



Daylight Saving time begins Sunday 2 a.m. Turn clocks ahead one hour, and please remember to change smoke detector batteries.

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

MARCH 9, 2012



No, it's not the Cat in the Hat; it's Mayor Matt Anesh who joined in the South Plainfield schools' recognition of Read Across America, celebrating the birthday of Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss. Every school in the district participated in the annual event. See pages 6 and 7 for photo coverage.



School Board President Jim Giannakis (left) welcomes Dr. Stephen Genco (center), new superintendent of schools on Tuesday evening. Genco replaces Dr. Gary R. Bowen (right) who has been interim superintendent since October of 2010. See next week's issue for more.



South Plainfield High School Wrestling team

## Tigers Romp in Atlantic City

By Brian Erhardt

What a weekend it was in Atlantic City for the South Plainfield High School wrestling team!

Of the outstanding four state finalists from SPHS, the Tigers managed to bring home two individual championships, this coming just one week removed from being named the number one team in New Jersey, as ranked by the State Coaches Association Poll for winning Group III twice in three seasons.

In front of an arena packed with over 10,000 spectators (many dressed in South Plainfield's colors, green, black and white), junior Anthony Ashnault kept his three-season long undefeated streak (130-0) alive by defeating Gary Dinmore of Hunterdon Central. Ashnault scored a 5-2

victory to take the crown in the 126 lb. weight class. This was Ashnault's third consecutive state title.

His performance was followed immediately by Scott DeVecchio, who defeated Brandon Keller of Timber Creek, scoring a 3-1 decision to capture the championship at 132 lbs.

Though the Tigers' bid to become just the second team to register four titlists in the same final tournament since 1970 fell short, the weekend represented only the first time all season that the now legendary "Murderers Row" section of the South Plainfield lineup did not sweep the board.

With the defeat of Troy Heilmann by Mike Magaldo of Watchung Hills, and the pinning of two-time state champion Tyler Hunt by Bryant Clayton of Toms River South in 1:37, (who went on to be named

Outstanding Wrestler for his weekend in Atlantic City), Tigers coach Kevin McCann was still able to offer some solace. "We got two [state titles]. We would have liked to have gotten four, but both Troy and Tyler have been outstanding for us all year and they've got to hold their heads up high."

Some in the wrestling community are already anticipating the South Plainfield 2012/2013 season, as only Hunt, who graduates in the spring, will not return to "Murderer's Row." Ashnault will again be the center of attention, as he will try to finish his high school career without a loss. "I'm sure he's going to set his goal right now on winning another state title, and if he goes unbeaten next year along the way, that's great," McCann said.

## Proposed School Budget Reflects Tax Hike

### Board Members Vote 7-1 for Increase

By Jane Dornick

At a special meeting of the Board of Education held on Monday evening, board members voted 7-1 to submit preliminary figures for the fiscal year 2012/2013 school budget to the Middlesex County Superintendent's office for approval.

In an effort to increase voter participation and save money on special elections, Gov. Chris Christie signed into law Bill A4394/S3148 in January. The bill moves school board elections to November. Last month the board voted to adopt a resolution to officially change the date. The bill also allows a district that moves the election date to no longer require voter approval for a base budget; however, if the school budget exceeds the 2% tax levy cap, it will be put on the ballot for voter approval in the November election. Also, board members elected in November would take office January 1.

Until the recent legislation was enacted, residents had the opportunity to vote for or against an increase in

the school budget, but they no longer have that choice.

The preliminary total school budget for the fiscal year 2012/2013 is \$55,079,998; an increase of \$1,179,628 over last year's figure of \$53,900,370.50. Total General Fund state aid for 2012/2013 is \$9,063,278, which includes an increase in state aid in the amount of \$735,783, an 8.8% (Continued on page 10)

## Services to be Held Today for Five Fire Victims

Funeral services will be held for the five victims killed in the deadliest fire in borough history today at 11 a.m. at the First Park Baptist Church, 315 W. 7th St. in Plainfield.

The Middlesex County medical examiner has released the bodies of 62 year old Ann Jefferson and her four grandchildren, Alizae Jefferson, 12, Tyler Davis, 7, Christopher Jefferson, 5, and Elijah Taylor, 3. The release was delayed due to a discrepancy in dental records. Investigators attempting to identify the victims found that their

dental work failed to match what was claimed in family and insurer bills, according to law enforcement sources. A spokesman for the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office said the investigation is ongoing, but declined to identify the dentist.

Natalie Jefferson, 33, the mother of the seven children, escaped along with three of her children, Shaquan Phillips, 15, Angel Taylor, 2, and eight year old Jordan Jefferson, who remains at The Burn Center at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Dietra Jackson, 42, and daughter, Victoria Carden, 18, who lived in the other side of the home, escaped unharmed. After the incident, Ronald Taylor gained custody of his two year old daughter, Angel. His other child, Elijah, was killed in the fire.

Fire officials still have not determined the cause of the fire; however, it is said to have started in the first floor kitchen on the 1407 Clinton Ave. side of the house.

An outpouring of support from the community, as well as around the country, came in the form of clothing, house-

hold items and monetary donations. More than \$25,000 has been collected and is being used to purchase necessities for the victims. Monetary donations only are being accepted. Checks should be made out to: The Boyle Memorial Foundation, and sent to: Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 Attn: Clinton Avenue Fire Victims.



In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, local Daisies, Brownies and Girl Scouts assembled in council chambers to accept a proclamation from Mayor Matt Anesh naming March 12-17 Girl Scout Week. To commemorate the milestone, Girl Scouts will cross the Hamilton Blvd. overpass to symbolize "bridging" this Sunday.





**Want to stay informed about the business of your Council and BOE?****FYI****Borough  
Council  
& BOE**Council meetings air on Comcast Channel  
96 Mondays at 7 p.m. BOE meetings air on  
Thursdays at 7 p.m.To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the *Observer*.  
(Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)**council meetings****Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.****Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605****Agenda Meeting****Public Meeting**

March 19

March 19

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**March 13, March 27, April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22, June 12, June 26, July 10, July 23\*,  
Aug. 14, Aug. 28, Sept. 11, Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Nov. 27, Dec. 11**zoning board of adjustment****Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, \*except where noted.****Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**March 20, April 3, April 17, May 1, May 15, June 5, June 19,  
July 3, July 17, Aug. 7, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, Dec. 18**board of education****Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.****Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) March 14 and April 4.****Regular Public Meeting (begin at 7:30 p.m.) except where noted\* March 21, April 11****BOE curriculum/technology/student activities****Meets once a month at 4:30 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****cultural arts commission****Meets the third Tuesday of the month at the PAL at 7:30 p.m.**

March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July &amp; Aug.-No Meeting,

Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

**library board of trustees****Meets once a month on the second Tuesday, at the library at 7 p.m.**

March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**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**

March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

**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.****sife plans sub-committee****Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.**

March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, Dec. 19

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

March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9

**business advisory group****Meets once a month (first Wednesday) Borough Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.**

(No meetings July and August)

**ad hoc alternative truck route committee****To be announced. 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Questions? 908-226-7605****In My Opinion***Opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher, nor do we guarantee accuracy.***To the Editor:**

We would like to express our sympathy to the families of the victims who perished in the fire early Thursday morning, February 23 in the Stock-off farm house on Clinton Avenue.

We would especially like to thank the dedicated members of the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department for their valiant efforts to rescue the residents trapped in this inferno and their ability to contain this fire without damage to the adjacent properties.

Our thanks also to the fire companies and the EMS squads from neighboring communities who responded to support our department. We are sure that they are, as are we, deeply saddened and touched by this tragedy.

We must also express our appreciation for the concern, compassion and professionalism of the South Plainfield Police Department. It is very comforting to know that we have the support of a caring community.

**THE NEIGHBORS,****EILEEN AND BOB ROSSOW,****ISABEL AND MARCELO SCAVINO,****ROBIN AND VIN STAGNITTO,****KATHY PETROCELLI****To the Editor:**

When I heard about the tragic fire on Clinton Avenue, like many others I felt that I needed to help the family in any way possible. I called my neighbor, Cathy Herman, and advised her that I wanted to start a clothing and food drive for the family. That evening, Cathy got in touch with the mayor's office, and by Friday morning I had spoken with Anne Daley from the mayor's office and Councilman Alex Barletta and they advised that a donation drive was being set up that day and running for the next week at the Senior Center. Since the township was handling the clothing/food drive, we figured we could help out monetarily, so Cathy went and placed canisters out in a few stores the Saturday after the fire asking for donations that we could send to the Boyle Memorial Foundation to help the families affected.

I just want to say thank you to everyone who has donated money in the canisters. In just eight days and just a few canisters, we were able to raise \$300 and have brought our first money order payable to the Boyle Foundation to the township earlier

this week. We have now placed some canisters out in a few more locations and the complete list as of today is Bagel Pantry, B&amp;C Deli, Dolce Pizzeria, Ciccio's, Hometown Heros, Mei Haus, Mr. Subs, Park Avenue Deli, Rodolfo's and Twin City Pharmacy.

If you would like to make a donation directly to the foundation, please see the info below:

Monetary donations (checks only) can be made payable to: The Boyle Memorial Foundation, a 501(3)(C) non-profit organization. In the memo portion of the check put: Clinton Ave. Fire Victims. Mail to: Borough of South Plainfield, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: Clinton Avenue Fire Victims.

Also, please visit Mr. Subs on Tuesday, March 13 from 5 to 8 p.m.; a portion of the sales during this time will be donated to the foundation for the families.

Thank you again for your support in helping the families involved in this tragic fire.

**SHIRLEY THOMPSON****To the Editor:**

Several weeks ago the Almost Famous Players held their fourth coffeehouse, a fundraiser for Zach Szala, a child bitten by a rattlesnake. The successful event would not have been possible without the help of so many.

