

THE OBSERVER
EXTRA!
EXTRA!

Eagles Midget Cheerleaders Win National Championship – See pages 6 and 7.

South Plainfield Observer *DVP*

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JANUARY 14, 2011

Slick Ice + Alcohol = Home Gas Explosion

Photo Courtesy
Steven Morales

Homeowners displaced but escape uninjured after an explosion destroys their home.

This boarded up Rush Street home is the aftermath of an explosion after a drunk driver slammed into the garage and hit a gas line. In the top photo, firefighters work to extinguish the fire.

An out-of-control vehicle driven by Michael R. Maher, 25, of Tanersville, Pa. slammed into a duplex located at 1204 Rush St. around 1:44 a.m. on Saturday causing a gas line to rupture. Five occupants of the home who were sleeping escaped unharmed. The explosion rocked the neighborhood and damaged homes adjacent to the blast on Rush Street, Woolworth

Avenue and Christopher Street. There were no injuries reported.

Maher was charged with driving while intoxicated after he lost control of his 2008 Ford while traveling down New York Avenue, according to South Plainfield Police Lt. Kevin Murtagh. Maher struck the garage at 1204 Rush St. and broke the gas main to the home which was located

in the garage. The house located at 1200 and 1204 Rush St. is a two-family duplex. The 1200 Rush St. unit owned by Davendra and Falguni Patel, who were home with their two children, sustained severe water and smoke damage. The 1204 Rush St. unit, owned by Frank Approvato who was also home at the time of the crash, is a total loss. The house located at 201 Woolworth Ave. sustained moderate damage from debris which penetrated the bedroom on the second floor of the house. Two additional homes sustained minor damage, one at 207

(Continued on page 10)

Acting Principal Appointed For New Catholic School

Donna Kanowitz, an experienced and familiar educator for the Diocese of Metuchen, has been appointed acting principal of a new Catholic school in South Plainfield which will be named Holy Savior Academy. She will assume the duties of acting principal immediately and serve until a permanent principal is named.

Kanowitz has been associated with education in the Diocese for 25 years as a teacher, principal and assistant superintendent in the Department of Education. Currently, she supervises 18 schools in the Diocese.

Holy Savior Academy, which will open in September of 2011, is being formed from four

(Continued on page 12)



Donna Kanowitz has been appointed acting principal of Holy Savior Academy.



South Plainfield Lieutenant Matthew Koep (above left) and Acting Police Chief James Parker (above right) take the oath of captain and police chief, respectively, at Monday night's Borough Council meeting. Koep's wife, Stacey, and daughters Kristen and Kaitlyn; and Parker's wife, June, and daughters, Julia and Caroline, join them. Councilman Rob Bengivenga administered the oath. For story, see page 3.

SNOW STORM

Residents are advised to remove their vehicles from the street during a winter snow storm to allow plows to clear the roads. Please also be advised that homeowners are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of and (if applicable) the sides of their property.



FYI

WINTER WEATHER
ADVISORY
2011



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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

January 24 January 24

February 7 February 7

February 22 (Tuesday) February 22 (Tuesday)

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

Reorganization Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 6:30 p.m. Regular Meeting 7 p.m.

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. 19, 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

Feb. 15, March 15, April 9, May 17, June 21, (July & Aug. no meeting) Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 18, Dec. 20

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

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

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

Monday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605

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. 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.

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.

In My Opinion

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

Dear Editor,

Each year, the sixth grade class at Grant Elementary School takes a three day trip to Montclair State's field campus at Stokes State Forest to take part in the N.J. School of Conservation's environmental education programs. The students experience hiking, team building exercises, survival skills, campfires, a dance and plenty of good, healthy food.

This trip is funded by the Grant School PTO and the students. With expenses expected to exceed \$44,000, we look to our community for support. In an effort to raise money for the October 2011 trip, many exciting fundraisers have been planned.

I'd like to thank Mr. Whalen, Grant School principal, for being so open to our plans and helping us make them a reality. Also, "thank you" to our fundraiser chairpersons including Amy Battista for product sales, Stacie Marish for school dances, Barbara Rhoads for raffle baskets, Sue Aleksandrowicz for our pasta dinner, Diana Ryan for our wine tasting and all the Grant parents and students who have come out to volunteer at these events and/or attend them. A big thanks goes to all the moms and dads who helped make our pasta dinner a success, including those who donated items and helped assemble raffle baskets, and to all the parents who worked in and around the kitchen that night.

A special thank you goes to the following local residents and businesses who have supported our fundraisers through donations, discounts or other means: The Battista Family, the Bisgaard Family, the Savoca Family, the Colapietro Family, John Aleksandrowicz and Foodtown, Joshen Paper & Packaging, Investors Savings Bank, Donna Cieszkowicz and Sodexo, Saladworks, Home-town Heros, Sherban's, Front Street Farmers Market, Wine Chateau, Joe's Crab Shack, Home Depot, Panda Express, Five Below, Costco, Target, Witty's Liquors, Stop & Shop, Pepsi Corp, Red Robin, Bruno's Pizza Factory, Friendly's, Mr. Subs, Red Lobster, Longhorn Steakhouse, Gabriele's Bar & Grille, Animal House Pet Grooming and Wendy's Restaurant. If I have missed anyone, please know that it is not intentional and that your efforts are truly appreciated.



Residents of South Plainfield:

South Plainfield Curves closed on December 24. We have had the great privilege of motivating the women of South Plainfield and surrounding towns for almost eight years. We have been inspired by many of our members struggles and successes. Over the years our Curves became a family, so much so that over 80 of our members transferred to Stephenville Curves in North Edison on Park Avenue so that they can continue their Curves workouts together. Thank you for your patronage and for inspiring us each and every day. Our hope is that you will continue to exercise, eat consciously and stay as healthy as possible. We are grateful for the time we have shared together and will always remember each and every one of you.

YOURS IN FITNESS, ELISSA & JERRI

Upcoming fundraisers include: Red Robin Family Fun Night, Eat at Joe's Crab Shack Night, pie sale and beer tasting night. Everyone is welcome to attend these family-friendly events. Visit the Stokes website at <http://stokes2011.webs.com>. To make a donation to the Stokes 2011 trip, a check made payable to "Grant School PTO-Stokes 2011" can be mailed to Grant School PTO/Stokes 2011, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

**WITH MUCH APPRECIATION,
MADELINE CHRISTILLES
GRANT SCHOOL PTO-STOKES
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

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.

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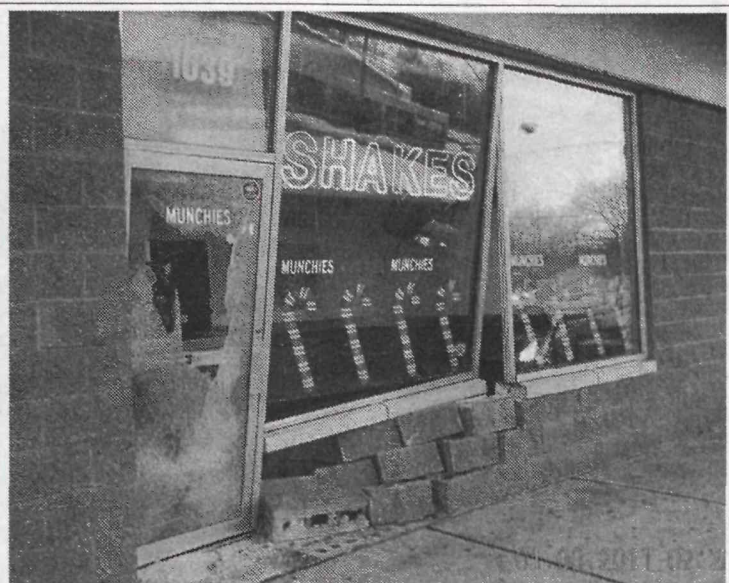
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An employee of Munchies, located on Park Avenue, told police that while parking his vehicle in the lot his foot slipped off the brake causing it to roll into the store front. Mark Frega, 49, of Westfield was uninjured and received a summons for careless driving.

