

South Plainfield OBSERVER

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60 CENTS

DECEMBER 14, 2012

Home Opener Ticket Sales To Benefit Prostate Cancer Foundation

High School Wrestlers to Host Cancer Takedown



Senior Wrestling Team members (standing L-R) Co-Captain Anthony Ashnault, Dylan Painton, Rayvon Garvin and Tyler Calderone; (kneeling L-R) Corey Stasenko, Co-Captain Troy Heilmann and Scott DeVecchio, display donated gear courtesy of Olympic Gold Medalist Jordan Burroughs.

By Jane Dornick

The South Plainfield High School State Champion Wrestling Team will host their first annual Prostate Cancer Takedown at their home opening

meet against interstate rivals Bergen Catholic High School on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

Proceeds from a t-shirt fundraiser, a district-wide "Jeans Day" and high school and middle school "Blue Day"

fundraisers, as well as a portion of ticket sales from the takedown, will be donated to the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF).

In addition, Cage Fighter Apparel is donating Freestyle wrestling Olympic gold medalist Jordan Burroughs' signed t-shirts, hats, singlets and 8 x 10 photographs that will be raffled off during the meet. A resident of the Sicklerville section of Winslow Township, Burroughs gained attention for his wrestling during his senior year of high school after winning a Senior National Championship. During high school, he won three district championships and two regional championships. In 2006, he captured a state title at 135 pounds. He committed to the University of Nebraska as the seventh ranked 135 pounder in the country.

According to Assistant Coach John Foscolo, the fundraiser was the brainchild of the senior classmen who wanted this event to be a part of their legacy. "It's for a good cause, and the wrestling team would like to give back any way they can," said Foscolo.

Since its inception in 1962, the wrestling team has compiled a total record of 596 wins, 153 losses and 10 ties, which includes 23 division championships, 19 conference championships, 30 district titles (27 in a row—a state record), 10 state section championships, seven state group championships and two number one rankings in the state.

In 1986, with the help of former coaches Mike Buggy, Bill Pavlak and Eugene Clapsis, the program turned around and became a dominant force in Middlesex County. In 1997, under former Head Coach Bill Pavlak, South Plainfield won their first section championship and, in 2000, their first state group title.

This success was continued under the leadership and talent of current Head Coach Kevin McCann as the team captured five group titles in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010 and 2012. In 2010 and 2012, the program reached the pinnacle of the sport, finishing as the number one team in the state.

The wrestling team was ranked No. 1 in the *Star-Ledger's* Final Top 20 for the 2010 and 2012 seasons and was also named Team of the Year both years.

Senior Captain Anthony Ashnault remains undefeated during his high school career with a record of 130-0 by winning three straight championships, at 103 and 112 pounds during his freshman and sophomore seasons, respectively, and at regions this year at 126 pounds. Teammate Scott DeVecchio was state champion this year at 132 pounds.

Ashnault, who hopes to become New Jersey's first undefeated four-

(Continued on page 9)



Gone, but not forgotten.

Members of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division—the Screaming Eagles Colorguard honor their fallen comrades at McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funeral's annual ceremony on December 9. For story and additional photos, see page 6.

School Board Approves New Fuel Agreement With Piscataway Schools

Alliance Halts Shared Services Agreement with Borough

Beginning on Monday, South Plainfield School District buses and maintenance equipment will travel to Piscataway School District to fuel their vehicles at what the Board of Education considers a more cost effective rate than that which they had been paying at borough pumps.

The BOE announced at its August 29 meeting that district school buses would be driving to Piscataway to purchase gas at \$2.93 a gallon, plus a 5% administration fee, for a total of \$3.04 a gallon. The deal is a shared service with the Piscataway Board of Education. The BOE had been purchasing gas locally through a borough shared service at \$3.49 a gallon.

Business Administrator Jim Olobardi stated that the lower price represents a 5% savings because state and federal taxes are omitted. Bus drivers will now utilize their allotted 20 minute gas break to travel nine miles round trip to fill up their tanks. The board made their decision official at the October 19 meeting.

According to Board President Jim

Giannakis, the reasoning for making the change is because the district, aside from sharing services with the borough, has also been part of a consortium with Piscataway, Highland Park, Dunellen and Middlesex for the past seven years which offered them a good deal.

"It was brought to our attention that Piscataway shares this service with other districts, and when we looked into it, it amounted to a \$.41 savings per gallon," said Giannakis. "Our business administrator had reached out [to the borough], as well as our Shared Service Chair John Farinella. Both were unsuccessful."

CFO Glenn Cullen said Olobardi contacted him at the request of Farinella about pricing after the board had made their decision. Because a vote had already been taken, he did not feel it was necessary to answer their request after the fact. "I'm tired of it," said Cullen, who said he has been trying to negotiate with the recent board over numerous items.

(Continued on page 9)



The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestling Team after taking first place at the Robbinsville Duals.

Middle School Wrestlers Take Top Spot in Robbinsville Duals

The South Plainfield Middle School Wrestling Team took first place at the Robbinsville Duals and won the Team Sportsmanship Award on December 9. The young Tigers rolled to a first place finish with huge wins over Princeton, 108-9; Council Rock, Pa., 103-18; Jackson, 108-9; and Howell, 85-24 in the championship final. The team was also presented with the Sportsmanship Award as voted on by the referees. The team is now 14-0 on the season.

The team consists of Joe Heilmann, Jeffrey Jacome, Jake DeVec-

chio, Anthony White, JJ Giordano, Jack Campagna, Tommy Fierro, Justin Bell, Joe Sacco, David Loniewski, Vinnie Savoca, Jacob Painton, Mikey Marrero, Alex Amato, Brenden Hedden, Ben Lundy, Ryan Marston, Kyle Bythell, Luke Niemeyer, Zach DeVecchio, Tyler Vronka, Juan Cardona, volunteer Assistant Coach Bill Ashnault, volunteer Assistant Coach Mike Lidon, Jake Giordano, Sam Smith, Alex Peralta, Nam Le, Julio Gonzalez and Head Coach Mike Jakubik.

—Submitted by Joe Sacco

Inside 12.14.12

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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.

council meetings

Meets twice a month on Mondays, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Agenda Meeting **Public Meeting**
Monday, December 17 Monday, December 17

Reorganization Meeting: To Be Announced

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

planning board

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

zoning board of adjustment

Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. Questions? 908-226-7641
Dec. 18

board of education

* **Organization Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013-6:30 p.m. ***

Meets Wednesdays at Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave.

Committee of the Whole meetings (begin at 6:00 p.m.) Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 20, April 10, May 1, June 5, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Regular Public Meeting (begin at 6:30 p.m.) *except where noted Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 8, June 12, *July 17-7:00 p.m., *Aug. 21-7:00 p.m., Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

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.
Dec. 18

library board of trustees

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

recreation commission

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

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month (third Wednesday), 7 p.m.
Dec. 19

environmental commission

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

Jan. 9

business advisory group

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

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.

Dear Editor,

In answer to the letter from C.J. Diana: Have you not been aware of the 20 years we have been waiting for either a new library or an expanded library in this town? Do you have a library card? Do you use the library? Do you have any idea how many people actually use this library? Have you come on story days, seen the kids and moms here crowded in the children's room for storytime and then in the main library doing crafts? Do you come when the children are out of school and use the library for homework and checking out books? No? Have you noticed that all the computers are in use most of the time by residents?

We have done this before. 1) Adopt an expansion on the existing site; 2) build a library on the site next to Unity Bank; or 3) find a new location for the library.

Well this is how it went. We found a new site in an existing building in town, but the complaint there was much too much traffic in the area. (Excuse me, have you seen the traffic outside Borough Hall and the library?) Or the excuse was it wasn't in the center of town, and a library should always be in the center of town. Do we have a center of town? Or there are no sidewalks. Or it wasn't convenient for the children to get to. Most children in elementary and middle school have their parents drive them to the library, no different if the library is in a different location. And as for high school students, if they can't drive, their parents drive them here if they don't come after school.

