

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

MARCH 12, 2004



Freshmen Win GMC Tournament

The SPHS freshmen basketball team, coached by Al Czech, and assisted by Jack Brandy and Ken Luckey, won the Freshmen GMC Tournament by defeating Sayreville 51-48. This is the first South Plainfield freshmen team to win this tournament. The team's overall record was 19-3. Team members are (sitting) Danny McCreesh and Opie Muse; (second row standing) Jared Czech (team manager), Chris Pollin, Mike Stallone, Dondray Hardin, Al-Farad Inzar, Ryan Curtis; (third row) Matt Fabino, Chris Stallone and (fourth row) Erick Gonzalez, Tony Cassano, Danny Hubner and Brian Wieckowski.

Next Up at Monument Park: Cobra Helicopter

During the past year significant progress has been made at South Plainfield's Monument Park, which is dedicated to the military veterans from South Plainfield who served in a theatre of operations during a time of conflict, as well as police officers and rescue squad members who served our community.

The town clock has been installed, most of the concrete footings have been poured and the monuments have been updated, moved and/or constructed. The flagpoles are in place and we hope to have the Cobra helicopter delivered in April. Even though the severe winter months hampered some of our efforts to move toward completion of the project, we continued to work diligently behind the scenes. So we are pleased to report that the project continues to move forward.

We are targeting Memorial Day weekend for the dedication ceremony

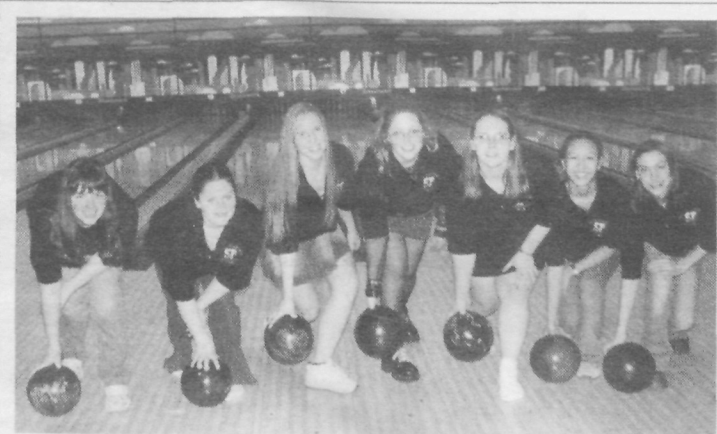
and we are still accepting donations.

The park benches are sold out and are no longer available.

People who donate \$500 or more can have their names permanently inscribed on the base of the clock and will receive either a miniature desktop replica of the clock or a miniature flat-bed truck delivering the clock. Please note that donors who wish to have their names inscribed on the actual clock base must submit donations no later than March 31, as ample time is needed to order the plaques and have them in place for the dedication ceremony.

People who want to donate a minimum of \$150 but less than \$500 will receive a miniature desktop replica of the actual clock.

If you would like to make a donation or have any questions regarding this project, please contact Police Chief Robert Merkler at (908) 226-7676.



Competing in the NJSIAA all-groups state championship, the Lady Tigers Bowling Team placed ninth out of the 15 teams that qualified statewide from a starting field of 203 eligible teams. Pictured from left to right are Lindsay Hunsicker, Kim Gaub, Beverly Jamieson, Shannen Rivers, Vicki Boley, Angelique Rualo and Rebecca Dacchille.

Dream Season Comes to an End

By Greg Machos

It was just by a matter of inches that the SPHS Boys Basketball team's dream season came to an end. Darren Smith's three point attempt was on the mark, but counted as two when officials saw his foot was on the line.

As a result, Raritan, which defeated a talented Scotch Plains team, 78-59 in the North Jersey Section 2 Group III Semifinal, didn't inbound the ball, and wound up winning the Championship game of the North Jersey Section 2 Group III State Tournament, 53-52 before a packed house at Plainfield High School Tuesday night.

South Plainfield, which ended the season at 27-1, the best record in school history, had problems trying to solve Raritan's 1-3-1 zone defense, and didn't have an answer for the Rockets 6'6" junior forward, Qarraan Calhoun, who had 27 points and 13 rebounds along with 3 blocks.

Calhoun had 15 of those points in the first half after South Plainfield's Ian Robinson picked up his second foul of the game with 5:43 to go in the first quarter.

Marquis Jones led the way for the Tigers as he played valiantly with 16 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, 3 steals and a charge. He also fought foul trouble late in the game, and had to contain Calhoun in the first half while Robinson was on the bench. Darren Smith scored 10 points while getting three steals, a rebound and an assist. Corey Gilmore had 9 points, 5 steals, 3 rebounds, 3 assists and a charge while Robinson ended up with 8 points, 7 rebounds and a blocked shot.

Shawn Brown, who sank a clutch three pointer late in the game to keep the Tigers close, ended up with 7 points on the night along with 2 rebounds and an assist. Jonathan Buggy rounded out the scoring with 2 points, and a steal while

Jawaad Caldwell ended up with four rebounds. South Plainfield, which lived off turnovers and free throws all year had a difficult time getting those extra opportunities. Raritan only had 18 turnovers for the game, while the Tigers only went 6 of 8 at the foul line.

Add to that, Raritan's superior 36 to 25 rebounding advantage, and you had a recipe for an upset. But, take nothing away from Raritan, they were ranked 13th in the state according to the *Star-Ledger*, and have a knack for knocking off teams from the ranks of the unbeaten. In January, they defeated an undefeated Neptune team. Add to that a quality win over a Scotch Plains team that boasts one of the most talented sophomore's in the country in Derrick Character, and a front line that includes a 6'5" sophomore Lance Thomas, and you realize that Raritan's win was no accident.

South Plainfield managed to get into a sectional final for the first time in 13 years by defeating Snyder of Jersey City in the quarterfinal round by a 67-43 score. Snyder had defeated the defending Group III State Champion

(Continued on page 10)



Buzzed for Books! Al Czech, Kennedy Elementary School principal, challenged his student body to read 20,000 books this year. They exceeded the challenge, and the students had the opportunity to watch Czech lose his locks. For more coverage on *Read Across America* in local schools, see page 7.

Police Thwart Suicide Attempt

On the evening of March 3, South Plainfield Police were called to a home on Harrison Ave. with a report of a man threatening to commit suicide. When the officers arrived, they found a 50-year-old man in the basement, holding a loaded rifle to his throat and threatening to shoot himself. The individual, who lives with his parents, had written a suicide note and left it in the house. His parents found the note and immediately notified police.

South Plainfield Police Officer Wayne Diana established a dialogue with the man and found that the suicide victim was under the influence of alcohol and narcotics and was suffering from depression. Officer Diana was able to speak to the armed individual from an adjacent room and

to convince him to surrender a knife he had also been holding. After two hours of conversation, Officer Diana finally convinced him to surrender his rifle. He was taken into custody without further incident and transported to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick for evaluation.

Sgt. Peter Arancio and Officer John Petriello assisted in the negotiations. Officer Mark Bullock provided tactical support. Police recovered the rifle, a .35 caliber Marlin brand lever action weapon. A further search of the house yielded six hunting knives, one sword and two hunting bows.

Weapons charges are pending further investigation. Two residences on either side of the house were evacuated for a short time.

RESIDENTS BEWARE:

Report Suspicious Incidents to Police

Police are alerting residents to be aware of the following burglary attempt, and to immediately notify police if similar incidences occur.

Last week a Maple Ave. resident reported a suspicious incident. A white female, 30-40 years old with black hair, came to the back door of her home around noon and introduced herself as Christina. The suspect asked her for a bag of candy for a neighbor on an adjacent street. The 78-year-old homeowner spoke to the woman for several minutes before a second white female, 60-65 years old wearing all black, approached her and eventually entered her kitchen.

When they were in the kitchen, one woman held up a piece of cloth tapestry in an attempt to block the homeowner's view of the other individual leaving the kitchen area and accessing the interior of the house. The homeowner, who was able to keep both suspects in the kitchen, threatened to call the police. The suspects then left the house and entered a gray Jeep-type vehicle with black rocker panels and left the area prior to police arrival. A check of the house revealed nothing was taken or disturbed.

