

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 23, 2001

CHIEF MERKLER RETIRES, GOING TO FBI

Steven Merkler officially retires as South Plainfield Police Chief this week, a job he has held since 1997. He will be leaving with a list of accomplishments that have vastly improved the South Plainfield Police Department in many ways. Steven's brother Robert has been named as acting police chief.

Merkler, whose police career spans 26 years, will be leaving to take a job with the FBI in the New York Field Office. He said he is looking forward to his new assignment and excited with the prospect of continuing his law enforcement career with the FBI.

Merkler became a police officer in 1974 with the East Orange Police Department. In 1975 he joined the South Plainfield Police Department. In 1978 he moved

to California, but after only a year, he returned to South Plainfield. Merkler was promoted to Sergeant in 1985, Lieutenant in 1989, Police Captain in 1993 and Chief in 1997.

When asked about his accomplishments, Merkler interrupted to say that they were everyone's accomplishments, not just his and to use the words "our" or "us" when listing them.

Some highlights include hiring the first female officer as well as a Hispanic and an African American; the police department's re-accreditation program in 1999, an ordinance for mandatory drug testing; the implementation of the 911 emergency system (merging police, fire, rescue and emergency management); the new commu-

nity policing building on the corner of New Market Ave. and Hamilton Blvd.; improving the firearm range, making it one of the finest in central New Jersey. Overall crime in South Plainfield has dropped 20%.

Also, a Special Problems Units was established to address citizens concerns, the Traffic Safety Bureau was expanded to three officers, a full-time narcotic office was added to the detective bureau and two civilians were hired replacing police officers in the communications office (allowing them to go back on patrol).

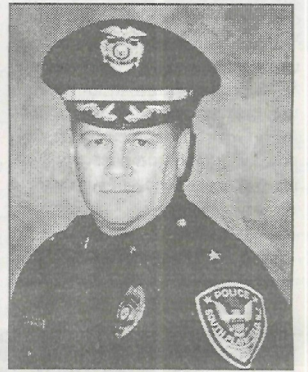
Last year, the police department received over \$555,000 in federal forfeiture funds and with that money they have purchased a prisoner transport van, a traffic safety

van, a stealth patrol car, three new detective cars, a traffic speed display trailer, a DWI breathalyzer machine, three personal computers for the detective bureau, five mobile computers for patrol cars and a bullet resistant shield.

One accomplishment that Merkler alone can take credit for is his perfect attendance record during his 25 years. He also has been instrumental in helping Rhett Cady, the son of South Plainfield Officer William Cady, who died in the line of duty in 1975. He helped raise money so Cady could attend the police academy in Florida. Cady has since been appointed to the Indian Creek, Fla. Police Department.

Mayor Dan Gallagher recalled that in 1997, when Chief Mueller announced his retirement, three applicants were interviewed for the job. He said Steven Merkler became the obvious choice and was appointed unanimously.

Gallagher added that he has never been disappointed. Chief



Police Chief Steven Merkler

Merkler has been at nearly every function in the borough, including the recent DARE graduations held at all five schools. He has also attended every council meeting while chief. He has been an asset in handling the police department's budget, obtaining grants for salaries, hiring additional personal, bullet proof vest and has saved the borough tax dollars in numerous ways.

SP Volunteer Firefighters Battle Two Major Fires This Past Week



House on South 9th Street was extensively damaged by fire Sunday night.



Fire blazes at tractor trailer last Friday.

Photos by Chief John Cotone

South Plainfield's Volunteer Firemen were called out two times in the middle of the night in the past week, one on a tractor trailer and one on a house fire.

Last Friday, a tractor trailer fire at 4:17 a.m., brought out various emergency services to U.S. Plastic Sales, located on Metuchen Rd., on the report of a fire. When they arrived, a 40 foot trailer in the parking lot was fully engulfed. It took the South Plainfield Fire

Department about two hours to control the fire. They had to utilize a backhoe to disassemble the trailer in order to extinguish any hot spots and to investigate the fires origin. A second trailer was also extensively damaged as a result of the fire, but no injuries or damage to the building.

Both trailers contained three different types of products: polystyrene, polypropylene and rolls of synthetic rubber. In terms of

hazard, on a scale of 1 to 10 with one being the least hazardous, these materials are considered to be a one. The incident was handled as arson and is under investigation by Fire Inspector. Joe Abuzzese and Police Det. Gene Bataille.

Due to the location of the fire, traffic was not disrupted during the morning rush hour. Many residents found out about the fire on television, a helicopters showed live shots of the burning trailer on the early morning news programs.

Agencies on the scene included the South Plainfield Police, Fire, Rescue Squad and Office of Emergency Management; Middlesex Co. Hazardous Material, New Market Fire Dept., Colonia Fire Dept., Piscataway Fire Dept. and Plainfield Fire Dept.

Late Sunday night a house fire was reported on the twelve hundred block of South 9th St. A resident in the house was awakened with an odor of smoke and quickly woke her daughter and the other occupants of the house. They all fled the residence without any injury. The fire was reported by a next door neighbor.

The house sustained damage to all floors and the roof. The family dog, a rottweiler, perished in the fire. The residents of the destroyed home were taken to a friend's house in North Plainfield.

The fire was extinguished by the South Plainfield Fire Department and determined accidental, possibly caused by a faulty appliance. The house apparently did not have any fire detectors.

A member of the South Plainfield Fire Department sustained a minor knee injury after he slipped on the ice at the scene of the fire.

BULLETIN

Vinnie Buttiglieri Appointed as Municipal Clerk; Mary Blue Resigns

The *Observer* has just received word that the municipal's clerk job, which has been vacant since Jim Eckert retired last year, will be filled by former Councilman Vinnie Buttiglieri.

Buttiglieri starts his new job on March 26 at a salary of \$65,000. According to Councilman Ed Kubala, three candidates interviewed for the job. Buttiglieri brings 15 years of financial experience to the job, including budget cost accounting and six years of management experience. He is also a registered and certified clerk.

Deputy Municipal Clerk Mary Blue, who has been the acting municipal clerk for the past year has decided to retire as of Friday, Feb. 23, 2001.

Both Buttiglieri's hiring and Mary Blue's retirement will be on Thursday's Council meeting as resolutions and both will be voted on officially at that time.

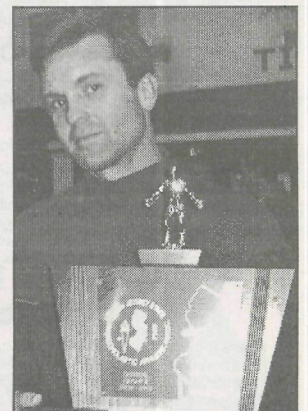
SPHS Tigers Win Group III Wrestling State Championship

By Bob Hunter

Last Saturday the South Plainfield High School wrestling team won the Group III State Wrestling Championship. The Tigers were also last years Group II state champions. It's quite remarkable what this team has accomplished this year, considering the injuries and the defection of a returning state place winner at the beginning of the season.

Despite the fact they had no heavyweight, coach Bill Pavlak and his coaching staff of Kevin McCann and Bill Hamilton did a great job keeping this team focused. The staff did an outstanding job with their conditioning

Continued on page 6



Head Coach Bill Pavlak holds Group III State Championship trophy after the Tigers defeated High Point 45-21

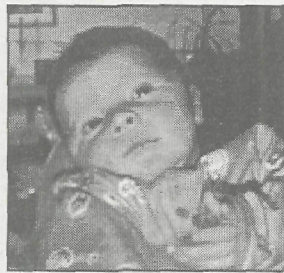
southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Kaneps' Announce the Birth of Wyatt

Sue and Ricki Kaneps of Somerset, are the proud parents of a son, born on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 5:18 a.m. Their son Wyatt, weighed in at 10 pounds 5 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Sue is the art director/assistant editor at the *South Plainfield Observer* and has worked for G&G Graphics for over 16 years.

Wyatt is joined at home by his brother, Justin.



Wyatt Kaneps

Jacquelyn Herzog Named to Dean's List

Jacquelyn M. Herzog, of South Plainfield, has been named to the fall Dean's List at Kean University.

Ms. Herzog, a 2000 graduate of

South Plainfield High School, is majoring in elementary education at Kean University.

Gina Marie Nobile Named to Dean's List

Gina Marie Nobile, a sophomore at Rowan University has made the Dean's list for the Fall of 2000.