Build on the site next to Unity Bank. We have seen plans for that. Parking is almost non-existent. People would have to walk from the existing parking lot here and walk over past borough hall and the funeral parlor to get to the library. Now knowing people, they like to get out of their car and walk right into the library. Do you park away from a building and walk around to get to the store you want to? I don't think so. Also, the site is too small to really have a bigger library unless you want to tell the neighbors that you're taking over their property. The town doesn't want to do that.

Expand the library. We don't have enough room to hold all the books, CDs, magazines, DVDs, etc. in this library now. Have you gone to other libraries to see what they look like,

how big they are, what kind of services they offer? No? People call and ask if we have meeting rooms or quiet rooms to study. No, we don't.

So, before you start in on this nonsense again, do your research and get the information; maybe even use the library.

It doesn't seem to matter whether it is the Democrats or Republicans who come into power here, they do nothing for the library. I'm really tired of this nonsense, and I really, really don't like politicians at this point.

**SINCERELY,
CHARLENE VARRY**

Dear Editor,

Remember the famous quote, "I'd rather be right than president"? I can now relate to that quote. I won't be joining the Borough Council on January 1, but what C.J. Diana and I warned about during the campaign is sadly coming true. The misguided policies of the Republicans are putting South Plainfield in a hole that will take decades to dig out of.

Last week alone, they borrowed another \$307,000 that will take 20 years to pay off. That now gets added to the \$3M they borrowed over the last couple of years. Because of the hundreds of successful tax appeals, the amount of money to be raised by taxes will be down this year. In other words, the borough is bringing in less money and borrowing more. On top of that, the council is spending like there is no tomorrow. They actually want to buy another garbage truck!

FRANKY SALERNO

To the Editor:

I could not believe it! Mr. Sorrentino had a slightly premature epiphany as attested to by his December 7 letter to the *Observer*.

Suddenly, Mr. Sorrentino, Board of Education and the loyal member of the New Jersey Education Association (who has volunteered his time on the board for the past year and a half), has spotted the conflict of interest in Mr. Giannakis' position as board president while he works for Sodexo, a company with a multi-million dollar contract with the board. In addition, the wife of Mr. Giannakis is on the board payroll. To correct this egregious oversight of the conflict of interest, Mr. Sorrentino proposes, "for the betterment of the South Plainfield School District," that such a person as Mr. Giannakis

Submit Your Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to 908-668-8819, or via email: spobserver@comcast.net. **Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m.** Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject. Submission is not a guarantee of publication. We do not accept anonymous letters. Letters are strictly opinion.

should not be South Plainfield Board of Education president.

Apparently, to Mr. Sorrentino, being a member of New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) does not represent a conflict of interest. Teachers, all proud members of the NJEA, constitute more than 90% of the audience of the SPBOE meetings. Why? Are they there for the betterment of the schools?

I do not know if Mr. Giannakis will answer Mr. Sorrentino's letter, but if he will, I expect the same answer I got from Mr. Sorrentino about one year ago when I asked him about his conflicts as a BOE and NJEA member.

Mr. Sorrentino's answer of one year ago can be paraphrased as such, "When I sit on the board, I suffer from total amnesia. I have only interest of children in mind."

BOGDAN FRYSZCZYN

To South Plainfield Public Works,

I would like to thank all the men and women who worked tirelessly to clean up our town and keep it beautiful after Hurricane Sandy. We had three large trees fall and an endless amount of branches that we had to cut and remove from our property.

Two days after Hurricane Sandy, we put all our logs and brush at the curb. Within a week, it was taken by the South Plainfield Public Works. They were very quick and thorough, not only with our piles, but with the entire township.

I thank you for your efforts and speedy clean-up. Great job!

**SINCERELY,
PETER YACKEL**

Music of the Heart

The Sacred Heart Music Ministry, under the direction of Dan Mahoney and accompanied by Jack Bender, recorded their first CD on October 7. The CD includes both religious and Broadway music featuring the Adult Choir, Middle Choir, Children's Choir and Alumni Youth Bell Choir.

CDs will be on sale after all weekend Masses through December 23. The cost of the CD is \$12.

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South Plainfield OBSERVER

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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.

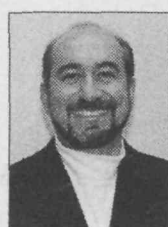
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Local Family Urges State to Reconsider Woodbridge Developmental Center Closure

Longtime South Plainfield residents Donald and Ginny O'Brien are urging Governor Chris Christie and the State of New Jersey to reconsider the decision to close the Woodbridge Developmental Center. The O'Brien's daughter, Catherine, 51, a resident at the developmental center since 1965, has been classified as profoundly retarded, functioning on the level of a seven-month-old.

Upon the closure of the center, scheduled to take place within the next five years, residents will either be placed in community-based housing or transferred to another state-run facility. The facility the O'Briens have been told Cathy could be moved to is located in Vineland, more than 100 miles away.

"We visit Cathy weekly to check on her health and well-being. Woodbridge is just 11 miles from South Plainfield," said Ginny.

"Closing Woodbridge would be a hardship on us as we are in our late 70s, and we aren't sure how long our health will allow us to drive a long distance to see Cathy," Donald added. "We might only get to see her two or three times a year, or not at all, if we aren't able to drive that far."

Cathy, who suffered severe brain damage at birth, is content and happy at Woodbridge, according to the professional staff at the center including doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists and personal care assistants. Since she is non-ambulatory, Cathy must be transported in her wheelchair wherever she goes. Also, in order to prevent injuries, she must be transferred cautiously and cannot talk or verbally communicate her



Donald O'Brien visits with his daughter, Cathy.

needs. She is also subject to seizures, requires a special diet developed by the staff nutritionist to prevent severe dysphagia and has many other health issues. She is totally dependent upon the professional staff 24/7 for all her everyday needs, as are the majority of the residents at the center.

"She receives the best of care there," said Ginny. "The professional staff provides a high quality of life for Cathy and all the residents. She is classified as not being a candidate for living in a community home by the interdisciplinary team at her cottage, and we strongly agree."

According to the O'Briens, 96% of families who responded to a Parents Group survey have signed letters stating they want their loved ones to remain at Woodbridge. They say the state is not allowing parents and guardians the right to choose where their loved ones would be sent if transferred to another developmental center, nor are they allowed to visit the other facilities nor speak with the staffs there.

"These residents are our most vulnerable citizens who cannot speak for themselves and should not be dumped by the state to satisfy a political agenda," said Ginny. "We feel the

rights of the residents are being denied."

In December of 2011, Governor Christie signed a bill to establish the Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers. According to an article published by the *Star Ledger* in September, "...the panel voted to keep Vineland open and instead shutter Woodbridge Developmental Center in Middlesex County and North Jersey Developmental Center in Passaic County by 2017—a

decision that will uproot nearly 700 people and disrupt more than 2,600 state jobs."

"The task force concluded it would be too hard for economically depressed Cumberland County to absorb the loss of jobs and meet the demand for housing and vocational programs that former Vineland residents would need. It reasoned that Woodbridge and North Jersey are in more financially stable communities with more housing and program options."

"Governor Chris Christie has made no secret of his plan to reduce New Jersey's reliance on institutional care. The average annual cost for one person at a center is \$270,000, and about 2,400 people live in them. The state is also being sued by disabled rights advocates to follow federal law and relocate more able-bodied disabled into community housing."



Troop #65136 Daisys visit the South Plainfield Post Office.

Local Daisys Tour Post Office

The members of Daisy Girl Scout Troop #65136 toured the South Plainfield Post Office last month.