Police are asking residents to be aware of and report suspicious activity. Anyone with additional information is asked to call Captain John Ferraro at (908) 226-7667.

Mark your calendars

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

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

	Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, March 15	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, April 5	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, April 19	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 4	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, May 17	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
Monday, June 7	7:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.

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
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
March 23, April 6 and 20, May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22, July 6 and 20, Aug. 10 and 24, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 16 and 30 and Dec. 14 and 28.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
March 25, April 8 and 22, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, July 8 & 22, Aug. 12 and 26, Sept. 9 and 23, Oct. 14 and 28, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 and 16.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m.: April 6.
Regular Board Meeting held Tuesdays at 8 p.m.: March 16 and April 13.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plan sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 8 p.m.
March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the first Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716
April 6, May 4, June 1, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and Dec. 7.

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

Riley Scouts Participate in Klondike Derby

The Raritan Valley District 2004 Klondike Derby was held at the Greenbrook Middle School on Feb. 28. Scouts from Riley School Troop 124 participated as one patrol, the "Why?!" patrol. The scouts were: Colin Slattery—Senior Patrol Leader, Joshua Biggs, Max Butler, Tim Ratti, Jonathan Sukenik and Steven Wagner.

The Klondike Derby allows the scouts to relive the race for gold as they did 100 years ago with dogs pulling sleds across Canada and Alaska.

The scouts, in patrols, pull and push their sleds following a map of towns. At each town they are challenged with a task that requires Scouting skills. They are judged on how well they complete the task (earning points for each task). The number of points each patrol accumulates determines how they place in the competition; either first, second, or third. The patrols are also judged on their patrol flag, patrol



...ell and teamwork.

This competition allows the scouts to earn credit for troop participation

toward future advancement. It also allows them to demonstrate and practice scouting skills while having fun.

IN YOUR OPINION

To the Editor,

The *New York Times* quotes by our Mayor Daniel T. Gallagher and Superintendent of Schools Mr. Rosado were uncalled for.

Mayor states Star Bucks Coffee Shop and Olive Garden are about to open. But they are too high class. South Plainfield has always been a Dunkin Donuts kind of town. Now property values are rising so high that our young people can't get a foothold. And our old Victorians on large lots are being torn down and replaced by six large homes. Traffic is increasing, our simple lifestyle is being threatened and I don't like it. Mayor, you should attend Historical Society meetings and get educated on the people that were raised and went through the school system here. You would be surprised. You talk out of both sides of your mouth.

You forget you came to South Plainfield from New York to raise your family in a good environment. Now that you are mayor you are the one responsible for the state this town is in. I lived in South Plainfield all my life and I resent the remark we are low class.

Mayor, you should spend more time on finding out what class is. You are still trying to get away from concrete and asphalt that you were raised in.

Mr. Rosado's remarks quoted South Plainfield students have consistently low test scores because parents are not well educated. Another words—low class people with little to no education.

I guess you are right Mr. Rosado—School Board Members are not educated enough or they wouldn't have

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: ggnan@aol.com, or faxed to 908-668-8819. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Limit letters to no more than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. We reserve the right to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject.

hired you in the first place. My plea is to the uneducated School Board members to ask for Mr. Rosado's resignation. South Plainfield taxpayers have enough people with your type of attitude taking our money.

As for two high officials of this community, you may want to spend more time on learning something about class, honesty, honor and the dedication to the position you hold. Also, a little common sense wouldn't hurt.

JAKE CATALDO

To the Editor,

This year I played on the South Plainfield Tigers Grant 5/6 Basketball Team. Before the school year had started, many of the girls' goals were to make this team. Many accomplished this goal and others gave it their all by trying out. I have made new friends and established teamwork with all the girls. This year has been an excellent season so far and even though we've lost six games, our coach, Miss Jackson, has been teaching us every step of the way. I know for a fact that every time we have lost a game, we've gotten so much better afterwards by learning from our mistakes. Miss Jackson has always been a good sport and helped us by giving us words of en-

couragement. After a loss, she would always encourage us to do better and would always compliment us on how great we played.

I wouldn't be as good in basketball and get good grades at the same time without Miss Jackson's support and help. My teammates Bissy Martin, Taylor Adorna, Lauren Conrad, Jessica Jazikoff, Amanda Hoagland, Jenae Keith, Caitlyn Hogan, Courtney Irber, Danielle Tramutola, Morgan Bethea, Jamie Thompson (moved), Melissa Loiacono, Valerie Rivera and Katyah Cisson have always been supportive and been great by cheering on our team. These girls are very hard working and even though we might be losing a game, they never gave up hope and would still give it their all. I could never have picked better teammates!

Our most recent win on Feb. 10 was a very close game. Our team went out on the court with our heads held up high and with confidence. Our opponents, Green Brook, played very hard, but in the end we went on for our very first victory with a score of 23-22. It felt like we won the WNBA Championship! We had a wonderful celebration with all of our friends and fans running out on the court to give hugs and congratulating us.

So, as you can see, we've only won one game, but the most important thing to me is that I have the best teammates and wouldn't ask for more. We play as a team and lose as a team, together. Winning is great but it's the love I feel when I play basketball with this great group of girls and wonderful coach that's best of all!

BRITTANY ALVARADO (AND SUPPORTIVE SISTER, ASHLEY ALVARADO)

South Plainfield Observer

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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. or at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver.com or ggnan@aol.com or ngrennie@ix.netcom.com. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Kindergarten Enrollment Announced

Kindergarten Enrollment will be held at the Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson Ave. on the following dates between 8:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. by appointment only.

Franklin School—May 3 through 5; Kennedy School—May 10 through 12; Riley School—May 17 through 19 and Roosevelt School—May 24 through 26.

Children planning to enter Kindergarten in September must be five years old on or before Oct. 1. Please call (908) 754-4620 ext. 223 for further information.

of South Plainfield, completed both required courses in 1994.

She has also completed the American Heart Association CPR course and is a certified police matron.

An active volunteer in our community for many years, Bette is a Life Member of the Rescue Squad, with 14 years of active service. She also served on the Public Celebrations Committee for 14 years, which is responsible for the Labor Day Parade festivities, and served as chairperson for five years.

has visited Borough Hall just before the holidays can attest to how successful the project has become and see the hallways filled with boxes. That success is due in part by the generous residents of South Plainfield, but also the dedication of Marge Ackerman who coordinates this huge task each year.

building. Residents will be pleased to know that the rumors are not true.

An interview with Polimeni Realty revealed that while they have not yet selected a tenant for the site, they are not considering a pool hall. Paul Mullins of Polimeni said, "There is and have been several billiard/family center operations interested in the open space, but their size requirements have always been far less than the available 30,000 sq. ft. located next to our newest anchor, U.S. Factory Outlets."

Events Around Town

SPHS PTA Auction/Raffle

March 13

The SPHS PTA's Project Graduation Auction/Raffle on Saturday, March 13, 2004, at 8:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. **SOLD OUT!** No tickets available at the door. For auction information, call (908) 756-3731 or (908) 756-6512 or email ando1932@aol.com.

Elks Holding Corned Beef Dinner

March 13

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans committee will be sponsoring their annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner at the Elks Club on New Market Ave. on Saturday, March 13 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. The all-you-can-eat dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and includes beer, soda, coffee and cake. For information call (908) 756-6406.

AARP Chapter 4144 Meeting

March 15

The South Plainfield Chapter of AARP will meet on Monday, March 15 at the senior center at 12:30 p.m. The program will feature the RSVP entertainers Mel Sherwyn, stand-up comedian and Jocelyn Hill, cabaret singer. The defensive drivers course scheduled for Mar. 10, 11, 13 and 20 is filled. Another course will be scheduled in a few months.

SP Republican Monthly Meeting

March 16

The regular monthly meeting of the South Plainfield Republican Organization will be held on Tuesday, March 16 at the American Legion Hall on Oak Tree Ave. The meeting will begin at 8 p.m. Any interested residents are invited to attend and discuss candidates for this year's election, town issues and other concerns.

Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Party

March 20

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus will hold their annual St. Patrick's Day Party on Saturday, March 20 at the Knights hall at 334 Hamilton Blvd, from 8 to 12 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, which includes a corn beef and cabbage dinner. It also includes an open bar (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ will be playing classic Irish music. If interested please contact Jim Shea at (908) 756-0478 for tickets because seats are limited.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

March 20

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 20 to attend an evening of fun, food and entertainment at American Legion Chaumont Post 243's annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance. Tickets are \$15 and include top quality corned beef with cabbage, D.J. entertainment with prizes, a basket of cheer raffle and refreshments. The dinner dance will be held from 6-11 p.m. and all proceeds will benefit The American Legion Post 243 scholarship fund. Tickets may be purchased in advance (recommended), or at the door. Phone (908) 668-9414 for directions.

What's happening in MARCH

Monthly meetings will now be on the third Thursday of the month

EVENTS

March 17—Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "The Rainmaker"

April 7—Atlantic City Trip to Taj Mahal

May 26— Hunterdon Hills Playhouse "Everyone Loves Opal"

Daily Events

9-11 AM Coffee & Cake
9 AM-4 PM Cards & Pool
(908) 754-1047

The Senior Citizen's Center is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 9:00 AM-12:30 PM—CREATIVE PAINTING 10AM

Senior Center EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Adult Crafts 9:30-11:30am 15 Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am-12:30pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 16 Ladies Social Group 10am Lunch Available Income Tax Prep 9am-Noon Computer Class 12-2pm	Exercise 8:45-9:45 17 Movie Time 11:30am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 11am & 1pm Line Dancing 10-11:30am Atlantic City Trip	Shopping Pathmark 9am 11 Practical Crafting 10am to 11am Income Tax Preparation 9am-Noon Pinochle Club 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 12 Pizza Lunch Bridge Club 12:30pm
Weekly Shopping at Pathmark 9am 18 Practical Crafting 10-11am Income Tax Prep 9am-Noon Pinochle Club 1pm	Bingo 10am-2pm 19 Pizza Lunch Avail. Bridge Club 12:30pm Men's Forum Steering Committee Meeting	TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.		

Franklin PTA Auction/Raffle Night

March 20

The Franklin School PTA is sponsoring their annual Auction/Raffle Night to be held on Saturday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the SPHS gym. Every advanced ticket sale receives a complimentary ticket for grand prize drawing. Food is welcomed and soft drinks will be available for purchase. Price of the tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Terry at (908) 753-2864.

Troop 207 Chili Fest

March 21

BSA Troop 207 from the Knights of Columbus will hold their 5th annual "All You Can Eat Chili Fest" on Sunday, March 21 at the South Plainfield High School Cafeteria from 3 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$4 each and are can be purchased from any Troop 207 Scout or at the door. This fundraiser benefits the troop to help them in purchasing camping supplies that are needed. Please come and support our Troop and enjoy the Chili. For additional information please call (908) 753-2562.

Columbiettes Easter Bunny Brunch

March 21

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will hold their Easter Bunny Brunch on Sunday, March 21 in the cafeteria of Sacred Heart School. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m. and a buffet style-luncheon will be served at 1 p.m.

Czestochowa Plans Chicken Dinner

March 27

The Annual Parish Chicken Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 4 to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish Hall on Hamilton Blvd., sponsored by the Rosary Society. The donation is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children five through 12. Children under five are free. For pickup orders call the OLC Hall at (908) 753-4077 on Saturday, March 27 after 3 p.m. No tickets are necessary to attend the event.

Rescue Squad Auxiliary Basket Bingo

March 28

The South Plainfield Rescue Squad Auxiliary presents their Second Annual Basket Bingo on Sunday, March 28. Doors open at noon—calling begins at 1 p.m. sharp! The Basket Bingo will be held at the rescue squad building on Plainfield Ave. Advance tickets are \$20, at the door \$25 and include 16 games, four specials and door prizes. Raffle, 50/50 and extra boards are available. Proceeds benefit the Rescue Squad. To purchase tickets in advance, call Denise at (732) 261-8942 or Tracy at (732) 841-4844.

— Out of Town —

Middlesex East WOWs Dance

March 12

Middlesex East Widows or Widowers Carteret Chapter will hold a dance for widows or widowers on Friday, March 12 at St. Demetrius Community Center, 681-691 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret. Admission is \$8. There will be live music and refreshments will be available. The dance will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. For more information, call (732) 727-1410 or (908) 757-0515.

Local Road Races Announced

March 14

The Raritan Valley Road Runners, a local running club, is hosting its annual "Equinox 20K" road race and 1 Mile Fun Run on Sunday, March 14. Both races will take place in Johnson Park off River Road in Piscataway. Fun Run begins at 9:15 a.m. and the 20K (12.4 miles) race starts at 9:30 a.m. Register online at www.active.com or at the race site between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. on the day of the race. A portion of the proceeds from the race will be donated to the Highland Park Rescue Squad and the Raritan Valley Road Runners Youth Summer Series. For more information, please visit www.rvrr.org or www.active.com.

Students Host Carnival for the Disabled

March 14

The Moshe Aaron Yeshiva High School (MAYHS) seniors will be hosting a Purim Carnival and Barbecue for adults and teens with disabilities. The event takes place on Sunday, March 14 from 12 Noon to 2 p.m. at the school. Attending is YACHAD, a non-profit organization for the disabled based in New York City. There will be booths run by the student volunteers as well as professional booths. It will be a day of fun and games, dancing and celebration.

B'nai B'rith Plans Trip To Museum

March 14

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be going to the Montclair Art Museum in Montclair on Sunday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$6.50 per person. Prospective members are welcome to come. R.S.V.P. to Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by March 12.

Homeowners and Refinancing Seminar

March 19

The Rose of Sharon Community Church and Reverend LaVerne Ball, pastor, presents Homeownership and Refinancing Seminar to be held on Friday, March 19 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Rose of Sharon Community Church, 825 West 7th St., Plainfield. The seminar will be hosted by Kyle and Karen Reid, your mortgage consultants for life! The admission is free. To RSVP please call (973) 565-9100. Bring family members and friends! Refreshments will be served!

Diabetes Expo

March 20

The Third Annual Diabetes Expo will be on March 20 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset. If you have any questions or are in need of other materials regarding the Diabetes Expo, feel free to contact Rich Hawkinson at (732) 469-7979 ext. 3520.

SEND YOUR EVENTS TO:
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Jay Nair is the general manager and Damian Thomas is marketing manager. Store hours are Mon. to Sat., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and 12-8 p.m. on Sundays. For more information or for a delivery (of \$10 or more), call (908) 226-5559 or fax (908) 226-1565. They can cater any size party.

Police Department to Hold Junior Police Academy

The South Plainfield Police Department is proud to announce that they will host the first annual Junior Police Academy for borough residents.

The program, designed to enhance the interests of students who have expressed the possible desire of pursuing a career in law enforcement, will offer participants some insight into how police officers perform their duties and will assist in fostering communications between the participants and the local police officers. During this weeklong program, students will learn about crime scene investigation, motor vehicle stops, drinking/driving laws, the use of force by police officers, firearms and other related topics.

The first of two weeklong sessions is scheduled for the week of June 28 for students who will be entering grades 6 or 7 in September. The second session is scheduled for the week of July 12 for students who will be entering grades 8 or 9 in September.

Classes will be held on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents must

supply transportation to and from the designated training site. While some of the training may involve the students being transported elsewhere in the borough, the classroom sessions will be hosted at the Police Athletic League (PAL) Recreation Center on Maple Ave. This program is intended to emulate a regular police academy—it will be a disciplined environment and will include daily marching and calisthenics.

Cost to participate is \$35 per student, which covers the cost of uniform shirt, gym shorts and hat. Class size is limited to 30 students. Applications will be considered on a first come-first serve basis. In order to apply, applicants must respond to the Recreation Department at the PAL building between March 1 and 31 in order to complete the paperwork, show proof of residency and render payment. Additional information can be obtained by contacting either Officer Allen Lamonda or Officer David Franchak at (908) 226-7716 or (908) 226-7717.

southplainfieldpeople
Milestones

Century 21 Moretti Welcomes Mike Wojcik

Century 21 Moretti is pleased to announce Mike Wojcik has joined its firm as a sales associate. He will specialize in residential sales in the Middlesex County area.