Cibelli Sentenced to 55 Years

By Jane Dornick

Resident Paul Cibelli Jr., 48, who was convicted a second time in October for killing his girlfriend, Tania Silva, received a 55-year prison sentence from Superior Court Judge Bradley Ferencz in New Brunswick on January 5.

An appeals court reversed the original 2007 guilty verdict in 2009, ruling that Judge Ferencz had "abused his discretion" by allowing Cibelli's ex-wife to testify that he threatened to kill her if she left him.

According to Middlesex County prosecutors in both cases, Cibelli was angry that Silva, 35, was leaving him and bludgeoned her to death on October 7, 2005 in their Robert Place home. He used a roofing stapler, strangled her and then dumped the body in a recycling facility in Pennsylvania near where he had previously been employed. Cibelli was also found guilty of hindering his own apprehension.

Judge Ferencz called the murder "horrific" and that "the jury's verdict is consistent with the evidence presented." Cibelli, during a 20 minute speech in court, said, "What happened to Tania is horrific, but just as horrific is that I'm accused of a crime I didn't commit. I simply do not have it in

my heart to take another person's life," and offered Silva's parents his "deepest sympathies."

During Cibelli's second trial, he was arrested in Bayonne on charges that he harassed his most recently estranged girlfriend in September 2009 shortly after he got out of prison on the appeal. His attorney, Paul Casteleiro of Hoboken, said he had been cleared of the harassment charge.

Council Promotes Parker to Chief; Koep to Captain

Two South Plainfield Police Officers received promotions at Monday's Borough Council meeting. James Parker was promoted to chief of police and Matthew Koep to captain.

Chief James Parker is a 17 year veteran of law enforcement having joined the South Plainfield Police Department in August 1993. Parker served as a patrolman and a watch commander in the patrol section and a detective and division commander in the service division. During his assignment as detective, he completed a temporary assignment with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

Task Force in the State of New Jersey.

Parker was promoted to sergeant in December 2003; lieutenant in May 2006 and captain in July 2010.

Parker is a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, graduating South Plainfield High School in 1987. He attended Kean University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Parker and wife, June, have been married for 14 years and have two daughters, Julia and Caroline. He is the son of James and Ellen Parker and has a brother, David.

Captain Matthew Koep is a 19 year veteran of law enforcement, having

joined the South Plainfield Police Department in January 1992. Koep previously served as a shift commander and watch commander in the patrol section of the operations division. He is currently assigned as supervisor of the training unit, responsible for the training, community policing and DARE functions of the department. He is the lead defensive baton and OC Spray Instructor for the South Plainfield Police Department.

Koep was promoted to sergeant in January 2000 and lieutenant in January 2004.

Koep and wife, Stacey, have been married for 15 years and have two daughters, Kristen and Kaitlyn. He is a graduate of Rutgers University. Prior to becoming a police officer, he worked in the engineering field.

Koep is the son of Kenneth and Alice Koep. He has two brothers, Paul and Mark; and five sisters, Kathy, Karen, Caroline, Cheryl and Cynthia. Until recently, he was a lifelong resident of the borough.

Round Table Conference at Wesley Methodist Church

The churches of South Plainfield will be holding a round table conference under the theme, "Visions of Hope" for South Plainfield, on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of Wesley Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

A panel of speakers consisting of Mayor Matt Anesh, Board of Education President Jim Giannakis and Chris Sienklewski, who is representing the churches of South Plainfield, will speak on their visions of hope for South Plainfield. Speeches will reflect on how this community can grow in unity, in

diversity, and what is the best place for education with creative opportunities for children. Following the speeches there will be a discussion. Refreshments will be served.

You are invited to join this round table event and share your valuable ideas. Principles of civil discourse will be strictly observed. It is not a religious gathering, but a gathering of the people of all religions who are concerned citizens of South Plainfield and have a vision for the community. It is a non-partisan event and all parties are welcome.

For more information, call Rev. Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is selling the Entertainment Book for \$30.

Contact Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

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events

Around Town

Breakfast Buffet at American Legion

January 16

American Legion Chaumont Post 243, 243 Oak Tree Ave., will hold a country breakfast buffet on Sunday, Jan. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. The auxiliary will be serving eggs, bacon, ham, French toast and pancakes, breakfast casseroles, bagels and more. \$6 for adults and children over 12; \$3 for children 6-12; children under six eat free. Proceeds support the Post 243 scholarship fund which has awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to South Plainfield students in the last two years.

Service for Peace And Non-Violence

January 16

Wesley Methodist Church will sponsor an interfaith prayer service for peace and non-violence on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 4 p.m., the eve of Martin Luther King Day. The community, representatives from various faith communities and borough leaders are invited to attend.

The Rescue House of Prayer choir and cultural dancers will perform. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, or if you would like to perform a song or dance, call the church or Pastor Nehemiah Thompson at (908) 251-3992.

Grant School Fundraiser

January 18

Grant School will be holding an all day fundraiser on Tuesday, Jan. 18 at Joe's Crab Shack in Hadley Center.

10% of our food sales will be donated to Grant School's 2011 Stokes trip. Enjoy music, dancing and good food. Get your picture taken by the Shack Shots photographer. Must bring flyer! Print the flyer through our calendar at <http://stokes2011.webs.com>.

Ponytail Fundraiser

January 21

Come out for a night of music and laughter, sponsored by the South Plainfield Ponytail Association, at the Senior Center on Friday, Jan. 21 from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. to support girls softball. Tickets are \$40 per person and include a buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda and dessert. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:30 p.m. and show at 8:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call Roone at (908) 202-1653, Nancy at (908) 217-2103 or Dave at (908) 906-1670.

Wrestling Alumni Night

January 22

The first wrestling alumni night will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. at the high school. All former SPHS wrestlers are invited for a night of fun and reminiscing and to watch the Tigers take on Old Bridge. Following the match, all alumni, friends and fans (adults only please) are invited to Flanagan's for a post match reception sponsored by the South Plainfield Wrestling Club. Light buffet and cash bar will be available. For more information or to register visit www.spwrest

Send Your Events to: spobserver@comcast.net
Visit our website: www.spobserver.com
for information on how to submit an event.

ling.com; information can be found under the Alumni section.

Elks Pancake Breakfast

January 30

The South Plainfield Elks Lodge #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. to noon to benefit the South Plainfield High School Orchestra/Marching Band Disney trip. Pancakes, sausage, bacon, hash browns, toast, eggs to order, orange juice, coffee and tea. Cost: adults/\$6; seniors/\$5; children under 12/\$4.

For more information, call Karen Kelly at (908) 757-5820.

Sacred Heart "A Night on Broadway"

January 30

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry presents "A Night on Broadway" on Sunday, Jan. 30 at 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., featuring music from many beloved musicals, including *The Sound of Music*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Carousel*, *My Fair Lady*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Fantastiks*. A free will offering will be accepted at the door.

