

# South Plainfield OBSERVER

VOL. 15, NO. 45

Member New Jersey Press Association

60 CENTS

JULY 6, 2012

## Two Charged in Brutal Murder

James R. Thomas, 37, and his mother, Shelley A. Thomas, 53, both of Plainfield, were charged on Sunday with the fatal beating of South Plainfield Volunteer Firefighter William Koonz, Jr., 53, in his home at 124 Merchants Ave. on Thursday.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan and Police Chief James Parker said that police responded to a request from a family member asking for a welfare check on Friday at 11:07 a.m. After entering the residence, police discovered the body of Koonz. An autopsy performed by the Middlesex County Medical Examiner's Office on Saturday determined that he died of blunt force trauma to the head and was a victim of homicide.

Koonz, a father of two daughters, had been a paid firefighter in Springfield before taking over his father's sprinkler business, Wilpat Irrigation, also in Springfield. Fire Chief Tom Scalera said Koonz, who was separated from his wife, first joined South Plainfield Fire Department in 2002, but left in 2006 when he moved out of town. He returned to the department in March 2011 and was among the firefighters who battled the February 23 blaze on Clinton Avenue that killed four children and their grandmother.

"He loved being a firefighter," said

Scalera. "He was a good guy, a good brother firefighter." He recalled Koonz helping install sprinklers on the borough's ball fields.

James Thomas was arrested and charged at the South Plainfield Police Department. According to the State Department of Corrections, he served more than six years doing two stints in state prison from 1998 through 2006 on convictions for seven counts of robbery and a weapons offense. He is the self-employed owner/operator of In Scrap We Trust, a metal salvage business. His mother, Shelley, was arrested and charged at a residence in Plainfield.

Bail for each suspect was set at \$2M. According to police, Thomas and Koonz were prior acquaintances and they don't feel this was a random act of violence. The motive, however, is still under investigation.

Also assisting with the investigation are members of the Plainfield Police Department and the New Jersey State Police.

Anyone with information is asked to call South Plainfield Police Det. Gary Cassio at (908) 755-0700, or Investigator Jeffrey Temple of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office at (732) 745-3373.

Funeral services for Koonz are scheduled to be held this morning in Springfield.



Roosevelt School computer teacher Desiree Noland, Brian Mazellan, author Jane Iavascio and husband Jeff with Casey and Bella.

## Student Wins Author Visit

By Jean Fultz

Brian Mazellan, a fourth grade student at Roosevelt School, was first runner up in the Casey and Bella Writing Contest, sponsored by children's author Jane Iavascio. Computer teacher Desiree Noland discovered the contest on the Internet. More than 2,000 submissions were received from students in third through fifth grades in schools up and down the East Coast.

Iavascio pens the popular "Casey and Bella" children's books that are based on two actual dogs, Casey, a Jack Russell Terrier, and Bella, a Yorkie. The contest required entrants to choose their own theme and write an adventure for Casey and Bella, introducing one new dog into the storyline.

Brian submitted his original story, "Casey and Bella Go to the Fire Station," for his friend, Jordan Jefferson, who was injured in a tragic fire that

claimed the lives of four of his siblings and grandmother in February.

"He really wanted to do this so much, and his dad suggested he write about war veterans, but Brian said, 'No, I have to do this for Jordan,'" said Maryann Mazellan about her son.

In Brian's story, Casey and Bella are playing outside when they hear a loud ringing sound and follow it to "a big red building made of brick." There, Casey and Bella meet a Dalmatian named Rick and a fireman, Captain Fred, who teach the dogs about fire safety, smoke detectors and planning an escape route from a house in the event of a fire.

As part of Brian's prize, Iavascio visited Roosevelt School on June 15 along with Casey and Bella after receiving special permission for the dogs to come to the school. She presented Brian with an award and signed copies

(Continued on page 5)



1963 Labor Day Parade Honorary Grand Marshal Anne Nagy is shown with her grandchildren.

## Omitted Parade Grand Marshal Identified

Each year the names of Labor Day parade past honorary grand marshals are published in the special Labor Day issue of the *Observer*, but the name of the 1963 grand marshal has never been included on the list.

Thanks to Anne Nagy's daughter-in-law, Anne, who happens to be of the same name, the omitted grand marshal will now be added to the list of former grand marshals.

Anne Nagy was named honorary

grand marshal of the Sixth Annual Labor Day Parade. She served as the borough's registrar of vital statistics from 1946 to 1963 before her retirement.

She was born in New York and moved to South Plainfield in 1927. During her 17 years as registrar, she watched the borough's births increase from 100 a year to 500 a year. She was the mother of six and grandmother of 23 children.

Anne was past president of the Sac-

red Heart Rosary Society, the American Legion Auxiliary and the South Plainfield Democratic Organization.

She was also a Democratic committeewoman for five years and a poll worker. She hosted a New Year's Day open house in the borough for officials and residents starting in 1947.

Rep. Edward J. Patten, (15th District), a friend of the family for many years, was Anne's official escort in the parade.

## School Redistricting Task Force Being Formed

By Libby Barsky

The Board of Education discussed an initiative to study the effectiveness of the school district's grade configuration mode at the June 13 public meeting. Grade configuration is the span of grades that attend any given school. Former Interim Superintendent Dr. Gary Bowen will lead the effort that will be open to public participation.

According to Bowen, a redistricting task force will meet this summer to

assess the current plan in the district's pre-kindergarten through middle school enrollment configuration and consider recommendations for possible future modification. During their discussion, the board established their goals of the study which include:

- To assess, research and determine the effectiveness of the current grade alignment within South Plainfield School District through pre-school;
- To maximize program options for all students and ensure developmentally appropriate transitions to

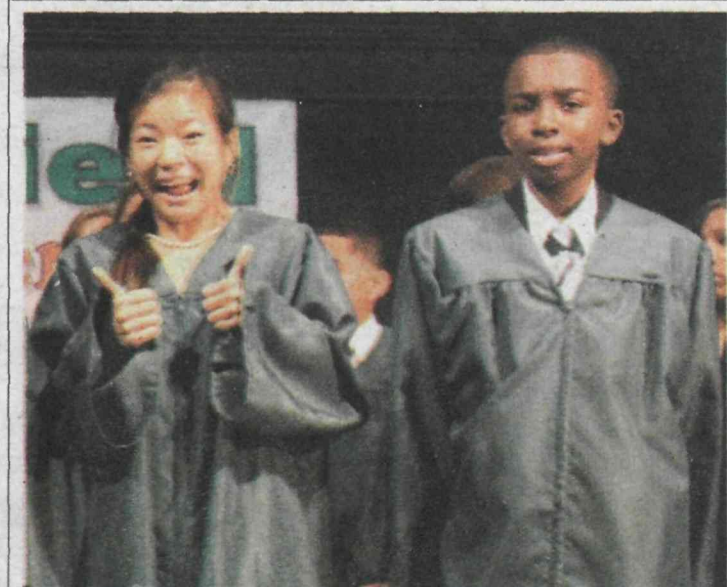
maximize student achievement and minimize learning gaps;

- To assess the neighborhood school concept in comparison to district-wide schools of attendance;
- To determine cost effectiveness and efficiency of building space and facility outlook for the next five years;
- To assess the potential for increase in student enrollment and present options to manage the possibility of overcrowding;
- To assess transportation efficiency issues such as bus route, tiers and viability of options considered.

An overcrowding issue may be in the offing with the potential addition of 484 units proposed at the former Tingley Rubber site off Coolidge Street near Rt. 287. This has been in the works by Edgewood Properties owner Jack Morris since 2005, but has yet to come to fruition. Another multi-unit development behind Harris Structural Steel Co. on New Brunswick Avenue has been in the works for several years.

The school district currently houses 2,459 students in kindergarten through grade eight. Pre-school students are housed in the Roosevelt Administration Building annex. Grades K-4 attend four neighborhood elementary schools—Franklin, Kennedy, Riley and

(Continued on page 9)



A Middle School eighth grade student gives the "thumbs up" at the school's graduation exercise. For story and photos, see page 6.





**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.

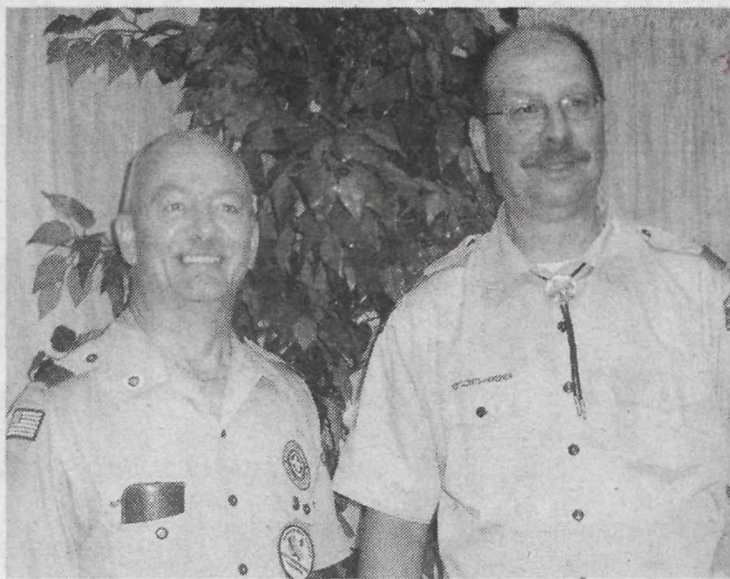
To purchase a complete copy of a council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer. (Check Comcast community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

**council meetings****Meets twice a month on Mondays, \*except where noted.**  
**Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605****Agenda Meeting** Monday, July 16  
**Public Meeting** Monday, July 16

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

**planning board****Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, \*except where noted.**  
**Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641**July 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**

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.)**Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Dec. 12  
**Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) except where noted\***  
Aug. 15, Sept. 19, Oct. 17**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.**  
July & 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.**  
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**  
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.****site plan sub-committee****Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.**  
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**  
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)

Jeffrey Pauls and John Mocharski

**Scout Leaders Earn District Awards**

The Raritan Valley District of Patriots Path Council presented awards to South Plainfield Boy Scout leaders Jeff Pauls of Troop 309 and John Mocharski of Troop 207 during the annual awards breakfast on June 9. Pauls received the District Merit Award and Mocharski received Scoutmaster of the Year.

