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Pictures with Santa at the Senior Center on Dec. 15, 1-3 p.m. for children to age 10 (\$5).

South Plainfield Observer

VOL. 11, NO. 15

MEMBER NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

50 CENTS

DEC 14 2007

DECEMBER 14, 2007

BOE Names Oberkehr Assistant Superintendent



Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Fred Oberkehr

By Libby Barsky

Fred Oberkehr was appointed to the position of assistant superintendent of schools for instruction and operations at the December 3 Board of Education meeting at a salary of \$125,000.

Superintendent of Schools Jose Negron noted there were 30 applicants for the position. Oberkehr is replacing Kaye Crown, who retired. Anthony Massaro, who was serving

as interim assistant superintendent, was appointed as interim principal of John F. Kennedy Elementary School until a replacement for Oberkehr can be found.

Oberkehr is returning to central administration, where he began in 1995 as coordinator of computer and mathematics technology. As technology coordinator, he applied for and received, on behalf of the district, a \$95,000 grant which enabled the district to install Internet access and increased the number of computers in district schools from eight to 300.

In 2000, he was appointed principal of the middle school with 638 students and 95 faculty. While there, he implemented changes in the mathematics curriculum, introducing classes in algebra and geometry.

"It's not that I was doing what public schools weren't doing, I thought we should be offering algebra and geometry in the middle school. We also started team teaching differentiated instruction and double periods," said Oberkehr.

He credits former Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado and Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Kaye Crown for changing the middle school schedule. The restructuring of

class schedules to double periods in math and language arts were implemented to provide students with more time to address language arts and math issues and has helped to improve test scores.

Oberkehr also received a \$450,000 Comprehensive School Reform grant over three years to look at curriculum and align it with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, allowing the district to uncover and correct gaps.

At the middle school, Oberkehr endorsed the school's ski club and

(Continued on page 14)



Rick McCriskin and Frank Febus place a wreath in memory of 101st Airborne Division members lost in a plane crash in 1985.

Lost But Not Forgotten Annual Tree Lighting Honors 248

Last Saturday, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals held the 23rd annual tree lighting memorializing the 248 members of the 101st Airborne Division and eight crew members who lost their lives in a plane crash in 1985.

Each year members of the General Anthony C. McAuliffe 101st Airborne Division, New York Chapter

attend the services to honor their fallen brothers.

The noon ceremony began with the presenting of colors, poems and speeches, and the placing of a wreath next to a memorial plaque beneath the giant fir tree on the funeral home's lawn. The tree was then officially lit for the holiday season. This year, Joseph Valluzzi, owner of the Valluzzi Group Home Services spent hours checking and repairing the lights on the huge tree.

Along with the members of the 101st Airborne Division, attending were members of the VFW, American Legion, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Charles Butrico and members of the council.

The chartered Airborne's DC-8 had just refueled and was returning home for Christmas from peace-keeping duties in the Middle East when it crashed during takeoff in Gander, Newfoundland.

December 12 marks the 22nd anniversary of the disaster considered the worst in Canadian aviation history. In 1985 the McCriskin Family decorated and lit the huge tree for the first time. After learning of the crash, the family, which has a deep seated respect for the military, chose to light the tree as a tribute to the Screaming Eagles and the lives lost that day.

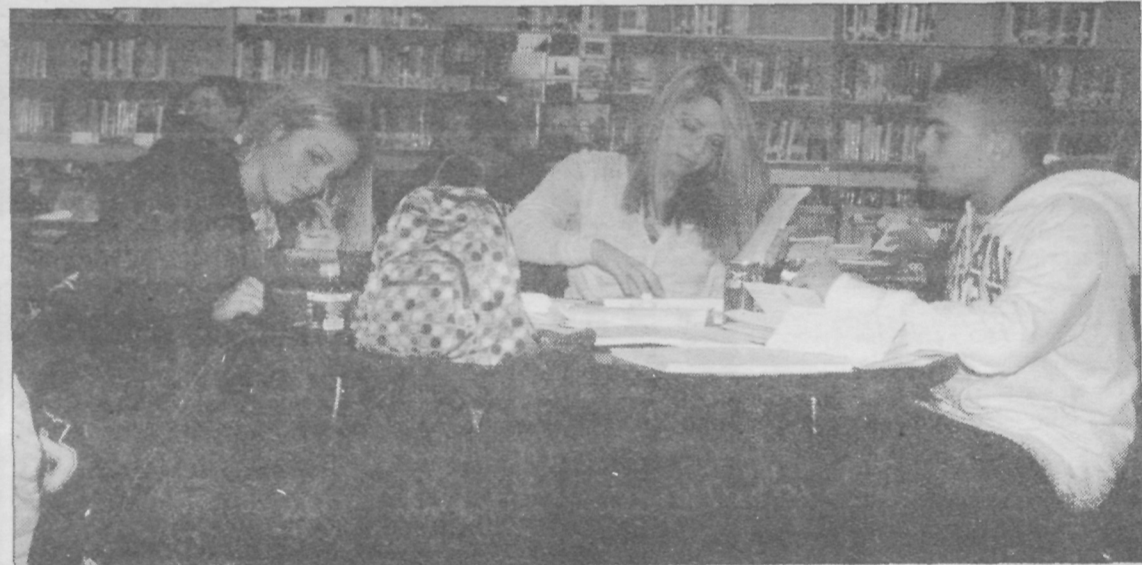
Councilmembers Seek More Info on Insurance Carrier

A resolution which would have committed the Borough to a three-year contract with the Middlesex County Joint Insurance Fund (MCJIF) was tabled after Republicans Matt Anesh and Rob Bengivenga questioned why MCJIF was chosen when the other bidder, Central Jersey Joint Insurance Fund, seemed to offer more extensive coverage. Both bids were similar in cost, but Anesh commented that if the premiums are comparable, why not choose the one with more coverage? The borough can opt out of the contract at any time, but there is a five percent penalty to do so.

The insurance fund covers the borough for workers compensation, liabilities, property and public officials.

According to Borough Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri, MCJIF was chosen because of the borough's years of experience with the company, having very few problems with claims. He added that time is running out for the borough to commit on a carrier, since it takes weeks for a new insurance company to do a study and then get the paperwork in order. The present contract expires December 31.

Buttiglieri was directed to find out if the borough can get a shorter contract and if the other bidder can do a study in the time left on the old contract.



SPHS student volunteers call local households to request pledges for SPEF telethon.

Families Pledge 10K For Students

The South Plainfield Education Foundation (SPEF) telethon is an annual event at South Plainfield High School. The telethon runs the first week of December.

This year the students efforts resulted in \$10,945 in pledges from the parents of the students of South Plainfield.

The telethon employs volunteer students, between 20-30 per night, to make calls. The money that is pledged can be designated in several ways, including scholarships, incentive programs, and the Emil Leporino Scholarship. Donors also have the option of designating where their donations will be used. About half of

the donations pledged will stay with the foundation, the other half will be dispersed to various areas throughout the district.

Volunteers include many students: National Honor Society members, Peer Leadership, Student Council, band, music and athletics.

Ralph Errico, who works with the student leadership, signed the volunteers up in advance. The foundation usually has four to five members present to oversee the activity and at least one high school administrator as well.

The telethon has grown since it began and two years ago when it set a record with over \$15,000 in pledges. Prior to the telethon,

letters are mailed to all residents of South Plainfield alerting them of the callers.

Council Holds Off on Bond Ordinance

A \$340,000 bond providing for improvements to Tompkins Avenue and sidewalks on Spicer Avenue was put on hold during last week's Borough Council meeting.

Before the vote for the final adoption was called, Mayor Charles Butrico asked the council for their consensus to hold the ordinance until the new council is seated in January.

A portion of the amount to be bonded was to be used to put side-

walks on Spicer Avenue. The present truck route puts trucks on Spicer Avenue and with no sidewalks, it is dangerous to students and residents. However, if the new council decides to put truck traffic back on Hamilton Boulevard, there may not be a need to put sidewalks on Spicer Avenue.

Councilman Dennis Cerami felt that sidewalks were needed whether trucks are on the road or not saying that the road is also used by residents

when they go to the recycling center and students will still be walking with or without the trucks.

The council voted to table the ordinance.

OBSERVER DEADLINE ALERT:

Due to the Christmas Holiday, the editorial & advertising deadline for the Dec. 28 issue is 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21.



Borough Council meetings air on Comcast Channel 74, Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

The Nov. 28 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 8 p.m. until their next public meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

Council Meetings

Meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesday
Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605

Date	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
December 18	7 p.m.	Immediately following

2008 Council Reorganization Meeting Saturday, January 5 at noon All are invited.

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

Planning Board

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

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted.
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641

Board of Education Meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.—Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12, April 2
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.—Dec. 19, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

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 on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m. Dec. 18.

Environmental Commission

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

Business Advisory Group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

Traffic Safety Advisory Commission

Meets once a month (fourth Wednesday) at 7 p.m.
in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

Board of Education Curriculum/Technology Meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at
Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Dear Editor,

I've been told that 85% of South Plainfield's tax revenues are allocated to the Board of Education. We rarely question where our monies are going; probably because to do so would make us seem as if we were not considerate of the children.

Yet, the *Observer's* front page story of December 7 should have all of us up in arms. At the December 4 BOE meeting, the Board approved a paid leave until January 28 for the BOE Business Administrator/Board Secretary, who resigned. Two months pay for someone who is no longer working for the city.

Then, at a special meeting, an acting business administrator/board secretary was named at a salary of \$600 per day!

I have to question how our monies are being spent. I am a crossing guard, working to supplement my Social Security to make ends meet; part of that is being used to pay said taxes. (For the record, it takes me a full month, working five days a week, to earn \$600... total!!!)

I'm not sure if that administrator/secretary position is a full time job, but if it is, using that \$600 a day as a rough guide, in two months that new person will have earned over \$25,000. If the person who resigned was making that same salary, the board will have paid out over \$50,000 to two individuals for two months.

At the pay rates the board is allocating for crossing guards, I estimate that it would take me over 10 years to earn that same amount.

Does no one in government realize that these are our monies they are so frivolously using to lavishly pay salaries? I have to struggle to pay those taxes. Where is the oversight?

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL,
KEVIN O'BRIEN**

To the Editor:

I would like to thank South Plainfield and the scouts and parents who participated in the Scouting for Food drive we ran in November. Over 3,000 bags were distributed and over 750 bags were collected, amounting to almost 7,500 items of food collected for the needy. Over 100 boy and cub scouts took part in this food drive, along with several dozen parents who helped out as well, to make this a worthwhile endeavor. I apologize if we missed anyone in the bag drop-off and food pick-up.