The theatre troupe would like to thank all those who supported the show. We extend thanks to the mayor and council, Senior Center employees, Eric and Karen Seiz, Jon and Babz Radwan, Jack Pedersen for his very generous donation of soda, water and paper goods; Barbara Habeeb, who not only served as emcee but also performed; all the performers for taking the time to share their talents, the hardworking AFP staff, Debbie Boyle, the *Observer*, Joan Stasio, Joan Abbott, the concession staff, Ciccio's, Cynthia Freund, Rachel Henderson and the many area businesses that donated items for the raffle. If I have left anyone out, please know that your help was appreciated. Stop by the raffle on April 13 at the Senior Center and watch for another Almost Famous coffeehouse tentatively scheduled for early May.

Thanks to one and all!

**PATRICIA ABBOTT AND****ALMOST FAMOUS PLAYERS****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](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net). **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.**Dear Editor,**

During the month of March, Women's History Month, we take time to remember and reflect on the accomplishments of great women who paved the way and changed the world for generations that followed.

Right here in the State of New Jersey, women have made strides in every profession. In the executive branch of government, Christine Whitman, the state's first female governor and former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator; Lisa P. Jackson, former New Jersey Commissioner of Environmental Protection and current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator; and Kim Guadagno, the state's first lieutenant governor, have all established legacies. Demonstrating leadership in the judicial branch, Deborah Poritz was the first woman to serve as both New Jersey's Attorney General and Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. And recently, New Jersey Inventors' Hall of Fame member Yvonne Brill was recognized by President Obama and awarded a National Medal of Technology, the highest honor bestowed by the federal government upon American scientists and inventors, for her contributions to space exploration.

But even as we honor great women of the past and present, we must remember that we all have a responsibility to cultivate great women of the future. There is no greater way to do so than via mentorship. All women have experiences to share and advice to give. Moreover, every young woman has a dream she longs to make a reality. The student interns in my Young Women's Leadership program are proof that there is power in the next generation beyond what I could have even imagined as a young person. These young women are smart, bold, and most importantly, unwavering in their belief that they can make a difference. They represent the many rising leaders who need our encouragement, our guidance, and our dedication to their success. Whether it is by volunteering with a national organization like Big Brothers, Big Sisters; coaching a local soccer team, or helping students in the neighborhood with a science fair project, this Women's History Month we can all support today's girls and young women on the road to becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

So often we think of women's history as a thing of the past, but this month, let us remember that in New Jersey, across the nation, and around the world, women are working to shape our future.

**SINCERELY,****SENATOR BARBARA BUONO**  
**18TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT****South Plainfield  
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**SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES**We encourage the submission of stories and photos. To have 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 story idea, contact the editor at (908) 668-0010.

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.

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(L-R) Central Career School Director of Admissions Eric Perron, Councilmen Derryck White and Alex Barletta, Council President Ray Rusnak, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Susan Cuffari, dean of education and student services; Mayor Matt Anesh, school president Laurence Lederer and Alex Hollywood, executive director, Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

## Central Career School Launches Medical Assisting Program

Central Career School (CCS) held an open house and health fair on February 29, coinciding with the launch of its new medical assisting program. Both highlighted the importance of overall health and nutrition, and provided an opportunity for the

public to obtain free health screenings. Dina Ali, pharmacy manager from Walgreens Middlesex Mall was on hand to perform blood pressure screenings. Attending the open house were Mayor Matt Anesh and members of the borough council.

CCS, a post-secondary institute has been offering career-related training in South Plainfield since 1995. The school is located at 126 Corporate Blvd.

For more information about CCS, call (888) 706-6832 or visit them online at [www.centralcareer.edu](http://www.centralcareer.edu).

## Two Charged With Making Terroristic Threats

Jaswinder Pinghlia, 53, and his brother Gursurinder Pinghlia, 56, both of South Clinton Avenue were charged with making terroristic threats according to documents filed in Somerset County Superior Court on February 22. The two had been sending faxes to St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick and other public and private entities not named in the complaint.

The letter sent to the hospital on February 9 states, "The Pinghlia Family makes very bad complaint against

Soning (sic) Inspector Barbara Lesik in Franklin Township." The letter threatened to kill thousands of Americans if the court did not rule in their favor in the matter scheduled to be heard there, according to the complaint.

"That thing will be change the history of this country," the letter said. "If they are not control by the U.S. government then we the Pinghlia Family ready to do big bad work in the crowded area in United State. Where we can kill thousand, thousand people on that time in this country." The letter

was signed by both brothers.

Last summer their residence on South Clinton Avenue boasted two large wooden signs painted with threatening words condemning borough officials as well as national public figures. After a judge ordered the signs removed, borough employees took the signs down.

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office detectives were able to get Jaswinder Pinghlia to verify that he and his brother had in fact written and signed the letter prior to faxing it to the hospital. According to detectives, the brothers were supposedly having problems with a mortgage company and other government officials.

The complaint asked, "What would happen if the court did not rule in his favor?" Jaswinder Pinghlia said he didn't know what he would do, nor did he know if the end result would be harm to other people.

## Choose Labor Day Parade Theme Contest Extended

How would you like the opportunity to be a part of this year's Labor Day parade? The Public Celebrations Committee is holding a contest for all South Plainfield students, grades three through six, to come up with the theme for this year's annual Labor Day parade. All you have to do is submit your ideas and the top five themes will be voted on.

Your ideas must include a description of the theme, use of examples of the theme, your name, school and grade. See your homeroom teacher for an entry form and get it back to

your teacher by Friday, March 16. This deadline has been extended by one week due to the tragic fire that occurred on February 23. You will be contacted if your entry is chosen as the winner and your winning theme will be posted on the South Plainfield web page, [www.southplainfieldnj.com](http://www.southplainfieldnj.com).

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## From the South Plainfield Library

# Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

We are getting the message out about the fact that the South Plainfield Public Library has e-books. This January alone we checked out more than three times as many e-books as we did in January 2011. These e-books are part of a database (eLibraryNJ) that is formed by a group of central and north New Jersey libraries; therefore, the selection of titles is more broad than can be found in any one library. Also, acting as a consortium allows for greater funding.

To access this database you first must have a current South Plainfield Library card. All library cards expire and those for residents expire every three years. If your card has expired you will need to come into the library and show something with your name and address (driver's license, mail, etc.). If you do have the current card all you need to do is go to our website, [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us), and click on the icon for "Free Audio Books and e-books." That will take you to a page where you will find links to both audio and e-books. When you chose your option be aware that not every e-book comes in every format. You will find any of three options: Kindle, E-pub or PDF. You will need to chose the format that matches your e-reader except if you are reading on a computer or tablet you can chose any option (you will need to download apps).

If you have any questions, call the library at (908) 754-7885 and ask for the Reference Desk or you can make an appointment and come in and one of our librarians will demonstrate how to download.

Mark your calendars for two big Friends of the South Plainfield Public Library events. The first meeting of the Friends will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20. Then on Tuesday, March 27 the Friends will be sponsoring a "Fabric Marbleizing Workshop" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Nancy Leary will help you create a unique 1960s scarf. The first scarf is free, but any additional scarves you would like to make will be \$10 each. Space is limited so please make your reservations early.

Miss Mija and Miss Linda not only will have their usual story times: for ages 3+ at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 1:15 p.m. on Thursday; Time for 2s and 3s on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30 and Books 'n Babies on Friday at 10:30 a.m., but now on Mondays there will be Movies for Toddlers at 10:30 a.m. For older children (eight years old and up) there will be movies on Monday evening at 6 p.m. All programs are free and no registration is required.

Finally, as a reminder this Saturday night, March 10, begins Daylight Saving Time. This means that you will need to move your clock ahead one hour (remember the old saying: Spring Ahead, Fall Back).

Again, if you have any questions you can call the library at (908) 754-7885 or visit us at 2484 Plainfield Ave. (next to Borough Hall).

### Ponytail Softball Signups End Friday

The South Plainfield Ponytail Softball sign up deadline is Friday, March 9. Sign up at the PAL located on Maple Avenue.

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# events

## Around Town

### Sacred Heart Church Lenten Fish Dinners

March 9, 16, 23 & 30

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church will sponsor fish dinners on Fridays during Lent; March 9, 16, 23 and 30. Dinners will be served from 5-7 p.m. in the Holy Savior Academy cafeteria (formerly Sacred Heart School), 149 South Plainfield Ave.

The menu features filet of fish (fried, broiled or parmesan), cheese ravioli, manicotti and linguini or pizza, fresh garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries or macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink, plus dessert.

Adults, \$9; seniors, \$8; children \$5. Pay at the door. Take out available.

Stations of the Cross will be held in the church at 7 p.m.

### Plaza Suite at Edison Valley Playhouse

Through March 10

Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite* will be performed at the Edison Valley Playhouse, 2196 Oak Tree Rd. in Edison, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through March 10. Adults, \$15; students and seniors, \$12.

For reservations, call (908) 755-4654. Dinner theater package available.

### Mr. Subs Fundraiser For Fire Victims

March 13

To aid the families affected by the Clinton Avenue fire, Mr. Subs will hold a fundraiser on Tuesday, March 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. A percentage of sales will be donated to the Boyle Memorial Foundation to benefit the families.

### Girl Scout Sunday

March 11

South Plainfield Girl Scouts will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting on Sunday, March 11 with several events. The girls will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Hamilton Boulevard at 12:30 p.m. and walk over the Hamilton Boulevard bridge and proceed to Holy Savior Academy for several planned events.

For more informations, email Jane Becker at janebecker@optonline.net.

### All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner

March 11

St. Stephens Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will hold an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. Includes beverage and dessert. Free will offering. Suggested donation: Adults, \$5; children, \$2. All proceeds will go to charity. No reservations needed.

For more information, call the church at (908) 757-4474.