The girls were met by Doug, who introduced them to the "behind the scenes" work areas of the facility. The Scouts learned how the mail arrives, is sorted and dispatched for delivery. Doug also explained to the girls which types of mail receive greater priority to be delivered earliest. They also met Annie, one of the senior mail carriers, and were able to peek inside her delivery truck.

Lastly, the girls posted some letters they had written during a recent meeting to send to another Daisy troop located in the Washington, D.C. area.

Santa Claus's personal mailbox was installed that very morning, and the girls were happy to leave him their messages, too.

The South Plainfield Daisy Troop #65136 was formed in October, and this was their first trip together. The girls are very grateful to Doug, Annie and their co-workers for the chance to learn about the post office.

The scouts attend kindergarten in the Franklin, Kennedy, Riley and Roosevelt schools, in addition to West End Elementary in North Plainfield and Hatikvah in Metuchen. They are members of the Heart of NJ Council.

—Submitted by Laura Rasmussen

CORRECTION

In the December 7 *Observer*, the teacher of Junior Journalist winner Samar Abdullah was incorrectly identified. The teacher is Susan Fenning. We apologize for the error.

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

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Lou Peralta at
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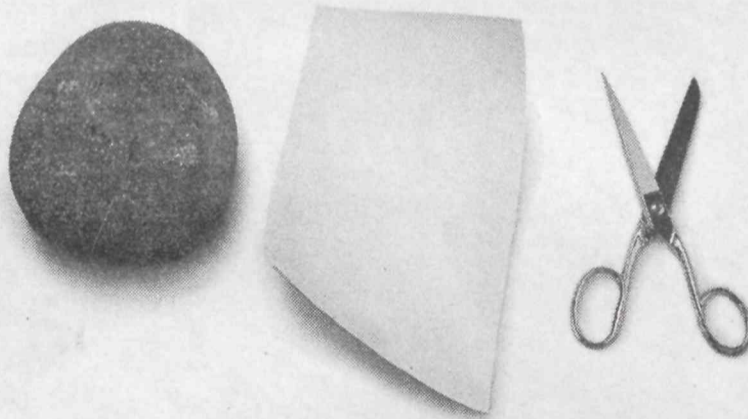
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events

Around Town

The Story of Jesus At Cedarcroft

December 14

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Kenyon Ave., will present the story of Jesus in a live nativity scene on Friday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. Rain date: December 16. All are invited to attend.

For more information, please call (908) 757-7598.

Breakfast with Santa At the Elks Club

December 16

The South Plainfield Elks #2298, 1254 New Market Ave., will host Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. until noon. Santa will be there to greet the children and to take pictures.

Menu: pancakes, eggs made to order, French toast, bacon, sausage, homefries, toast, juice and coffee. Cost: \$6, adults; \$5, seniors; \$4, children ages four to 12; free for children age three and under.

For more information, please call (908) 668-9750.

Senior Center Christmas Luncheon

December 18

The Senior Center Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from noon to 3 p.m. Cost: \$10 pp. Must sign up at the senior center by December 14.

For more information, call (908) 754-1047.

Send Your Community Events to:
spobserver@comcast.net

Franklin School PTO Fundraiser at Friendly's

December 18

Franklin Elementary School PTO will be holding a fundraiser on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Friendly's Restaurant, 1060 Stelton Rd. in Piscataway. Come and "dine out with Santa!" and a portion of the proceeds will go to the PTO. Flyers will be sent home with your child from the school.

For more information, please email pto.franklinschool@gmail.com.

Advent Holden Prayer Service

December 19

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3145 Park Ave., will hold an Advent Holden evening prayer service on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to attend this service created at Holden Village, a Lutheran Renewal Center in the woods of Washington State.

First Baptist Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

December 24

You are invited to First Baptist Church of South Plainfield for its Christmas Eve Candle Light Services at 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. First Baptist Church is located at 201 Hamilton Blvd.

For more information, call Interim Pastor Tamara Davis or Asst. Pastor Michele Lewkow at (908) 753-2382, or visit www.fbsouthplainfield.com.

Free Spaghetti Dinner at Cedarcroft

January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6

Cedarcroft Bible Chapel, 1715 Ken-

yon Ave., will hold a free spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Jan. 5 at 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2, Saturday, March 2, and Saturday, April 6. All are invited to attend.

For more information, please call (908) 757-7598.

Knights Youth Free Throw Competition

January 26

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus, Council #6203 will hold the 2013 Youth Free Throw Competition on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 5 p.m. at the PAL Building on Maple Avenue. The competition is open to girls and boys, ages 10-14.

For more information, contact Youth Director Al Vill at (908) 421-5386.

— Out of Town —

Casino Night

December 14

Casino Night, sponsored by Middlesex County Habitat for Humanity, will be held at Raritan Center Expo Center, 97 Sunfield Ave., Edison on Friday, Dec. 14. Doors open at 6 p.m. Casino night runs from 6:30-11 p.m. Tickets are \$50 at the door.

For more information, call (732) 634-5360.

Christmas Carol Program at Crescent

December 16

The gothic sanctuary of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, corner of 7th Street and Crescent Avenue in Plainfield, will present the Crescent Singers annual Christmas Carol Program on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Handicap access and bathrooms and large print programs are available.

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

Youth Symphony/Chorus Concert

December 16

The New Jersey Youth Symphony and Youth Chorus will perform sounds of the season at a joint concert entitled "Holiday Tapestry" on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Auditorium, Watchung Hills High School, 108 Stirling Road in Warren. Tickets: \$10; purchase in advance or at the door.

For tickets, call (908) 771-5544 or (973) 998-5670.

Woodbridge WOWs Open Dance

December 16

Woodbridge Widows Or Widowers will hold an open dance on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 7:30-11:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall located on Morrissey Avenue in Avenel. Everyone is welcome. Admission: \$10 members; \$12 guests. Refreshments.

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

Upscale Singles Dance Party

December 22

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting an upscale singles dance party on Saturday, Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Clark, 36 Valley Rd. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For info, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

SENIOR CENTER Calendar

Dec. 18-Christmas Luncheon, noon-3pm; \$10 pp; sign up by December 14

MONDAYS

Zumba Gold 9:30-10:30 am
Crocheting 9:30-11:30 am
Yoga 10:30 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
Zumba Gold 10:15 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

Willow Grove Church Christmas Eve Service

December 24

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites you to the annual Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Besides the traditional lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles, singing of carols, readings from scripture, and hearing a special choir anthem, you will be able to view images depicting Jesus' birth in artwork from cultures around the world projected during the service. The service concludes with the congregation singing *Silent Night* and lighting individual candles.

Everyone in our community is invited to this moving service that brings peace and joy to the heart. We hope you will come with your family and friends to join our congregation in celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located in Scotch Plains at 1961 Raritan Rd.

For other ministries, visit www.willowgrovechurch.org or call the church at (908) 232-5678.

Upscale Singles Pre-New Year's Dance

December 29

Steppin' Out Singles is hosting a pre-New Year's Singles Dance Party on Saturday, Dec. 29 at 8 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton, 20 Wood Ave. South in Iselin. Ages 40 and up. No jeans/t-shirts/sneakers/shorts. Admission: \$15.

For info, call the 24-hour hotline at (862) 397-4723.

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Middlesex County Civilian Academy inaugural graduating class of cadets

Sheriff's Office Inaugural Civilian Academy Graduates Include Three from South Plainfield

Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred Scott held a graduation ceremony for the 39 cadets of the inaugural Sheriff's Civilian Academy on November 15. The graduates included South Plainfield residents Joseph Cerami, Patricia Costello and Jeffery Williams.

The ceremony was the culmination of nine weeks of immersion in the inner workings of the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office and was held at the Middlesex County Police Training Center in Edison.

