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S24 P1
03854-2701

South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

MARCH 25, 2005

Budget Cuts Slash 14.8 District Jobs

The 2005/2006 budget, if approved, will result in the elimination of 14.8 district positions. In addition, the school portion of municipal taxes will increase by \$375, or 32 points, per year on a home assessed at \$117,300.

Because of the two waivers in the cap, cuts were not as drastic as they could have been. Without the cap waivers, 38.8 positions would have been cut in this budget. The board obtained permission to utilize \$565,694 in unused spending from prior budgets, thus avoiding the huge layoffs.

According to Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, even with the cap waiver, cuts totalling \$816,000 still had to be made to the 2005/2006 budget. The following positions will be cut or eliminated: one guidance director, one assistant principal, three elementary teachers, two middle school teachers, one technology staff, one middle school secretary, two central office secretaries, two instructional lay people, 1.8 part-time secretaries and elimination of the sixth period additional teacher. Also cut was one tuition based student and \$10,000

was eliminated from summer guidance. Some of the cuts will be made through attrition, but many will result in layoffs.

Dr. Rosado, along with several board members, added that they are available to speak to groups about this year's budget. Just call the superintendent's office to set up an appointment.

Dr. Rosado has already visited PISOs at Grant, Kennedy and the high school to discuss this year's budget. He will speak at the Middle School on Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m. On April 4 he will be at Franklin at 7 p.m. and Riley at 8 p.m. On April 6 he will be at Roosevelt School at 7 p.m. and then speak to the Future Stars
(Continued on page 8)



Joann Graf, Senior Citizens Coordinator, was the surprise guest at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance last Saturday. Joann just returned after a month long stay in the hospital. Joann, standing on the left, is joined by her sister, Cathy (right), as she greets members of the senior center, who were overjoyed to see her back. Joann received a standing ovation upon her introduction. Welcome back Joann!!

Curbside Pickups To Begin

The spring curbside pickup is about to begin. Starting the first week in April and running for four weeks, the Public Works department will visit each of the five districts.

The first week of April pickups will be made in district one; second week, district two; third week, district three and fourth week pickup will include districts four and five. The five districts are the same areas for leaf pickup in the fall.

To find out what district your street is in and a listing of pickup dates, please turn to page 8.

Every resident should have received a flyer in the mail listing the scheduled pickup and a map of the five districts. If you did not, you can pick one up in the Borough Clerk's office.

Pickups are for any large household items, including recycleable items, yard debris and automotive items. Concrete items will be picked up.

Debris should be placed at the curb in front of the residence on the Sunday night prior to the week in which the collection is to occur. When possible, items should be either tied or boxed and be neatly placed at the curb. The amount of waste cannot exceed 12 ft. x 3 ft by 3 ft.

Apartments and condominium/townhouse complexes are not included in the curbside pickup program.

The existing compactor and yard waste facilities will remain available for residential use.

Compactor coupons and yard waste decals are available at the Borough Clerk's office during the following times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Fridays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Good Friday, Easter Sunday Services Set

The public is invited to attend the Ecumenical Good Friday services at Sacred Heart Church beginning Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Easter Sunday Sunrise Services in Spring Lake Park at 6:30 a.m.

Area churches participating include

First Baptist, Pilgrim Covenant, Rescue House of Prayer, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic, St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran and Wesley Methodist.

Good Friday services are entitled "The Seven Last Words of Jesus." Organist will be Daniel Mahoney and

cantor is Carol Mascola.

Sunrise services begin at 6:30 a.m. at the gazabo in Spring Lake Park. In case of rain, worshipers are asked to meet at Wesley Methodist Church on Plainfield Ave.

All are welcome to attend.

Frustration All Around After Observer Delay

Last week's *Observer* was late in arriving to nearly one-third of borough residents, due to a mistake by our labeler.

Last week, the *Observer* was slated for delivery to every resident in the borough, over 8,000 homes. When the paper was delivered to our local post office, one of the pallets was mistakenly taken to the Kilmer facility.

This was just the beginning of a journey the misplaced pallet was about to embark on. When it was discovered that papers were missing in South Plainfield, it took a few hours to locate the pallet. The logical action would have been to send them back to South Plainfield, but according to U.S. Postal Service policy, they had to be sent to Newark for processing.

Meanwhile, our phones began to

ring when subscribers didn't receive their papers. We explained the problem and assured callers they would get their paper on Monday, after Newark delivered them back to our post office.

Monday morning the phones continued to ring with the same message,
(Continued on page 8)



In search of eggs, youngsters venture out last Saturday at the PAL field. Hundreds visited with the Easter Bunny and went home with candy.

Six Vie for Three Board Seats

By Libby Barsky

This year, in contrast to last year when there were three uncontested candidates, there are six candidates vying for the three local board of education positions.

Incumbents Ken LaFreniere, Tim Morgan and Dan Smith, whose three year terms expired, are being challenged by former board members Carol Byrne, John Markham and Jeff Seider.

Carol Byrne and John Markham are both former board members who served on the board for three terms at almost the same time.

Byrne, a board member from 1978 to 1987 and again from 1995 to 1998, is seeking a fifth term. She and husband Gerry have two daughters, Kristen and Meridith, who graduated from South Plainfield High School. Byrne is a substitute secretary-aid in South Plainfield schools.

Markham, a former stockbroker

and VP of operations for two mutual funds, served from 1978 to 1988. He is married to Madeline, a secretary with the district's special services. They have three children, Judy, Susan and John, all graduates of SPHS. They have six grandchildren.

Seider, a life long resident of the borough, is married to wife Debbie. He has three children, Matthew, Megan and Jake, who attend district schools. While

(Continued on page 8)



Vision 2001 Art Auction Chairwoman Marge Reedy presents a plaque of appreciation to this year's honorary event chairman, Joe Papa.

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Log on to southplainfieldnj.com for the latest meeting agenda

Mark Your Calendars

council meetings

Borough Hall Council Chambers

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 April 5, April 18.

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

April 12, April 26, May 10, May 24, June 14, June 28, July 5*, July 19*, Aug. 16*, Aug. 30*, Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 29*, Dec. 13, Dec. 27.

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

April 14, April 28, May 12, May 26, June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, Aug. 11, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, Sept. 22, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10*, Dec. 8, Dec. 22.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted

Committee of the Whole meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (date change) March 29

Regular Board Meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m.—(Date Change) April 5.

2004/2005 Budget Working Meetings—Final Adoption of the Budget on March 29 at 8 p.m.

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.

April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the last Tuesday of the month, except July and August

PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

April 26, May 24, June 28, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 7 and Dec. 13.

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, (except where noted) at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

South Plainfield Observer contact information including Wayne Grennier, Susan Kaneps, Patricia Abbott, Libby Barksy, Michael Duquette, Carol Grennier, Toni Marie Ciccio, Tom Pedersen, Roxanne Cortese, Jane Dornick, William Tuthill.

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

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

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

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 400 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.

IN YOUR OPINION

Dear Editor,

On behalf of our Middle School basketball program, I would like to say thank you to the wonderful people who helped support the First Annual Greater Middlesex Conference Middle School Basketball Tournament. The tournament was a huge success and once again, that is because of the generosity of the following people: Bagel Pantry, AKA Inc., Stilo Paving and the Boyle Foundation. As always, you extended yourselves to the students of our middle school. You all make South Plainfield a special place for our students.

THANK YOU, AL CZECH

To the Editor,

During our time of sorrow, the family of John A. Butrico Jr. learned how much our family and friends mean to us. We will always hold in grateful remembrance your kind expression of sympathy. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who came out to pay condolences to John. Your thoughtfulness and generosity has been overwhelming.

THE BUTRICO FAMILY

To the Editor,

There was a time when the only "silly season" was in November during elections. Here in South Plainfield we have the opportunity to be silly during our Board of Education Budget and election of board members. I use the phrase "silly season" because we will hear the current Board of Education members and administrators "spin" the facts better than the most seasoned politicians New Jersey is famous for.

We will once again hear that there is enough budgeted for the increases in the last year of the three year contract that will expire on June 30, 2005. We will hear that there is enough in maintenance of plant, transportation of students and capital outlay. Should we believe this? Will we see this year the \$900,000 budgeted two years ago for the safety of our students in the parking lots and traffic flow around each elementary school? You will recall this was in the budget approved two years ago. Will we see the district wired for technology with the fiber optic program that was approved with the referendum, or will our children's grandchildren be the beneficiary of that? In July our Board of Education members will begin to negotiate another three year agreement. Will we again see increases of 4.9 percent?

Will this be the year we see our high school students reach beyond the state averages in SAT scores or will we again see numbers that fall below the state average? Will we receive another letter in September telling us that our schools failed to meet the federal guidelines under No Child Left Behind? This past year I received letters from the high school and the middle school telling me that they had failed to meet the guidelines; it was the second year in the middle school. If my son met the requirements under free and reduced lunch program, he would be able to

attend supplemental education elsewhere, but because I can afford lunch he is not eligible. Will we see another school year with the same designation?

The district administrators and Board of Education members will need to do more than tell us how we have to sacrifice in order to provide quality education in South Plainfield. Simply reporting a tax increase of \$375 per assessed home of \$117,300 is not enough. They will need to show us what they plan to change. It seems the taxpayers and children have sacrificed enough and for long enough. What will be done differently as they negotiate this next three year agreement?

I hope my fellow residents will consider carefully who they choose to represent them; will it be our incumbents who sat by while being warned of the budget shortfall upon ratification of the last negotiated agreement? Will they be the same people who sat by and insisted the money was in the budget to cover the questioned areas in last budget? Will they be the same Board of Education members who voted yes to increasing the salary of the superintendent twice in one year, a five percent each increase plus an extension of contract until 2009, which prompted him to start searching for another position. Will he be the same superintendent who takes no responsibility for the actions of the business officials who answer to him?

I believe the South Plainfield Board of Education has to win the trust of this community again. I believe it will begin with being honest about what they will do differently this year and with the addition of three new board members. I hope you will support Jeff Seider-Line 1, John Markham-Line 3 and Carol Byrne-Line 4.

Carefully consider your choices when voting. I hope your questions will be answered before voting yes on this budget. I personally will not accept an answer that is not in writing to the community, a promise that our children's education will not be the next thing mortgaged. I want a promise in writing to the community that the programs from academic to extracurricular are not optional and not on the chopping block. I want a promise in writing to the community that they will properly budget each line item so that we do not see hundreds of line item transfers each month trying to borrow from Peter to pay Paul. This Board has to win our trust again. Only then will I vote yes and sacrifice again.

DAWN JEFFERYS

Letter to the Editor

I wanted to thank a number of people for their help with our annual Art Auction which was held on March 11. We were honored to have Joe Papa as our honorary chairperson that evening. We would like to thank B&C Deli, Imperial Deli, Corner Deli, Hometown Heros, Marriott Services and Debbie Boyle for supplying us with

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer will not publish any anonymous letters until further notice. Any letter received without identification will be discarded.

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. 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.

wonderful food for the evening. Also to all those that came to help us during the evening.

The South Plainfield Education Foundation has been working hard to raise funds for the annual incentives we provide, such as the gold card at the High School. We held our telethon in December where over \$14,000 had been pledged to us. We have not received everyone's pledge back in the mail. If you still have your pledge, please send it in as soon as possible. We will be working on our scholarships in the next two months and we would like to have as much as possible to provide as many scholarships as possible.

Thank you again to all those that have provided support to the Education Foundation!