The District Merit Award is presented to scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at the district level.

Scoutmaster of the Year is presented

to a scoutmaster of a Boy Scout troop for exceptional service.

The awards are given by each scout district within the council. A district committee chooses recipients based on all the applications submitted by other volunteers.

Pauls and Mocharski have been scoutmasters for their individual troops since 2007 and continue to help boys learn to live the scout oath, law and life skills.

**Lizard Guys Program at Senior Center**

A children's wildlife program will be held at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave., on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m. The program is for children ages four and over, and is being presented by the Lizard Guys, a wildlife education/entertainment group based in Raritan. It will include a variety of wild animals, including lizards, snakes, frogs and insects. While the program is kid-friendly, attending children must be able to sit still.

The program is sponsored by South Plainfield Free Public Library. Pre-registration is not required. In lieu of an admission fee, attendees should bring non-perishable food items for the South Plainfield Food Pantry.

For more information, call (908) 754-7885, visit the library's website at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). For more information about the Lizard Guys, visit [www.thelizardguys.com](http://www.thelizardguys.com).**In My Opinion**

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

**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.**To the Editor:**

South Plainfield has some real talent that has been missing as part of our continued effort to be a dining destination among foodies. Both Flanagan's and KC's Korner have innovative chefs who are due recognition for their consistency and creativity.

What is puzzling is why people will wait one hour to eat at chain restaurants in busy congested areas when within walking distance or a short ride you can have better food, and no waiting. The restaurants are part of a bar but totally separate. It's like eating in a friends dining room.

I urge all residents to patronize these two excellent dining sources. They are "diamonds in the rough" with chefs too good to be ignored. My family appreciates the extent they go to serve their customers.

**BOB BERRY****To the Editor:**Thank you, R&C Auto Body, for 50 years of honest, quality workmanship!  
**MARIO & BARBARA CICCONE****Purchase 2013 SPHS Yearbooks Now and Save**Early birds benefit from pre-sale prices: next year's South Plainfield High School yearbook can be ordered early at a reduced rate. If there is one thing we all know for sure, it's that prices always increase. What can you do to beat that? Order the yearbook by August 31 and lock in the 2012 prices on the 2013 SPHS yearbooks. Purchase the 2013 yearbook for \$80 at [Smart-Pay.com](http://Smart-Pay.com). The price will increase as of September 1.You can also save money on a dedicated ad by ordering before August 31. Pre-sale price of a full page ad is \$275, half page is \$175, quarter page is \$100 and an eighth page ad (new size) is \$50. As of September 1, prices will increase \$25.  
Email text of your ad and digital photo materials (300 ppi minimum required for proper reproduction) to [HYearbook@spboe.org](mailto:HYearbook@spboe.org) and send your check made out to SPHS, c/o Yearbook Treasurer, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. We will also accept 35mm or digital print photos of high quality for your ad, which can be mailed with your payment and ad message.

Note that ad size selected may limit the number of photos and amount of text that can be printed. Save money and avoid the rush during the first weeks of school by ordering now.

**Spring Lake Outdoor Summer Concerts**

Free concerts sponsored by Middlesex County will be held at the Spring Lake Park gazebo each Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

**July**

8--The George Krauss Memorial Band-Barbara Krauss Santoro, Leader

15--Sandy Sasso's Swingin' Big Band

22--The Mark Heter Band-Wonderful Music from the Circus

29--StarFish!-Family-friendly Rock &amp; Roll for Kids!

**August**

5--The Brio Concert Band, Patriotic American Music-Edward Logue, Leader

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The South Plainfield Observer is published weekly on Fridays by G&amp;G Graphics Inc.

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Classified (908) 668-1258Publisher/Editor-in-Chief ..... Nancy Grennier  
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The South Plainfield Observer (U.S.P.S. 018253) is published weekly, except Thanksgiving week. Second class postage paid at South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080-9998. Postmaster: Forward change of address orders to G&amp;G Graphics Inc. 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2004. Subscription rates \$29.95/year in South Plainfield; \$34.95 year out of town.

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

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

The publisher is not responsible for typographical errors.





Joann Graf accepts resolution from Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan.

## New Jersey State Senate and Assembly Honor Joann Graf

Former South Plainfield Borough Clerk Joann Graf was recently presented with a Ceremonial Resolution by Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan. The resolution was sponsored by Senator Barbara Buono, Diegnan and Assemblyman Peter Barnes.

Diegnan commented, "Joann Graf represents the best of public service. She has dedicated virtually her entire

adult life serving the residents of South Plainfield. She first served as a council member and council president, then as senior citizen director and finally as borough clerk. It is difficult to total the hundreds of lives that have been positively impacted by Joann. She embodies what South Plainfield is all about: community. She will be missed."

## police reports

- On June 17 Alejandro Lopez-Gaona, 28, of Edison was arrested for hindering apprehension, careless driving, failure to maintain lane, no license, failure to exhibit an insurance card, failure to signal and failure to wear a seatbelt.
- Jhony Yanex, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, unlicensed driver, possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle and parked blocking a driveway.
- Coranado Membreno, 35, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension.
- A Metuchen resident reported the theft of an Apple iPhone at Home Depot.
- A Matis Street resident reported that their credit card had been used to make \$17,836 worth of unauthorized purchases.
- On June 18 Donna M. Lee, 41, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.
- On June 19 Bravo Supermarket

reported receiving a \$20 counterfeit bill to pay for items.

- A Church Street resident reported that their basement window had been broken. No entry was gained.
- On June 20 Lukoil Gas Station on Stelton Road reported receiving a counterfeit \$20 bill from a customer who drove off.
- On June 21 Krystal M. Del Romero, 25, of South Bound Brook was arrested at Kohls for shoplifting assorted children's clothing worth \$142.
- The American Legion on Oak Tree Avenue reported the theft of an empty keg that was chained to a post. The chain had been cut.
- James G. Bryant, 46, of Piscataway was arrested for the theft of two truck batteries and two catalytic converters from the rear of a yard on Durham Avenue.
- On June 22 T&L Nails on W. 7th Street reported that the glass in their front door had been broken and \$100 in cash was taken from the register.

## Lt. Governor Tours PTC Therapeutics

Emphasizing the importance of New Jersey's growing life sciences sector to the state's economy, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno visited VaxInnate Corporation in Cranbury and PTC Therapeutics in South Plainfield on June 27 as part of her month-long tour of life science companies in the state.

"New Jersey offers fertile ground for launching and growing vibrant life science and biotechnology companies—a critical sector of our economy that is driving economic development and job growth for our residents. These innovative companies employ our highly skilled residents with good-paying jobs, take advantage of our access to global markets, and drive research leading to cutting-edge products and therapies to impact the world's health," said Guadagno. "The Christie Administration is committed to working with companies such as PTC Therapeutics as they continue to grow and create jobs for New Jerseyans."

PTC Therapeutics develops drug therapies for patients living with serious and life-threatening conditions including genetic and neuromuscular disorders, cancer and infectious diseases.

"PTC Therapeutics is a New Jersey-based company founded out of UMDNJ 14 years ago focused on the discovery and development of novel drugs for patients with rare disorders. We are proud to be a New Jersey company and to host Lt. Governor Guadagno. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to discuss the benefits and challenges of building a biotechnology company in New Jersey," stated Stuart W. Peltz, Ph.D., CEO of PTC Therapeutics. "PTC has benefited from being situated in the state and has participated in incentive programs such as the Technology Business Tax Certificate Transfer Program, which allows New Jersey technology companies to sell net operating losses, which provides much



Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno meets with PTC Therapeutics CEO, Stuart Peltz.

needed financial assistance to growing technology companies. We appreciate the Lt. Governor's commitment to champion programs such as these to help grow and develop the life science industry in New Jersey."

The New Jersey Partnership for Action (PFA) is a three-pronged public-private approach to economic development and the starting point for all initiatives, policies and efforts to grow New Jersey's economy and create quality, sustainable jobs in our communities. Led by Guadagno, the PFA supports the vital role business plays in advancing the state's economy and creating jobs. The three elements of the PFA include the Business Action Center reporting directly to

the Lt. Governor and providing the business community with a single point of contact, applying a proactive, customer-service approach to businesses' interactions with state government; the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, serving as the state's "bank for business"; and Choose New Jersey, an independently funded and operated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation created to encourage and nurture economic growth throughout New Jersey.

