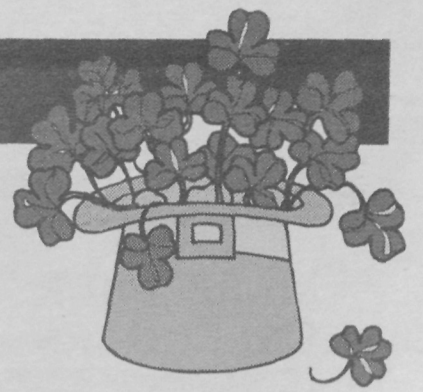


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Observer

VOL. 10, NO. 28

50 CENTS

MARCH 16, 2007

BOE Gives Nod to Budget

Budget Approved at 2.27% Under Cap; Increase Totals \$1,140,267

After three weeks of budget workshops the Board of Education approved a \$51,438,932 budget for 2007/2008 during their final budget meeting on Monday evening. For the first time in three years, there are no cuts in teaching positions. However, middle school sports are not included in the budget, but may be added if additional funding can be found in the spring.

The budget calls for \$40,050,318 to be raised by local property taxes. The increase in taxes is \$.10 per \$100 assessed valuation. For the average homeowner, the tax increase is \$212.16 on a home assessed is \$120,700.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Rosado began the budget meeting by explaining that he had met with Sen. Barbara Buono and was told that the \$100,000 Target At-Risk aid South Plainfield received from the state could be used in this year's budget. Originally, it was thought that

those funds required a special application before they could be used.

For the first time in three years, the budget does not include any cuts in teaching positions, although an elementary librarian position was scheduled to be eliminated. The board discussed using the Target At-Risk aid to reinstate the librarian position or the freshman and middle school sports. The board reached an impasse when they couldn't agree about the wording for a second ballot question which would have asked voters to vote to fund several the sports program.

The impasse ended with a suggestion by Dr. Robert Rosado to use \$40,000 of the \$100,000 funds from the Target At-Risk aid to restore one librarian position and \$60,000 for high school freshman sports program. Although the freshman sports program has a \$100,000 price tag,

(Continued on page 7)



SPHS Girls Varsity Basketball Team Bid for Group III Championship Crushed in Final Game

The SPHS Girl's Varsity Basketball Team suffered a crushing loss to Willingboro at the final Group III Championship at the Ritacco Center at the Toms River High School. Pictured (standing, left to right) are: Coach Maureen Barnett, team members Megan Boyle, Asia Hollis, Elizabeth Flannery, Amber Hartmann (inactive), Dorian Bishop, Tiffany Smith, Assistant Coach's Kiley Jackson and John Bordick; sitting, Natasha Jaikaran, Taylor Deskins, Niya Santiago, Blaire Houston and Chantiyana Beckett. Not pictured is Kate Muglia.



Congratulations to the Sacred Heart School "Lady Hawks" third and fourth grade Girls Basketball Squad. They placed first in the Diocese of Metuchen Gym Basketball Playoffs Bishop Vincent DePaul Breen Tournament on March 10. Sacred Heart Lady Hawks team members are: Kayla Whitaker, Gina Nolan, Mary Bach, Peyton David, Nicole Walker, Morgan Miller, Savannah Miller, Laryssa Fee, Brianna Deifenbach, Matilda Mercer, Daisy Garcia, Elizah Rodriguez and Bhumi Patel.

Rosado to Explain 2007/08 BOE Budget

In an effort to inform the public and gain support for the upcoming BOE Budget Resolution vote, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Rosado, will present the 2007/08 school budget at the following locations.

Senior Citizen Group	March 20	1:30 p.m.	Senior Center
Middle School	March 20	7 p.m.	Media Center
Kennedy School	March 21	6:30 p.m.	Library
Riley School	March 26	7 p.m.	Library
High School	March 27	7 p.m.	Cafeteria
Franklin School	April 2	7:30 p.m.	Library
Roosevelt School	April 4	7 p.m.	Library

Comcast Channel 74 will also broadcast the presentation on Saturday, March 24 at 8 p.m., and Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m.

District Music and Art Festival SPHS Presents 38th Annual Event

The South Plainfield Public Schools will present its 38th Annual All-District Music and Art Festival on Thursday, March 29 at South Plainfield High School starting at 6:25 p.m. The festival will feature performances of instrumental and vocal ensembles as well as displays of art created by the district's many talented students.

The music performances will take place in the auditorium while the works of art will be displayed in the hallway. The concert will be performed in three segments separated by two short intermissions during which the High School Winter Guard will give performances in the gymnasium. The first part of the concert will be devoted to orchestral music. The second part of the program will feature vocal music performances. The concert will conclude with performances of symphonic and jazz bands. Each

segment of the program will feature ensembles from Grant School, the Middle School and the high school. Each of the three concert segments will require a separate ticket.

The orchestra segment will begin at 6:25 p.m., the choral begins at 7:35 p.m. and the band concert begins at 8:40 p.m. Tickets are currently on sale for \$2 per segment and can be purchased at the Middle School or from your child's teacher until March 23. Tickets purchased after March 23 will cost \$5.

To order tickets, please send a letter of request specifying which concert (orchestral, choral, and/or band) and the number of tickets needed for each. Please send your request and check, payable to South Plainfield Schools, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Andrew Veiss, South Plainfield Middle School, 2201

Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080. Orders will be filled based on ticket availability. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Veiss, the district music team leader, at aveiss@spnet.k12.nj.us or at (908) 754-4620 Ext. 378.

Inside MARCH 16

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The Borough Council meeting will be aired on Comcast Channel 74 on Mondays at 8 p.m.

(Except for Holidays)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

council meetings

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

Table with 3 columns: Date, Agenda Meeting, Public Meeting. Rows for March 20 and April 3.

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

planning board

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

zoning board of adjustment

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

Mar. 22, Apr. 12 and 26, May 10 and 24 June 14 and 28, July 12 and 26, Aug. 9 and 23, Sept. 13 and 27, Oct. 11 and 25 Nov. 1 and 29 and Dec. 13.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m.-March 28. Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m.-March and April 4.

taxpayers advisory group

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

site plans sub-committee

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

recreation commission

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

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 (No Meeting in August)

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

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

South Plainfield Observer

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(908) 668-0010 • FAX (908) 668-8819

NANCY GRENNIER Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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IN MY OPINION

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

Dear Editor,

On Thursday, March 8 a fundraiser was held for the Harrington Family at the South Plainfield High School. While a good turnout was expected, you can never measure the impact of a tragedy, as Bob Harrington, who was stricken with cancer, passed away that morning. With a backdrop of heavy hearts, the gym and cafeteria were filled with people of all ages coming together to assist a family in need.

I had the good fortune to be approached by Mike Downes a few months ago and came up with the idea for "Buckets for Bob" to help the family. I had known Bob, Liz and their boys through our association in the Junior Baseball Club along with various school activities, and knew Bob to be a strong, quiet man who always had a warm smile whenever I would see him.

The timing of the event, while bittersweet, hopefully allowed the family some warm feelings in their darkest hour. I know I will never forget the number of people who participated and those who assisted in the night. Coming up with the idea was easy, but wondering how to get it done was another. I wrote down all of the people who helped and think this will put it best. To the town of South Plainfield... Thank you.

