

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 14, NO. 15

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

DECEMBER 17, 2010



SPHS students Thalia Lopez, Rachael Rotella, Veronica Ruiz and Curly Ashnault joined many other volunteers last Saturday to help wrap the donated toys and gifts that Social Services Director Marge Ackerman has collected for families in need during this holiday season.

GOP Nominates Three to Fill Vacant Council Seat

The South Plainfield Republican Organization announced that they will be choosing from three of their members to fill the Borough Council seat vacated by Council President Matt Anesh when he is sworn in as mayor at the annual reorganization meeting at the Senior Center on January 2 at 1 p.m. Anesh will be the town's first Republican mayor in 23 years.

The nominees are Bob Jones, a former BOE member and party chair and current Zoning Board of Adjustment member; Alex Barletta, Zoning Board chairman; and Derrick White, Republican Committee member.

According to Anesh, an appointment could be made as early as the December 20 public meeting, or it will be announced on January 2. "The committee has come up with three very good individuals," said Anesh, who believes the party has a "very bright future."

Republican Councilmen Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak also retained their seats in the November 2 election. The GOP will remain in control of the council, holding four of the six seats.

A special election will be held in November 2011 to fill the remaining year of Anesh's three-year term on the council.

Residential Sewer Rates To Rise 8.6%

By Libby Barsky

The Borough Council introduced an ordinance at its December 6 meeting increasing the fee structure for the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) residential, commercial and industrial users. Homeowners will see their bill go up 8.6%, from \$290 to \$315. The minimum commercial rate will be \$580, a 10% increase.

Voting in favor of the increase were Republicans Matthew Anesh, Rob Bengivenga, Tim McConville and Ray Rusnak. Councilwoman Chrisy Buteas voted against the measure. Franky Salerno was not present.

According to Borough CFO/Administrator Glenn Cullen, the increases are due in part to the reduction of industrial customers who went out of business.

The MCUA has also actively

(Continued on page 10)

Schools Implement Plans of Action to Improve Assessments

In order to demonstrate how district students interact with Study Island, a web-based program that provides individualized reading and math programs, Grant School fifth and sixth graders Michael Behr and Jason Belanger involved all those present at the November BOE meeting to take part in an impromptu session of "Are You Smarter than a Fifth (Sixth) Grader?"

After reading a selection projected on a large screen by Michael, the

public had the opportunity to read a nonfiction passage and then find the right answer to a series of questions. The same procedure was demonstrated by Jason, who projected on screen a mathematical problem. Students have been given passwords so they can access Study Island materials at home as well as at school.

Study Island is just one of the innovative methods Grant School has been

(Continued on page 10)

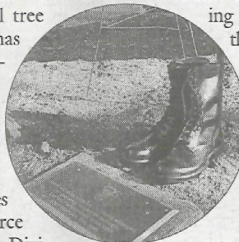
Tree Lighting, Caroling Saturday

The McCriscin-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 commemorates 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.

Members of the SPHS Marching Band and members of the Middle School Chorus, will lead the caroling from the funeral home down Plainfield Avenue and ending at Flanagan's Restaurant, where refreshments 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.



Brian Shaw donates blood at the South Plainfield Business Association blood drive in honor of resident Gerald Bartolotti on December 11 at the Senior Center.

Gerald Bartolotti Blood Drive Draws Overwhelming Response

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA)-sponsored blood drive held on Saturday in honor of Gerald Bartolotti drew close to 100 donors. Bartolotti, who lives in South Plainfield with his wife and Franklin School fourth grade son, was seriously injured in a recent truck accident.

Donors began to arrive at the Senior Center shortly before 9 a.m., and

continued to stream in well after the scheduled 2:30 p.m. closing time.

Due to the overwhelming turnout, the N.Y. Blood Center ran out of blood collection bags and the last 15 donors were asked to go to Scotch Plains to donate.

The N.Y. Blood Center collected a total 72 units of blood at the drive. Some of the donors had to be turned away for medical reasons. All donors received a pair of NJ Nets basketball tickets and a Chick-Fil-A coupon.

In addition to blood donations, many residents offered monetary contributions to the Gerald Bartolotti Trust Fund, which is administered through a bank account set up on behalf of his family at Columbia Bank on Oak Tree Avenue. Check donations can still be made payable to "Gerald Bartolotti Trust Fund" and mailed to Columbia Bank, 620 Oak Tree Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

The drive was chaired by SPBA member, Carl Adlassnig. Volunteers from the SPBA who also assisted were Nancy Grennier, Marge Reedy, Debbie Boyle and Kelly Stashko.

Anyone still wishing to donate blood may do so at the N.Y. Blood Center, 2279 South Ave. in Scotch Plains.

The South Plainfield Business Association would like to thank all who turned out to give the gift of life.

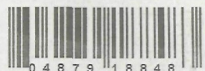


Tell Santa Your Holiday Wishes at Senior Ctr. Breakfast

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.



Congratulations to the Eagles Midget Cheer squad and coaches who took first place in their division at the National Cheer Championships on December 10 at the Milkhouse in Walt Disney World, Florida. See next week's Observer for more details.



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

FYI

Borough Council 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 20 December 20

Reorganization Meeting January 2 at 1 p.m. at the Senior Center

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

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

board of education

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

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

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

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

Feb. 16, March 16, April 6.

BOE curriculum/technology/student activities

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

BOE buildings & grounds

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

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

business advisory group

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

ad hoc alternative truck route committee

(January date to be announced) at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

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

South Plainfield Observer

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

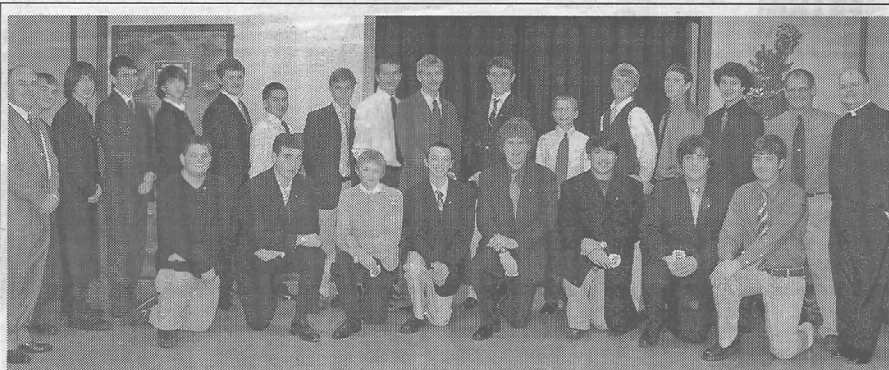
We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To get an article published: Type (double spaced) the article and mail, email or fax. Include name, address and telephone number. **Deadline for submission is Monday, 5 p.m.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.



Knights Induct New Squires—The Knights of Columbus Council #6203 held the 2010 Squire Induction Ceremony on December 5. Eight new squires joined the growing ranks of the Knights of Columbus youth organization. Squire mentors Bill Butrico and Steve Belanger organized the ceremony, and Father Damien Breen gave a special invocation. New squires (kneeling, L-R): Troy Kurilew, William Waldrop, Matthew Resende, Brian Roesch, James Boettcher, John DeLacruz, Joseph Waldrop, William Walsh; current squires and adult mentors (standing, L-R): Steve Belanger, Kevin Belanger, Brendan Berry, Kevin Flanagan, Tom Riccardi, Chief Squire Ryan Bundy, Drew Catalina, Charlie Butrico, Luke Sprenger, James Butrico, Albert Vill, Matthew Belanger, Adam Butrico, Ryan Marcoux, Collin Berry, Bill Butrico and Father Damien Breen.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

On December 11 the South Plainfield Business Association sponsored a blood drive in honor of Jerry Bartolotti who was severely injured in a trucking accident. South Plainfield showed its true colors that day. Almost 100 people came out to donate and we were able to collect 72 pints of blood. These donations are truly the gift of life.