**JEFF PAULS, SCOUTING FOR
FOOD COORDINATOR**

To the Editor:

On December 7 a banquet was held to honor the 2007 SPHS football players and cheerleaders. The evening was filled with laughter, memories, pride and tears, but one that won't be forgotten anytime soon. Throughout this football season, many people have given of their time and talents to make this special event possible. We would like to acknowledge the following businesses that provided us with generous monetary donations to offset the cost of printing a very special program for these very special boys and girls: The Brush Stop, Buy-Rite Liquors, Carpet Bazaar, Carpets Plus, Ciccio's Pizza, Cindy Michaels Jewelers, Columbia Savings Bank, Coppola's Garden Center, Creative Design Plus-Edison, N.J., Del Cleaners, Flanagan's Restaurant, Hometown Heros, Jay Bee's Screen Printing, Jeff Licato, KLK Trucking, Lombardi Striping, McCriskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals, Our Town Deli, PM Parts and Equipment, Pro Care Physical Therapy, Sharon and Bill Ructer c/o South Plainfield Elks, South Plainfield Republican Organization, Southside Salon, Stilo Excavation, Subway (Park Avenue), Szechuan Kitchen, Twin City Pharmacy and Witty's Liquors.

We would also like to thank the

Bagel Pantry for their incredible support throughout this season, as well as many previous years. From the great food you have provided to displaying our signs, you have helped out in so many ways and we are very grateful.

To the community of South Plainfield, we hope that you will continue to support the businesses which we have named, as they have been kind enough to give support to our children.

**WITH TIGER GRATITUDE,
2007 FOOTBALL/CHEERLEADING
BANQUET COMMITTEE**

To the Editor:

This letter is to all dog and cat lovers in South Plainfield who want to buy their special pet some really nifty stocking stuffers this season. The other day I brought my Springer Spaniels to be groomed at The Animal House on South Plainfield Avenue. When I walked in, to my surprise, there was a totally reorganized shop with all kinds of cat'ums, play'ums and dress'ums for your little furry friends. If you're like me and love your puppies and kittens, check out what Laura, the owner, has done. I really found things there that I have never seen in the "BIG" animal pet warehouse stores. What was really cool, you didn't have to walk all over a giant store to find some really neat stuff.

None the less, all I can say is that I came home with two really well groomed dogs and lots of goodies.

ROXANNE HARTMAN

To the Editor:

The South Plainfield Education Foundation held our telethon last week—the week of December 3. It was another success! The students from the high school were able to raise over \$10,000 in pledges from the parents of the students of South Plainfield. The foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank the students from the high school and the parents of the students of South Plainfield for their support. We were not able to

reach all of the parents, so those that we missed will still be receiving one of our letters. The mail will be going out this week, so please look for our envelope in the mail soon. We ask that when you receive it, please send back your pledge before January 31, 2008.

We would also like to acknowledge several other people for their help with this fundraiser: Ciccio's Pizza, Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros and Marriott Services for providing food for each night. Also, all of the members of our foundation for their help and support and for providing food each night. Our members are Carolyn Allen-Commerce Bank, Shannon Jefferys-Columbia Bank, Frank Rainear-South Plainfield Funeral Home, Charlie Kurland-Hometown Heros, Frank Mikorski, Ken Lafreniere, Bob Boyle, Fred Oberkehr, Jose Negron, Rob and Kelly Richkus, Ellen Decker-Lorays, Bob Jones and Ralph Errico, for coordinating the students and the phones; Russ Mattoon, for getting the phones each night; the guidance department for the use of their phones for all four nights and Rich from Presto Printing for all of our forms.

If I have left anyone out, I apologize. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and without everyone's help, it wouldn't happen.

Again, thanks to everyone and to the community of South Plainfield for continuing their support of the Education Foundation.

Our 50/50 raffle was also drawn Thursday evening. We raised \$2,720 in raffle money. Total prizes given out were \$1,360. There were five winners: first prize-\$680, second prize-\$272, third prize-204, fourth prize-\$136 and fifth prize-\$68. Winners were contacted the night of the drawing. Thanks to all who helped with the raffle and all who purchased tickets.

**SINCERELY,
MARJORIE M. REEDY, PRESIDENT,
SP EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The *South Plainfield Observer* is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at sobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: sobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the *Observer*. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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The South Plainfield Elks Community and the Welfare Committee delivered food to the needy in South Plainfield. Elks Deliver Food takes place every Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The committee is chaired by Al Moteypa. Pictured are Brian Csobor and his son, Brian, preparing for the Thanksgiving delivery.

From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

The cold weather has arrived. Sometimes it is difficult for people to get to the library. Did you know that the library can come to you? The South Plainfield Public Library delivers books and other materials to individuals as well as assisted living and rehabilitation facilities in South Plainfield. Any South Plainfield resident who is temporarily or permanently homebound can receive deliveries of books, books on tape, books on CD, music CDs, videos or DVDs from the library. Simply call the South Plainfield Public Library at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Sunnie. The library has volunteers who will deliver the library materials directly to you. You decide when and how often you want the library materials delivered to you. You call your volunteer to set up the days and time of delivery and pick up. This service is called the Edith Goodrich Homebound Delivery service. It is free!

The library is still looking for people who would like to teach a craft program. If you are crafty and would like to share your talents with others, please contact the South Plainfield Public Library and ask for Millie.

The library is also looking for some-

one to teach some computer classes during the day. We would like to offer some adult computer classes in the morning. If anyone is interested in sharing their computer skills with others, please contact the library director.

There are many computer resources available on the library's Web site: www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. The library subscribes to Heritage Quest and Ancestry.com. These internet sites help you trace your ancestors; find your roots, etc. The library pays for these sites so residents of South Plainfield can use them for free. If you are interested, call the library and let us know so we can plan classes. The library also subscribes to an antiques and collectibles database. This site can be accessed from home or in the library. If you have some things you think may be of value, you can search for like items on this site and find out how much they may be worth. If you are interested in the library having a class, please contact the library and we will try to get a group together.

Children's programs will be held as usual this week. Please call the library or check the library's Web site for details.

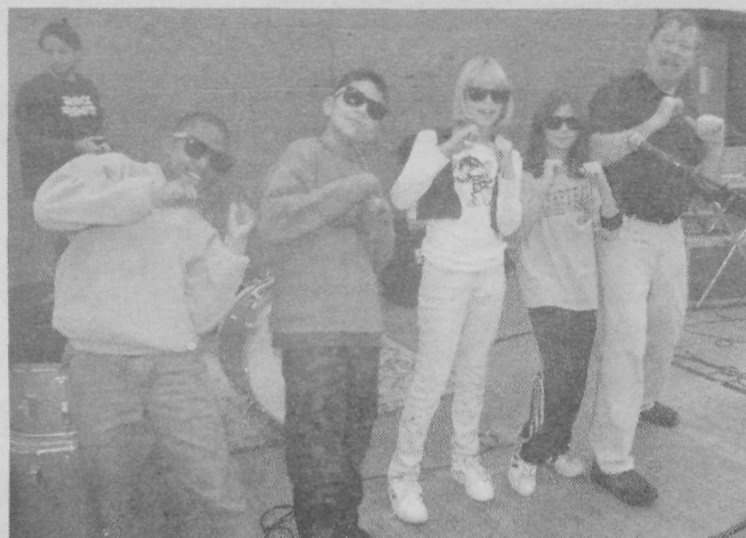
Grant Students Get Back to Their RockRoots

By Jane Dornick

Dave Fry, lead singer of the band "The History of American Pop Music," performed their RockRoots assembly for Grant School students recently. The award-winning four-piece band entertains and educates school and festival audiences with their unique, live celebration of the history of Rock and Roll.

RockRoots explored the roots of African rhythms, folk dance, Delta Blues, Swing, R&B and Country. They then dove into early Rock and Roll, Doo Wop, Motown, the Beatles, Jimi Hendrix and Disco. The show wrapped up with world music influences and, of course, Hip Hop.

The show was developed by Fry in 1990 and the band has performed at family music festivals, schools, libraries, summer camps, town greens, coffeehouses, and main stage acoustic venues. Fry is one of the very few performers to have performed at every Musikfest in Bethlehem, highlighted by his week-long residency in 1999, performing seven shows, solo and with his bluegrass, RockRoots, Celtic-



Students Jason Worthem, John Chillemi, Allison Tuyp and Caroline Ratti perform the Doo Wop version of "I Like Peanut Butter" with performer Dave Fry.

rock bands. Fry has three albums to his credit, "Pearls," an adult-oriented folk album featuring blues, swing, Celtic instrumental and folk music; "I Like Peanut Butter," a compilation of children's music and the winner of the Children's Web Music award in 1999 and a new children's music al-

bum, "Shake It!," a variety of dance music for children. Fry's PBS-TV show "Play Guitar with Dave Fry," an introduction to the joys of acoustic guitar, was released in 2005, aired on over 150 stations nationally, and still pops up around the country.

Red Cross is Collecting Toys for Needy

The Tri-County Red Cross is once again collecting new, unopened toys to distribute to needy children over the holidays. Families with children who live in any of the chapter's 22 communities can sign up until Friday, Dec. 14 and toys will be distributed at the Plainfield and Elizabeth offices.

"In 2007 we are doubling the holiday toy drive's reach to include our children from all 22 towns served by the Tri-County Red Cross," said CEO Nathan Rudy. "We are committed to ensuring that our chapter serves people in all 22 communities."

Schools, businesses, churches and civic organizations can also serve as collection centers by hosting a collection box or holding their own toy drive. If interested, please contact Victor Web at (908) 756-6414, ext. 21 or webbv@usa.redcross.org to arrange your participation in the drive. It's not too late to make a difference for a child this holiday season!

Individuals wishing to donate toys can do so by visiting the Tri-County Red Cross at our locations in Eliza-

beth, 16 Jefferson Ave. or Plainfield, 332 W. Front St. Toy collection continues through Monday, Dec. 17.

The Tri-County Red Cross will distribute the toys to families on December 20 at both the Elizabeth and Plainfield offices. If you or someone you know is in need of toys for the holidays, please register at either Tri-County Red Cross location. Only families that have registered are eligible to receive toys on December 20.

To volunteer for the Tri-County Red Cross, call Victor at (908) 756-6414. Donations can be made online

at www.tricountyredcross.org/donate.aspx, by mailing a check to Tri-County Red Cross, 332 W. Front Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or by calling (908) 756-6414.

The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross, celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2007, has headquarters in Plainfield and Elizabeth. The chapter provides health and safety, disaster response and military communications programs and services to more than half a million residents of 22 towns in Union, Somerset and Middlesex Counties.

South Plainfield Custom Colonial

New 2,700-square-foot Colonial Home on 1/2 acre property. Quality workmanship and upgrades throughout. Custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite countertops, hardwood flooring, crown moldings and recessed lighting, 4/5 large bedrooms, 3 baths, master bedroom suite with walk in closets and master bath with Jacuzzi, large deck, oversize 2 car garage, 2 zone heat and central air, huge walk up attic. New construction built on existing foundation. Asking \$599,900.



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We Wish To Thank All Of You Who
Have Made Our Success Possible.

Happy Holidays
from

FRANK'S Automotive Service

Around Town

Soccer Club Breakfast December 16

The South Plainfield Soccer Club is hosting a breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue from 8 a.m.-noon. Menu includes eggs to order, French toast, pancakes, toast, bacon, sausage, pork roll, orange juice, coffee and tea. Adults \$6, children ages five to 12 \$4, children under five free.