TOM MCCREESH, FUNDRAISING CHAIRMAN

To the Editor,

We would like to thank the following businesses and residents for offering their assistants for the Darren Gorman fundraiser held on March 3 at the South Plainfield Knights of Columbus. This fundraiser to help the Gorman Family would not have been possible with their generous donations. The Gorman Family was overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity from everyone that was involved and would like to thank everyone for helping the family during this time, including the following:

Carmen's Trattoria, Corner Deli, Corporate Graphics, Curves, Dimensional Millwork Inc., Earth Treasurers, Effingers, Italian American Club, Lowes, Our Town Deli, Pop Warner, Radio Shack, Sals Liquor, Sears Hardware, Sears, Target, TBS Atlanta, The Boyle Memorial Foundation, the Lundy Family, Twin City, Walmart and Warren Hills Orthodontics.

Kim and Charlie Gruver would personally like to give a big thank you to the following people whose undying commitment made this wonderful event happen: the Davidson Family, the Liszewski Family, the DeVecchio Family and the DiDolce Family.

SINCERELY, KIM AND CHARLIE GRUVER AND FAMILY AND DEBBIE BOYLE

Dear Editor:

It is that time of year once again for the voting citizens of South Plainfield to address the candidates for the Board of Education and the upcoming "budget" for the new school year.

Hopefully, enough people have become more aware of the necessity

of voting for good candidates for the Board that there will be serious thought given to the candidates. Voting for candidates who are, or were, in any way connected to the school system, i.e. former teachers and administrators should not even be considered for election: conflict of interest, big time!

In addition, the over 48 million dollar budget proposed is absolutely outrageous. Anyone with a lick of sense knows that the major part of that figure is going for 5-6% salary increases and to pay for the increases in health plans which are not being contributed to by the employees. If the Consumer Price Index goes up by 3% and the Cost of Living goes up by 3%, why are the employees of the Board of Education negotiating salary increases of 5-6% and perhaps higher? A lot of questioning and investigation should and must be done. It's time for people to really be aware as to where the major part of our property tax dollar is going and it certainly is not going to repair roads, lessen the sewer tax or do away with having to pay for our refuse to be hauled away.

PAT MCDONOUGH

Dear Friends,

I completed the half-marathon in 3:10 and some seconds. This is a much better time than my planned 3:30. If you are not used to thinking in terms of miles/minutes, here is what this means: if you walk pretty slowly, you can cover 13 miles in three and a half hours! So I am quite a turtle. The slow, wobbly, stubborn kind.



Thank you so much for your support and encouragement. Thanks to all my colleagues at work, my friends, my sister Clarissa, my family in Brazil (half believing, half in shock!), my gorgeous husband, Samit, who says yes to all insane ideas I have, my trainer Merle who has been working with me since the time when I had trouble walking, and the person who made

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will no longer publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday, 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

this happen for me: my friend George, who not only provided the guidance, but the most amazing support system a person can have. You are golden my friend! Just golden!

A special thank you to all the sponsors who were so generous! I am moved, grateful and extremely proud of your support! You can check out this amazing list at the Web site www.firstgiving.com/clauidahirawat.

Thank you to Pat, Kimberly and the entire PPMD team, your commitment to identifying treatments for DMD and improving the lives of patients and their families is overwhelming. I am amazed at your strength.

Organizations supporting patients with rare diseases have a phenomenal impact on healthcare and legislation. They also teach us of the power of patients, of their families and that we can and we must take charge of issues impacting our health. If you would like to make a donation supporting Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy please visit my homepage.

To all patients and families I have the honor of working with, thank you. You are my heroes!

CLAUDIA HIRAWAT SR. VP PTC THERAPEUTICS, INC.

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Danielle Harris Lacasale who I understand is campaigning for a vacancy on the South Plainfield Board of Education. I have worked with and supervised Mrs. Lacasale and feel with the skills she possesses she can be a won-

(Continued on page 11)

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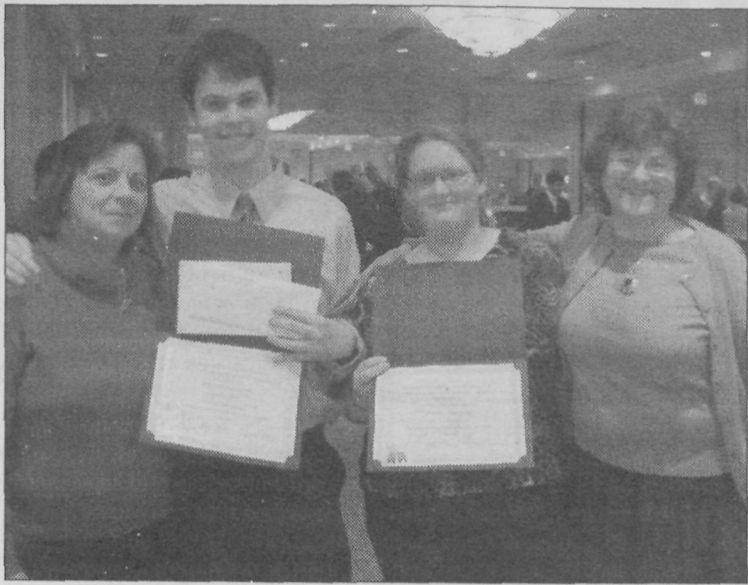
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Local Student Volunteers Honored



James Cox and Meghan Hartmann with guidance counselors Cheryl Fox and Eileen Boettger.

Two South Plainfield High School students, senior Meghan Hartmann and junior James Cox, were honored at a dinner at the Pines Manor in Edison on March 7 for volunteering countless hours of their time to wor-

thy causes.

Meghan raises seeing eye puppies. She has a pet therapy dog she works with. Her 4-H club was awarded the "Points of Light Award" by President Bush last year. Her pet therapy club was Build-A-Bear's January 2006 Huggable Heroes award recipient.

Jimmy is a peer counselor at Childrens Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

Hartmann and Cox were honored by the Middlesex County School Boards Association, each receiving a \$50 savings bond and a "Student Recognition Award." To quote the Middlesex County School Board President, "All of the students honored are 'unsung heroes.'"

Meghan and Jimmy would like to thank their parents for supporting them in all they do for them. A special thanks to guidance counselors Cheryl Fox and Eileen Boettger, and Board of Education member Carol Byrne, who attended the dinner.



Fish on the Sewers?

Residents may have recently noticed a message painted on the pavement next to many of the borough's storm drains: "No Dumping-Drains To Waterway."

During the next few weeks, the Department of Public Works is labeling all the storm drains in the borough to remind residents that whatever goes into the drains eventually is washed into Spring Lake or one of the borough's streams.

Many assume incorrectly that the storm sewers carry rainwater to a sewage treatment plant, where the water will be cleaned up before be-

ing allowed to run into a natural body of water.

In actuality, storm sewers are separate from the sanitary sewer system. They are only a way of piping drainage underground to keep the streets passable; the water goes directly into local streams. Streams drain into the Green Brook, which drain into the Raritan River, which empty into Raritan Bay, which open to the Atlantic Ocean along the Jersey Shore.

The bottom line: Don't put anything into a storm drain that you would not want to swim in.

NOTES FROM The Senior Center

Dr. Rosado to Discuss 2007/2008 School Budget-The annual school budget election is on April 17. Do you have the essential information needed to make an informed decision on our school budget? Dr. Robert J. Rosado, superintendent of schools, will be on hand at the South Plainfield Senior Center on Tuesday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m. to give a presentation on the 2007-2008 Board of Education Budget. This program is open to the public and all South Plainfield residents are welcome to attend. We encourage all interested residents to attend.