"We are thrilled to have Mike join our team," said Guy Moretti. "It's an exciting time to be with the Century 21® System as we increase our presence in tri-county region."

Wojcik just successfully completed extensive training and licensing as authorized by the State of New Jersey.

Mike and his wife Vicki have been residents of South Plainfield for 26 years, living at the same address, 17 Celentano Ct. Both of their children graduated from the South Plainfield High School. Michele is currently an occupational therapist with the Mass Rehab Center in Philadelphia. Their son, Matthew, is a recent graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and serves as a commissioned officer at Fort Hood, Texas.

Mike attributes his early success as a realtor to his work ethic and values, the same work ethic and values he has successfully employed as an educator and school administrator for over 30 years. "Trust, sincerity and dedication are just as important whether I am assisting a young couple looking for a house or parents looking into college choices for their child." Mike can be reached at the Century 21 office, located at 225 Maple Ave.

"Give me a call at (908) 753-5300, ext. 415 regarding your future real estate needs—no question is too simple to ask, no concern too slight to seek my advice."



Mike Wojcik



Arnold Bill and Doris Gunderson with their family.

Gundersons Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Arnold Bill and Doris Gunderson celebrated their 60th anniversary at a party give in their honor by the "five B's" and their spouses. The party was given at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and Thomas Walton in Clinton Twp. Twenty-five friends and family attended.

Arnold Bill Gunderson and Doris M. Hardgrove were married on Jan. 16, 1944, at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Plainfield.

Arnold served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946 in Panama. He retired in 1984 after 35 years in education. Arnold taught in South Plainfield and finished his career as an el-

ementary principal in Warren Township for 21 years.

Doris Gunderson was an electronics (computer chip) tester for Burroughs Corporation (now Unisys) in Warren Township and Piscataway for 21 years, retiring in 1983.

The Gundersons have five children, Barbara and Alan Rennie of California; Beverly and Thomas Walkton of Clinton Twp.; Bill and Patricia Gunderson of South Plainfield; Bonnie and Anthony Risoli of Forked River and Betty Lou and Allen Ramsey of Milford.

They have 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Stoeckel Named to Dean's List at Rutgers

Melissa Stoeckel, daughter of James and Annemarie Stoeckel of South Plainfield, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2003 semester at Rutgers College, New Brunswick.

Also in 2003, she was inducted into Gamma Sigma Alpha, the national Greek honor society, in recognition of her outstanding academic efforts.

Melissa is an active member of the service sorority, Sigma Delta Tau and

will be participating in the Rutgers Dance Marathon on March 27 and 28. Dance Marathon is a fundraiser for children with cancer and blood disorders. All of the money raised benefits The Institute for Children with Cancer and Blood Disorders, which is affiliated with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and the Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Melissa will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Arts in English.

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Metro Hut owners Zak and Rachid with assistants Jihane and Yvette

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Metro Hut Luncheonette Features Panini Sandwiches

The former Spisso's Luncheonette has reopened under new ownership and a new name. The Metro Hut Luncheonette at 409 Hamilton Blvd. near New Market Ave. is open for breakfast and lunch. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The owners are Zak and Rachid, with Jihane and Yvette as assistants. They have a full luncheonette menu

offering soups, salads and many kinds of sandwiches, but feature the "panini," a New York-Italian style sandwich that is pressed in a panini-grill and slightly toasted to make it tastier. Beverages include cold sodas, tea, coffee and espresso. Everything is freshly made on site.

Catering and delivery are available. For more information, call (908) 222-9595.

SPHS Seeks Nominees for 2004 Hall of Fame

The South Plainfield Hall of Fame Committee is again holding their annual search for candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was established at South Plainfield High School to recognize

outstanding graduates as leaders in their fields who could serve as role models for current and future students.

To be eligible, all Hall of Fame candidates must have graduated from South Plainfield High School at least 15 years prior to nomination, and they must have achieved a prominent position in their careers or made a significant contribution to the world/community. Those candidates selected will be honored at a luncheon and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the high school's annual Academic Awards Program on June 1. The nominees will also have their photographs and biographies displayed on a "hall of fame" at the high school.

Community members interested in obtaining a Hall of Fame nomination form should call Dr. May at (908) 754-4620. The application deadline is Apr. 5.

Correction

First Class Travel on South Plainfield Ave. is making a generous donation this year of a cruise to help the High School's Project Graduation at their annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 13. Owner Michele Kunie won a California cruise for two from Celebrity Cruise Lines for writing why Project Graduation was worthy of such a donation. Last week's paper incorrectly reported that the SPHS PTA was providing two airline tickets for the cruise. They will, however, give the winner a \$500 gift certificate towards the airline tickets.

Sign Up for Safety Town

South Plainfield Recreation is again sponsoring Safety Town for all children entering kindergarten and/or first grade. The program is designed to introduce pre-kindergarten and pre-first graders to all aspects of safety. Children will get the opportunity to visit the police station, fire house, office of emergency management and the community pool.

The first session runs July 5-16 and the second session is July 19-30. All sessions run from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

You can register at the PAL weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning April 1.

The fee is \$35 per participant. First time participants must show a birth certificate and proof of residency.

Sacred Heart School Announces Summer Program

Sacred Heart School announces its summer program for 2004. Camp is open to all current Pre-K 4-year-olds to sixth grade.

Academics are offered to all children currently in grades K-7. The program begins on Tuesday, July 6 and runs through Thursday, Aug. 5.

The schedule is as follows: Full day-8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Half day-8 a.m. to 12 Noon or 12 Noon to 4 p.m.

Before and after camp child care is available from 7:30 to 8 a.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.

The academic course offerings are as follows: Math, K-6; Math Coop Test Preparation, Grade 7; Reading, K-6; Writing Workshop, K-7; Computers, K-7 and Ceramics, K-7.

You can sign up for camp, academics or both. Sign up for one week or all five weeks.

More information and registration materials are available at the school office or call (908) 756-0733 ext. 32 or 33.

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Kenneth Morgan

Well, we're just about mid-way through March. Spring starts in about a week and, we hope, winter has moved on. In any case, no matter the month or season, there's news from South Plainfield Library:

Don't forget about the return appearance by antiques appraiser Alan G. Snyder this Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. He'll be offering brief appraisals of antiques brought in by the public. Participants are limited to two items; appraisals will be made on a "first come, first serve" basis. There's no charge for this program, and no pre-registration is required.

Turning to our children's programs, we'll hold our usual Storytime programs for children ages three and up on Tuesday morning at 10:30, Wednesday evening at 6:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:15. This morning and next Friday morning at 10:30, there's our Books-N-Babies program for children up to age three. You don't have to pre-register for the story programs. Also, next Friday afternoon at 4, we'll hold our monthly Kidcraft program for children ages six and over. We ask that you sign up your kids in advance for this program. If you'd like more information about our children's programs, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

The Library Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday evening at 7:30. Members of the public are invited to attend and learn the latest news about the Library's present and future plans, including the proposed new Library building.

Speaking of the new building, plans for it are still very much in the beginning stages. However, there's a part that you, our patrons, can play in the effort, beyond shopping at our bake sale (more on that in a moment). Over the next several months, we'll be conducting various surveys of the public to find out what they want, or don't want, in a new library.

Please feel free to pass along your views on the subject; we'll take them into account as our plans go forward. The survey will be available at several locations, as well as our website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us. We'll let you know when they're ready.

Sure, and on Wednesday, the Friends of the Library will hold a St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale. A variety of baked goods will be available while supplies last. The sale will run from 2-9 p.m. (ideal for the after lunch/school/work/dinner crowd). Profits from the sale will be applied to the fund-raising effort for the aforementioned new Library building.

We have two new displays in place. Our display wall now features an assortment of photos and articles about now-nonexistent Hadley Field. This display has been provided by the South Plainfield Historical Society. Our large display case now features a group of handcrafted dolls provided by South Plainfield resident Vivian Lee. Both of these displays will be here throughout March.

The new group from the Compact Disc Circuit is now available. Artists in this group include the Beatles, the Canadian Brass, Fleetwood Mac, Christina Aguilera, and Elton John. CDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two weeks.