American Legion Pancake Breakfast December 16

American Legion Chaumont Post 243, located at 243 Oak Tree Ave., is holding an all-you-can-eat holiday pancake breakfast, boutique and bake sale on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. Adults \$5, children over eight \$3. Special appearance by Santa Claus. Everyone is welcome. All profits go to our scholarship fund.

Longaberger Basket Open House December 16

The South Plainfield Soccer Club will be holding a fundraising sale of baskets from Dresden, Ohio at the Elks Lodge on New Market Avenue starting at 8 a.m. This is an open house sale of new collectible and highly prized hand-crafted Longaberger baskets.

Caroling in the Park December 16

Everyone is invited to join the annual "Caroling in the Park" on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 p.m. at Spring Lake Park. The high school chorus will be there to lead us in holiday songs. Refreshments at the senior center after caroling.

What's happening at the
South Plainfield **SENIOR CENTER** **DECEMBER**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Sunday, Dec. 16 Christmas Luncheon from noon-2 p.m. Caroling in the Park at 3 p.m.				Bingo 10am-2pm 14
UPCOMING EVENTS SPHS Lunch and Concert for Seniors at SPHS Tuesday, Dec. 18-noon				
Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am 17	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am 18	Aerobics 8:45 am Computer Classes 10am, 11:30am, 1pm Crocheting 1pm Tai Chi 2pm 19	Pathmark Shopping 9am Computer Class 10am 11:30am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15p- 20	Bingo 10am-2pm 21
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Christmas Cantata At Wesley Church December 16

There will be a Christmas musical (cantata) at Wesley Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 10:30 a.m. The masterful creation of Choirmaster Meili Chen is simply wonderful. The talented Wesley hand-bell choirs and the chancel choir will be breathtaking. You will truly get into the mood of the season. The community is cordially invited.

AARP #4144 Holiday Meeting/Luncheon December 18

AARP #4144 will hold their annual holiday meeting/luncheon at the Victorian Manor on Tuesday, Dec. 18. Entertainment will be provided by

Jack McDade, singer/entertainer/radio show air personality (WDVR-FM 89.7). Guests are welcome; \$25. Call Sylvia at (908) 561-1899.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the South Plainfield Senior Center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, preemie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. Refreshments served. New members and guests welcome.

SPHS to Host Senior Luncheon/Concert December 18

The South Plainfield High School Peer Leadership students will host the annual senior luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at noon in the high school cafeteria. A concert will follow in the auditorium. Cost is a donation of \$2 to the high school scholarship fund.

To make reservations, call the senior center at (908) 745-1047.

Annual Roosevelt Winter Concert December 18

Please join Roosevelt Elementary School as they present their annual winter concert on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

American Legion Monthly Meeting December 20

American Legion Chaumont #243, located on Oak Tree Avenue,

will hold their monthly meeting and holiday fun on Thursday, Dec. 20 at 8 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a wrapped ornament to be exchanged.

VFW Roast Pork Dinner December 21

The VFW, located on Front Street, will be holding a "come home for the holidays" roast pork dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. The South Plainfield Traveling Choir will be performing. For information, call (908) 561-9570.

— Out of Town — Middlesex WOWs Dinner/Dance December 14

The Widows Or Widowers Chapter of Middlesex County will hold their annual Christmas Extravaganza Dinner Dance on Friday, Dec. 14 from 6 to 11:30 p.m. at St. Demetrius Hall, Roosevelt Ave. in Carteret. Music by the Joe Caroselli Trio. Tickets are \$36 per person.

For tickets and additional information, call Dorothy at (732) 541-2174 or Phyllis at (732) 381-3255.

Holidays with American Indians December 15

The public is invited to celebrate the holidays with Intertribal American Indians of New Jersey at Thompson Park in Jamesburg on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2 pm. Something for everyone! Intertribal American Indians of New Jersey is a non profit organization that

provides social activities and support to American Indians living in New Jersey. The group is dedicated to educating the public about American Indian culture and history. For more information contact Mary Anne Ross at (732) 238-3792 or E-mail Mary Anneross123@yahoo.com.

St. Francis Presents "The Messiah Comes" December 16

On Sunday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m., "The Messiah Comes" will be presented at the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Metuchen. It will feature the cathedral adult, youth, children and handbell choirs. Conducted by Diocesan Director of Music Thomas DeLesso, the choirs will perform highlights of Handel's "Messiah," favorite carols and choral works. A free-will offering to benefit the Cathedral Music Ministry will be taken.

For further information, please call (732) 548-0100.

Stamp Collectors Open House December 22 & 23

AALL Stamps and Collectibles, 38 North Main St. in Milltown, will hold a Stamp Collectors Open House on Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For info, call (732) 247-1093.

Christmas Eve at Willow Grove December 24

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains, invites the community to a worship service of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

For information call the church at (908) 232-5678, E-mail us at info@willowgrovechurch.org or visit our Web site at ww.willowgrovechurch.org.

35th Annual Stamp And Postcard Show January 4-6

The New Jersey Stamp Dealers Association 35th annual Garden State Stamp and Postcard Show will be held on Friday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Frank Pombo's Bethwood, located at 38 Lackawanna Ave. in Totowa. Admission and parking is free.

For information, call N.J. Stamp Dealers Association at (732) 247-1093.

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"The reason I picked Scotch Plains Music Center is because I love to play the piano. The music center has great service and it is easy to get there from my home. We admire the people who work there."
 - Third Grader Caroline Ringel
 Music Lessons • Professional Staff • The All-Inclusive Music

LET'S REMEMBER Together

Facing the holiday season without a loved one who has passed away can be one of the most challenging and difficult experiences one can go through. During a season when everyone is expected to feel joy, you may be feeling sad, lonely or even resentful.

No one has to suffer passively through the season. Whether your loss occurred a week ago or many years ago, this seminar may help you cope with the emotional pain that often accompanies the holiday season.

We invite you to join us and learn about helpful steps that may be beneficial to you in making this holiday season a better one.

All are welcome.

2425 Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield
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YOU'RE INVITED

What: Coping with Grief during the Holidays Seminar

When: Saturday, December 15
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: South Plainfield
Elks Lodge #2298
1254 New Market Ave
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Who: Certified Grief Specialist
Jessie Flynn will speak and pay tribute to families who have lost a loved one during this year.

REFRESHMENTS
will be served.

RSVP: to McCriskin-Gustafson
Funeral Home
(908) 561-8000
by Monday, December 10

Hot Christmas Dinner

to any elderly or disabled person
residing in South Plainfield.

*We will deliver to your home on
Christmas Day at no charge.*

*If you would like dinner or know of
someone who is in need of dinner.*

CONTACT:
Shirley Thompson
131 Montrose Ave., South Plainfield
(908) 756-7686

Please call between 10-12
Monday through Friday
by December 21.

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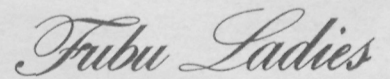
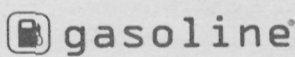
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Milestones

Sacred Heart Graduate Matthew Kopf Tours Europe

Matthew Kopf, a 2000 graduate of Sacred Heart School, is touring Europe with the New Brunswick-based Ska band Hub City Stompers.

Matthew is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Bremer, Sr. of Melbourne, Florida who raised Matthew in North Plainfield, and Mr. and Mrs Leonard Kopf of Bound Brook. He attended grade school in South Plainfield at Sacred Heart. At a young age he developed a love for music. He received his first musical training at Sacred Heart beginning with the drums. Matthew eventually expanded his musical horizons to include singing, bass guitar, and finally, the guitar.

Matthew has been in three bands including the Hub City Stompers. He performs under the stage name Matty Glock and is the lead guitarist for the band that tours several times a year.

Hub City Stompers have released three CDs with the Megalith Records label, two of which Matthew plays lead guitar. The band has a loyal New Jersey following and has performed throughout the United States and Canada including Orlando, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Houston, San Antonio, Las Vegas and Nashville.

They are currently touring Europe with the band The Toasters. They will be performing in six European countries including Germany, France, Switzerland, Vienna, Austria and Czechoslovakia.

For more information on the band, visit their Web site at www.myspace.com/hubcitystompers.



Madeline and John Markham marked their 50th anniversary with a vacation in Punta Cana. They are pictured below on their wedding day.

Markhams Celebrate 50th Anniversary

John and Madeline Markham celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 16. The couple renewed their wedding vows at Sacred Heart Church. They vacationed in Punta Cana.

John and Madeline were honored at a party given by their children, Judith, Susan and John on December 2 at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance.



Joanne Bloomwell of South Plainfield smiles as she receives the Caring & Sharing Award from CONTACT We Care Executive Director David Owens.

Bloomwell Honored by CONTACT We Care

CONTACT We Care, the 24-hour telephone crisis hotline serving Central and Northern New Jersey, recognized Joanne Bloomwell of South Plainfield at the organization's annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration on Friday, Dec. 7 in Westfield.

Bloomwell has been volunteering on the CONTACT phone lines, offer-

ing the gift of listening to callers who are lonely, depressed or in crisis for more than 31 years. She is the organization's longest-serving volunteer.

For information about volunteering for CONTACT We Care or the upcoming volunteer training class, call Sue Fasano at (908) 301-1820.

Quick Chek Announces Finalists for Weekend Cooking Competition

Quick Chek has announced the names of the five contestants selected to compete in its first-ever Souper Chef Cook-Off to be held Saturday, Dec. 15 at noon at their South Plainfield store, located at 317 Durham Ave.

More than 65 individuals put their culinary skills to the test and submitted an original recipe incorporating one of Quick Chek's 14 fall menu soups. The finalists were selected by a panel of three experts from the Center for Food Development and Manufacturing Technology at the School for Environmental and Biological Science

of Rutgers University. The following individuals will vie for Quick Chek's first-ever Souper Chef championship title beginning at noon: Alison Bond, Devon Delaney, Monica Garcia, Stacey Palermo and Ellen Sweeney.

Beginning at noon, contestants will each present their innovative dishes to a panel of four judges, who will evaluate each "souper" submission.

First place prize is a set of gourmet all-clad cookware valued at \$750; second place is a \$500 Bed, Bath and Beyond gift card and third place is a Quick Chek package valued at \$250.