### Historical Society Meeting Notice

March 13

The South Plainfield Historical Society will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at The History Center, Roosevelt Administration Building, lower level on the Jackson Avenue side. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### 43rd Annual District Music and Art Festival

March 15

The 43rd annual District Music and Art Festival will be held on Thursday,

March 15 at South Plainfield High School. The orchestra portion starts at 6:30 p.m.; choral portion at 7:30 p.m.; and band portion at 8:40 p.m.

Artwork will be displayed and the Winter Guard will perform during intermission.

Advanced tickets are \$2; \$5 after March 8. A separate ticket must be purchased for each portion.

Tickets are available online at [www.ticketriver.com/event/2713](http://www.ticketriver.com/event/2713), by contacting Andrew Weiss via email at [aveiss@spboe.org](mailto:aveiss@spboe.org) or by calling (908) 754-4620, ext. 378.

### Blood Drive at OLC

March 16

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church is sponsoring a blood drive on Friday, March 16 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Donors must be 18 or older.

For more information, call Dawn at (908) 444-8994.

### Elks Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

March 17

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee, 1254 New Market Ave., is sponsoring its annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 17 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. All you can eat, includes soda and dessert, cash bar. Adults, \$12; children, \$5.

For more information, call Lou Peralta at (908) 756-6406.

### Franklin School PTO Auction/Raffle

March 24

The Franklin School PTO will hold its annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 24. Proceeds will be used to fund several school programs.

If you are a business and would like to donate merchandise, a gift certificate or make a monetary donation, call Tara Rocco at (908) 668-1458.

Tickets are now available by calling Jenn at (908) 769-5849 or Tara at (908) 668-1458.

### Free Medical Review At Smile Pharmacy

March 24

Have you ever wondered about what is the best time of day to take your medication or which pills should or should not be taken together? The answers to these questions will be answered during a free medication review held at Smile Pharmacy, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., (next to the *Observer* office) on Saturday, March 24 from 9

a.m. to 2 p.m.

The public is invited to attend. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 11 a.m. RSVP by calling (908) 756-3232 by March 10 to ensure adequate time for each patient.

### Columbiettes Easter Bunny Brunch

March 25

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host the annual Easter Bunny Brunch on Sunday, March 25 in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 334 Hamilton Blvd. Doors open at 10 a.m. Open to the community. Menu includes pancakes and sausage, assorted rolls, muffins and pastries. There is no cost but a good will basket will be available. There will be games and prizes and the Easter Bunny will give out baskets to the children.

Reservations are appreciated by calling Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or Nancy at (908) 561-5917.

### SP Cultural Arts Talent Showcase

March 25

Come out and support South Plainfield's local talent at the South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission fourth annual Talent Showcase on Sunday, March 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at Wesley Methodist Church, 1500 Plainfield Ave.

There will be an assortment of singers, dancers and musicians performing this year. Admission is free.

### — Out of Town —

### St. John the Apostle Gift Auction

March 9

St. John the Apostle Parent Faculty Guild gift auction will be held on Friday, March 9 in the auditorium at the school on Valley Road in Clark. Doors open 6:30 p.m.; drawings begin at 8 p.m. Prizes include electronics, home décor, baskets of cheer, gift cards, 50/50 raffle, etc. Super Duper prizes are an iPad, Xbox Kinect and a Kindle 3G Touch. Refreshments available. Admission: \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Free sheet of center table tickets.

Purchase tickets by calling Linda at (908) 276-0498.

### Middlesex East WOWs Dance

March 9

Middlesex East Widows Or Wid-

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

March 15—St. Patty's Day Festival, Platzl Brauhaus-\$65, sign up at the Senior Center

March 17—St. Patty's Day Luncheon food, entertainment-\$17 p/p, sign up at the Senior Center

#### MONDAYS

Crocheting ..... 9:30-11:30 am  
Yoga ..... 10:30 am  
Art Class..... 11:30 am  
Active Seniors ..... 11:45 am

#### TUESDAYS

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

Exercise Class..... 8:45 am  
Shopping ..... 9 am  
Line Dancing..... 10 am  
Computer.. 10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm  
Crocheting ..... 1 pm  
Tai Chi..... 2 pm

#### THURSDAYS

Active Seniors ..... 9:00 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm  
Exercise Class..... 1:15 pm

#### FRIDAYS

Bingo ..... 10 am-2 pm

Senior Center is open daily 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays & Sundays.  
(908) 754-1047

owers, Carteret Chapter, will hold a Valentine Dance on Friday, March 9 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at The American Legion Hall, 1155 Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Refreshments. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests.

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

### NY Philharmonic Performing at NJPAC

March 9

The New York Philharmonic, under the direction of David Zinman, will perform with Cellist Alisa Weilerstein on Friday, March 9 at 8 p.m. in NJPAC's Prudential Hall.

Tickets are \$40-\$125 and may be purchased by calling at 1-888-466-5722, or by visiting the NJPAC website at [www.njpac.org](http://www.njpac.org).

### Willow Grove Church International Dinner

March 10

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, will hold its International Dinner on Saturday, March 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. The Chinese American Music Ensemble Adult and Children's Chorus and the China Youth Orchestra will perform.

Adults and teens, \$12; children six

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and in times like these  
we pull together."

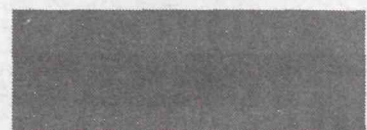
—Mayor Matt Anesh

### CLOTHING DRIVE

PROCEEDS GO  
TO FIRE VICTIMS

The South Plainfield High School Baseball Program Teams will host a used clothing drive through The U.S. Clothing Company, on Saturday, March 10, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The truck will be located in the Middle School parking lot. Please bag all items: gently used clothing, toys, shoes, purses, bedding, comforters, books. The funds from this drive will be donated to the Clinton Avenue fire victims. For more information, see Coaches Guida, Mosca, Battista, Darby or call Debbie Boyle at (908) 803-1573.





to 12, \$6; children under five, free; family, \$35. Tickets will only be available at the door if not sold out.

For tickets, call (908) 232-5678.

## Blackrose to Perform

March 10

Blackrose, a band performing classic rock and roll music and today's hits, will perform at the Cambridge Inn, 19 Summerhill Rd. in Spotswood on Saturday, March 10 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

## Young Families Open House

March 11

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, will hold a "Young Families" open house on Sunday, March 11 following the 10 a.m. worship service. After worship and classes, children are welcome to come to the open house.

For more information, call (908) 232-5678 or visit [www.willowgrovechurch.org](http://www.willowgrovechurch.org).

## Crescent Concerts

March 11

Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Watchung Avenue and Seventh Street in Plainfield, presents its fifth concert of the season, "A Festival of Organists," on Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20; seniors, \$15; students, \$5. Purchase at the door.

For more information, call (908) 756-2468.

## Free Family Carnival At Temple Shalom

March 11

Temple Shalom's youth group, SPANCY (Scotch Plains and Nearby Congregational Youth), will hold a free family-friendly carnival on Sunday, March 11 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All new, no tickets required games designed to tell the story of Purim. Enter raffles and watch a Purim play. Lunch and hamantaschen for sale. Suggested donation is \$18 per family. Come in costume for extra fun.

Temple Shalom is located within the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 So. Martine Ave.

## YMCA Cancer Survivors Program

March 13 & 15

The Metuchen YMCA, 65 High St., will hold a 12-week free program for cancer survivors. The two-hour sessions include a support group and water-based exercise. Day session begins Thursday, March 15 from 12 to 2 p.m. and runs through May 31. Evening session begins Tuesday, March 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. and runs through May 29. Participants are encouraged to bring a workout partner to assist them.

For more information, call (732) 548-2044, ext. 235.

## Ballet: Romeo And Juliet at Kean

March 16

Kean Stage presents Moscow Festival Ballet's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Chopiniana* on Friday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Kean University's Wilkins Theatre. Tickets: Standard, \$30; senior, student or child, \$20.

To purchase tickets, call (908) 737-7469, online at [www.keanstage.com](http://www.keanstage.com) or in person at Kean University's Wilkins Theater Box Office, 1000

Send Your Community Events to: [spobserver@comcast.net](mailto:spobserver@comcast.net)

# AFP Coffeehouse Benefits Rattlesnake Bite Victim

South Plainfield's Almost Famous Players, known for their efforts of combining entertainment with volunteering, held a coffeehouse fundraiser on February 18 for Zach Szala, the eight year old boy who was bitten by a rattlesnake. Zach's great aunt and South Plainfield resident, Barbara Drumgould, reached out to the community for help.



Barbara Habeeb

The event, "Pay It Forward for Zach Szala Coffeehouse," was held at the Senior Center. Kennedy School vocal music teacher Barbara Habeeb who emceed for the evening introduced an amazing array of talented singers and musicians. All but two performers were either high school students or SPHS alumni. Performing were Lainie Harris, SPHS alumni Frank Smith and friends, Rusty Teller, Dan Schuch, Lukas Cabanas, John Delacruz, Joanna Marsten, Dan Sambat with the band Broken By Chance, Alyssa Kelly and alumni Eric Seiz and wife Karen. Eric also served as stage manager for the show. Joan Stasio accompanied several songs on the piano.

Singer/songwriter Brian Hansen and poet Nick Cabrera from Edison also performed.

Keeping the evening running smoothly were Almost Famous Players and volunteers Shannen Rivers, Jordan Katowich, Brit Penevolpe, Chris Abbott, Kristen and Chris Gati, Keisha Neitzer, Rachel Henderson and Cynthia Freund. Several members of Zach's family were also on hand. Guests included Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Debbie Boyle, Jack Pedersen and retired high school vocal director Tracy Murray. Girl Scout Troop #65109 were on hand to help bus tables. The concession stand featured pizza, snacks and hot and cold drinks.

The coffeehouse was the group's most successful to date, and a large donation will be made to the Szala Family. A tricky tray raffle, which had to be rescheduled due to permits, will take place on April 13 at the Education Foundation Wine Tasting to be held at the senior center. For more information or to donate, call (908) 346-2290.