For more information, call (908) 756-0633, ext 139.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs Open Dance

January 14

Middlesex East Widows Or Widowers, Carteret Chapter, will hold an open dance on Friday, Jan. 14 from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Live music and refreshments. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

Blackrose to Perform

January 15

Blackrose, the band, playing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will be performing at the Stagehouse Restaurant, 366 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Singles Dance Party

January 15

Steppin' Out Singles is holding a grand reopening upscale singles dance on Saturday, Jan. 15 at 8 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Edison, 2055 Rt. 27 in Edison. Newly renovated with a brand new dance floor.

Ages 40 and up; no jeans/sneakers/t-shirts. Admission: \$17.

For more information, call (732) 656-1801.

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

January 16

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Jan. 16 from 7 to 11 p.m. at The Knights of Columbus Hall, Morrissey Ave. in Avenel. Light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

Forum: Coping with Education Cuts

January 20

"Coping with the Governor's Education Cuts," an education forum hosted by Senate Majority Leader Barbara Buono, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 20 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Edison High School in the auditorium, 50 Boulevard of the Eagles in Edison.

How have the governor's education cuts affected you? Come voice your opinion and concerns at this public forum. All are welcome.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Coming Up....

January 20—Ballys Atlantic City

MONDAYS

(Closed January 17 MLK Day)
Silver Sneakers 8:45 am
Crocheting 9:30 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.

For more information, call (732) 205-1372.

Temple Sholom White Elephant Auction

January 22

Temple Sholom of Fanwood/Scotch Plains, 74 Martine Ave., will host its second White Elephant Auction at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22. Open to the public. Tickets: \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door include light refreshments, soft drinks and wine.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call (908) 889-4900 or email sholom@sholomnj.org.

Gesang-und Turn-Verein Dinner Dance

January 22

Plainfield Gesang-und Turn-Verein will hold a dinner dance on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Singer Hall, 220 Somerset St. in North Plainfield. Gulash and spaetzle and all the trimmings will be served. Coffee and cake for desert. Dance music will be provided by Werner Goebel in the Rat-scheller. The new board will be installed for 2011. Tickets are \$17 for members or \$19 for non members.

For reservations, call Joan at (908) 647-0819 or Victor at (908) 276-8572.

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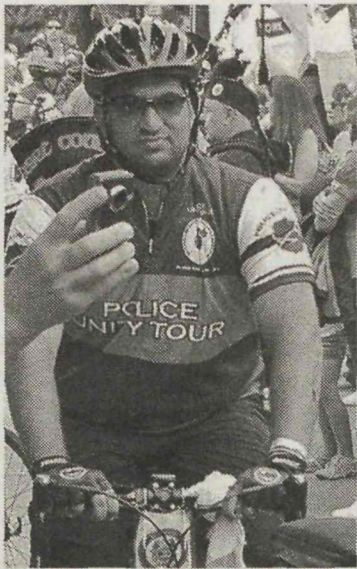
Corrections Officer Rides for Unity

By Jane Dornick

Lifelong resident Eric Milstein, a senior corrections officer for the past eight years with the Garden State Youth Correctional Facility in Yardville, participated in the Police Unity Tour bicycle ride for the first time back in May. The primary purpose of the tour is to raise awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty and to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum in Washington, D.C.

Milstein was among some 1,200 members nationwide who made the 300 mile journey from East Hanover to D.C. in just three days. This year, because of their efforts, the Police Unity Tour was able to donate \$1.325M to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and completely restore the memorial.

The Police Unity Tour was organized in 1997 by Officer Patrick P. Montuore of the Florham Park Police Department with only 18 riders who raised \$18,000. The tour begins on May 9 of each year and arrives in D.C. on May 12. On May 13, bikers participate in a candle light vigil for the 18,983 fallen officers throughout the country whose names are engraved



Eric Milstein

on the wall of the memorial.

"When I ride through the memorial I do take a minute to remember the South Plainfield Police officers [Cady and Conklin] and leave pictures," said Milstein who thought he would never complete the entire ride. He does, however, consider it an accomplishment that he did and according to him it was a life changing experience. "It's not about me. I ride for all officers who were killed in the line of duty."

Officer William Cady died at the age of 29 on April 19, 1975 when he was struck by a car while on foot at a traffic stop and Officer Richard Conklin, only 27 years old, was shot with his own gun during a struggle with a patient he was transporting on January 21, 1972.

Aside from his full time job as a corrections officer, Milstein also works part time as a 911 dispatcher for the borough. In the past, he has been a member of the rescue squad and volunteer fire department.

In order to participate in the upcoming Police Unity Tour in May 2011, Milstein is seeking tax deductible donations from local businesses to fund the \$1,750 needed for the trip.

For more information on how to sponsor Milstein's ride, he can be reached at (732) 921-4962, email eric.milstein@gmail.com or visit firstgiving.com/ericmilstein. To learn more about the Police Unity Tour or the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum, go to policeunitytour.com, nleomf.org and also on Facebook—Milstein's Police Unity Tour Team NJDOC.

Correction officers are sworn law enforcement officers and have the same authority as all police officers in the state.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Planned

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first observed from January 18-25, 1908. Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus, "that they all may be one" (John 17:21).

The Association of Christian Churches of South Plainfield was formed in 1964 for just that purpose—to advance unity and dialogue among the various Christian faith traditions of South Plainfield. The current active members of the Association, whose pastors and spiritual leaders meet monthly, consist of St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church, First Baptist Church, Pilgrim Covenant, Rescue House of Prayer, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and Wesley United Methodist.

This year the Association of Christian Churches has planned a week of events to advance and celebrate Christian unity in South Plainfield. Note the dates, times and places for the following special observances. All events are free.

January 16: Wesley Methodist, 4 p.m.—Interfaith Prayer Service for

Peace and Non-Violence featuring prayers of Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist clergy, along with cultural dances and a special tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 18: First Baptist Church, 7 p.m.—Contemplative prayer.

January 19: Pilgrim Covenant Church, 7 p.m.—Sharing and discussion on "unbinding the Gospel" and living the Good News of Jesus Christ.

January 20: Rescue House of Prayer, 12 p.m.—Mid-day prayer. Scripture, music and intercessions for unity with preaching by Pastor Irene Campbell.

January 21: An Old Fashioned Hymn Sing, 7 p.m.—Sacred Heart

Church. Choirs from area churches, along with congregational singing, will celebrate the unity we share in Christ through sacred music, with favorite hymns from the various faith traditions.

January 23: Panel Discussion, 3 p.m.—Wesley Methodist. Topic: Visions of Hope for South Plainfield. Along with our respective clergy and local politician and educators, join in a discussion of our hopes for the future of South Plainfield, and the role we each place in our growing multicultural community.

For more information on any of these events, contact the local hosting church.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

Greetings from the library. That chill in the air means winter has arrived. What better way to stay warm than to curl up on the couch with a good book or a good movie from the library, and we have something for everyone.

Our new circulation system will allow you to be notified via email that your holds are available, when items are overdue and will also notify you a couple of days in advance when an item will be due. This should help to avoid overdue charges. If you would like these features available to you, go to the Circulation Desk and provide us with your email to receive these notifications.