Due to the great turnout, N.J. Blood Services has graciously offered a \$500 donation to the Bartolotti Family. \$150 in monetary donations for the Bartolotti Family was also collected the day of the drive. I would like to thank everyone who made this drive a huge success!

**CARL ADLASSNIG, CHAIRMAN
SPBA BLOOD DRIVE**

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation completed its annual telethon fundraiser the week of December 6. The students raised over \$6,500 in pledges during the week.

For those who made pledges to our students, thank you very much! Please mail your pledges to the foundation as soon as you can. We will distribute the money to various groups before May 2011.

We also mailed letters to every resident of South Plainfield. Look for

your letter in the mail. Our newest brochure is included so you can see what the foundation has been involved in over the year—and the upcoming events as well. Also check out our website at www.vision2001.org. We will have the updated information there soon. We held our raffle on December 9; congratulations to our winners—Frank Mikorski, Dawn Wallis, Charles Koestner, Debbie Boyle and Steve Agrista.

There are so many people to thank for making this telethon a huge success—first, the school district and Dr. Bowen for helping us get this off the ground; the administrators at the high school for their help each evening, especially Ralph Errico. Mr. Errico worked with the students and we had over 25 students each night. Thank you to all of the students for all their hard work and effort! Without them we wouldn't have done nearly as well.

We would like to thank Sodexo and Mary Cameron for providing the soda, water and paper goods each night; Ciccio's Pizza, Hometown Heros and Papa John's Pizza for helping us with

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.

the food each night; and the members of our foundation who paid for the food each night and for helping each and every night. Also thanks to Rich at Presto Printing for donating the raffle tickets each year; all of our supplies are produced by Rich.

Thank you again to our entire community for helping the foundation continue to provide incentive programs in our district, and to continue our scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

SINCERELY,

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Nurse Executives of New Jersey Honor Chrissy Buteas

Chrissy Buteas, public affairs associate at Capital Impact Group, was honored on December 3 by The Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey (ONE/NJ). Buteas was the co-recipient of the Impact Award, along with Elizabeth Ryan, president of the New Jersey Hospital Association.

The Impact Award is given on an annual basis to the "individual, group or organization who demonstrates an overall commitment to improving healthcare in New Jersey."

Past Impact Award winners include Governor Dick Codey, Senator Joe Vitale, Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Dr. Fred Jacobs, head of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and former NJ Health Commissioner.

The Impact Award was presented to Buteas at ONE/NJ's Annual Holiday Meeting and Awards Brunch at

the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township. The event was attended by aspiring nursing leaders and chief nursing officers from hospitals throughout the State of New Jersey.

"We are pleased to present Chrissy with our Impact Award as her passion and commitment to the nursing industry truly makes her one of us," said Deanna Sperling, MAS, RN, CNA, BC, president of ONE/NJ. "Chrissy's work on various pieces of state legislation in 2010 epitomizes what the Impact Award is all about."

In 2010, Buteas championed state legislation that was developed to improve the nursing industry and advancement opportunities for nurses.

"I am completely flattered by this honor as it was unexpected to me," said Buteas. "It means a lot to me to be recognized by ONE/NJ and I'm truly honored to be amongst the esteemed honorees of past years."

Buteas, a South Plainfield Borough councilwoman since 2008, is a 2000 SPHS graduate. She holds a B.A. from Rowan University and an M.E.A. from Rutgers University, School of Public Affairs and Administration, and has been employed at CIG for 2½ years.



SPHS Rotary Students of the Month, Edward Sullivan and Amanda Calvi, with SPHS Assistant Principal Ralph Errico.

SPHS Announces December Rotary Students of the Month

South Plainfield High School Rotary Students of the Month for December are Edward Sullivan and Amanda Calvi.

Amanda has participated in many extra-curricular activities, including Peer Leadership and Heroes and Cool Kids, and she is a member of the National Honor Society. She has participated in the annual Tiger 24 walk-a-thon, mentored students with Heroes and Cool Kids and volunteered at a senior citizens home. Amanda is the manager of the field hockey and lacrosse teams. Apart from school volunteer activities, Amanda is a volunteer fifth grade CCD teacher at her parish. Amanda's GPA is 3.9, and in the fall, she plans on attending college to study student psychology to continue to assist others in

the future.

Edward is an active member of Peer Leadership, the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. He participates in cross country and track, and was named captain this year. Edward holds six varsity letters in both sports. He is one of the morning announcers and inspires the students each morning with a quote of the day. He was also a member of the homecoming court and has volunteered many hours with Toys for Tots, Helping Hands and the annual Tiger 24 walk-a-thon, all while maintaining a 3.9 GPA. In the fall, Edward plans to attend college to major in broadcasting/communication.

BOROUGH NOTES

The following took place at the December 6 Borough Council meeting:

- Janice Muccilli's retirement from the Department of Public Works on December 31 was approved.

- Carmela Sutor was appointed to the position of full-time clerk typist at the Department of Public Works.

- South Plainfield Police Officers Robert Rogers and Richard Rogers will each complete 25 years of service and retire effective May 12, 2011.

- The council authorized a tax appeal settlement in the amount of \$590,000 to BIT Holdings Fifty Three, Inc. located on Park Avenue and Oak Tree Road, for years 2008, 2009 and 2010. An ordinance was introduced to bond for the full amount of the tax judgement.

- Decorative lights are being installed along Lakeview Avenue.

- The council approved tax refunds to Anthony Russo, 17 George Street, in the amount of \$1,547.96 and Prakash and Usha Soni, 401 Oak Tree Avenue, in the amount of \$1,732.11.

Columbiettes' Cookbook on Sale

The South Plainfield Columbiettes' cookbook is completed and ready for sale. Cookbooks are \$12 each, or \$11 if purchasing more than one. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards the group's charities, including a local soup kitchen.

To obtain a copy, contact either Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Nancy at (908) 561-5917. Requests can be emailed to kathy1130@gmail.com. Copies of the book are also available at the Sacred Heart Parish Center during regular business hours.

Truck Strikes Utility Pole, Causes Power Outages and Closes Roads

A tractor trailer operated by Michael Angelo of Piscataway struck a utility pole near the corner of Plainfield and Sampton avenues early Tuesday morning. The pole, broken at ground level, caused a utility pole at the corner of Plainfield and Lowden avenues to break, which then caused a utility pole on Sampton Avenue to break. The southbound lanes of Plainfield and Lowden avenues were completely blocked by the downed poles and wires.

The truck is owned by Dare Leasing of Piscataway. The listed motor carrier was American Warehouse Express of Perth Amboy.

Angelo stated that he was in Quick Chek's parking lot and could not turn around because there was a vehicle behind him, so he drove out of the parking lot on to Plainfield Avenue by driving over the sidewalk. The trailer caught the metal guide wire between the utility poles, causing the poles to break.