Four South Plainfield Middle School Chorus students (L-R), Jasmin Santiago, Tommy Licato, Stephanie Heim and Thalia Alfaresa, will perform in the CJMEA Region II Intermediate Chorus at Monroe Township Middle School on Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m. The students auditioned in January, and have been working hard rehearsing with approximately 100 students from Central Jersey.

# DENTAL IMPLANTS

Limited Time Offer

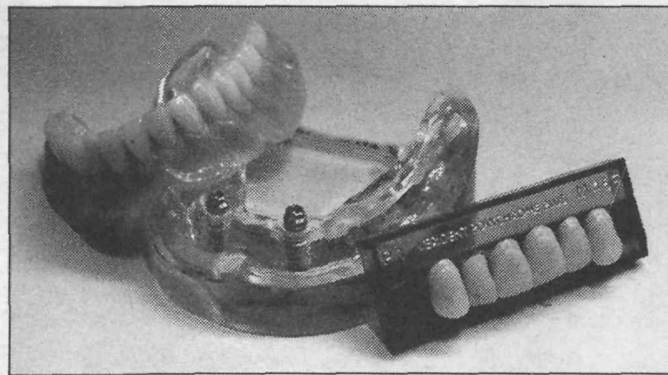
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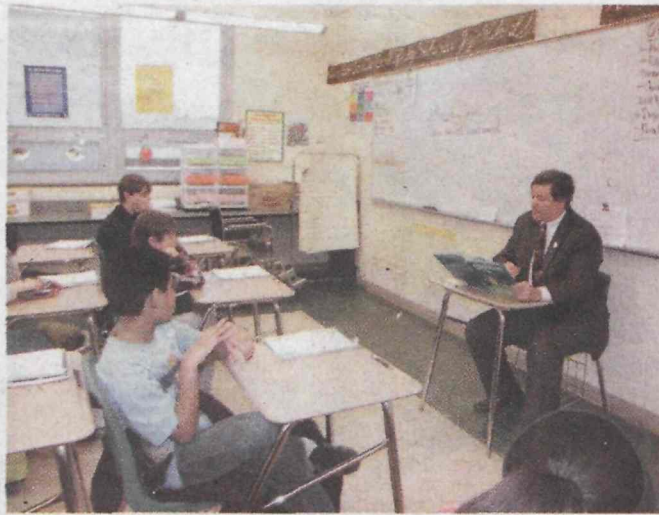
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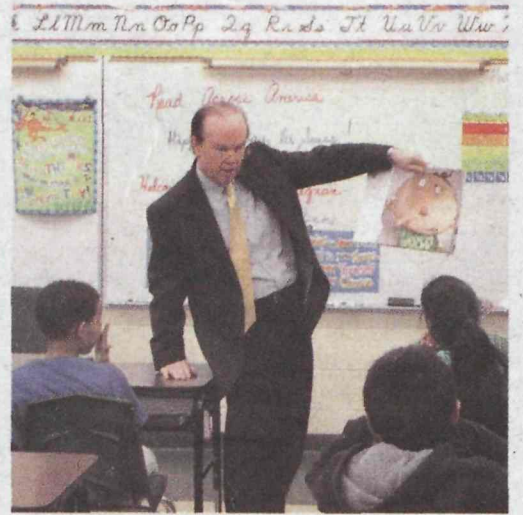




High school students read to Riley School students.



Borough Administrator/CFO Glenn Cullen reads to Grant School students.

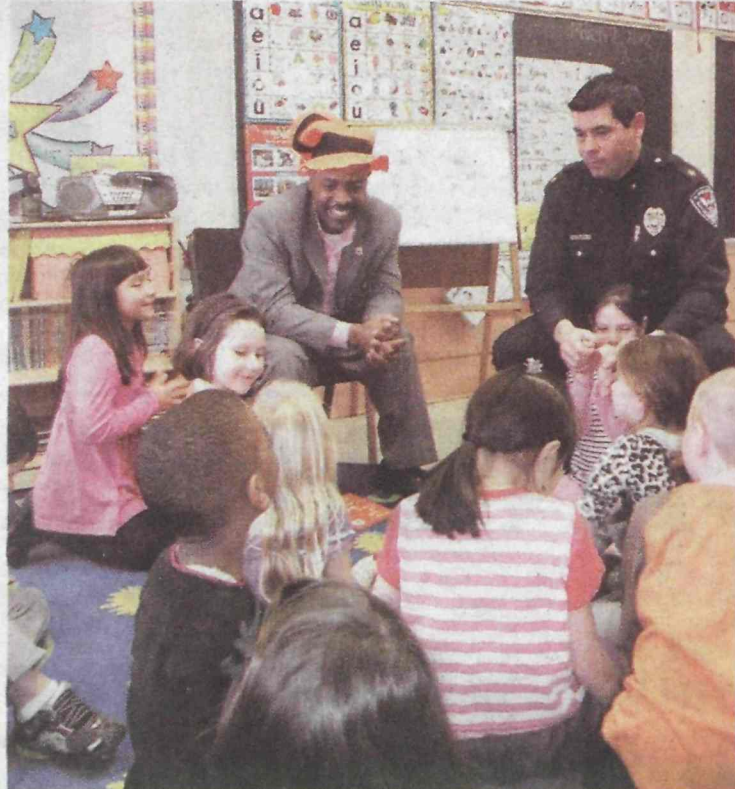


Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan reads to Roosevelt School students.

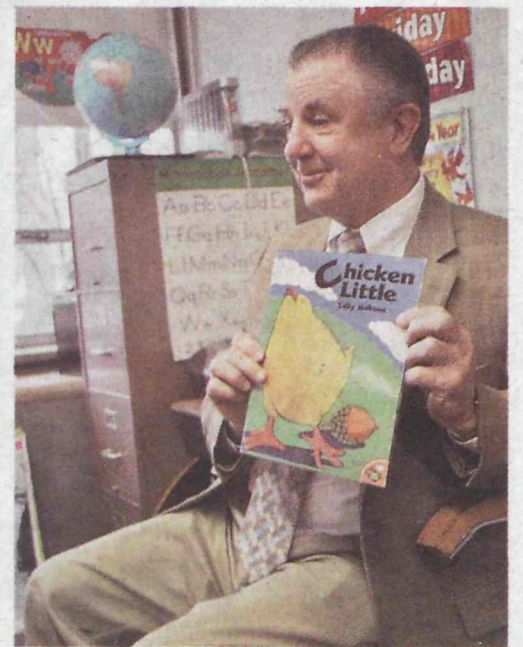
## Dr. Seuss Headlines a Read Across South Plainfield!



High school students entertain at area schools.



Police Chief James Parker and Councilman Derryck White visit Riley School.



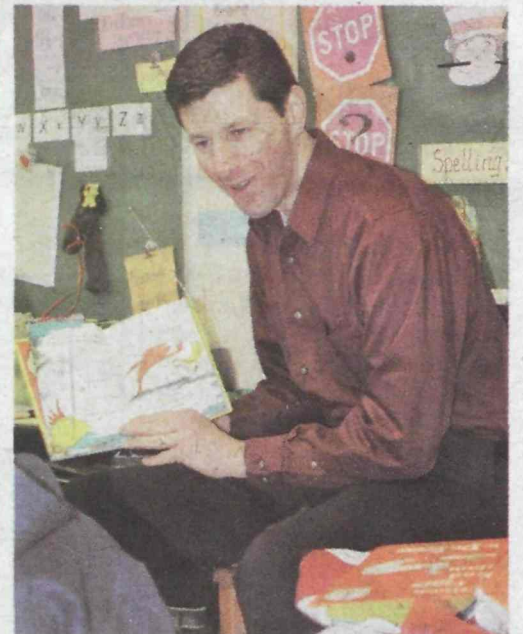
Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen



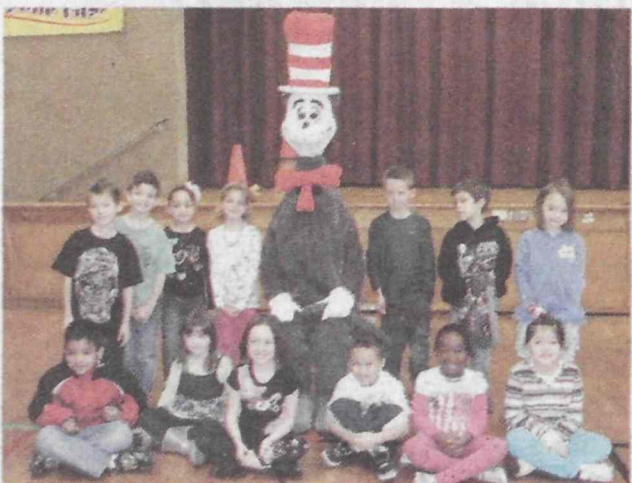
Roosevelt School Principal Robert Diehl and teacher Susan Gwiazda enjoy green eggs and ham.



High School student helps a Franklin student paint.



Mayor Matt Anesh reads to Franklin School students.



Riley School kicked off Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration with a visit from The Cat in the Hat sponsored by the NJEA. Librarian Maria Bartolo read Theodor Geisel's timeless children's book, The Cat in the Hat, to the student body as the "cat" made the book come to life.



Rose Marie Pelton with Franklin kindergarten clas.



Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen

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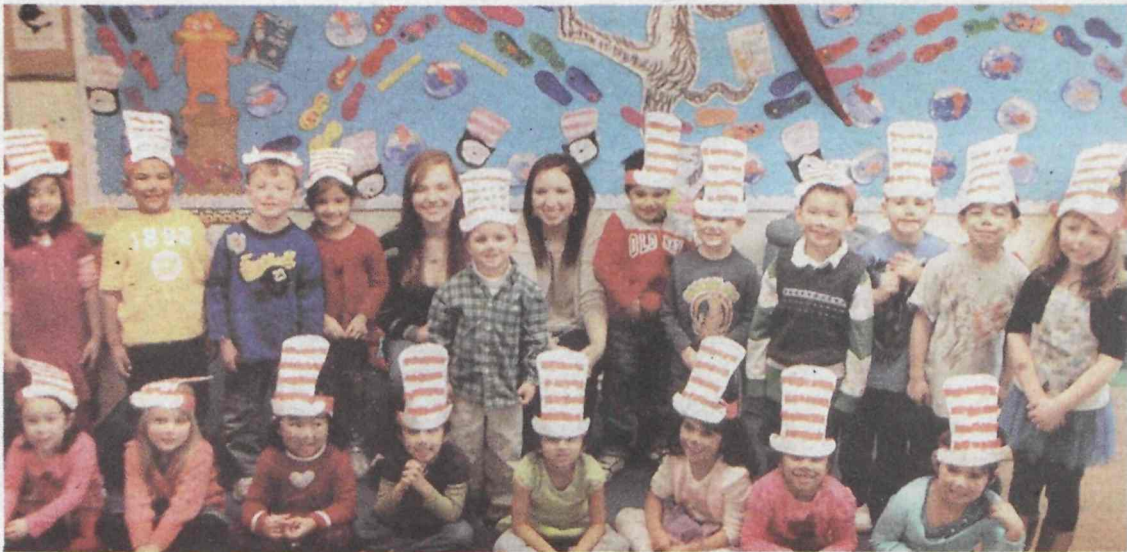
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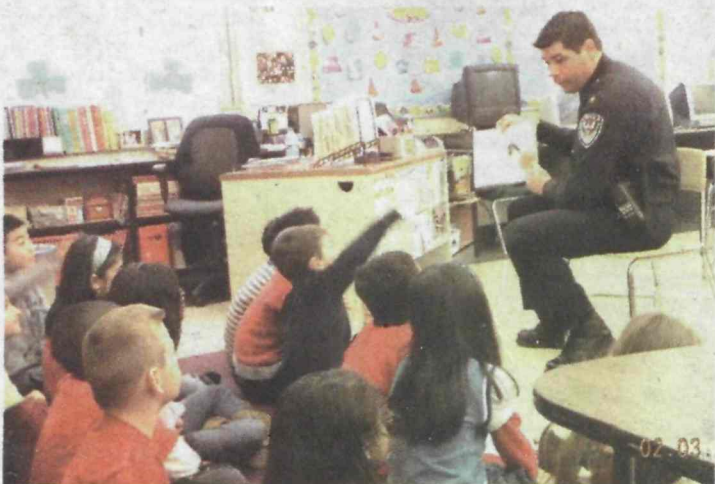
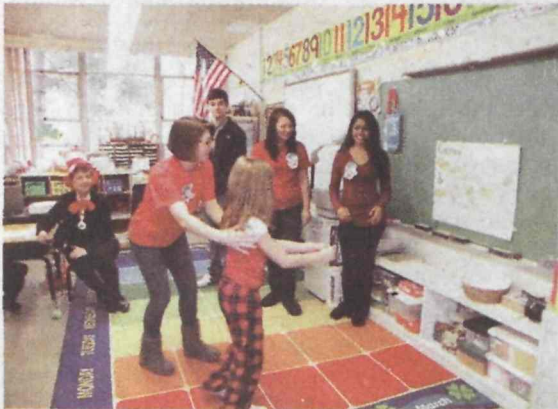
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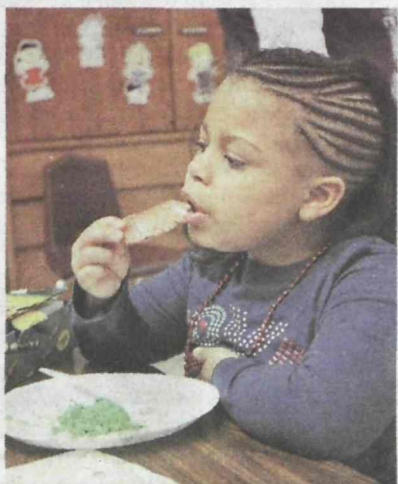




The Future Stars Preschool Yellow Room would like to thank high school students Michelle O'Sullivan and Nicole Daubert for visiting on Read Across America Day and Dr. Seuss's birthday.



Police Chief James Parker reads to Roosevelt School students.



Student enjoys green eggs and ham



Kennedy School teachers Lauren Haus and Alicia Vurchio with Principal Lisa Parker (right).



### It's a Winner!

Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heroes deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Ruby Garcia pictured with mom Christina and sister Brittany.

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# sports

By Brian Erhardt  
inside view

Brian Erhardt recently joined the staff of the Observer. He will provide coverage of high school sports, including coach and athlete interviews and game recaps.

Brian brings a unique perspective to local interscholastic athletic events. Brian (SPHS Class of 2009) is a lifelong borough resident. He currently attends Middlesex County College pursuing a degree in journalism studies and formerly attended East Stroudsburg University.



By Brian Erhardt

Al Czech's name is synonymous with the schools in South Plainfield. For the current school year, Czech (affectionately known by that name to the thousands of students who have come through the schools where he served as principal, including myself at Kennedy School and then the middle school) reprised his role as South Plainfield High School Athletic Director. I sat down with him in his office on March 2 to talk about the state of SPHS athletics, new challenges, budget constraints, and that underperforming wrestling team that just can't seem to buy a win. Wink, wink...

**Observer:** As an introduction, could you name some of your previous positions in education that led up to your current job today?

**Czech:** I was here from 1985 through 1995 as athletic director in South Plainfield. From 1995 on, I went to Kennedy School as a principal, and spent the next 16 years as a principal, mostly at the elementary level, and most recently at Riley School.

**What was the process for you landing this job?**

**Czech:** When Mr. Buggey retired, I was asked by the superintendent if I would come back to be the athletic director here and, therefore, give up my job as principal at Riley. But this was something I wanted to do. No one forced me into it, so that was nice.

**What do you expect out of the SPHS scholar-athlete?**

## South Plainfield's Czech and Balance

**Czech:** I expect them to represent themselves and this school in a way they will always feel good about and their parents will always feel good about. I think it's very important that we project an image that is one in which people look at us and say, "Hey, that's a good bunch of kids." That they're spirited kids, and not just there for their own sport. I want them to be leaders, to enjoy themselves, and make it such that when they walk off that football field or basketball court or what have you, they're proud of what they've done.

**When you took this job before the school year started, did you have your eyes trained on any specific immediate goals, or things you wanted to change?**

**Czech:** One of the first things we wanted to do was improve the basketball tournament that we host here. So we went from a four team tournament to an eight team tournament. We wanted to expand it, and ensure that more teams come through South Plainfield to play games here.

The other thing was to involve some young coaches into our programs. So one of the things we wanted to see if we could incorporate was having some of the teachers here at the school become coaches. I wanted to have our kids be coached by people that are here and in school so that they would see them on an everyday basis, and they are comfortable with each other. When you're someone who is outside of the school during the day, it's harder to give the same kind of advice, or stay on top of the kids about their academics and those sorts of things. That was important for me.

**...And long-term goals?**

**Czech:** Probably to win some more sportsmanship banners. I'm not so concerned with the winning of championships and those sorts of things. I want to see a group of kids who are out there enjoying themselves and

playing a sport they love and conducting themselves as good human beings. That's my long term goal. Because [in regards to winning titles], whatever happens, happens. You win sometimes, you lose sometimes... whatever. I think how you conduct yourself is the most important thing.

**What has it been like dealing with budget constraints on an athletic department in a poor economy?**

**Czech:** It's one of the toughest things that everyone has to deal with right now. We are very fortunate that we've been able to get by with the money that we have. Yet, with the times the way they are, we've had to cut back on the amount of games we play, or the purchasing of team uniforms, because we just don't have the money to do those types of things.

Also, as taxpayers, people want to see our kids dressed a proper way, or using the best equipment. They see us as representative of their town and their community. And it becomes difficult when you can't fulfill those needs.

And then, the state will come in and say, "You must do away with your soccer uniforms [because they don't meet the regulated, new aesthetic requirements]." I mean, it's very hard to understand why the state, in these economic times, would do something like that. So now none of our soccer uniforms are legal to wear, so we have to purchase all new ones. And [if you

have to keep doing things like that] somewhere along the line, one of the programs is going to get hurt.

Recently, the coaches of cross-country and tennis came up to me and each said their uniforms are so old and raggedy that they can't be worn. And they were right. And Coach Guida from baseball came up to me about getting some new bases for the varsity field because the old ones were all torn up. And you say to yourself, "Boy, there's another \$300 down the drain." These are the types of things that can happen. You don't plan on them, but they happen.

**While you are attending a sporting event, what are you there for?**

**Czech:** With me, most of the time I'm there to be a spectator, and I observe my coaches and what's going on. But if an official asks me to step in, I'll step in. A lot of times, in the winter season, for example, when you're covering wrestling or basketball, an official will look to me when there's someone in the stands that's getting too rowdy. He or she will say to me that I have to get that guy out of there. So, if there aren't any police officers in the vicinity, I'll have to go up to him and say, "Sir, you gotta go. Your day is done."

But more importantly than that, I go out to the games to be a person who lets the kids know that I'm there and that I care. I love going out to swim meets and bowling matches... so yeah, letting

them know that is important to me.

**Do you tend to approach your relationships with the coaches as hands-on or hands-off? How involved do you try to get?**

**Czech:** If I'm the gentleman who hired a certain coach, I'd like to think that he or she is conducting the program in a professional manner and that they know what they are doing. If they need me to get involved I will, but I trust what they're doing.

When parents come up to me with a certain complaint about a team or coach, I always ask, "Did you talk to the coach first?" Because I'm willing to bet they know more about a circumstance inside the team than I do. However, if they did talk to the coach and they're still not satisfied, then I'll become involved. And that's the way I look at it.