We also have new policies regarding our Internet computers. There is now a maximum of two hours per day per person on our public computers. Between 2:30 and 6 p.m. during the school year everyone gets one hour of Internet time with no renewals. Also between the hours of 2:30 and 6 p.m., anyone under the age of 17 must have their library card with a photo either on their library card or a photo ID before entering the library. Parents must come in with their children if they wish to put a photo on the child's library card. Children under 14 who wish to use the Internet must have a parent or guardian who stays with them while they are on the computer. Non-residents pay \$2/hr (or any part of an hour) to use the Internet. Anyone who wants to use a computer must come to the reference desk to make a reservation. Access will not be permitted without a reservation and reservations cannot be made over the phone.

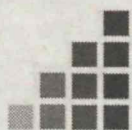
We have an ongoing book sale where books are \$1 a bag with a wide variety of kids and adult books to choose from. We also have VHS tapes, DVDs, CD, Books on CD and cassette tapes. These are not \$1 a bag. Prices range from

\$.50 to \$1. Come on in and check to see if there is anything you like. To make room for the 2011 issues, we have removed a majority of our 2009 magazines and they are available for free for anyone who wants them. Just come into the library and look through the baskets to see what is available. This is an ongoing process, so not all of the magazines will be out right away.

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The library now has access to Job and Career Accelerator. Job & Career Accelerator combines everything you need for a successful job search into one easy-to-use online application. It integrates everything a patron needs to conduct a successful job search. Interactive wizards guide patrons through each step of the search process in a personalized manner, from recommending occupations to fetching up-to-the-minute job postings that are based on

(Continued on page 10)



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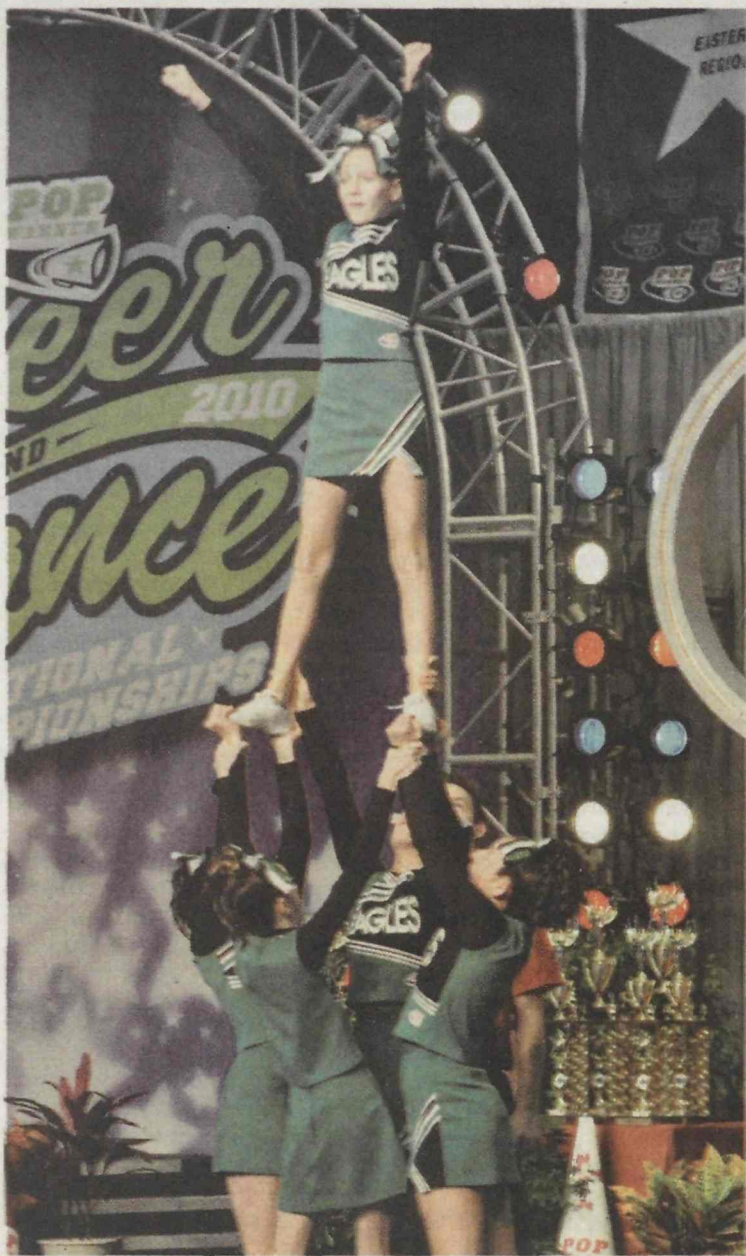
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Eagles Midget Cheerleaders Take First Place



Kara Podlovits in a full extension.

When we hit that mat at nationals we came together as one, because we all wanted that title. We really showed them who the best team is yet!"

—Wiktorja Blazejowicz

The South Plainfield Eagles Pop Warner Midget Cheer squad are now two-time National Champions after competing in the 2010 National Cheer and Dance Championships in Disney World on December 10.

The Midget cheer squad, comprised of 19 girls, ages 12-14, fought off stiff competition from 13 of the best squads from all across the nation. The team's performance was flawless, leaving family and friends who traveled to Disney World to watch them compete amazed at the team's impressive level of composure despite the intense pressure a national level competition brings.

The majority of the girls on the



2010 National Champions are: (top row) Jamie Donato, Chelsea Housel, Brooke Barry, Alyssa Capone, Lauren Dicellis, Ashley Franchek, Shayna Hodge, Brittany Della Sala, Asst. Coach Kelly Addario. Middle Row: Head Coach Melissa Smith, Diana Pender, Wiktorja Blazejowicz, Diamond Pender, Alexis Cavaliere, Shannon Fonti, Jennifer Teece, Asst. Coach Wendi Donato. Bottom row: Asst. Coach Doreen Massaro, Katie Addario, Emily Smith, Kara Podlovits, Zoe Falcone, Lauren Zekas, Cheer Commissioner Abra Hodge.

squad were also on the team that was crowned national champions in 2008, the first time South Plainfield was ever represented at the Pop Warner National Competition. For these girls and their coaches, the 2010 win is even more special because many of these girls will not be returning next year as they will be entering high school. In addition, a second place finish at nationals in 2009 left many of them unsatisfied with a strong desire to prove they could be national champions once again.

It had been a crazy season, with tough competition at each stop along the way to nationals. The Eastern Region Qualifiers and the Eastern Region Championships were full of surprises, with many long-time rivals fighting for the top spots. Additionally, one of the fliers, Kara Podlovits, was injured at practice the day before Thanksgiving. A trip to Medemerger that night resulted in a diagnosis of a fractured bone in each foot, meaning she would be unable to compete. The coaches and team scrambled over Thanksgiving weekend to redo large portions of the routine. Luckily, plenty of rest over Thanksgiving weekend plus a visit to a specialist on the Monday after Thanksgiving, and Kara was properly diagnosed with two sprained ankles, and allowed her to return to cheering and compete



Shannon Fonti, Emily Smith and Head Coach Melissa Smith accept the 2010 first place trophy.

in the competition. The routine was saved and the squad was back in business.

Despite all these challenges, the girls from South Plainfield always managed to keep their composure; in fact, they seemed to perform best when the pressure was greatest. Their strong work ethic and willingness to put in long hours of practice kept them at the top of their game throughout the season.

As always, the competition at

nationals was fierce. The squad from Rotterdam, N.Y. had been to nationals before, but had never won. They were out to prove they deserved a place in history. Squads from Connecticut and Florida were also there to win; however, when the squad from South Plainfield hit that mat, their confidence showed through. They put the season's difficulties and challenges behind them and delivered the most precise, flawless routine of the 2010 season. A clean routine, along with a high level of difficulty in the stunts and a very complex, fast-paced dance portion, helped the squad to clinch the gold for the second time.