Angelo was charged with reckless

driving by Officer James McConville. There were no reported injuries.

The intersection at Plainfield and Sampton avenues was closed as a result of the crash. PSE&G repaired the damage and electric power was interrupted for approximately 30 minutes. The surrounding areas, including the South Plainfield Middle School and high school, were without power.

JOE FASANO

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events

Around Town

Coats for Kids Drive Through December 30

There are too many children right here in New Jersey who do not have a coat to keep them warm this winter! Let's join together and help these children in need! Donate a new or like new coat for a child. The collection box is located at Red Robin Restaurant, 6200 Hadley Road in South Plainfield.

All donations will go to the Kids Closet division of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

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

Send Your Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

(908) 447-3466 or emailing christine.buteas@comcast.net.

American Legion Breakfast with Santa December 19

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave. will host its third country breakfast buffet on Sunday, Dec. 19 from 8 a.m. until noon. The auxiliary is preparing a bountiful buffet featuring pancakes, eggs, ham, potatoes, French toast, breakfast casseroles and more. Santa Claus will also visit during the buffet. Cost: \$6/adults; children 6-12, \$3; children under six are free. All proceeds benefit the Chaumont Post 243 Scholarship Fund.

Candlelight Services At First Baptist Church December 24

Christmas Eve candlelight services will be held from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of South Plainfield located at 201 Hamilton Blvd.

For more information, call (908) 753-2382 or visit www.fbcsouthplainfield.com.

Christmas Services At Wesley Church December 24 through 26

The holiday schedule for Wesley United Methodist Church is as follows:

Friday, Dec. 24, 7:30 p.m.—Christmas Family Service, Children's Pageant, Lessons and Carols, Candlelight Singing.

Friday, Dec. 24, 11 p.m.—Lessons and Carols, Holy Eucharist.

Sunday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m.—Contemporary Service.

Sunday, Dec. 26, 10:30 a.m.—Worship Service.

SPHS Class of 1995 15 Yr. Reunion April 2, 2011

The South Plainfield High School Class of 1995 is planning a 15 year reunion for Saturday, April 2, 2011. It will be held at Maggiano's Bridge-water from 7 to 11 p.m. Ticket price is \$85 per person.

For more information, email sphsclassof1995@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: SPHS class of 1995.

— Out of Town —

Musical Celebration at Crossroads Through December 18

Holiday Jubilee, a family musical revue that celebrates the spirit of the season through a multicultural lens, premieres at the Crossroads Theatre Company in New Brunswick through December 18.

Tickets: \$40 for adults. Purchase at

CrossroadsTheatreCompany.org or by calling (732) 545-8100. Ticket for children ages 5-12 free with the purchase of one adult ticket at regular price.

Blue Christmas Service at Willow Grove December 21

Are you feeling lonely and sad this Christmas? You are not alone if you are having trouble feeling joyous during this holiday season. Christmas can be a painful reminder of what has been lost. For those dealing with financial strain, depression, grief, broken relationships or illness, the holidays can be anything but happy.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains invites you to a "Blue Christmas: A Service of Comfort and Hope" in the sanctuary on Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Through music, scripture, prayer and candlelight, we will acknowledge the blues and the pain and look toward the hope to come. Come as you are; all are welcome.

For further information, call (908) 232-5678 or visit our website at www.willowgrovechurch.org.

Christmas Eve at Willow Grove Church December 24

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites everyone to attend the annual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Aside from the traditional lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles, singing of carols, readings from scripture and hearing a special choir anthem, view images depicting the birth of Jesus in artwork from cultures around the world projected during the service.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up.....

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

(Closed Christmas Eve)

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.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, there's not much time left. As of today (December 17), you've got about a week to buy those presents, trim the tree, watch Charlie Brown, and memorize the lyrics to *Let's Have a Patrick Swayze Christmas*. Sure, you're busy, but let's pause and check the news from the South Plainfield library.

First off, there are some closings and cancellations to pass along. We'll be closed next Friday for Christmas Eve, next Saturday and Sunday for Christmas Day (and Boxing Day), two weeks from today for New Year's Eve, and the following two days for New Year's Day and the day after New Year's Day (which doesn't have a special name, so far as I know). Also, our children's programming has been cancelled for the next two weeks and will return on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

With the lack of special events for the next couple of weeks, we have room in today's column for a few notes and reminders:

The self-checkout machine facing the circulation desk. As has been clearly marked, the machine is for checking out books only and is not to be used for A/V items. Regarding videocassettes, that's because the machine is equipped with a magnet that works well with our security system, but doesn't mix with recording tape. As far as CDs and DVDs are concerned,

Temple Sholom Invites Families To Pray & Play

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains invites families with children ages four and under to a Shabbat Pray & Play featuring music, maracas, puppets and parachutes on Saturday, Dec. 18. The 30-minute interactive service begins at 10 a.m., followed by a free bagel brunch in our playroom. Older siblings are welcome.

"This isn't your ordinary children's service," says Temple Sholom Director of Education Michelle Shapiro Abraham. "It's like where Shabbat meets Gymboree. The kids are encouraged to jump up, dance, sing and play along."

Temple Sholom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues in Fanwood.

it's because we still have to remove them from their security cases. Those items still have to be checked out at the circulation desk.

And here's a reminder about titles that you decide not to check out. We'd rather that you didn't try to reshelve them yourself. Our sorting system can be a bit more complicated than you might expect, so it can be easy to put an item back incorrectly. So, please just leave those items on one of the tables and we'll take care of them, like we're paid to.

Here's a note regarding renewing items. Please be aware that, unlike our human staff members, our computer system is very exacting and even unforgiving. If you use the computer to renew an item, please make sure that it's done before the end of the day that it's due. If you try to renew it even one minute past that, you'll be assessed an overdue fine. So, if you need an item for a longer period, it's best to take care of that ASAP.

We'll finish off this week with a big thank you to all of you who donated money and books to this year's "Books to Keep" drive. At last count (assuming your correspondent's math is correct), we collected 241 books during this year's drive. Again, thanks very much for your generosity (and feel free to start stockpiling books for next year).

That's about all for now. For more information, please feel free to call us at (908) 754-7885 or visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us.

Thanks for reading, and have a happy and safe rest of the holiday season.

Mentoring Program Returns to Kennedy

By Libby Barsky

After a hiatus of a year, the Listen To Children program that matches students with seniors on a one-to-one basis, is returning to Kennedy School. The program utilizes the abilities of seniors to connect with elementary-aged youngsters on a weekly basis for 30 minutes to share experiences, games and crafts, and to establish a relationship that will help influence a student's self-esteem, communication and problem solving skills.

Diane Mandel brought the program to the district when she was hired as a student assistance counselor. Mandel, a former elementary school teacher, Mandel learned of the program in Livingston when she worked as a student intern while awaiting her certification as a student assistance counselor from Kean University.

A year after she was hired in 1998, a Listen To Children pilot program began in the district at Kennedy School in 1999. Training for volunteers was supplied by the Mental Health Association of Essex County. The program



Listen to Children volunteers Mary McNery and Alpha Langlais crafting Santa's Face to share with their youngsters.

gradually expanded to each elementary school that had a SAC counselor. With the budget crunch in 2006, two SAC counselors were cut, and the next year two schools dropped out of the program.