**Guess I have to ask about wrestling. Excellence on demand over there, huh?**

**Czech:** They have three great guys over there along with a tremendous amount of good volunteers. Of course, we have Coaches McCann and Johnston and Foscolo, but we also have Matt Anderson and Craig Salvatore.

The other thing about all this is the program which brings all these kids here. What happens at the middle school and the PAL... it's all part and parcel of the whole thing. And I have to believe much of the success starts down there and comes up here.

What also is great about wrestling is that we had 42 boys come out for the team, the most we've had in a long, long time. So, as well as they did this year, there are many who believe, including me, that they'll only be better next year.

**For as long as I've known you, you've been in a position of leadership, be it as principal or athletic director. So what do you think makes a successful leader?**

**Czech:** When you chose someone for a certain position or someone to work with, you have to have a feeling for their character as a person. You have to give them an opportunity for them to be who they can be. You have to give them room to grow and to do the things they think are right. But if what they're doing doesn't seem to work, you have to make adjustments, make suggestions, and hopefully it all works out. If it doesn't, there comes a time where you need to sever your relationships. Because, in this line of work, the only people who can get hurt are the kids, and that's not right.

**Any message you'd like to send to the Observer readers and the people who support SPHS athletics in this town?**

They are all tremendous people. We are very grateful for the taxpayers here, who do everything they can, and we can only hope that we represent them in the best way... that they're proud of our kids and proud of what we do, because this is a community that cares about each other. And hopefully the people here care about us because we certainly care about them.

### SPHS South Plainfield High School SPORTS SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

3:45pm V Lacrosse-Randolph JV/5:15 (H)  
4pm V & JV Softball-Johnson (H) Sc

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

10am FR Softball-Milburn (H) Sc  
11am FR Baseball-Montgomery (Sc) (A) Bus 9:30  
11am V & JV Baseball-Montgomery (H) Sc  
2pm V & JV Softball-Milburn (S) (A) Bus 12:15

#### MONDAY, MARCH 12

4pm V & JV Softball-Indian Hills Sc (A) Bus 2:30

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 13

4pm V & JV Baseball-Scotch Plains Sc (A) Bus 2:30  
4pm FR Baseball-Scotch Plains (H) Sc

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

3:45pm FR Softball-Edison (A) Bus 2:30  
3:45pm V Lacrosse-Clifton JV/5:15 Bus 2:30

3:45pm BV Tennis-Metuchen (A) Bus 2:30  
4pm FR Baseball-Red Bank Catholic (H) Sc  
4pm V & JV Softball-Edison (H) Sc  
4:15pm V & JV Baseball-Red Bank Catholic Sc (A) Bus 2:30

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

3:45pm V & JV Softball-Hunterdon Central (H) Sc

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

4pm FR Baseball-Freehold (H) Sc  
4:15pm V & JV Baseball-Freehold Sc (A) Bus 2:30

## LEGAL NOTICE

SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

### Legal Notice

At the meetings of the South Plainfield Board of Education, noted below, by a majority vote, the following were chosen to represent or provide services to the Board for the 2011-2012 school year in accordance with NJSA 18A:18A-5:

At the July 13, 2011 Regular Public Meeting:

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED:  
NJ Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Toms River, NJ (9/1/11-6/30/12) - Level 2 Service - \$4,100.00.

At the August 30, 2011 Special Business Meeting:

APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS THERAPY:  
Achieving Milestones, LLC (Behavioral Services), Howell, NJ (9/1/11-7/31/12) - Coordinating Services - \$75.00/hr.; Consultation Services: BCBA Certified Staff - \$75.00/hr.; BCaBA Certified Staff - \$65.00/hr.; Non-BCBA or BCaBA - \$50.00/hr.

PHYSICAL THERAPY:

FUNCTIONAL Physical Therapy, Piscataway, NJ (In District 9/1/11 - 6/30/12) - 1:1 PT services - \$84.50/hr.; minimum 2.0 days per week; Evaluation: Total hours to complete at \$84.50/hr.

ON-LINE COURSEWORK:

Virtual High School Global Consortium - to provide on-line coursework to selected South Plainfield High School students for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$850 per student registered by June 8, 2011. Additional students interested in taking an on-line AP class will be permitted to do so at their own expense. There is an additional cost of \$1,500 for a trained site coordinator.

At the September 21, 2011 Regular Public Meeting:  
Elliot Merenbloom, Educational Consultant, was approved under two contracts for consultant services at the Middle School, Grant School, Riley School and Franklin School (Title I schools) for common planning time, teacher collaboration, creating a master schedule, team teaching, curriculum design and implementation, etc.

a) 2010-11 Title I Funds-Continuation of Grant School work, which includes three visits/training sessions to be capped at \$9,366.55.

b) 2011-12 Title I Funds-Consultation with Grant, Franklin, Riley and Middle School to include four visits to be capped at \$12,000.00.

James Cardaneo, SBA Emeritus, was approved for appointment extension as a consultant to the Business Office at a rate of \$50/hr., not to exceed seventy-five (75) hours. Mr. Cardaneo's scope of service will include a review of NCLB and IDEA Grants.

SSP Architects, Somerville, NJ, was approved as Architect of Record for the 2011-2012.

At the October 19, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting:

Club Z Tutoring Services, a NJ Department of Education approved SES Service Provider, was approved to provide supplemental educational services (SES) for the 2011-2012 school year as required under the No Child Left Behind Act, to a maximum of \$1,100 per student (funded by NCLB Consolidated Grant, Title I).

Sylvan Learning Center of South Plainfield, a NJ Department of Education approved SES Service Provider, was approved to provide supplemental educational services (SES) for the 2011-2012 school year as required under the No Child Left Behind Act, to a maximum of \$1,100 per student (funded by NCLB Consolidated Grant, Title I).

At the November 16, 2011 Regular Public Meeting:

The Board of Education acknowledged the name change for the previously-approved (6/15/11) related service provider of physical therapy services from Eileen A. Ryan Kurtz, PT., to Children's Therapy Source, effective July 1, 2011.

At the December 14, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting:

The Board of Education retained the services of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins to perform an audit of the District's Student Activities Accounts at the rate of \$75.00 per hour, with a written report of the findings to be presented to the Finance Committee.

At the December 21, 2011 Regular Public Meeting:

The Board of Education approved the appointment of Embrace Kids Foundation, New Brunswick, NJ, for Home Instruction/Bedside Instruction related services for special education students from September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 at the rate of \$39.00 per hour.

The Board of Education approved Hometown Driving School, South Plainfield, as the provider of the Behind the Wheel driving program to Adult Continuing Education Driver Education and South Plainfield High School students for the period January 3 through June 30, 2012. Provisions: \$210 per student; six hours of instruction; transportation to DMV for eye test and one written test; second written test at \$35.

The resolutions and contracts relative to these appointments are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Board of Education.

James Olobardi  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

\$69.14

March 9, 2012

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Recreation Wrestlers recently won the Central Jersey League Championship, 15-0.

BY GARY LAMPASONA

## JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

With player evaluations and Small Fry C, B and A drafts complete, managers will be contacting their players in the coming days. Practice can begin the week of March 12. Pony B and A drafts will be held in mid-March.

Preseason work detail begins Saturday, March 10. The official work detail schedule follows, but we could use everyone's help each week to get the job done.

- March 10 at 8 a.m.—Parents of seven and eight year olds
- March 17 at 8 a.m.—Parents of nine and 10 year olds
- March 24 at 8 a.m.—Parents of 11 and 12 year olds
- March 31 at 8 a.m.—Parents of 13 and 14 year olds
- April 7 at 8 a.m.—Parents of 15, 16, 17 and 18 year olds

**Rutgers Certification Class**—The lone class is Tuesday, March 20 in the SPJBC clubhouse beginning at 6:30 p.m. Call the clubhouse at (908) 754-2090 to register. The fee will be waived for South Plainfield residents. If you are interested in participating on the field with your child's team a SPJBC membership card and Rutgers Certification are a must.

**New Parent Orientation**—Any parents that are new to the SPJBC or want to know more should attend the

new parent orientation on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the clubhouse.

We had a great turnout for Coach Guida's coaches' clinic. We appreciate our high school coach being involved in working with our program; it strengthens our ability to teach children the right way to play the game.

**Snack Stand Sign-up**—Wednesday, March 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the clubhouse. All parents must complete a snack stand duty for each child playing in the SPJBC. Dates and times are on a first come, first served basis, so come early. You can only sign up for yourself. If you cannot attend, your snack stand duty date and time will be assigned. Be a sponsor for the opening day program. Cheer your player or team on. Check the Parents Handbook or download the form from the handouts section of our website. The deadline is March 31.

**Opening Day Countdown**—April 14 is only five weeks away.

Find all this and more information on our website, [www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc](http://www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc).

*"That's the true harbinger of spring, not crocuses or swallows returning to Capistrano, but the sound of a bat on a ball." ~Bill Veeck, 1976*



## Elsie M. (Trevisan) Larsen, 89

Elsie M. (Trevisan) Larsen died on Monday, Feb. 27 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Alberta, Canada, Elsie grew up in Hoboken prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1957.

She was a longtime communicant of Our Lady Of Czestochowa RC Church and for many years Elsie was active with the church's annual Feast of St. Anthony.

Mrs. Larsen loved her family and enjoyed traveling with her husband, particularly camping and going on cruises.

She is predeceased by a grandson, Cpl. Michael E. Curtin, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq in 2003; and by a brother-in-law, Fil Burgess.

Surviving is her loving husband, Edward K.; two daughters, Karen Thompson and husband Robert of Bridgewater and Joan Curtin and husband Michael of Howell; a sister, Ann Burgess of South Plainfield; six grandchildren, Katherine, Daniel and Jennifer Curtin, Stephanie Volker and husband Jason and Rob and Kasey Thompson.