Paper Mill Playhouse Trip-The South Plainfield Senior Center is running a theatre trip to PaperMill Playhouse to see the award winning musical, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers". The Wild West explodes on stage in this rollicking adaptation of the MGM movie musical Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.

Beloved for its rousing songs and show-stopping dance numbers, this production authentically evokes the

1850s Oregon wilderness. Filled with eye-popping choreography and unbridled athleticism, this is a lively production you won't want to miss! We have orchestra seats reserved for Saturday, April 28 at the 2 p.m. matinee. The cost is \$55 per person including motor coach transportation from the Senior Center. Tickets are limited so contact the Senior Center ASAP at (908) 754-1047 or stop in to the center. You do not have to be a senior to attend.

Atlantic City Trips Planned-The Senior Center has 2 trips scheduled to Atlantic City in April. On Wednesday, April 4, the group will visit the Taj Mahal and on Thursday, April 19 the group will go to the Claridge. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 9 a.m. and return around 7 p.m. The cost is \$18 which is returned to you on arrival at the casino. Stop in at the Senior Center to make your reservation. Trips are open to all borough residents, not just seniors.

Pilgrim Covenant Selling Patriot Baseball Vouchers

Spring is coming and so is baseball season. In another month, leagues for children and adults will be assembling, providing numerous opportunities to play ball. If you are one who would rather watch the game than play it, Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center is offering an opportunity to do just that. The Center is selling vouchers

for the 2007 season of the Somerset Patriots. Vouchers are \$8 each and are redeemable for an upper box reserved seat for any home game (subject to availability).

For more information or to purchase vouchers please call Gina Birath at (908) 756-4879. Vouchers are on sale until Friday, April 27.

Franklin School Annual Auction/Raffle Night

The Franklin School PTO will hold their 11th Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 24 in the high school gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and available in advance. You will receive a complimentary ticket for the grand prize drawing with every advanced ticket sale. Please note that no one under the age of 18 will be admitted.

For tickets or more information, please call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Jennifer at (908) 561-4958.

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Around Town

Lenten Fish Dinners

March 16, 23 & 30

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203 and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring their famous Lenten Fish Dinners on Friday, March 16, 23 and 30 in the school cafeteria from 5 to 7 p.m.

For information, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10.

Corned Beef and Cabbage at VFW

March 16

Get there early! The VFW, located on Front Street, will be holding a corned beef and cabbage/fish fry dinner on Friday, March 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$8. Public welcome.

Elks Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

March 17

The South Plainfield Elks Veterans Committee is sponsoring their annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 17 from 4:30 to 9 p.m. The Elks is located on New Market Avenue. Adults \$12, children \$5. All you can eat, includes soda and dessert, cash bar.

Any questions, contact Lou Peralta (908) 756-6406.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dinner

March 17

The Sons of the American Legion

Class of 1976 Reunion

March 24

Attention all classmates! The South Plainfield Class of 1976 will hold its 30th reunion on Saturday, March 24 at the Twin Brooks Country Club. For more information, please e-mail Pat Cawley at SPHS@hotmail.com.

South Plainfield SENIOR CENTER

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

What's happening in MARCH

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS				
St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance March 17 6-10 p.m. \$10 per person				Bingo 10am-2pm 16
Trip to Claridge Casino March 22 9 a.m.				
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30am-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Art Class 11:30am AARP Meeting 12:30pm 19	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social Group 10am Tax Aid 1-4 pm 20	Aerobics 8:45am Computer Classes 10am, 11:20am, 1 pm Listening to Children 10am Line Dancing 10am Tai Chi 2 pm 21	Shopping 9am Claridge Trip 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 10am, 11am, 1pm Exercise Class 1:15pm Tax Aid 1 p.m.-4 p.m. 22	Bingo 10am-2pm 23
TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.				

Post 243, located on Oak Tree Avenue, will hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance on Saturday, March 17 from 6 to 11 p.m. Music provided by DJ. Tickets are \$15 per person and include dinner, beer, soda, dessert and coffee. Benefits scholarship fund.

For tickets call (908) 668-9414.

Knights St. Patrick's Day Dinner

March 17

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council will hold their annual St. Patrick's Day dinner at their hall on Hamilton Boulevard on Saturday, March 17 from 6 to 10 p.m. Price of \$20 per person includes corned beef and cabbage (chicken breast for those who don't like corned beef), potato leek soup, red potatoes, dessert and open bar. Classic Irish music will be played. Take-out dinners available.

For information or to reserve tickets, call Bob Sanko at (908) 227-6015.

Annual Chili Fest

March 18

Boy Scout Troop 207 will be holding their annual chili fest on Sunday, March 18 from 3 to 7 p.m. in the SHPH cafeteria. Cost is \$5 per ticket and includes salad, drink, bread and all the homemade chili you can eat. Tickets can be purchased at the door and take-out is available. Proceeds go towards troop equipment and events.

First Baptist Church Homecoming Worship

March 18

First Baptist Church of South Plainfield, located at 201 Hamilton Blvd., will be holding a Homecoming Sunday worship on Sunday, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. We are inviting old friends back and welcoming new visitors for our Homecoming Sunday for worship and lunch to follow.

Rev. Ken Mart will be our guest

speaker. Sunday Worship service is 10:30-11:30 a.m. and Sunday School is 9:30-10:20 a.m.

For information call (908) 753-2382. Everyone is welcome.

AARP Chapter 4144

March 19

AARP Chapter 4144's next meeting will be held at the senior center on Maple Avenue on Monday, March 19 at 12:30 p.m. A program on Elder Law will be given by Kenneth Vercammen, attorney at law.

AARP-IRS Tax Prep Assistance is available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at the senior center.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. They knit for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. To join call Jean at (432) 752-0358.

Franklin Auction/Raffle Night

March 24

The Franklin School PTO will hold their 11th Annual Auction/Raffle Night on Saturday, March 24 in the high school gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Complimentary ticket for grand prize drawing with every advanced ticket sale. No one under the age of 18 will be admitted.

For tickets call Dorothea at (908) 753-7117 or Jennifer at (908) 561-4958.

— Out of Town —

Blackrose to Perform

March 17

Blackrose, the band playing classic rock and roll and today's hits will be performing at Cafe 34, Rt. 34 North in Matawan on Saturday, March 17 at 10 p.m. No cover charge.

Spring Celebration

March 18

The annual Spring Celebration Concert will be held on Sunday, March 18 at 2 p.m. at East Jersey Old Towne Village. Musician Heather Mulvey will take participants on a Celtic music journey.

To register, call (732) 745-3030. Persons with hearing disabilities may dial (732) 745-3888 (TTY only) or 722, the New Jersey Relay Service.

POPS! Broadway and Beyond

March 18

The Edison Arts Society presents the Edison Symphony Orchestra Season Finale, POPS! Broadway and Beyond, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18 at the Middlesex County College Performing Arts Center in Edison.

For information call Nina Hand at (908) 753-2787, Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Legislative Breakfast

March 20

Assemblyman Samuel D. Thompson will speak at the Middlesex County business community on Tuesday, March 20 at the Sheraton Raritan Center in Edison at 8 a.m. Admission is \$20.

For more information or to register call Debbie at (732) 821-1700.