When Mandel retired as Kennedy

School SAC counselor, she continued working as a volunteer to keep the program intact, holding regular monthly meetings with the seniors who had worked in the program. She also kept in touch with Kennedy School in order to bring the program back into the school.

In the beginning of December the program was reinstated at Kennedy School, and the volunteers were rewarded with having the opportunity to do what they do best—make a connection with the young children and to listen.

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group Meetings Scheduled

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group will hold meetings in the upcoming year at St. Helen's Parish Center, Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield.

This support group is for those who care for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, and meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

Information and sharing sessions dates for the year 2011 are January 10, February 7, March 7, April 4, May

2 and June 6. There are no meetings held in July, August or September.

For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

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

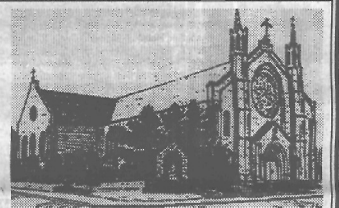
Sunday 9:00, 11:30 a.m.

Daily 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday.

7:00 p.m. Monday (Church), Thursday (Parish Center Chapel)

Holy Days 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other times by appointment



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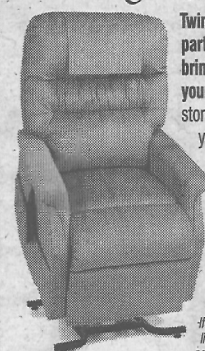
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Grant School Hosts Wine Tasting, Pasta Dinner Fundraisers for Stokes Trip



Elaine Tamburt and Diana Ryan

By Patricia Abbott

The Wine Chateau, located on Centennial Avenue in Piscataway, was the host for Grant School PTO's Wine Tasting fundraiser held on December 4. The proceeds go towards the school's annual sixth grade trip to Stokes State Forest.



Alyssa Ricciardi enjoys a pasta dinner.

The event was attended by approximately 30 who enjoyed six very different wines provided by Wine Chateau. Wines sampled were a syrah, a cabernet, a chardonnay and a malbec from Viacava; a moscato d'Asti from Torlasco; and a syrah from Polkura. As each guest was served, a brief description of the wine was delivered to

each patron. Between the tastings guests enjoyed sandwiches provided by Mr. Subs of South Plainfield and a variety of other delectable goodies.

The Grant School PTO-sponsored pasta dinner was held on December 10. Nearly 200 students, family members, friends and guests enjoyed spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, beverages and desserts. A basket auction and a 50/50 raffle were a part of the fundraiser.

The event was chaired by parents Diana Ryan and Madeline Christilles, who continue to work toward the goal of providing funding for each and every student for the educational trip. For more information, visit www.stokes2011.webs.com.

Principal Leo Whalen extended his appreciation for the efforts of the parents. "All fundraising for the sixth grade class to The New Jersey School of Conservation, Stokes is done while the students are in fifth grade. We have a very active Stokes fundraising committee this year. They have many activities



Pete Atkinson and Ken Wolpin prepare food for the pasta dinner.

planned throughout the school year designed to help lower the per student cost to attend the trip. I am very thankful for their help and support. They have created a great website to explain

the trip and post the different fundraisers. I was very happy that they brought the spaghetti dinner back; it's a great way for people to get together and students have a good time."

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9:30pm Caroling with the Choir
10:00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Birth

Saturday, December 25th: Christmas Day
9:00am Christmas Shepherds' Mass
11:00am Solemn Christmas Day Mass
(There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day.)

Saturday, January 1st 2011: Mary, Mother of God

(There will be no evening Mass on Friday, December 31st)
8:00am Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God
11:00am Mass for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God

4:30pm Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

Sunday, January 2nd 2011: Feast of the Epiphany

8:00am Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany
11:00am Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield
For further information call: 908.756.1333



Doris Billings at the wine tasting.

Christilles said, "South Plainfield is a community that takes pride in its youth. Investing in our children is investing in our community's future."

One of the many fundraisers planned includes the Five Below store in South Plainfield. The store will donate a percentage of sales when a Grant School/Stokes flier is presented between now and December 18.

A Red Robin Family Fun Night and Eat at Joe's Crab Shack fundraiser are planned for January 13 and 18, respectively. To ensure Grant School gets credit for the fundraiser, please visit www.stokes2011.webs.com to print the fliers. A beer tasting night has also been tentatively planned for the spring.

To make a donation to the Stokes 2011 trip, make checks payable to "Grant School PTO-Stokes 2011." Mail to Grant School PTO/Stokes 2011, 305 Cromwell Pl., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

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Peer Leadership members Richard Rotella, Carly Ashnault, Thalia Lopez and Veronica Ruiz delivered presents collected from their annual holiday toy drive for needy residents to Social Services Director Marge Ackerman.

College Students Can Earn Three Credits in Three Weeks

Wintersession at Middlesex County College will feature three weeks of concentrated courses beginning on December 28.

"Wintersession offers students the opportunity to take a one-semester course that earns full credit and can transfer back to their own college," said Aretha Watson, director of admissions and assistant dean of enrollment and student support services at Middlesex. "Wintersession is perfect for students looking to accelerate their academic progression or get back on track."

Classes meet daily from December 28 to January 13. Courses include art,

public speaking, psychology, management, history, English composition, economics and criminal justice. The complete list, along with easy registration information, appears on the college website, www.middlesexcc.edu.

Students who are matriculated at colleges other than Middlesex must present a visiting student letter from their home college giving them permission to enroll and transfer credit back to their home college. Details are available from the "visiting student" section on the website.

Early registration is recommended as courses fill quickly.

County Offering Emergency Alert Program

Middlesex County residents are encouraged to sign up for Middlesex County Alert, an emergency notification system sponsored by the county.

Residents who register will receive emergency notification via mobile texts or email, or both. The Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management will send emergency messages as needed, but messaging will be restricted to conditions when the public needs important information immediately, such as during hurricane or tornado warnings or large-scale public safety emergencies.

There is no charge to Middlesex County for this service. Anyone—including people who do not live in Middlesex County—can register as a user and sign up for the Middlesex County Alert user group. Email alerts are free to users. Standard text messaging rates apply for text alerts.

"I encourage all our residents and anyone who works or may have loved ones here in the county to register for Middlesex County Alert," said Freeholder Mildred S. Scott, chair of the County's Law and Public Safety Committee. "The system gives us a fast, effective way to communicate critical information to a massive number of people in times of emergency. It's a tool that can save lives."

To register, users must create an account at the Middlesex County Alert Web site: <https://unitedalert.com/?grphome&gid=middlesex>.

Once there, users can decide how they wish to receive their notifications, input mobile phone numbers and email addresses and join other alert groups.

All Middlesex County emergency notifications will be sent free of charge via email; users do not have to subscribe to the premium service offered on the United Alert Web site to receive email alerts from the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management.

Middlesex County is the first county in the State of New Jersey to link into the United Alert system and offer it to residents.

Additional information is available at unitedalert.com.



South Plainfield Lion Trustee Harry Popick presents a plaque to Bob Desch in recognition of his 50 years of service to the Lions of New Jersey at the annual holiday dinner on December 10.



Girl Scouts in Troop 65014 organized a pajama drive to benefit local children. The girls collected 50 pairs of infant, children and teens' pajamas. The PJs will be given to Shirley Thompson who will distribute them to local families in need this holiday season.



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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.