Send Your Milestones
to: South Plainfield Observer,
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South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Email: spobserver@comcast.net

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Home News Tribune	495
Courier News	1,886
Star Ledger	2,600
The Observer	3,000

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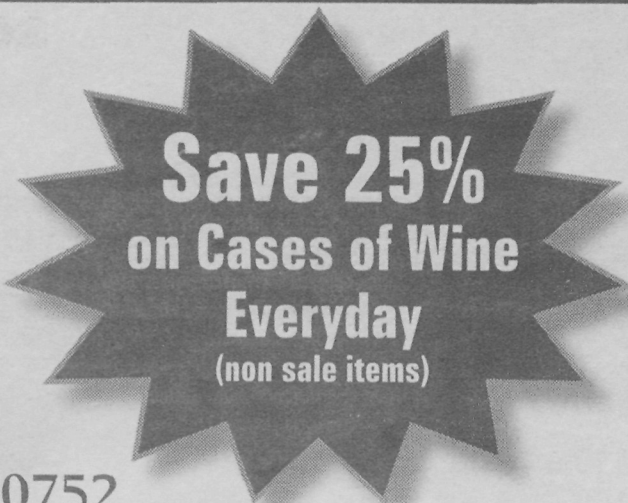


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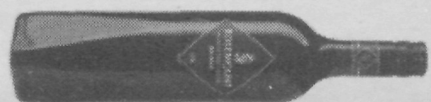
Hadley Shopping Center (Next to Target)

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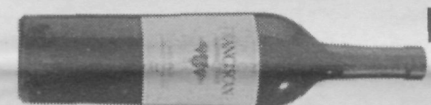
**Coppola Rosso 750ml
on sale \$7.49**



**Rosemount Shiraz 750ml
on sale \$8.99**



**Menage a Trois red 750ml
on sale \$8.67**



**Franciscan Napa Cabernet 750ml
on sale \$17.99**

Value Brands on Sale



**Cavit
Pinot Grigio
1.5L
on sale
\$12.01**



**Due Torri
Pinot Grigio
1.5L
on sale
\$9.34**



**Woodbridge
Chardonnay
Cabernet or Merlot
1.5L
on sale
\$10.09**



**Sutter Home
White Zinfandel
1.5L
on sale
\$6.29**



**[yellow tail]
Yellow Tail
All Types
1.5L
on sale
\$11.01**

High End Spirits On Sale Excellent Gift Ideas

Absolut Vodka.....	750ml.....	\$17.47
Grey Goose Vodka	750ml.....	\$27.17
Bombay Sapphire Gin.....	750ml	\$19.97
Tommy Bahama Rum.....	750ml	\$22.17
Glenlivet Scotch	750ml.....	\$33.97
JW Black Scotch.....	750ml.....	\$28.17
Chivas Regal Scotch	750ml.....	\$26.17
Crown Royal Canadian	750ml.....	\$21.17
Knob Creek Bourbon	750ml.....	\$26.17
Remy Martin VSOP Cognac.....	750ml.....	\$33.17
Jose Cuervo Platino La Familia Tequila.....	750ml.....	\$49.97
Patron Anejo Tequila.....	750ml.....	\$43.97

High End Wines At Very Low Prices

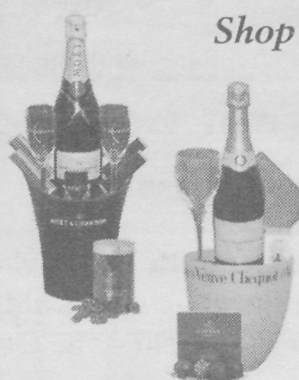
Marchese Di Barolo Barolo.....	750ml	\$31.97
Ferrari Carano Merlot.....	750ml	\$22.97
Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$88.97
Turnbull Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$32.97
Stags Leap Cabernet Sauvignon Napa	750ml	\$33.97
Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon Napa	750ml	\$67.97
St. Clement Oropas	750ml	\$38.97
Paradigm Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$39.97
Merryvale Profile Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$82.97
Leeuwin Estate Chardonnay	750ml	\$54.97
Insignia Red.....	750ml	\$136.97

Don't Miss.....

Korbel Brut or Extra Dry Champagne	750ml	\$10.29
Martini & Rossi Asti.....	750ml	\$9.17
Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$18.01
Ruffino Ducale Tan Chianti.....	750ml	\$20.00
Clos Du Bois Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$9.97
Estancia Chardonnay	750ml	\$8.29
Carlo Rossi, Burgundy, Chablis & Paisano. 4L.....		\$8.49

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Prices effective until 12/22/07. The information in this ad is only good at 5016 Hadley Center Drive, South Plainfield, NJ. Not responsible for typographical errors. NJ laws prevail. Prices do not include NJ sales tax.



Peer Leadership student volunteers Allison White, Nicole Daubert, Lisa Vallone, Jonathan Viola, Kenny Crilley, Maggie Valentino and Alexis Cargill.

Peer Leaders Thrive on Helping Others

This year's South Plainfield Middle School Peer Leadership group is strong in number and heart. There are currently over 80 members and four advisors, Miss Schocklin, Miss Hottendorf, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Scalzo. The students and advisors are

very excited about their ability to help others during the holiday season and to continue helping others throughout the year. Their more recent acts of kindness are described below.

On November 20, Peer Leader representatives and advisors delivered

baskets and bags of canned foods, baking goods, snacks, turkeys, soda, juice and other holiday foods and treats to several South Plainfield families. For more than a week, the middle school Peer Leadership group had been compiling collections of these items for resident families and organizing the deliveries. The advisors were very impressed with the students' efforts and their willingness to help others.

The students who volunteered to help make the Thanksgiving deliveries were: Allison White, Nicole Daubert, Lisa Vallone, Jonathan Viola, Kenny Crilley, Maggie Valentino and Alexis Cargill.

For Christmas, the leadership group will again form collections of foods, clothes and gifts for these families and others. A different group of student leaders will be chosen to assist with the Christmas home deliveries.

On behalf of the South Plainfield Middle School Peer Leaders, we hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season... and don't forget to "pay it forward!"

Knights Sponsoring Coat, Blanket Drive

Are you cleaning out your closets during the holidays? Why not donate those coats you haven't recently worn to someone in need.

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 is sponsoring a coat and blanket Drive through Jan. 31, 2008. The Knights will be collecting coats and blankets every Tuesday night at the Knights Hall from 7:30 p.m. and will also have boxes at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Czestochowa churches. The Knights will also have a collection bin available outside the Knights of Colum-

bus Hall at 334 Hamilton Blvd. so you can drop your coats off at any time.

In addition, the Knights will host an open house serving coffee and donuts on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. until noon, so you can drop your coats off at that time and also have the opportunity to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and membership.

Coats can be new or used (clean and in good shape) with the size clearly marked. For info, contact Greg Gaydos at (732) 762-5003.

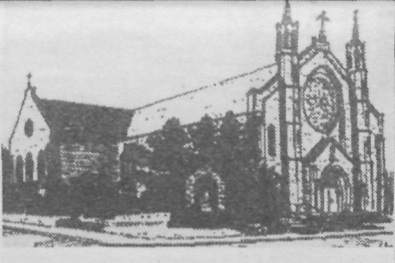
Sacred Heart Church

149 South Plainfield Ave.
South Plainfield, NJ

Rev. John Paul Alvarado, Pastor

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 10-11:30 a.m. and by appointment

Mass Schedule:
Saturday Evening Mass 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Weekdays Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9 am; Mon. and Thurs. 7 p.m.
Monday Eve. Mass with Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers 7 p.m.
Holy Days 9 a.m., 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m.



WANTED



Volunteers needed to help South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission celebrate its 25th anniversary. Must be imaginative, eager & willing to help raise community awareness of the commission.

For information, call the Municipal Clerk's office at (908) 226-7606.

SPBA Officers Sworn in At Holiday Luncheon

The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) held their annual holiday luncheon on December 5 at Sherban's Diner. Longtime SPBA President Jack Pedersen opened the festivities by thanking members for their continued support of the organization. He also thanked the honored guests, including Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Mayor Charles Butrico, Councilman Robert Bengivenga, Police Chief John Ferraro, Court Administrator Patricia Vargo and Recycling Coordinator Alice Temple.

Pedersen announced the SPBA placed a holiday wreath on Hamilton Boulevard dedicated in memory of Army Sgt. Trista Moretti, honoring her ultimate sacrifice for our country. This was followed by a brief ceremony where attending veterans, Frank Licato and Renato Biribin, were asked to rise and be recognized.

Wreaths were also dedicated to the memory of co-founders Art Muglia and Emil Leporino.

Pat Vargo was named an honorary member of the SPBA for her assistance and dedication. Also named as honorary members were present and past councilpersons Dennis Cerami, Kathy Thomas, Jim Vokral and Ed Kubala.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan introduced the incoming SBPA officers, Debra Anne Leporino, marketing director of Slim & Tone as president; Carolyn Canavan, branch manager of Mobile Storage Group as vice president; Tom Stillman, owner of Stillman Photographic Services as recording secretary; Carolyn Allen, vp/sr. manager Commerce Bank as financial secretary; Jeff Yingling, owner of Graphix

One as correspondence secretary. Paul Grzenda, attorney at law, will continue as treasurer.

Leporino presented the outgoing officers with plaques, thanking them for their time and steadfast dedication to the association. Outgoing officers are Jack Pedersen, president, Robert Longo, vice president and Nancy Grennier, secretary. Pedersen will continue his work as past president.

Local businesses are welcome to attend SPBA meetings prior to membership as well as any and all events to see what the association has to offer their business. Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. at Sherban's Diner.

For more information about the SPBA, log onto their Web site at www.spba.biz or call (908) 757-8811.

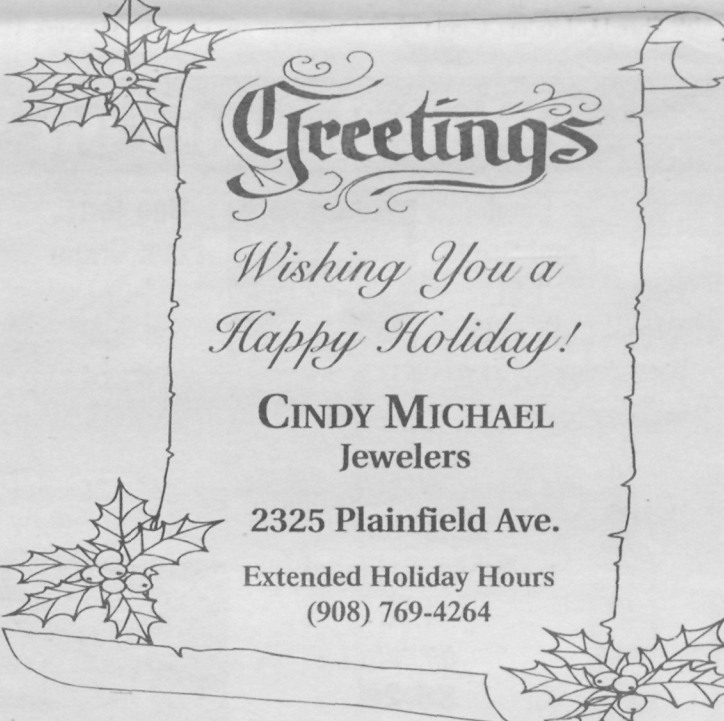
Holiday Giving For Needy Pets

The Plainfield Animal Hospital is collecting pet food donations to be distributed to needy pets for the holiday season. Please bring canned or dry pet foods to the drop off box at the animal hospital, 2215 Park Ave. from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays.

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

Thank you for your generosity and have happy and healthy holidays.

For information or directions to the hospital, please call (908) 755-2428.



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SPHS First Quarter Honor Roll - Grades 11 & 12

(Continued from last week's Observer)

Grade 11

Jake Donahue, Nelson A. Soriano, Brandon N. Yellock, Krisstoffor C. Abarabar, Jonathan Addesa, Jorge A. Alvarez, Michelle Arancio, John P. Barry, Lindsay J. Barton, Francesca Bayak, Michelle S. Bello, Cori M. Black, Jacqueline Bosse, Michael J. Boyle, Kenneth M. Breslau, Barry G. Brown, Vikash Budhan, Maxwell K. Butler, Danielle M. Buttrico, Julio A. Calderon, Ashley L. Capparelli, Henry A. Carrillo, Suneet Chandler, Steven Chen, Allison R. Clawans, Sean P. Coffey, Jancee A. Coleman, Ian V. Collins, Jonathan E. Conroy, Jose M. Contreras, Christina M. Cornelius, Gerson L. Cruz, Audrey L. Cupo and Gina M. Curcio.