Ostomy Association Monthly Meeting

March 20

The Somerset County Ostomy Association will hold a meeting on Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms C&D at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. The meeting is free and no pre-registration is required. Refreshments served.

For information, call (908) 534-7897.

First Time Home Buying Seminar

March 24

First Hallmark Mortgage Corporation in Somerset is hosting a free seminar on first-time home buying and refinancing on Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Franklin Volunteer Fire Company in Somerset. Registration is recommended.

For information, call (800) 973-9604.

Egg-Decorating

March 24

A Ukrainian egg-decorating workshop led by folk artist Olga Kobryn will be held on Saturday, March 24 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway.

Registration required; \$8 fee for materials. Call (732) 745.4489.

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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Stallone Named First Team All-ECHA Again Earns All-ECHA Honors for Third Time In His Career

Dan Stallone, a senior defenseman on The University of Scranton men's ice hockey team, has been named first-team all-Eastern Collegiate Hockey Association (ECHA) for the second straight year.

Stallone has been honored by the ECHA three times in his career, earning third-team honors as a sophomore in 2005.

This past season, Stallone led the Ice Royals of veteran head coach Bill Fitzgerald in 20 assists, a total of 31 points and tied for the team-lead in goals with 11. He scored at least one point in 17 of 27 games, including a season-high three-goal, two-assist performance in a 7-6 overtime loss to Villanova on Jan. 27. He also had



Dan Stallone

seven other multi-point games.

During his career, Stallone appeared in 100 games and had 33 goals, 61 assists for 94 total points. He is sixth all-time in Ice Royals' history in total points and assists. Last winter, he became the first player in Scranton history to garner first-team all-ECHA honors.

Amanda Veinott To Attend Oxford University

Amanda Veinott, daughter of George and Maureen Veinott, has been invited to attend The Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships Mentoring Program to be held at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, England this summer.

Amanda is a freshman at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. and is being sponsored by the university. The selection process was based upon an intense application process, recommendations from professors and review of her academic records. The mentoring program will help prepare students to compete for scholarships and fellowships such as: The Rhodes, Truman, Marshall, Fullbright, Goldwater and Rotary Ambassadorial, to name a few.

This course is designed to encourage the student to pursue a serious



Amanda Veinott

path of academic exploration and scholarly excellence in the years ahead.

Amanda completed her first semester at Christopher University with a 3.4 GPA, while majoring in psychology with a minor in leadership studies. Amanda hopes to pursue a career in corporate leadership training and organizational psychology.

Richard Stockton College Oratorio Needs Singers

All interested singers are invited to join with The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Oratorio Society in their weekly rehearsals in preparation for Mendelssohn's "Elijah" to take place at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 28.

The performance, under the direction of Professor of Music Dr. Beverly J. Vaughn, will include a diversified choral force of students, faculty and staff and Stockton community members. "Experience is not needed, just a willingness to sing and enthusiasm for this production. It is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who always wanted to sing in public but did not know where to begin."

The practices will take place on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the Alton Auditorium (the former A-Wing Lecture Hall) on campus.

For additional information, please call Stockton's Division of Arts and Humanities at (609) 652-4505.

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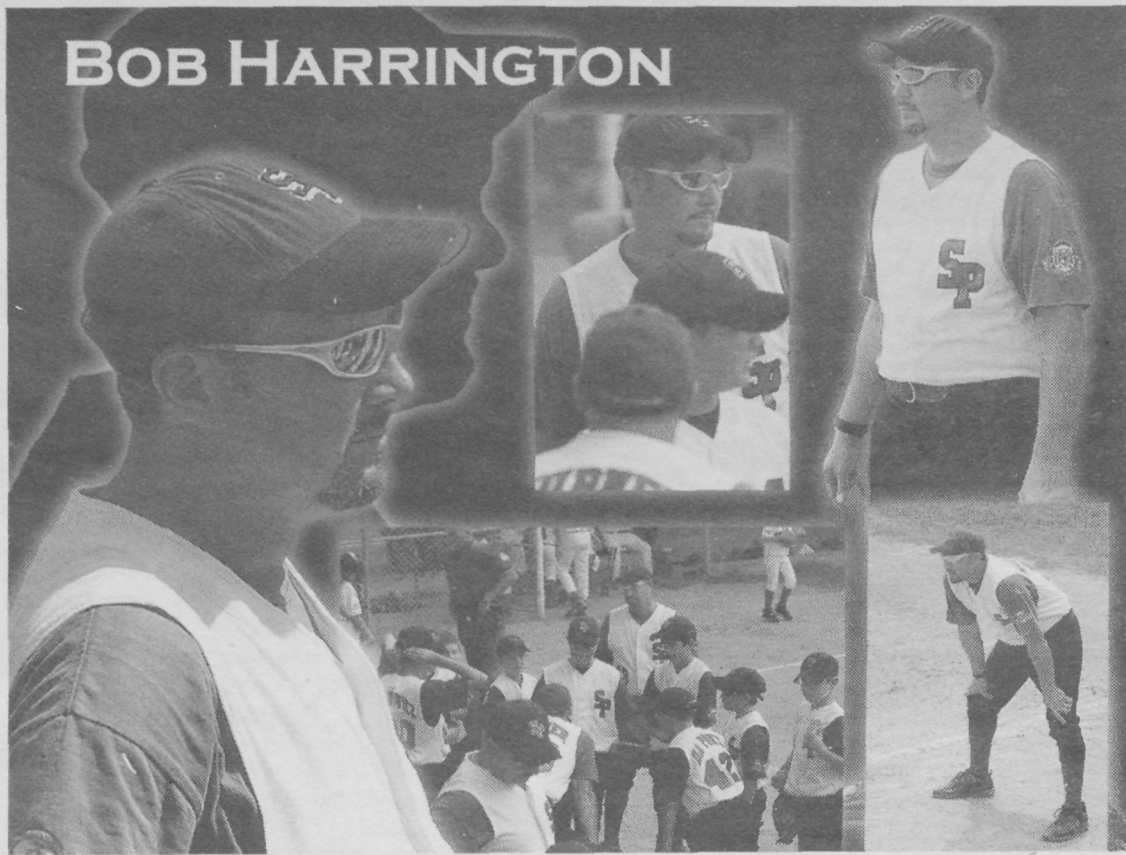
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BOB HARRINGTON

Local resident Bob Harrington, known for his volunteerism, was remembered by many at fundraiser in his name.

Buckets for Bob Raises Money, Spirits

By Jane Dornick

It was a sad, ironic day last Thursday for the family of resident Bob Harrington. Harrington passed away that morning, the same day that a fundraiser was to be held that evening in his honor. Even though the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club (SPJBC) had spent weeks planning the event, no one was prepared for the huge crowd and spirit of the people of South Plainfield that came to show their support.

Bob, 43, lived in town for nearly 20 years with his wife, Liz and two

sons, Ryan, a freshman and Bobbie Jr., a junior in high school. He was involved in coaching at the SPJBC for the past eight years, including the traveling all-star teams and had previously coached recreation basketball. Bob was the owner B & H Services and was diagnosed with cancer just a short time ago.

The Buckets for Bob fundraiser was a two-man team timed basketball shoot contest held at the South Plainfield High School. The contest was supposed to begin at 5 p.m., but according to Tom McCreesh, who helped organize the event, said they

had to start at 4:30 p.m. because of the amount of people already waiting in line.