Head Coach Melissa Smith had this to say about her squad, "We have been coaching most of these girls for seven years and they have grown up right before our eyes! We have been through a lot as a team. We had so many laughs and, of course, some tears, but every single moment has been worth it. What a ride it has been! Three times going to nationals—who does that? Wow! They are truly a talented group of girls and they shine like the stars they are! They have exceeded every goal they set for themselves and made their coaches so very proud."

This kind of a record is no accident. It is the result of dedicated, unwavering coaches and girls who are amazingly focused for their age. Abra Hodge, cheer commissioner for the SP Eagles for five out of the last six years, had this to say about the squad: "From the very beginning of their SP Eagles career, this has been a very determined group of girls, coaches and families. It has been an honor to have represented such a talented and dedicated group of individuals. I

(Continued on the next page)

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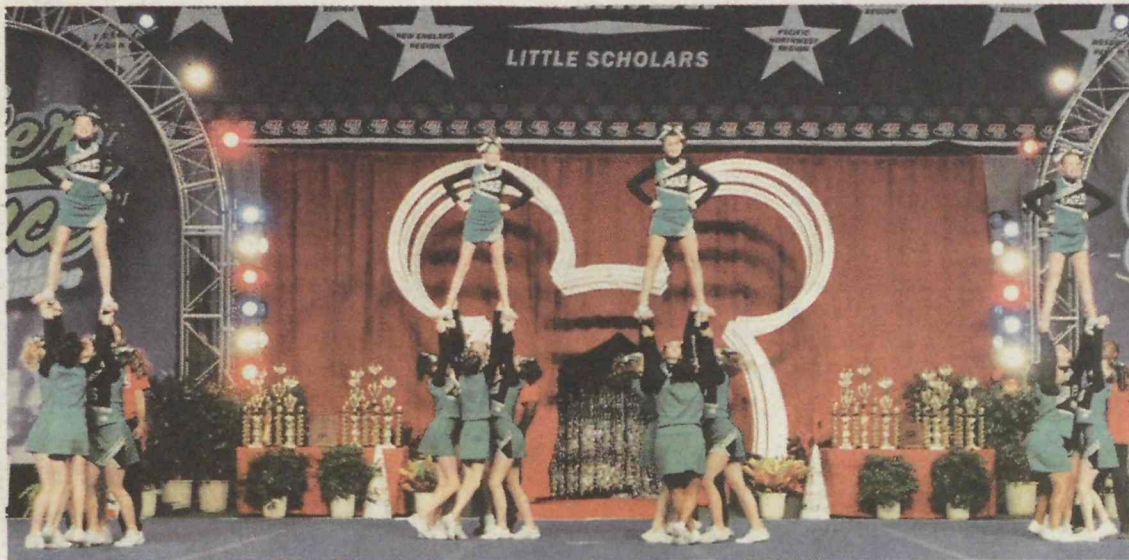
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at National Championships



Fliers Zoe Falcone, Kara Podlovits, Wiktoria Blazejowicz and Emily Smith perform moving full extensions.

(Continued from previous page)

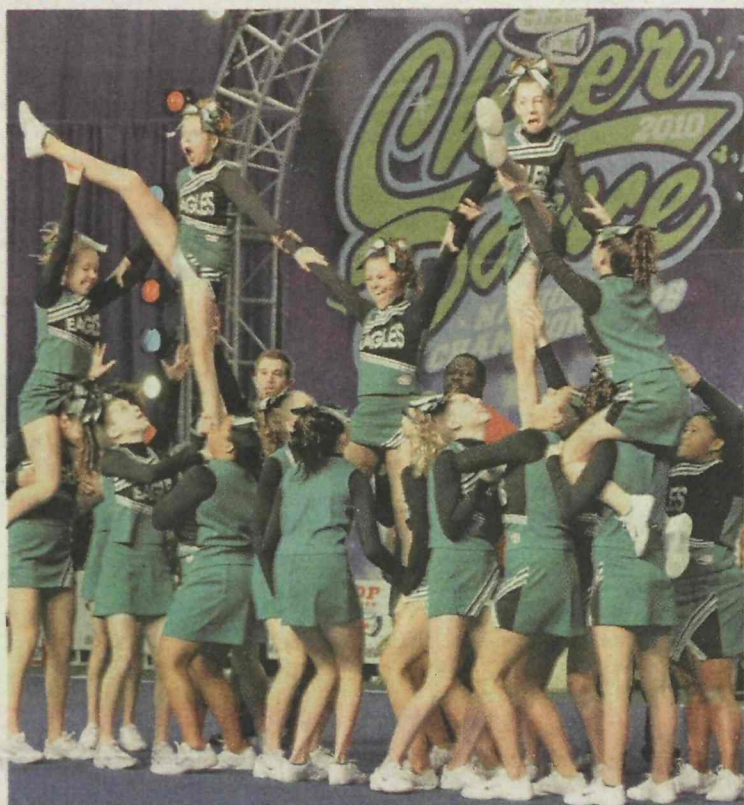
have enjoyed watching the girls grow into fine young ladies and will miss them all. I am confident that they will continue to strive to do their best in all of their future endeavors and soar high as Eagles do."

The team had an added bonus this year as long-time assistant coach Amy Fonti had announced she was pregnant back at the beginning of the year. Coach Fonti was unable to be with the girls at nationals, but increased the excitement in her own way. Assistant Coach Doreen Massaro said, "This last National Championship was dedicated to our coach Amy Fonti who gave birth to her beautiful baby girl, Paige, two days before the national competition. Of course, she watched the girls perform from her hospital bed with Paige in hand and her daughter, Hailey, our mascot, at her side!"

So there you have it folks: two-time national champions. This is something for us all to be proud of, because it certainly takes a village to raise national champions. To everyone who ever dropped a coin into one of their cans on canning days, paid for a sign at the Kenneth Avenue fields, sponsored a spot on their t-shirts, or sent in a donation, the squad sends you its heartfelt thanks.

The executive board of the SP Eagles also would like to thank everyone who contributed to the organization throughout 2010. You helped make the dreams of some very hardworking and dedicated girls and coaches become a reality.

—Submitted by Terry Reed-Housel



The Midget squad in their pyramid formation.

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Obituaries

Violette Jean Villemaine, 91

Violette Jean (Prist) Villemaine, born in 1919 in Paris, died on Monday, Dec. 6 in Compiègne, France of natural causes.



Violette Jean Villemaine

Mrs. Villemaine was an unemployment in-take worker for the French government and faithfully supported UNESCO's humanitarian programs.

She enjoyed visiting her American family who took her to Niagara Falls, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, to see *Les Misérables* on Broadway, the Jersey Shore, FDR's home in Hyde Park, N.Y., and the Changing of the Guard at the National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. She wept at the Korean War memorial where all Allied multinational military personnel are recognized, including those from France. She was equally moved by the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial. Her favorite local restaurant was Sherban's Diner where she was culture-shocked by her first experience with the "doggy bag," but quickly came to enjoy this unique American tradition.

She is predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Henri Villemaine in 1995; three children, Gisele in 1938, Christian in 1947 and Danielle in 1984; her father, Sebastian Prist in 1936; her mother, Amelia Deck in 1983; and six siblings, Jean, Andre, Rene, Germaine, Louise and Paulette.