Michael A. Dandola, Ann Thao Dang, Rebecca A. Deffler, Taylor A. Deskins, Michael J. Dezmin, Stephanie D. DiCindio, Lauren A. Diana, Jennifer R. Disch, Quynhnhu T. Doan, Jahleel K. Drewery, Nathaniel W. Eliason, Faryn M. Evans, Vincent J. Fazio, Tina Foscolo, Sara K. Frazzano, Lindsay B. Fredericks, Kelliann Friday, Allen G. Garcia, Stephen M. Garry, Jaime L. Giannakis, Keri D. Gould, Ashleigh Gray, Joseph M. Grenner, Jennifer L. Gustafson.

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Grade 12

Simona Skvarova, Jessica M. Adams, Peter M. Adorna, Jennifer D. Aguilar, Thomas Aimone, Francis B. Alfano, Ashley M. Alvarado, Premal Amin, Davonna K. Approvato, Scott R. Barton, Hemraj Behari, Vishwa Bhavsar, Kristin M. Billich, Taryn Billich, Brittney L. Bishara, Lillian M. Blanco, Rebecca A. Bosse, Erica L. Bowden, Nicole J. Brooks, Brittany H. Burton, Brianna M. Calderone, Keith A. Campbell, Paolo M. Cantarella, Jennifer M. Capparelli, Vanessa Casteblanco, Nicole M. Coccaro, Christian J. Cole, Elix Colon, Grey P. Coppi, Steven E. Cornish, Nicole E. Cosma, James H. Cox, Jonathan M. Cursi and Kyle M. Czarnik.

Joseph J. D'Addario, Kyle P. Darr, Brooke E. DeNitizio, Christopher M. DeOliveira, Joseph E. DelGenio, Christopher P. Delaney, Danielle M. Dembia, Karan S. Desai, Elizabeth J. Diamant and Christopher R. Duquette.

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Jaclyn C. Maccougall, Valerie A. Madison, Jonathan A. Marcoux, Jason A. McConnell, Kellie J. McLean, Angel Mera, Rachel A. Milliron, Matthew T. Moates, Christina Monticchio, Robert C. Moreira, William J. Morrison, Jennifer L. Napolitano, Diana I. Naser, Daniel A. Nastarowicz, Thuy M. Nguyen, Taylor W. Nichuck, Christina M. Nieves, Katie E. Nuber, Lauren O'Day, Brendan P. O'Shea, Jamie L. Okoszeko, Zachary T. Olim, Dora M. Orellana and Michael R. Ortiz.

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Mark J. Wagner, Gregory C. Watts, Brian E. Williams, Katie R. Yon and Vina Zychlinski.



Joan Abbott has her blood pressure tested at the senior center open house.

Open House Delivers Info to Seniors

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Senior Center held an open house in November for senior citizens and other members of the community. The event featured about a dozen booths manned by members of the senior center staff and volunteers. Each table offered different information ranging from Meals on Wheels, transportation, Middlesex County photo ID, outreach services,

property tax relief, blood pressure screening, emergency response services, senior center calendar, PNC Bank and more.

Senior Center Director Joann Graf noted that it was the first time the center had held an open house. While the sign in sheet contained about 50 names, it was estimated that over 100 attended the event. Guests also enjoyed a variety of refreshments and beverages.



Volunteers at the senior center prepare to help visitors.

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.

Attorney at Law



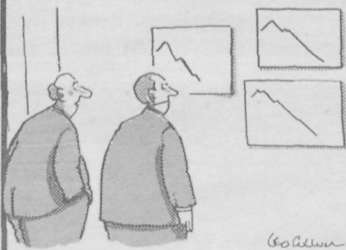
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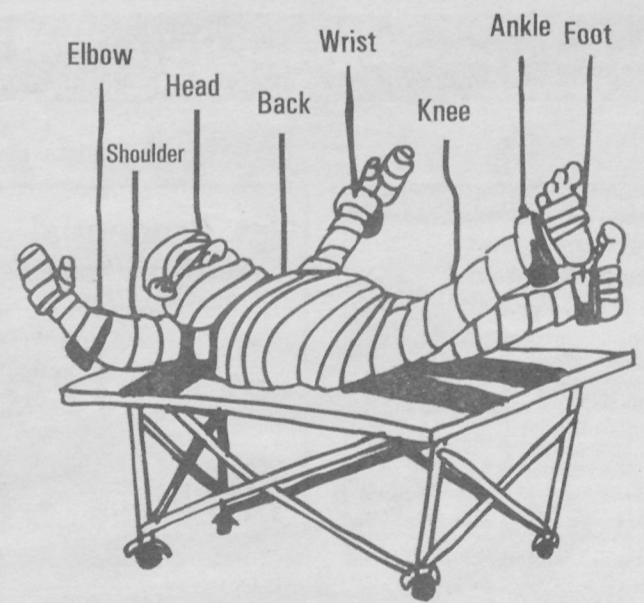
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Franklin School Presents Holiday Concert

The school district's series of holiday concerts officially kicked off at Franklin School on December 3. Students presented two performances—an afternoon concert for the student body and an evening concert for parents and friends. The fourth grade LAMP and chorus were directed by Glenn Parisi. The chorus was accompanied by Frank Jacobson and the orchestra was directed by Bruce Mikolon. Watch the *Observer* for more concerts in coming weeks.



Grant School Announces Honor Roll

5th Grade High Honor Roll

Mansi Amin, John Amini, Jhordanne Anderson, Rebecca Armand, Brooke Barry, Matthew Belanger, Wiktoria Blazejowicz, Brianna Boyce, Taylor Brinks, Melanie Budhan, Mark Butrico, Nicole Bythell, Ryan Bythell, Nicholas Castagno, Gabriela Castillo, Melanie Cheng, Ben Cochrane and Hunter Czarnik.

Holly DeLair, Danielle DeVizio, Kyle Dickerson, CJ Dudek, Tommy Dunn, Bryan Evans, Morgan Evans, Khalil Farid, Kayla Fisher, Moriah Garcia, Jalysa Garvin, Rebecca George, Bryan Gillen, Imrin Goraya, Christopher Graves, Jordan Handwerker, Tiffany Harvey, Rosalind Heim, Shayna Hodge and Casidhe Holoboski.

Sara Kamal, Dominika Kapolka, Soha Khan, Paul Licato, Matthew Lind, Charlotte Macchia, Matthew Maher, Robert Mammone, Jordan Mandel, Gianna Marcovecchio, Kayla Massaro, Briell Melendez, Steven Merrill, Caitlin Nolty, Kelley O'Brien, Andres Ochoa, Daniel Pacheco, Richard Pangborn, Deep Patel, Het Patel, Shivam Patel, Nathaniel Persad, Deborah Persaud, Susan Pipolo, Alexa Plasse and Kara Podlovits.

Caroline Ratti, Brandon Rickert, Alexandra Rose-Leibowitz, Robert Rudnick, Alex Salazar, Allison Scarinci, Leonard Scarpitto, Brian Schillaci, James Schulkes, Amanda Scofi, Mary Simmonds, Arshan Singh, Nicole Sottiriou, Kori Szabo-Smith, Matthew Szeman, Gina Tartza, Jennifer Teece, Kasey Walsh, Laura Weinberger, Christian Wizda and Katelyn Wolak.

6th Grade High Honor Roll

Bryant Acosta, Cameron Bashner, Claudia Bashner, Jessica Bishop, James Boettcher, Abby Borad, Adam Butrico, Charles Butrico, Pamela Chacon Castro, Valentina Chacon Castro, Ryan Chadwick, Taylor Crews, Crystal Custodio, Adam Daubert, John Gilbert DeLaCruz, Taylor Donato, Nicholas Fasullo, Kaitlyn Faustini, Talia Ferrigno, Ryan Harris, Sabrina Hemming, Lauren Hill, Haley Hlavka, Erika Holtermann, Jenna Howarth, Ania Januszko, Raymond Jazikoff, Rowceena Kanj, Michelle Keane, Malcolm Keith, Marie Lanza, Emily Lubach, Joanna Marston, Brian McCarthy, Kate McLaughlin, Yasmeeen Mighty, Melissa Molano, Chloe Ng, Holly Nhan, Michael Olano, Brittney Papa, Anjali Patel, Harsh Patel, Raj Patel, Tanvi Patel, Vinay Patel, Gabri-

elle Payne, Jason Pelacz, Annemarie Pezzolla, Danielle Pisano, Michael Polizzano, Jonathan Prins, Lizbeth Romo, Inan Sikel, Emma Sprigle, Brianna Swenson, Dakota Uhl, Jessica Uhl, William Walsh, Kristen Wong and Amy Zinsky.

6th Grade Honor Roll

Sara Abdeljaber, Jared Agee, Aspen Akunne, Brianna Aponte, Melissa Arguello, Daniel Argueta, Shawn Bangaroo, Josselin Barahona, Colin Berry, Jamie Bohn, Kaitlyn Bonanno, Alexandra Bosse, Nora Bruno and Kristiana Buschan.

Lukas Cabanas, Kristen Calderoni, Renee Callanan, Breanna Calvin, Stan-ia Calvin, Paul Cano IV, Danielle Caruso, Daisy Castro, Jenna Chabok, Maria Coreas, Kimberly Corsino, Sean Cullen, Leanna Dass, Cody Decker, Xavier Deida, Conal Delaney, Joseph Demico, Uyen-Vi Dong, James DuHamel and Robert Eggert.

Natalie Fontana, Christopher Fowles, Antonio Garcia, Thomas Ginda, Alyssa Gomez, Carlee Gonzalez, Jonathan Grennier, Joseph Hart, Glenn Hollaway, Peter Horvath, Kaitlyn Hughes, Shannon Hughes, Shaquille Hughes, Matthew Hurst, Christy Itwaru and Eric Ivaniuc.

Natasha Jani, Taylor Jankoski, Veronika Jastrzebski, Jenalee Jenkin, Gabriella Jimenez, Shanequa Johnson, Alyssa Kelly, Carly Kensey, Natalie Kozak, Jordan Lackey, Mai Lam, Lindsey Lara, Thoa (Theresa) Le, Heather Lee, Alyssa Liszewski and Collin Lynch.

Meredith Malara, Justin Marks, Aidan McDermott, Tyler McVeigh, Mamta Mehta, Steven (Tucker) Merker, Christopher Miller, Nicole Miller, Isiah Mitchell, Malina Mohtadi, Lenae Mondesir, Kyle Moroney, Vanessa Mosquera, Sarah Mott, Kayla O'Neal, Steven Oehler, Ishti Patel, Andrew Pawelszak, Donte Peoples, Diamond Pender, Brooke Penik, Kristy Percario, Samuel Persad, Jessica Pietschker and Heidi Pilla.