Gina is majoring in health and exercise science. She is planning to become a physical education teacher and to coach track someday.

Gina is presently on the track team at Rowan University. She ran track

throughout her high school years at SPHS.

While attending Rowan the last two years, she has participated in the cross country, winter and spring track teams.

Gina will be graduating in spring of 2003.



Guess Whose 40th Birthday was Feb 26th?

Labor Day Committee in Search of Theme for Parade

South Plainfield students are being asked to help the Celebration Committee choose a theme for this year's 44th Annual Labor Day Parade. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of South Plainfield.

The student with the winning entry will receive \$100 in cash.

The contest is open to all students in grades 1 through 12. Only South

Plainfield residents are eligible.

The winning theme will be chosen by members of the Public Celebrations Committee and their decision will be final. The deadline for submission is March 8, 2001.

Send all entries to South Plainfield Public Celebrations Committee, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080.

Last Chance To Add Veterans' Name to Memorial

The Veterans Memorial, which sits proudly in front of Borough Hall, already has about 1,000 names inscribed on it. For the past year a growing list has been compiled and these names will soon be added to the names already on the memorial.

This is your last chance to have your name or the name of a veteran you know added to the list. The requirements are simple. A veteran must show proof that he or she was a South Plainfield resident at the time of discharge. Family members can have the names of deceased veterans added as well. Veterans who were killed in action have a star placed next to their name. Residents who lived in older sections of town formerly known as Holly Park, Oaktree and New Market are eligible as well.

Veterans who would like to be added must submit a DD214 form. Information should be sent to Marie Smith c/o Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or faxed to (908) 754-9091. Please include a contact number with all inquiries.

The memorial was established in 1970. On it are the names of World War I and II Veterans, as well as those who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Currently there are no names from those who served in the Persian Gulf. For more information or to confirm that your name is already on the list, call Marie Smith at (908) 226-7604.

Teacher Henry Wozniacki, Jr. Remembered by His Students



Henry Wozniacki, Jr.

Pearl and Henry Wozniacki had been residents of South Plainfield for over 42 years, before moving to Somerset. They raised three children here, Henry, Jr., Donna and Elaine. Their son, Henry, Jr., who passed away suddenly, was recently honored by the school where taught, by naming the street at the entrance of the school after him.

Henry Jr. attended Sacred Heart School, where he also served as an altar boy. He attended St. Joseph's High in Metuchen and King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Henry, Jr. graduated in 1970 and became an English teacher at Samspon G. Smith School in Somerset, teaching there for 29 years. He also married and had two daughters, Suzie and Cathy.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1999, Henry had a massive heart attack and died. His students, both past and present wanted to show their appreciation for his dedication to teaching.

They petitioned both the Board of Education and the City Council to name a street in his memory, which is very rarely accomplished. But everyone agreed and decided that an appropriate honor would be to name the entrance to the school where he taught, Henry Wozniacki Lane. A sign has been placed at the entrance and exit of the school.

The Wozniacki's were very active while they resided in South Plainfield. Pearl was Vice President of Our Lady of Czestochowa Rosary Society. She was a Eucharistic Minister at OLC, Cedar Oaks Care Center and St. Peter's Hospital. She was a teacher for 30 years. Henry, Sr. was a past Grand Knight of Council #6203, a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, Vice President of Our Lady of Czestochowa Holy Name Society and usher and collector for 20 years, co-founder and first year president of the St. Vincent De Paul Society at OLC. He also was a veteran of WWII, serving in the submarine service.

School Board Candidates Filing Deadline is Next Week

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is 4 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26, 2001. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2001.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the local school district office, located at 305 Cromwell Place, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. daily. Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board Candidate Kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board member. Information about the

New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

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MS Students in Region II Intermediate Chorus

Six South Plainfield Middle School students recently participated in the Region II Intermediate Chorus. Nicole Aguilar, Kendall Green, Linda Lee, Katie Kelliher, Katie Mott and Melissa Sticco auditioned before a panel of judges in December. They sang a prepared solo and a scale.

Out of 200 applicants, 135 students were selected to perform at the annual event. The girls rehearsed on Saturdays and occasional Fridays throughout January and early February.

The program was directed by nationally known composer, arranger, clinician and conductor Linda Spevacek. Soloists were chosen by Spevacek the night before the concert.

Katie Mott was chosen to sing the national anthem at the concert held in Sayerville at the Sayerville War Memorial High.

Katie Mott and four of the other Region II Intermediate Chorus members are currently studying voice with Middle School Choral Director Doris Younken. Voice lessons for interested students are part of a new program in the Middle School.



The Teddy Bears Are Coming, The Teddy Bears Are Coming!

...Or at least that's what it seemed like on Monday evening at Franklin School. No, not an invasion! A Teddy Bear Pajama Party! Although some of the Teddy Bears in attendance looked strangely like rabbits and other things, that was all right because all Daisy Girl Scouts and their friends (the stuffed kind) were welcome.

The party, sponsored by the South Plainfield Girl Scout Community,

was held in the Franklin School Cafeteria on Monday, Feb. 12, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m.

The night included stories, games, crafts and refreshments. The pictures show the girls, their leaders and members of Cadette Troop 117 and Senior Troop 772 having an extremely good time. At least that's what the stuffed tiger I met there told me!

-Submitted by Wayne Orlowski

2001 Golden Gloves Coming to SPHS

The 2001 Golden Glove Quarter finals will be held on March 31 at South Plainfield High School on Lake Street. Last year this PBA sponsored event drew such a large crowd at the Middle School that is was moved this year to the High School, which has a larger gym area.

All bouts are sanctioned by the New Jersey Association of USA Boxing Inc. Doors open at 7 p.m. and bouts will start at 8 p.m.

General admission is \$8. A Special Ringside ticket may also be purchased at a cost of \$75 and includes dinner at Cafe Piancone, starting at 5 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave., Durham Deli on South Plainfield Ave., Observer office on Hamilton Blvd. and the PAL Building on Maple Ave. For reservations or information, call 226-7662 or 561-0649.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

It's Friday again, and that means it's time for news from the South Plainfield Library:

We'll be following our usual children's Storytime schedule next week. Each program is for children ages three and over; you don't need to register in advance. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15; each one lasts about an hour. In addition, there's this month's Kidcraft program this afternoon at 4:00. It's for children ages six and over. Space for this program is limited, but, at this writing, there are still open spots. Please call (908) 754-7885 to register. Ask for Children's Librarian Linda Hansen.

A special program is coming soon. Dayle Giammarino will be hosting a Creative Memories scrapbooking program on Friday, March 2, from 7-9 p.m. Participants are asked to bring along a pair of sharp scissors and 10 or 12 photographs. All other materials will be provided. There's a fee of \$8 for this program. There's limited space for this program, so please call ahead to reserve a spot.

Saturday is the last day of availability for this month's group of Circuit videos. Titles in this group include, *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Mission to Mars*, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and, on DVD, *Eyes Wide Shut*. Circuit videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days.

We've got a pretty big collection

of books, periodicals and A/V items. But, we don't have everything. If you're looking for something we don't presently stock, we can try and get it for you via Inter-Library Loan. Or, if it's something we can't get via ILL, you're perfectly welcome to suggest it for purchase. Just let us know what you're interested in; the more details you can give us (author/artist, title, ISBN number, etc.), the better. We can't guarantee that we'll purchase the item, but we always give due attention to patron requests.

Not too long ago, a patron expressed a pet peeve regarding books. Specifically, the dog-earing of pages. (That refers to marking your place in a book by folding over a corner of the page.) The problem is that some people end up folding over a whole lot of pages or folding over half the page. This causes unnecessary wear and tear on the book. Instead of dog-earing, we suggest you pick up any one of several different types of bookmarks available here at the Library. All are available for free.

Finally, there are times when we at the Library are just not available for Reference help. (We're not open 24 hours a day like some convenience stores.) If you have a question after we're closed, you might want to try the New Jersey Nightline information service, from the East Brunswick Library. They're available from 9 p.m. to 12M. Monday-Thursday and from 5 p.m. to 12M Friday-Sunday. The number is 1-800-922-2233.

That'll do it for this week and this month. We'll be back next Friday with more. See you then.