She is survived by a sister, Mme. Renee Darre of Paris; three children, Didier Villemaine of Lyon, Denis Villemaine and wife Sylvie of Les Mans and Dominique Kuhn and husband Harry of South Plainfield; eight grandchildren, Sandrine Kuhn, Emily and husband Michael Raphael II, Gregory and wife Diane (Kuchera) Kuhn, Randy and wife Theresa (Lamastro)

Kuhn, all of South Plainfield; Franck Massebiau of Strausbourg, Peter Villemaine of Corsica, Jennifer Villemaine of Barran and Virginie Villemaine of St. Jeoire, all of France; and seven great-grandchildren, Danielle Kuhn, Isabella Kuhn and Gabriel Raphael, all of South Plainfield; and Lucas, Kilyan, Mayline and Alexya Villemaine, all of France.

A requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Jacques R.C. Church in Compiègne, followed by interment in the family's plot at St. Martin's R.C. Cemetery in Roye-sur-Matz, Picardie, France.

The family requests that all memorial contributions be made to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad.

Mary A. (Floro) Sonnenfeld, 88

Mary A. (Floro) Sonnenfeld passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, Jan. 7 with her family at her side.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she grew up in Bellerose, Long Island and settled in South Plainfield in 1956.

Working as a bookkeeper for most of her life, Mary initially worked for Unexcelled Fireworks in N.Y.C. during WWII and later began a career at the former Tepper's Department Store in Plainfield. She began working part time as a gift wrapper and progressed over the years to payroll manager where she worked until the store's closing.

She and her beloved husband of 62 years, Frederick, were faithful longtime communicants of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield. In addition, Mary had a skillful and creative ability to sew and enjoyed crocheting. She was also a wonderful cook, excellent baker and made the best pies.

Her husband, Frederick, died on November 17, 2010. She is also predeceased by four siblings, Agnes Mott, Ann Santelli, Bruno Floro and Salvatore Floro.

Surviving are two daughters and their husbands, Kathy and Michael Wozniak of South Plainfield and Joan

and Brian McCormack of Bound Brook; a son and his wife, Mark and Maryann of East Windsor; and a sister, Florence Brosnan of Jensen Beach, Fla.

Also surviving are two granddaughters, Jennifer Luizza and husband Charlie and Caitlin McCormack; and three great-grandchildren, Julianna, Charlie and Sofia.

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

Memorial donations in her memory may be made to Sacred Heart RC Church, 200 Randolph Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Henry Wozniacki, 85

Henry "Hank" Wozniacki died on Saturday, Jan. 8 at the McCarrick Care Center in Somerset.

Born in Hudson, Pa., Hank graduated from Plains High School and furthered his education at the University of Missouri.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and volunteered for submarine duty. Hank was assigned to the Pacific Theater of Operations and completed five successful patrols, which culminated in the sinking of 17 Japanese Men of War and Merchant Ships. He was awarded the Submarine Silver Star, Three Bronze Stars, The Philippine Liberation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation and many others.

Returning from service, he married his first and only love, Pearl (Ritsick), and moved to South Plainfield 45 years ago. He was a former Grand Knight of the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and also a Sir Knight.

A longtime member of Our Lady of Czestochowa RC Church in South Plainfield, he was an usher for 20 years, vice president of the Holy Name Society and he co-founded the St. Vincent De Paul Society. He enjoyed volunteering at St. Peter's Medical Center.

Hank was predeceased by his loving wife, Pearl, who passed away in 2002.

He leaves behind two daughters and their husbands, Elaine and Robert Pierce and Donna and Jeff Jacobs; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

Marjorie G. Nightingale, 88

Gwendolyn Marjorie Nightingale of South Plainfield, also known as 'Mum', died on Thursday, Jan. 6.

She was a former employee of Barbados Hardware.



Marjorie G. Nightingale

Gwendolyn was the beloved mother of Ann Bailey Nightingale, Michael Nightingale and step-daughter Verita Austin; mother-in-law of Lawrence Bailey and Margaret Nightingale; ex-wife of Dudley 'Pops' Nightingale; adored grandmother of Alysa (Curtis) Bovell, Kimberly (Lester) Agard, Monique (Reginald) Pitter and Myles Nightingale; sweet great-grandmother of Bryce Bovell, Darion Bovell and Nyla Agard; sister of the late Harold Ifill and Carmen Lynch; niece of the late Elsie Patrick; aunt of Shirley Ifill, Marcel Ifill and Norman LeRoy Lynch.

She will also be missed by the Patrick Family (cousins and nieces) who reside in Princess Royal, St. Michael, England and Canada.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, with visitation from 2 to 6 p.m. in the McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals. A memorial service will be held around 4 p.m.

Anthony Massa, 83

Anthony Massa passed away on Saturday, Jan. 8 at Haven Hospice in the JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Cranford, he had resided in Linden before settling in South Plainfield 51 years ago.

Mr. Massa served his county during WWII as a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

After 15 years of employment, he retired in 1991 as the buildings and grounds superintendent for the North Plainfield Board of Education.

Mr. Massa was a member of the Cranford Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #335 and also served as a longtime Pop Warner Eagles football coach.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Evelyn (Bolster); a daughter, Susan Plews of Maryland and three sons, Philp and wife Marilyn of Virginia Beach, Va., Anthony and wife Pam of Flemington and James of South Plainfield. Also surviving are seven beloved grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Cranford Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 335, 479 South Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016.

Philip Dudak, Sr., 83

Philip Dudak, Sr. died on Monday, Jan. 10 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born and raised in Buttonwood, Pa., Phil had resided in South Plainfield since he was 18 years old.

He was a member of the Laborer's International Union of North America Local #472 and recently received his 50 year membership certificate.

Mr. Dudak served with the U.S. Army during WWII and was a former member of the South Plainfield VFW Post #6763.

He was a talented gardener who loved spending time at the beach and for many years was a fixture at the Corner Deli in South Plainfield.

His wife, Amelia, passed away in 1994. He is also predeceased by a sister, Alberta DeSepio and three brothers, John, Leonard and Lawrence Dudak.

Surviving are a daughter, Anne Marie Esposito and husband Michael of Edison; a son, Philip Jr. of South Plainfield; a loving granddaughter and husband, Rosanne and Steve Galtes; a great-granddaughter, Guliana, whom he cherished; three sisters, Beth Carbonneau of Alabama, Lillian Barnes and husband David of South Plainfield and Sandra Hasson of Dunellen; and two brothers, Frederick J. Dudak and wife Therese of Maine and Stanley "Butch" Bolesta and wife Doreen of South Plainfield. Also surviving is a sister-in-law, Mary Dudak of South Plainfield and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

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Sports

SPHS Bowling

BOYS BOWLING

Tigers Defeated by Monroe, #1 Sayreville and Perth Amboy

SPHS	763	833	791	2,387
MONROE	950	916	958	2,824

Sophomore Tom Riccardi took scoring honors for the boy's bowling team with games of 199 and 191 for a 555 set. Andrew Yon's 487 set aided the cause but could not stop the hot shooting Falcons of Monroe.

SPHS	743	798	808	2,349
SAYREVILLE	1040	1044	995	3,079

State Champion Sayreville proved too powerful for the young Tiger bowling team posting a 4-0 shutout. Sophomore Joe Parillo's 203 and 509 set led the Tigers who received help from Tom Riccardi 183, Ryan Riccardi 183 and Sophomore Jesse Masters 169-174 games.