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

To the Residents of South Plainfield,

I am Tim Morgan and I am seeking reelection to the South Plainfield Board of Education. Over the past three years we have seen many accomplishments in our school district. We have seen our test scores come up in both the middle school and the high school, we have seen an increase in our SAT scores due in large to the increased participation of our students in the SAT prep course (more than twice as many this year as last) offered in the high school and the full participation of the sophomore class taking the PSAT's. These things did not just happen by magic. They happened because the Board of Education, which included Dan Smith, Ken LaFreniere and myself, hired a superintendent with some great ideas, a lot of insight and a proven track record. Someone who is involved in every aspect of our school district. (To their credit, Frank Mikorski and Dawn Jeffreys were part of this hiring.) We hired a new curriculum director, who has realigned our entire math department with the input of the teachers so that our students will be better prepared for the proficiency tests, the SAT's and the college that they choose to attend. We are now looking at the science curriculum and in September there will be new text books in

(Continued on page 12)

Mohn's Flowers & Fancy Foods advertisement with contact info: 2325 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, (908) 561-2808

Ladies Workout Express advertisement: It's Time To Go Girl! 3 for 1 or 66% OFF REGISTRATION. Call for your reservation today! Designed for Women, Full-Body Workout in 30 Minutes, Fast, Safe, Simple, All Ages and Fitness Levels, Low Monthly Dues, Heart Smart Facility. www.ladiesworkoutexpress.com

High School Musicians Perform an Excellent Concert

By Michael Duquette

South Plainfield High School's Chorus, Orchestra, Concert Band and Jazz Band presented their annual Mid-Winter Concert to an enthusiastic audience. The ensembles performed after dealing with a snowstorm, which postponed the initial date of the concert and were more than happy to put on the show.

The Jazz Band, led by band director Mark Tweed, opened the concert with a bang, breezing through their set which consisted of *Power Surge*, *Sweet Georgia Brown* (both of which featured juniors Brian Schulte and Ike Ejiochi on tenor saxophone), *Blue Rondo Ala Turk*, featuring sophomore Taylor Mandel on trumpet and junior Scott Rann on alto saxophone, *Summer Poem* and *12th Street and Vine*, which featured a great deal of show-stopping solos by sophomores Wael Kanj and Taylor Mandel on trumpet, trombonist Charles Decker, senior baritone saxophonist Adam Meyers, tenor saxophone players Phuong Le and Ike Ejiochi and alto saxophonists Scott Rann, a junior, and John Roesch, a senior.

Then it was on to a performance by the Concert Band, also conducted by Mark Tweed, whose set included *Procession of the Nobles*, *Flight of the Flutes* and *Explorations*. Afterward, the Orchestra took the stage under the baton of Bruce Mikolon and per-

formed *Tuxedo Junction*, *St. Louis Blues* and *Russian Sailor's Dance*.

After a brief intermission, the Chorus, led by conductor Tracy Murray, performed selections from Verdi's classic opera *La Traviata*. The performances of the ensemble were greatly complemented by solo performances by seniors Peter Assad and Katie Mott, juniors Cassandra Krajcik and Steven Tietjen and sophomore Darren Kaczowski, as well as the accompaniment skills of Wael Kanj on keyboard.

All in all, the concert was a great success in spite of less-than-forgiving weather conditions and minor technical issues. Attendance was strong, a factor which makes these talented kids happy to perform. The audience was not limited to relatives of performers; several students enthusiastically attended. Matthew Boley, a senior at SPSHS, happily commented that "[the performers] put a lot of work in what they do. I always look forward to seeing them." Boley said that after hearing the students practicing day in and day out during school, "it's exciting to go and see them live."

Several Student Council representatives were on hand to support the arts in school. Student Council President Cassie D'Urso praised the "tremendous talent in each performer" and expressed her wishes "[that] everyone could see and hear the pride that they bring to SPSHS!" Senior Class Secretary Gerry Buttrico added that "the talent of the students and their enthusiasm towards the music they present never ceases to amaze me." Even alumni continue to attend the concerts, long after they and their children have graduated. Bob Alcaro, a graduate of SPSHS Class of 1980 called it "a nice tradition to come back and continue to support [the music program]." Although Alcaro, his wife, and his two children have finished their time at SPSHS, they still believe that "the arts program in town is very important."

South Plainfield High School has a lot of artistic talent to take pride in. Be sure to look for the dates of the rest of the concerts for the 2005 season in future issues of the *Observer*!



South Plainfield Police Officers participated in the annual Polar Bear Plunge last month. Seven officers arrived dressed for the 37 degree weather and then joined 3,000 others for a plunge in the ocean.



South Plainfield Police Officers Take the Plunge

On Feb. 27, seven South Plainfield PBA officers took a trip to Point Pleasant for the 12th Annual Polar Bear Plunge which is held to benefit the New Jersey Special Olympics.

Officers Lloyd McNelly, Brian Iarapino, Raymond Jazikoff, James McConville, Brad Bullard, Pete Papa and Wendell Born participated in this year's event. It is the third year the South Plainfield PBA has been involved with the plunge.

On the day of the plunge, the air temperature was 38 degrees Fahrenheit and the water was 37 degrees Fahrenheit. Despite the cold weather, more than 3,000 "plungers" went into the water.

South Plainfield PBA Local #100 donated \$500 to the cause. The event raised over \$600,000 for Special Olympics.

"Big Joe Henry" from NJ 101.5 was the MC for the event. It also was broadcasted live from Jenkinsons on the Point Pleasant Boardwalk.

Almost Famous Players are Getting Ready for Haunted Woods Tour

Almost Famous Players are gearing up for their 2005 Putnam Park Haunted Woods Tour/season. Several fundraisers are in progress and/or planning stages.

We are currently soliciting donations of used cell phones, inkjet and laser jet cartridges. The funds raised will help us to purchase much needed equipment such as generators, lighting and special effect pieces. The following businesses have generously offered to collect items for us: The *Observer*, Port Africa Art Gallery lo-

Recreation Summer Parks Program

Recreation has announced that the Summer Parks Program will run from Tuesday, June 28 to Friday, Aug. 5, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. However, the staff will leave the sites from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and children remaining through the lunch hour or after 3:30 p.m. will not be supervised.

The Summer Parks Program is intended to be a "drop-in" activity. Day care services are not provided. Supervisors are employed to run safe, enjoyable activities. Parents must designate if a child will be picked up or allowed to come and go as they please. If a child is designated to be picked up, that child will not be allowed to leave. All children must sign in and sign out everyday.

The program will be held at four schools: Riley, Kennedy, Franklin and Roosevelt.

All sites will be open rain or shine and closed during lunch hour. Every child is encouraged to bring reading materials with them. All children must wear a shirt and closed toe shoes (preferably sneakers) in order to participate in playground activities.

The summer parks program is open to all South Plainfield boys and girls in grades kindergarten through sixth.

Permission slips will be required for any planned trips.

To sign up for the summer program, children must register at the PAL, located on Maple Ave. with their parent and must show proof of residency. A parent's driver's license and a child's 2004 report card must be shown at time of registration.

cated in Hadley Center and Carousel Salon on Oak Tree Ave. For a pick up, call the number below.

Anyone donating five or more cartridges or phones will receive a free ticket to the Halloween show. Please submit your phones or cartridges in a single plastic grocery bag or other plastic bag, with information both inside and outside on how to contact you.

We are still seeking business sponsors to collect phone or cartridges as well. For more information email almstfamousplyrs@aol.com or call (908) 346-2290.

Board of Education Meeting Changes

The Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 5 has been changed to Tuesday, March 29 at 7 p.m. The formal budget hearing and adoption of the 2005/2006 budget meeting will follow at 8 p.m.

The Regular Public meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, has been changed to Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

What's going on in your neighborhood?

Read all about it every week in the

Observer!

South Plainfield
Observer

Your #1 Source for South Plainfield News

For home delivery, call 908-668-0010.

Summer Drama Looking for Staff

The South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop is currently seeking to fill several staff positions for their August 2005 production of *The Pajama Game*. Positions to be filled are choreographer, assistant director, stage manager/technical design, interns and orchestra director.

For additional information, contact Bill at (908) 756-6461 or wfrain@aol.com.

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For more information contact Sifu Tom Grant at 908-753-5883 or visit www.yeeshunggakungfu.com

Classes will be held at the VFW, 155 Front St., South Plainfield

Around Town

UNICO Meeting for Interested Members

March 30

UNICO- the Plainfields is inviting anyone who may be interested in joining their group to a special meeting planned to explain what UNICO is all about and answer questions. The meeting will be held at the American Legion, located on Oak Tree Ave., on Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

For information call Bob Benjivenga at (908) 743-0247.

SPHS Music Boosters Trip to Atlantic City

April 2

The SPHS Music Boosters are sponsoring a bus trip to Atlantic City on Saturday, April 2. The bus leaves the SPHS parking lot by the gym at 9 a.m. and returns at approximately 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 with a cash back of \$12 per person from the casino.

For information or to reserve your seat, call Julie at (908) 791-0294.

Hawaiian Luau

April 2

The South Plainfield Cultural Arts Commission invites you to an evening of dancing and music at our first annual Hawaiian Luau featuring Mele Kini Polynesian Dance Troupe and Baby Grand DJ Entertainment's Chris Waryn on Saturday, April 2, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Senior Center, 90 Maple Ave. Admission is free, as are refreshments. Dress in your island best!

Juniorettes Will Hold Benefit Concert

April 2

The Juniorettes will be holding a benefit concert to support Cherished Creations, whose mission is to create better lives for seriously-ill children and underprivileged families. The concert will be held April 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the PAL. Bands performing are Les Stupefians, The Mafia, The Dialtones, and Red and White Letters.

Advance tickets are \$5 and can be purchased by calling Mrs. Winner at (908)753-7253. Admission at the door, which opens at 6:45 p.m., is \$7. We thank you in advance for your support.

VFW Blood Drive

April 2

The VFW Post 6763 will be holding a blood drive on Saturday, April 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the VFW located on Front St. For information, call (908) 668-9751. Please come out

What's happening in MARCH

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

Senior Center EVENTS

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
UPCOMING EVENTS	April 7... Oklahoma at NJPAC \$40 Includes Transportaion		Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am	25
	May 19... Cactus Flower at Hunterdon Hills			GOOD FRIDAY CLOSED
Knitting/Crocheting 9:30-11:30am Yoga 10:30-11:30am Drawing Class 11:30am	28	Bingo 10am-2pm Ladies Social 10am	29	Exercise 8:30am Line Dancing 10am AARP Crafts 1pm Computer Class 10 am 11:30 am, 1 pm
		30	Weekly Shopping Pathmark 9am Practical Crafts 10am Computer Class 11am & 1pm	31
				1

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

and donate to this worthy cause.

Beach Boys' Revival

April 3

Good vibrations are back! Rec is sponsoring a trip to "Beach Boys' Revival" on Sunday, April 3. Cost is \$90. Bus leaves the PAL at 11 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Purchase tickets at the PAL.

VFW Holding Breakfast

April 3

VFW Post #6763 will be holding a breakfast on Sunday, April 3 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.. Proceeds benefit the VA hospital at Lyons. The public is invited. For information, call (908) 668-9751.

Oklahoma at NJPac

April 7

The Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to see *Oklahoma* at NJPac on Thursday, April 7. Bus leaves the Senior Center at noon. Cost is \$40.

Purchase tickets at the Senior Center.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

April 10

The Polish National Home will sponsor a bus trip to the Taj in Atlantic City on Sunday, April 10. The cost is \$20 with a \$17 coin return. Bus leaves the Polish Home at 10 a.m. For tickets or information call (908) 668-9442 or (908) 757-3428.

Cahal Dunne Concert

April 17

Cahal Dunne, singer, songwriter, pianist and comedian, will be perform-

ing at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, April 17, at 3 p.m. Admission is \$20 and seniors and students are \$15. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (908) 756-0632 ext. 10, (732) 549-9633, or (908) 755-6416.

Rainbow Academy Open House

April 19

Rainbow Academy Child Care Center, located on Oak Tree Rd., will hold an Open House on Tuesday, April 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Rainbow offers a variety of programs to fit your child's needs, from ages six weeks to eight years. Limited space is available for the infant, nursery, pre-kindergarten and summer camp programs. Register on or before the open house and receive free registration and two free months of Parent-Watch. Offer is for new customers only and expires April 19. Just mention the *South Plainfield Observer*.

You are invited to visit the center for a tour during operating hours (7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). For directions and additional information, visit their website at rainbowacademy.com.

Spring Fest 2005 at First Baptist

April 23

A celebration of Arts and Crafts will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Henderson Hall of First Baptist Church on Hamilton Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Women's Evening circle. For information, call Linda at (908) 754-2386.

— Out of Town —

Poetry Workshops

March 23-May 25

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) will offer a Spring Poetry Workshop Series at North Brunswick High School in North Brunswick. Workshops will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 23 to May 25. The program is taught by Gha'il Rhodes Benjamin.