T-shirts with "Buckets for Bob" across the front were donated by Sportworld and were given out to the first 100 people to enter. Anxious shooters were still waiting in line for their turn to participate at 7 p.m., with some going around for a second or third time. The two-man teams had two minutes to see how many shots they could make. Trophies were donated by Crown Trophy and given out in two categories. The winners in the professional division were Mike "Shotman" Lanza and Bob Lanza with 145 baskets. The amateur division winners were Danny McCreesh and Anthony Cassano with 132 and Mike Stallone and Danny McCreesh with 130 baskets.

There was plenty of food donated by Roma Foods, the Grant PTO and friends. The SPHS Booster Club donated all of the proceeds from the snack stand in the cafeteria to the worthy cause. There was a 50/50 drawing and close to 30 baskets had been do-



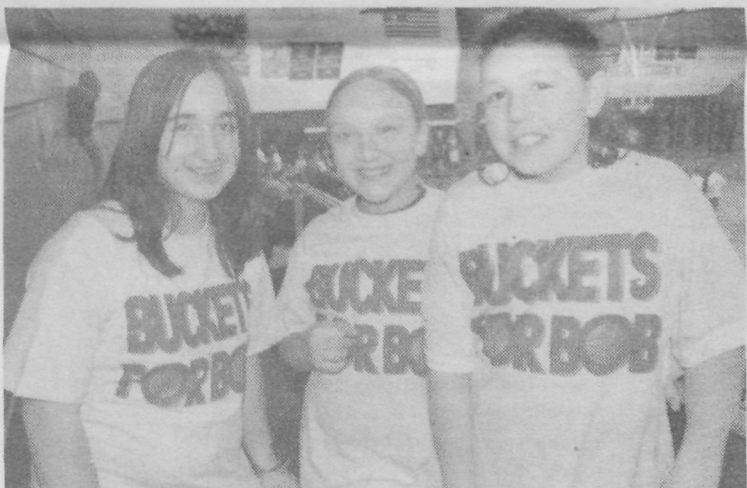
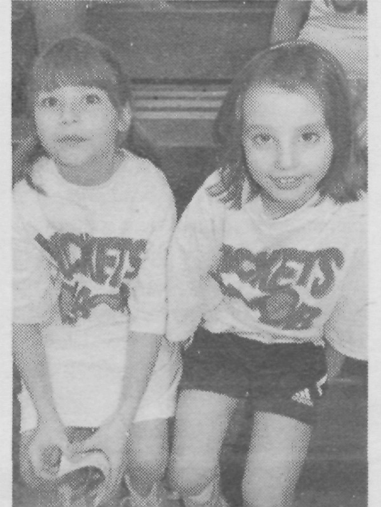
SPJBC Commissioner Lee Flanagan (above left) presents Bob's wife, Liz, and sons Ryan and Bobbie, with a book that included a clock and inscription from the baseball club commemorating the evening.

nated by friends and businesses that were raffled off.

SPJBC Commissioner Lee Flanagan presented Bob's wife and sons with a book that included a clock and inscription from the baseball club commemorating the evening.

"Bob was always willing to help out," Flanagan said. "Whether it was working on the fields or coaching, he never said no. That's the kind of guy he was."

Over 500 people participated in the event which "far exceeded expectations," said McCreesh. "Bob was an all-around good guy and his friends really stepped up."



These young ladies were part of the 500 who participated in the fundraiser for Bob Harrington.

Observer May Issue to Feature Fire Department History

In honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary celebration of the South Plainfield Fire Department, the *Observer* will be present a series of articles detailing some of the fascinating history of our fire department.

The South Plainfield Fire Department has big plans for their 100th anniversary, beginning with a huge parade that starts at 11 a.m. After the parade there will be lots of fun, food from Outback Steak House, refreshments, live musical entertainment by the Nerds, a DJ, amusement rides and trophies. Commemorative mugs, shirts and hats will be

available to purchase.

Anyone who would like to participate in the parade or for information, call (908) 412-8868 or e-mail Tomesca@aol.com.

There are many families in town who have roots in the early days of our fire department. If you have any special memories, photos, or a brief story about a fellow fireman or family member of the South Plainfield Fire Department you would like to share, please e-mail us at angelonly@aol.com or ggann@aol.com. We hope to see everyone at the parade!

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2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland of Hometown Heros deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Abhi Boran, pictured here with her mom Nipa; dad Sunny and twin brothers Abhashek and Animsh.

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Morgan Evans with Kennedy School teacher Cynthia Severino.

Morgan Evans Named Junior Journalist

Morgan Evans, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Junior Journalist contest. Her efforts have earned her dinner, courtesy of Hometown Heros.

Students should submit their original written works to their teachers, school principal, Hometown Heros on Hamilton Blvd. or the *Observer* office at 1110 Hamilton Blvd.

Winners and their families will receive a catered dinner from Hometown Heros and will be honored at a year-end banquet in May of 2007.

For more information, call the *Observer* at (908) 668-0010 or Hometown Heros at (908) 755-4376.

BOE Gives Nod to Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Rosado noted there may be additional funds coming from surplus in the spring. He also held out the possibility that middle school sports could be supported by "breakage"—the difference in salary for new teachers compared to teachers retiring at top of the salary scale. So far nine teachers have announced their intention of retiring and that breakage is already part of the budget.

Several parents expressed disappointment on the elimination of middle school sports, saying that the program is at risk to be cut every year. They asked about pay to play and were told it is still under consideration.

Frank Mikorski reminded residents to contact their state officials to push for a more equitable distribution of state funds for the schools. He advocates allotting a set amount for each student, instead of the state giving Abbott districts more than 70 percent in funding. Abbott districts receive 100 percent funding for preschool and construction. Log on to the school's Web site at spnet.k12nj.us to contact your elected officials.

Both Rosado and Board President Jeff Seider emphasized that the budget increase from the 2006/2007 to 2007/2008 is \$1,140,267, a 2.27 percent increase. That amount is less

than the \$1,182,000 that the council cut from the budget after it was defeated last year.

Districts whose budgets are approved are permitted to put \$1M in a surplus account. If last year's budget had passed, the board would not have to make as many cuts as they did this year, including middle school sports. "The districts that excel in academics pass their budgets every year," said Dr. Rosado. He added that South Plainfield students have moved considerably upward according to the test results during the past few years and passing the budget will ensure they keep the rankings up.

In order to keep the teaching positions and all programs contained in this year's budget, Rosado and Seider asked that the public vote 'yes' for this year's budget. If defeated, the council will be at liberty to make budget cuts according to their own discretion.

Last year only about eight percent of the eligible voters came out to the polls to vote on the school budget which totals almost 80 percent of property taxes.

To view the budget meeting, tune in to Comcast Channel 74 on Saturday, March 17 at 8 p.m. or Thursday, March 22 at 7 p.m. (Note: Only two hours of the meeting will be aired.)



Sacred Heart School Principal Sr. Nadine Boyle and Associate Pastor Father Andrew Wieliczko join The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski as he visits classrooms during Catholic Schools Week.

Reserve a Spot for Columbiettes Easter Bunny Brunch March 25

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will be hosting their annual Easter Bunny Brunch on Sunday, March 25 at Sacred Heart School. Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. and festivities begin at 11.

The brunch will consist of eggs, pancakes, French toast, sausage, ham and more. There will be games and prizes and the Easter Bunny will give out baskets to all children seven and under.