SPHS	873	825	757	2,455
PERTH AMBOY	797	850	836	2,483

The boy's bowling team split the first two games with Perth Amboy. The third, and deciding, game was a see-saw encounter which saw the Tigers rally twice but a flurry of Panther strikes were like daggers that kept the Tiger kegglers at arms length.

Sophomore Joe Parillo took scoring honors with a 230 game and 541 set while teammate Tom Riccardi rolled a solid 520. Rob Benwell chipped in with a 182 game.

By Ralph Fech

GIRLS BOWLING

Lady Tigers Fall to Monroe, But Stun Sayreville and Crush Perth Amboy

SPHS	554	563	648	1,765
MONROE	735	774	659	2,168

Nikki Disch cranked out games of 165-177-155 for a solid 497 set but it was not enough as the girl's bowling team was beaten by a good Monroe squad. Sophomore Nicole Benwell chipped in with a 160 game.

SPHS	685	670	593	1,948
SAYREVILLE	659	657	529	1,845

A short-handed girl's bowling team upset Sayreville on the strength of Nikki Disch's 190 and 203 games and high 538 high set. The Tigers swept all three games as the entire line-up stepped it up a notch.

SPHS	547	698	688	1,931
PERTH AMBOY	539	608	565	1,712

Nikki Disch's 195-182 games led the girl's bowling team to a three game sweep over Perth Amboy. The victory avenged an early season tie match with the Panthers. Rebecca Moskal's 172 game and 452 set chipped in for the Tiger's as the entire team was firing on all cylinders.

South Plainfield
Observer

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By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Although the weather outside is frightful, we are busy planning for the spring baseball season.

Final Registration is this Saturday, Jan. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Don't miss your last chance to register for the 2011 Spring Season.

After this registration a \$20 late fee will be added. First time participants must bring a copy of their child's birth certificate. Also available are sign-ups for managers, coaches, umpire classes, committees and Snack Stand Captains. Call the club house at (908) 754-2090 for further information. You can also download the registration form from our handouts section on our website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc. Just fill it out and mail it to our address. See you there!

Sign Sponsors are still available for the 2011 season. It's a great way to attract local patrons to your business. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

Take Notice that on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., a hearing will be held before the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The Board will hold a hearing on the appeal or application of Panzarella Contracting doing business at 1415 New Market Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The applicant is requesting permission to construct a one family house on property shown as Block 200, Lot 9 on the South Plainfield Tax Map. Said property is also commonly known as 224/226 Grove Street, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The Use is contrary to the bulk requirements of the R 7.5 zone of the Borough of South Plainfield.

Relief is requested for the following:

Lot Area 7,500 sq. ft. required,
5,000 sq. ft. proposed

Lot Width 75 feet required, 50 feet proposed

The applicant also intends to request at the hearing such other bulk variances and/or waivers of the design standards and/or submission requirements as are required to develop the property in the manner indicated in the application materials.

The applications, maps and documents pertaining to this application are on file in the office of Planning and Zoning in Borough Hall and are available for inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

Patrick J. Diegnan
Attorney for Applicant
2443 Plainfield Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$39.85

January 14, 2011

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE

Take Notice that on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., a hearing will be held before the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080.

The Board will hold a hearing on the appeal or application of H. Ramsingh & W. Bhagwandat residing at 2103 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The applicants are requesting an interpretation of the zoning ordinance and an appeal of the action of the Zoning Officer pursuant to New Jersey Statute 40:55D-70a. It is applicant's position that the existing apartment attached to the garage which is occupied by applicant's mother is part of a pre-existing non conforming use. The subject property is shown as Block 104, Lot 6 on the South Plainfield Tax Map and is commonly known as 2103 Maple Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey. It is located in the R 7.5 zone.

The applications, maps and documents pertaining to this application are on file in the office of Planning and Zoning in Borough Hall and are available for inspection between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Any interested party may appear at the hearing and present any objections to granting the relief requested.

Patrick J. Diegnan
Attorney for Applicant
2443 Plainfield Avenue
South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080

\$36.54

January 14, 2011

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Rev. John Paul
Alvarado, Pastor

Mass Schedule:

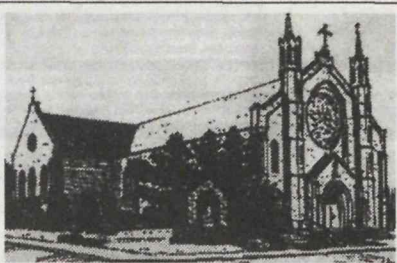
Saturday Mass 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

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.

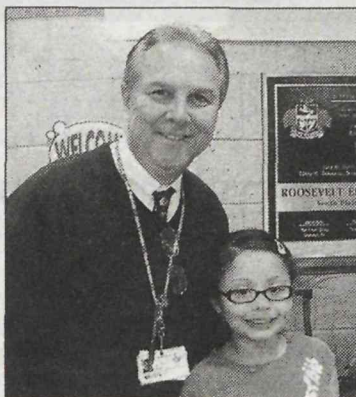
Sacrament of Reconciliation—Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and at other
times by appointment



Congratulations Sarahann! #1 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Sarahann Singh, pictured with her mom Cindy, brothers Avi and Trevin and cousin Keri.



Junior Journalist winner Angela Ramos with Principal Robert Diehl.

police report

• On December 22 a student at the Salon Professional Academy reported that their scissors, shears, straight razor and clipper set had been taken from a bag that was on a workstation.

• A Westfield resident reported that the driver's side door keyhole of their vehicle had been broken, the ignition destroyed and a Craftsman tool kit worth \$80 was taken.

• On December 23 a South Plainfield Avenue resident reported that their vehicle had been keyed and the rear driver's side tail light had been broken.

• A Firth Street resident reported their Belltronics radar detector, Sirius satellite radio and a blue tooth worth \$633 had been taken from their vehicle.

• On December 24 a Basking Ridge resident reported that their 53 foot unhitched trailer had been taken from the Palace of Jaipur parking lot.

• A Linden Avenue resident reported the theft of a wallet from their unlocked vehicle.

• On December 29 Galina Nikitina, 39, and Antonina V. Demicheva, 63, both of Piscataway were arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$776 worth of clothing.

• On January 1 Jason Daniel Harris, 41, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and reckless driving.

• A Dunellen resident reported that their vehicle's tire were slashed while parked in the parking lot at Kohl's.

• On January 2 Liroy W. Candy, 21, of Iselin was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to wear a seatbelt.

• Citgo on Park Avenue reported that someone had spray painted graffiti on the walls of their bathroom.

• On January 3 an employee of Adesta, LLC reported the theft of an amber construction light from a work vehicle.

• On January 5 Nita D. Parwani, 41, of Piscataway was arrested at Target for shoplifting \$199 worth of lipstick and jars.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

(Continued from page 5)

each user's career preferences. It is also fully integrated with the LearningExpress Library platform, allowing it to provide users with recommended skills improvement courses and occupational practice tests that are based on an individual's work preferences and goals.

With Job and Career Accelerator, users can: explore detailed information on over 1,000 different occupations; match your interests and skills with the career that's best for you; search over five million up-to-the-minute local and national job postings; and more.

On Monday, Jan. 17, the library will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. We will reopen Tuesday, Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.

See you next week!

2010-2011

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Angela Ramos, Roosevelt School third grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "I Am," has earned Angela 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.

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

I Am...

By Angela Ramos

I am yellow.