Businesses considering a move or in need of assistance are encouraged to call New Jersey's Business Action Center at (866) 534-7789 or visit the state's business portal at [www.newjerseybusiness.gov](http://www.newjerseybusiness.gov).

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# events

## Around Town

### Rescue Squad Car, Truck & Bike Show

July 8

The fifth annual Rescue Squad Car, Truck & Bike Show will be held on Sunday, July 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (rain date July 15) at the squad building, 2520 Plainfield Ave. Proceeds will benefit the South Plainfield Volunteer EMS Squad.

Show trophies for the best custom bike, best muscle car, best street rod, best import, best truck and more. All vehicles are welcome. Vehicle registration is \$20; general admission is \$5 and includes two hotdogs or two hamburgers. Food, a 50/50 raffle, and music by DJ Stick Shift Eddie. Vendors are also wanted.

For registration or vendor information, please contact the Rescue Squad at (908) 420-3721 or email [webmaster@southplainfieldems.org](mailto:webmaster@southplainfieldems.org).

### "Sharpen Your Skills" At Pilgrim Covenant

July 9-August 20

Pilgrim Covenant Church is hosting

a Sharpen Your Skills tutoring program offered by Three Bridges, July 9-August 20 for children in grades K-5 to improve their reading, math and writing skills. Parents may choose a 90-minute tutoring session for two, three or four days per week.

For more information, call Rosie Bayak at (732) 662-8277 or email [threebridgesllc@gmail.com](mailto:threebridgesllc@gmail.com).

### Library Bd. of Trustees Special Meeting

July 10

The Board of Trustees of the South Plainfield Free Public Library will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, July 10 at 6 p.m. at the library, located at 2484 Plainfield Ave. The meeting is to discuss personnel issues related to the library. It is anticipated that the board will go into executive session immediately after convening the meeting. Formal action may be taken at the conclusion of the execu-

**Send Your Community Events to:**  
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tive session. The regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held following the special meeting.

### Pub Theology with Pastor Chris

July 10

Pub Theology with Pastor Chris will be held on Tuesday, July 10 at 8 p.m. at Flanagan's, 2501 Plainfield Ave. All are welcome. This is an informal gathering for fellowship, refreshment and discussion of contemporary Christian topics.

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

### Back Yard BBQ at NAPA Auto Parts

July 14

Join the Eastern Conference Champion New Jersey Devils, the Devils cheerleaders, mascot and street team for the New Jersey Devils Back Yard BBQ on Saturday, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at NAPA Auto Parts, 1770 Durham Ave. Open to the public. Sign up for NAPA's preferred dis-

count card and receive \$5 off every \$50 spent, \$10 off every \$100; buy one get one free wipers and washer fluid.

### Car/Motorcycle Cruise Fundraiser

July 21

Street Dreams Car Club will hold a car/motorcycle cruise fundraiser for Kathy Regency on Saturday, July 21 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Veteran's Park. Rain date: Saturday, July 28. Kathy recently had her third surgery for brain cancer and we hope to help her with her mounting bills through this event.

In addition to the cars and motorcycles, there will be music and crafters/vendors. Vendors are needed.

For more information, please contact Ron at (908) 482-0008.

### American Legion Post 243 Picnic

July 28

The American Legion will hold its annual picnic on Saturday, July 28 from 1-6 p.m. at the Chaumont

### SENIOR CENTER Calendar

**July 19**-Bally's \$20pp. Bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center  
**August 17**-Bally's \$20pp. (Includes Atlantic City Air Show.) Bus leaves 8:30 a.m. Sign up at Senior Center

#### MONDAYS

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

#### TUESDAYS

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

Exercise Class ..... 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 ..... 9:00 am  
Crafts Class ..... 10 am  
Computer.. 10, 11:30 am, 1:00 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

Post, 243 Oak Tree Ave. Cost: \$18, adults over 21; \$12, children age six and over; free for children under six. Picnic food, DJ Aldo Velez, a horseshoe tournament and a water slide for the children will be available. Auxiliary members will again have their spectacular dessert room. Tickets will be available at the Post after July 13.

### — Out of Town —

### American Flyers Open House

July 7

American Flyers Flight School at the Morristown Airport, 50 Airport Rd., will be hosting an open house and free barbecue lunch on Saturday, July 7 at noon. Arrive 10-15 minutes early. All are welcome, no reservations required.

For more information, call (973) 267-3223 or visit [www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation\\_seminars.sp](http://www.americanflyers.net/about/aviation_seminars.sp).

### NP Baptist Vacation Bible School

July 9-13

North Plainfield Baptist Church, 543 Rockview Ave., will hold Vacation Bible School for pre-K through sixth grade children the week of July 9-13. No charge.

For more information, call (908) 753-8686 or email [pastor.npbpc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.npbpc@gmail.com).

### Art Camp/Workshops At duCret School

Beginning July 9

The duCret School of Art, located at 1030 Central Ave. in Plainfield, is holding adult art workshops and summer art camp for children and teens, beginning July 9. Visit [www.ducret.org](http://www.ducret.org) for a complete list of available workshops.

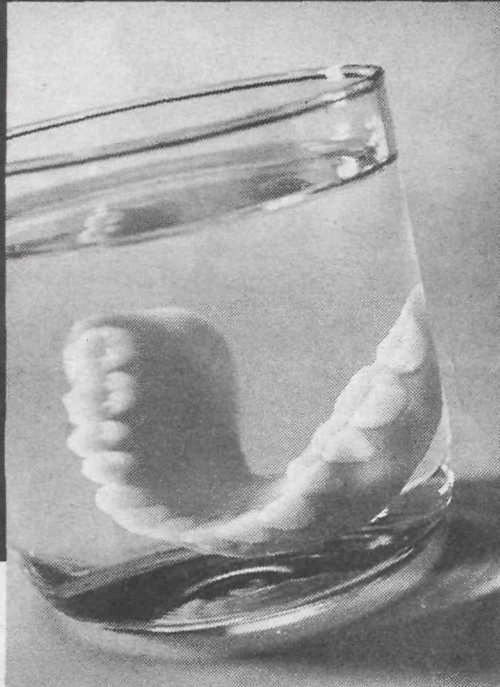
For more information, call (908) 757-7171.

### German Biergarten

July 13

Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, will host an authentic German bieregarten on Friday, July 13 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Open to the public/outdoors/rain or shine. Admission: \$2 per person. Picnic tables available.

For information, call (732) 574-8600.



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## Damn Yankees at Plays-in-the-Park

July 11-21

Plays-in-the-Park, located in Roosevelt Park in Edison, will present *Damn Yankees*, the second show of the season, beginning Wednesday, July 11 through Saturday, July 21 (no show on July 15). Purchase tickets the night of the performance; box office opens at 5:30 p.m.; show begins at 8:30 p.m. Cost: adults, \$7; seniors, \$5; children 12 and under, free. Bring your own lawn chairs; height of the chair-back cannot exceed 40 inches.

For more information, visit us online at [www.playsinthepark.com](http://www.playsinthepark.com).

## Pushcart Players "Red Riding Hood"

July 25

Pushcart Players presents "Red Riding Hood and other stories" on Wednesday, July 25 at 11 a.m. in the Wilkins Theatre at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. Tickets are \$15; discounted rates for groups of 20 or more.

## Student Wins Author Visit

(Continued from page 1)

of her books, and the school received an illustration from the new book, "Casey and Bella Face Their First Bully."

Family members, teachers and administrators clapped loudly along with students as Jordan, who still had bandages on his arm, was called to the front of the auditorium by Lovascio to stand next to his friend.

Lovascio told Brian that she really wanted to pick his story as the grand prize winner, but because she was bullied as a child, she chose "Casey and Bella Rumors on the Bus" to be the next book to be published in the series. Instead, she told Brian, his story would be made into a coloring book.

"You guys can do anything you set your mind to," Lovascio told the stu-

For more information, visit [www.kean.edu/premierstages](http://www.kean.edu/premierstages) or call the box office at (908) 737-7469.

## Upscale Singles Dance Party

July 28

Steppin' Out Singles upscale singles dance party will be held on Saturday, July 28 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 120 Wood Ave. in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For more information, call (862) 397-4723.

## St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

August 6

St. Helen's Church Caregiver Support Group, for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones, will meet on Monday, Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Informational and sharing sessions.