Cost is \$10 per person and reservations are required, as space is limited. To reserve your spot or for more information, call Kathy at (908) 756-3772 or leave a message at (908) 754-5239.

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2007 JUNIOR JOURNALIST



My Friend and I

By Morgan Evans

I want to tell you about how great it is to have a friend like my best friend. When we spend the day together we have so much fun. I love when we spend time together. My friend is so funny. When I go over usually the first thing we do is we listen to CDs. We know the words to some of them. And when we don't know the words we skip to the next song. After, we play Dream Life. She told me she had a boyfriend in the game. After that, we get a snack and watch television. We always watch Disney. By now it is getting late so we call my mom to see if I can sleep over. Sometimes she says no, but sometimes she says yes. After that, we bother Jimmy, her little brother. He's strong. Then we see what Aimee's doing. She's her older sister and we like to bother her too. She's always talking on the phone or on the computer.

Jesse and I play more Dream Life. Then we get ready for bed. After we are ready for bed we listen to the best CDs and dance to it. We're both dancers too. Lastly, we get a drink and go to bed.

When we get up the next morning, we go into the kitchen and make tea and oatmeal. Then we watch Spongebob Squarepants and put on some more CDs. We get dressed and play with her dog, Blizzard. After that, we bother Jimmy and Aimee again and go on the computer to our favorite website. We see my frog, Riberto, and her monkey, Shorty. Guess what, they are friends too, in Webkinz World.



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Sports

Register For Eagles Football & Cheer

The South Plainfield Eagles Football and Cheer Program announces the 2007 registration dates for all football and cheerleaders ages five through 14.

Registration will be held Friday March 16 and 30 from 6-8 p.m. and Saturday March 17 and 31 from 9

a.m. to 12 noon, at the fieldhouse on Kenneth Avenue. Space is limited, so registration is first come-first serve. Information and forms can be found at our Web site at www.speagles.com. The program is also looking for applicants to be football and cheer coaches at all levels.

Yankees and Mets Tickets Available

The Club at Ricochet has tickets available for the following Yankee and Mets baseball games. The \$54 trip price includes the ticket and bus from

South Plainfield. The games are Mets vs. Arizona Saturday, June 2, Yankees vs. Toronto Monday, July 16, Yankees vs. White Sox Tuesday, July 31, Mets vs. Florida Saturday, Aug. 11, Yanks vs. Baltimore Monday, Aug. 13. To obtain tickets call Ricochet at (908) 753-2300.

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WRESTLING

By Bob Hunter

Recreation Wrestlers No. 2 at League Tournament

By Bob Hunter

The South Plainfield recreation wrestling team finished second in the 2007 Central Jersey Midget Wrestling League Tournament. Eight points separated the Junior Tigers from first place Franklin Township who claimed their second consecutive tournament title.

Franklin Township finished with 67 points, while South Plainfield had 59 points, and Watchung Hills finished in third with 50 points.

South Plainfield had six wrestlers in the finals and had three winners—

Anthony Ashnault 73 finished his season undefeated in league action when he defeated Ryan Burkert of Cranford. He was the first Tiger champion. Troy Heilmann 85 was the next Tiger champion when he defeated Tyler Workman of Hillsborough. Corey Stasenko 102 finished the title run when he defeated Joe Balboni of Kenilworth for the third Tiger championship.

Jake Hoffman 53, a young wrestler on the rise, came up short in his bid for a title when he lost to John Sheedy of Franklin Township for second place.

Ryan Walsh 63 lost a close battle with Craig Delacruz of Middlesex for second place. Dylan Painton 80, also came up short in an exciting match with Michael Fagg-Daves of Franklin Township for second place. Third place went to Ray Jazikoff 90, who wrestled back to win his consolation final over Grady Orr of Flemington. Joe Jakubik 70 and Joey Pellegrino 77 finished in fourth place and Troy Davison 57, Dominic Gruver 110 and Alex Lundy 120 finished in sixth place. Congratulations on a good tournament and a great season.

Ten Wrestlers Headed to Kids States

By Bob Hunter

South Plainfield will be well represented at the upcoming USA New Jersey Kids State Wrestling Championships that will be held at the end of the month. Wrestlers have to qualify at a regional qualifier by placing in the top three.

Qualifying for South Plainfield are Anthony Ashnault 70, who will be

ing going after his fifth consecutive state title, Kyle Brady 75, Troy Heilmann 80, Tyler Hunt 85, Scott Whalen 90, Corey Stasenko 90, Ryan Billich 132, Alex Lundy 150, and Billy Whitefleet heavyweight. Rich Szeliga 95 will wrestle in the Cadet High School States. Good luck to all.

See all the results in next week's edition of the *Observer*.

By Glenn Cullen

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club would like to thank the community for its overwhelming response to the Bucket's for Bob event. A special thanks goes out to Lee Flanagan and Tom McCreesh for helping organize the event. The SPJBC would like to express its condolences to the Harrington Family. The event spoke for itself on how the community felt about Bob Harrington.

The SPJBC would like to thank the army of volunteers that helped in last Saturday's spring cleanup. A special thanks goes out to Leo Appolloni for his work at Field 3. This weekend the SPJBC will continue its 50/70 expansion on Field 3. All nine year-old and 14 year-old parents should report to the SPJBC Clubhouse at 8 a.m. for their field duty assignments.

The next SPJBC Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. course will be held on March 22. Those who coach are required to have certification as well as

be a club member. Please call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 to register. All players should have received notification by their manager regarding team selections. Opening day is just four weeks away. There are still player openings in Pony A League and B League. Any child interested in playing in the 14-17 age group and 10-11 age can still register for the 2007 season.

The SPJBC is looking for volunteers for the 2007 season. In particular, the SPJBC needs snack stand captains. Anyone interested is asked to call the SPJBC at (908) 754-2090 or e-mail the club at www.southplainfieldjbc@yahoo.com. Feel free to visit the SPJBC website at www.leaguelineup.com/spjbc.

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Sports



Kayla Massaro finished fourth in JOGA C State Championships

Kayla Massaro Competes in State Championships

On Saturday, Feb. 3 Kayla Massaro competed in the 2007 JOGA C State Championships held at her home gym, American Gymnastics Academy.

Although it was her first time competing at this level, Kayla won sixth place on floor and vault and second place on balance beam with her all time highest score and finished the day placing fourth in the state. The JOGA C team, coached by Lynn Pachanski, finished second in the team category.

The day was filled with excitement for all the gymnasts. The competition started early and lasted throughout the day with the girls staying for each session to cheer on their teammates. The highlight for everyone was the special appearance by Olympic gymnast Blaine Wilson, who stayed throughout the day to sign autographs and take pictures with the girls.

For Kayla it was a great day, a great meet and a great season.

Congratulations to all the gymnasts who competed. A job well done!

High School Girls: Apply for Ponytail Scholarship

The Parents' Ponytail Softball Association is sponsoring three \$500 college scholarships. Applications are currently being accepted and can be obtained from the SPHS guidance office. To qualify the applicant must be a current resident of South Plainfield and be a high school senior graduating this June. To qualify for one of the two recreation scholarships, applicants must have played for a minimum of four years in the Recreation Department's Ponytail Softball League. To qualify for the Ponytail All-Star scholarship, applicants must have played recreation softball for a minimum of four years and Ponytail All-Stars for a minimum of three years. All-Star players may apply for both the recreation and All-Star scholarships; however, a player is eligible to receive only one scholarship. Application must be received by May 4. Mail completed applications to SPPPA Scholarship, P.O. Box 441, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080 or return to the SPHS guidance office in a sealed envelope labeled SPPPA Scholarship. Verification of school enrollment is required prior to funds being awarded.