This program is offered free and open to ages 16 and over. For information, call (732) 745-3885, or info@vsanj.org.

Tourette Support Workshop

March 28

The Tourette Syndrome Assoc. of New Jersey (TSANJ) of Somerset/Hunterdon, Warren/Mercer Support Group Workshop Session is scheduled for Monday, March 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

The guest speaker will be Linda J. Robinson, Esq., who operates a Bridgewater law practice with concentration on matters pertaining to people with disabilities and the elderly.

Call TSANJ at (908) 575-7350 for details and directions. There is no charge to attend.

CHATS Adoption Support Meeting

March 28

"Attachment Discoverer: What Every Family Needs to Know" will be led by Dr. ALice Nadelman, Ph.D. at the Connected Heart Adoption Triad Support (CHATS) meeting on Monday, March 28 starting at 7:15 p.m. The meeting takes place at the Watchung Avenue Church in North Plainfield.

For information, call Alyce at (732) 227-0607 or check out their website at: www.chatsnj.com.

Women's Day of Wellness at Stockton

March 30

Stockton College will hold a day-long event on women's wellness on Wednesday, March 30 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Upper G Wing Lounge on the Pomana campus. Screening for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose and free HIV testing is available.

Depression and Bipolar Support

March 30

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Morristown Area) monthly lecture meeting will be held Wednesday evening, March 30 and will feature Jeffrey T. Apter, M.D.

For more information, visit their website at dbsanewjersey.org/morristownarea For local information, call (973) 994-1143 or (800) 367-6274.

Pancake Breakfast at Willow Grove

April 2

Enjoy a Saturday morning with fellow men from the community over a delicious pancake breakfast. The Men's Group of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church invites males ages 16 and up from the community to join them on Saturday, April 2 from 9 to 11 a.m. for this free breakfast and presentation/discussion.

Advance reservations by March 31 would be appreciated, but you are welcome without a reservation. For more information or to make reservations, please call (908) 232-5678.

Literary Reading Honoring NJ Authors

April 2

The Unlimited Potential Theater Company (UPTCo) is proud to announce the winners of the 11th annual Joyce Indik Wordsmith Competition. The winners will have their submissions read at the Joyce Indik Readers' Theater at the Plainsboro Municipal Building. The event has been rescheduled for April 2 at 2 p.m. A desert reception will follow.

Contact VSA Arts of New Jersey at (732) 745-3885, or info@vsanj.org.

Auditions for Guys and Dolls

April 3, 9 & 16

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Summer Musical Program and the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) will hold auditions for the classic Broadway musical comedy *Guys and Dolls* on April 3 and 9; final callbacks on April 16.

The show premieres on Friday, July 15 and runs through Saturday, July 24. For details call (973) 353-8051.

The Sunday, April 3 audition is singing open call at 1-3 p.m. at the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan; Saturday, April 9 is singing open call at 10 a.m.-6 p.m. The dancing callbacks are at 7 p.m. at NJPAC, in Newark. Saturday, April 16 is the final callbacks at the NJPAC.

For further information, call (973) 353-8051.

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SEND US YOUR PHOTOS. If you have an event, take a photo, write a caption identifying the event and people and send it to us. The best photos record action and don't include so many people that it's impossible to identify anyone. Please don't send us photocopies or laser prints. They don't reproduce well. Digital photos should be 150 dpi or higher.

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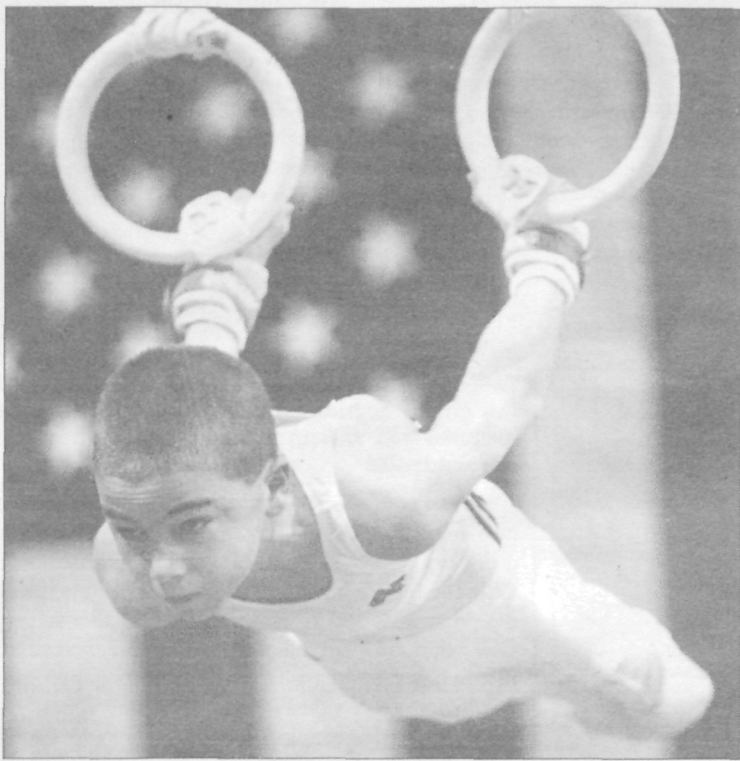
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southplainfieldpeople Milestones

Longo Takes Gold Medal at State Gymnastics Championship



Philip Longo won gold at State Gymnastics Tournament.

Philip Longo won the gold medal on rings in his age group at the 29th Annual New Jersey Men's State Gymnastic Championship, held this past weekend in Lyndhurst.

Philip is a Class 7 gymnast and competes in all six events: floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar. Individual scores from each event are combined for the "all around" total. Philip placed fourth on floor, fourth on pommel horse, first on rings, seventh on vault, second on parallel bars, seventh on high bar, and took the bronze medal with the third place all around score.

Philip is coached by Vladamir Karvacky from Henderson's Gymnastics Academy in Edison.

Philip's performance has earned him a trip to the United States Region 7 Competition, scheduled for next month at the West Point Military Academy. At the regional competition he will be competing against the top gymnasts from seven states.



Kristen Linczyk & Joseph Celentano.

Linczyk, Celentano Announce Engagement

Glenn Linczyk of South Plainfield and Elizabeth Linczyk of Moore Township, Pa. announced the engagement of their daughter, Kristen Linczyk of South Plainfield to Joseph Celentano of South Plainfield.

Joseph is the son of John and Margaret Celentano of South Plainfield.

The wedding take place at the Caribbeans in March 2006.

Patricia Walter and Jacob Stutzman Announce Their Engagement

Art and Nancy Walter of South Plainfield are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Patricia Ann Walter, to Jacob D. Stutzman, son of Daniel and Elizabeth Stutzman of Berne, Indiana.

Pattie is a 1999 graduate of South Plainfield High School. She graduated from Southeastern College in Lakeland, Florida in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. She is employed as a K-4 teacher at Somerset Christian Academy.

Jacob is a 1993 graduate of South Adams High School in Berne, Indiana. He graduated from Purdue University in Indiana in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Building Construction Management. He is employed by K. Hovnanian.



Patricia Walter and Jacob Stutzman

The couple will be married in July, 2005.

Vicki Boley Named to Dean's List

Vicki Boley is a Freshman at New Jersey City University majoring in Education/English. She was named to the Dean's List for the first semester with a 3.8 GPA.

Vicki is a member of the Varsity

Bowling Team and the Varsity Softball Team which had their first official game of the season on Saturday, March 19.

Vicki is a 2004 graduate of South Plainfield High School.

Share Your Good News... Send us your Milestones! Email:spobserver@comcast.com • Fax: 908-668-8819

From the South Plainfield Library Bookmarks

By Sunnie Randolph

Women's fiction is "books written primarily by women for women that feature female characters and that address the issues women face in their professional and domestic lives". Here is a list of ten women's fiction novels that were published in the last year. The *Art of Mending* by Elizabeth Berg, *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler, *The Other Woman* by Jane Green, *The Other Side of the Story* by Marian Keyes, *Lost in the Forest* by Sue Miller, *The Lost Mother* by Mary McGarry Morris, *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult, *Brother and Sister* by Joanna Trollope, *Ya-Yas in Bloom* by Rebecca Wells and *The Position* by Meg Wolitzer.

A new children's program is starting on Wednesday, April 6 at 10:30 a.m. It is a program for two and three year olds. Come and have some fun with Danya, our library intern. Danya is in graduate school to become a certified librarian. While in school she is working at the South Plainfield Public Library to get some

hands on experience working in a public library with children and adults.

Spring is here so the meteorologist says. If you believe them and are going to start working on your yard and garden, the library has quite a few books for you to choose from. Some of them are: *The Lawn and Garden Owners Manual: What To Do and When To Do It*, *Flower Gardening 1-2-3*, *Front Yard Gardens: Growing More Than Grass*, *Successful Rose Gardening*, *Perennial Gardens*, and *Simple Stonescaping: Gardens, Walls, Paths and Waterfalls*. Come and browse the library shelves or check out the library's website at www.southplainfield.lib.nj.us for additional titles.

The library will be closed on Friday, March 25 for Good Friday and Sunday, March 27 for Easter. The library will be open on Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children's story times and crafts will be held at the usual times of Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., and Thursday afternoon at 1:15 p.m.

Silver Dreams Winterguard Places First...Again!

The 2005 Silver Dreams Winterguard from South Plainfield High School added one more first place win to their growing list of accomplishments. The guard competed at Brick Township in South Jersey recently, bringing home another first place mark with a score of 81.6. Silver Dreams Winterguard was recently promoted from the Scholastic Novice Division to Scholastic "A" Division, which is a more complex and skilled group in competition.

The guard, under the direction of Mark Tweed and Kathy Petrocelli, consists of 15 members who continue to practice and improve their skills of performing intricate flag, saber and rifle work for this year's show, which is themed "Blue Skies." The show design and conceptualization was created by Darren Delaney and Danny Matos.

This year's guard members are Kristen Gualano, Nicole Aiello, Gaelle Amazon, Nadien Yon, Stephanie Troia, Dunia Galarza, Katie Eder, Alyssa Woodel, Tara O'Keefe, Gina Butrico, Brittany Wong, Cassie Hoffman, Brianne Howarth, Ashley Peterson and Liz Blackford.

The Winterguard will compete over the next several weeks before taking their show to Wildwood for the Atlantic Coast Championships, which will be held April 28-May 1. The Winterguard will be fundraising on Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 at local businesses to raise money for their admission and registration costs for the competition. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Good luck to the Silver Dreams and remember to look straight ahead—there's nothing but blue skies.

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Middle School Announces Honor Roll

HIGH HONOR ROLL

Grade 8—Francesca Bayak, Allison Clawans, Audrey Cupo, Jeannine De-Andrea, Rebecca Deffler, Lindsay Fredericks, Christopher Fulton, Maricela Gonzalez, Joseph Hernandez, Nicholas Jeglinski, Catherine Krawiec, Christopher Lesniak, Anthony Louise, Lyndsey Murtagh, Michael Pachytel, Allyson Paterek, Kathryn Paterek, Rachel Smith, Nicole Soisson, Kara Thomas, Victoria Tran and Eric White.

Grade 7—Jimmy Bijlani, Megan Cerini, Bianca DiDolce, Elizabeth Fasullo, Matthew Galinsky, Ryan Harrington, Alexander Horn, Dung Le, Frank Licato, Thomas Loalbo, Philip Longo, Nicole McDonough, Fadesola Ojeikere, Dylan Papa, Emily Piekarski, Manraj Singh and Johnathan Sukenik.