Maggie Quintanilla, Juliana Reo, Matthew Resende, Austin Rivera, Nisa Rizvi, Zara Rizvi, Brian Roesch, Amanda Rowlands, Samson Ruhnke, Andrew Sanchez, Dominick Scalera, Heather Scofi, Shannon Sheedy, Chakane Shogog, Olivia Simpson, Monica Spooner, Marc Stasio, Gregory Sutton and Sabersah Syed.

Olivia Tarnawska, Ryan Temple, Marcos Toapanta, Daniel Vargas, Khizra Waheed, Joseph Waldrop, Tho-

mas Whitney, Julia Zipp and David Zychlinski.

5th Grade Honor Roll

Elizabeth Abate, Hannah Abrego, Katie Addario, Andrew Akpan, Evclín Alvarado, Jada Armbrister, Jose Barahona, Jamie Bilak, Rebecca Birath, Kayla Bishop, Wesley Bowe, Neil Budhan, Kevin Buschan, Vincent (Enzo) Butrico, Jenna Calderone, Leonardo Calix, John Calvi, Alyssa Capone, Azalah Carter, Kevin Casteblanco, Alexis Cavaliere, John Chillemi, Carl Cirilli, James Colapietro, Zaire Cone and Katherine Cooper.

Christina Deepan, Michael Del-Beni, Jose Deligne, Jr., Brianna Di-Menno, Christopher Diaz, Lauren Dicellis, Kimberley Dornick, Hayley Dow, Nicole Eager, Anthony Eggert, Sean Erhardt, Alyssa Esposito, Patrick Evans, Jack Falato, Frank Ferraro, James Flasser, Ashley Franchak, Melanie Freire, Karina Gaitan, Jeremy Garcia, John Garcia, William Garner, Nerissa Goolsarran, Cynthia Goyes, Kyrstyn Grabinsky, Nicholas Grasso, Ashley Gruver and Jose Guardado.

Claire Hageman, Amanda Harper, Thomas Heim, Domonique Hessing, Chelsea Housel, Sean Hutchison, Marvin Islas, Kevin Jacobs, Spoothi Jeedigunna, Mukund Kamathamai, A'Jani Kenyatta, Aaliyah King, Dominic LaBrutto, Casee Le, Cheyenne Locklear, Paola Lopez, Elissa MacKenzie, Courtney Maino, Taylor Maittickle, Megan Mann, James Markey, Christopher Marrero, Antonio Martinez, Diana Martinez, Patrick McCoid and Elizabeth McCormick.

Christopher McNeil, Naomi McNeill, Yesenia Montalvo, Marcela Naranjo, Nina Nunez, Matthew O'Brien, John O'Sullivan, Kush Pathak, Dakota Pauls, Vincent Pellegrino, Diana Pender, Christopher Perrette, Emma Piedilato, Irys Pineda and Kenneth Quin.

Melanie Rajpal, Jason Rambharose, Warren Reels, Sara Reineke, John Restrepo, Joseph Risoli, Sarmad Rizvi, Aubrey Rosiak, Brianna Saffold, Anthony Santone, Kimberly Schuetz, Riley Sella, Kelly Shea, Edward Sheaffer, Kelly Simpson, Karishma Singh, Shannon Smith and Zoe Strong.

Claudia Tantillo, Brett Temple, Samantha Tercek, Kenyan Toro, Dung Tran, Jennifer Truong, Allison Tuyp, Kristopher Valentin, Jr., Matthew Vargas, Vincent Vetuschi, Carely Villagomez, Hamid Walli, Ryan Walsh, Xavier Wilson and Lauren Zekas.

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The South Plainfield Business Association (SPBA) donated a portable public address (PA) system to the South Plainfield Public Library last week. The PA system can be reserved in advance for use by non-profit associations in South Plainfield and members of the SPBA. It will also be used within the library for guests during special programs. To inquire about reserving the PA system and for more information, call the library at (908) 754-7885. Pictured above are former SPBA President Jack Pedersen and Sunnie Randolph, director of the library.

Sixteenth Annual Taste of Somerset Tickets Available

The 16th annual Taste of Somerset, the area's original public tasting event, will provide a more extensive culinary experience than ever before according to Marie Hughes, executive director of the PeopleCare Center, promoters of the event. Scheduled for April 28, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. at The Palace at Somerset Park, located on 333 Davidson Ave. in Somerset, the area's premier catering facility.

The 2008 Taste of Somerset will feature more than 40 of the region's best restaurants and more than a dozen beverage providers. Guests will stroll through the Palace, sampling the finest fare from the area's finest restaurants while interacting with the chefs and owners of these first rate establishments. Entertainment will be provided by a live jazz combo, a harpist and other quality entertainers.

"The Taste is a unique event with an appeal to everyone who enjoys dining out," stated Hughes. "In addition to the opportunity to enjoy a great meal from more than 40 great chefs at one time, it helps when planning that next special night out."

"Tickets to Taste make great holiday gifts," continued Hughes. "It's like giving a gift twice, once during the holidays and again in the spring when the event takes place."

The tickets, normally \$75, are available at \$65 if purchased prior to December 31 for this all-you-can-eat event. Purchases may be made at the PeopleCare Center office at 120 Findeme Ave. in Bridgewater, online at www.peoplecarecenter.org or by calling (908) 725-2299. Proceeds support the PeopleCare Center and the non-profit tenants that call the facility home.

Getting What You Want

New Year's Day, what a great feeling! You have a clean slate and a world of possibilities and new beginnings. Yet despite your good intentions, how many diets and exercise plans have you started on this day that ended in a week or a month? Why are we unable to make some changes stick? Why did you fail?

The fact is you are bombarded with activities, obligations and choices. Multi-tasking has become the norm and is even listed as a job requirement. It's no wonder you think you don't have time to do the things you really want to do.

Enter the life coach! A life coach can help you clarify what you want and how to get it. A life coach doesn't tell you what to do. A coach asks powerful questions that help you clarify your thoughts, values, motives and priorities. You have the answers, and the coach supports you in gaining clarity and confirming what's already there.

If you have the answers, why do you need a coach? At different points in your life, you may become unsure of what you really want, or how your life can be more fulfilling. From your conversations a coach knows what you want to accomplish in your life, focuses your energies toward those ends and holds you accountable. A coach is not a professional nag, but someone who serves as your champion and holds you to a higher standard.

Typically a coach and client talk three to four times a month for 45 minutes to an hour by phone. The length of the coach-client relationship varies from a few months to a lifetime. Meeting frequency may vary over time, because each coaching relationship is unique and based on the client's needs.

The people who hire a coach are generally ambitious, thoughtful people who want more out of life. They may be facing some transition in their lives and want support from someone who is focused completely on them. Many coaches offer complimentary sessions so you can test the water.

Are tired of failed resolutions and ready to make a real change in your life? A life coach can be the glue that helps to make those changes stick.

-Submitted by Terry Robak, Certified Professional Life Coach



Students perform in the Tuba Christmas Concert in N.Y.C.

South Plainfield Students Perform at Rockefeller Center

On December 9, many South Plainfield Public School students performed at the 34th Annual Tuba Christmas Concert. The concert was conceived by tuba virtuoso Harvey Phillips to honor his teacher, the late great William J. Bell. The first Tuba Christmas was presented in Rockefeller Center in 1974, and was conducted by Paul LaValle of Band of America fame. This unusual Christmas tradition is firmly established in over 200 cities around the world. Enthusiastic audiences become an important part of the concert by singing along with Christmas carols especially arranged for the tuba choir by American composer Alec Wilder.

Approximately 450 tubas, baritones and euphoniums performed 30 minutes of Christmas carols on the ice rink under the gigantic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree. The conductor of the

celebration was C. Christian Wilhjelm, who is the former conductor of New York's Famous Goldman Band and is the current conductor of the Ridgewood Concert Band. Performers from all ages and from all over the country performed at this exciting event. At nine years old, Kennedy School student Tim Nuber was honored as the youngest musician.

The Middle School students who performed are Brendan Berry, Isaac Blanco, Marvin DeLaCruz, Christina Ferrer, James O'Connor and Jake Rotella. High school students who participated are Matt Brazza, Sean Coffey, Kevin Lopez, Eric Nuber, Emily Roseo and Richard Rotella.

Also performing were elementary school teacher Tobie Baldwin, middle school teachers Andrew Veiss and Ellyn Schwartz and high school teacher Roger Vroom.

Visit With Santa and Get Your Picture Taken

Santa will be on hand for pictures and a visit (newborn to 10 years old), on Saturday, Dec. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the senior center. Each child talks to Santa, gets a picture taken and receives a gift. You must register at the PAL. Cost is \$5 per child.



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Sports

NJ STARS Program Moves Ahead in Senate

The Senate Education Committee released legislation Assemblymen Jack Connors and Patrick Diegnan sponsored that would extend eligibility in the "NJ STARS" college scholarship programs for military personnel if they are called to active duty during their course of studies.

The measure enables members of the military to remain actively enrolled in New Jersey's Student Assistance Rewards Scholarship programs, STARS I and STARS II, while they are on leave to fulfill a military service obligation.

Under current law, NJ STARS I and NJ STARS II require students to maintain continuous full-time enrollment, although a student may be granted an exception for a leave due to a medical or family emergency.

The measure was part of a 13-bill pro-military veteran's agenda the assembly advanced earlier this year.

NJ STARS was the country's first state-sponsored scholarship program designed specifically for community college students. The program offers scholarships to New Jersey's highest-achieving high school students who graduate at the top 20% of their class.

New Jersey also has enacted NJ STARS II, which allows students who graduate from a two-year community college with a 3.0 or higher to continue their education under STARS II at a four-year public college or university in New Jersey. For more information on NJ STARS, call 1-800-334-NJCC or visit www.NJSTARS.net.

Santa Claus is Coming to TBSA Sports Academy

Come and visit with Santa Claus from noon until 4 p.m. He will have a free gift for the first 250 children who attend. After visiting with Santa, the TBSA staff will gladly show everyone around the TBSA facility. Children can play basketball, football, soccer, or enjoy recreation games during their stay.

Santa will be listening to the children and while he is doing that, parents are encouraged to check out the special events that TBSA has scheduled on December 26, 27 and 28. TBSA will host various camp activities, including a basketball shooting clinic, as well as a baseball catching, fielding and hitting clinic during this three day period.

Mike Allocco's elite Basketball Shooting Clinic is a high level program that utilizes state of the art shooting equipment. TBSA is the only facility in the U.S.A. that has such high level equipment available every day. TBSA is the only place you will find eight shoot-a-way shooting guns, two Dr. Dish shooting machines, a Noah Arc analyzer and slump buster and a brand new basketball first step timer. All three day clinic players will be tested and given a computer printout of their shooting arc as measured by the Noah Arc analyzer. This 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., three day clinic is just \$100 for three days or \$40 per day.

For parents who have to work between Christmas and New Year's, TBSA offers an all-day all sports camp at a cost of \$50 per child per day for children ages six through 13 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. During their all day camp, children can play wiffle ball, dodgeball, soccer, basketball, football,

and also play in the new birthday party bounce houses!