Finally, the South Plainfield Juniors are collecting prom dresses for the "Catherine's Closet" charity drive. They're collecting prom dresses of all sizes in good condition, from brand new to three years old, worn no more than once. They're also collecting shoes and accessories. You can place your donations in the drop box at the Library. For more information contact the Juniors at nj.juniorettes@yahoo.com.

That's about all for now. See you next Friday. By the way, March comes in as what animal and goes out as what other animal? Anybody remember this?

Saul Broudy to Perform at Public Library

The South Plainfield Historical Society has scheduled a live musical performance by Saul Broudy, folklorist, at the South Plainfield Public Library on Sunday, March 21 at 2 p.m.

"Singing Workers: American Occupational Folksong" is a presentation that sets you back in time before modern mass-media and widespread literacy. Workers in various occupations made their own songs to

express emotions, convey information, tell stories, solidify group identity and help them make it through the day. Dr. Broudy presents the songs of railroad workers, pilots, farmers, hobos, truck drivers and

other workers and discusses the role this music played in the workers' lives.

Further programming information can be obtained by emailing SPHistoricalSoc@cs.com.

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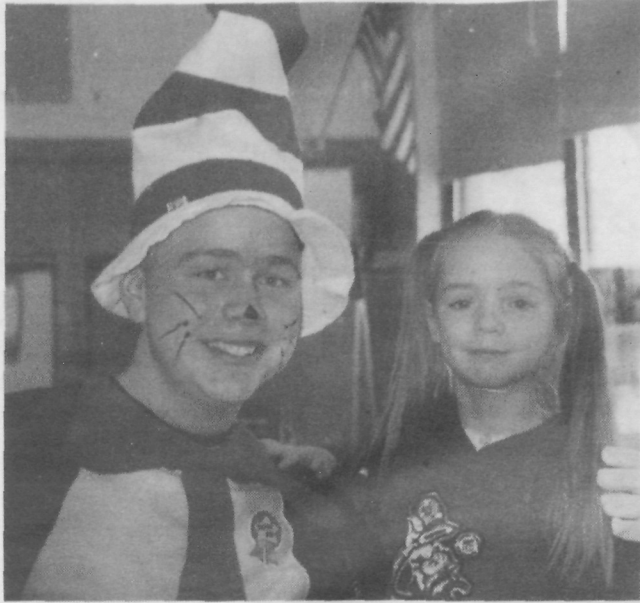
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"Read Across America" Celebrates Dr. Seuss's Birthday



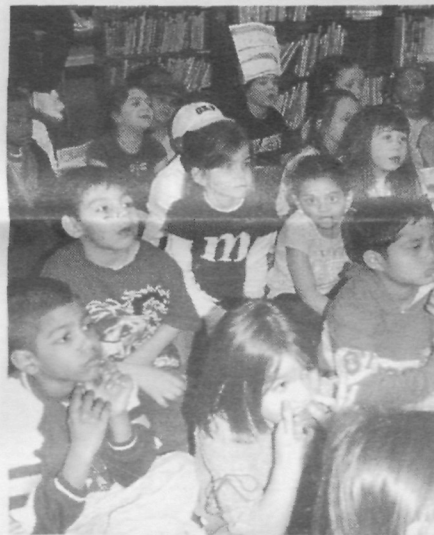
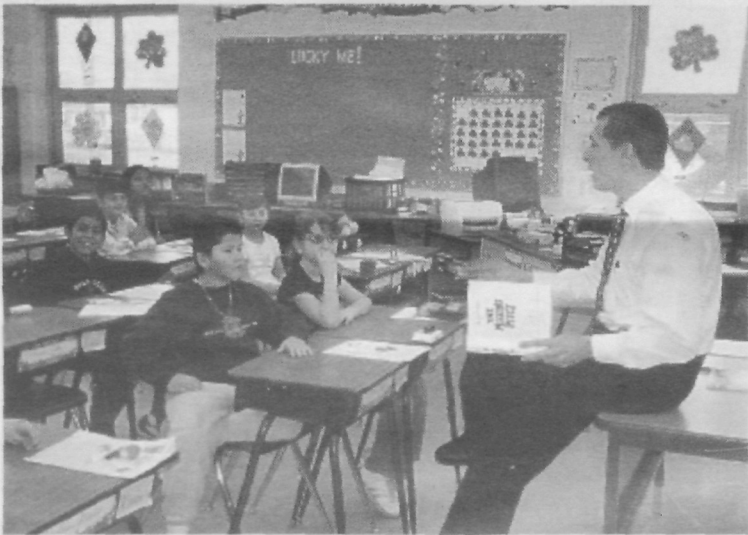
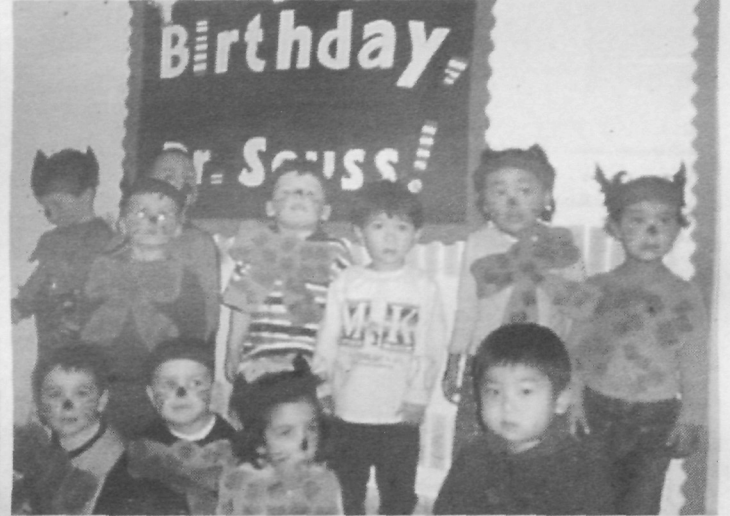
All borough elementary schools celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by joining the nation in the annual "Read Across America" program.

Schools welcomed invited guest to read to students. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado, Business Administrator Ed Izbicki, District Curriculum Director Kay Crown, Police Chief Robert Merkler, members of the Borough Council, as well as numerous moms, dads and business people could be found in the classrooms reading their favorite book to students.

Kennedy School children once again met their annual "Book-It Challenge" by reading over 20,000 books this year. Principal Al Czech also kept his promise to have his head shaved if they indeed met the challenge. Hairstylist Chris Sanko was called in last Tuesday to do the honors during a morning assembly. Afterwards, the children celebrated Dr. Seuss's 100th birthday with a cake. Parents visited many of the Kennedy classrooms to read Seuss books to the students.

Future Stars students celebrated Dr. Seuss by making paper stovepipe hats and bowties and teachers read lots of his books to them. Franklin students cooked up their annual breakfast of green eggs and ham, as well as hosted many readers. Riley hosted many readers during the week. Sacred Heart Home School Association hosted a book exchange in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday and had a special visit from the Cat in the Hat, who read to the students.

The program, started in 1998, was initiated as a way to promote reading while celebrating Dr. Seuss's March 2 birthday. Since then NEA's Read Across America has become a national and local tradition.



Sacred Heart Seeks Craft Vendors

The Sacred Heart Home School Association is seeking craft vendors for the Sacred Heart Church Family Carnival which will be held May 20 through May 24.

Cost per table is \$25 each day for Thursday and Friday and \$50 each day for Saturday and Sunday.

Please call Kathy Thomas at (908) 755-0891 by May 3 for information or reservations.

Friends of Library Holding Bake Sale

The Friends of the Library will hold a cookie and cupcake bake sale on May 17 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the library and are seeking volunteers to donate baked goods. Sign up at the library to donate.

Don't Miss this Opportunity! While other papers offer less and less coverage of South Plainfield, count on the Observer to continue to provide coverage of your town, exclusively, every Friday! To advertise, call 908-668-0010.

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Sports

Middle School Boys' Basketball Team Finishes Season at 20-5; Coach Allen Calls it a Career



Photo courtesy of Brian Cole, Olschool Productions

The Middle School Basketball team finished season at 20-5.