Senior Softball Association Seeking New Players

The NJ Senior Softball Association (NJSSA; www.njssa.us) offers softball for about 2,000 seniors over the age of 50 across New Jersey, but we need your help. We are getting older and need to reach out to younger seniors to take our place. Further, surprisingly few senior ball players are aware of us. It is a shame; guys pass 40 and each year find it more difficult to compete with the young guys. The "old guy" gets pushed further and further down the bench, his average, power and speed drop—usually his pride gets the best of him and he quits.

Senior Softball is like being reborn. We offer up to four competitive levels ranging from guys more interested in the social aspect than the competition. On the competitive side New Jersey players frequently win national championships. We offer age brackets that keep players competitive with others their own age; with brackets of 50-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. Guys join our leagues and suddenly they are not young; they're the babies! The rookies! Their skills are often the best! We talk about the same music, often went to school in the same districts, share the same issues at home. We have a great time. We need more players not only for our existing leagues, but we earnestly wish to provide senior softball in the counties that do not have leagues; especially in northeast and south Jersey. We are presently in Morris, Union, Middlesex, Mon-

mouth, Ocean, Mercer, Camden and northern Gloucester. We have about 2,000 players. Each year we have to tell folks in the other counties that nothing is organized where they are. We want to change that. With your help we can. We are now maintaining a computer data base that will allow us to receive calls from an area so that when there are enough players we can form a team. More will call, more teams will be formed, and soon we will have a new county league.

There is no money involved with this. We don't even have sponsors. We are all volunteers.

One of our teams, the NJ Hitmen, made up of 55+ seniors from all over Central Jersey, won at least three of the nine major national titles last year!

The NJSSA has been run by a group of volunteers since the early nineties.

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Obituaries

Robert "Bob" L. Harrington, 43

Robert "Bob" L. Harrington died on Thursday, March 8 with his family at his side after a hard fight against an aggressive cancer.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., Bob grew up in Piscataway



and moved to South Plainfield in 1988.

He was the owner and operator of B&H Services, LLC and a home remodeling specialist.

Bob was a longtime coach with South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club. Over the years he had given a great deal of time volunteering to benefit the youth of South Plainfield. Bob's abilities as a coach really shined when it came to Travelling All-Stars and being able to coach and help mentor youth, and most importantly, his two sons, who made Bob so very proud. He was grateful for the friendships he had made while coaching and the assistance that so many have provided while he was battling cancer.

In addition, Bob and his family were active communicants of Sacred Heart Church.

Predeceased by his father, John, he is survived by his wife, Liz (Abel) Harrington; two sons, Bobby and Ryan; his mother, Rosemary Gallaher and stepfather, Miles; stepmother Pauline Harrington; two sisters, Nancy and husband Donald Hynes and Cindy and husband George Hartobey; a brother, Lance and wife Bobbie Harrington; a sister-in-law, Debbie Masterton and husband Bob; three brothers-in-law, Bob and wife Teri Abel, Joe and wife Judy Abel, and John and wife Sue Abel and his

mother- and father-in-law, Phyllis and Joe Abel. Also surviving are 21 nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home for Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Harrington Family Scholarship Fund, c/o P.O. Box 7221, Watchung, N.J. 07069 or the Haven Hospice, c/o 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08820.

Nancy A. Bumback, 65

Nancy (Strack) Bumback died suddenly on Monday, March 5 at Centra State Hospital in Freehold.

Born and raised in New Brunswick, Nancy resided in Piscataway where she graduated from Piscataway High School and then lived in Dunellen for many years before moving to Jackson eight years ago.

Employed by Lockheed in Watchung in the assembly department for 19 years before their closing, she later worked at Universal Labs in North Brunswick as a receptionist, before taking an early retirement to lovingly care for her ill husband, Joe.

Nancy was an avid bowler who bowled in numerous leagues over the years at Manville Lanes. She also enjoyed trips to Atlantic City.

Her beloved husband, Joseph Bumback, died on May 2, 2006.

She is survived by a daughter, Donna Kranowski of Jackson; a son, Tim Freeman and wife Stacy of upstate New York; a sister, Carol Nepton and husband Roger of Piscataway and a brother, Richard Strack and wife Stacie of Middlesex. Also surviving are four grandchildren, Brianna, Joelle, Morgan and Gavin.

Funeral services were held at McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated.



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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippo

Erinn go brach! Certainly the month of the year most associated with Ireland is March. Not only is the land turning green after a long winter, but it is the month in which we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in honor of the patron saint of Ireland. Born in Wales in 385 AD, the man who became Patrick was originally a pagan, but he ended up in France where he converted to Christianity. Desiring to convert others he eventually was sent to Ireland where he preached for many

years, dying on March 17, 461. The celebrations take many forms. There are parades in most cities with large Irish populations which include painting a green line down Fifth Avenue in New York and dyeing the Chicago River green. For those of us in New Jersey who want to fully participate in the New York parade can go to www.saintpatrickdayparade.com/NYC/newyorkcity.htm and find out everything about the parade and the day. You can check out our cookbook section to find books like *Malahi McCormick's Irish Country Cooking*, which goes beyond the traditional corned beef and cabbage, and *Ultimate Beer* by Michael Jackson, that will tell you everything you want to know about the traditional drink of the day.

Music is another important part of the celebration. Traditional Irish music is often associated with dancing, especially for weddings, saint's days, holidays, etc. *Riverdance*, the Broadway phenomena which we own on videocassette, is an example of the combining of the music and dance. Moreover, to get a more personal feel of Irish music, you can come to the South Plainfield Library on March 25 at 2 p.m. to hear Heather Mulvey and

her Celtic Music Journey. The program is free and registration is not required.

Traditionally, all Americans consider themselves Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so we can all spend the day celebrating this important saint.

Our children's programs are still going full tilt. On Tuesday mornings at 10:30, Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and Thursday afternoons at 1:15 we have storytime/crafts for 3 year olds and up. At 10:30 on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Thursday evenings at 6:30 we have Time for 2s and 3s, and Friday morning is Miss Linda's Books and Babies program. All programs are drop-in and no registration is required.

Finally, please remember that the library's Web site is a trove of information, including many databases which can answer questions when the library is closed. Moreover, you can renew items easily using our Web site (unlike the Elvis system you don't have to listen for information, it is all right in front of you), put holds on materials and request items through inter-library loan. The Web site address is www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us and is available 24/7.

police report

- On March 6, Gibraltar Management co. reported that a license plate had been removed from one of their Middlesex Mall security trucks.

- On March 7, Edwin E. Reyes-Marquez, 23, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license, fictitious plates, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

- Marlon Arthur Mendez, 31, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant.

- Tameeka, Smith, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant.

- An Old Bridge resident reported that an attempt had been made to pry open the driver's side window of their vehicle while parked at Penske

Truck Leasing on So. Clinton Ave. No entry was gained.

- On March 8, William Leonardo Rivera-Chamale, 18, of So. Plainfield was arrested for failure to exhibit a valid registration, no seat belt and an outstanding warrant.

- On March 9, Jose A. Cruz, 31, of New Brunswick was arrested for failure to inspect, no insurance and two outstanding warrants.