HONOR ROLL

Grade 8—Jonathan Addressa, Daphne Aguinaldo, Jorge Alvarez, Arielle Armand, Katherine Baldassarre, John Barry, Samantha Barthel, Lindsay Barton, Michelle Bello, Cori Black, Michael Boyle, Kyle Buck, Michael Bumback, Giulianny Burgos, Danielle Butrico, Jessica Cangas, Ashley Caparelli, Ashley Cardinale, Kurt Carlson, Henry Carrillo, Suneet Chandler, Alex Cihanowyz, Sean Coffey, Ian Collins, Jared Czech, Ann Dang, Michael Dezmin, Stephanie DiCindio, Jennifer Disch, Quynhhu Doan, Courney Easterday, Faryn Evans, Tina Foscato, Kelliann Friday, Allen Garcia, Jaime Giannakis, Viktoriya Glushko, Keri Gould, Jennifer Gustafson, Jessica Handwerger, Caitlin Herriott, Chelsea Hunt, Alan Kasmer, Cristopher Kedmenec, Garrett Kelly, Stephen Kelly, Michelle Kobilis, Jaclyn Kukuch, Alexa Kunch, Joseph Lacerda, Phong Lai, Stephanie Lanza, Zane Lesky, Sheryl Lipuma, Kenneth Luckey, Jeremiah Magpile, Daniel Maistickle, Alyssa McCreech, Joseph Mennuti, Cornelius Mootoo, Jessica Murtagh, Brittany Musolino, Joanna Nastarowicz, Victoria Nguyen, Alex Nieradka, Patrick Nolty, Eric Nuber, Kirsten Nuber, Chante O'Neal, Nosavoen Ogbvoen, Brittany Okoszko, Timothy Oppelt, Emily Orlandini, Eric Pantaleon, Dominic Papa, Dharti Patel, Krishna Patel, Kunj Patel, Parth Patel, Priya Patel, Rachel Pinto, Douglas Porzio, Matthew Praul, Brian Pullen, Timothy Ratti, Anthony Salerno, Christopher Seesselberg, Saira Sheikh, Richard

Sierzega, Anthony Simms, Sagar Sindha, Michelle Slover, Taheem Smith, Christine Snogans, Mark Sprenger, Nora Stasio, Heather Stolloff, Spencer Stubbs, Scott Suleski, Susan Tian, Elizabeth Tran, Loan Tran, Brittany Tucci, Anthony Usuriello, Christine Usuriello, Nicholas Vallone, Andrea Vedutis, Gina Viola, Isabel Vordzorgbe, Kaleigh White, Steven Wiczorek, and Kristen Yorkanis.

Grade 7—Steven Acosta, Jenna Alexander, Stephanie Alexander, Freddy Almanzar, Shyam Amin, Jhemarr Anderson, Angela Ang, Ashley Aya, Brian Babinetz, Kristopher Baker, Anthony Baldassarre, Stephen Balzer, Mark Benak, Morgan Bethea, Matthew Brazza, Dorsey Britton, Jacob Butynski, Amanda Cerini, Christine Christian, James Coccaro, Kevin Coffey, Ray Coletta, Natalie Colucci, Stephen Coppi, Kristie Crilley, Marilyn Cruz, Jennifer Deligne, Justin DeOliveira, Luigi Diaz, Meghan DiFrancesco, Ryan Flanagan, Alana Franco, Amanda Freitas, Joseph Gonzalez, Logan Green, Steven Grzenda, Jaimie Handwerger, Jenna Heckel, Nicholas Heilmann, Gregory Herbster, Eric Hernandez, Paige Herriott, Courtney Irber, Arham Jain, Kyle Junge, Kyle Kaczka, Jenae Keith, Megan Kerper, Maher Khan, Steven Kovalevich, Meghan Makowski, Karthik Marpadga, Christopher Marrone, Charles Merryman, Amber Miller, Parin Mody, Andrew Muhlgeier, Jessica Napolitano, Kellen Naranjo, Chelsea Ng, Ashley Nguyen, Chanelle O'Neal, Iyanosa Ogbvoen, Christopher Oprysk, Kristina Palazzo, Brian Palma, Kairav Parikh, Victora Pasquarella, Robert Pasternak, Kishan Patel, Kayla Prins, Frederick Reichert, Kimberly Releyea, Ricardo Reyes, Ryan Rhoads, Natalie Rittinger, Valeria Rivera, Ricardo Robles, Emily Roseo, Jillian Rutowski, Ryan Sacco, Katherine Samul, Matthew Santos, Courtney Schaefer, Alyssa Scrudato, Justin Sealy, Kevin Sims, Alexandra Skula, Nicole Slatky, Daniel Smith, Ryan Smith, David Stogoski, Michael Sullivan, Richard Szeliga, Pravin Thompson, Luis Valadares, Tyler Whalen, Andre Williams, Sara Wojewodka, Heba Younes, Thomas Zazzara and Kaitlyn Zielinski.

Resident Receives New Hearing Implant

William Spisso, a resident of South Plainfield for 55 years, has been dealing with a hearing loss due to nerve deafness since birth. His profound hearing loss has only worsened each year, leaving him with no hearing in his right ear and just 24% in his left. With the help of modern science, last October he received a cochlear implant.

William has been wearing a hearing aid since the age of eight. It took that long to discover that his learning problems were caused by a hearing loss. He continued to wear one hearing aid, but when he became an adult he began to wear two aids. His lip reading skills are excellent.

His wife, Terry, whom he married 22 years ago, said she noticed last year that William was becoming quieter and quieter and wasn't joining in conversation with family. She encouraged him to see a cochlear implant specialist who found that his hearing loss was worsening.

Dr. Thomas Rowland, a specialist at New York University Hospital (NYU), advised him that he was a candidate for a cochlear implant after an evaluation. There are a limited number of cochlear implant surgeons who perform this operation. Terry began a mission to find out what the cochlear implant entailed and whether insurance would pay for any, or all, of the implant. It took awhile and a lot of effort, but in the end, the insurance company and doctors agreed that he was qualified for one implant.

Last October, William received the newest innovation in hearing loss, a cochlear implant at NYU, which is renowned for this procedure. He was hospitalized for only 24 hours, but the surgery was just the beginning of a long journey, one which he is still enduring. William had to wait one month for the device to be turned on and now spends every Saturday going to an aural rehabilitation specialist. He also works at home to improve in between visits. He travels to NYU for mappings (fine tuning of his device) monthly and periodically to check on his progress. He will be doing this for the first year and then yearly as needed, if mapping needs to be adjusted.



William Spisso, joined here by his wife Terry, gets the gift of hearing through a cochlear implant (pictured left). William is working hard to the world of sound.



He can now hear high frequency sounds. William feels the progress is slow, but that's just what he was told to expect prior to the operation.

Part of William's therapy is listening to tapes and sometimes audio books to learn the way sounds are interpreted by way of the implant. He practices sentences to hear vowels and consonants, in order and out of order, and practices his auditory memory for sound and interpretation. For example the sound of word "cheek" and "cheap" sound very similar to him.

A cochlear implant is not a miracle, but it does make miracles happen. A cochlear implant doesn't cure deafness, but offers an alternative to it. The cochlear implant system isn't just a hearing system, it is a whole communication system, because with better hearing comes better speaking potential.

Cochlear implants replace the function of damaged hearing nerve fibers in the inner ear by electrically stimulating the other surviving fibers. The implant consists of a surgically implanted device and an external speech processor that picks up and converts sound into coded signals that are sent to the internal implant. The implant delivers electrical energy to an array

of electrodes inserted in the cochlea, stimulating the surviving nerve fibers. The electrical sound information is then sent to the brain for interpretation. Four to six weeks after surgery, an audiologist activated the system and digitally programs it to suit an individual's personal hearing needs. The recipient sees the audiologist for follow-up visits to fine-tune the speech processor.

William has been fortunate to have a job that he loves and has been very successfully employed since the age of 17. He is a gifted custom architectural woodworker and his work is evident in many public buildings such as Grand Central Terminal, a landmark hotel, which appeared on the cover *New Yorker* Magazine a few years ago and many office buildings and courtrooms in New York City. He also has done architectural work in Chicago and New Jersey.

William recently received his three month evaluation at NYU Cochlear Implant Center. Before the implant, his right ear had no residual hearing. After the surgery he hears 70 percent of complete unclued sentences. He still has only 24 percent residual hearing in his left ear. According to his audiologist, his test results were very good and significant improvements were seen on all tests in comparison to his preoperative scores. He is very pleased with his progress and feels he will continue to improve over time.

As for William's thoughts on the whole procedure, he states, "I am only a baby who has been hearing since Oct. 13, 2004. So I am still developing my hearing skills."

The reason the Spissos agreed to do this story was out of a genuine concern to help others with a hearing disability. If anyone is interested in learning more about their journey or how to start the cochlear process, contact the *Observer* office at (908) 668-0010 and we will get you in touch with the Spissos. They will be glad to offer advice, using their own experience in the how and where to begin the process.

Junior Journalist WINNER

Charlie and Debbie Kurland from Hometown Heros present dinner to last week's Junior Journalist contest winner, Rebecca Moskal, pictured here with parents Lynn and Dennis and brother Tim.

Congratulations Rebecca!

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A Statement From Dan Smith

Board member Dan Smith read the following statement at the end of the Board of Education meeting last week. Dan Smith is running for re-election.

There has been, and there will be, a lot of discussion about the board's proposed budget between now and April 19. I believe as the public considers what they will be voting on, they need to keep a few things in mind. If the budget had been put before the public for consideration as originally proposed it would have called for eliminating 38.8 positions in the district. Cuts of that magnitude would have a devastating effect on the quality of education our kids receive.

Invariably the question becomes how did things get to this point? The answers are complicated and although explanations have been given, we need to continue to talk about it, so the public has a clear understanding. You see the stakes here are way too high not to.

Last year our district went through what I would refer to as the "perfect storm," as a number of financial problems all came together at once. This board can now assure you, after a thorough audit by the state, one that was insisted on and called for by the board, corrective procedures have been implemented. The accounting practices and business office procedures are on rock solid footing.

But what was it that happened? Some of our district's problems began as far back as 20 years ago, when records show the board seated at the time, during Thanksgiving week in 1985, in a private meeting, in order to close a budget shortfall, took a three month holiday on paying the health-care premiums. This was never reported to the public and just came to light last year. I'd point out that the cost of those premiums then were significantly less in 1985 than they would be today. Since Mr. Markham was on that board at that time, maybe the next time he goes to the microphone, he can begin by explaining how that arrangement came about and why the information was never shared with the public.

Then there's the Vision Impact contract, put in place in 1995. This is where the district was supposed to receive a guaranteed savings of 1.3 million dollars on our energy bills. The contract runs until 2006. Investment in the equipment, plus the shortfall payback has the board losing on the deal, as well as incurring higher energy costs each year. In layman's terms it forces us to leave lights on even during periods when they could be turned off. After going back and investigating the origins of the arrangement we find the board attorney at the time expressed a number of concerns about the contract, but was told by Frank

Cornell and Frank Mikorski, board members at the time, never mind that, we're going to enter into this agreement anyway.

And how could I leave out Johnson Controls? In 1998 the Board signed a contract to spend over \$850,000 for a system and its monitoring costs. The system never worked and the board was given fictitious savings reports that indicate substantial savings when none can be verified. I admittedly was on the board when this one came about. But interestingly, when the records were reviewed correspondence between the board attorney and the business office, again where concerns were voiced, never made it to the full Buildings and Grounds Committee. Instead were copied only to the committee's chair Frank Mikorski, who was apparently operating as a self-appointed committee of one.

Perhaps the one I find most distressing is the teacher's salary guide arbitration where with Mr. Mikorski, leading the way, the board pushed a case that could have been settled for \$37,000 until it ended up costing the district over 3/4 of a million dollars in its settlement and at a minimum tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees.

Ok, I suppose folks might ask how was this not recognized? How did all of this fall between the cracks?

For starters we had a business administrator who was telling us that everything was checking out, that the books were in order, despite the many questions that were being asked. When it became clear that we were being misled, he was let go.

As to the much discussed issue of oversight; I would ask Mr. Mikorski and former board member Mrs. Jeffreys how was it that as members of the finance and personnel committees, 21 teachers could be left out of final budget considerations for the 03-04 year? That compensation shortfall had an impact of 1.3 million dollars? Or how no money was budgeted for the increased expense of opening the new addition on Grant or the new school at Roosevelt? Despite Mr. Mikorski, and the former Business Administrator Ed Izbicki assuring people that there had been.

Now we all know Mr. Mikorski was unsuccessful in his bid to be re-elected the following year and Mrs. Jeffreys ran off the board so fast you'd have thought her tail feathers were on fire. I wonder why? So in the future when Mr. Mikorski goes to the microphone to ask some of his "tough questions" perhaps he can start by answering some of the tough ones that I just raised.