Also surviving is a great-granddaughter, Kayla, as well as several nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Cpl. Michael E. Curtin Scholarship Fund, c/o McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

## Ronald R. Bosse, 53

Ronald R. Bosse, C.P.A. died on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born in Yonkers, Ron grew up in Passaic and graduated from Passaic High School Class of '76. Upon graduating from high school, Ron attended the former Glassboro State University and earned a B.S. degree in accounting, graduating in 1980.

During his youth, Mr. Bosse was a Boy Scout and earned the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. Ron was a family man and was very much involved with all three of his daughters sporting activities. He coached all of their Ponytail Softball teams and was active and supported the Fairfield University Field Hockey program.

He was a self employed C.P.A. for the past 25 years and enjoyed woodworking, fishing and being outdoors.

Surviving are his wife of 25 years, Cynthia (Lanza); three daughters, Julianne, Jacqueline and Joanna, all of South Plainfield; his mother, Carol Bosse and husband Harris; his father, Ronald Hollis; a sister, Karen Bosse; three brothers, Mark, Kevin and Michael Bosse (Toni); and his mother and father-in-law, Ruth and Joseph Lanza.

Also surviving are several nieces and

nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, Tenn. 38105 or to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 14 Commerce Dr., Suite 301, Cranford, N.J. 07016.

## Albert A. Pope, 84

Albert A. Pope died on Thursday, March 1 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Albert was born in Plainfield and as a child he grew up in both Plainfield and Seaside Park. In 1960, along with his late wife Rita, he settled in South Plainfield.

He was the former owner and operator of Patrician Floor Creations in Garwood and prior to serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Pope also served in the U.S. Merchant Marines.

Mr. Pope's three children would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following doctors and care facilities for their high level of respect along with the prestigious level of care they offered and were able to provide to their father: Dr. Jonathan Z. Rosenbluth -Somerset Hematology-Oncology Associates, Dr. Joel K. Braver and the entire staff at the Steeplechase Cancer Center, Dr. Bessie Sullivan-Edison, Dr. George D. Reilly-Warren, Dr. Satya P. Kastuar-North Brunswick, Surgeon Dr. Charles Franco-Somerset, Dr. Matthew Kauffman, Dr. Brandon Zuklie -Piscataway and the Hospice of N.J. In addition, they would like to offer an utmost heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ara Apelian-Piscataway.

In addition to his late wife Rita, Mr. Pope is predeceased by a daughter, Patricia Borrie; a son, Brian Pope; daughter-in-law, Arlene Pope; and a brother, Dickie Pope.

Surviving are three children, Gwenn Pope and husband Kenneth of Franklin, Pa.; Rory Pope and wife Susan of Williams Twp., Pa.; and Mark Pope and wife Deborah of Enoree, S.C.; three sisters, Marion Parisi and husband Pat of North Plainfield, Ginger Wade of Bridgewater and Stasia Konick and husband John of Waretown; two brothers, Joseph of Bridgewater and William and wife Dolores of Raritan; 12 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Also surviving are many loving nieces and nephews.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Steeplechase Cancer Center, 30 Rehill Ave., Suite 1100, Somerville, N.J. 08876.

## Kenneth L. Jones

Kenneth L. Jones passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 2 at JFK Medical Center in Edison surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Plainfield, Ken was raised and resided in Scotch Plains where he was a graduate of Scotch Plains High School. He owned and operated Kenneth Jones Contracting Company for the past 40 years in South Plainfield. In most recent years he had been a service contractor with Gulf Oil/Cumberland Farms and C&S Associates (Jefferson/Lexington Apartment complexes) in Somerville.

Ken is known for his big heart, devotion to his family and work, and lots of laughs shared by the many, many people he touched during his life. He also took pride in his large personal collections of "stuff."

A wonderful husband, he married Jean (Wojciechowski), the love of his life for over 40 years. He was an outstanding, loving father, grandfather, brother and son who will be sadly missed but remembered always.

He is predeceased by his father, J.B. Jones; a brother, Marvin Douglas Jones; and a brother-in-law, Vincent Wojciechowski, Jr.

Surviving are his wife, Jean; three daughters, Sherry Smith and husband Brian, Jeannine Montes and husband David and Heather Jones; seven grandsons who knew him as their "Poppy," Brandon, Kyle, Derek, David, Matthew, Kenneth and Jason; his mother, Mary (Nelson) Jones; four siblings and their spouses, Sandra (Sue) Turner, Donnie Joe and Norma Jones, Jay Michael and Jean Jones and David Wayne and Barbara Jones; and so many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews and very dear friends like Melissa Lapper, Debby Feldman and Zella Rubin and family.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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## Golden Tee Results

Despite the chilly weather, 14 hardy golfers participated in the Golden Tee Tournament at the Plainfield West Nine on March 5. Vinnie Welsh and Bob Kosovan finished first with 33, and George McDonald and Fred Kirchofer finished second with 36.

Tournaments are open to all men and women golfers. The next event will be Wednesday, March 14 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call Bill Castner, head professional at (908) 769-3672.



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## Middle School Second Marking Period Honor Roll

### Eighth Grade High Honor Roll

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### Eighth Grade Honor Roll

Jacob Alba, Alex Aquilina, Nicholas Battista, Sergey Bazuev, Yunita Behari, Nolan Berry, Stephanie Boettger, Jarod Borgen, Miranda Bourbeau, Jeremy Brown, Maleni Budhan, Michaela Butrico, Owen Campbell, Vincent Cano, Sarah Cargill, John Carone, Lindsay Celentano, Jason Chen, Daniel Cherrez, Hemanth Chiluka, Amanda Ciardiello, Jonathan Conrad, Alexandra Cruz, Brian Cullen, Gina Cummings

Gene Decker, Kyle DelPaoli, Karuna Dhaniram, Nicholas DiFrancesco, Amanda Duffy, Venkata Preeth Dwarasila, Habiba Elbastawsi, RaeAnne Englert, Taylor Euston, Marianna Fahmy, Madison Faustini, Michael Freddy, Matthew Gallant, Raul Garcia, Alexa Gentile, Nicole Goitandia, Neil Mervin Gonzalez, Zackary Gorman, Anthony Gray, Robert Gwiazda, Daniel Hedden, Taylor Henry, Nicole Horne,

### Danielle Hurst

Krista Kaczka, Manal Kandil, Grayson Lackey, Tony Le, Brianna Leonard, Victoria Liu, Richard Marcovecchio, Christopher Maszczak, Nathan Mensah, Carly Miceli, Naome Nabi, Rebecca Ng, Naomi Nieves, Adrian Nurse, Sarah Oehler, Jessica Ortiz

Jocelyn Paredes, Karan Patel, Ravi Patel, Ajay Persaud, Jason Petriello, Nicholas Polizzano, Michael Pratts, Kelsy Prins, Jamaal Ptah, Samantha Ratti, Emma Regan, Kayla Rivera, Pablo Rodriguez, Alec Salvador, Katie Saravia, Bryan Scipio Jr., Thomas Scott, Kirsty Sperr, Joshua Stassenko, Sydney Surowiec, Stephanie Velez, Sarah Walsh, Kyle Wong, Reece Young, Emily Zawadzki

### 7th Grade High Honor Roll

Jason Belanger, Ashli Bell, Gabriella Cangialosi, Ziad Elmasry, Nicholas Fari-nella, Melissa Gallant, Jake Giordano, Ishani Halder, Ryan Hu, Christa Iazzetta, Caleb Kuberiet, McKenzie Larsen, Lawrence Lenau, Thomas Licato, Ceara McCormick, Megan McDermott, Mary McNeil, Bianca Murcelo, Claire Nagel, Helen Nguyen, Grace Ochoa, Raj Patel, Daniel Persaud, Nikolas Peterson, Meagan Praul, Daniel Ramotowski, Scott Riccardi, Pooja Sindha, Kevin Soper, Drew Spahn, Ryan Stankan, Olivia Stragapede, Ashley Veliz, Katherine Vill, Arnold Zavala

### Seventh Grade Honor Roll

Lanae Ali, Jose Arrubla, Alexandrya

Barrios, Surindra Boodhoo, Divya Budhan, Ariel Buñano, Cristian Butrico, Kyle Bythell, Samuel Campbell, Connie Chen, Crystal Chum, Jason Cieszkiewicz, Jack Cochrane, Leon Dass, Megyn Decarlo, Lindsey Diamant, Jenna Dickerson, Anthony Doan, Sabrina Fisher, Gregory Forbes, Megan Forster, Alexandria Frontz, Anthony Granados, Gabriela Guerrero, Stephanie Heim, Adanna Ibeku, Tatiana Ishod

Gavin Jones, James Joyner, Patrick Kapolka, Jenna Karcher, Kayla Khan, Elijah Koyongian, Emily Kuchinski, Charles LaDelle, Michael Lampasona, Nam Le, Elizabeth Lee, Justice Lipuma, Benjamin Lundy, Adriel MacLean, Sarmad Mahmood, Phillip Malavara, Jared Marks, Ryan Marston, Shanaya Martinez, Nicholas Matos, Emily Mazellan, Gabriela Medina, Anthony Montuori, Camila Mosquera, Liam Nagel, Justin Nguyen, Steven Nguyen, Dylan O'Connor, Olivia O'Leary, Jacob Panton, Anthony Palmeri, Sebastian Paredes, Reina Patel, Riya Patel, Ricky Pellegrino, Nicholas Pezzolla, James Piedilato, Nicholas Plate, Bryan Dominic Pontevedra, Jameer Robinson, Jaime Rochotte, Justin Rodriguez, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Sara Roman, Natalie Romano

Harmaneelp Saini, Angela Sanchez, Seth Santos, Jean Sapini, Camryn Schaeffer, John Serro, Samuel Smith, Cody Soper, Owen Sprigle, Justin Spry, Tahirshah Syed, Michael Tran, Esteban Vaca-Vasconez, Rena Voelkel, Sandra Vordzorgbe, Asadullah Waheed, Zachary Wolpin

## School Budget Reflects Tax Hike

(Continued from page 1)

increase over last year. The tax levy, or amount to be raised by taxpayers, will be \$41,585,848; up \$1,262,950 from the previous budget.