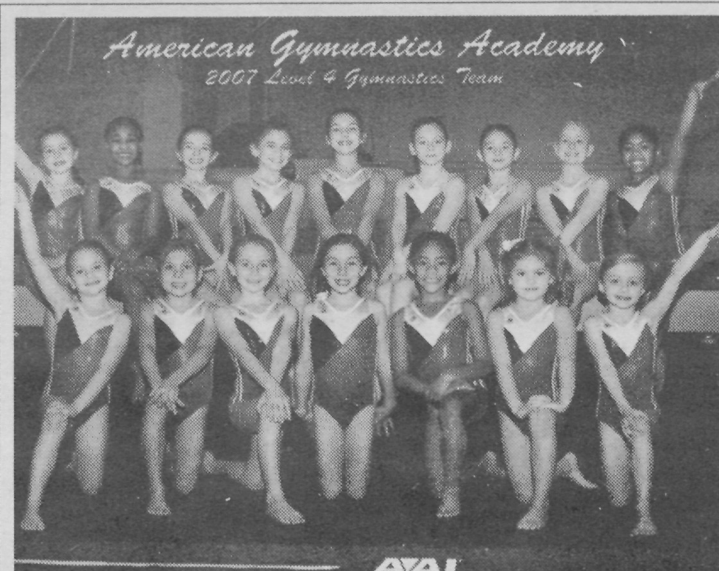
If you're looking to do something with the children on a short term basis, why not consider dropping the kids off for a two-hour time block at a cost of just \$10. If you are running late and they need to stay a little longer...no problem. The charge is just \$10 for every two-hour time period children are there.

If you are looking for a special gift, try TBSA. They have shooters shirts, sweatshirts, knit hats and bags, all with the TBSA label on them. They also have gift certificates available for shooting lessons and other training.

For more information on gifts and programs, visit their Web site at www.tbsanj.com. You will find more information on their all-day summer camp for children six to 13 years which begins the week the school year ends and continues until school starts. This camp was a huge success last year and is extremely low in cost. There is early registration discount prices and all-summer camper discounts. Camp hours are 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. and there is an early drop-off and late pick-up option as well.

Don't miss the TBSA open house and make sure you stop by to see Santa and the staff.

TBSA Sports Academy is located at 76 Carter Dr. in Edison. For more information, call (732) 650-1224.



Back row (L-R): Brianna Slover, Aniya Smith, Gina Costagliola, Olivia Russillo, Alyssa Squatrito, Leah Saifi, Lauren Saifi, Alison Mann and Kaelyn Baucum. Front row (L-R): Julie Davis, Allison Graves, Alexis Tekin, Diane Cervelli, Nicole Lopez, Jemma Scalera and Abigail Karolowski. -Photo by Jacqui Strickland

American Gymnastics Academy, Level 4 USAG Team Makes it to States

The Level 4 gymnastics team from American Gymnastics Academy in South Plainfield qualified for the New Jersey State Championships.

The championships will be held in January of 2008 in Cresskill. The girls, ranging in age from six to 10 years, practiced very hard all season. We are all very proud of their accomplishment!

RECREATION WRESTLING Submitted by Joe Sacco

Rec Wrestlers Continue Winning

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club hosted its second annual Pee Wee Bantam Tournament this past weekend at the PAL. More than 130 wrestlers from around the state participated. Finishing in the top four from South Plainfield were:

First place—Joseph Sacco, pee wee 49 lbs., Joey Heilmann, Bantam 51 lbs., Jake Panton, bantam 54 lbs. and Jake Giordano, bantam 56 lbs.

Second place—Peter Marotta, pee wee 40 lbs., David Loniewski, pee wee 49 lbs., Marc Giordano, pee wee 55 lbs., Alex Amato, bantam 53 lbs. and Michael Clevenger, bantam 71 lbs.

Third place—Dylan Kolvites, pee wee 40 lbs., Jordan Hamberg, pee wee 42 lbs., Tommy Sikanowicz, pee wee 43 lbs., Tommy Fierro, pee wee 46 lbs., Sebastian Santos, pee wee 49 lbs., Divon Pender, pee wee 52 lbs., Christopher Born, pee wee 55 lbs., Michael Marrero Jr., bantam 56 lbs., Kyle Davission, bantam 57 lbs., Mike Marrero, bantam 59 lbs. and Kyle Bythell, bantam 65 lbs.

Fourth place—Mitchell McKee, pee wee 46 lbs., Anthony Barge, pee wee 50 lbs., Zachary Villares, bantam 46 lbs., Ryan Boettcher, bantam 67 lbs. and Zack Delvecchio, bantam 78 lbs.

Knights of Columbus Sponsoring Youth Free Throw

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus #6203 is sponsoring the annual youth free throw championship. All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2008 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship. Registration for this event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 13,

2008 at 1 p.m. at the Sacred Heart School Gymnasium. The competition will start at 1:30 p.m. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For more information, please contact Greg Gaydos at (732) 762-5003.

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TBSA

Congratulations!

2007-08 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Isiah Feeley, his dad Peter, mom Veronica and brother Andrew.



The South Plainfield Police, Fire and Rescue Squad, along with Piscataway and Edison Police and Somerset Medical Center Rescue Squad, held training exercises at the high school last month while the school was closed for Veterans Day. Police broke into teams and practiced different "active shooter" scenarios using paintball guns. They also rehearsed search and rescues inside the building.

Middle School Honor Roll

7th Grade High Honor Roll

Danielle Buttrico, John Cotone, Michael DelGenio, Nicholas Graves, Meghan Heim, Nicole Kopchak, Brian Lopez, Rian Lukacs, Deirdre Macchia, Jade McDonough, Maggie McLean, Rebecca Moskal, Ankoor Patel, Hiren Rana, Karen Rivera, Fernando Sanabria, Joshua Siepman, Gabrielle Smith, Jennifer Tran and Wahid Walli.

7th Grade Honor Roll

Ramsy Abdeljaber, Alyssa Adamson, Joseph Affinito, Juan Arrubla, Anthony Ashnault, Andrew Atkinson, Isabella Behne, Kevin Belanger, Nicole Benwell, Robert Benwell, Rina Bhaddi, Patrick Boyle, Kyle Brady, Nicholas Brinks, Kristel Buschan, Samuel Butler, Christopher Buttrico, Tyler Calderone, Kayla Carigma, Andrew Catalina, Anthony Celentano, Kendall Christ, Quinn Cochrane, Meghan Collins, Christina Conroy, Shannah Conway, Joshua Coupe, Patricia Cruz and Tyler Cruz.

Jesse Deffler, Justice Dickerson, John DiDolce, Alexa Douras, Tara Dunn, Richard Duong, Tatiana Duran, Jacqueline Dvorak, Catherine Emery, Sal Eposito, Taylor Estevez, Kristin Forbes, Matthew Frank, Nathaniel Ganthier, Cassidy Gillis, Allison Gorman, Andrea Guerrero, Taylor Hagy, Christopher Harrell, Troy Heilmann, Jasmin Hernandez, Alec Hing, Zoya Hodge, Samantha Hunteerton, Kevin Jakaria, Khyllah Jean, Christina Kasmer and Samuel Knight.

Nicholas Lacasale, Paula Lasota, Victor Le, Michelle Lesniak, Xin Geng Liu, Gina Louise, Marah Angelica Magpile, Nicholas Marrone, Jesse Masters, John McDonough, Shannon McMahon, Amber Mullens, Samantha Murtagh, Crystal Myles, James O'Connor, Timothy O'Leary, Kelly Outeiral, Aakash Patel, Brandon Pauls, Jeffrey Pellegrino, Joseph Pellegrino, Eduardo Perez, Katherine Piekarski and Emily Pittenger.

Christal Ramagado, Alison Ratti, Emily Reineke, Erin Remsing, Jonathan Reyes, Thomas Riccardi, Tania Rincon, Ashley Robjohns, Hayley Robjohns, Joshua Rochotte, Brianna Ross, Daniel Sanko, Gerianne Scarpitto, Brandon Shaw, Emma Slotterback, Angelica Smith, John Sottiriou, Angela Spadavecchia, Joseph Spinella, Nicole Stanczak, Savannah Storm, Nicole Tetreault, Steven Timmerman, Anthony Torchia, Michael Uribe, Isaiah Valdez, Jaime Valladares, Erik Veliz, Caroline Vill, Steven Vincent, Vera Viran, Scott Whalen, Angelica Wojewodka, Jennifer Wolak and Isabel Zychlinski.

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Alexis Alba, Casey Buttrico, Nicole Daubert, Erica Fisher, Navneet Goraya, Michael Grzenda, Joshua Guirguis, Krystian Januszko, Tanya Joshi, Rajath Kenath, Joseph Krawiec, Ashley Linick, Kimberly Lozarito, Shianne Martinez, Victoria McKay, Nii Sackey Mills, Devang Patel, Stephen Petriello,

Jamie Quail, Ryan Riccardi, Angela Sami, Emily Sella, Payal Sindha, Joseph Skwiat, Alex Valladares, Albert Vill and Kathleen Vincent.

8th Grade Honor Roll

Sofia Abd Elhady, Asia Acevedo, Robert Aimone, Lanna Arki, Jared Aronowitz, Jackeline Barahona, Jasmine Beaufort, Luis Benitez, Brendan Berry, Laura Biggs, Ashanti Bishop, Miranda Black, Isaac Blanco, Jessica Bohn, Casey Bona, Erika Buenano, Melissa Burke, Christina Buttrico and James Buttrico.

Alexis Cargill, Hailey Carone, Jamie Caruso, Kenneth Cavanagh, Tracey Cihanowyz, Janine Colicchio, Michael Connolly, James Conrad, Ken Crilley, Thomas Daly, Jake Dingler, Dylan Dorey, Christopher Duffy, Kevin Flanagan, Miranda Garcia, Christine Gezy, James Gerber, Jessica Giallanza, Khadija Gilmore, Jamie Glavasich, Jessica Gomes, Shawn Gorman, Angelica Grasso, Jy'neer Green and Joshua Guzman. Laine Harris, Tyler Herriott, Tyler Holoboski, Ryan Hughes, Tyler Hunt, Ehilea Jainarine, Monika Jastrezebski, Austin Jenkin, Kenneth Kaczka, Daniel Kelly, Brianna Kizmann, Moriah Kunch, Stephen Lanza, Aimee Le, Vivian Lee, Gina Longo, Guillermo Lopez, Frank Malecki III, Ryan Marcoux, Jennifer Marroquin, Sai Kumar Medicherla and Joseph Miller.

Christopher Neal, JaQuan Neal, Brian Nguyen, Vyvian Nguyen, Kyesha Nietzer, Katherine O'Brien, Kyle O'Keefe, Michelle O'Sullivan, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Melissa Pasternak, Pooja Patel, Shivam Patel, Shivani Patel, Samantha Pattison, Kimberly Petronko, Melissa Plasse, Nicholas Pleeter, Katharine Podlovits, Christopher Pornovets, Jesenia Portillo and Allison Quintanilla.