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

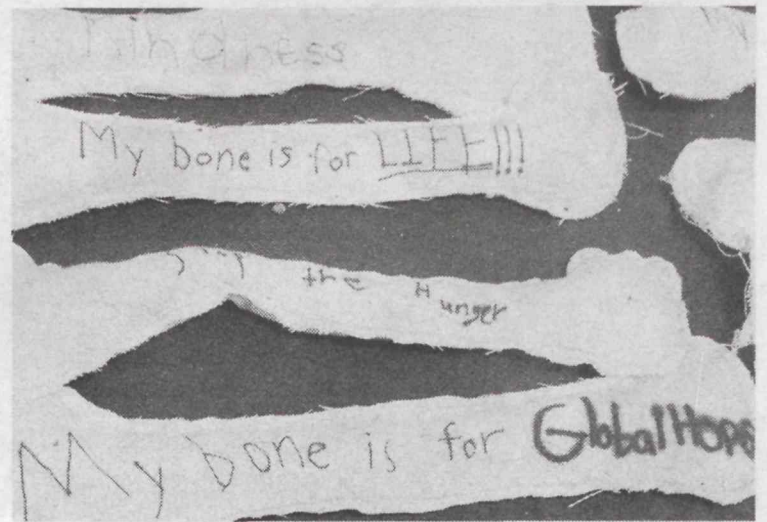
# The One Million Bones Project

The bird seed felt cool beneath my hands as Laura Smith, who teaches in the computer room at Kennedy School, showed me how to make one of the 309 bones that the students at Kennedy School have been working on for the Students Rebuild Challenge. For each bone made, one dollar is donated by the BEZOS Family Foundation, up to \$500,000, to CARE to help provide food for starving people in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The situation for these two nations revolves around geography and complex politics. The chaotic energy of the students running around enjoying their field day makes one wonder if any of them actually understand the word "genocide." But Smith had found a way of communicating to the students even just a little bit of the hardships the people of Somalia and the Democratic Nation of the Congo were experiencing: hunger. Smith took the idea of hunger and she applied it to the symbols the bones could represent; a universality and also strength, but if not properly nourished, without food, the bones could deteriorate and become weak. Nutrition is one of the first subjects that young children learn and so the subject of being able to eat and eat healthy is something they can relate to easily.

Most of the bones made for the project by various organizations were of clay but it just did not seem practical for the computer teacher nor was it in the budget, so she came up with an ingenious design, cloth bones cut out and sewed, then filled with bird seed. The added touch that evoked a six-page thank you response and dozens of others? A message, written by the students on their bones, "My bone is for \_\_\_\_\_." "They were blown away by our versions of the bones," says a pleased Smith. The students brainstormed with Smith and came up with 30 phrases/adjectives including "happiness," "renewal," "strength" and "saving lives," just to name a few.

Smith says the project really began a year ago with her introduction of the Free Rice initiative into the classroom. For each question in subjects such as



language arts, math, science and other academic subjects grains of rice are donated to people in need around the world. This project was the first of a few now for Smith and her students, including a paper cranes project to aid hurricane victims in Japan and now the One Million Bones Project. Smith said she wanted students to "use the Internet not just for fun but for a positive purpose as well." She emphasizes that everything the students learn, whether it be Excel programs or other tech savvy skills, need to have some kind of back story.

The curriculum is attempting to incorporate a kind of global problem and assistance into lessons and the trick is to "give them some sense of responsibility in the world," states Smith. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Smith says that instead of going on games during free time, she sees many students answering extra questions on Free Rice and hears students, almost disbelievingly, ask if they can really help someone for free. The sentiments and willingness

are heartwarming to see, and hopefully a lesson the students will carry on with them as they grow older. Smith says it is imperative for "the youth in the world to take a stand," much like the actions of the recent college graduate who began working on and founded the One Million Bones Project in the first place.

The bones from Smith's classes were displayed in one of the installations in front of the Statehouse Annex in Trenton this past April and will be at the installation at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. next spring. By then Smith hopes to involve not only Kennedy School, but hopes to plan a community event to make even more bones by the deadline in spring.

You can view the YouTube video of Smith's children as they worked on the bones at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv0MaVVLjca](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv0MaVVLjca). They are also featured on the One Million Bones website, [www.onemillionbones.org/](http://www.onemillionbones.org/) and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OneMillionBones](http://www.facebook.com/OneMillionBones).

—Submitted by By Kirsten Nuber

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Salad with Grilled Chicken  
Grilled Chicken Caesar Wrap  
Tuna Salad Wrap • Chicken Greek Salad Wrap

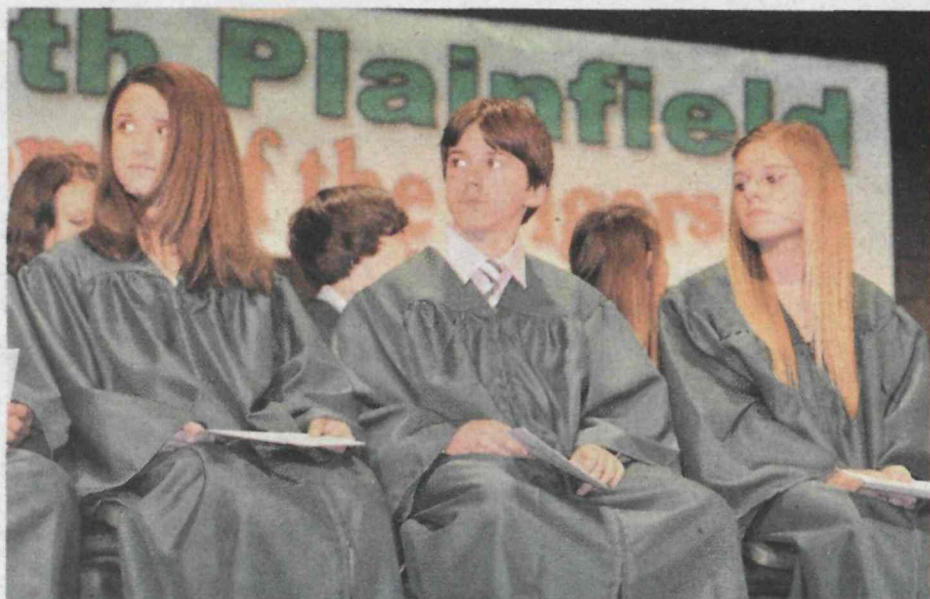
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Eggplant Parmigiana Panini-Pan-fried chicken topped with mozzarella & tomato sauce  
Roast Beef And Mozzarella Panini-Sliced Roast Beef topped with Mozzarella  
Veggie Panini-Eggplant roasted red peppers, mushrooms & mozzarella cheese, sprinkled with balsamic vinaigrette dressing  
Cheese Steak Panini-w/onions & tomatoes  
Chicken-Grilled chicken marinated w/hot salsa, cheddar cheese, roasted peppers





## Middle School Graduates

June 19, 2012 was the day the Middle School eighth grade students had looked forward to for two years. The traditional eighth grade dinner dance was held the prior Friday. The graduation ceremony was held indoors in the high school auditorium with the overflow of guests watching a live feed from the gymnasium.

The Middle School Band, directed by Andrew Veiss, performed the processional Pomp and Circumstance as the students filed down two aisles and mounted the stairs to their seats as cheers rang throughout the room.

The National Anthem was performed by students Thalia Alfaresa and Georgette Zegarra. Student speakers were Ethan Lyte, Student Council President and Neel Patel, Academic Honoree. The Board of Education address was made by member Bill Seesselberg. Principal Kevin Hajduk presented the Class of 2012, which was followed by the acceptance of the class by Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco.

Board of Education members climbed the stage and began the awarding of certificates.

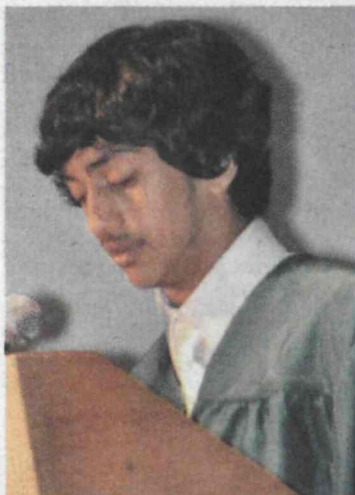
The recessional was a recording of the Middle School Band performing *Time to Say Goodbye*. The students filed out of the auditorium and headed to an area in the parking lot to meet up with family members.

The Middle School graduating class is:

Melissa Marie Abate, Michael Abreu, Jr., Kevin L. Adams Jr. \*\*, Lisa M. Affinito, Karima E. Ahmed, Jacob S. Alba\*, Dominick Alexander, Thalia Alfaresa \*\*, Alexis Algarin, Thomas J. Appolloni, Alexis Jean Aquilina, Josephine Arguello, Trevor D. Bali\*, Nicholas Paul Battista, Sergio Bazucv, Yunita D. Behari, Manuel A. Berrios, Nolan William Berry\*, Melissa Bhoro, Michael Bhoro, Jonathan James Blanco\*, Stephanie Rose Boettger\*, Stephanie D. Bohn, Jarod T. Borgen, Sarah C. Bosse, Miranda Rose Bourbeau\*\*, Danielle Frances Bowbliss, Joseph Matthew Breland, Jeremy R. Brown, Maleni Asha Budhan, Michaela Ann Butrico

Jorge L. Calderon, Owen Patrick Campbell\*\*, Rachel T. Cannalonga, Vincent Cano\*, Angela Marie Cardone, Sarah Jordan Cargill\*\*, John Julius Carone\*\*, Andrea Lorena Castillo, Gavin Castro, Lindsay Elizabeth Celentano, Matthew Paul Celentano+, Joshua M. Chavez\*, Jason Chen, Daniel I. Cherrez\*, Hemanth Kumar Chiluka\*, Amanda Lynn Ciardiello, Jonathan Sal Conrad\*, Justin Gregory Counts, Nicole P. Croce, Alexandra Cruz\*\*, Brian Louis Csohor\*, Brian F. Cullen\*, Gina Giovanna Cummings\*\*, Tyler Andrew Curtis\*, Gabriella Rachel Cusick