And despite all of the arguing and accusations that will enviously play out over these next weeks before the vote it still leaves us withwhere are we

now?
As I said, the budget originally contemplated by this board going forward called for staff cuts of 38.8 positions. With certain spending growth limitations adjustments (SGLA's) we have been able to increase our cap limit to reduce the cuts in personnel to 13.8 positions. The budget still calls for payroll cuts equaling well over \$800,000 its a spending increase of 2.4 percent over last year.

It was Oliver Wendell Holmes who said "taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." However, no one likes to raise anyone's taxes. I am like anyone else in this town, a taxpayer in South Plainfield. But for this board to not give the community a choice, I believe we would not be fulfilling our responsibilities to our students.

Had we not have found ourselves in the "perfect storm" I described earlier, would we all have been coming to the table recommending the \$800,000 in cuts that the proposed budget calls for? I think not!

So the fate of the budget, it's impact on our tax levy balanced against providing for the needs of our students, will be decided by the voters. As a district we spend \$1,215 less than the per student New Jersey state average and \$501 less than the Middlesex County average. Our students test score results are higher than the state average in every category, from our elementary schools through our high school.

Students in South Plainfield are highly competitive in their athletic endeavors and in their involvement with music and the arts. If one can't attend those events, you need only to pick up a local newspaper to read of their accomplishments. Our students give us a lot to be proud of. Our schools give us a lot to be proud of.

I would contend that our investment in our schools is paying an excellent return. When the voters go to the polls on April 19 they will have the chance to demonstrate whether they agree.

DANIEL M. SMITH, SOUTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF ED



Alexandria's Shoes Open in Golden Acres Shopping Center

Alexandria's Shoes is amply named after owner Vito Fabrizio's four year-old daughter. Alexandria's carries popular name brand sneakers, shoes and clothing for children. Sneakers and shoes currently stocked are Skechers, Kenneth Cole, Reebok, Steve Madden, Bass, Weebok and Jumping Jacks from infants to teens sizes. Coming in shortly will be Von Dutch, Puma, Ralph Lauren Polo and Tommy Hilfiger brands. They also carry kids clothing up to size 6X with makers such as Carters, BT Kids, Rumble Tumble and Squeeze. He also has Communion

dresses reasonably priced up to size 10. According to Fabrizio, a long time Edison resident, he felt there was a need in the area for a service shoe store for children. He says there is always a need for kids shoes and he has just about everything you are looking for. The store is located at 3600 Park Ave. in the Golden Acres Shopping Center between Charlie's Ice Cream and Tony's Pizza & Restaurant. They are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 12-6 p.m. The phone number is (908) 756-5644. See page 6 for his ad with a coupon discount.

John E. Riley PTSO Offers Two College Scholarships

John E. Riley PTSO is accepting applications for its annual college scholarships. Applications are available at the South Plainfield High School Guidance Department and at John E. Riley School in the main office. John E. Riley's P.T.S.O. offers two scholarships of \$500 each. Applicants must be residents of South Plainfield

graduating from South Plainfield High School this June and must have been promoted from John E. Riley School. The filing deadline for these scholarships is April 6. Contact Mrs. Flannery at South Plainfield High School for more information.

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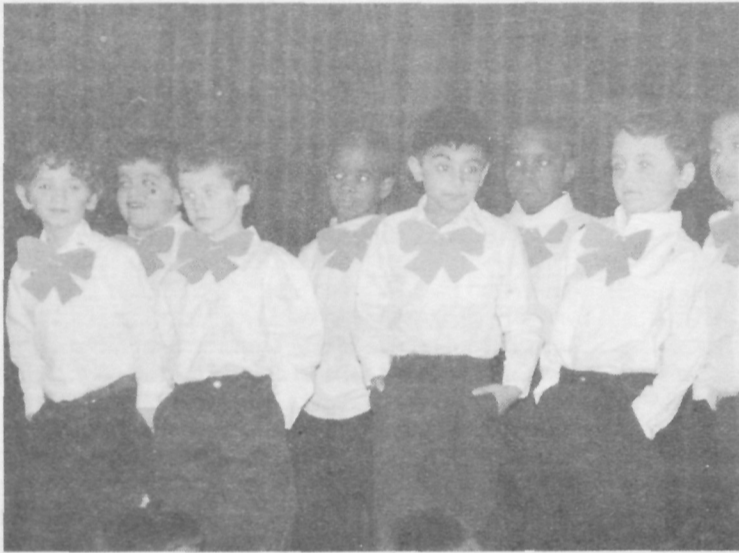
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Everyone's Irish at Riley School's Grandparents Day

Riley School's traditional Grandparents' Day celebration held last week boasted a St. Patrick's Day theme. This program has gone on so many years that many of the grandparents who attended were once parents of stu-

dents at Riley. Attending the Riley PTSSO sponsored event were Superintendent Dr. Robert Rosado, Assist. Superintendent Anthony Massaro, former principal Anthony Sincavage and his wife

Stacy Pace and her committee spent hours planning and preparing for this special event.

Ms. Raimondo, Ms. Ribar and members of the Riley Student Council served as hosts and hostesses.

The morning began with a breakfast served by the mothers. The tables were decorated with homemade place mats created by students of Barbara Harris, art teacher.

Gift baskets, donated by the classes, were handed out. Tables were all deco-

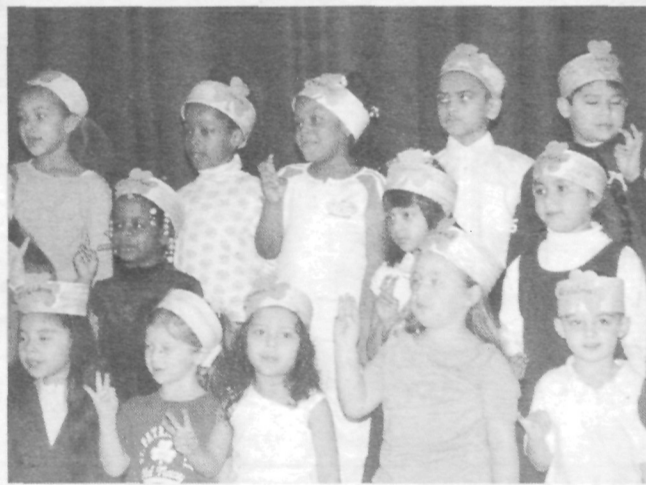
rated with fresh flowers donated by Mohr's Flowers.

Of course the highlight of the event was when the kindergarten, first and second graders put on their special program for their grandparents.

Flash cameras were popping and smiles were on all faces as their own

special grandchild performed for them. No one went home disappointed.

After the program, grandparents were invited to visit their grandchild's classroom.



Grant School Honor Roll — Second Marking Period

High Honor Roll

Jasmine Aguinaldo, Alyssa Aiello, Alexis Alba, Rachel Alexa, Jesse Allen, Lauren Annetta, Christopher Anyamene, Lanna Arki, Oscar Arriaga, Jennifer Barone, Brendan Berry, Steven Bichler, Laura Biggs, Sabrina Billings, Ashanti Bishop, Jayme Bishop, Isaac Blanco, Thomas Bowden, Casey Butrico, Cristina Butrico, Kenneth Calderoni, Courtney Calvey, Amanda Calvi, Alexis Cargill, Hailey Carone, Jena Cianfrocca, Tracey Cihanowyz, Janine Colicchio, Michael Connolly, Jillian Cortese, Kayla Cotone, Nicole Daubert, G. Bjorn DeLaCruz, Deanna Dean, Sabrina Delpiano, Jake Dingler, Brandon Downes, Jesse Doyle, Christopher Duffy, Nicole Firmin, Erica Fisher, Kevin Flanagan, Michaela Fore, Miranda Garcia, Jeffrey Gillen, Jamie Glavasich, Lucas Goitandia, Jessica Gomes, Navneet Goraya, Angelica Grasso, Elizabeth Gratta, Kaitlyn Graziano, Michael Grzenda and Joshua Guirguis.

Kaylin Harbin, Peter Hemming, Tyler Herriott, Tyler Holoboski, Riley Hubner, Ryan Hughes, Dana Hunt, Tyler Hunt, Ryan Hutchison, Joseph Ifrach, Ehilea Jainarine, Monika Jastrezebski, Austin Jenkin, Kristina Jewkes, Tanya Joshi, Kenneth Kaczka, Lauren Keane, Brigitte Kelly, Rajath Kenath, Brianna Kizmann, Joseph Krawiec, Michael Krusinowski, Hieu La, Patrick Landy, Stephen Lanza, Justin Lesky, Cory Limone, Ryan Lind, Ashley Linick, Gina Longo, Thalia Lopez, Kimberly Lozarito and Daniel Lyew.

Natalie Madurski, Shweta Mahajan, Shianne Martinez, Sean McDede, Dylan McDermott, Victoria McKay, Jamie McLean, Nii Mills, Christopher Negron, Brian Nguyen, Vyvian Nguyen, Katherine O'Brien, Christopher O'Keefe, Kyle O'Keefe, Michelle O'Sullivan, Marc Paez, Jamie Pagdonsolan, Joseph Palazzo, Melissa Pasternak, Kishan Patel, Ruchi Patel, Shivam Patel, Shivani Patel, Shruti Patel, Stephen Petriello, Nicolas Pleeter, Kathrine Podlovits, Kyle Pompilio, Shane Powell, Jamie Quail, Marie Quinga, Allison Quintanilla, Alyssa Ragno, Kripa Rajan, Ryan Riccardi, Erika Ritchie, Nicholas Ross, Bryan Rovayo and Cindy Ruiz.

Joana Sa, Daniel Saganome, Karly Sanko, Jennifer Saravia, Zachary Sbordone, Emily Sella, John Silas, Payal Sinda, Stephen Slatky, Daniel Smith, Imani Smith, Marissa

Smith, Luke Sprenger, Amanda Steger, Daniel Sticco, Tyler Stranzenbach, Olga Tarnawska, Jennifer Tercek, Stephanie Tercek, Amanda Tjong, Shana Tom, Kristin Treslar, Sarah Tufaro, Margaret Valentino, Alex Valladares, Albert Vill, Kathleen Vincent, Kelly Walsh, Allison White, Allyson White, Zachary Wilson, Cody Woodruff, Ellen Zinsky and Joseph Zipp.