Sheriff Scott started the evening by thanking the cadets for their dedication and enthusiasm. "Each one of you gave of your time to be here every Thursday because you truly wanted to learn what we do here in the sheriff's office and how we interact with your communities," stated Sheriff Scott.

Eighteen townships were represented in the inaugural class. The participants in the class came from all walks of life and had a variety of reasons to attend the class. Many wanted to learn about the sheriff's office to expand their knowledge of county services, and others were interested in careers in law enforcement. There was an age range of more than 60 years.

During the nine week class cadets

learned about all facets of the sheriff's office. They started with a visit from a former drill master and a taste of academy life. The following week, they toured the Middlesex County Courthouse and had an opportunity to meet with Assignment Judge Travis Francis. Judge Francis spoke to the cadets about the constitutional mandate that requires that the county sheriff's office provide security for the county courthouse. They also heard from transportation officers regarding procedures for transporting inmates to and from the courthouse and throughout Middlesex County.

In the weeks following, the cadets learned from the sheriff's office Investigations Unit about the apprehension of people with outstanding warrants; observed fingerprinting methods; learned methods for using a baton with an officer in a Redman suit; used the firearms training system machine (FATS) and the driving simulator; observed the work of the Sheriff's Office K-9 dogs; heard from officers on the Community Awareness team regarding safety programs offered by the sheriff's office, including information on how to avoid scams and fraud; and received information from staff responsible for serving civil papers and conducting sheriff's sales.

"The officers you see here today gave freely of their time. In fact, they volunteered their time in order to give the cadets the best possible experience," stated Sheriff Scott.

According to Cadet Keynote Speaker George Vasiliades of Colonia, "Although I was not sure what the sheriff's office did when I started the class, I have grown to have the utmost respect for Sheriff Scott and all of the officers who serve the citizens of Middlesex County. I will be sure to spread the word amongst my colleagues and friends about how important the sheriff's office is to all of the citizens of this county."

Sheriff Scott concluded the graduation by stating, "It is critical that the citizens of Middlesex County understand the ongoing partnership between their municipalities and the sheriff's office, especially in crisis situations like Hurricane Sandy. I hope you will take your knowledge of the sheriff's office back to your municipalities and share it with your fellow citizens."

For more information on the Sheriff's Civilian Academy, contact Academy Coordinator Officer Frank Sautner at (732) 745-5909 or email frank.sautner@co.middlesex.nj.us.

For more information on the Middlesex County Sheriff's Office, please call (732) 745-3382.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
LEGAL NOTICE

December 5, 2012—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on December 4, 2012.

A. Case #2-12—Quick Chek Corporation, Block 488; Lots 4-7, 8.01; OPA-1 Zone 317 Durham Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to allow a combined convenience store and gasoline service station, a conditional use variance, preliminary and final site plan approval, minor subdivision approval, waivers and bulk variances was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment
\$29.98 December 14, 2012

MCC to Offer Wintersession: A Concentrated Semester

Middlesex County College is offering a concentrated semester over the holiday break. Included are more than 50 classes in subjects such as computer science, economics, English, health, western civilization, math, fitness, racquetball, swimming, psychology, sociology, Spanish and public speaking. Wintersession classes begin December 26 and run through January 11.

"Wintersession is a great way for students to earn credits over

their winter break," said Marla Brinson, dean of enrollment and student support services at the college. "Many of our Wintersession students attend other colleges but want to earn credit that will transfer back to their home college, or get their academic career back on track. Others are MCC students looking to get a jumpstart on the spring semester."

For more information, visit www.middlesexcc.edu.

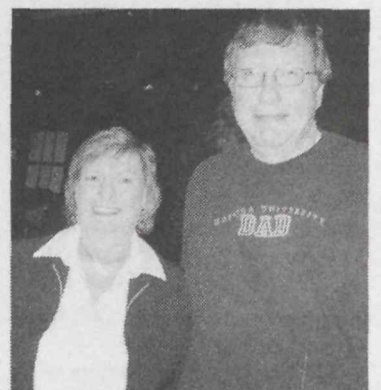
NEWS

Suburban Woman's Club

The Christmas meeting of the Suburban Woman's Club was held at the American Legion hall. A delicious luncheon was prepared by the hostess committee members, Grace Bertucci, Ann Demico and Debbie Vokral. Christmas gifts were not exchanged among the members this year, instead donations were given to aid a family related to one of the club members devastated by Hurricane Sandy. More than \$200 was sent to the family.

Reports were given by the club officers and committee chairmen. Membership Chairman Kathy Tracy introduced two new members, Linda Susan Gitto and Jane Rundella. The program for the day was introduced by Vice President Marge Reidy. Interfaith Hospitality Network Associate Cheryl Jacko showed a video and spoke about the New Jersey State Federation Special State Project: Family Promise, a partnership of volunteers working to help New Jersey's homeless and low-income families.

The club's fundraising activity subsequently involved a theater party



Event Chairwoman Diana Cotone and Edison Valley Playhouse President Bill Seesselberg.

held at The Edison Valley Playhouse on December 9. The show, *Nunsense*, was enjoyed by a sold out house. The chairman of the event was Diana Cotone. She and her committee members did a fantastic job.

Any woman who would like to join the club is invited to call Kathy Tracy at (908) 756-3772 for membership information.

Crescent Avenue Church Singers to Perform Christmas Carol Program

The gothic sanctuary of the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, lit by candles and decorated with greens, will be the background for the Crescent Singers annual Christmas Carol Program on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. The church is located at the corner of 7th Street and Crescent Avenue in Plainfield.

The third in this season's Crescent Concerts series, the concert is the organization's gift to the community, and admission is free. Directed by F. Allen Artz III, the church's music director, the singers will present more familiar carols in unusual arrangements, as well as lesser-known carols. The audience will have an opportunity to sing along in popular carols, accompanied by organ. Among the carols to be sung are *Once in Royal David's City*, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*, *Silent Night* and *All This*

Night My Heart Rejoices. Additional carols include *In the Deep Midwinter*, *I Wonder As I Wander*, *See Amid the Winter Snow*, *Behold, a Branch Is Growing*, *Angelus ad Pastores*, and others.

Handicap access and bathrooms and large print programs are available.

Funding for this concert has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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

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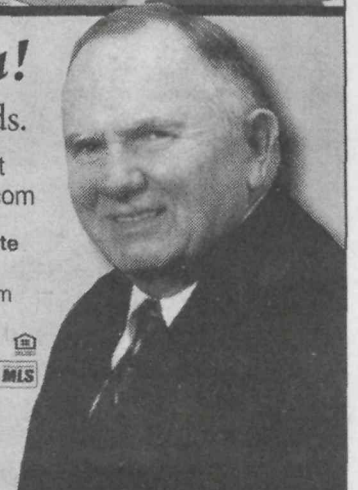
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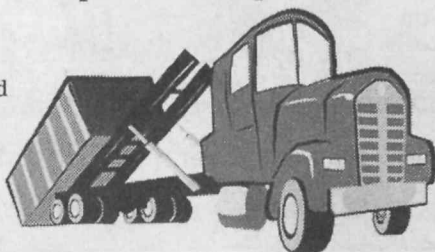
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Annual Ceremony Honors 101st Airborne Members

By Patricia Abbott

Super Storm Sandy put a damper on the annual tree lighting ceremony at McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals which has been cancelled. The storm destroyed part of the 85-foot tree, but did not stop the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles NJ/NY Chapter along with veterans from the VFW, American Legion and the staff from the funeral home from holding the annual ceremony commemorating the lives lost on December 12, 1985.

The ceremony, which honors the 248 members of the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division and eight flight crew members who died in a plane crash in Gander, Newfoundland, was held last Saturday.

The Screaming Eagles had been on a peacekeeping mission in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and were returning home for the holidays when their plane crashed.