Brittany S. Dabel, Gene P. Decker, Michael De La Cruz, Brittany Lauren DellaSala, Kyle Robert DelPaoli\*, Kristen Allyse De Sclafani, Karuna



K. Dhaniram, Michaeljit T. Dhindsa, Joshua Diaz, Nicholas Joseph Di-Francesco, Aliyah S. Dobie, Katherine Renata Dolinski\*, Jamie Nicole Donato\*\*, Joy Doyle, Amanda Janice Duffy\*, Ryan W. DuHamel, Venkata Preeth Dwarasila, Alexander G. Egatz, Habiba S. Elbastawisi, Tamara E. Elliot, Luke J. Elsmar, RaeAnne Nicole Englert, Taylor Nicole Euston

Marianna A. Fahmy, John J. Fallet, Madison Paige Faustini, Taylor Marie Ferguson, Dianne Marie Ferraro, Michael Freddy, Matthew Raymond Gallant, Cristian L. Garcia, Raul Adolfo Garcia, Nicholas Brandon Gavilanes, Alexa Maxine Gentile, Olivia S. George, Nicole Marie Gerardi, Paras N. Gheewala, Jack Peter Gillis\*, Nicole S. Goitiandia, Francesca D. Gomez, Christian N. Gonzalez, Neil Mervin S. Gonzalez, Sabrina Michele Gonzalez, Kevin John Gorman, Zackary E. Gorman, Anthony M. Gary, Kaitlyn S. Gray, Robert Julian Gwiazda

Daniel Tyler Hedden\*\*, Isaiah D. Hendricks, Taylor Jessica Henry, Ailsa C. Hernandez, Hunter Garret Higgins, Allison May Hoelzel, Nicole K. Horne, Gennifer L. Huber, Meghan Hughes, Danielle C. Hurst, Dominik J. Jastrzebski, Kevin J. Jones, Krista Lynn Kaczka, Manal Mahmoud Kandil, Matthew R. Keene, Alexander Owen Kelly, Johnny Michal Khalaf, Sean C. Knowles, Eddie Kobilis, Christopher L. Kuberiet Jr.\*

Grayson Lackey, Victor Andrés Ladino Furque, Kim S. Lam\*\*, Nya-Nza Lang-Barriere, Tony Hoang Le\*\*, Brianna Lynn Leonard, Victoria Liu+, Louis Joseph Locacio, Thais E. Lopez, Erin E. Lubach, Ethan Ross Lyte, Kevin M. Mallqui, Richard Joseph Marcovecchio\*, Brian E. Marski, Christopher J. Maszczak\*, Joseph W. McGeehan, Stefanie Rose Melchiorre, Paul L. Melillo Jr., Nathan Junior Mensah, Andrew Joseph Merrifield, Carly Nicole Miceli, Stormi R. Morris, Marissa Anne Mulligan, Alex Josue Munoz, James Muñoz-Morales

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lissa Ann Novak\*\*, Timothy Patrick Nuber\*\*, Adrian A. Nurse, Glenn Cameron O'Bryant, Jr.\*\*, Chika Daniel Obadike, Sarah Ann Oehler, Jacquelyn G. Orellana\*, Jessica M. Ortiz, Luke Wayland Painton, Luana J. Palma, Quinton Palms, Jessica Marie Panek+, Taylor N. Parajon\*, Jocelyn Gabriela Paredes\*, John Walter Pareja, Dhruv G. Patel+, Karan N. Patel\*+, Karan S. Patel, Neel A. Patel\*\*+, Ravi H. Patel\*, Kyle E. Patterson, Francesca G. Paul+, Dion Allen Pender, Christopher Perrette, Ajay P. Persaud, Jason Michael Petriello, George Charles Pittenger III, Anthony Terrell Pitter, Jeffrey J. Plungis, Nicholas George Polizzano\*, Michael Stewart Pratts, Damarquis Ray Price, Kelsy X. Prins, Jamaal Ali Ptah

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## Eighth Grade Dance Marks the End of Elementary Education

By Patricia Abbott



South Plainfield Middle School eighth graders marked the end of their elementary career with a traditional dinner dance for graduating students on June 15. The event was held in the high school's cafeteria, and was for most the first "official" visit to high school.

Girls were attired in pretty summer or party dresses. Boys wore dress pants and shirts, and most sported ties. Some went all out with simple tuxedos that matched their date's dress.

The students were dropped off by parents and greeted by members of the faculty and administration and then signed in. First stop was the cafeteria, which the PTO had decorated with green and white tablecloths and green and white balloons.

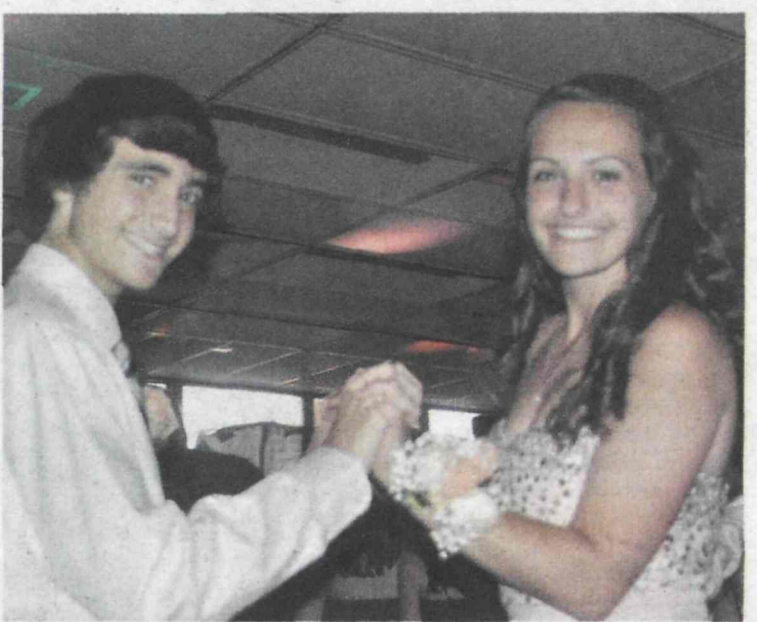
After staking out their tables with friends, students enjoyed a buffet style dinner.

After dinner, the crowd was ready to dance. Girls kicked off their shoes and donned short colorful socks. The crowd headed into the dance room in the adjacent cafeteria, where deejay John Lymanski had his music station set up to please the crowd, including disco balls and flashing lights. It wasn't long before the dance floor was packed.

The dinner dance is an annual PTO-sponsored event organized by PTO President Debbie Boyle and others.

Parent volunteers served food and chaperoned the event which continued until 9 p.m.

The eighth graders enjoyed their final hurrah as middle school students, and looked ahead to the promotion ceremony on June 19.



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**July 14<sup>th</sup>**

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# sports

## Jones to Compete For Team USA in China

By Brian Erhardt

Marquis Jones, one of the great basketball talents to come out of South Plainfield High School and the Tigers' all-time leading scorer, is headed to China to play for a United States basketball developmental team.


Marquis, a 6'1" point guard, flew to San Francisco last Thursday to meet and get acclimated with his coaches and his new teammates. Before then, he had only interacted via email with some of the coaches, but he was assured he would be in good hands as a member of the Brooklyn Nets front office was heading the team.

Marquis played basketball at the University of Rhode Island for four seasons, three as a starter. During 2011/2012 he played for the Wolfenbuettel in the German professional basketball league. Two of Marquis' Rhode Island teammates will be joining him on the squad. After a few nights in a bay area hotel, the team will fly to and arrive in China and attempt to endure a frantic schedule of nine games in 11 days versus tough international competition.

**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.



Marquis' brother, Rodney, described the team as a "B-team" but claimed that Marquis is "looking forward to the opportunity of showcasing his talents" in front of a plethora of pro scouts, including those who represent the best teams in top European leagues and even the NBA (where Marquis aspires to land one day soon).

According to Rodney, Marquis previously passed up the opportunity to sign with three separate NBA teams out of college, electing instead to focus on gaining experience and honing his skills overseas, citing "plenty of room

to grow."

Marquis was given the chance to play for the USA team after his breakout season in Germany in which he averaged nearly 18 points per game in 17 contests while seeing a lion's share of playing time. Rodney, who trained Marquis during the off-season in Rhode Island, spoke to him right before the flight and said he could tell he was excited for the opportunity.

Marquis believes he will find success in this Chinese tournament because of the year of familiarity with the European style of basketball that he gained last season while in Germany.

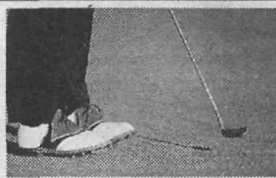
Rodney said that on top of the fundamental difference in styles between America and Europe, "getting used to playing alongside new teammates and them getting used to Marquis' style was a huge adjustment that he was able to overcome."

"[My] brother is determined to put his 'best foot forward' in utilizing this tournament as a springboard for success in future basketball endeavors," Rodney said.