The boys had a bit of a disappointment in the semi-finals of the Dunellen Tournament where they were eliminated by a strong North Plainfield team. The Tigers led at the half, but the opponents were better coming down the stretch and won the game. This put the Tigers into the consolation bracket against a very good and well-coached Green Brook team, vying for third place.

Once again the Tigers' defense got them off to an early lead, but Green Brook came back again. Their shots started to drop and the Tigers hit a drought. With fourth place and another loss starting them in the face, the Tigers staged a comeback. First, the defense tightened, swarming all over the ball handlers, forcing turnovers. The defense got five straight stops on their end and the offense got four straight "threes" from the same person, Christian Cole. The Tigers went ahead by three points and held on with seconds to go in the game. An attempt to tie the game missed and the Tigers earned a well-fought victory for the third place finish.

Christian Cole, Troy Russell, Tremane Miller, Brendan O'Shea, Dale Johnson and Michael Burton supplied much of the offense and the defense was led by Chris Penisi, Danny Espin, Dale Johnson, Troy Russell and Tremane Miller. The other team members are Ryan Crouch, Ryan Bunting, Tommy Smith, Bobby Harrington, John Mills, Kenny Lucky, Chris Kedmenec, Michael Dezman, Chris Fulton, Chris Lesniak and Joey Grennier. Two other players, who early in the season led the team on the offensive and defensive end, were Scott Hunterdon and Benny Gibson. Both were lost through season-ending injuries. Scott was a shooting forward, whose outside shot was sorely missed. Benny was a point guard and that position was hard to replace. Three different players responded for the remainder of the season and kept the team at a winning pace of 6-2. Benny's desire and court leadership was also missed, but he was there at every practice and game, giving the team his support.

Overall, the team had a fine season,

starting out with a first place win in the South Plainfield awareness for Substance Abuse Tournament, defeating Sacred Heart and East Brunswick. In division play, the team had their best season ever, finishing at 11-4 right behind Perth Amboy, who the team split with in their two games. A special thanks goes out to the statisticians Clare Kelly, Kelly McLean and Jared Czech from the coaches Terry Allen and Joseph Bennet, both Middle School teachers.

After their win over Green Brook, Coach Allen turned over the coaching responsibility to Bennet. After 25 years of coaching and 35 years of teaching, Allen plans to retire in June. His teams have accomplished a lot over those 25 years, winning the Dunellen Tournament, the Central New Jersey Junior Basketball League, the South Plainfield Awareness for Substance Abuse Tournament (each several times, respectively). His teams have amassed over 340 wins. Allen feels Bennett is up to the task and wishes him and his team good luck and success in the future. He wishes his players success on the next level.

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BY LEE FLANAGAN

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

Small Fry A League Director Dennis Moskal conducted the Small Fry A League draft his past Monday night. Small Fry A is strictly a 12-year-old League with a few 11-year-old kids filling out the rosters. Team names will be announced in next week's *Observer*. A manager and/or coach will not be allowed on the field without a club member's card and must have completed the Rutgers Certification course. This includes the third and fourth coach in the dugout. This will be monitored during the season. The night of March 6 was our "Base-Brawl 2004" Jersey All Pro Wrestling Show at the South Plainfield Middle School Gymnasium. I would like to thank Chris Hansen for his hard work in organizing and running this event. I also would like to thank the

"Event Staff" for volunteering their time to make sure everything went smoothly and the parents who made desserts for the event.

Volunteers are needed for our annual pre-season work details, beginning at 8 a.m. on March 13 and 14. We need as many volunteers as possible to start getting the complex ready for the upcoming season. Please do not use the fields at the complex; you can use the batting cages. When the red flag is up, stay off the fields. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Upcoming fundraisers: March 27—Pancake Breakfast at Franklin School; April 17—Spaghetti Dinner at Roosevelt School and April 24—Flea Market at the complex (vendors are needed).



Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By James Bishop

Games will begin on April 12 and opening day ceremonies will be on April 17. Tag dates are set for May 6 through the eighth.

On Saturday, March 20 at 9 a.m. we will begin to clean up the fields in preparation for the coming season.

Parents we could use your help. Any one willing to help, please bring your leaf blower and a rake.

The next SP Parents Ponytail Association meeting will be held on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

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Sports

Billy Ashnault (112) will join Jimmy Conroy (103), Ryan Elliot (275) and Paul Ritchey (145) this weekend at Atlantic City due to the injury of the third place finisher at the Region 3 Tournament.

Wrestling News

By Bob Hunter



The Recreation Wrestling team won the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Tournament.

Recreation Wrestlers Win Central Jersey Tournament

The South Plainfield Recreation Wrestling Team concluded their season with a huge win at the Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Tournament this past weekend. The Tigers won with a score of 75 points, compared to second place winners Hillsborough with 44 points. Flemington was third with 43 points. This tournament championship gives the Tigers a sweep, winning the league championship and the tournament championship.

The Tigers sent seven wrestlers into the finals and came home with six champions, one runner-up, one third and two fourth places. Winning titles for the Tigers were Anthony Ashnault (53), who won by a 10-0 major decision over Christian Okulicz of Voor-

tees. Tyler Hunt (63) defeated Joey DeCarlo of Hillsborough 4-2. Ryan Sacco (77) defeated Jesse Bell of Cranford 4-2. Nick Heilmann (80) had the only fall in the finals over Mike Cereste of Kenilworth at 1:43. John Wylam (95) waited until he had second seconds left to turn Matt Cutreffello of New Providence, winning 3-0.

Mike Wagner (102) defeated Dwan Hicks of Plainfield 3-2 in the final championship bout of the day.

Second place went to Corey Hay (85) and third place went to Billy Whitefeet (Hwt), fourth place went to Kyle Brady (57) and Ritchie Szeliga (70). Congratulations on a great season and tournament.

Tiger Wrestlers Headed To Atlantic City

The South Plainfield wrestlers had a strong showing at the Region 3 qualifying tournament, advancing three wrestlers to the next round at the State Tournament this weekend in Atlantic City. Jimmy Conroy (103), Ryan Elliot (275) and Paul Ritchey (145) will set off to Atlantic City with the hopes of coming home with the gold.

Jimmy Conroy, now 30-0 on the season captured his first region title by pinning Anthony Priore of A.L. Johnson in 1:33. Conroy (103), who was the runner up last year, was on a mission to redeem himself by winning the Region Title. Conroy won his opening match and pinned Adei Afzal of New Providence at 1:18 in the semi-

finals. Conroy had pinned Afzal in the District finals a week earlier. Ryan Elliot (275), won his first Region 3 title when he defeated Mike D'Amico of Seton Hall Prep 3-0. In the semifinals, Elliot had his hands full with undefeated Chris Johnson of Parsippany, but Elliot stayed tough and won by decision 2-1 to reach the finals. Paul Ritchey (145), who lost by decision in the quarterfinals, wrestled back to reach the consolation finals. Ritchey then defeated Charles Mueller of Union 4-3 for third place. Congratulations and good luck in Atlantic City.

Overall Coach Kevin McCann was very proud of everyone. "We had a great tournament, almost all of our

wrestlers finished in the top five or six so we are very happy." Finishing in fourth place were freshmen Billy Ashnault (112), who lost his opening match to eventual champion Mike Grey. He then wrestled back to reach the consolation finals. Ashnault had a big win over M. Eldel of Seton Hall Prep to get there. Pete DeAndrea (140), who lost a close 2-1 decision in the semifinals, had the task of meeting Seth Podhoretz of Millburn in the consolation finals and lost 5-3 for fourth place. Finishing in fifth and sixth position were Mike Jakubik (119), Nick Dorey (125), Sam Martin (130), Guy Severini (152) and Rob Maistickle (215).

Tigers Place at Middle School Nationals

Two Middle School wrestlers selected as members of the New Jersey Team Select competed at the Virginia Challenge National Middle School Duals. Patrick Hunter (90) and Mark Wagner (130) joined other wrestlers from the New Jersey Grade School League who won championships at the recent league tournament. This selected group of wrestlers from the northern part of New Jersey headed into the tournament as long shots, but soon established themselves as the team to beat. The top middle school wrestlers from North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, as well as four teams from New Jersey went head to head in the two day event.