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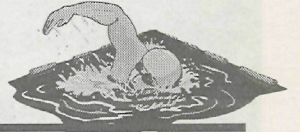
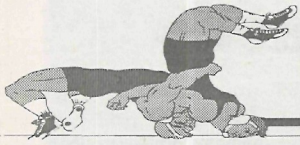
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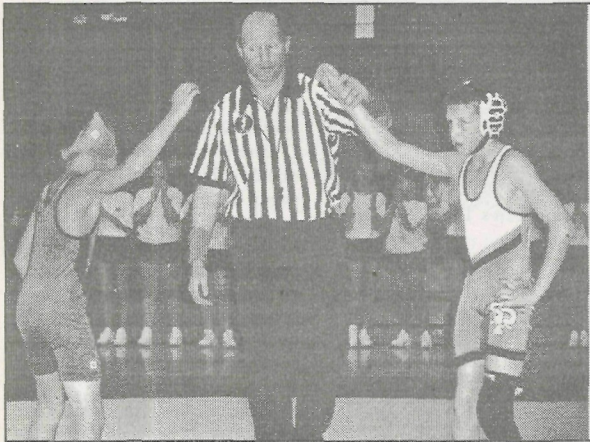
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Sports



RECREATION WRESTLING

Tigers Dominate South Plainfield Invitational Wrestling Tournament



Jimmy Conroy gets his hand raised at the South Plainfield Invitational Tournament. Conroy won the 77 pound title.

The 27th Annual South Plainfield Invitational Wrestling Tournament was held this weekend. With the High School team winning the sectionals and the Central Jersey winner acting as host for the group finals, the High School gym was not available.

So the tournament was moved to the Middle School where 400 hundred matches were wrestled in the Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget Divisions. The tournament was then moved back to the High School on Sunday, where the junior and intermediate wrestlers squared off. With all of the excitement of the High School team and the great year, the Middle School and recreation programs are having, these tournament results were of no surprise.

South Plainfield wrestling had 68 wrestlers entered into the tournament and won 47 medals over all. The Tigers crowned 14 champions, had 12 second place winners, nine in third place, six in fourth place, one in fifth place and five sixth place finishers. This performance is the result of the dedicated commitment to South Plainfield wrestling from the recreation, Middle School and High School programs.

Jim Curcio, founder and director of the wrestling club, is the main reason for this success. Jim has run this tournament for 27 years and started the recreation program 30 years ago. It was his leadership that has built this wrestling program into one of the states elite wrestling programs. Thank you Mr. Curcio.

Winning medals in the Pee Wee Division were Ryan Hughes 57, second place. Winning third place medals were Anthony Ashnault 42, Scott Whalen 45, Austin Jenkins 57. Fourth place medals went to Kyle Brady 42, Steve Petriello 54. Sixth place winners were Andrew Sanchez 45, Troy Heilmann 51, Shawn Gorman hwt. Also winning matches, but not placing were Wesley Spear and Joshua Rochotte.

In the Bantam Division, Ryan Sacco 59, won the first Tiger championship when he won a 2-0 decision over Dan Reis of Kenilworth. Corey Hay 65,

claimed the next title when he defeated Mike Minith of Kenilworth 2-0. Mike Wagner 73, won his title when he pinned Ed Heavey of Scotch Plains. Winning second place medals were John Wylam, 69 and Pat Millard hwt. Third place medals went to Kyle Pompilio, 59 and Kyle Hughes, 62. Fourth place went to Ryan Billich, 62. Fifth place went to Randy Jakubik, 53. Also winning matches, but not placing were Tyler Hunt 49, Jeffrey Conroy 49, Frank DeBiase 56, Kevin Smith 59, Mike Molinaro 59.

In the Midget Division Nick Heilmann 61, won the first title by decision 3-2 over John Calderon of Kenilworth. Patrick Hunter 67, won his final with an 8-2 decision over Ken Knapp of Kenilworth. Tim Gaughan 73, claimed his title with a 2-0 decision over Joe McAvey of North Plainfield. Danny Pompilio 95, claimed the fourth Tiger title with 6-5 decision over Karl Ehters of Pascack Hills. Finishing in second place were Nick Vallone, 77 and Rocco Petriello, hwt. Fourth Place went to Nick Pauls 61. Also winning matches, but not placing where Jake Smithline 70, Justin Smith 73, Jonathan Conroy 81.

In the Junior Division the Tigers captured five titles. Billy Ashnault 73, pinned Mike Basante of Pascack Hills for the first Tiger championship. Jimmy Conroy 77, followed with a 5-3 decision over Max Shannaman of Pascack Hills for the second title of the day. Bryan Hunt 80, won his title by fall over fellow teammate Mike Jakubik. Mark Wagner 87, pinned Pat Stanley of Bernardsville for title number three. Kevin Crilley hwt. won the last title of the day with a fall over Chris Abbondante of Union. Second place went to Robert Gentile 65, Mike Jakubik 80, Anthony Niemczyk 95. Third place went to Nick Dorey 83, Tony Nguyen 105 Justin Huffsmith 124. Also winning matches, but not placing where Matt D'Alessandro 87, Sam Martin 95, Brad Martin 95, Sal Soto 105, Billy Daley 113.

In the Intermediate Division Peter DeAndrea 120, won his title with a 4-3 decision over Kevin Lynch of Hillsbrough. Kyle Bostick 126, won his title by major decision 8-0 over Vinnie Catullo of North Hunterdon. Anthony Costante 102 and Jamar Beverly 160, both finished in second place. Taking third place honors were Rob Maistickle 160. Fourth place went to Viet Vo 89 and Paul Ritchie 114. Sixth place went to Jeff Toolan 126 and Shawn McCarthy hwt. Winning matches, but not placing were Kyle Luthman 96, Mark Warness 102, Nick Curcio 102, Greg Yefko 102, Greg Kulick 114 and Anthony Fierro 120.

In the Freshmen Intermediate Division Raj Jainarine 140 and Frank Demarest 170, both finished in second place.

Special thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time to make this year's tournament a success, even under very unique circumstances. A personal thank you to Nancy Hay for her time keeping track of 68 wrestlers. Without her I would be lost. Thanks again to all.

TIGER WRESTLING NEWS

SPHS Tigers Win Group III Wrestling State Championship

Continued from page 1

and their ability to bring out the best of every wrestler. With three freshmen in the lineup, all of their injuries, the shocking loss to South Brunswick and the tie to Brick, this team wanted to prove they were the best. Well, they are the best!

On Thursday night the Tigers knocked off North Hunterdon 38-18 to win the Group III sectional title. Then on Saturday morning they faced Egg Harbor in the semifinals and won by the score of 52-15, setting up the showdown with High Point. The Tigers then went on to defeat High Point 45-21 for the second time this year.

How good is this team? You be the judge.

They won the Morris Knolls Championship, the GMC Red Division (shared with Old Bridge and South Brunswick). They won the GMC county title, the Group III sectional title and the Group III state title. They won by an average of 33 points per win. In the group finals, they scored 97 points, only giving up 36 points, 18 of those from forfeits. They're record this year is 16-1-1 and over the last two years is 33-1-1. Yes they are that good. Friday night the district tournament starts at 6 p.m. at the high school.

HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING



Left to right are Lauren Kaczka, Shanon Dabrio, Katie Kaczka and Natalie Londano.

SPHS is Represented at 2001 GMC Swim Meet

A year ago, I wrote about the tremendous showing by three girls from South Plainfield High School at the 2000 Greater Middlesex Swimming Conference. The participants were not a team, but just girls who were willing to swim and bring recognition to their school. Although the girls were recognized by the Board of Education at a board of education meeting, there has been little movement toward the formation of an organized swim program and team. Nor has there been a presentation of varsity letters to these girls as other school districts, like our neighbors in Piscataway, have done.

Although Mary Otlowski, who swam the past two years, was unable to participate this year due to a related swimming injury to her shoulder, SPHS was represented this year by junior Shannon Dabrio, sophomores Lauren Kaczka and Natalie Londano and freshman Katie Kaczka.

In this year's meet, Shannon placed fourth in the 100 meter breast stroke, Katie placed first in both the 50 meter and 100 meter free style, Lauren placed eighth in the 100 meter and 200 meter free style and Natalie joined the other three girls to help their relay team place fourth in the free

style relay and seventh in the medley relay.

Congratulations girls and thanks to all those people at the High School and the school district who made the girl's participation possible. Let's continue to work on making this an organized and recognized (letterable) sport!

Good luck next year!
Submitted by Wayne Otlowski

Ponytail Softball Association Meeting

The South Plainfield Parent Ponytail Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the South Plainfield Middle School library.