Submitted By Bob Nilan

## Notes from the Jim Pomovets

### Memorial Golf League



#### LEAGUE STANDINGS

American Division				National Division			
	W	L	T		W	L	T
Alfie's Boys .....	8	2	0	Italian-American Club .....	8	1	1
KC's Korner .....	6	3	1	So. Plainfield Funeral Home ..	5	5	0
2 Buds, 2 Dubs .....	6	4	0	Windows Plus .....	4	5	1
Unique Sports Accessories ..	4	5	1	Sport & Social .....	3	6	1
Twin City Pharmacy .....	3	6	1	Witty's Liquors .....	3	7	0
McCriskin-Gustafson .....	3	7	0	Dirty Harry & Friends .....	3	7	0

Alfie's Boys, the first place team in the American Division, knew they were going to have to give a lot of strokes to the leaders in the National Division, the amazing Italian-American Club with their undefeated record. Captain Dan "The Man" Griffin gave such a fiery pep talk to his team in the locker room that they came out blazing and put on the best team performance of the season and completely overwhelmed their opponents, 20-0.

Mike King continued his superb play and led the rout with a splendid 1-under 32; Bill Mann looked extremely sharp and carded a 34; Dan "The Man" Griffin reeled off seven pars on his way to a 35; and Dan "The Other Man" Picciottoli came through with a 36 to set a new season record for low performance by a team.

That awesome display by Alfie's Boys so shook up the golfers on the Italian-American Club that Rich Pellegrino's 43 was the low round for the team.

Captain Frank Ferraro, Sr. of the Italian-American Club has asked all his shell-shocked players to attend a group therapy session at the club next week before they take on Sport & Social, and the drinks are on him.

John Dominic had his best night of the season, posting a sparkling 1-over 34, to lead South Plainfield Funeral Home to a narrow 12-8 win over Unique Sports Accessories. Dominic has had a good influence over his sometimes volatile and erratic playing partner, Wayne Lavender, who carded a very nice 38; and Vinnie Welch finished with two sorely needed pars to contribute to his team's close win that kept them in sole possession of second place.

Two weeks ago Jeff Orth won the closest-to-the-pin competition, and this week he won the 50/50 drawing. His heavy wallet evidently threw him off his game and Orth became simply a cheerleader to his teammates Dale Dube and Don Hall who led their team to a decisive 15-5 victory over Dirty Harry & Friends. Dube had a solid round of 37 and still complained about all his bad breaks, and Don Hall did a lot of grunting along the way

and still managed to post a 38. After the match, Orth, who didn't have his A-game, gathered all his loot and disappeared into the night, leaving a forlorn Danny Griffin sitting at a picnic table muttering, "Isn't Jeff buying?"

Eddie Rodriguez and Kevin McCormack both fired 38s only to see their Dirty Harry & Friends team drop their fourth match in a row and fall into the cellar.

KC's Korner got off to a rocky 1-3 start this season, but have since gone six straight weeks without a defeat. Captain Tony Cotone, Jr. and his squad once again consistently hit fairways and greens as they flattened Witty's Liquors, 16-4.

Efrain Solis put together another terrific round, a 1-over 34, and that fine score was matched by his teammate, Super-sub Mike Behr. Cotone added a 39 to help keep his team ahead of 2 Buds, 2 Dubs in the standings.

One of the key members of the Twin City Pharmacy powerhouse, Frank Gaspari, was unavailable, so Captain Guy Severini called on Danny McCreesh to fill in, and McCreesh lit up the course with an impressive 1-under par performance to tie Mike King for medalist honors for the night. Jay Coppola, Joe Diller and Guy Severini all recorded 3-over 36s, and Twin City needed all of those fine scores as they narrowly got by Sport & Social, 11-9. Scott McDonald had a 36 in a losing effort.

In the final match of the night, Mark "The Golden Bird" Chichvar completely changed his golf attire from a dazzling canary yellow to a very subdued cerulean blue. Last week, when he wore his extremely bright shirt and golf shorts his team pulled off a big win over a very tough opponent, Twin City Pharmacy. This week, in an outfit that drew no comments whatsoever, his team went down to defeat to Windows Plus, 14-6. Dave Romano once again played the key role for the victors with a solid round of 37. Wally Heinzer earned the medal for McCriskin-Gustafson with a 41, while the rest of his team had a variety of problems obviously because

(Continued on next page)

## Records Broken at Community Pool

The South Plainfield Tiger Sharks Swim Team lost their second meet on June 23 to Somerset Valley YMCA, 145-131. While the Somerset Valley Y is a year round team and South Plainfield is a summer team, the Tiger Sharks broke five pool records that day.

Breaking a 15-year record held by Lauren Reed, Darlene Fung now holds the pool record for 11/12-50M butterfly. Darlene also broke a 13-year record held by Katie Kaczka in the 11/12-50M freestyle. Corey He broke a 10-year



record held by Dylan McDermott in the 8 and under 25M breaststroke. He also broke his own pool record in the 25M backstroke, while Anthony Gurrieri broke the team record for 50M freestyle.

Other ribbon holders were: Individual Medley-Shannon Yan (10 and under) and Ali Huber (13-18) third place; Freestyle-11/12 year olds Andrew Galarza, Peter Zakrevski and Aris Chung swept the event. Samuel Zhang placed second for 10 and under, while Tyler Wu (10 and under) and Bryce Uzzolino (13-18) placed third. Eight and under sisters Faith and Hope Best placed first and third, respectively. Kristy Tam and Shannon Yan (9/10) placed second and third. It was definitely a sister act for the event when Elizabeth and Stephanie Chiu placed second and third, sweeping the event

with Darlene Fung who placed first. Grace Chung placed third for the 13/14 age group.

Backstroke-11/12 Andrew Galarza, Peter Zakrevski and Isaac Nathoo swept their age group with a first, second and third. Tyler Wu and Ryan Park placed first and second for the 9/10 age group. Ethan Tam (8 and under) and Enzo Butrico (13/14) placed third.

Breaststroke-first place Corey He (8 and under), Sam Zhang (9/10) and Miles Green (11/12). Second place Ryan Park (9/10), Peter Wu (11/12) and Anthony Gurrieri (15-18). Brothers Enzo Butrico (13/14) and Charlie Butrico (15-18) placed third.

Butterfly-11/12 age group swept the event. Darlene Fung, Jenna Yan and Stephanie Chiu placed first, second and third, respectively. Kristy Tam (9/10) placed first, while Hope Best (8 and under) placed second. Gennifer Huber placed third for the 13/14 age group.

9-12 relays had two first place winners. Swimming the free relay were Andrew Galarza, Zach Brown, Peter Zakrevski and Tyler Wu. Swimming the medley relay were Jenna Yan, Darlene Fung, Kristy Tam and Shannon Yan.

Coaches Laurie Post, Mary Otlowski, Katie Kaczka and Emily Piekarski are proud of the team's efforts and that so many records were broken early in the season.

-Submitted by Cheryl Nagel-Smiley

**Golden Tee RESULTS**

Len Bednaski and Gordon Williams won the Golden Tee Tournament on June 28 at the Plainfield West Nine. Bob Pero and Vince Powers won second place.

The next tournament will be held Wednesday, July 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Tournaments are open to all golfers. If interested, call the West Nine at (908) 769-3672.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT  
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
MIDDLESEX COUNTY  
DOCKET NO. F-059139-10

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: WRS COMPANY  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon KIVITZ MCKEEVER LEE, PC, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION INCORPORATED IN PENNSYLVANIA, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Independence Center, 701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532, phone # (215) 627-1322, an answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which Residential Credit Solutions, Inc. is plaintiff, and Lauren Edgar and Ludvic Saleh, h/w, et al are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-059139-10 within thirty-five (35) days after July 6, 2012 exclusive of such date or if published after July 6, 2012 (35) days after the actual date of such publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of governing the courts.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated September 26, 2005, made by Lauren Edgar and Ludvic Saleh, h/w as mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Ohio Savings Bank recorded on October 19, 2005, for Middlesex County in Book 11028 Page 327 Instrument # 2005 053764 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Residential Credit Solutions, Inc., by Assignment dated February 2, 2011; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 10 Forest Court North, Monmouth Junction, South Brunswick Twp., NJ 08852. Lot: 54.15 Block: 95.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association

by calling 1-732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7600.

YOU, WRS COMPANY, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a Construction Lien recorded on December 18, 2009 in the office of the Clerk of Middlesex in Book 339, Page 436 entered by you against Lauren Edgar and Ludvic Saleh to secure a debt in an amount of \$62,748.22, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Jennifer M. Perez, Clerk  
Superior Court of New Jersey

\$67.68

July 6, 2012

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD  
COUNTRY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

June 27, 2012

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on June 26, 2012.