National team titles, as well as individual championships, were at stake. NJ Select faced top ranked Ohio in the opening round match and dominated Ohio 84-12. Hunter defeated Ohio State Champion Danny Genetin 7-2. Wagner lost in OT to Joe Hickin 5-3. NJ Select then faced Virginia Blue, the stronger of the two Virginia teams, and coasted to a 65-23 victory. Hunter defeated three time Virginia State Champion Marty Carlson 5-0, while Wagner lost to Jarad King.

DelMarVa Elite was next and NJ Select wasted little energy winning 92-



Patrick Hunter and Mark Wagner display the first place trophy.

17. Wagner got on the winning track with a fall over Jose Charneco, while Hunter defeated Jarrod Garnett 8-1.

Team Xtreme was the next NJ Select victim to get knocked out of the winners bracket with NJ Select winning 77-12. Wagner won by tech fall

over Kyle Hess 17-2 and Hunter won by tech fall 18-2 over Joey Ables.

South Jersey Gold and NJ Select were the only two undefeated teams after day one and they met in the first match of day two with NJ Select giving the South Jersey boys a thorough beating 50-26. Hunter defeated South Jersey Champion Rich Bushby 5-0 and Wagner defeated South Jersey Champion John Renard 8-4.

Virginia Red was no match for NJ Select losing 99-3. Hunter won by tech fall 17-2, while Wagner dropped an overtime loss to Wyatt Pickett. In the final match of day, NJ Select defeated South Jersey Black 91-7. Wagner won by fall and Hunter won 6-2 over John Guzzo.

NJ Team Select won the National Middle School Championship.

Hunter (90) won the individual gold and Wagner (130) won the bronze medal.

Novice Wrestlers Place at Kenilworth

Our Novice wrestlers continue to impress with a strong showing at the recent Kenilworth Novice Tournament. South Plainfield entered seven wrestlers, with all seven winning medals. In the Pee Wee Division, Ryan Walsh (48) and Matt Vargas (50) fin-

ished in second place and Joe Penyal (45) finished in fifth. In the Bantam Division, Bobby Kolvitis (51) and Daniel Vargas (53), finished in second place, Taylor Born 68) was third and Inan Sikel (74) was fifth. Good job guys and keep up the good work.

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Students and Faculty Score a Big Win for Cancer Fund



By Jane Dornick

The Second Annual South Plainfield Middle School Student vs. Faculty Basketball Fundraiser held on Feb. 26 was well attended and raised over \$1,900 for the American Cancer Society's breast cancer research fund.

The event began with the introduction of the players. VFW Post #6763 members Bruce Bird, Raymond Casta Metro Kopchak, Harold Evegán and Jake Martínez led the salute to the American flag. The announcer for the

evening was Jim Makowski and spurring the crowd and players on with music was Jim Limyanski.

Guest referees were Mike Kavka, Bill DeNizio and Tom McCreech. A free throw contest was held during halftime, along with a performance by the Middle School Cheerleaders.

Even though the final score ended tied at 43, the ultimate winners were the American Cancer Society's breast cancer research fund, who will benefit from the money raised through this event.

Obituaries

Frank Capobianco, Sr., 80

Frank Capobianco, Sr., died on Monday, March 1 at the Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in the Bronx, he was the son of the late Vincent and Maria Capobianco and grew up in Plainfield. He

had lived in South Plainfield for the past 54 years.

Frank had worked as a laborer and truck driver for the Connelly Construction Co. of New Brunswick, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 1988. He belonged to the United Laborers Union Local 221 of New Brunswick.

During WWII, Frank served with the US Army's 741st Field Artillery Battalion 3rd Army and had seen battle action in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe.

He was a member of the VFW Memorial Post 6763 and a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Mary DeAndrea and Rose DeMarco and two brothers, Alfred and Joseph Capobianco.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Anne (Meyers) Capobianco; four children and their spouses, Carol and Gary Pender of Succasunna, Frank and Joanne Capobianco, Jr. of Dunellen, Cindy and Brian Blair of North Plainfield and Richard and Karla Capobianco of Old Bridge; two sis-

ters, Sally Zampelto of Plainfield and Yolanda Fedele of Vero Beach, Fla.; 10 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial donations to be made to the American Cancer Society.

Michelle of South Plainfield and three grandchildren, Kathryn, Nikki-Marie and Melissa. In addition, she is survived by a number of nieces, nephews and in-laws.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Marie K. (Roebbeck) Cibelli, 75

Marie K. (Roebbeck) Cibelli died on Friday, March 5 at Genesis Elder Care—The Woodlands in Plainfield.

Born in Bayonne, Mrs. Cibelli grew up and had been a graduate of Holy Family High School in Bayonne. In 1961, after her marriage, she and her husband settled to South Plainfield, where they had resided ever since.

Employed as an administrative assistant for many years, she had worked for American Express in NYC, the former Mattel Toy Co. of South Plainfield and the former Vera Auto Parts Co. of Piscataway.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Plainfield and enjoyed time spent in Atlantic City.

Her brothers, Ronald and Ernie Roebbeck and Thomas Burnel, have all predeceased her.

She is survived by her husband, Paul L., Sr.; a son, Paul L., Jr. and his wife,

Antoinette "Toni" Fasano Donaruma, 84

Antoinette "Toni" Fasano Donaruma died on Saturday, March 6 at the Hope Hospice in Cape Coral, Fla.

Born in Harlem, NY, Ms. Donaruma lived most of her life in South Plainfield before moving to Florida a year ago.

She is predeceased by her husband, Louis, who died in 1967 and her sister, Molly Costabile.

Surviving are a son, Joseph E and two grandchildren, Louis and Joseph, Jr., all of Florida; two nephews, Ed and Fred Costabile of Bound Brook and two cousins, Jean Fantazir of Bridgewater and Anna and her husband, William Formica of South Plainfield.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Shrine of St. Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Rd., Stirling, NJ 07980.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

An appeal has been filed by Enrico Pigna requesting a variance from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Borough of South Plainfield to permit a second floor addition over the existing house 25x29. Proposed addition lacks the required 8' side setback; 5.5' proposed; and other variances that may be required, said property being located at 332 Fifth Street on Block 38, Lot 10 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 Thursday, March 25, 2004 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.

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March 12, 2004

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Tigers (Cont. from page 1)

in Franklin in the opening round. In the semifinals, South Plainfield playing Colonia, went on a decisive 14-3 run in the third quarter to break away from a 31-31 tie and defeated the Patriots the fourth time this season, 65-48.

Both earlier round games were held at the Anthony J. Cotoia Gymnasium at SPSHS, with record crowds of 1,500 and 2,000. On top of that, the student section was the most raucous and passionate in a long time. Unfortunately, it wasn't enough against Raritan, who to 21-5, while South Plainfield suffered its only loss of the season at 27-1. Prior to that loss, the Tigers not only won 27 straight, but 41 of 43 dating back to the first week of January, 2003.

Although the Tigers didn't win their first sectional championship in over a decade, they have nothing to be ashamed. They won their first ever conference/county championship and repeated as White Division Champs. They can also take solace in the fact that their bracket was one of the most loaded brackets in the state this year with the likes of Raritan, Scotch Plains, Franklin, Snyder, Mendham, and West Morris competing in the field.

Congratulations to the team, coaches, parents, and fans on a magical season. It was a great ride!

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policereport

• On Feb. 27 a 19 year-old South Plainfield man reported the theft of his wallet and CD player from his car and a cell phone from his sweatshirt left on the bleachers at the PAL. A witness called the cell phone number and it rang in the pocket of a 15-year-old South Plainfield male in the building. The keys to the car were in the sweatshirt and were used to open the car and take the CD player and wallet. The keys were found on the car seat.

When Police Officer John Petriello arrived the youth ran out of the PAL building and jumped a fence on Joan St. where an attempt was made to handcuff him. The youth would not allow himself to be handcuffed and tried to tackle Officer Petriello who then pepper-sprayed him.

The youth was arrested for aggravated assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, receiving stolen property and underage possession of alcohol.

• On March 2 a Wayne resident reported the theft of a laptop computer from the locked trunk of her car that was parked outside of Sam Goody on Hadley Rd.