The attendance of all current members is appreciated as the softball season is readily approaching and there is a great deal to accomplish. If you are interested in becoming a member and being involved in Girl's Ponytail Softball, please attend the meeting and join current members on Feb. 27. New members are always welcome.



The South Plainfield Wrestling Team celebrates after winning the Group III title.

Sports

Ed Niemczyk's Youth Basketball League

Over 400 boys and girls, ages 7-14 in four groups, participate in this Recreation Youth Basketball League. Forty-eight teams play every Saturday in the Middle School and PAL building, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Results from February 17 games.

A LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Cavaliers	8-2	Doug Dietzold
Jazz	7-3	Chris Bakazan
76ers	7-4	Nicholas Cesare
Bulls	6-5	Ankit Patel
Nuggets	5-6	Andrew Miller
Knicks	5-6	Danielle Ardnt
Spurs	4-7	Gary Houston
Rockets	1-10	Allen Mazurak
B LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Pistons	11-0	Kyle Lendach
Magic	10-1	Chris Pollin
Nets	9-2	Carlie Kazimir
Cavaliers	9-2	Justin Basilone
Hornets	8-3	Vincent Genova
Jazz	7-4	Erika Blaszak
Lakers	4-7	Nick Gianakis/Matthew Fabino
Knicks	4-7	Lacey Santone
Bulls	3-8	Garrett Lake
Timberwolves	3-8	Tommy Smith
Heat	3-8	Zachary Gray
Celtics	3-8	Andrew Roibal
Raptors	2-9	Mike Piazza
Supersonics	2-9	Joseph DeNitzio
C LEAGUE	RECORD	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER
Lakers	9-2	Vinnie Padula/Frank Alfano
Knicks	8-3	Ashley Sacks
Pistons	8-3	Blaire Houston
Timberwolves	8-3	Chris DeOliveira
Nets	8-3	Tramane Miller
Heat	6-5	Danny Espin
Bulls	6-5	Grey Coppi
Jazz	5-5	Brandon Ulom
Raptors	5-6	Mike Dezmin
Celtics	5-6	David Alston
Magic	5-6	Troy Russell
76ers	2-9	Timmy Yull/Melissa Fisher
Hornets	1-10	Taylor Curtis
Cavaliers	0-10	Andrew Gray
D LEAGUE	TEAM'S HIGH SCORER	
Jazz	Matthew Galinsky	
Nuggets	Gerry Pinto/Ryan Harrington	
Timberwolves	Mark Benak/Matthew Cesare	
Bulls	Kyle Kaczka	
Spurs	Matthew Miceli	
Hornets	Michael Pryor	
Nets	Mark Brindley/Dylan Papa	
Pistons	Kishan Patel	
Heat	Logan Green/Matthew Santos	
Lakers	Iyanosa Ogbevoen	
Magic	Steven Grzenda/Brian Tjong	
Cavaliers	Kenneth Calderon/Mike Pullen/Christian DiCarlo	

SPJBC Accepting Applications For College Scholarship

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for their college scholarship. The applications can be picked up at the guidance department of the South Plainfield High School or by contacting the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a graduating High School student this June, must be a South Plainfield resident and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years.

Please note that the filing deadline is April 1, 2001.

Recreation Plans Trip to See World Champion Yankees Versus Red Sox

The South Plainfield Recreation department is sponsoring a trip to see the World Champion New York Yankees versus the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday, May 23. The bus leaves the PAL at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$45 per person. Register at the PAL Building. Only 45 seats available.

By Tony Cassano



juniorbaseballclubnotes

LITTLE MISS BASEBALL NOMINATIONS—The SPJBC Woman Auxiliary is now accepting names for Little Miss Baseball for the 2001 season. To nominate a girl, please call the SPJBC at 908-754-2090 prompt #2 and leave the girls name, age and home number and someone will get back with you. Or you can call Stacey Lake-President of the Woman Auxiliary @ 908-757-9531 with any further questions you may have.

ALL CANDY SALES DUE NO LATER THEN MARCH 3—This seasons first fund raiser, our annual Easter/Passover Candy sale is ongoing. All candy sales are due back by no later then Saturday March 3. Candy sales can be returned during tryouts at the PAL. Please contact the club for further details at 908-754-2090 or Stacey Lake at 908-757-9531.

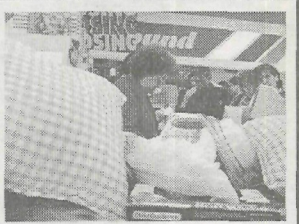
IN NEED OF SIGN SPONSORS FOR ALL FIELDS—Our Sign Sponsor Committee, headed by Guy Moretti and Charlie Decker (both of Century 21-Moretti Realty) is currently contacting our local business community and any other interested parties regarding sponsoring a sign for the 2001 season. All signs (4 by 8 ft) are handed painted with the customers company logo and all pertinent info. It's a great way to advertise and lend support to the SPJBC. Costs are \$300 for one year and \$400 for two years. Renewals are less once the sign is painted. For further details call Guy or Charlie at 908-755-5300 or the SPJBC at 908-754-2090.

RUTGERS COACHES CERTIFICATION CLASS SET FOR MONDAY FEB 26 at 6:45 PM—In an effort to have all Managers and Co-Managers become certified through the Rutgers Certification course, the SPJBC has scheduled a class for Monday Feb. 26 at 6:45 at the Clubhouse. The cost per coach is \$30. Coaches that have been selected to manage or co-manage this year will be notified by the respective league directors regarding the class. Mike English-Recreation Director will be the instructor. Snacks and refreshments will be provided by the SPJBC. The class will last three hours. If you are certified and our records are incorrect, please provide your Rutgers Card so we can update.

SPJBC TRYOUTS SET FOR SATURDAY MARCH 3 at THE PAL—Just a quick note to mark your calendars for Tryouts on the 1st Saturday in March at the PAL. Each registered player in Small Fry A, B, and C League will be notified regarding the time of tryouts. Times will range from 8:30 a.m. to roughly 3 p.m. Woman's Auxiliary will be selling clothes at tryouts.



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South Plainfield Observer
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General Admission ~ \$ 8.00
GOLDEN RINGSIDE \$ 75.00
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at **Café Piancone Restaurant**
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For Tickets or Reservations Call
(908) 226-7662 or (908) 561-0649

Tickets can be purchased at Sal's Spirit Shoppe on Park Ave., Durham Deli on South Plainfield Ave., at the Observer office on Hamilton Blvd. and at the PAL Building on Maple Ave.

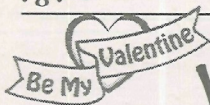
Send a check or money order for \$25/one year (out-of-town-\$30) payable to: South Plainfield Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Or order your subscription via email at nancyg@spobserver.com and send your check to the above address.

Please send me home delivery of the Observer.