The brief ceremony began as guests and members of the Screaming Eagles assembled in front of the funeral home, and the honor guard took their positions. They were introduced by Rick McCrisky. Frank Febus, a local member of the 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles, spoke in detail about the incident that occurred 27 years ago. Bob Maslo read a touching poem entitled, "Forget Me Not," written by an injured veteran at Walter Reed Hospital.

After the memorial, a luncheon was held at the American Legion.



Forget-me-not, When you are lost in thought, As you make it through the day. Forget-me-not, I am one who fought, And was scarred along the way. Forget-me-not, For the freedom bought, With the lives one can't repay. Forget-me-not when your child is taught to remember yesterday. Forget-me-not, when the day is hot and you bend your knees to pray. Forget-me-not, Yes I heard the shot, But I did not run away. Forget-me-not, I am a patriot, and need your help today.

—By an injured veteran at Walter Reed Hospital



Please Donate To Plainfield Humane Society

Donations are being accepted on Saturday, Dec. 15 at the Plainfield Area Humane Society (PAHS) located on Rock Avenue in Plainfield for the animals who do not yet have a home this holiday season.

Items on the PAHS wish list are inexpensive and can be bought from stores like Big Lots or the Dollar Store. Some items may even be laying around your house such as old blankets, towels and newspapers, which give the animals a warm place to lay.

Items requested include cat litter, paper towels, dry cat food, canned dog food, dry dog food, bleach (unscented), Lysol or Clorox wipes, Magic Erasers, trash bags (lawn and kitchen size), cat and dog toys (durable, washable dog toys), towels and blankets (not comforters), dog and cat beds, dog and cat sweaters, leashes, bowls, collars, treats, newspapers, and gift cards to PetSmart, Petco, Walmart and area supermarkets.

Shouldn't animals have a great holiday as well? Hopefully, some people may even leave after adopting a pet for the holidays!

Drop offs can also be made before or after the date listed.

To find out more about PAHS, visit them online at www.petfinder.com/shelters/NJ22.html.

—Submitted by Jaclene Prongay

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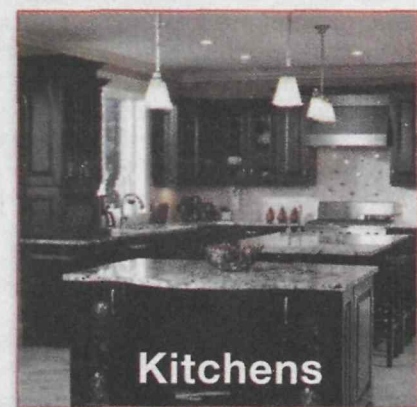
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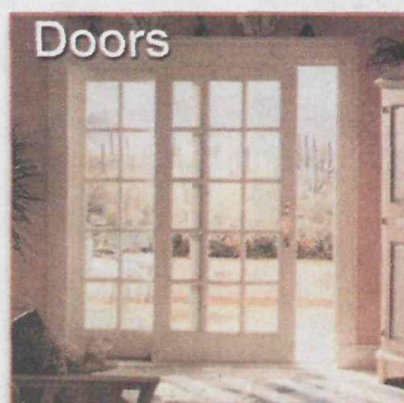
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milestones

Shane R. McCoid Graduates from Marine Corps Basic Training

Marine Corps PFC Shane R. McCoid earned the title of United States Marine, Private First Class, after graduating on November 30 from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.



Shane R. McCoid

For 13 weeks, Shane stayed committed during some of the world's most demanding entry-level military training in order to be transformed from a civilian to a Marine instilled with pride, discipline and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Training subjects at Parris Island included close-order drills, marksmanship with an M-16A4 rifle, physical fitness, martial arts, swimming, military history, customs and courtesies.

One week prior to graduation,

Shane endured The Crucible, a 54-hour final test of recruits' mind and bodies. Upon completion of this grueling test, recruits were presented with the Marine Corps Emblem and are called Marines for the first time.

Shane will leave January 2 to continue his training. He will report to the School of Infantry located at Camp Geiger, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. Marines who are designated as infantry Marines are assigned to Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry for military occupational specialty training. After graduating from here, Shane will be assigned to his first permanent duty station.

Shane, who graduated last year from South Plainfield High School, is the son of Laura Readie of South Plainfield and Terrence McCoid of South Plainfield, and older brother of Patrick McCoid.

Congratulations to Shane on his continued journey being a United States Marine.



Members of the Squires atop of the ramp they built for resident, Mike Mastropietro, Sr.

American Legion, Knights and Squires Work Together

The American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the Squires joined together recently to come to the aid of a South Plainfield resident. The family of Mike Mastropietro, Sr. who is 92 years old, contacted several people when he needed a handicap ramp for his residence. When word reached the Squires that there was a resident in need of a ramp, they looked into the project to see if it was something they could handle. The plans were drawn, and with the help of their leaders and some members of the Knights of Columbus, they began the project.

On the second day of building, Joe Penyak, Sr., commander of the American Legion, saw the construction going on. He approached Knight and Squire leader Bill Butrico, telling him that the American Legion had also been asked

for help and was in the process of approving the funds to help with this ramp. They decided that it was a great way for all three organizations to work together to help Mr. Mastropietro. The Squires and the Knights completed the construction, and the American Legion provided over \$1,300 for the materials and permit fees.

Building the ramp were Squires Jason and Matthew Belanger, Tommy and Scott Riccardi, Sean and Kevin Flanagan, Adam Butrico, Jack Scrudato, Liam Nagel and Owen Sprigle; and Knights Tom Pollock, Steve Belanger, Pat Flanagan, Bill Butrico, Ed King, James Butrico, Albert Vill, Kevin Belanger and Tim Nagel.

Two Charged in Park Avenue Accident

Robert Cravatts, 25, of Plainfield was operating his 1999 Yamaha YRF motorcycle south on Park Avenue near East Golf Avenue on December 4 at approximately 6:30 p.m. when he was struck by a 1999 Dodge pickup driven by Terrance Morris, 62, of South Plainfield. Morris was traveling west on East Golf Avenue attempting to cross Park Avenue when he struck Cravatts.

Cravatts sustained severe injuries to his right hip and leg and was airlifted by the New Jersey State Police Medevac helicopter to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New

Brunswick.

Cravatts was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance in a motor vehicle and no insurance.

Morris, who was not injured in the crash, was charged with driving while intoxicated and careless driving.

The accident is being investigated by Police Officer Michael Sikanowicz and additional charges may be filed.

Anyone with additional information, or if you witnessed the accident, should contact Police Officer James McConville at (908) 226-7678.

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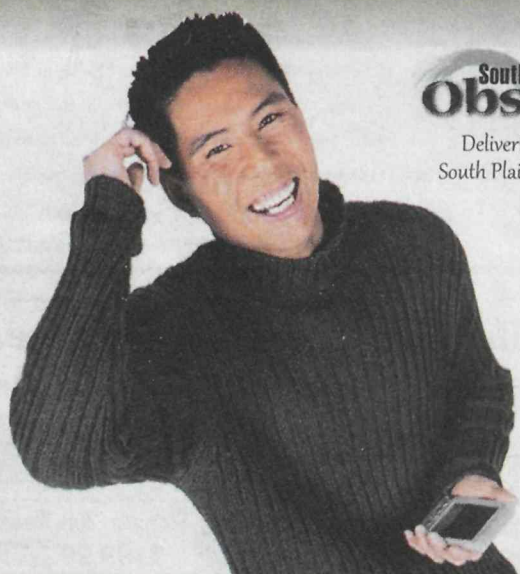
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The SPARK (South Plainfield Area Robotic Kids) FLL Team

Robotic Kids Wins Qualifying Event

The SPARK (South Plainfield Area Robotic Kids) FLL Team won the best programming award in their rookie year at the Bridgewater FLL Qualifying Event. The event was held on December 1; 20 teams showcased and competed.