Benefiting: South Plainfield Social Services Food Bank

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

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We also have Redken Holiday gift packs that make great stocking stuffers or gifts for teachers, friends, coworkers or even as a perfect touch to that gift card. Come in and do your holiday shopping at The Salon Professional Academy!

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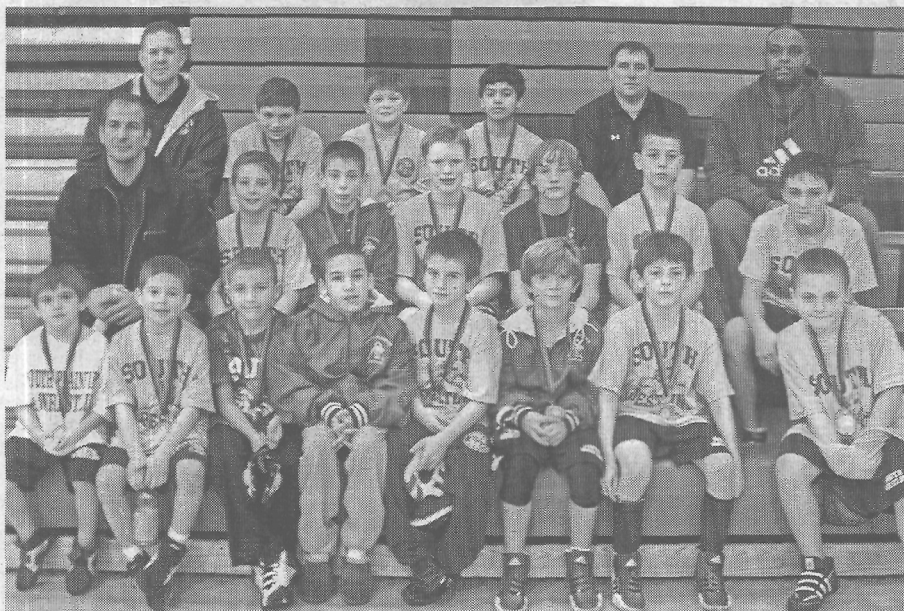
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Sports



REC Wrestlers Take Fourth at Robbinsville Duals—Front row: Jake DelVecchio-two pins, Anthony White, David Loniewski-four pins, Tommy Fierro-three pins, Joe Heilmann-three pins, Joe Sacco, Alex Amato and Luke Niemeyer. Second row: Coach Giordano, Jake Giordano-three pins, Jake Panton, Ryan Marston, Ryan Walsh-three pins, Joe Penyak and Dan Hedden-two pins. Back row: Coach Sacco, Ben Lundy, Zach DelVecchio, Desmond Santos, Coach DelVecchio and Coach Green.

Recreation Wrestlers Open Season With Wins

This past weekend the South Plainfield Wrestling Club hosted the fifth annual Pee Wee-Bantam Tournament at the PAL. Over 130 wrestlers from around the state participated. This was the first competition for many of the young wrestlers. Everyone wrestled well.

Finishing in the top four for South Plainfield were: in first place—J.J. Giordano, Christopher Poggio, Steven

Zultowski, Ben Ulrich, Nick Loniewski and Anthony Penyak.

In second place—Derrick Glenn, Mark Molinaro, Tyler Balent, Mikey Kurlew, Steven Twist, Tyler Russo, Darren Ochoa, Xavier Santos and Gregory Algaran.

In third place—Jeffrey Jacome, Alfred Fuschetti, Bobby White, Justyn Niemeyer, Andrew Loniewski, Justyn Kranzke, Michael Niemeyer, Aidan

Mackenzie, Jack Campagna, Gabe Panton and EJ Nieves.

In fourth place—Noah Santos, Darin Larson, John Chabrak, Robert Barrios, Rafael Maisoret, Lucas Amato, John Nagy, Joey Cassio, Daniel Borsos, Colin Drogue, Ryan Patterson, Nicholas Lienhard, Kyle Urteil, Isais Ramos, Sean Passarelli, Marcus Czarrunchick and Anthony Nigro.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

December 9, 2010—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on December 7, 2010.

A. Case # 709/V-JRB Properties, LLC, Block 409; Lot 15; 111 Snyder Road. The applicant's request for a second extension effective until September 1, 2011 in order to obtain construction permits was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case # 722/Site-TRM Group, Inc. dba as: Dunkin Donuts, Block 65; Lot 10; 2007 Park Avenue. The applicant's request for preliminary site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Recording Secretary-Planning Board
\$30.40 December 17, 2010

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

December 10, 2010—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on December 9, 2010.

A. Case #26-09-Ignite Restaurants, dba: Joe's Crab Shack, Block 628; Lot 67; Hadley Center & Stetson Road. The applicant's request for a use variance in order to enclose the outdoor dining area was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #17-10-Salvatore & Sandra Severini, Block 379; Lot 11; 815 Delmore Avenue. The applicant's request that this application be WITHDRAWN without prejudice is hereby GRANTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment
\$29.92 December 17, 2010

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech

BOYS BOWLING

Tigers Throw Scare Into State Champion Sayreville

SPHS	878	715	786-2379
SAYREVILLE	937	913	1077-2827

With the Tigers holding a 50 pin lead at the end of seven frames, the Bombers unleashed a barrage of strikes the remaining eighth, ninth and tenth frames to break up a close initial game. Despite Andrew Yon's 238 and Kyle O'Keefe's 203 game, the Sayreville squad breezed to an easy victory. Sophomore Tom Riccardi chipped in with a 210 game and 535 high set.

Tigers Notch First Victory... Rip Carteret... T. Riccardi (662)

SPHS	769	811	816-2396
CARTERET	592	667	644-1903

The boys bowling team clobbered Carteret, sweeping all three games with relative ease to earn their first victory of the young season. Sophomore Tom Riccardi claimed scoring honors by zoning in with games of 223-219-220 for a sparkling 662 set.

Tigers Overmatched in Loss To North Brunswick

SPHS	764	762	777-2303
NO. BRUNSWICK	865	911	910-2686

Sophomore Joe Parillo took scoring honors for the Tigers with games of 189-175 for a high 490 set, but the young Tigers fell to an experienced North Brunswick squad.

Sophomore Jesse Masters chipped in with a 170 game and Ryan Riccardi a 169 effort.

GIRLS BOWLING

Lady Tigers Romp Over Sayreville

SPHS	634	741	747-2122
SAYREVILLE	645	506	557-1708

After dropping the first game by 11 pins, the Tigers put their game in high gear and bombarded the Bombers by claiming win number one.

Nikki Disch fired games of 172-165-174 for a solid 511 set. Teammate Stephanie Sherwood posted a 183 game.

Carteret Wins Squeaker Over Tigers

SPHS	671	528	625-1874
CARTERET	712	742	704-2158

The girls bowling team, looking to upset Group 2 champion, Carteret, let it slip away in a seesaw battle as they had a second game meltdown. The Tigers were led by Stephanie Sherwood's high game of 177 and 470 set and teammate Nikki Disch's 160-169 and 438 set.

Tigers No Match for Powerhouse North Brunswick

SPHS	645	676	628-1949
NO. BRUNSWICK	875	962	942-2805

Nicole Disch's 165 and Stephanie Sherwood's 156 game were the only bright spots as the girls bowling team was overwhelmed by undefeated and league leading North Brunswick.