• A Schindler Dr. resident reported that the passenger side window of his vehicle had been broken.

• The building manager at 1907

Park Ave. reported that three large black plastic garbage bags had been left in his dumpster belonging to a Whispering Hills Rd. resident.

• On March 3 an Elsie Ave. resident reported that the driver's side window of his vehicle had been broken and a Cobra radar detector was missing.

• An Arlington Ave. resident reported the entire driver's side of her vehicle had been keyed while parked in the Roosevelt School parking lot.

• Wachovia Bank on Stelton Rd. reported that a customer had deposited five bad checks and had withdrawn cash on them.

• On March 4 Christian Tello, 25, of North Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated after a motor vehicle accident on Plainfield Ave.

• A Bell Pl. resident reported the attempted theft of a Miller S-32P wire feeder from an unlocked compartment in his truck.

• Hugo Perez, 21, of Plainfield was arrested on Hamilton Blvd. for consuming alcohol while driving at a motor vehicle stop.

• Tahlia Granata, 22, of Hancock St. was arrested on Front St. for driving while suspended and failure to signal at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Garden St. resident reported

seeing a black male wearing a sweat-shirt pushing a bicycle down a neighbor's driveway. When spotted, he dropped the bike and ran.

• A Greenwich St. resident reported that a vehicle had driven up on his lawn close to the house, spun the tires and left marks across the lawn.

• Elijah Louis Evelyn, 24, of Plainfield was arrested on New Brunswick Ave. for having a loud muffler and possession of a controlled substance at a motor vehicle stop.

• A Meister St. resident reported that the driver's side window of his vehicle was smashed and a green card and social security card were missing from the glove compartment.

• Mark A. Murphy, 29, of Scotch Plains was arrested on New Market Ave. for driving while intoxicated at a motor vehicle stop.

• Ozzie Sims, 29, of Plainfield was arrested on Maple Ave. for an outstanding warrant and possession of a controlled substance at a motor vehicle stop.

• On March 8 Trans America on New Market Ave. reported that the padlock on the front door of the building had been cut and a copy machine, \$300 in cash, change, a handgun, shotgun, two rifles and a compound bow were taken.

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Music and Art Festival Tickets Now on Sale

South Plainfield Public Schools will present the 25th Annual District Music and Art Festival on Wednesday, April 7 in the SPSHS Auditorium starting at 6:25 p.m.

This festival will feature performances of instrumental groups, vocal ensembles and colorguard, as well as displays of art created by the district's many talented students. Art exhibits will be on display throughout the evening. The music program will be performed as three separate mini-concerts, with each concert re-

quiring a ticket for admission. Orchestral concert starts at 6:25 p.m., the choral concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and the band concert at 8:40 p.m.

Tickets cost \$1 per ticket per mini-concert. To order, please send a letter of request specifying which concert (orchestral, choral and/or band) and the number of tickets needed for each payable to: South Plainfield Schools, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Andrew Veiss, Middle School, 2201 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Orders will be filled based on availability. No tickets will be sold at the door! For questions, please contact Andrew Veiss, District Music Team Leader, via email at aveiss@spnet.k12.nj.us.

quiring a ticket for admission. Orchestral concert starts at 6:25 p.m., the choral concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and the band concert at 8:40 p.m.

Churches Observe Passion of Christ

The Christian churches of the South Plainfield Ecumenical Association invite the community to join them during this Easter Season.

Lenten Worship services will be held at the following locations:

Wednesday, March 17 at Sacred Heart Church on South Plainfield Ave.

Tuesday, March 23 at St. Stephen's

Lutheran Church on Park Ave.

Wednesday, March 31 at the Rescue House of Prayer on Roosevelt Ave.

Tuesday, April 6 at The St. Stephen's Proto Martyr Church on Lane Ave.

All are invited to establish a spiritual discipline at this season and sharpen their spirituality with your community. All services begin at 7:30 p.m.

Spring Soccer Registration This Saturday

South Plainfield Soccer Club in-person registration for Soccer Squirts (ages 3, 4 and 5) and 4v4 Soccer Development Clinics (ages 6, 7 and 8) will be held this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the PAL. These programs will be run on six consecutive Saturdays beginning Apr. 17 and ending on May 22. All sessions will be held at the Kenneth Ave. soccer fields.

Programs will be held at the following times:

Soccer Squirts (ages 3, 4 and 5)- 1 to 2 p.m. 4v4 Soccer Development Clinics-Six-year-olds: 9 to 10 a.m. Seven-year-olds-10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Eight-year-olds-11:30 a.m. to

12:30 p.m.

The fee for either program is \$80. If you cannot attend the in-person registration, mail-in forms are avail-

able at the PAL. For more information visit our website at www.soplfd.soccerclub.com, or contact Al Vill at albert.vill@verizon.net.

Coffeehouse to Benefit Haunted Tour

Almost Famous Players, the theater troupe that brought South Plainfield the Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour, is gearing up for Halloween 2004. On March 27 at the PAL they will sponsor an evening coffeehouse featuring the music of Justina, accompanied by Steve Ambielli. Also scheduled to appear are Abby Falato, Katie Mott, Joe Rodriguez and Chris Ab-

bott. The music is sure to please people of all ages. A PAL card is not needed to attend the show.

The Coffeehouse runs from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are \$5; Tiger gold card and SPSHS Gold card holders pay \$4, and may be purchased in advance or at the door. Reserve tables for groups of six or more. Refreshments will be sold. Proceeds will benefit Almost Famous Players, helping the group purchase materials for sets and costumes for their second annual Haunted Halloween show.

To reserve tickets, call (908) 756-8011 and a leave a message.

Interested in Adopting?

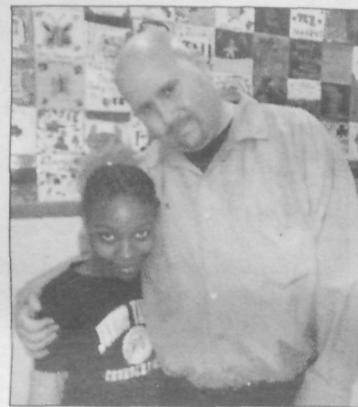
Wings of Dove, a non-profit organization, is seeking six families interested in adopting school age children from Russia. The children are ages six and up and will be coming to New Jersey for a two-week summer program in August of 2004.

Please contact Amy Martensen at (732) 229-0452 for all information.

Junior Journalist Corner



Crystal Myles Named "Junior Journalist"



Crystal Myles, Roosevelt School third grader, with teacher Michael Bertram.

Roosevelt School third grader Crystal Myles's, "Life Is ...," is this week's winning entry in the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Program. Crystal will receive dinner for her family courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students are encouraged to submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays. Entries should be given to teachers.

Winners receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be invited to an end-of-year banquet with their families.

For information on the program, or for the name of your school contact, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

Life Is...

By Crystal Myles

Life is God's poetry book with countless pages. Every day, He reads a chapter. The pictures come to himself and His Angels.

God's poetry book is a book filled with Love and Pain, and all different cultures. When you die he writes a new poem in his Poetry Book.

Every day, God adds a chapter to the book of Love and Pain.

Life is like a fairy tale with good endings, like Living happily every after and

Sad endings like a Mother dying leaving two children.

I wonder what Fairy tale ending God has written for me.

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PICK UP THOSE PENS & ENTER TODAY!

SPHS student Jenna Smith with mom Catherine, Aunt Connie Macellara, sister Chelsea Smith, friends Jenee Douras and Alicia Grunden welcome Debbie and Charlie Kurland of Hometown Heros.

Junior Journalist

Win a catered dinner for your family from Hometown Heros through the Observer/Hometown Heros Junior Journalist Contest! To enter, see story above or ask your language teacher at school.

Jr. Baseball Club Chinese Auction Date Changed

A new date has been announced for the Casino Royale and Chinese Auction, sponsored by the SPJBC. It takes place on Saturday, June 25 at the Italian American Club from 7 p.m. until midnight.

For information and tickets contact Stacy Lake at (908) 757-9531. Tickets are limited to the first 100.

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY

MILDRED KARNELL
March 11
From all Your Friends