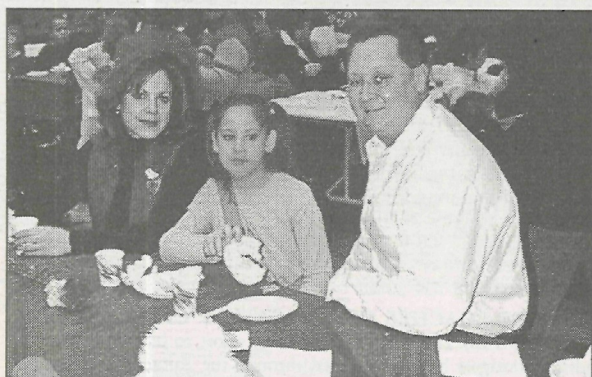
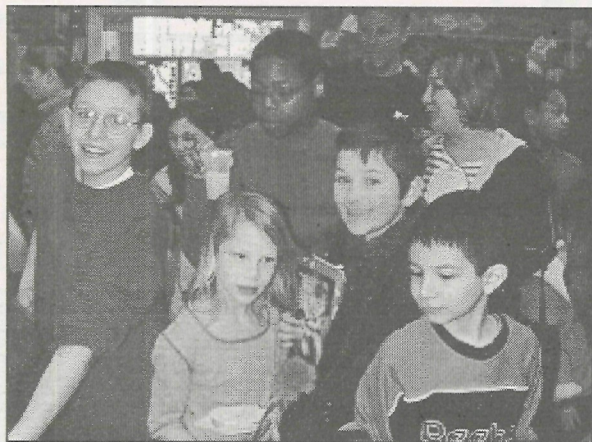
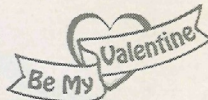
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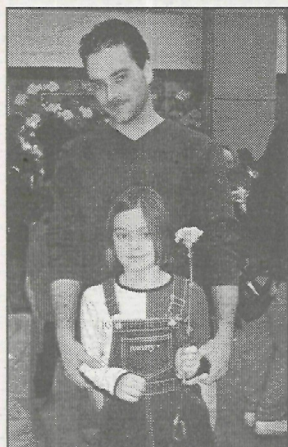
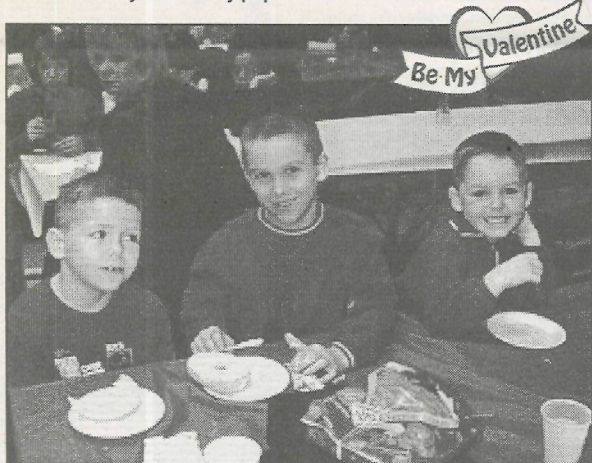
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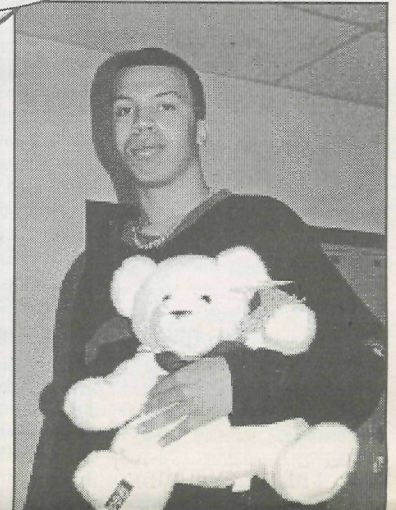
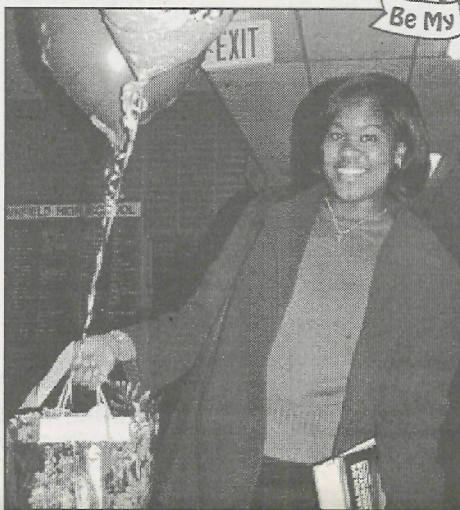
Valentine's Day in South Plainfield



"Bring Your Loved One to Breakfast" at Roosevelt
Roosevelt School celebrated Valentine's Day by holding their Annual "Bring Your Loved One to Breakfast." The cafeteria was packed all morning with parents, students and teachers. They enjoyed breakfast and some even purchased a flower for their loved one. Red was the color of the day at this very popular event.



SPHS Chorus Delivers Their Valentines Cards in Song



Photos by Patricia Abbott

SPHS chorus students used their vocal talents to spread some smiles and heartfelt wishes around the High School on Valentine's Day. They serenaded fellow students and staff members as part of a fundraiser.

More than two dozen chorus members worked with choral director Tracy Murray for two weeks, rehearsing songs chosen for the event. Notices were distributed throughout the school about the unique Valentine opportunity.

Approximately 33 people each paid \$3 to have someone special serenaded with a song and a card or candy. The students split into two groups, each with a tape player and worked their way around the school during periods 9 and 10.

Teachers and students alike either grinned with pleasure, or grimaced with embarrassment, when the musical cupids arrived and announced the recipient. A student who was working in the library received his song in the hall. Mrs. Flannery shared her vocal Valentine with someone over the phone. The guidance office received several songs as well. The last stop of the day for one group was the main office where Principal Tony Massaro received a vocal Valentine of "Unforgettable."

Signs of the holiday were visible throughout the school. Red, definitely the predominate color, could be seen in the hallways as students changed classes. Many carried red balloons, Teddy bears and lots of red lollipops and candy kisses were spotted. Even the lockers sported hearts in celebration of Valentine's Day 2001.

AVISO PARA ELECTORES EN EL SERVICIO MILITAR, SUS PARIENTES Y AMIGOS

Si usted se encuentra en el servicio militar; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de alguien en el servicio; es paciente en un hospital para veteranos; es un civil adjunto a, ó sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos, fuera del Estado de Nueva Jersey; es esposo(a) ó dependiente de un civil adjunto a, ó que sirve con, las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos. Si usted tiene estas características y desea votar, ó es un familiar ó amigo de alguien que las tenga y que usted crea que quiera votar, en la Elección Especial Escolar de South Plainfield de April 17 de 2001. Escriba a la dirección de abajo para solicitar la papeleta del servicio militar, para votar en dicha elección. Si usted esta en el servicio incluya su nombre, edad, número de serie, dirección residencial y la dirección de su base ó donde se le pueda localizar. Si desea la papeleta para un pariente ó amigo, haga la petición bajo juramento, declarando que la persona es mayor de dieciocho años, su nombre, su número de serie si esta en el servicio militar, dirección residencial y dirección de su base ó de donde pueda ser localizado.

Electores del servicio militar pueden solicitar la papeleta de voto militar enviando una solicitud federal en forma de tarjeta postal al Secretario del Condado.

En la solicitud para la papeleta del servicio militar, electores del servicio militar pueden requerir que una papeleta del servicio militar les sea enviada para las demás elecciones que se lleven a cabo este año.

(NOTA: EL ELECTOR MILITAR QUE DECLARE SU ESTACION MILITAR COMO DOMICILIO PARA VOTAR NO PUEDE USAR LA PAPELETA DE MILITAR AUSENTE A MENOS QUE ESTE REGISTRADO PARA VOTAR EN EL MUNICIPIO DONDE DICHA ESTACION ESTA LOCALIZADA.)

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 23 del 2001

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. BOX 110
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903

\$130.00

1T 2/23/01

NOTICE TO MILITARY SERVICE VOTERS AND TO THEIR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

If you are in the military service, or the spouse or dependent of a person in military service or a patient in a veterans' hospital or a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States without the State of New Jersey, or the spouse and dependent of and accompanying or residing with a civilian attached to or serving with the Armed Forces of the United States, and desire to vote, or if you are a relative or friend of any such person who, you believe, will desire to vote in the Special School Election in South Plainfield to be held on April 17, 2001, kindly write to the undersigned at once making application for a military service ballot to be voted in said election to be forwarded to you, stating your name, age, serial number if you are in military service, home address and the address at which you are stationed or can be found, or if you desire the military service ballot for a relative or friend then make application under oath for a military service ballot to be forwarded to him, stating in your application that he is over the age of 18 years and stating his name, serial number if he is in military service, home address and the address at which he is stationed or can be found. Military service voters may also apply for a military service ballot by sending a federal postcard application form to the undersigned.

On the application for a military service ballot, military service voters may request that a military service ballot be sent for all subsequent elections held during this calendar year.

(NOTE: MILITARY SERVICE VOTER CLAIMING MILITARY STATION AS HOME ADDRESS FOR VOTING PURPOSES MAY NOT USE MILITARY ABSENTEE BALLOT UNLESS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY WHERE SUCH STATION IS LOCATED.)

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

DATE: February 23, 2001

ELAINE M. FLYNN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
P.O. BOX 110
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903

\$130.00

1T-2/23/01

AIDA SANTOS

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
BRANCH MANAGER



Durham Ave. & Hamilton Blvd
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

(908) 757-5868
Fax (908) 757-0494

Classifieds

To place an ad call
By 5 p.m. on Monday, 908-668-0010.

Rates -- 3 line minimum-\$11, \$1 ea. additional line.