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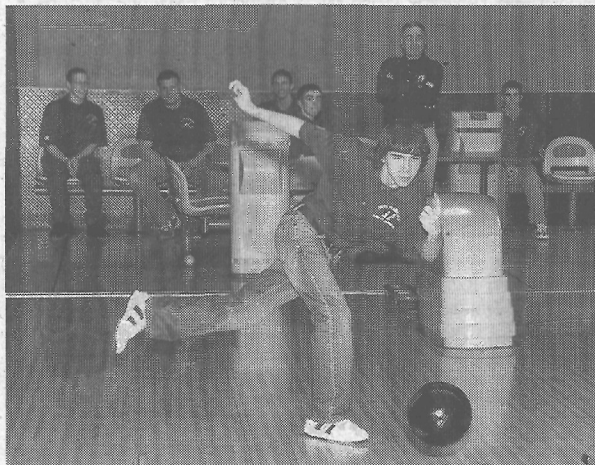
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Sports

SPHS Bowling

By Ralph Fech



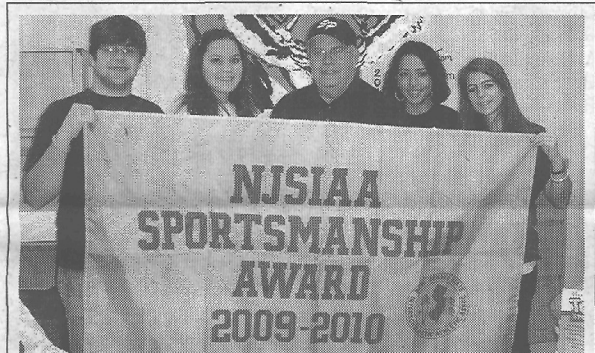
Sophomore Tom Riccardi scorched the lanes with games of 223-219-220 for a sparkling 662 set in the Tigers romp over the Ramblers of Carteret.

Westfield Invitational Warren Wheeler Memorial


Sophomore Joe Parillo claimed scoring honors for the boys bowling team this past weekend in the Warren Wheeler Memorial with a 237 game and 546 set.

Teammate Tom Riccardi chipped in with a 191 game and 519 set. The Tigers placed 21st in a strong field of 29 teams.

Nikki Disch provided the spark for the Lady Tigers with games of 177 and 160. Stephanie Sherwood's 163 game helped the green and white to an eighth place finish.



South Plainfield High School received the NJSIAA Sportsman Award based on outstanding sportsmanship displayed during athletic events throughout the 2009/2010 school year. The school district was nominated for the award by the NJSIAA and coaching staffs that participate in the association. Holding the gold flag are Athletic Director Mike Buggey and student athletes Richard Rotella, Carly Ashnault, Thalia Lopez and Veronica Ruiz.



In Loving Memory of
Michael Sabino
March 31, 1964-December 15, 2009

*A beautiful life that came to an end,
he died as he lived, everyone's friend.*

*In our hearts, a memory
will always be kept, of one we loved,
and will never forget.*

Love Always, Dec, Poppy, Artie, Lydia, Sarah,
Shawn, Mindy, Robert, Tommy & Bernice

Congratulations Deanna!

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

#1



Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Deanna DeLisa pictured with parents Doug and Kathy and brothers Anthony and Dylan.

Obituaries

Rose (Bianco) Pompa

Rose (Bianco) Pompa died on Wednesday, Dec. 8 in Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in Camden, Mrs. Pompa married the late Paul Pompa in 1956 and in 1966 they moved to South Plainfield prior to settling in Warren in 2000.

Rose was a member of Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield and participated in several of the parish ministries, including the Lenten fish dinners, and served as editor of the Parish Voice and as a lector.

In 1995, after working as an administrator for many years, Rose retired from the Rutgers University School of Pharmacology in Piscataway.

She was truly a family woman who was selfless by all means. She was a devoted mother and grandmother, and enjoyed spending time at her Ocean City shore home with family. In addition, Rose enjoyed vacationing in Nassau, Bahamas with her friends.

Her husband, Paul, died in 2000. She is also predeceased by three sisters and a brother.

Surviving are Rose's loving family, daughter Michele Merle and husband Jeff of Neshanic Station; three sons, Thomas and wife Dina of Flemington, Paul Jr. and wife Elisa of Warren and Richard and wife Katherine of Lebanon; two sisters, Jenny Nocito and Marie Keller; and seven adoring grandchildren, Paul III and Michael Pompa, William Dealman, Nicholas

and Alison Merle and Donald and Anthony Stevens.

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

Rene Antonio Mayorga, 57

Rene Antonio Mayorga died on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born and raised in El Salvador, Mr. Mayorga lived in Plainfield.

He is predeceased by a son, Rene Jr., and by a brother, Carlos.

Surviving are his wife, Elsa of Plainfield; a son, Andrew and wife Myrna, also of Plainfield; his parents, Rene and Lillian Rosales of El Salvador; a sister, Gloria Ascencio-Mayorga; and a brother, Ricardo Mayorga, both of El Salvador. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Isaiah, Janiah, Leilani and Jared.

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

Helen G. (Zydzik) Pittius, 95

Helen G. (Zydzik) Pittius passed away on Saturday, Dec. 4 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington surrounded by her family.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Pittius was a resident of South Plainfield since 1955 and a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church of South Plainfield. She was a homemaker, and after her husband's retirement enjoyed traveling to places such as Ireland, Bermuda, Alaska, Hawaii, Italy and California. They often spent several months in the winter en-

joying the beaches on the west coast of Florida and several weeks each summer on Long Beach Island.

She was the beloved wife of the late Arthur Pittius, Sr. for 57 years before his death in 1998. She was the devoted mother of Patricia Pittius, Christine Innes and husband James of Glenside, Pa., Kathleen Sullivan and husband Michael of Milford, Richard Pittius and wife Peggy of Sparta, and Arthur Pittius, Jr. and Nancy Vodopia. She is survived by 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

Josephine Kulpa, 91

Josephine Kulpa died on Sunday, Dec. 12 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Mrs. Kulpa resided in Edison for nearly 60 years.

Josephine attended St. Helena's RC Church in Edison and worked as a tester for Western Electric in Kearny.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and will be sadly missed by her family.

She is predeceased by her husband, Albert; a grandson, Ronnie; and by all of her siblings.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Dillon and husband Christopher of Edison; four grandchildren, Christie, Kevin, Stephanie and Lisa; and two great-grandchildren, Dylan and Shaun.

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

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Monetary donations will also be gratefully accepted and used to purchase pet food for those in need.

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Sewer Rates to Rise 8.6%

(Continued from page 1)

upgraded its equipment this year by installing new piping and replacing existing pumps with new, permanent pumps and nine bypass pumps. A new standing generator pump control and discharge header were also installed at the Edison treatment plant.

A vote will be taken, and is expected to pass, after the second reading of the ordinance at the council meeting to be held on December 20. Billing would begin on January 1, 2011 with the new rates. Residents are billed twice a year and commercial and industrial customers are billed quarterly.

Schools Implement Plans

(Continued from page 1)

using for the past two years to help students prepare for the yearly mandated NJ ASK Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics testing given to Grant School's fifth and sixth graders, middle school students and to students in grades three and four at Franklin, Kennedy, Riley and Roosevelt elementary schools.

Since 1996, the state has mandated the implementation of testing programs to determine if students in the district's schools are making satisfactory progress according to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content.