I have to get peeled.

I look good in a bowl.

I taste delicious.

I am creamy, too.

I am sensitive.

I rot when you leave me out too long.

I sometimes almost get eaten.

I am a banana.

Slick Ice + Alcohol = Home Gas Explosion

(Continued from page 1)

Woolworth Ave and the other at 204 Christopher St. Both homes were also occupied at the time of the crash and explosion.

"There was a significant amount of fire when we got there," said South Plainfield Fire Chief Larry Del Negro. Nearly 40 firefighters from Plainfield and New Market Fire Company in Piscataway assisted in extinguishing the fire in 15 minutes; however, snow and frigid temperatures hindered efforts to shut off the gas line which kept burning. PSE&G was able to cap the line at around 4 a.m.

"It was pretty devastating," said Lt. Murtagh, who responded to the scene, adding that the displaced residents were staying with family members.

A New York Avenue resident who witnessed the fire noted that the roads were coated with a sheet of ice and that may have contributed to the severity of the accident. The following day DPW salted and cleared the nearby streets in the area.

An eyewitness, who observed Maher crash into the home, was in the area helping a friend remove his vehicle which had slid on the ice into a snow bank on Rush Street.

Additional motor vehicle charges are pending, as well as possible criminal complaints. The front seat passenger, Kevin Demarest, 25, of South Plainfield fled on foot to Maher's father's home on nearby Frederick Avenue. He was detained by police for questioning and later released.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Venise Goyette requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit 14.92' rear yard setback for the enclosure of an existing deck structure; 20' rear yard setback required; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 1905 Statford Avenue, Block 129, Lot 1 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 27, 2011 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

The files and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Planning/Zoning Office in Borough Hall between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

\$38.50

January 14, 2011

Notice

The 2011 Tax Assessment list will be available for review on January 24, 2011 in the Tax Assessor's office located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. The office will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This notice complies with all State of New Jersey and County Tax Board directives.

Margaret Ackerman
Tax Assessor

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 1913

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RATES FOR USE OF THE SOUTH PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY POOL FOR 2011 was adopted on first reading and advertised in the Observer on Friday, January 14, 2011 and that a public hearing be scheduled for Monday, January 24, 2011 at the Public Meeting which will begin immediately following the 7:00pm Agenda Meeting in the Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 as follows:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South Plainfield that the following rates shall be established for use of the South Plainfield Community Pool for 2011:

Resident	On or Before 4/29	After 4/29
Family	\$275 & 10 passes	\$325 & 10 passes
Individual	\$150 & 10 passes	\$200 & 10 passes
Senior Citizen	\$50 & 10 passes	\$70 & 10 passes
Nonresident		
Family	\$500 & 10 passes	\$500 no passes
Individual	\$240 & 10 passes	\$240 no passes
Senior Citizen	\$100 & 10 passes	\$100 no passes

Individual membership applies to residents of South Plainfield age 12 or over (Applicants under 18 years of age must have parental consent). Family is considered a husband and wife and their children (if any) residing at the family home in South Plainfield. Children included under this membership are those born after September 1, 1999 or who are a full time college student (valid college ID required) or fully dependent (severe physical/mental disability). Senior citizens are resident of the Borough age 62 or older.

DAILY ADMISSION PASSES

Everyone must provide proper identification

	Monday-Friday		Weekends/Holidays	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
All ages before 5:00pm	\$8	\$15	\$10	\$20
All ages after 5:00pm	\$5	\$8	\$5	\$8
Groups 20 or more*	\$5		\$5	

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Ordinance shall become effective immediately after final adoption and publication in accordance with the law.

ATTEST:

Joann Graf/Municipal Clerk

\$55.91

January 14, 2011

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Roosevelt School Performs Winter Concert



Sixty-four Roosevelt Elementary students, the largest group ever, performed a winter concert last month.

The third grade chorus students are Annmarie Aquino, Tyla Baxter, Ariya Blow, Michael Borto, Liesl Co, David Delice, Eleanor Englert, Nour Elmadouli, Nya Figueroa, Aya Ghaly, Neeti Gupte, Hitha Harish, Halyna Ho, Danielle Kuhn, Kelsey Macpherson, Yug Modhera, Andy Nguyen, Neel Panchwagh, Arjun Patel, Nidhi Patel, Pragni Patel, Serena Patel, Ronald Petrick, Angela Ramos, Fiza Rizvi, Gianna Ruzicka, Harshita Saravankumar, Kourtney Scipio, Sanjiv Sewdat, Sophia Sharif, Jack Ternyila and Christian Weber.



The fourth grade chorus students are Aniket Agnihotri, Yenefiker Alamerew, Justin Bell, Rishi Bhalodi, Anjali Blow, Sonali Budhan, Arianna Clark, Marilyn Capa, Jennifer Contreras, Kausik Das, Megan Dineen, Brianna Fitzgerald, Kyle Gallardo, Pavan Gandhi, Priscilla Gavilanes, Nithya Goel, Alexis Grayon, Ashlee Jacobs, Shivam Khandewal, Jonathan Liu, Calista Modernel, Aakash Patel, Meera Patel, Vishika Patel, Sahit Penmatcha, Aishwarya Rajesh, Ahnaf Rashid, Claudia Timmerman, Jenna Toth, Nicole Villagomez, Timothy Wilson and Alyzah Ziga.

Acting Principal Appointed For New School

(Continued from page 1)

Catholic elementary schools; Holy Family Academy in Bound Brook, Our Lady of Mount Virgin in Middlesex, Our Lady of Fatima in Piscataway and Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield.

"I'm very familiar with the problems and rewards of being a Catholic school administrator, and I'm happy to use that experience," Kanowitz said.

"I'm pleased and honored to be offered this position.

"The facility at Sacred Heart was chosen by the Deanery pastors as the site for the new school since it was the only facility able to accommodate up to 500 students. More than \$2 million has been spent on the facility over the past several years, requiring little adjustment construction to house the new school.

"Holy Savior Academy will focus on educating students for the 21st century grounded in our Catholic faith. The culture of the school is to prepare our students through a curriculum that is interdisciplinary, integrated and project-based. Understanding the way that children learn is critical to planning for the technology that will be incorporated into all subject areas," she concluded.

The Very Rev. Patrick J. Kuffner, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Parish and Dean of the Middlebrook Deanery, said that schools in dioceses and parishes across the country are facing enormous challenges today.

"To meet the challenge of providing quality Catholic education in our

area, the pastors of our Deanery have worked together with the Office of Schools to create Holy Savior Academy," he said. "By incorporating the resources available in the current parish schools in the Deanery, Holy Savior Academy will provide quality Catholic education for children across the Deanery. By combining our collective resources, Holy Savior Academy will have the ability to provide outstanding academic opportunities in a solidly Catholic atmosphere. Donna Kanowitz has the leadership ability necessary to guide Holy Savior Academy in its inception."

Ellen Ayoub, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Metuchen, said, "I've known Donna for a long time, and worked side by side with her. She has the skill sets, intelligence, and heart to guide Holy Savior Academy in the most efficacious manner."

Bishop Paul Bootkoski, Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen, commented, "I fully support the efforts of the priests of the Deanery, and have directed that my Department of Education assist them in every way possible."

ALERT

MEETING DATE CHANGE Please be advised that a special Curriculum/Technology/Student Activities Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 4 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave.

As a result of the pending snow storm, the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 12 has been rescheduled for Jan. 19. The Regular Public Meeting will follow.



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