Alyssa Ragno, Erika Ritchie, Maurice Roach, Nataly Rodriguez, Andrew Sanchez, Zachary Sbordone, Rachel Scudato, Stephen Slatky, Marissa Smith, Raquan Southerland, Luke Sprenger, Katherine Staynings, Tyler Stranzenbach, Olga Tarnawska, Jessica Thompson, Amanda Tjong, Kimberly Tran, Matthew Valencia, Margaret Valentino, Michael Vega, Queenly Lauren Ventura, Jonathan Viola, Allison Wagner, Kelly Walsh, Allison White, Colin Wilson, Zachary Wilson, Meagan Yanick, Danielle Zelasko and Joseph Zipp.

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John "Mickey" M. Miele, 66

John "Mickey" M. Miele of South Plainfield passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Mr. Miele resided in Piscataway before moving to South Plainfield in 1982 and was employed as a truck driver.

Mickey was an active member of the South Plainfield Historical Society and the Friends of the Woods at Highland Woods Environmental Education Reserve. He helped establish the History Center at the Roosevelt Administration Building and the Nature Center at the Reserve.

Mr. Miele is predeceased by his parents, Michael and Betty Miele and a sister, Barbara Miele.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 25 years, Dorothy Obley Miele; two daughters, Sarah A. Miele and Sharon Miele; a brother, James Miele, in addition to many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Visitation will be Saturday, Dec. 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be private and held at the convenience of the family.

Helen Schneiderwind, 89

Helen Schneiderwind died on Monday, Dec. 10, at the Rolling Hills Care Center in Lebanon.

Born and raised in Plainfield, Helen resided in South Plainfield for the past 61 years.

A graduate of Plainfield High School, Mrs. Schneiderwind was a former member of Sacred Heart RC Church as well as the Sacred Heart Rosary Altar Society. Helen was also very active with the South Plainfield seniors.

Her most prized possession was her family.

She was predeceased by her husband, Rache, who died in 1975.

Surviving are two daughters, Jane Klawunn and husband Thomas of Lebanon and Patricia Gamble and husband Henry of Yardley, Pa.; six grandchildren, Vicki Trainer, Rachel Shufeldt, Keith Trainer and Kristen, David and Daniel Klawunn, and five great grandchildren, Michael Shemely, Talia and Kyle Shufeldt, and Owen and Jay Trainer. Helen was also expect-

Obituaries

ing her first great-great granddaughter.

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

Donations in her memory can be made to Sacred Heart RC Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Marcy Feller, 56

Marcy (Ehrenkrantz) Feller died on Friday, Nov. 30 at J.E.K. Memorial Hospital in Edison due to complications from heart surgery.

Born on July 15, 1951, Marcy grew up in Bayonne and Colonia and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. She married Melvin Feller in 1975 and they resided in South Plainfield for the last 29 years.

She worked as a pre-school teacher's assistant, administrative assistant and front desk secretary at the JCC in Edison for five years. She also worked as a secretary at Temple Emmanuel in Edison for a few years.

Marcy was very active in the community, especially while her children were in school. She served on the PTA at Roosevelt Elementary School and was also a Girl Scout Troop leader.

Marcy enjoyed social dining with many friends and family at local restaurants, visits to Atlantic City casinos and bingo every week at St. Helena's in Edison.

She was predeceased by her parents, Nannette and Harry Ehrenkrantz.

Surviving is her husband, Melvin, of 32 years; two daughters, Amy Feller of Nashville and Rachel Feller of South Plainfield and a brother, Michael Ehrenkrantz.

In Loving Memory

Michael S. Disch
9/13/59-12/12/77

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And all that made him the person he was. His smile, his laugh, his love of sports and music. Calling to mind his beginnings, his journey, and the wonderful stories we love to share about him.

We Honor a Life Today
His character, his integrity, his commitment to the things he stood for—recognizing his good heart, his sense of humor, and the helping hand he often extended to others.

We Celebrate a Life Today
And all that earned him the love, the admiration, the respect of his family and friends, feeling grateful for our time with him, enriched for having known him, feeling blessed to have his remarkable spirit here among us forever.

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM

jd

SPHS Peer Leadership will hold their annual senior citizens luncheon at the high school cafeteria on Tuesday, Dec. 18 from noon to 2 p.m. The high school peer leadership, along with the middle school peer leaders, will again be delivering holiday baskets shortly to the less fortunate families in the borough. Thanks go out to the students and their families who helped with donations for the baskets. The varsity swim team won their first dual meet against Roselle Dayton 97-72 and their next meet against Jonathan Dayton 109-61. Ed and

Mary Piekarski helped out organizing the swim-a-thon and canning.

The Board of Education held a retreat on December 11 to discuss its goals and objectives for the future.

The education foundation held their annual tele-a-thon during the week of December 3 and raised \$10,945 thanks to the many generous donors. The foundation will also be sponsoring a wine tasting at the Italian-American Club in the Spring

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Kaneps Family.

BOE Hires Oberkehr

(Continued from page 1)

school ski trips. He authored and was project director for a comprehensive school refinance grant of \$459,000.

On December 23, 2001, Oberkehr married Sharon Frank, a Roosevelt School kindergarten teacher. Mrs. Oberkehr is now a full-time mom with three children.

In 2004, Oberkehr became principal of Kennedy School and was responsible for 300 students and a faculty of 42.

"My big push at Kennedy School

was to implement differentiated classrooms, where teachers use a combination of instructional strategies to provide lessons for the different levels of ability. It's a long arduous process. One big help was having our teachers attend workshops, who then teach the staff what they learned," he explained.

In 2005, Oberkehr began classes at Seton Hall University for his Doctorate in Education. He has completed all the classes needed for the degree and is currently writing his dissertation on Differentiated Classrooms.



Franklin School Pack 207 Collects 333 Bags of Food

Franklin School Pack 207 would like to thank all of the Franklin School area residents who supported their annual Scouting For Food drive. They collected 333 bags of food and 72 pairs of eyeglasses. The food was sorted and brought to Marge Ackerman, director of social services, at Borough Hall. The eyeglasses will be donated to the Lions Club for their eyeglass drive. The pack committee would also like to thank all the scouts and parents for their support of this project.

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police report

- On November 27, a security guard at Best Western reported being assaulted. The suspect ran out of the lobby.
- On November 29, Dorion McPherson, 22, of Piscataway was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle, on a suspended license and five outstanding warrants.
- Adinah Frett, 19, of Franklin was arrested at Marshalls for shoplifting a DKNY handbag, hindering apprehension and possession of burglary tools.
- On November 30, Edillbert Martinez, 51, of Newark was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle, lack of insurance, fictitious license plates and failure to exhibit a registration and insurance card.
- On December 2, Saleem Q. Doyle, 26, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and failure to keep right.
- Gordon Koon, 49, of Plainfield was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle, driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

- On December 3, a W. Gold Avenue resident reported the theft of an aluminum ladder worth \$125 from the side of his residence.
- On December 4, a Calderone Street resident reported the theft of a 2002 Acura RSX.
- On December 6, Segundo Juan Changobalin, 28, of Plainfield was arrested at Just Packaging Inc. on Oak Tree Avenue for the theft of \$17,325 worth of Perry Ellis men's cologne and three outstanding warrants.
- A Piscataway resident reported the theft of an IBM laptop from their vehicle that was parked at Vision Systems on Durham Avenue.
- On December 9, John P. Pozgay, 62, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, speeding, reckless driving and refusal to take a breathalyzer test.
- On December 10, Alberto Andre Chavez, 27, of Edison was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

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An accident on Tuesday morning left this home damaged after a vehicle traveling eastbound on Oak Tree Avenue struck the median divider and a tree at Halls Warehouse, then continued on crashing into the enclosed front porch of the house causing major structural damage. The home was unoccupied at the time of the crash. The car was driven by Patricia Torres, 35, of Plainfield. Neither she nor her passenger, Jacqueline Mendoza, were injured. Torres was charged with being an unlicensed driver and careless driving.

Tri-County Red Cross Offers Safety Tips to Prevent Holiday Home Fires

As the holiday season moves into full swing, the Tri-County Red Cross urges families to follow simple safety tips to keep the season merry and to prevent holiday fires. During the winter holiday season the incidence and severity of home fires dramatically increases.

To prevent holiday home fires, the Red Cross recommends keeping all potential fuel sources, including decorations and evergreen trees and wreaths, at least three feet from heat sources such as candles, heat vents, fireplaces and radiators. In addition, holiday lights and candles should be turned off or extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed, and especially before leaving home.

"Last holiday season the Tri-County Red Cross responded to more than 16 home and apartment fires and provided 62 families with immediate emergency assistance including shelter, food, clothing and more," said CEO Nathan Rudy.

The Red Cross recommends the following tips to help prevent holiday home fires:

Christmas Tree Care

- Purchase flame retardant metallic or artificial trees.
- If you purchase a real tree, make sure that it has fresh, green needles that aren't easily broken. Keep live trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water.
- Use a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- Keep trees at least three feet away from heat sources, including fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.
- Make sure that any light strings or other decorations for the tree are in good condition and follow manufacturer's instructions for their use. Don't use anything with frayed electrical cords.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Safely dispose of trees as they become dry and needles begin to drop.
- Dispose of trees through recycling centers or community pick-up services. Dried-out trees should not be left at home or in a garage, or placed against the home or garage.

Holiday Lights and Decorations

- Unplug tree and holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.
 - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive wear.
 - Avoid overloading electrical outlets; don't link more than three light strands.
 - Use decorations that are flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
 - Place decorations at least three feet away from fireplaces, portable heaters, radiators, heat vents and candles.
- The Tri-County Red Cross depends on the support of our local residents to respond to neighbors who are affected by home fires. You can help victims by making a financial contribution to Tri-County Red Cross today. To make a donation, visit www.tricountyredcross.org, call (908) 756-6414, or mail a check to Tri-County Red Cross, 332 West Front Street, Plainfield, N.J. 07060.
- For more safety information visit www.redcross.org/homefires or Tri-County Red Cross.

2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Kristi Maher Named Junior Journalist!

Kristi Maher, Roosevelt School second grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield *Observer* sponsored 2007-08 Junior Journalist Contest with her untitled poem.

Kristi will be the recipient of a dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros. She will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, she will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students can submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who will submit them to the *Observer*.

If you have any questions, call the



Teacher Maureen Wilson with Junior Journalist winner Kristi Maher.

Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros, located at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call them at (908) 755-4376.

Untitled

By Kristi Maher

Your body is important!
 You can't get me wrong.
 It's the holidays.
 Hooray! Hooray!
 Don't eat too much candy on these special days!
 Make a calendar. Maybe it will help.
 Sunday-bananas,
 Monday-strawberries,
 Tuesday-pears,
 Wednesday-oranges,
 Thursday-carrots,
 Friday-apples,
 Saturday-grapes
 I like candy,
 But I don't eat too much of it.
 You need to get out and play with your friends.
 If you have a dog or cat play with it.
 Get out and play! Have some fun!
 Have some fun in the sun!
 Feel the breeze in your eyes.
 Feel the grass everywhere.
 Feel the sun in your hair.
 Don't be lazy. Be active!
 Exercise!
 Play all day
 And keep your body healthy.

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