HELP WANTED

TECHNICIAN—OPENING FOR A Lab Technician/chemist, having experience in synthesis and characterization of chemicals/dyes or formulating inks. Send resume to JP Labs, 120 Wood Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846.

HELP WANTED/Part Time

DEPENDABLE P/T FILE CLERK. Various office duties. Will train. Great job for high school student or mom. Call 908-756-6218.

HELP WANTED

ROSEDALE TRANSPORT, INC. has openings for OTR drivers to run out of Middlesex County. Great benefit package to include Hospital Ins., Life Ins., 401K, Perdiem, Paid Holidays, late model conventional. No Sat-Com. Must have past 23rd birthday, have CDL class A w/Hazmat, clean MVR, good work history, 1 year experience. Call 1-800-486-3681 EOE.

PHOTOS FOR SALE

COLOR COPIES OF OBSERVER PHOTOS for sale. Call Pattie, 756-8011 or 668-0010.

HELP WANTED

OPENING IN MUNICIPAL COURT FOR DOCKET CLERK FULL TIME

Seeking ambitious, bright, self-starter for data entry, phone & general clerical. Good office, computer and people skills required. ATS/ACS experience a plus. Very busy office. Spanish speaking a plus.

Hours: 9 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday
Evening court session every Wednesday
Salary \$19,643. + benefits
Preference given to South Plainfield residents.
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908-226-7656
Applications available at Municipal Court office

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SO. PLFD. HOME WANTED— Qualified buyer looking topurchase house w/updated siding, roof, kit & bath. Move in cond. Call 549-6526.

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PERSONAL

TO MY SECRET ADMIRER; Thanks for the Valentine! I think I know who you are?-- From the man who wears glasses and has a mustache!

TO ALL THE MIKE'S WHO SAID they sent in the valentine signed Mike, which ran in the Observer....*SHAME ON YOU!!!*

OFFICE/HOME CLEANING

LET ME DO YOUR DIRTY WORK— 5 years exp. in SP area. Weekly, Bi-weekly, or one time only welcomed. Ref. avail. (908) 875-8969-leave message.



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CALL BY MONDAY, 5 P.M. TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD 908-668-0010.

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police report

- On Saturday, a Clarke Ave. resident reported that her car had been keyed.
- A Kenyon Ave. resident reported that her son removed her vehicle without her permission. The vehicle was found later and had been involved in an accident on Rt. 78 in Hillside.
- Quick Chek on Durham Ave. reported that some copper electrical wire had been cut from the electrical box and taken. A temporary door that had been set up, appeared to have been moved. The only suspects were two men who were hired temporarily on Feb. 13 and never returned after that day.
- A Jacobus St. resident reported that his friend's vehicle had been broken into while parked in his driveway overnight on Saturday. The driverside window was smashed and stereo equipment was missing from the back.
- At the Mobil station on Stelton Rd. an employee reported that two men in a Toyota Camry had left without paying for their gas.
- On Friday, a Plainfield resident who worked at Innovative Carton reported that her passenger side window was broken and a stereo, \$20 and loose change had been stolen.
- An Oakmoor Ave. resident reported that a Honda ATV had

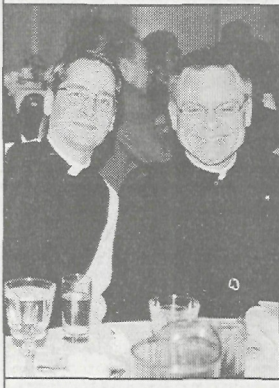
- been stolen from his shed between Feb. 11 and Feb. 20.
- A FlexPac employee reported that the front door of the building had been broken into. An attempt had been made to pick the lock and then a pry tool was used. There was no evidence of anything being taken.
- On Wednesday, a South 11th St. resident reported that some cash and a gold and diamond ring had been taken from her home. The suspects were renting a spare room and they had filed a report on Feb. 10 against the homeowners, stating that they had items missing from their rented space.
- On Feb. 10, Krauszers on Oak Tree Rd. was burglarized. The side door was pried open, alarm wires cut and video cameras were pulled down or were missing. There was only \$300 cash removed. However a large quantity of name brand cigarette cartons were stolen. The police are reviewing video tapes from neighboring businesses trying to locate the robbers.
- An Elizabeth man, who is employed by Teleplan on Coolidge Ave., reported that his vehicle had been broken into. The passenger side window was smashed and his laptop, gym bag and stereo were removed.
- On Thursday, an Oxford Ave. woman complained of harassing phone calls on her cell phone.
- A Clark Lane resident reported that during the day his rear sliding glass door had been pried open. \$2,200 in cash, birth certificates and motor vehicle papers were taken from a fire proof box in the master bedroom closet.
- K-Mart reported that a man had tried to exit the store with a stereo system and VCR without paying for them. The suspect fled the store when he was asked to show his receipt.
- A High School student reported that his car, while parked in the school parking lot, had been scratched and the emblems pulled off.

Filipino-American Asso. Holds Valentine Ball

On Saturday, Feb. 10 the Filipino-American Association of Sacred Heart Church held their Third Annual Dinner-Dance at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. The affair was a sell-out with 320 attending, in other words a packed house.

The evening was a huge success with many going home with door prizes. The event is held as a fundraiser for Sacred Heart School. Everyone is looking forward to returning to next year's dance.

Roland Ventura was the chairman of the dance committee. Serving on the committee were Sister M. Cornelia Ramirez, Sister Josie Tanudtanud, Sister M. Mansueto Dolalas and Nina Ventura



Keep Pets Safe in Cold Weather

The safety of your pets should be considered during cold winter months right along with that of the family. It is best to keep pets indoors during the winter months. Outdoor pets should have an enclosed raised shelter. They require extra calories to keep warm. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside.

Snow and salt should be removed from your pets paws immediately. Frostbitten skin is red or gray and may slough. Contact your vet as soon as possible for further care. Snow removal products should be stored out of the reach of pets and small children as their toxicity varies considerably. Antifreeze and windshield washer fluid deserve special mention because even a very small amount can be rapidly fatal to pets. Keep them in a safe place away from your pets.

Puppies do not tolerate the cold as well as adult dogs and may be difficult to housebreak during the winter. If necessary, paper train your puppy inside if he appears to be sensitive to the weather. If your dog is sensitive to the cold due to age, illness or breed type, take him outdoors only long enough to relieve himself.

Never leave your dog or cat

alone in a car during cold weather. A car can act as a refrigerator in the winter, holding in the cold. Your companion animal could freeze to death.

We're Looking For SP History

This year is the 75th Anniversary of South Plainfield. We want to celebrate South Plainfield's heritage by brining back some of the old timers to tell us what it was like living here for the past 75 year.

The Observer is looking for residents who would like to share their experiences of the early days of South Plainfield with our readers, including photos. We are also looking for the early beginnings of the many volunteer organizations. We need your help in this project.

Get in touch with us at 668-0010, FAX 668-8819 or email us at GGNAN@aol.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Rodolfo Reyes requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit to erect 24.4' x 6' rear addition. Proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback, 6' being proposed and exceeds lot coverage by 44.3 sq. ft. or 0.8% and any other such variances that may be necessary, said property being located on Block 167 Lot 28 on the South Plainfield Tax Map.

For the purposes of hearing objections to or protests against the granting of said appeal, the South Plainfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on March 20, 2001 in the Council Chambers, Borough Hall, at 8:00 p.m.

The maps and documents pertaining to this appeal are available for public inspection in the Building Inspector's Office, South Plainfield Borough Hall, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

\$35.00 1T February 23, 2001

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD

February 13, 2001

Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Planning Board at its meeting held on February 13, 2001.

A. Case #00-05N—Fourth M.P.P.L. Realty Co.—Block 362; Lot 6.01, R-10 Zone.—Applicant's request for final subdivision approval was hereby GRANTED.

B. Case #00-10—lack Giarretta—Block 404; Lot 9; R-10 Zone.—Applicant's request for final approval of a minor subdivision was hereby GRANTED.

Janice J. Muccilli
Recording Secretary Planning Board

\$15.00 1T February 23, 2001

Because We Care



by Robert Hunter

MAKING PROMISES

In the face of illness, we may make promises to God in a final effort to gain some control over life. When King David's son became ill, "David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground..." (2Samuel 12:16-17). But then the child died, and David went back to his normal life. He explained, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought, 'Who knows? The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live.' But now that he is dead, why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me" (2Samuel 12:22-23).

