view.

"I also know from working with Richard that he is someone who can be counted on for candor and honesty," wrote Jones.

He ended his letter with comments on the staff members who worked with Guarini, writing, "How you treat the people you work for is one thing. How you treat the people who work for you is often another. Richard treats everyone who works with him with loyalty

and respect. His people are fiercely loyal to him, just as he is to them."

Board members repeated in their own words Jones' assessment of Guarini, repeating the refrain of board member Carol Byrne. "He was always a gentleman."

In leaving, Guarini is creating a similar situation as the one he found when he first came to the district. Donna Tolley had resigned in December 2007 and interim business administrator George Sarnoff was appointed to take over the position. At a recent board meeting Nicholas C. Pulcio was appointed interim business administrator at the rate of \$600 a day.

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"While assistance with buying foreclosures is important to home buyers," explains Moretti, "sellers can also benefit when their listing agents understands short sale process, foreclosure prevention methods and creative financing options to open up the market to more buyers who can qualify for the purchase."

Moretti is the broker/owner of Century 21 Moretti Realty and has been working in the real estate industry for 33 years. Moretti Realty, with offices in Middlesex and Somerset, has been serving the real estate needs of its neighbors for over 50 years.

Moretti is also founder and president of Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., which provides financial support to the families of children battling cancer.

For more information, please call (908) 755-5300, ext. 301.

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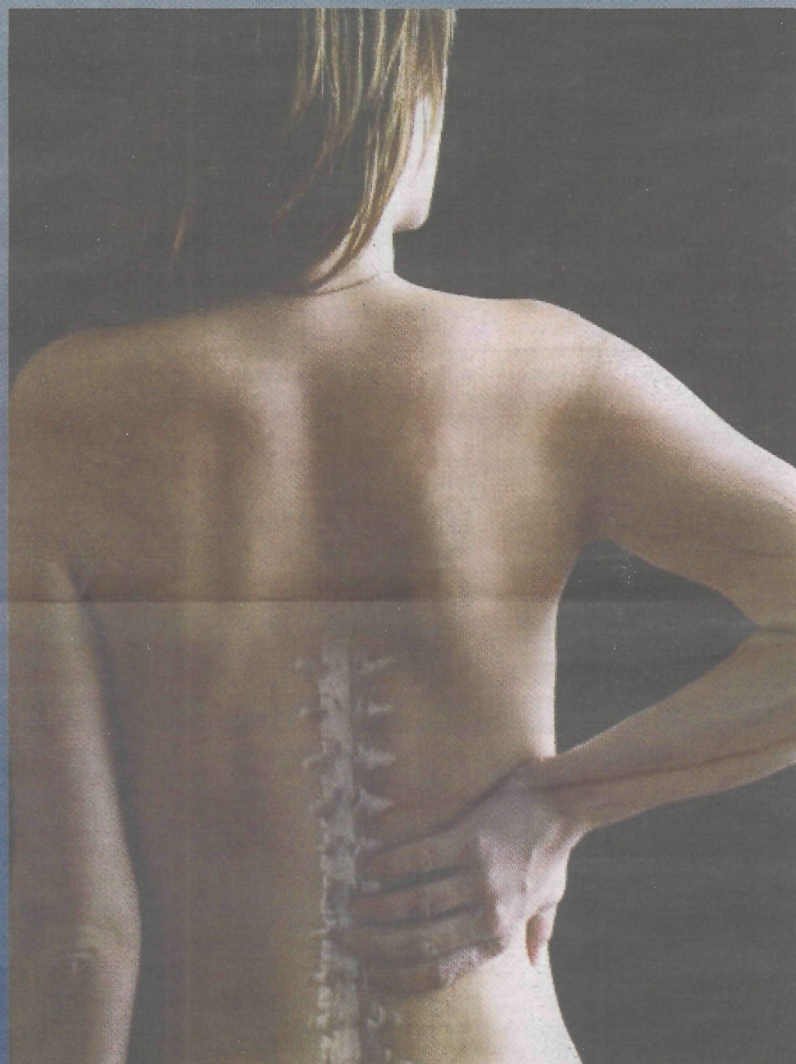
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