Honor Roll

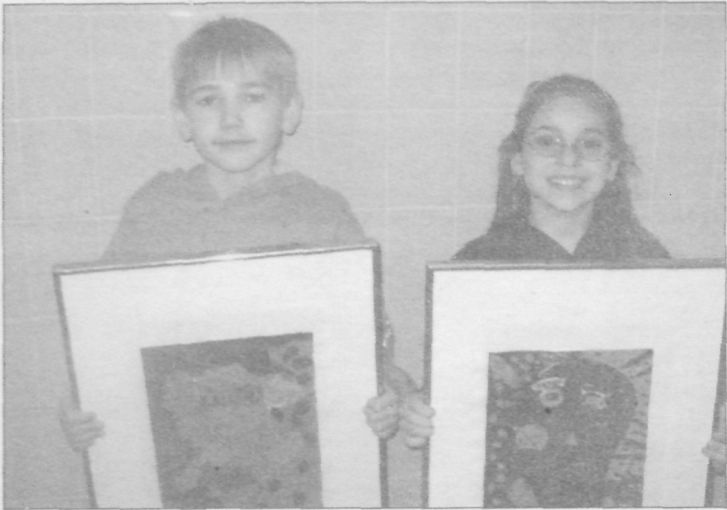
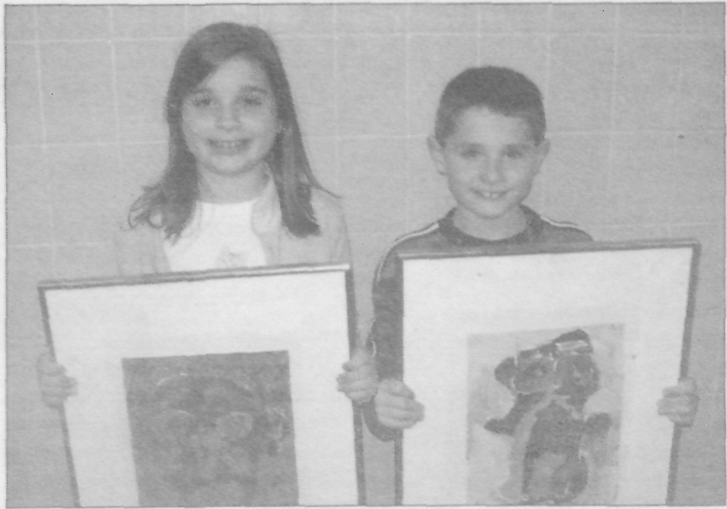
Taylor Adorna, Zakia Ahmed, Shaun Alers, Nefer-Ra Alt, Sadiq Amini, Joseph Araujo, Jared Aronowitz, Carly Ashnault, Tiffany Avila, Stephen Ballschmieder, David Battison, Luis Benitez, Ryan Billich, Miranda Black, Jeffrey Bodyl, Ivana Bonilla, Amanda Boronkas, Ryan Bors, Joanna Bosse, Kimberly Bosse, Jenna Bovee, Angela Brown, William Brown, Adam Buck, Stuart Buckelew, Harshil Budhan, Henna Budhan, Ursula Buice, Taylor Bullard, Olivia Butler, James Butrico, Joelle Butrico, Heather Calderone, Constance Calderone, Edgar Callejas, Gina Cannalunga, Danielle Caputo, Eric Carrasca, Erika Carrillo, Kenneth Cavanagh, Ranier Cespedes, Rochni Chiluka, Stephanie Christian, Christina Cody, Chelsey Colucci, James Conrad, Lauren Conrad, Jeffrey Conroy, Brittany Coupe, Ken Crilley, Christopher Cupo, Thomas Daly, Angela DeSantis, Miguel Delgado, Amylin DiDario, Nicole Disch, Jonathan Ditmars and Dylan Dorey.

Glenn Edridge, Christina Ferrer, Vincent Fierro, Mariella Figueroa, Antoni Franczak, Jessica Frank, Cynthia Freire, Joseph Fugazzi, Nabil Gallegos, Jordan Gamble, James Gerber, Jessica Giallanza, Connor Gillis, Bryan Gonzalez, Jenae Goodson, Shawn German, Jack Green, Jyneer Green, Charles Gruver, Aaron Guiang, Joshua Guzman, Tatiana Guzman, Sarah Hageman, Kansas Harmon, Justin Harris, William Hartmann, Crysta Hay, Christopher Hebreo, Alice Hernandez, Michelle Hernandez, Samantha Hoang, Shaun Holmes, Jesus Huayta, Charles Huber, Tori Huber, Daniel Hunt, Randall Hurst, Iris Ivaniuc, Rajesh Jaikaran, Amizan Jaleel, Taylor Jarema, Megan Kaczka, Jordan Katowich, Julian Krupit, Christopher Kukuch, Moriah Kunch and Troy Kurilew.

Marina Lam, Aimee Le, Taffy Le, Vivian Lee, Vincent Lionetti, Matthew Little, Guillermo Lopez, Kara Lowery, Alexander Lundy, Frank Malecki, Emely Mallqui, Matthew Manning, Ryan Marcoux, Chante Martin, Jennifer Martinez, Sarah McCarthy, Kelly McLaughlin, Michael McLean, Lindsay McMahon, Megan McMahon, J. Gael McManus, Joseph Miller, Michelle Miller, William Mott, Christopher Neal, Kirsten Newman, Joseph Nicastro, Eric Niemeyer, Kyesha Nietzer, Erin O'Connor, Patrick O'Connor, Shane O'Connor, Tara O'Day and Nicholas Okosko.

Pearl Paguntalan, Matias Palma, Jaime Parello, Michael Parello, Steven Paskowitz, Devang Patel, Raja Patel, Roma Patel, Jason Pattison, Samantha Pattison, Kelly Pauls, Ida Peery, Joshua Peery, Daven Persaud, Vasant Persaud, Kimberly Petronko, Amanda Pileggi, Robert Piltz, Gerald Pinto, Anthony Pisano, Melissa Plasse, Shukhib Popal, Christopher Pornovets, Jeffrey Praul, Cassandra Prendergast, Devyn Przewoznik, Samantha Pukash, Rohina Qayum, Lewis Quevedo, Jessica Rapatski, Christopher Richard, Nicholas Rincon, Nieko Rivera, Maurice Roach, Sarah Roibal, Jonathan Romero, Taylor Rorke, Richard Rotella and Elizabeth Rue.

Idris Sadiq, Jake Salerno, Angela Sami, Andrew Sanchez, Katelyn Scarinci, Jessica Scarpitto, Danielle Schaaf, Michele Schuetz, Rachel Scudato, Brandon Shea, Eric Shumaker, Christopher Siedenburgh, Andrea Sierra, Michael Simone, Joseph Skwiat, Christopher Sloan, Rebecca Smith, Daniel Snogans, Michael Soriano, Rosa Spallieri, Raven Speer, Brandon Staynings, Katherine Staynings, Samuel Steingart, Jeremy Strausser, Francis Suarez, Edward Sullivan, Rachel Sutherland, Sten Sutt, Matthew Sward, Angelina Tamburri, Michael Tangorra, Brian Tjong, Jade Tompkins, Danielle Tramutola, Huyen Tran, Julie Tran, Kimberly Tran, Tuan Tran, Brielle Valle, Lisa Vallone, Michael Vega, Alyssa Villa, Jonathan Viola, Allison Wagner, Caitlyn Whalen, William Whitefleet, Meagan Yanick, Kerry Yorkanis, Danielle Zeiasko, Samantha Zeiasko and Christopher Zwatschka.



Pictured above are Dylan Thompson, Samantha Pereira, Kyle Moroney and Danielle Pisano.

Art on Display at John E. Riley

The latest installation of "Art for the Main Office" is currently underway at John E. Riley School. The display will continue through the end of the school year. Barbara Harris, art teacher, is the founder and organizer of the program, which seeks to highlight groups of students and their work in a special way. The young artists, all third graders are Kyle Moroney, Samantha Pereira, Danielle Pisano and Dylan Thompson.

The artworks that were created are Neo-Expressionist relief portraits. The

third graders had been studying American Art, in particular a movement of the 1980's called Neo-Expressionism, which imbued painting with strong emotions. The students used layered shapes of oak tag paper to create a head and facial features that would express an emotion other than happiness. Then, they painted the parts with strong, pure colors and patterns to highlight the emotional quality of the works.

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Sports



The Grant School Lady Tigers made it to the playoffs this past season. The team is made up of the following girls: (row one) Rachel Sutherland, Jessica Jazikoff, Caitlyn Hogan, Danielle Tramutola, Amanda Hoagland, Tanya Joshi, Marissa Smith, (row two) Elizabeth Gratta, Taylor Adorna, Cassie Prendergast, Lauren Conrad, Jessica Ray, Jamie Quail, Samantha Pukash, Ashanti Bishop and Miss Jackson, their coach.

Recreation to Hold Summer Sports Camps

Registration for all recreation sports camps begins on Tuesday, April 19. You may register at the PAL, located on Maple Ave. First time participants must show their birth certificate.

Football camp will take place at the varsity football practice fields behind the high school. The time and date of the camp will be announced in May. It is open to all middle school and high school boys and girls. The fee is \$35/participant.

Golf camp will take place at the PAL from June 27 to July 1. All boys and girls ranging in age from 10 through 16 are eligible. The fee is \$100/participant.

Field hockey camp will take place at the varsity hockey field from June 27 to July 1. All girls ranging in age from seven through 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

Basketball camp will take place at the high school gym from July 5-8. There will be no camp on July 4. All boys and girls ranging in age from

seven through 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

Baseball camp will take place at the SPSHS ball fields from July 11-15. All boys ranging in age from seven through 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

Softball camp will take place at the varsity softball fields from July 18-22. All girls ranging in age from seven to 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

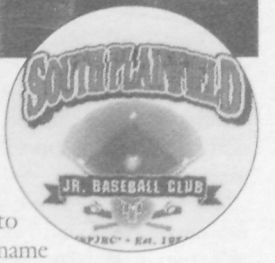
Wrestling camp will take place at the PAL from July 18-22. All boys and girls ranging in age from seven to 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

Soccer camp will take place at the varsity soccer field from July 25-29. All boys and girls ranging in age from seven to 15 are eligible. The camp's hours are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$35/participant.

All campers will receive a camp t-shirt and a cold beverage during the camp. All camps are staffed with high school coaches and players. All fees are nonrefundable.

By Lee Flanagan

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES



Thank you to all those parents who have been coming out and supporting the baseball club in our pre-season work details. This Saturday at 8 a.m. we are asking all parents of 10-year-old and 15-year-old players to come out and support in getting the field ready for opening day. There is still much to do around the complex.

Saturday, April 2 at 10 a.m. is our C-League orientation. We would like all C-League parents to come out and see what the SPJBC is all about. There will be various informational stations you can walk through. Executive Board members will also be there to assist on this endeavor.

Our monthly meeting is coming up on April 4 at 7:30 p.m. and opening day is Saturday, April 9. More details will follow on the opening day festivities next week.

Raffle tickets are going strong for our Mercedes Benz; call the SPJBC for ticket information.

Finally, Monday, March 28 is the

last day to put your name in to manage one of our traveling all-star teams. Do not miss out on this opportunity. The managers will be announced at our monthly meeting on April 4.

Pop Warner Scholarships are Available

The South Plainfield Football Eagles will again award four scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to a former South Plainfield Eagles participants of football and cheerleading. Applications can be obtained in the guidance office of South Plainfield High School under the titles South Plainfield Football Eagles and Pop Warner, or can be downloaded from our website www.speagles.com. The deadline for applications is April 8, 2005. There will be no exceptions.



Middle School Boy's Basketball Team Wins Tournament

On March 2, in front of approximately 300 fans, the South Plainfield Middle School Boys' Basketball Team captured the First Annual Greater Middlesex Conference Middle School Basketball Tournament. The Tigers defeated Carl Sandburg Middle School of Old Bridge. The Tigers thank the students and parents for their support.

The Middle School team is seventh and eighth graders, along with Coaches Bennett and Han. The Tigers finished with a record of 17-2,

winning two championships—the Twin City Pharmacy DARE Championship and the GMC Middle School Championship.

The team is made up of the following students: Mike Burton, Kenny Luckey, Tramane Miller, Dontae Johnson, Malcolm Austin, Chris Fulton, Mike Dezmin, Teddy Skwiat, Jared Czech, Taylor Curtis, Nosa Ogbvoen, Mark Benak, Dasjon Simpson, Joey Lacerda, Greg Burton, Jean Weeks, Leroy Peeples and Chris Kedmenec.