The SPARK team is a local neigh-

borhood team with six, sixth grade students, five of whom are from Grant School and one from Piscataway Middle School.

The students built and programmed their robot, "SPARKY." The team consisted of Nithya Goel (Grant), Claudia Timmerman (Grant), Megan Dineen

(Grant), Marilyn Capa (Grant), Teja Nath (Piscataway) and Vishika Patel (Grant).

FLL stands for First Lego League. Groups consist of up to 10 members who learn FLL core values, research a problem facing scientists and find an innovative solution. There is also a robot competition where the members build and program an autonomous robot to complete tasks on a challenge field mat. This year's challenge was Senior Solutions where the teams were responsible for researching problems facing seniors (65+) and finding innovative ways to help.

—Submitted by Rohit Goel and Hiranmayee Goel, SPARK Coaches

Knights Youth Free Throw Competition



South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 is holding the

2013 Youth Free Throw Competition

Saturday, Jan. 26 at 5 p.m.
PAL Building on Maple Avenue.

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For more information, call Youth Director Al Vill at (908) 421-5386.



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SPORTS

SPHS

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

3:45pm G Fr Basketball-B. Ahr (H)
4:15pm B Fr Basketball-Paterson
Charter (A) Bus 2:45pm
6pm BV Basketball-Spotswood
JV/4:15pm Bus 3pm
7pm GV Basketball-Bishop Ahr
JV/5:15pm (H)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

9am V Wrestling-Morris Knolls (A)
Bus TBA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

3:30pm G&BV Bowling-Carteret @
Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm
4pm V Swimming-Morristown Beard
(A) Bus 2:30pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

3:45pm B Fr Basketball-Colonia (A)
Bus 2:30pm
3:45pm G Fr Basketball-New Brun-
swick (A) Bus 2:30pm
7pm GV Basketball-New Brunswick
JV/5:15pm Bus 3:45pm
7pm V Wrestling-Bergen Catholic
JV/5:30pm (H)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

3:30pm V Winter Track-JFK/Colonia (H)
7pm BV Basketball - Piscataway Vo
Tech JV/5:15pm Bus 3:45pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 (CONT.)

7pm V Wrestling-S. Brunswick
JV/5:30pm (H)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

3:30pm G & BV Bowling-Edison @
Carolier (A) Bus 2:30pm
3:45pm G Fr Basketball Sayreville
(H)
4pm V Swimming-JFK (A) Bus
2:30pm
7pm GV Basketball-Sayreville
JV/5:15pm (H)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

4:30pm V Swimming-Elizabeth (A)
Bus 3pm
7pm V Wrestling-Del Val JV/5:30pm
Bus 3:30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

9am V Winter Track-Bennett Cen (A)
Bus 6:45am
9am JV Wrestling-Point Pleasant (A)
Bus TBA
10am B Fr Basketball-Sayreville (A)
Bus 8:30am
10am G Fr Basketball-Piscataway
(A) Bus 8:45am
1pm BV Basketball-Sayreville
JV/11:15am Bus 9:30am
1pm GV Basketball-Piscataway
JV/11:30am Bus 10:15am

Rec Wrestlers Open Season with Wins

This past weekend the South Plainfield Wrestling Club hosted the seventh annual Pee Wee-Bantam Tournament at the PAL. Wrestlers from around the state participated. This was the first competition for many of our new and younger wrestlers. Everyone wrestled well. Finishing in the top four for South Plainfield were the following:

First Place: Benjamin Connolly, Nick Campagna, Diego Amariles, Lucas Amato, Nicholas Robertson, Mark Molinaro, Tyler Balent, Mikey Kurilew and Justus Niemeyer.

Second Place: Gavin Sylvester, Vincenzo Venetucci, Tyson Crudup, Mason Geis, Chase Donovan, Dylan Pallejia, Jaden Delabarrera, Anthony Delisa, Ryan Luersen, Anthony Cap-

parelli, Joseph Leonard, Andrew Loniewski, Zachary Esporin, Kazi Casey and Julian Irizarry.

Third Place: Ryan Balent, Alex Pigna, Nicholas Irizarry, Riley Billian, Sam Ballinger, Justin Hannon, Jake Haspel, Frankie Flannery, Nick Lienhard, Michael Niemeyer, Jalen Russell, Bryce Hollis and Brian Doherty.

Fourth Place: Bobby Mancuso, Ryan Rizk, Joey Mongiovi, Sean Doherty, Mia Detata, Christopher Amariles, Nolan Hook, AJ Perales, Louis DiFrancesco, Mustafa Beg, Brandon Lienhard, Anthony Cortese, Ryan Adams, Kyon Simanson, Ryan Patterson and Evan Schimanski.

—Submitted by Joe Sacco

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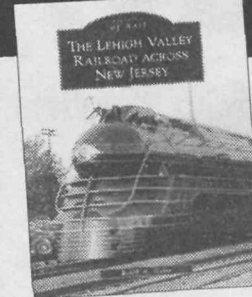
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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

And here we are in the midst of the holiday season. Hanukkah will be done in a couple of days, Christmas will arrive in a little over a week, Kwanzaa and Boxing Day follow immediately, New Year's is the week afterwards, and that's not to mention Festivus and Life Day. Well, as you try to sort all that out, here's news from South Plainfield Library.

First up, our next Monday Night Movie is set for this coming Monday. Please note we'll be starting early at 6 p.m. (because the Caped Crusader needs the extra time). No pre-registration is necessary, and the presentation is free.

Turning to the children's programs, we'll have our usual schedule next week. Storytime, for children age three and over, is held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. Toddler Time, for children age two and three, will be held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 10:30. Babytime, for children age two and under, will be held on Friday morning at 10:30. And Family Fun, for children age seven and over, will be held on Friday afternoon at 3:30. (Well, we can't have *everything* start at 10:30.) The story programs last about an hour and feature stories, songs and a craft activity for older kids. The game program lasts two hours and features games and crafts. You don't have to sign up for these programs, and they're all presented free. For more details, check with Director Linda or Miss Mija.

We've got another special children's program coming up. Rizzo's Reptiles, an educational program featuring live reptiles, will be held on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m. It'll be held down the street at the Senior Center. It's for children age four and older who can sit still through the show. You don't need to sign up for this program. In lieu of an admission fee, we ask that you bring non-perishable food items for the South Plainfield Food Pantry.

Turning to our adult programming, we won't be having any for the rest of the month. (We figure you'll be pretty busy for the next few weeks.) We'll have a full slate of programs starting up in January, though. It'll include our continuing lecture series on the History of Philosophy, both of our Book Clubs, meetings of the Genealogy Association, the Chess Club, and a new instructional series on "How to Write a Research Paper." Watch this column

and our website for more details.

Turning to charitable giving, we'd like to thank everyone for their participation in both the Wish Tree and the Books to Keep drive. It's always encouraging to know that, even with our community recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy, people can still be generous towards those in need. We really appreciate it.

We have time for a quick advisory: while our public computers don't usually start shutting down until about ten minutes before closing, we ask that people with extensive computer tasks please try to finish up early. In particular, if you need to print out a great deal of pages, please get the print-outs going as soon as possible. This allows the job to be done well before closing, saving everyone, both staff and patrons, a lot of waiting. We appreciate your help on this.

That's about all for now. As always, feel free to pass along your questions and comments. You can reach us at (908) 754-7885, or tell us in person. For more information, visit our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. You can also look us up on Facebook at www.facebook.com/southplainfieldlibrary. Thanks for your attention, and we hope you're having a happy and safe holiday season.

Oh, and please let me know if I missed any holidays in my opening paragraph. Does the Festival of the Bells at Fraggie Rock count?