A. Case # 743-PSE&G. Block 528.01; Lot 46.01; M-2 Zone. 4000 Hadley Road. The applicant's request for amended preliminary and final site plan approval and (3) waivers was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Beth Khidre  
Recording Secretary-Planning Board

\$26.62

July 6, 2012

## BAILEY'S BISTRO

A fun way for children to learn how to follow a recipe, taste and bring home food, and also learn more about kitchen safety and healthy eating. The class is for children ages 5-9 and will meet on Fridays from 10am-12pm for 4 weeks. (July 13-Aug 3). Registration will be accepted until July 10.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RESERVE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT CALL 732-662-8415 OR EMAIL THREEBRIDGESLCC@GMAIL.COM.**





From the South Plainfield Library

## Bookmarks

By Danielle Aronowitz

The library is offering introductory computer classes. These classes will offer a basic tutorial on the Internet, Microsoft Word and email. The next set of classes to be offered is Introduction to Microsoft Word. This class will be held on Monday, July 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 18 from 12-1 p.m. and Thursday, July 26 from 12-1 p.m. It will be the same class offered three times. In these classes, users will get an overview of Microsoft Word. Space is limited so registration is required. Please come by the library or call to register.

Summer reading has begun! Children of all ages are invited to participate in the library's summer reading club, "Dream Big Read!" Kids can join by coming in to the library and signing up. The reading program runs for six weeks and encourages children to set aside time each week to read. Each child will be given a booklet to record the titles of books/magazines/books on tape/CD that they read or listen to (the majority of materials that are used should be borrowed from our library). Each week children should come in with their booklets and check in with Miss Audrey and they will be awarded a small participation prize and have the chance to earn more prizes based on the amount of reading they complete.

Throughout the summer we will also host various special programs. We have a young adult summer reading club, "Own the Night" for students entering grade five through 12. There will be prizes for this summer reading program. We also have an adult summer reading program.

A KidCraft is held on Mondays through August 13. This craft is for ages three and up and registration is required. Each week there will be a different craft. There is also a \$1 materials fee for each child registered and registration is limited. If you would like to register, please stop by the library or give us a call.

A couple of the special programs that we have lined up for the summer are: The Lizard Guys on Thursday, July 12 at 6:30 p.m. (children must be able to sit for this program) and a puppet show presented by Fun on a String for all ages on Thursday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. Both of these programs will be held at the Senior Center and do not require registration.

Stop by the library to pick up a July calendar that has all of the special programs or visit our website to see the programs as well.

In addition to regular storytimes, Miss Mija and Miss Linda added a special 1 p.m. storytime called "Tuesday Tales" which is held every Tuesday through August 14. Kids can explore folktales from a different country each week, make a craft and taste some food. These storytimes are for kids entering second grade and up. Registration is required; space is limited, so please come to the library and register.

We are open six days a week except on holidays: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit our Facebook page, call (908) 754-7885 or visit us on the web at [www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us](http://www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us). See you next week!

## Kostas Parlapanides, 71

Kostas Parlapanides died suddenly on Sunday, June 24 in Cliffside Park.

Born and raised in Karamoti Kavala, Greece, Mr. Parlapanides came to the United States in 1966, living in New Brunswick prior to settling in North Plainfield in 1970.

He founded Kostas Seafood in 1979 and was the owner and operator until 2011 when he passed the business down to Dean and Nicholas Parlapanides. Mr. Parlapanides was also the owner of the former Snack Shack Luncheonette in Plainfield as well as the former Renaissance Diner in North Plainfield.

Kostas was a devoted husband, a proud father to his four sons and adored all five of his grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Eleni; four sons, Paul and wife Anthanasia of New Hyde Park, N.Y., George and wife Allison of Dunellen, Dean and his soon-to-be wife Andriana of New Milford and Nicholas of North Plainfield; a sister, Katina Mavroudi and husband Karlos; and two brothers, Vallas Parlapanides and Pandelis Parlapanides and wife Vasso, all of Greece. Also surviving are five grandchildren, Evangeline, Dean, John Paul, Alexander and Emily.

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



Kostas Parlapanides

## Rose Estelle Santoro, 90

Rose Estelle (Fittipaldi) Santoro, a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, died peacefully on Thursday, June 28 at home.

The youngest of seven children, Rose grew up on her family's farm at a time when South Plainfield was a rural enclave of a few thousand residents. She often told stories of her childhood on the farm, including being taken to grade school in a horse-drawn wagon and being dispatched, with her eldest sister, to dismantle and hide a still when federal agents enforcing Prohibition called on her father.

Rose graduated from North Plainfield High School in 1938 and went on to earn her registered nurse certification from Muhlenberg Hospital School of Nursing in 1940. In 1945, Rose married her grade school classmate, Michael L. Santoro, who was fresh home from combat service with the Marine Corps. Mike and Rose would enjoy 66 years of marriage until his death in 2011.

Rose spent her entire 42 year nursing career with Muhlenberg Hospital, mostly as a recovery room nurse. She was an active volunteer with programs ranging from the Cub Scouts to senior citizens. She was a lifelong communicant of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church and a member of its Rosary Society. Rose served as the "nurse on call" for her extended family and for her Joan Street neighborhood, where she lived for 60 years.

She loved and greatly appreciated the many devoted members of her extended family.

Besides her husband, Mike, she is predeceased by all her brothers and sisters, and by her beloved grandchild, Paula Rosina Santoro.

She is survived by three sons and their families, Michael L. Santoro, Jr. and Martha Santoro of Richmond, Va.; John Santoro and Pamela Bennett-Santoro of Morristown and Daniel Santoro of Johnstown, Pa. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Mary



Rose Santoro

Catherine Santoro of Martinsville, Va., Michael John Santoro of Morristown and Anne Loomis and husband Greg of Arlington, Va., the parents of Rose's great-grandchild, Jason.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations in Rose's name to The Paula Rosina Santoro Foundation, P.O. Box 9265, Morristown, N.J. 07963 or to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

## Sherry Lee Leso-Pfister, 60

Sherry Lee Leso-Pfister passed away on Saturday, June 30 after a long battle with cancer at Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains.

Born on October 30, 1951 in Plainfield to John and Mary (Fetchina) Leso, she lived in South Plainfield for many years prior to moving to Clinton.

Sherry was a school bus driver for The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison for eight years. She loved her horse, "Lady Bug," riding her in various competitions. Sherry also loved her German Shepherd "Toby."

Sherry is survived by her loving mother, Mary Leso of South Plainfield; a beloved sister, Mary Ann Catanzaro of Dunellen; three beloved brothers, John Leso and wife Constance and William and Steven of South Plainfield. She is also survived by a son, Scott Pfister of Washington and her ex-husband, Paul Pfister of Phillipsburg.

She also leaves behind several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at South Plainfield Funeral Home.

## Task Force Being Formed

(Continued from page 1)

Roosevelt. Grades five and six attend Grant School; grades seven and eight are housed in the middle school. The high school currently has an enrollment of 1,172 students in grades nine through 12 and will not be included in the study.

Board member Carol Byrne suggested that task force should not be comprised of school board members—but rather members of the community. "The task force is open to all, and anyone interested is encouraged to participate," said Bowen. "We are

looking forward to the best selective wisdom."

The first two meetings will be held in the high school information center on Monday, July 16 at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Aug. 14. If a third meeting is required, it will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 11. The recommendations are due in October when Bowen and the Redistricting Task Force will report to the board at their next regular public meeting.

To join the task force, contact Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco at (908) 754-4620, ext. 226.

## Notes from Jim Pornovets Golf League

(Continued from previous page)

there was no dazzling color emanating from their captain.

Heinzer approached Chichvar afterwards and told him if he didn't come back next week with a more colorful look to lead his squad to victory, then he, Wally Heinzer, would go to his attic next Tuesday and put on his powder

blue tuxedo that he wore to his high school prom.

Low scores for the night: Mike King, 32; Danny McCreesh, 32; Bill Mann, 34; Efrain Solis, 34; Mike Behr, 34; John Dominic, 34; Danny Griffin, 35; Dan Picciottoli, 36; Jay Coppola, 36; Guy Severini, 36; Joe Diller, 36 and Scott McDonald, 36.

## Laura R. (Douglass) Newman, 89

Laura R. (Douglass) Newman died on Wednesday, June 27 at Aristacare at Cedar Oaks in South Plainfield.

Born and raised in Plainfield, she lived in Middlesex, North Plainfield and Piscataway before moving to South Plainfield in 2000.

Laura was a longtime communicant of St. Joseph's RC Church in North Plainfield, a member of the Catholic Daughters Association and a homemaker.

She is predeceased by her loving husband, Robert; a son, Kenneth; two sisters, Ellen and Margaret; and a brother, Harley.

Surviving are five children, Laura Irovando of Piscataway, Theresa Beleno of Allentown, Pa., Bob L. Newman, Jr. (Cathy) of South Plainfield, Wayne Newman (Sharon) of Fullerton, Calif. and Harley Newman (Laurie) of Dunellen; and a brother, Jeremiah Douglass of Delaware. Also surviving are 18 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

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

## Second Anniversary

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# American Legion Post 243 Awards \$12,000 to Future Leaders

The six winners of the American Legion Chaumont Post 243 scholarships and military grant have developed their talents and skills to better serve their communities in the future.

According to Scholarship Committee Chair, Vice-Commander Doug Viafora, "We have been successful in our fundraising this year to provide two-year scholarships, a \$1,000 award the first year, and a second year award if the student successfully enrolls for the following year. The Post has also created a military grant to help a deserving veteran, reservist or guardsman who joined the military right after high school."