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BEST BUYS AND GREAT WINE VALUES

JACOB'S CREEK Shiraz 6.99 750 ml This Shiraz is firm, even chewy, on the lean side, with dark berry and cherry flavors that linger. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 50 red wine values from around the world. RATED 86	COVEY RUN Merlot 6.99 750 ml This Merlot is crisp in texture, dense in flavor, with layers of ripe blackberry, currant and peppery spice flavors that have more up front than on the spicy fresh cedar finish. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator as a Best Value on October 15, 2004. RATED 88	NOBILO MARLBOROUGH Sauvignon Blanc 8.99 750 ml Explosive acidity packed with flavors of pink grapefruit and white currant, a honey suckle floral nose and a long cool finish. A great wine with farm fresh veggies and delightful with seafood. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 35 white wine values from around the world. RATED 87	LINDEMANS Shiraz Bin 50 10.99 1.5 liter This Shiraz is firm in texture, fleshy enough to put some padding around the blackberry, pepper and vaguely meaty flavors. The wine also finishes fine. - Chosen by the Wine Spectator among the top 65 red wine values from around the world. RATED 85
BERINGER White Zinfandel 8.99 1.5 liter	BERINGER FOUNDER'S Cab. Chard. Merlot 7.99 750 ml	SMOKING LOON All Types 7.99 750 ml	ROBERT MONDAVI WOODBRIDGE Cab. Chard. Merlot 10.99 1.5 liter
JEWEL Cabernet Merlot Chardonnay 8.99 750 ml	CORBETT CANYON COASTAL CELLARS All Varieties 5.99 1.5 liter	CLOS DU BOIS Cabernet 13.99 750 ml	COVEY RUN Cabernet Chardonnay 6.99 750 ml
J. LOHR LOS OSOS Merlot 11.99 750 ml	J. LOHR SEVEN OAKS Cabernet 11.99 750 ml	ST. FRANCIS "OLD VINES" Zinfandel 13.99 750 ml	KENDALL JACKSON VINTNER'S RESERVE Chard. Pinot Noir 10.99 750 ml
FRANZIA Chablis, Chianti Burgundy, Rhine 9.99 5 liter box	PETER VELLA Cabernet, Chard., Merlot, White Zinf. 11.99 5 liter box	LIVINGSTON CELLARS Cabernet, Chard., Merlot, White Zinf. 8.99 3 liter jug	VEUVE CLICQUOT Brut NV Yellow Label 31.99 750 ml

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OLD SMUGGLER Scotch Whisky 17.99 1.75L	BEEFEATER Gin 27.99 1.75 liter	JOHNNIE WALKER RED Scotch Whisky 31.99 1.75 liter
DALMORE 12 Year Old Single Malt Whiskey 25.99 750 ml	JOSE CUERVO Gold or Classico Tequila 16.99 750 ml	ABSOLUT Vodka 80° 30.99 1.75 liter
SEAGRAM Extra Dry Gin 15.99 1.75L	RON RICO Silver or Gold Rum 14.99 1.75 liter	GREY GOOSE Vodka 80° 24.99 750 ml
WOLFSCHMIDT Vodka 80° 13.99 1.75L	STARBUCKS Coffee Liqueur 20.99 750 ml	TRIBUNO Dry or Sweet Vermouth 3.99 1L
HENNESSY VS Cognac 24.99 750 ml	HIRAM WALKER Blackberry Brandy 16.99 1.75L	
E & J GALLO VS Brandy 16.99 750 ml		
GOZIO AMARETTO Cordial 17.99 750 ml		

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KEYSTONE LIGHT & ICE 30 Pack 11.99	CORONA EXTRA & LIGHT 2/12 Packs 12 oz. N.R. Bottles 22.99 Case
PILSNER URQUELL 2/12 Packs 12 oz. N.R. Bottles 20.99 Case	O'DOUL'S NON-ALCOHOLIC LAGER OR AMBER 12 oz. N.R. Bottles or Cans 12.99 Case

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Sun. 10-7

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LEGAL NOTICE

School District Budget Statement for the School Year 2005-2006

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the school district of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, of a special meeting to be held in the gymnasium of the Roosevelt Administration Building Gymnasium, 125 Jackson Ave. South Plainfield, New Jersey at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2005. The Board will hold a public hearing on the following proposed budget for the 2005-2006 school year.

Noticia de Reunion para Presentar el Presupuesto Escolar 2005-2006

Tenemos una reunion especial para los votantes legales de South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey, en la gymnasium de Roosevelt Administration Building, 125 Jackson, Ave., South Plainfield, New Jersey el 29 de marzo 2005 a las 8:00 de la noche. La reunion publico es para presentar el presupuesto escolar para 2005-2006.

Advertised Enrollments

Table with columns: ENROLLMENT CATEGORY, October 15, 2003 Actual, October 15, 2004 Actual, October 15, 2005 Estimated. Rows include Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time, Pupils on Roll Reg Accr. Adult High Sch, etc.

Advertised Revenues

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2003-04 Actual, 2004-05 Revised, 2005-06 Anticipated. Rows include GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE, LOCAL DEBT SERVICE, etc.

Advertised Appropriations

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2003-04 Expenditures, 2004-05 Rev. Approp., 2005-06 Appropriations. Rows include GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE, CAPITAL OUTLAY, SPECIAL SCHOOLS, etc.

Table with columns: Budget Category, Account, 2003-04 Expenditures, 2004-05 Rev. Approp., 2005-06 Appropriations. Rows include Support Services, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUNDS.

Advertised Recapitulation of Balances

Table with columns: Budget Category (1), General Fund (Unreserved) (2), General Fund Cap. Reserve (3), Gen. Fund (Reserved) Adult Ed. Programs (4), General Fund (Reserved) Maintenance Reserve Acct. (5), General Fund (Reserved) Legal Reserves (6). Rows include Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-03 (Prior Budg), etc.

Advertised Recapitulation of Balances

Table with columns: Budget Category (1), General Fund (Reserved) Tuition Reserve (7), Debt Service (8), Special Revenue Cap. Reserve Account (9), Totals (10). Rows include Est. Approp. Bal. 6-30-03 (Prior Budg), etc.

Advertised Per Pupil Cost Calculations

Table with columns: 2002-03 Actual (1), 2003-04 Actual (2), 2004-05 Original Budget (3), 2004-2005 Revised Budget (4), 2005-2006 Proposed Budget (5). Rows include Total Comparative Per Pupil Cost, Total Classroom Instruction, etc.

The information presented in columns 1 through 3 as well as the related descriptions of the per pupil cost calculations are contained in the 2005 Comparative Spending Guide and can be found on the Department of Education's Internet address: http://www.state.nj.us/education/under/finance/when/available. This publication is available in the board office and public libraries. The same calculations were performed using the 2004-05 revised appropriations and 2005-06 budgeted appropriations presented in this advertised budget.

Annual School District Budget Statement Supporting Documentation

4A. Advertised Capital Outlay Projects

Describe below, by project number, the appropriations for budgeted Capital Outlay Projects including those items related to the district's Long Range Facilities Plan. Include only construction, remodeling, renovations, installation of service systems, land and improvements, and the purchase of buildings. If the project is eligible for a grant, budget only the local share of the project and enter an X in column 4. Do not include equipment. Include all projects budgeted on the transfer lines to capital projects fund (8326 and 8335). Complete a detailed budget for each project.

Table with columns: Description/Activity, Project Number, Dollar Amount, Eligible for Grant. Row: Total Amount: 0

NOTICE/ADVISO

The complete budget will be available for examination by the public at the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Education at 125 Jackson Ave., between the hours of 9:00 am. and 4:00 p.m. from March 15, 2005 to March 29, 2005, both inclusive.

En su totalidad el presupuesto se hara disponible al publico en la Oficina del Secretario de la Junta de Educacion en Jackson Ave. No. 125 de 9:00 de la mañana a las 4:00 de la tarde desde 15 de marzo, 2005 a 29 de marzo, 2005.

Robert H. Davis, Secretary/Secretario
South Plainfield Board of Education/Junta de Educacion
125 Jackson Ave.
South Plainfield, New Jersey

\$680.00

March 25, 2005

Polls are open from 2 to 9 p.m.

CITIZENS URGED TO VOTE IN APRIL 19, 2005 SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET ELECTIONS

Check your ballots for polling places or call the Borough Clerk's Office, (908) 226-7606

IN YOUR OPINION

(Continued from page 12)

Fire Dept., we were touched greatly by the respect paid to our dad, Father Maciej, thank you for your prayers and words of comfort.

All our family and friends, thank you all for being there for us. We lost someone special and we're sure every one who knew our Dad has some story or memory that will keep him alive forever.

Thank you,
JOHNNY & MICHAEL

Dear Editor,

Letters concerning our school system that have been in the paper, especially last week, seem to have forgotten one thing: the students, our children. Never mind who said what to whom. The board of education has already made as many cuts to the budget as possible, some \$800,000 and cut a few teachers, administrators, some secretaries, as well as other items, trying to make as little impact on the students as possible. We need to get our priorities straight and that means continuing the programs, courses and electives that a good high school should offer. Among other things one letter-writer says the schools should do without are "...new teachers, no teachers' helpers (I think he means instructional aides who are there for the students), no sports programs, band programs or field trips..." The writer goes on to say that teachers should spend their time teaching, as that is what they are paid for. As a teacher at SPHS (and a parent of two students there), let me say, "There is nothing I would like better than being able to continue to teach our students."

As anyone who knows me has heard me say repeatedly, I LOVE what I do. I love being at SPHS, I love the students and I think and hope that my students and their parents know that. I changed careers several years ago so that I could take my dream job, teaching high school English, and I cannot say how impressed I am by my colleagues and how much they care about the students. *The students should not be made to suffer because of the budget crunch!* If the budget does not pass, it is almost guaranteed that at least one teacher from every department at the high school will be gone and it cannot be stressed strongly enough that the students will be the losers. Teachers will be cut from other schools as well, which directly affects the students. Class sizes will go up — I currently have almost 100 students — so do other teachers who will no longer be there. Where will the students go who would have been in their classes next year? Into another teacher's class where the roster will already be full (and we have additional students enrolled for next year.)

If the budget is defeated, among the things that will most likely go are: middle school/high school sports because it's an easy way to save a lot of money; instructional levels (which may be combined and will hurt students on each level); AP classes, high school electives, club activities, all things that make for a well-rounded high school experience. Do not kid yourself: when students apply to college, their extracurricular activities are an important part of the package. PLEASE do not listen to people who claim that our school is not doing well — these are the REAL facts according to the *Home News Tribune*: South Plainfield OUTSCORES most of the schools in Middlesex County on all areas of the ASK, GEPA and HSPA TESTS, while spending *much less than the state average per pupil and less than the county average.*

I am a graduate of SPHS and have already had one child graduate from there with a good experience. I want my other children to be able to have that same experience, as well as yours. We have to put the students first and make sure that next year SPHS is the same school or better than the one we have right now. Increasing class sizes, losing programs, hurting the students and the schools would be going in the wrong direction.

Remember that property values are directly tied to the desirability of the school system; if our schools go down drastically,

so do our property values.

DONNA M. EGAN

To Editor,

I have lived in South Plainfield for the last 36 years. My three daughters have graduated from the South Plainfield High School and all have completed a college education. My wife Chris and I are happy grand parents to three sets of twins, all girls, and two grandsons.

While our children were growing up I was always involved in helping out. I was the treasurer for the Pop Warner Eagles years ago, director of Project Graduation for nine years, South Plainfield High School PTA president for six years. Currently I am a Trustee Member for the South Plainfield Education Foundation and a trustee of the Hall of Fame for SPHS. As you can see I have been involved with our students at many levels and many positions.

I am very proud of the school system and what it has provided my family. Why I am running is to take what I am proud of, and with my nine years of experience try to make it better for all the students of South Plainfield.

I am retired from AT&T after 30 years. I enjoyed my career, but it is time to give back to the community that has made my life as good as it is. I have

worked very hard for the last nine years as a board member to provide the community with a person that is dependable, accountable, reliable and experienced.

The district is at a crossroad and the need for experience, dedication and commitment is essential for the success of the South Plainfield Educational Plan. We have addressed the influx of students with the building referendum and have completed the building programs, thanks to the taxpayers of South Plainfield. The Board of Education has adopted a Five-year Educational Plan which has many parts, starting with a Mission Statement

"To ensure that all students are equipped with the essential skills necessary to acquire a common body of knowledge and understanding; to instill the desire to question and look for the truth in order that students may become critical thinkers, life-long learners, and contributing members of society in an environment of mutual respect and consideration."

To start with the board has approved curriculum five-year update plans, language arts literacy and mathematics have been completed and the review of science has started with history and other programs to follow in subsequent years. The refinement and development of desktop curriculum for language arts literacy and mathematics has been completed. The adoption of the new language arts literacy text and support

material for K-2 and 7-12 has been approved. The refinement of the computer science curriculum at each level has been completed and approved. Developing assessments in language arts literacy and mathematics aligning with State Core Content Curriculum Standards to include common mid-term and final examinations has been approved. The Board has approved a standardized process for the adoption of textbooks and is in place and being used. All of this work is being done by the staff and sustained by the Board to support the Mission Statement to insure that all students are being instructed equally.

A need that the district must focus on is the infusion of technology in all curriculums at all levels and all subjects. Now is the time to go forward to insure that the correct technology is in place and the training of staff is the most effective. I will continue to facilitate this as we go forward. We have a Plan — and that Plan is a living document and will be updated every year or, as needed which ever comes first.