School Board Approves New Fuel Agreement

(Continued from page one)

"There are many good shared services we do with South Plainfield, but not all work for the borough or for us," stated Giannakis. "If we can save money and be fiscally responsible, why wouldn't we? The board will continue to look for services that can be shared, not only with South Plainfield but with any district that could save money. As far as I am concerned, this is not an issue."

Superintendent Dr. Stephen Genco said that he wants to have a "good relationship with the town and make things better for everybody," and he still intends to work with them in sharing services wherever possible.

"The borough's governing body had nothing to do with this decision,"

Obituaries

Josephine (DiMura) Aponte, 95

Josephine (DiMura) Aponte died on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Chittenango, N.Y., Mrs. Aponte grew up in Middlesex prior to settling in South Plainfield in 1951.

A communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church, Josephine worked as a seamstress and, after marriage to Peter U. Aponte, was a homemaker and enjoyed raising her family.

She enjoyed cooking, knitting, gardening, sewing and crocheting. Members of her family were the lucky recipients of beautifully tailored clothing, and one-of-a-kind bedspreads and tablecloths.

Josephine is predeceased by her husband, Peter U. Aponte; a sister, Margaret Settineri; and two brothers, John and Rinaldo DiMura.

Surviving are two daughters, Angela Muller of South Plainfield and Johanna Michalewsky and husband Warren, also of South Plainfield; a son, Frank Aponte and wife Madeline of Flemington; three sisters, Frances DeLario and Bella Loccisano, both of Texas, and Clara Sadowski and husband Chester of Middlesex; a sister-in-law, Ida DiMura; five grandchildren, Erika Navarro, Kimberly Hoff (Thomas), Allyson Barnacz (Joseph) and Gregory and Chrystin Aponte. Also surviving are two great-grandchildren, Jaycen and Joseph Barnacz.

Funeral services were under the direction of McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.



PLAINFIELDS' UNICO SWEARS IN NEW MEMBER—Charlotte Heckel was recently sworn in as a new member of Plainfields' UNICO during the group's meeting at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield. Pictured (L-R) are Immaculata Carotenuto, new member Charlotte Heckel, Chapter President John G. DeAndrea, UNICO District X Governor Robert Bengivena and Renato Biribin, past national president of UNICO and co-founder of Plainfields' UNICO.

High School Wrestlers to Host Cancer Takedown

(Continued from page one)

time state champion this season, has made a commitment to continue his wrestling career at Rutgers University in the fall. Co-Captain Troy Heilmann will attend the University of North Carolina.

Steve Johnston is also an assistant coach along with volunteer coaches Matt Anderson and Craig Salvatore. Senior wrestlers are Anthony Ashnault, Tyler Calderone, Scott DelVecchio, Rayvon Garvin, Bobby Kolvitis, Dylan Painton, Erick Rodriguez, Tori Russel, John Sottiriou and Corey Stasenko.

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globally, PCF is a primary source for new standard-of-care and research information. They connect patients, loved ones, care providers and scientists to critical updates, the latest developments, best practices and news from the treatment pipeline.

Many important discoveries in the fight against prostate cancer since 1993 resulted from PCF funding or coordination, including the development of new medications, gene therapy approaches and the development of vaccines that may soon work with the body's immune system to kill prostate cancer cells.

Thanks to these and other victories, the U.S. death rate from prostate cancer has dropped nearly 40% from what was once projected.

police report

• On Nov. 29 Luis Gregorio Gayoso, 40 of Stirling was arrested at the Motor Vehicle Commission for tampering with records.

• On Nov. 30 Safe Guard Properties reported that the rear window of a residence they manage on Sampton Avenue had been opened and copper piping had been cut, but left in the home.

• A Maple Avenue resident reported that their MasterCard had been fraudulently used to make a \$998 purchase.

• Trane on Corporate Boulevard reported the theft of 60 Aspen 30

pound refrigerants valued at \$600 by someone who claimed to be picking them up for a job.

• On Dec. 5 Teyana S. Langston Moore, 20, of Piscataway was arrested at Target, their employer, for entering fraudulent purchases with gift cards and then making purchases with the cards.

• A Bridgewater resident reported that they had left their wallet at Paul's Stationary on Hamilton Boulevard and when they returned the wallet was on the ground and \$365 in cash was missing.

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IRS Offers Tax Tips for "The Season of Giving"

December is traditionally a month for giving generously to charities, friends and family. But it's also a time that can have a major impact on the tax return you'll file in the New Year. Here are some "Season of Giving" tips from the IRS covering everything from charity donations to refund planning:

- **Contribute to Qualified Charities.** If you plan to take an itemized charitable deduction on your 2012 tax return, your donation must go to a qualified charity by December 31. Ask the charity about its tax-exempt status. You can also visit IRS.gov and use the "Exempt Organizations Select Check Tool" to check if your favorite charity is a qualified charity. Donations charged to a credit card by December 31 are deductible for 2012, even if you pay the bill in 2013. A gift by check also counts for 2012 as long as you mail it in December. Gifts given to individuals, whether to friends, family or strangers, are not deductible.

- **What You Can Deduct.** You generally can deduct your cash contributions and the fair market value of most property you donate to a qualified charity. Special rules apply to several types of donated property, including clothing or household items, cars and boats.

- **Keep Records of All Donations.** You need to keep a record of any donations you deduct, regardless of the amount. You must have a written record of all cash contributions to claim a deduction. This may include a canceled check, bank or credit card statement or payroll deduction record. You can also ask the charity for a written statement that shows the charity's name, contribution date and amount.

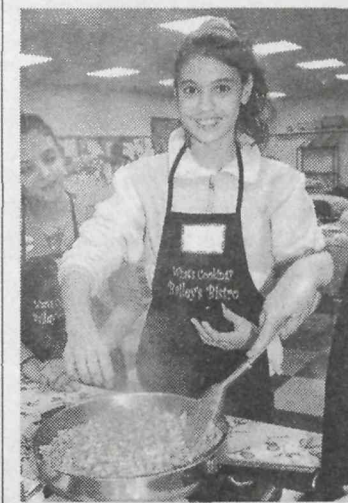
- **Gather Records in a Safe Place.** As long as you're gathering those records for your charitable contributions, it's a good time to start rounding up documents you will need to file your tax return in 2013. This includes receipts, canceled checks and other

documents that support income or deductions you will claim on your tax return. Be sure to store them in a safe place so you can easily access them later when you file your tax return.

- **Plan Ahead for Major Purchases.** If you are making major purchases during the holiday season, don't base them solely on the expectation of receiving your tax refund before the bills arrive. Many factors can impact the timing of a tax refund. The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days after receiving a tax return; however, if your tax return requires additional review, it may take longer to receive your refund.

For more information about contributions, check out Publication 526, Charitable Contributions. The booklet is available online at www.irs.gov or order by mail at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

To automatically receive IRS tax tips, visit IRS.gov, click on "News" and select "e-News Subscriptions."



The Girl Scouts from Troop #65137 came to Bailey's Bistro to earn a cooking badge by preparing one of Rachel Ray's recipes, called "Taco-zagna!" The girls, ages 11-12 from Grant School, worked together in small groups taking turns using an electric frying pan to brown the ground turkey. They used measuring spoons and cups to gather various spices, peeled carrots and zucchini and added them to the meat. To shred the cheese, they used a box grater and a flat hand grater. The girls built their Taco-zagna, layering these ingredients between tortillas. While cooking in the oven, the girls practiced cleaning up and setting the table. Finally, they enjoyed what they had made!

Smoke Detectors Save Lives

The following was provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Freeholder H. James Polos, chairman of the Public Safety and Health Committee, and Michael Gallagher, county fire marshal.

Smoke detectors save lives. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms should be on everyone's fire-prevention list. Smoke alarms are designed to provide a first alert and wake you up if a fire starts while you are sleeping. You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire at home if you do not have an operational smoke alarm to alert you to the danger of fire. The alarms give you and your family time to escape.