In 2002 with the No Child Left Behind Act, the federal government required test data to be applied to 40 subgroups including students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficient students and ethnicity, and devised the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks indicating the percent of all students and subgroups that must fall into the proficient or advanced proficient categories for each test.

South Plainfield High School and Kennedy, Riley and Roosevelt elementary schools met all the benchmarks; however, the middle school, Grant School and Franklin Elementary School did not meet AYP, and each is now designated as a School In Need of Improvement.

For the purpose of the AYP calculations, Grant School, with grades five and six, is considered both an elementary and a middle school. In 2007/2008 the sixth grade failed to achieve AYP because as a middle school there were five subgroups not achieving AYP in language arts. As a result, Grant School received the status of a School in Need of Improvement. In 2008/2009, Grant didn't reach the AYP benchmarks, and again in 2009/2010. Although the middle school eighth grade students did well in science, they did not meet the math standards. Testing in science was at 39.9% in the advanced proficient category, 52.5% proficient and 7.6% partially proficient. The students also performed well in language arts with scores of 8.2% partial proficient, 73.2% proficient and 18.6% advanced proficient. In comparison, eighth grade math students were 30.3% partially proficient compared to 22.6% last year and 24.8% in 2008; 46.2% proficient in 2010 compared to 52.5% in 2009, and 23.5% advanced proficient compared to 24.9% in 2009.

Seventh grade language testing

showed 24.2% partial proficient, 63% proficient and 12.8% advanced proficient. Math showed 31.7% partial proficient, 43.7% proficient and 24.7% advanced proficient.

Middle School Principal Kevin Hajduk has outlined the following plan of action to improve scores in language arts and math:

- Implement a homework club from 2:30-3 p.m. after school four days a week;
- Provide NJ ASK prep courses after school to targeted seventh and eighth grade students;
- Arrange guidance department meetings with at-risk students on a regular basis;
- Provide continual reminders of the school's breakfast program so all students have the opportunity to begin school with an adequate, nutritional breakfast;
- Establish two math periods (but not back to back) for students at risk; and
- Increase professional development for educators at Rutgers Institute for Improving Student Achievement.

Grant School Principal Leo Whalen has also set up an action plan to improve scores in language arts and math:

- Develop an after school language arts literacy program to prepare students for the 2010-2011 NJASK;
 - Continue professional development for all teachers to reinforce writing across the curriculum and best practices in mathematics;
 - Develop an after school mathematics program and a family math program; and
 - Implement Study Island sessions at home and in school to supplement classroom instruction.
- The elementary school principals have written the following action plan to improve language arts and math:
- Encourage the use of Study Island at home in addition to in the classroom;
 - Implement the new writing program, "Being a Writer";
 - Make NJ ASK preparation classes available for third and fourth grade students requiring extra help in language arts and math;
 - Provide targeted needs instruction to small groups of students identified with NJ ASK scores to ensure continued success; and
 - Continue the Family Math Program during the 2010/2011 school year.

SPHS Announces First Quarter Honor Roll (Freshman and Sophomores)

Freshmen-Sara Abdeljaber, Bryant Acosta, Lucio R. Avelar, Rose J. Bach, Josselin A. Barahona, Kevin I. Basantes-Llerena, Cameron L. Bashner, Claudia R. Bashner, Jessica A. Bishop, James J. Boettcher, Jamie A. Bohn, Alexandra Bosse, Nora K. Bruno, Kristiana Buschan, Adam J. Butrico, Lukas Cabanas, Renee M. Callanan, Breanna M. Calvin, Danielle V. Caruso, Pamela Chacon Castro, Valentina Chacon Castro, Kimberly Corsino, Crystal Custodio, Leanna A. Dass, Adam M. Daubert, Cody Decker, Juliana M. Degutis, John Gilbert F. Delacruz, Joseph Demico, Taylor M. Donato, James J. DuHamel

Kaitlyn C. Faustini, Talia A. Ferrigno, Sean P. Flanagan, Christopher W. Fowles, Andrew C. Franco, Marques C. Franco, Maria A. Funes, Antonio J. Garcia, Daniela M. Garrido, Zachary A. Goldberg-Mota, Jonathan M. Grennier, Christian Brent Guzman, Sabrina M. Hemming, Lauren M. Hill, Erika J. Holtermann, Allison J. Huber, Shannon L. Hughes, Christy Irtwaru, Eric S. Ivaniuc, Veronika R. Jastrzebski, Raymond J. Jazikoff, Jenalee R. Jenkin, Gabriella M. Jimenez

Rowena M. Kanj, Michelle A. Keane, Carly E. Kensey, Thoa H. Le, Emily J. Lubach, Collin R. Lynch, Eric J. Makowski, Joanna M. Marston, Christopher Mathis, Brian R. McCarthy, Mamta D. Mehta, Yasmeen C. Mighty, Christopher M. Miller, Malina M. Mohtadi, Mcilissa S. Molano, Marissa D. Munialil, Jacqueline E. Nazario, Chloe E. Ng, Kayla C. O'Neal, Harsh S. Patel, Ishi K. Patel, Vinay V. Patel, Andrew A. Pawelczak, Jason A. Pelaez, Diamond E. Pender, Carol A. Pennington, Kristy

N. Percario, Annemarie K. Pezzolla, Heidi A. Pilla, Danielle R. Pisano, Michael J. Polizzano, Jonathan G. Prins, Maggie A. Quintanilla, Padminie D. Rambharose, Matthew M. Resende, Dominick J. Scaleria, Shannon Sheedy, Bryan J. Sierra, Inan Sikel, Olivia Y. Simpson, Monica L. Spooner, Marc A. Stasio, Sabersha Syed, Olivia K. Tarnawska, Ashley Valencia, Daniel J. Vargas, Kristen E. Wong, Kexin Cher Xu, David G. Zychlinski.

Sophomores-Ramsey Abdeljaber, Alyssa K. Adamson, Ashley M. Annetta, Charles T. Anyamene, Jordana D. Approvato, Andrew P. Atkinson, Stephanie Avila, Kevin P. Belanger, Nicole A. Benwell, Robert J. Benwell, Navindra Boodhoo, Patrick T. Boyle, Ryan J. Buckelew, Kristel Buschan, Samuel S. Butler, Christopher W. Butrico, Danielle J. Butrico, Kayla Carigma, Andrew M. Catalina, Kendall L. Christ, Jenna N. Clemente, Quinn W. Cochran, John E. Cotone, Joshua L. Coupe

Jesse D. Deffler, Michael V. DelGenio, Scott T. DelVecchio, Cinthya M. Diaz, Michael A. Dolan, Alexa G. Douras, Caitlyn Driscoll, Richard D. Duong, Catherine M. Emery, Dominic Z. Eosso, Rebecca P. Eustice, Kristin E. Forbes, Allison N. Gorman, Nicholas G. Graves, Ryan M. Guarraci, Andrea A. Guerrero, Taylor G. Hagy, Troy J. Heilmann, Meghan A. Heim, Jasmin Hernandez, Alec P. Hing, Zoya C. Hodge, Nicholas J. Huber, Samantha J. Hunterton, Kevin J. Jakaria, Khyllah N. Jean, Christina M. Kasmer, Paula E. Lasota, Viet Le, Michelle L. Lesniak, Brian J. Lopez, Gina M. Louise, Rian A.