The board is also requesting a waiver of an increase of 3.6% in anticipated health care costs which does not fall under the 2% cap; resulting in an actual increase above the 2% cap. The debt service, which is the amount owed on a bond referendum to construct Roosevelt Elementary School and other projects, was reduced from \$1,183,120 to \$1,113,113.

After the school budget was defeated by voters last April, the Borough Council cut the budget by \$526,000. In the district's annual state audit as of June 30, 2011 the board still managed to generate an excess surplus of \$1,343,401.54, which it intends to use for roof repairs.

According to a press release dated February 14 by Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen, the state had awarded an additional \$678,309 in aid last year which was "deferred for use until the 2012/2013 school year by Board of Education resolution." He also said that these funds are "not available as a discretionary balance for the current year and will be used for tax relief in the next budget." An email sent to Business Administrator James Olobardi asking how this amount was calculated into the preliminary figures or where

it provides tax relief, was not returned.

BOE Vice President Debbie Boyle was the only board member to vote against submitting the budget figures. She said she had asked for preliminary worksheets several months ago, but was unsuccessful in obtaining them. Boyle also questioned what the new rate would be for taxpayers, which was not answered at the meeting. "I spent nine hours and have 11 pages of notes from the actual full budget that was given to us only two days ago. I need explanations." She added, "I could not support raising taxes without having a tax figure."

BOE member Carol Byrne commented, "Last evening's vote was on a base number to be sent to the state. It's the first step in the state's public process of budget building. The board still has the ability to change items around and numbers downward if necessary." She also stated that the Finance Committee, consisting of board members Chris Hubner, Debbie Boyle and Sharon Miller, will be holding their first meeting on the submitted budget on March 12. "When they have gone over it, the board will meet as a whole to move forward," said Byrne.

The board will discuss the proposed budget in public at their next regular meeting on Wednesday, March 21. The adopted budget is required to be submitted to the state by March 30.

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## Suspect Arrested in Armed Robbery at Barber Shop

Thomas E. Swinson, 33, of Rahway was arrested by detectives from the South Plainfield Police Department on February 29 in connection with the armed robbery at the One Stop Barber Shop. Swinson has been charged with robbery, kidnapping, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose, and is being held at the Middlesex County Adult Corrections Center in North Brunswick. Bail has been set at \$150,000.

The complaints allege that Swinson entered the One Stop Barber Shop located at 10 South Plainfield Ave. at

approximately 6:45 p.m. and allegedly produced a black MAC-10 type machine pistol, ordering the employees and customers to turn over their cash and belongings. There were five individuals in the shop at the time of the incident.

According to Detective Garrett Cassio, Swinson is also wanted on an outstanding warrant out of Washington State.

The investigation was conducted by Cassio and Det. Anthony Pacillo. Anyone with additional information should contact Det. Cassio at (908) 226-7662.

### police report

- On Feb. 23 Kenneth Brantley, 55, of Allentown, Pa. was arrested for no left turn off McKinley Street and three outstanding warrants.

- Kamall E. Moore, 19, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to maintain headlights and an outstanding warrant.

- A Sarasota, Fla. resident reported the theft of their wallet that was left on a seat at Red Lobster.

- On Feb. 24 a Fifth Street resident reported the theft of their purse and Garmin GPS from their unlocked vehicle.

- On Feb. 25 Angela M. Katz, 57, of Piscataway was arrested at Kohl's for shoplifting \$495 worth of items.

- Heckel Construction on Hollywood Avenue reported an attempt to pry open their garage door.

- On Feb. 26 Michael Kays, 30, of Piscataway was arrested for driving while intoxicated, failure to observe

signal and reckless driving.

- Mark A. Matlosz, 38, of South Plainfield was arrested for failure to wear a seatbelt and an outstanding warrant.

- On Feb. 27 Jason P. Bosse, 26, of South Plainfield was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

- Paul Silis, 48, of Waterford, Conn. was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

- On Feb. 28 Wesley E. Mead, 32, of Metuchen was arrested for no insurance, driving on a suspended license and several outstanding warrants.

- On Feb. 29 Verizon Wireless on Hadley Road reported that two men had left the store without paying for four Jawbone bluetooth headsets.

- A Revere Road resident reported that their bank card had been used to make a fraudulent purchase online at Amazon.com.

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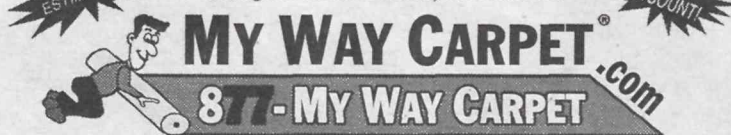
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# Middle School Spirit Shines in Annual Battle of the Teams



By Jane Dornick

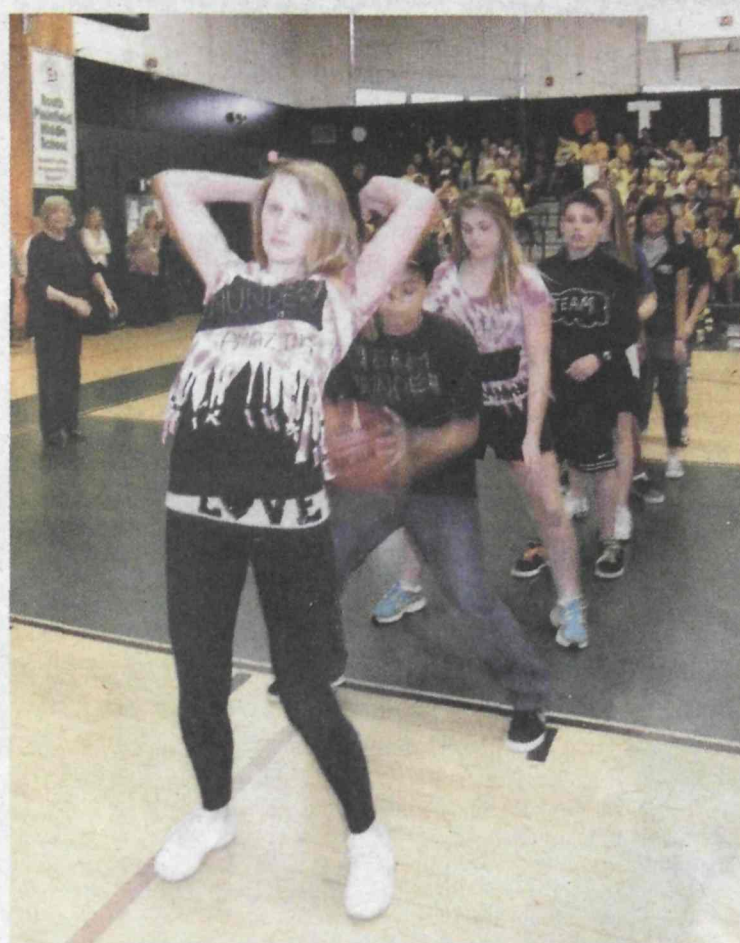
February was designated Spirit Month at the South Plainfield Middle School, and the month long celebration culminated in a full week of events prior to the finale—the Battle of the Teams on February 24. For two decades, seventh and eighth grade students have looked forward to participating in this fun-filled, friendly athletic competition against their classmates.

Spirit Month included the Teens for Jeans clothing drive that netted over 2,500 pair of jeans. There was a Penny War and Bulletin Board competition amongst the teams, along with wearing of the teams colors on Fridays.

During Spirit Week, there was Hat Day, Team Sport Apparel Day, Team Color Day and wearing the school color Green Day.

In preparation for the battle, students donned t-shirts with their individual team color. The seventh grade included teams Avalanche, Lightning and Monsoon. Eighth graders were teams Tsunami, Cyclone and Thunder. Some children took extra care to decorate their attire or make banners to help cheer on classmates.

The music blared and the entire school cheered as the Battle of the Teams began in the gym. Students performed activities they had been practicing during physical education classes, which included the “under over,” “hula hoop,” “foul shooting,” “baton/hoop relay” and a “tug of



war.” Something new this year was added—a trivia game of “How Much Do You Know About Your School?”

The PTO provided parent volunteers to help keep score and hand out water to thirsty students.

After a hard-fought, hour-long me-

lee, the winning team for the seventh grade was Avalanche and for eighth grade, Tsunami.

Principal Kevin Hajduk also held the second annual essay contest on the topic of sportsmanship which was won by Team Lightning’s Lanae Ali.

## Courtney Marko Named Junior Journalist



Junior Journalist winner Courtney Marko with teacher Dana Hauck.

Courtney Marko, Grant School fifth grade student, is this week’s winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her efforts have earned her dinner for her family, courtesy

### Untitled

By Courtney Marko

I wake up in the morning with the same boring yellow clothes. I get picked up and go straight to the dance party. The stage is always white with blue lines across. I do a headstand while I’m getting my hair cut. I spin around in circles getting sharp. I look good.

of Hometown Heros.

The program, which encourages students to express themselves through creative writing, is a joint cooperation between Hometown Heros and the *South Plainfield Observer*.

Students should submit their original works to their teachers, the *Observer* or to Hometown Heros. Winners are selected weekly; students and their works are published in the *Observer*. Hometown Heros makes arrangements to deliver dinner for the winner’s family.

At the end of the school year in May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* host a banquet celebrating

all of the weekly winners and their families. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional U.S. Savings Bonds are also awarded. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly as well. For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010.

## LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
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### LEGAL NOTICE

February 29, 2012—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on February 28, 2012.

A. Case #742/S/V—Role Realty, Block 255; Lot 13; M-3 Zone, 20 Hammich Road. The applicant’s request for a bulk variance, (3) waivers and preliminary and final site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

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March 9, 2012

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