Smoke detectors are relatively inexpensive and easy to install. Your home should have a minimum of one smoke alarm per floor, including the basement. It is recommended that every bedroom be equipped with a smoke detector.

Since smoke rises, ensure that all detectors are always placed on ceil-

ings or high on walls. Always refer to the manufacturer's installation instructions or contact your local Fire Prevention Bureau if you have questions.

Battery-operated alarms should be tested at least once a month to ensure their operability. Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm at least once a year. It is recommended that each spring or fall when we change the clocks, you install a new battery. If an alarm "chirps" at anytime, immediately change the battery.

Smoke detectors have a life expectancy of 10 years. After 10 years, your smoke detector has worked consecutively for over 87,000 hours. No other appliance in your home works continually for this duration. Every 10 years, change your smoke detectors.

It is recommended that if you move, you change all smoke detectors in your new home unless you are completely certain they have not exhausted their life expectancy.

If a smoke detector alarm sounds

during cooking, never dislodge the battery. Instead, open the doors and windows.

Remember, smoke detectors save lives!

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This Week's Junior Journalist winner is...

Ashlynn Lehman



Ashlynn Lehman with teacher Kiersten Ravi.

Ashlynn Lehman, Franklin School second grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist program. Her poem, "My Little Brother," has earned Ashlynn dinner for her family, courtesy 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 entire family. At the end of the school year in

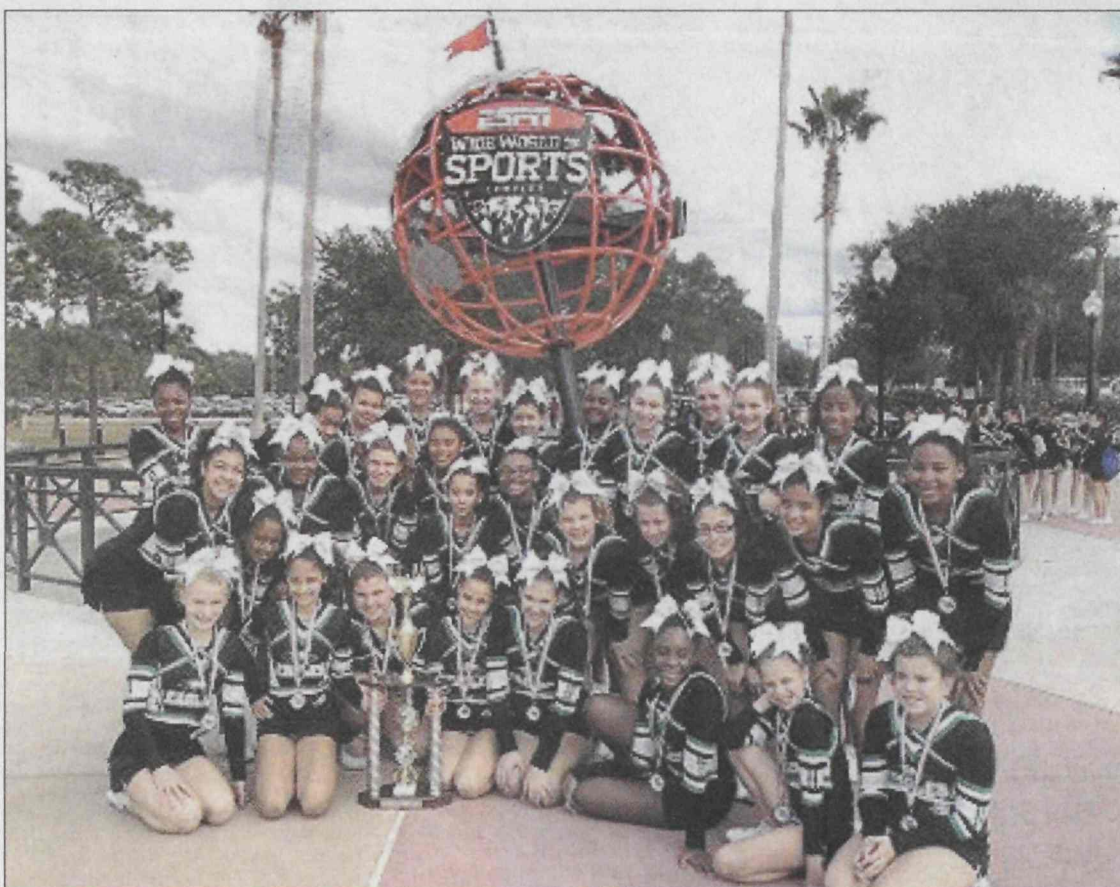
My Little Brother

By Ashlynn Lehman

My little brother ate a moose,
he acted like a goose.
My little brother ate a worm,
he didn't see all the germs.
My little brother ate a cow,
we all said wow!
My little brother ate a dog,
he looked like a frog.
My little brother ate a monkey,
he was very funky!
My little brother ate a jellyfish,
he didn't even eat it on a dish.
My little brother ate a bug,
he ate it in a jug.
My little brother ate a cat,
he ate her hat and her pet bat.
My little brother ate a bear,
he even ate his underwear!
My little brother ate a lion,
the lion was crying.
My little brother ate a parrot,
he was orange like a carrot.

May, Hometown Heros and the *Observer* host a banquet celebrating all the weekly winners and their families. Students are recognized by the mayor and the state assembly. A \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond is awarded to one student by Hometown Heros; additional prizes are also awarded.

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



The South Plainfield Eagles Junior Midget Cheerleaders were awarded the highest score for stunting and choreography in the Junior Midget category.

Support Local Girl Scout Cookies Sales

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey 36,000 members serving the counties of Hudson, Essex, Union, Somerset, Hunterdon, southern Warren and parts of Middlesex will soon put their entrepreneurial and leadership skills into practice as it is almost time to enjoy one of life's greatest indulgences—Girl Scout Cookies. Thousands of area Girl Scouts, ages five through 17, will begin taking orders for Girl Scout Cookies on January 14 and will continue through February 15. Girl Scouts will also be holding annual booth sales at New Jersey Transit stations throughout our council jurisdiction and at other local venues through April 21.

When a Girl Scout sells you cookies, she's doing more than just handing you a box. She's creating a plan, interacting with customers and working as part of a team. Selling cookies teaches goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—skills essential to leadership, to success and to life. Girl Scouts learn there are no limits. They can do anything. Be anything. This is what a girl can do.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is recognized as the world's largest financial literacy program for girls. Please help us support this one-of-a-kind entrepreneurial program.



Girl Scouts from Troop #65014 display the check representing the \$700 they raised for hurricane relief.

Girl Scout Troop #65014 Gives Back

When Hurricane Sandy forced the local girl scouts to cancel their weekend at Camp Hoover, the Cadettes in Troop #65014 decided to take the refund they received and donate locally to hurricane victims. The refund was matched by a local company and the girls donated \$700 to the Red Cross and two local families who suffered losses from the hurricane.

The girls also spent a Saturday afternoon at Fabricland making blankets and dog sweaters to donate

to the the hurricane relief effort.

Other charitable functions the girls have completed recently included a trip to Menlo Park Mall where they purchased clothing for four local teenagers. They had a lesson in coupons and budgeting and got at least three outfits for each teen. Finally, the girl scouts collected pajama donations at their recently held Brownie Badge Day event. This event was held in place of the camp weekend that was canceled due to the hurricane.



Junior Journalist winner Samar Abdullah receives dinner from Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros. Samar is pictured with his parents, Abdul and Monique, and sister Aubrey.

Send in your entries now!!!

This Christmas, fill their stockings with something you know they will love!

Not sure what to get someone on your list this year? Send something you know they will appreciate.... a gift of the South Plainfield Observer!

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Happy Holidays!

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