We are all susceptible to the urge to barter with fate or a higher power for his safety or recovery of our loved ones. Knowing that we have done all that we thought best, or were able to do, is necessary in accepting our loss should our efforts be unsuccessful. The staff at the JAMES W. CONROY FUNERAL HOME understand the powerful emotions that follow in death's wake, and have been offering families caring and supportive assistance for over 50 years. To schedule a consultation at our facilities, located in South Plainfield at 2456 Plainfield Avenue, call 756-2800.

"I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a token for a covenant between me and the earth."
-Bible: Genesis 9:13

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Three Men Arrested For Armed Robbery

On Friday, Feb. 16, at 11:28 p.m., an armed robbery occurred outside a house on 116 Fairmount Ave., South Plainfield.

Three men; a 20-year-old South Plainfield resident, a 19-year-old Plainfield resident and a 17-year-old juvenile Tinton Falls resident, were robbed at gunpoint outside the Fairmount Ave. home after they left a party at that location.

The three men were approached by three adult males. One suspect, Robert Lee Turner, 19, of Plainfield, pulled out a loaded .22 caliber revolver and put it to the head of one of the victims, threatening to pull the trigger and demanding money. The other suspects stood by the victims, threatening them as the gunman pointed his weapon at those victims also. The two accomplices, Duane Dudley, 20, of Plainfield and Richard Timmons, 18, of Edison, fled into the Fairmount home along with the gunman. The gunman removed his coat containing the gun and went into the house. He then gave another suspect, Quaran Schenck, 19, of Plainfield, the money from the robbery and told him to hold it.

Sgt. Arancio, Officers McConville, Cassio, Mahoney, Diana, Hoppe and P. Campagna responded to the residence and secured those inside of the house. Once inside, the officers observed evidence of narcotic use. They detained the suspects after determining that they matched the descriptions of those responsible for the robbery. Upon further investigation, the four suspects were arrested for the robbery and possession of the stolen property. The gunman's coat was recovered, found with a loaded .22 caliber revolver from inside the house.

The officers also arrested Justin S. Adametz, an 18 year old Edison resident, for possession of marijuana and possession with the intention to distribute marijuana after finding baggies of the drug in his pockets while continuing their investigation.

Seven juveniles were taken into custody after the officers observed the use and presence of alcohol at the house, along with evidence of drug use. They were later released to their parents.

The homeowner's son, Jassie S. Farag, 20, was arrested at the residence and charged with providing alcohol to juveniles and other underaged persons.

Robert L. Turner was charged with robbery, possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and possession of hollow point bullets. Bail was set at \$35,000, with no 10% option, and was held at the county jail.

Duane Dudley was charged with robbery, with a bail of \$25,000, with no 10% option, and was held at the county jail.

Quaran Schenck was charged with possession of stolen property and the stolen money, with a bail of \$25,000, with no 10% option, and was held at the county jail.

Justin Adametz was charged with possession of marijuana and possession with the intent to distribute. His bail was set at \$10,000, with no 10% option and was held at the county jail.

Jassie Farag was charged with providing alcohol to minors and was released on a summons.

NOTICE TO PERSONS DESIRING CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS

If you are a qualified and registered voter of the State who expects to be absent outside the State on April 17, 2001 or a qualified and registered voter who will be within the State on April 17, 2001, but because of permanent and total disability, or because of illness or temporary physical disability, or because of the observance of a religious holiday pursuant to the tenets of your religion, or because of resident attendance at a school, college, or university, or because of the nature and hours of employment, will be unable to cast your ballot at the polling place in your district on said date, and you desire to vote in the School Election to be held on April 17, 2001, kindly complete the application form below and send to the undersigned, or write or apply in person to the undersigned at once requesting that a civilian absentee ballot be forwarded to you. Such request must state your home address, and the address to which said ballot should be sent, and must be signed with your signature, and state the reason why you will not be able to vote at your usual polling place. No civilian absentee ballot will be furnished or forwarded to any applicant unless request therefor is received not less than 7 days prior to the election, and contains the foregoing information.

VOTERS WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED SHALL, AFTER THEIR INITIAL REQUEST AND WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION ON THEIR PART BE FORWARDED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION BY THE COUNTY CLERK FOR ALL FUTURE ELECTIONS IN WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE. APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED BY APPLYING TO THE UNDERSIGNED EITHER IN WRITING OR BY TELEPHONE, OR THE APPLICATION FORM PROVIDED BELOW MAY BE COMPLETED AND FORWARDED TO THE UNDERSIGNED.

Forms of application other than federal postcard application forms can be obtained from the undersigned.

DATE: February 23, 2001 ELAINE M. FLYNN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING P.O. Box 1110 NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903 (732) 745-4463 TDD (732) 246-5552

A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT OR TO BE ASSISTED AT THE POLLS BY TWO ELECTION CLERKS, ONE FROM EACH PARTY, OR BY A PERSON CHOSEN BY THE VOTER OTHER THAN THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER, OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. VOTING LOCATIONS MUST BE ACCESSIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING WITH PROPER SIGNAGE MUST BE PROVIDED. DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED VOTERS CAN ACCESS THE FOLLOWING TDD NUMBER: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCTIONS PRINTED IN LARGE TYPE MUST BE CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AT EACH PERMANENT REGISTRATION FACILITY AND POLLING PLACE. VIOLATIONS OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS: (732) 745-3471.

Marque aqui si usted quiere materiales electorales en Español. CIVILIAN ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION You must apply for an Absentee Ballot for each Election. I hereby apply for an absentee ballot for the (Check One) Primary General Municipal Special Local School Regional School Voc. Tech. School Other To be held on SPECIFY DATE

I live in the City Town Township Borough Village of My legal residence address including Street Number and/or R.D. Number and Box Number is as follows: STREET ADDRESS MUNICIPALITY ZIP CODE PHONE Mail my ballot to the following address: STREET ADDRESS MUNICIPALITY STATE ZIP CODE

CHECK REASON FOR BALLOT I am unable to vote at my regular polling place on election day because: I expect to be absent from the State of New Jersey on election day. Of illness or temporary physical disability. I am permanently and totally disabled. I am permanently and totally disabled and wish to receive an absentee ballot for all elections to be held during the remainder of the calendar year. Observance of a religious holiday on election day. Resident attendance at a school, college or university on election day. Of nature and hours of my employment on election day. Under penalty of Law, I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true and correct.

SIGN YOUR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN REGISTRY BOOK PRINT OR TYPE YOUR NAME If sick or confined a voter may apply for an absentee ballot by authorized messenger. I designate authorized messenger (NAME OF MESSENGER) to be my (SIGNATURE OF VOTER) Authorized messenger must sign application only in presence of County Clerk or County Clerk designee. (SIGNATURE OF MESSENGER) STREET ADDRESS MUNICIPALITY ZIP CODE VOTER NUMBER PARTY WARD DISTRICT

Form with fields for name, address, voter number, party, ward, district, and messenger information.

AVISO PARA LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEEN PAPELETAS DE CIVIL AUSENTE

Si usted es un elector del Estado calificado y registrado, pero espera estar ausente del mismo en Abril 17 del 2001, o va a estar en el Estado en Abril 17 del 2001, pero no va a poder ir a votar a su lugar de votación debido a las siguientes razones: incapacidad permanente o temporaria; por enfermedad o incapacidad física temporaria; por causas religiosas; por asistir a la escuela, colegio o universidad; o por horario o tipo de trabajo. Si usted desea votar en la Elección Escolar en Abril 17 del 2001, por favor llene la solicitud de abajo y envíela a la dirección indicada; o escriba, o solicite personalmente en la dirección de abajo, para que le envíen una papeleta por correo. Su solicitud debe incluir; su dirección residencial y la dirección a la cual se le enviara la papeleta; su firma y la razón por la cual no podrá votar en su lugar de votación. No se le enviara, o proveera papeletas de civil ausente a nadie a menos que la solicitud sea recibida por lo menos 7 días antes de la elección y contenga la información requerida.

ELECTORES QUE SON PERMANENTEMENTE Y TOTALMENTE INCAPACITADOS DEBEN, AUTOMATICAMENTE DESPUES DE SU SOLICITUD INICIAL, RECIBIR UNA PAPELETA DE ELECTOR AUSENTE DEL SECRETARIO DEL CONDADO PARA TODAS LAS FUTURAS ELECCIONES EN LAS CUALES SEAN ELEGIBLES. SOLICITUDES PUEDEN SER OBTENIDAS ESCRIBIENDO O LLAMANDO AL MENCIONADO, O PUEDE ENVIAR LA SOLICITUD INCLUIDA ABAJO AL MISMO.