In order to accomplish anything you must have money. The most important thing is to understand that this year's budget 2004/2005 was presented to the BOE and the voters \$1.6 million under funded. This wasn't found out until after the funds for a capital project for the parking lots was spent. This is

why it was necessary to lease the district books to make up for the short fall of funds. The other alternative would have been to reduce staff by the same amount, causing the disruption of the educational process of the children of South Plainfield. You might ask why this was not questioned before the budget was presented. It was, and in fact it was asked if \$150,000 (one point) could be removed and the answer was yes. We also asked if the capital project was still in tack and again the answer was yes. This was addressed this year; now let's look at what we need to do this coming 2005/2006 year. We have no surplus because all the funds were used to make this year whole, so no relief in money for taxes will be forth coming. We are asking for 2.4 percent increase in this years budget with a \$800,000 cut in personnel. We need to have the budget passed so that the growth in our children's education can continue to grow.

These actions can only be accomplished if you are part of the team and try to facilitate the best that you can.

Children come first has always been my priority. I ask you to support me in this election and help South Plainfield School District reach BEYOND EXCELLENCE. On April 19 exercise your right to vote and support me Ken La Freniere line 6.

KEN LA FRENIERE

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police report

- On March 9 Lynn Youngblood, 51, of Piscataway was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle and two outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.
- Stilo Paving on So. Clinton Ave. reported that the molding had been removed from a window frame on the building in an attempt to gain entry.
- On March 10 John Gyurik, IV, 34, of Plainsboro was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to obey a traffic signal at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Lexington Ave. resident reported that the rear patio sliding door had been pried open and the double masonite master bedroom doors had been smashed open. A dresser drawer was left open but nothing appeared to be missing.
- Rita's Italian Ice on Park Ave. reported the theft of two banners from the outside of the building.
- On March 11 Ronald Bravo, 38, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated after driving to police headquarters to report an assault.
- On March 12 Kelly P. Jordan, 24, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. was arrested for failure to inspect vehicle and outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- Derrick Wayne Mims, 43, of Union was arrested for driving on a suspended license, unregistered vehicle and

- an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- On March 13 Jovan M. Goldston, 21, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, careless driving and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle accident.
- On March 14 Manuel A. Navarrete, 22, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and having open alcohol containers in his car at a motor vehicle stop.
- Jay John Johnson, 45, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated and driving on a suspended license at a motor vehicle stop.
- Najwa G. George, 53, of E. Brunswick was arrested for driving on a suspended license and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- A Bianculli Dr. resident reported he left his wallet on a table at Bennigans and when he returned it was gone.
- On March 17 William G. Glynn, 51, of South Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and failure to keep right at a motor vehicle stop.
- Taco Bell on Stelton Rd. reported the theft of a money deposit bag with cash from the store.
- On March 18 Jennifer M. Coney, 40, of Plainfield was arrested for hindering apprehension, driving on a suspended license, no insurance and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle

- stop.
- A high school student reported that all four of his car tires had been slashed when he came out of school.
- A Kosciusko Ave. resident reported the theft of his recycle bin from the curb.
- On March 19 Zairie K. Wright, 18, of Piscataway was arrested for driving on a suspended license, maintenance of lamps and three outstanding warrants at a motor vehicle stop.
- Jorge A. Nunez, 36, of Plainfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated, driving on a suspended license and reckless driving at a motor vehicle stop.
- On March 20 Mary Elizabeth Fennell, 27, of Plainfield was arrested for driving on suspended license, disregard of traffic signal and two outstanding warrants at motor vehicle stop.
- Andre Dion Thorne, 24, of Allentown, Pa. was arrested for failing to yield at a stop sign and an outstanding warrant at a motor vehicle stop.
- On March 21 the school bus transportation supervisor reported the theft of two fire extinguishers and a crow bar from two school buses parked in the fenced in area behind the middle school. The vehicles were locked and there was no sign of forced entry.
- A W. Crescent Parkway resident reported the theft of a Motorola cell phone and \$3 from his unlocked car.

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Grant School Drama Club Busy Preparing For The Fiddler . . .

At Grant Elementary School, the Drama Club is busy preparing for their May Production of *The Fiddler On The Roof, Jr.* The Drama Club is led by music teacher Joan Stasio and sixth grade science teacher Lori Stolz.

This year's Drama Club production is particularly challenging because the show takes place in Russia around 1905, a setting that the students are unfamiliar with. The cast is busy learning about the poor Jewish villagers

from Anatevka and how they were thrown out of their homeland by the Russians. "This show gives us a chance to teach the students about history and immigration, while still having fun bringing the story to life," says Stasio. "I think the drama club kids are learning a lot more than they thought they would when they signed up for Drama Club!" she added.

Fiddler On the Roof is a musical about how important family and traditions

are and its timeless themes of love, marriage and discrimination are still relevant today. One of the most exciting scenes in the show is the wedding of Tevye's and Gold's daughter, Tzeitel. Her parents have a march for her, but Tzeitel wants to marry Motel, the poor tailor. The students have spent the last few weeks (between snow days) working on the wedding, complete with the ceremony, reception, dancing and even a fight scene. "I think they are really

getting excited about what it takes to put a show on—singing, dancing, acting and of course scenery, costumes and props. We're now starting to involve the stage crew kids so they can start to help with the set construction, painting and moving props on and off the stage," said Stolz.

This is Stolz's and Stasio's third production together, after *Annie, Jr.* and *Once On This Island, Jr.* Also helping this year is Miss Clyde, Grant

School's string teacher. She and some of her students will be the "fiddlers" backstage as the actors pantomime on stage. The *Fiddler on the Roof* symbolizes that everyone is just trying to scratch out their way in life. Hopefully, everyone will "scratch out" May 18 and 19 on their calendars and come to Grant Elementary to see this terrific production. Please call Grant School for details.

Submitted by Joan Stasio

Obituaries

Loretta "Lee" Laquino Quagliariello, 89

Loretta "Lee" Laquino Quagliariello died on Wednesday, March 16 in John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Edison.

Mrs. Quagliariello was born in South Plainfield, grew up in Plainfield and had resided in South Plainfield since 1947.

During the 1930s, she had worked for the former Bronson Hat Co. in Plainfield. She was formerly active in the PTA of Sacred Heart School.

She was a member of Sacred Heart RC Church and the Church's Rosary Altar Society and the Sharing & Caring group. Lee was also a member of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens, the Adult School Senior Citizens and the Sacred Heart Senior Citizens.

Surviving are her husband, Phillip S. Quagliariello; a daughter, Donna Schleif and her husband, John of Somerset; a son, Rev. Phillip J. Quagliariello and his wife, Laurie of Edison and three grandchildren, Phillip, Nancy and Julie.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Donations in her memory to the South Plainfield Rescue Squad, 2520 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080 would be appreciated.

Irma Olivares, 73

Irma Olivares died on Tuesday, March 15 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

She was born in Nicaragua and lived in El Salvador before coming to the United States in 1980. She settled in South Plainfield and had lived in North

Plainfield for the past 10 years.

Before becoming ill in 1992, Irma had worked at MISCO in Dunellen as a flower assembler. She, earlier, worked at Everlasting Flowers in Plainfield, also as an assembler.

She was a member of St. Mary's RC Church in Plainfield.

She was predeceased by her husband, Ramiro A. Munoz in 1988 and a grandson, Rene A. Mayorga, Jr., in November of 2004.

Surviving are seven daughters, Diana Aguilar and Sandra Amaya, both of South Plainfield, Vilma Mendoza, Elsa Mayorga, both of North Plainfield, Virginia Sanchez of El Salvador, Patricia Pineda of Madison and Flor Sevillano of San Francisco; three sons, Ramiro A. Munoz of North Plainfield, Giovanni Garcia of Piscataway and Roger Munoz of North Plainfield; two sisters, Miriam Amaya of Reno, NV and Eduardo Mendoza of Nicaragua and Teresa Olivares of El Salvador and Gustavo Garcia of Reno, NV. She is also survived by 18 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

Celestine "Sal" J. Antini, 88

Celestine "Sal" J. Antini died on Monday, March 14 at his home.

Born in White Plains, NY, he was a WWII Veteran of the United States Army, serving as a mess sergeant prior to his discharge in 1945. He then married and resided in Plainfield for many years before settling to Middlesex in 1995.

Prior to WWII, he owned the Netherwood Market, a grocery store in Plainfield and upon his return from active service, he worked as a live poultry supplier in the Westfield area. Sal then went to work for AT&T in Murray Hill starting in the maintenance department and later transferring to the security department where he worked as a security guard before his retirement in 1984 after 22 years with the company.

He was a member of the South

Plainfield American Legion Chautau Post #243.

His wife of 60 years, Minnie (Huffman) Antini, died in August of 2003.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra Lee and Gary Mirsky of Clinton and Celeste and Robert Ruzak of Rahway; a sister, Mary Lammers of South Plainfield; a brother, William Antini of Bridgewater; three grandchildren, John Gorman, Debbie Mollo and Christian Ruzak and three great grandchildren, Jacob and Justin Mollo and Brooke Ruznak.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his memory may be made to the Middlesex Borough Rescue Squad, 1400 Mountain Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846.

Patricia Brown Groben, 46

Patricia Brown Groben died on Monday, March 21 at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York, following a year-long battle with hereditary Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Born in Plainfield, Patti lived in South Plainfield for most of her life prior to moving to Scotch Plains three years ago.

A 1976 graduate of South Plainfield High School, she was currently employed as a secretary for Kenneth Eckels Attorney at Law in Plainfield. Previously, she had worked for Bellcore in Piscataway as an administrative assistant for some time.

Patti was very active with Franklin School, participating with the school fundraisers and was also a former Girl Scout Leader in South Plainfield and Scotch Plains.

A member of Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church in Scotch Plains, Mrs. Groben loved to cook and enjoyed arts and crafts.

She is predeceased by her father, James Brown.

Surviving are her husband of 15

years, James; a daughter, Stephanie; her mother, Lois Brown of South Plainfield; three brothers, Kevin Brown and his wife, Kathy of Branchburg, Keith Brown of South Plainfield and Christopher Brown of West Creek and two brothers-in-law, Paul Groben and his wife, Kathleen of Barnegat and Richard Groben and his wife, Sharon of Port Murray.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Karl Habel, 39

Karl Habel died on Saturday, March 19 at St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick.

He was a master butcher employed at Johns Market in Scotch Plains for the past 18 years.

Karl was an avid fisherman and longtime Edison resident.

He was survived by a daughter, Savannah; his parents, Mary Lou and Carlton Habel and three brothers, Marc, Kurt and Keith Habel. He left this earth too soon and will be sincerely missed.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Margaret (Esoldo) Alexander, 86

Margaret (Esoldo) Alexander died on Sunday, March 20 at her son's home.

Mrs. Alexander was born in Plainfield and had resided in South

Plainfield from 1973 until she settled in Lanoka Harbor in 2000.

She was a former communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and St. Pius X Church in Forked River.

Her husband, Salvatore Alexander, Sr., died in 1971. She is also predeceased by a son, Salvatore, Jr., who died in 1988 and a daughter, Louise Amick, who died in 2000.

She is survived by a son, Richard and his wife, Donna Alexander of Lanoka Harbor and two sisters, Yolanda Diana of Plainfield and Jean Chardello of Port Reading.

Also surviving are eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Michael Lahutsky, 85

Michael Lahutsky died on Monday, March 21 in John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Edison.

Born in Gilberton, Pa., he resided in South Plainfield and Bound Brook before moving to Iselin six years ago.

He was employed as a laborer for Engineered Plastics Products of Stirling for 10 years before retiring in 1985.

He served in the United States Army Air Force during WWII and was discharged as a technical sgt.

Surviving are two nieces, Mary DeCarlo of South Plainfield and Ann Hawryliak of Crystal River, Fla.; two nephews, Paul and Michael Lapinsky, both of Clearwater, Fla. and many great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the McCriskin Home For Funerals.

Correction

In last week's *Observer* the obituary on Herbert E. Hunt had the wrong funeral home listed where services were held. Mr. Hunt's services were under the direction of the South Plainfield Funeral Home.

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