- On March 10, Nelson E. Gonzalez-Gonzalez, 26, of Dunellen was arrested for driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breathalyzer, reckless driving, failure to keep right and no seat belt.

- On March 11, Samala R. Kelly, 35, of Edison was arrested at Pathmark for shoplifting \$41 worth of assorted makeup and toothbrushes.

LEGAL NOTICES

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

LEGAL NOTICE

March 9, 2007 - Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on March 8, 2007.

A. Case #04-07-Puleo International Inc. Block 446; Lot 9, 3630 Kennedy Road. The applicant's request to conduct clearance sales for a period exceeding (7) consecutive days per calendar quarter was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Board of Adjustment

\$25.00 March 16, 2007

Trip Information Night at Richochet

The Club at Ricochet will have a trip information night Monday, March 26 at 8 p.m.

Trips will include Hawaii in September 2007, Copper Canyon Ad-

venture in October 2007, Italy in Fall 2007 and Alaska Cruise in June 2008.

To attend, call Jim Lenox at (908) 561-0733.

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IN MY OPINION

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

(Continued from page 2)
 derful addition to the Board of Education. She is knowledgeable in Special Education Law, No Child Left Behind and School Finance. She has conducted many professional development sessions for parents and teachers on Special Education and Curriculum. She has also authored several classroom and district grants to help the district find alternative funding methods to the programs it offers. She also has a very strong will and is not afraid to stand up for what she believes in, which has always been children. She received solid evaluations and if her position wasn't eliminated, she still may be working in Keyport today.

Being a principal for the last seven years, I've come to understand the importance of a Board of Education and its role in the community. It is my belief that the professional skills Danielle possesses coupled with her passion and desire to serve can be an asset to the community of South Plainfield and a benefit to the diversity of the Board of Education. I wish you well in your election and recommend without reservation Danielle Harris Lacasale to

the voters of South Plainfield.

**SINCERELY,
 MIGUEL HERNANDEZ, ED. D.
 PRINCIPAL, KEYPORT
 HIGH SCHOOL**

To the Editor,

South Plainfield Junior Girl Scout Troop #493 would like to thank everyone who donated items to our Baby Bundles collection with a special thanks going out to Twin City Pharmacy for donating three cases of baby products to our cause. The response was overwhelming! We would also like to thank Dr. Rosado for allowing us to place collection boxes in the elementary schools and Grant as well as the principals and secretaries at these schools for putting up with our weekly interruptions to check on the boxes.

Our troop will be assembling and delivering the Baby Bundles at the end of the month to many 'little' ones who are in need in our area.

Thank you again for your generous support!

**SAMANTHA, JENNA, SHANNAH,
 TARA, CATHERINE, ZOYA,
 MICHELLE AND GABBY**

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**By Dr. Anthony Loomis DVM
Veterinarian,
Plainfield Animal Hospital**



Every year thousands of cats and dogs needlessly suffer and many die by accidental ingestion of household poisons, including popular houseplants, inappropriate medications, and common foods. Most pet owners simply do not know the effects that products we use daily can have on our pets.

Never give your animal any medications unless under the direction of your veterinarian. Many medications that are used safely in humans can be deadly when used inappropriately. Keep all prescription and over-the-counter drugs out of your pets' reach, preferably in closed cabinets. Pain killers, cold medicines, anti-cancer drugs, anti-depressants, vitamins and diet pills are common examples of human medications that could be potentially lethal, even in small dosages. One extra strength acetaminophen (Tylenol) tablet (500mg) can kill a seven-pound cat. One regular strength ibuprofen (Advil) tablet (200mg) can cause stomach ulcers in a 10-pound dog.

Chocolate, when consumed by dogs, can cause serious adverse effects such as hyper-excitability, tremors, rapid heart rate and seizures may develop. The richer the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pet. Dark chocolate and baker's chocolate contain higher concentrations of the dangerous chemicals, posing a very serious and potentially lethal problem for dogs. Other foods that you may enjoy can also be highly toxic to your pets. Grapes and raisins can cause severe kidney disease. Garlic and onions can damage blood cells. Macadamia nuts can cause hind limb weakness.

When cleaning your house, never allow your pet access to the area where cleaning agents are used or stored. Cleaning agents have a variety of properties. Some may only cause a mild stomach upset, while others could cause severe burns of the tongue, mouth and stomach. Other household items

highly toxic, even in low quantities, include pennies, mothballs, potpourri oils, fabric softener sheets, automatic dish detergents, batteries, cigarettes, coffee grounds and alcoholic drinks.

Anti-coagulant rodenticides are commonly used to kill mice and rats. Unfortunately, they can have the same effect on your dog or cat. These poisons were designed to be palatable to rodents, and are likely to be as equally appetizing to your pet. Place rodenticides clearly out of the reach of pets.

Antifreeze is a very serious poisoning that requires immediate attention. Most automotive antifreezes contain ethylene glycol, which seems to have a pleasant taste to animals. Initial signs of this type of poisoning are lethargy and an appearance of "drunkenness." Antifreeze ingestion can quickly lead to kidney failure and sudden death. Remember child and pet safe antifreeze is equally toxic, it contains a bittering agent to eliminate the sweet taste.

Many plants, fertilizers, and pesticides can also be toxic to pets. This time of year, remember that the Easter Lily can cause serious health problems if ingested. Keep your pets off the lawn after it has been treated until all chemicals have dried. Make sure you use child and pet friendly chemicals. Be sure to keep your pets from chewing on your household plants.

If you suspect your pet has ingested something potentially toxic, immediately contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888)426-4435. The faster you respond the greater chance your pet has for successful treatment. Veterinarians know that animals can get into anything, so do not be embarrassed by what your pet has gotten into. It is better to be safe, then sorry as time is of the essence.

Anthony Loomis, DVM, grew up in Scotch Plains and attended St. Joseph's High School. He majored in Animal Health at the University of Georgia and attended Oklahoma State University for veterinary school. His special interest is exotic animal medicine and surgery.



Eyeglass and Hearing Aid Committee Chairman Bob Desch (left) accepts used eyeglasses collected by Cub Pack 207. Cubmaster Tom Berry is pictured on the right.

Lions Club of South Plainfield Collected Used Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

The Lions Club of South Plainfield is continuing to collect used eyeglasses of all types, sizes and in any condition, including sunglasses (prescription and non-prescription) lenseless frames, lenses, safety glasses, eyeglass cases and hearing aids. Each year the South Plainfield Lions Club collects over 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses.

At the present time, Lions collection boxes are located at the following South Plainfield locations: The Observer office on Hamilton Boulevard, the public library, the post of-

ice, the senior citizen center, Opticare Inc. (690 Oak Tree Rd.), Wachovia Bank on Plainfield Avenue and CVS Pharmacy on Oak Tree Road (near the A&P). There will also be boxes at Wal-Mart Vision Center on Centennial Avenue and Dr. Raymond Snyder's office on Park Avenue in Plainfield.

Bob Desch, chairman of the Lions Clubs' Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids Committee, explained that the used glasses are collected and sent to the New Jersey Lions Eye Glass Recycle

Center. They are cleaned and with the use of a Lensometer, prescriptions are placed on them. They are then sorted, bagged and stacked until they are distributed to the needy.

The Lions Club, which serves the blind and hearing impaired, has been overwhelmed with the support that the community has given them, not only in the collection of used eyeglasses, but with every fundraising function and event they have held. The club will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year.

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