Lukacs, Deirdre D. Macchia, Marah Angelica O Magpile, Victoria R. Maino, Nicholas A. Marrone, Jesse P. Masters, Matthew M. McCut, Liam T. McDermott, John R. McDonough, Maggie McLean, Rebecca M. Moskal, Amber M. Mullens, Crystal M. Myles, Christina A. Naphor, Devynn N. Nolan, Dylan J. Painton, Charmi J. Patel, Brandon J. Pauls, Katherine G. Pickarski, Emily A. Pittenger, Christal Ramagado, Hiren B. Rana, Whitney R. Randolph, Bobbie-Jo Raposo, Alison D. Ratti, Emily P. Reineke, Erin L. Remsing, Jonathan M. Reyes, Thomas J. Riccardi, Tania Rincon, Karen N. Rivera, Ashley L. Robjohns, Hayley A. Robjohns, Joshua J. Rochotte

Fernando Sanabria, Yasmin D. Santiago, Gerianne Scarpitto, Daniel A. Schuch, KimberLee A. Serrano, Brandon S. Shaw, Courtney L. Shea, Joshua D. Siepmann, Emily L. Skula, Angelica G. Smith, Gabrielle E. Smith, Sydney S. Smith, Joseph J. Spinella, Nicole R. Stanczak, Jordan S. Stanley-Davis, Corey G. Stasencko, Anthony R. Torchia, Jennifer D. Tran, Caroline E. Vill, Steven R. Vincent, Vera V. Viran, Wahid Walli, Chrystal E. Wedderburn.

See next week's Observer for juniors' and seniors' honor roll listing.

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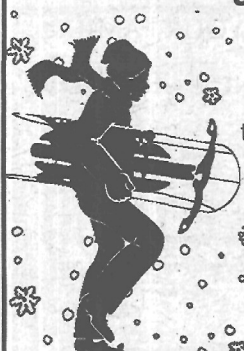
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Diegnan and Codey Co-Sponsor State Concussion Legislation

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan and Senator Dick Codey were the prime assembly and senate sponsors of legislation recently signed into law by Governor Chris Christie. The legislation makes New Jersey a lead state in concussion awareness and protecting students who suffer a concussion.

The law mandates that "a student-athlete who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other brain injury while engaged in a sports competition or practice is required to be immediately removed... and may not participate further until he is evaluated by a physician or other licensed healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance to return to competition."

Diegnan said, "A concussion is not a headache. It is a brain injury. I am amazed when I hear an announcer of an NFL or college football game state that a player has a 'slight concussion.' There is no such thing as a slight concussion. The effects may take days or weeks to manifest themselves. A recent example is Jason Bay of the

New York Mets who was unable to play out the season because of what at first was thought to be a slight concussion. Mohammed Ali's onset of Parkinson's disease is most likely connected to the number of concussions he suffered in the ring."

Assemblyman Diegnan acknowledged all of those who helped draft this legislation including Barbara Geiger-Parker of the Brain Injury Association, Dr. Robb Rehberg of the Athletic Trainers Society, Dr. Steven Rice of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Dr. Jill Brooks.

Preston Plevretes and his mother, Tammy, were singled out for their courage and determination during the legislative process. Preston sustained a brain injury while playing college football. He and his mother dedicated themselves to making sure another life is not put at risk playing New Jersey sports.

For additional information, contact Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, 908 Oak Tree Avenue, Unit P, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Middlesex County College Contemporary Art Exhibit Through Wednesday

An exhibit entitled "I" will be held at Middlesex County College through December 22 at the college's Studio Theatre Gallery on the Edison campus. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

"I" addresses the relationship between pedagogy, style and interpersonal relationships," said Joe Pfeiffer, an adjunct professor of art at the college and one of the curators. "It is an

instructive experiment that presents the work of 10 artists and educators who are all within one degree of separation. The issues of one's peer group, education, competitiveness and inspiration are addressed as a means of defining an art practice."

The exhibit includes painting, sculpture, and mixed media.

For info, email art.gallery@middlesexcc.edu or call (732) 906-2589.

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Franklin School third and fourth graders perform at the annual winter concert.

Franklin School Performs Winter Concert



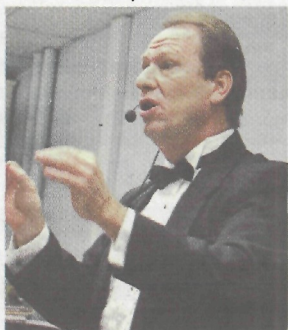
BOE member Debbie Boyle and Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen.

By Patricia Abbott

Franklin School presented their 2010 Winter Concert on December 13. The annual event featured two performances, an afternoon concert for students and faculty and an evening concert for family and friends. The program began with a welcome by Principal Ellen Decker-Lorys and the introduction of Glenn Parisi, choral director and the chorus of third and fourth grade students. Parisi and the chorus were accompanied by Frank Jacobson. The students

performed *You Gotta Generate Heat* by Dan Schwartz, *Hanukkah Holiday* by Linda Swears, *A Wintertime Wish* by Brad Printz, and concluded with *Bebopppin' Santa Claus* by Kirby Shaw. After the concert guests enjoyed refreshments. Chorus members were Maya Ahmed, Jared Velez, Jessica LaCross, Dylan Kolvites, Abigail Lapp, Brianna Tapanes, Danielle McParland, Keith Lehman, Amanda Bermo, Victoria Meono, Joseph Walker, Alexis Robinson, Nisani Santiago, Magdalena Tarnawska, Brandon O'Leary, Victoria

Pipolo, David Gross, Abigail Gonzalez, Kevin Rosa, Jordan Hamberg, Jessica Tschopp, Giovanni Dente, Nicholas Stinemire, Zoe Lambert, Samiya Reid, Alexander Pear, Keiko Shegog, Ryan Doan, Lauren Zultowski, Jessica Vasquez, Patrick Joyner, Cameron Marks, Ashley Wyber, Riley Hummel, Makayla Cox, Kevin Veliz, Noah Karch, Nicholas Alvear, Hallie Bisgaard, Caylee Dress, Karly Almanzar, Neckah Hinds, Santiago Rincon, Jordyn Aleksandrowicz, Ellenie Mejias, Chase Arkinson, Aaliyah Howard, Jake Kolodziej, Brianna Scherer and Faith Cantamesa. Guests in attendance were Board of Education member Debbie Boyle and Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Bowen.



Glenn Parisi, choral director

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Skylar Davisson Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Skylar Davisson and teacher Cynthia Severino.

Skylar Davisson, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "Winter Fun," has earned Skylar 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.

Winter Fun

By Skylar Davisson

Winter is when Santa comes.
In his sleigh, happy he hums.
Never letting his reindeer stop.
To each rooftop the presents drop.
Every child sound asleep,
Round the world counting sheep.

Families having fun forever.
Unwrapping presents together.
No matter what the weather.
Winter is for having fun!

Christmas Schedule at Recycling Complex and Curbside Collection

The South Plainfield Recycling Complex will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and on Saturday, Dec. 25 for Christmas. The complex will also be closed on Friday, Dec. 31 and on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011 for New Year's Day. The recycling center and the yard waste site on Kenneth Avenue will be open instead from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 23, and Thursday, Dec. 30.

Curbside recycling collection will not be affected by the holidays.

Regular hours at the recycling center are 12 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The yard waste site will be on its winter schedule, open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, now through March 15, 2011.

Call the recycling hotline at (908) 226-7620 for updates.

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