**Bobby Yulick, Jr.**, a 2009 graduate of South Plainfield High School, is the first recipient of the Post 243 Veteran's Grant. He is a Marine Corps Reservist who recently completed Middlesex County College, receiving an associate's degree in criminal justice police, and he also made the dean's list. Yulick plans to transfer to Kean University to attain a B.A. in criminal justice.

Yulick said, "My career goal is to be a police officer, state or municipal. I think being a police officer would be the best way for me to use my full potential and also use my military training."

The five high school seniors awarded scholarships have all demonstrated their potential to succeed after graduation.

**Luke Sprenger**, who recently graduated St. Joseph High School, is a South Plainfield resident



Tyler Stranzenbach



Casey Fallon



Luke Sprenger



Troy Kurilew



Andrea Muglia



Bobby Yulick Jr.

South Plainfield High School senior **Tyler Stranzenbach** has been an honor student for all 16 quarters. She has been a tutor with the Spanish Honor Society, and a care provider at Creative Kids Academy and Summit Methodist Church.

Stranzenbach will major in business at East Carolina University. She said, "I'd like to study human resources

because I can combine my interest in psychology and business management to assist other individual in their work and life."

**Casey Fallon**, the granddaughter of George and Joan Jepsen, credits them and her other grandmother for teaching her invaluable life lessons.

She has been a peer leader at Bishop Ahr High School, a member of the New Jersey All-State Cheerleading and Dance team, and a member of the National Honor Society. Fallon has led a blood drive committee that collected 75 donations last October. She has been accepted at Rutgers to major in the medical field, hoping to enter the Physician Assistant Master's Program at UMDNJ.

Fallon's motto, "Positive thinking, positive outcome" applies to all the winners of Post 243's educational awards. In her essay she wrote, "Positive thinking, positive outcome. Two identical adjectives, one riveting verb, and one inevitable noun together form the motto that I live by. Thinking positively has been a key factor in shaping the happy life that I lead today."

-Submitted by Richard Doerr

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Middle School students from the Jazz Band: Larry Lenau, Hemanth Chiluka, Scott O'Brien, Neel Patel, Victor Ladino, Nick Gavilanes, Joe Reo, Nick Farinella, Jameer Robinson, Daniel Prasaud, Jon Blanco, Brian Csobor, Tony Le, Samantha Reo, Anna Williams, Chris Alaya, Tim Nuber, Scott Riccardi, and John Carone.

## Student Talent Shines at the SPEF Book Fair

The South Plainfield Education Foundation held its third annual fundraising book fair to promote summer reading on June 9 at Barnes and Noble in Menlo Park Mall. Proceeds help to offset the cost of scholarships, programs and events run by the foundation. Many of the students' talents were showcased throughout the day.

Many thanks to Middle School music teacher Andrew Veiss, who coordinated the effort to have the jazz band, saxophone and flute ensembles participate.

Grant School music teacher Dr. Donna Markewicz had Joanna Marston, a student she tutors, sing two selections, including a beautiful piece sung in Italian.

There were performances by South Plainfield High School Chorus members Russ Teller and Dan Schuch that included a Jason Mraz song and a keyboard duet. Corey Singer's performance included a song to which he played acoustic guitar and a selec-

tion from the Broadway play, *Jekyll and Hyde*.

The students put all their effort and talent into these wonderful contributions, and those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the show.

On hand to assist were Russell and Donna Teller and Ed Christilles from the SPHS Music Boosters, who brought the instruments and equipment to and from the performance; Elizabeth Veiss, Gerilyn Nuber, Joan Stasio and many parents and family members who attended and lent their support.

Rebecca Gross, Grant School sixth grade teacher, held an academic "quiz bowl." Participating students included Jessica Dugtong and Linda Farinella, both fifth graders; and seventh graders Jack Cochrane, Nick Torcia and Nick Farinella. Also there to join in were Brandon Idell from School 23 in Avenel and his brother, Aiden. The two teams, the Obi 1 Kanolis and Team Silence, battled it out to the

end and both teams and the audience enjoyed the competition.

Later on in the day, high school senior Anthony Muccigrossi came to the book fair to make balloon animals for the younger patrons much to their amazement and delight.

Many thanks to our dedicated and talented students, educators and families without whom this day would not have been the success it was. Much appreciation to John and his staff at Barnes and Noble, Annemarie Stoeckel, Debbie Boyle and Marjorie Reedy for their support, and the *Observer* for advertising the event and acknowledging our students on an ongoing basis.

Middle School Saxophone Ensemble are Miranda Bourbeau, Kyle Wong, Elijah Koyongian and Nick Scalera.

Flute Ensemble from the Middle School performing were Alyssa Russo, Thalia Alfaresa, Reina Patel, Nicole Timmerman, Elizabeth Lee and Helen Nguyen.



## The Life of the Ladybug

By Sandy Pleeter, SP Green Team Associate Member

For most, the word "bug" denotes feelings of annoyance, anxiety or disgust; say "ladybug," however, and you have a widely-adored insect that benefits the environment and is said to bring good luck. And they're even more interesting than one might think.

As most know, ladybugs are usually small and round, with bodies divided into three parts: the head, thorax and abdomen. Black in color, the head houses the antennae, mouthparts and compound eyes. The thorax contains the spiracles (holes through which the ladybug breathes), three pairs of black legs and two sets of wings, which, contrary to popular belief, can be yellow, black or orange and plain or striped rather than red with black spots. But these colors serve more than just aesthetic purposes—they warn predators that the ladybugs are unappetizing as a result of a chemical that they can release from their legs when threatened. The abdomen also contains spiracles, along with organs.

Ladybugs usually lay their eggs—up to 300 at a time, depending on species (around 5,000 have been identified)—

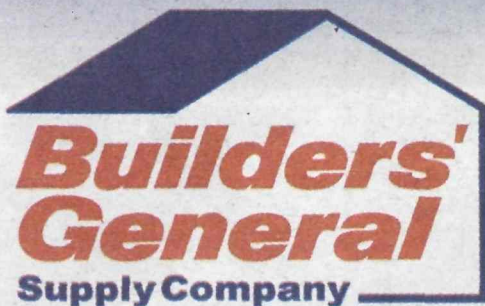
under leaves near aphid colonies. The larvae each consume about 350 to 400 of these aphids in the two weeks that it takes them to advance to the next stage of development, the pupa. In this stage, the ladybug does not eat and attaches itself to a leaf or stem. Finally, the insect becomes an "adult," though, for the first several hours, it is in the "teneral" stage, meaning that the exoskeleton, made of protein, has not yet hardened or darkened to its final color. Adult ladybugs eat aphids (as many as 75 daily) and harmful insects. In all, the ladybug's life cycle takes anywhere from three to seven weeks to complete.

It is also not commonly known that ladybugs can go into diapause—i.e., insect hibernation—in large groups for up to nine months, while the temperature is below the approximately 55°F needed to make food available. Diapause also allows male and female ladybugs to reproduce.

In addition, ladybugs can help maintain a healthy garden because they eat many of the pests that plague them without damaging the plants in the process.

The information for this article is taken from [www.sandiegozoo.org](http://www.sandiegozoo.org).

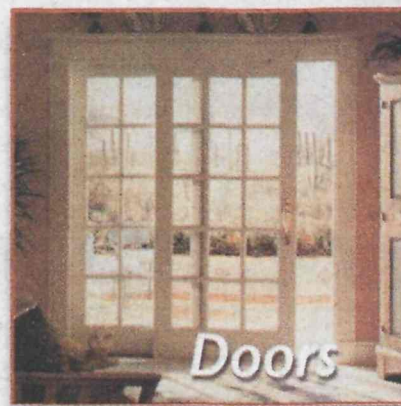
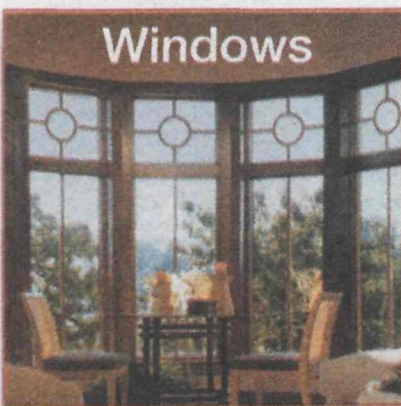
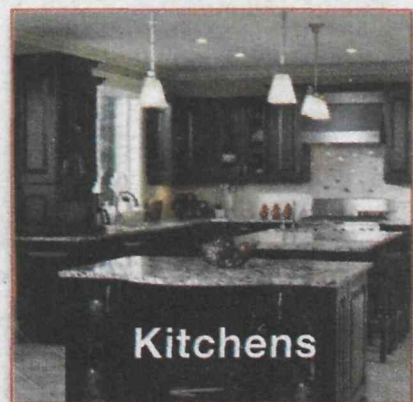
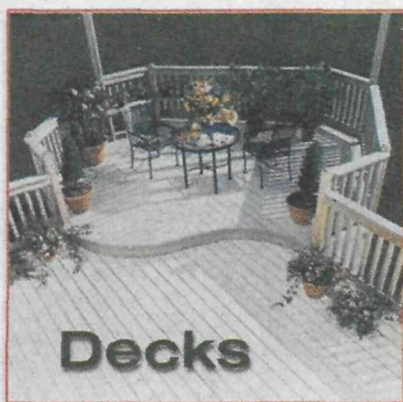
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