Las solicitudes, excepto la solicitud postal federal, pueden ser obtenidas en la siguiente dirección:

FECHA: Febrero 23 Del 2001 ELAINE M. FLYNN MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLERK COUNTY COURT HOUSE P.O. Box 1110 NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08903 (732) 745-4463

UNA PERSONA INCAPACITADA TIENE EL DERECHO A VOTAR CON PAPELETA DE AUSENTE O A SER ASISTIDA EN LAS URNAS POR DOS OFICIALES DE ELECCIONES, UNO DE CADA PARTIDO, O POR UNA PERSONA ELEGIDA POR EL VOTANTE QUE NO SEA SU JEFE, O EL AGENTE DE ESE JEFE, U OFICIAL O AGENTE DE SU UNION. LUGARES DE VOTACION; DEBEN SER ACCESIBLES Y ESTACIONAMIENTO ACCESIBLE CON SEÑALES APROPIADAS DEBE SER PROVEIDO. VOTANTES CON SORDERA O POCA AUDICION PUEDEN CONTACTAR EL SIGUIENTE NUMERO TDD: (732) 937-8364. INSTRUCCIONES IMPRESAS EN LETRA GRANDE DEBERAN SER CLARAMENTE EXHIBIDAS EN CADA LUGAR PERMANENTE DE REGISTRACION O VOTACION. VIOLACIONES A LO DE ARRIBA DEBERAN SER REFERIDAS A LA JUNTA DE ELECCIONES DEL CONDADO DE MIDDLESEX: (732) 745-3471.

SOLICITUD DE VOTO DE ELECTOR CIVIL AUSENTE Usted debe solicitar un voto de ausente para cada elección. Por el presente solicito un voto de ausente para la elección (indique una) Primaria General Municipal Especial Escolar Regional Técnica De artes y oficios Local Regional Técnica De artes y oficios

Otra que se realizará el ESPECIFIQUE FECHA

LLENE LAS CASILLAS Y ESPACIOS EN BLANCO Vivo en la ciudad el pueblo el municipio el barrio la aldea de Mi residencia legal, incluyendo el número de la calle, el de la ruta o ambos y el apartado, es la siguiente:

DIRECCION DE LA CALLE MUNICIPIO ZONA POSTAL TELEFONO Envien mi voto a la siguiente dirección: DIRECCION DE LA CALLE MUNICIPIO ESTADO ZONA POSTAL

INDIQUE LA RAZON DEL VOTO El día de elecciones no podrá votar en mi urna regular debido a que: Espero encontrarme ausente del estado de Nueva Jersey el día de la elección (FECHA DE LA PARTIDA)

Una enfermedad o incapacidad física, incluyendo la ceguera y el embarazo, me impedirán votar en mi urna el día de la elección. Sufro de invalidez permanente y total. Exprese la razón El día de la elección deberé observar un feriado religioso. El día de la elección estaré asistiendo como residente a una escuela, escuela superior o universidad. La naturaleza de mi trabajo y mi horario, el día de la elección. So pena de incurrir en las sanciones legales, certifico que las anteriores manifestaciones hechas por mí son veraces y correctas.

FIRME CON SU NOMBRE COMO APARECE EN EL LIBRO DEL REGISTRO ESCRIBA SU NOMBRE EN LETRA DE MOLDE O MECANOGRAFIA

Si el votante se encuentra enfermo o recluso, puede solicitar un voto de ausente por intermedio de un mensajero autorizado. Nombre a mi mensajero autorizado. (NOMBRE DEL MENSAJERO) (FIRMA DEL VOTANTE)

El mensajero autorizado debe firmar las solicitudes únicamente ante el Secretario del Condado o su delegado. (FIRMA DEL MENSAJERO) (DIRECCION DE LA CALLE) MUNICIPIO ZONA POSTAL

USO DE OFICINA SOLAMENTE VOTER NUMBER PARTY WARD DISTRICT APPROVED DISAPPROVED REMARKS \$325.50 1T-2/23/01

South Plainfield Hosts Cheerleading Competition

By Patricia Abbott

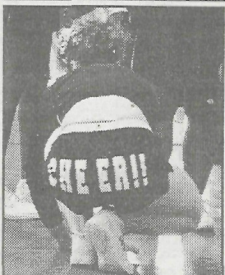
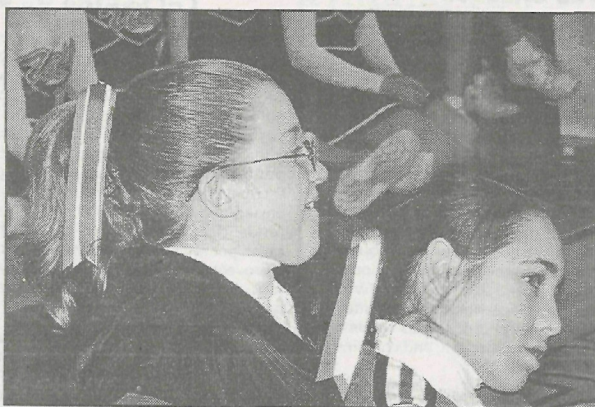
The South Plainfield High School Competition Cheerleading Team recently hosted the South Plainfield Tigers Invitational Cheer/Dance Championship. A total of 14 teams participated in the day long event, which began with junior high school students in the morning. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by Kristyn Ciariariello.

The South Plainfield Middle School cheerleaders started the event off with an exhibition. Music was provided by DJ Tommy Doyon, a Senior at SPSHS.

The hallway outside the gym was filled with cheerleading-related items for sale, from sportswear to jewelry. Cheer, flower and candy grams were available as well. The SP Booster Club fed the hungry participants and the audience, offering breakfast, lunch and snacks.

Awards for the younger students were presented just before lunch. First place went to the Long Valley Middle School in the Middle School Category. In the All Stars Category, first place went to Central Jersey All Stars for Youth, Jr. Prep and Sr. Prep.

High school teams began after an exhibition by SPSHS cheerleaders. Awards were presented at the end of the day. JF Kennedy High School took first place in Small Varsity. In Large Varsity, Toms River North High School, Queen of Peace High School and Mater Dei High School took first, second and third place, respectively. Lacey Township High School took First Place in the Co-Ed division. St. Dominic's High School was the only entry in the Dance category and went home with First Place.



Cheerleading Team Heading To Florida

By Patricia Abbott

The South Plainfield Competition Cheerleading Team is headed for Florida to compete in the National Competition. The road to the Nationals is a long one filled with hours of daily practice. The dedicated SP team and coaches proved they were up to the challenge. To qualify for the honor they must do well in local competitions. This year's first competition was in the National Qualifier in Freehold. The event was hosted by World Cup. They placed second, beating Lacey Township, Colonia and Franklin. On Jan. 28, they competed at Jackson Memorial High School placing first. This time they won over Lacey Township, Colonia, Franklin and Passaic High Schools. On Feb. 3 they took second place at a competition held at Bishop Ahr in Edison.

The team leaves for Florida on Feb. 22. The teams they face in the Nationals are tough. They will be competing against schools from Florida, Georgia, Texas and Louisiana. Cheerleading is more than just a sport in these southern states. Coach Leanne Roudi summed up her wishes and hopes for the trip, "All I want for my team is to go there and do the best they possibly can. They are a very hard working team. I am honored that my team has qualified to compete with the best. Hey, you never know, we could come home National Champs. I couldn't ask for a better team to win it. I am extremely proud of them."

They are scheduled to compete on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. at the Wide World of Sports Arena at Disney. The event can be seen on EPSN. It is not a live broadcast and the team will not know until Saturday evening when their segment will air. No matter how they place they will be champions to family and friends in South Plainfield. We all wish the team the best of luck!

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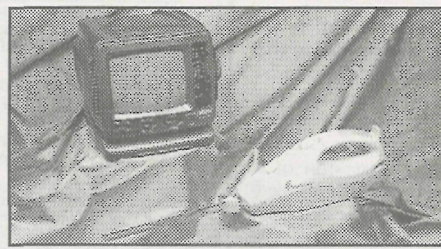
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