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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES



This issue is dedicated in Memory of
 -Bennie Scibek
 -Theresa Streck
 -Keith Switzer
 -Frank Weber
 -Justina Mastro
 -Walter Zamorski



January 18, 2020 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 29 Issue 4

Mayor O'Brien Honored By Veterans



At Mayor Kennedy O'Brien's last council meeting on December 16th, The Sayreville Veteran's Alliance, American Legion Lenape Post 211, and VFW Memorial Post 4699 provided the Mayor with a send-off he will always remember. Throughout his years in office, Mayor O'Brien has been a staunch supporter of veterans and all veteran's causes. In a final tribute to him during his "walking out" ceremony, veterans stood at attention and each one saluted him as he walked past. Mayor O'Brien, Congratulations on an excellent job in service to our community!



Mayor Kennedy O'Brien is pictured at his desk with many of the veterans in attendance surrounding him in a final farewell. (Photos/article courtesy of Rich Kosmoski, Co-Chairman Sayreville Veterans Alliance)



Tom Ryan (l) and Ann Marie Ryan (r) join their son Father Thomas Ryan, (c) Pastor of Our Lady of Victories Church, for a farewell reception at the OLV Msgr. Dalton Hall. (Photo by Steve Schmid)

Father Ryan Says Goodbye To OLV

By Steve Schmid

Approximately 100 people turned out to say farewell to Our Lady of Victories Pastor Father Thomas Ryan at a special reception January 5. The OLV Seniors organized the farewell reception at the Msgr. Dalton Hall to honor his ten years of service. OLV Seniors President Teri Yetsko said she's sorry to see Father Ryan being transferred, but said he still will spread the word of God in his new role. She added that Father Ryan earned a Black Seal license from the diocese which is normally offered to janitors and it helped him perform maintenance at the church. She said he liked to use the lawn mower to cut grass at the cemetery. She praised him for his hard work and dedication in helping victims of Hurricane Sandy. Former Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien was also on hand to praise the outgoing priest. He read a proclamation thanking him for his work in the church and the Sayreville community. He was very happy

to know him for the last ten years and praised his efforts to help residents victimized by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. O'Brien said Father Ryan attended daily emergency meetings with Sayreville officials to discuss how to help flood victims. He said Father Ryan set up a resource center at Dalton Hall with many household goods for victims. Father Ryan's parents Tom and Ann Marie came out from Milford NJ to honor him as well. Tom Ryan said the OLV parishioners were great and his son enjoyed serving them the last few years. Father Ryan next told the group he's very happy to have been pastor at OLV for the last ten years. He said he's going to miss walking around the church grounds and seeing kids on recess between classes. He'll also miss the parishioners but noted he's only going to New Brunswick so he won't be far away. He is proud of the work he did after Hurricane

Continued on page 3

Poll Workers

John Anagnostis Regional Vice Chair of the Middlesex County Republican Organization has announced there are openings for Poll Workers for the 2020 Primary and General Elections to be held on June 2, 2020 and November 3, 2020.

You can be a poll worker if you are 18 years old, a registered voter and live in Middlesex County. The following communities need poll workers: Carteret, Perth Amboy, Woodbridge, Sayreville and South Amboy.

A poll worker attends a training class, reports to the polling places 45 minutes prior to the polls opening on election day, prepares the polling place, verifies voters are registered in the district, assists the voter if there are questions, maintains order at the polls, closes polling places at the designated times. The pay for the election day is \$200.00

This is a chance for residents to participate in our democracy. If you are interested please -contact our office at 732-371-9967 Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. if no answer leave a message.

First Baby Of 2020

The first baby of the New Year in Central Jersey was born at 12:54 a.m. at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy. Emily Vargas of Sayreville is the mother to baby boy Elias Anthony Alejandro Vargas, who weighed 7 lbs., 2.3 oz., and measured 19.75 inches. Congratulations!



Republican Donna Roberts (c) is sworn in by Senator Joseph Vitale (r) as new councilwoman for the Borough of Sayreville. (Photo submitted)



Pictured following the swearing in ceremony on New Year's Day at Borough Hall in Sayreville is (l-r) Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick, NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Councilwoman Michele Cassidy Maher. (Photo submitted)

Next Issue February 29th- Deadlines February 17th

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2 3 Large Cheese Pizzas \$33.99 (Plus Tax) 1 - 2 Liter Soda With coupon only Limit 1 per customer - Exp. 5-1-20 coupons cannot be combined, use only 1 at a time Must Present Coupon At Time Of Order	4 Pickup Only One Large 16" Pizza (Round) \$10.99 (Plus Tax) With coupon only Limit 1 per customer - Exp. 5-1-20 coupons cannot be combined, use only 1 at a time Must Present Coupon At Time Of Order

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Walk To Bethlehem



The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 had a wonderful turnout for the 2nd Annual Walk To Bethlehem, which was held on Dec. 22nd. Following the walk, everyone who participated went back to the K of C Hall for hot soup and chocolate. (Photo/Info by Joe Lotkowitz)



This photo was taken at St. Mary's Church during one of the five stops made at local churches of all denominations. The Family Walk to Bethlehem is growing in popularity each year, and all are invited to participate in December 2020. (Photo submitted)

Sayreville VFW Auxiliary Benefit Dance on Tap For March 28th

Sayreville VFW Post Auxiliary President, Carmen Delikat has announced Saturday March 28, 2020, as the date for

the Auxiliary's 5th Annual "Support the Troops," Classic Rock/Oldies Night Dinner Dance. Doors will open at 6pm, with open bar and buffet dinner. Tickets are \$50 per person, and you can contact Carmen @ 732-254-9425. Live music from the 50's thru the 80's, provided by Central Jerseys' Top Classic Rock Band, "Clem and Friends," featuring the best musicians in the area. Please, put the date on your calendars, tell your family and friends, and c'mon out and support our Troops, and enjoy the music and friends.

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ST. MARY'S HS CLASS OF 1970

We will be celebrating our 50th reunion on October 17, 2020. If you would like to join us please email zupsunshin@aol.com {Maripat Lauritsen Zupko} for all the details. If you're a 1970 EAGLE, this is where you need to be!

Prayer to St. Therese
 St. Therese, the little Flower, please pick me a rose from the Heavenly Garden and send it to me with a message of love. Ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore and tell him I will love him each day more and more. -M.L..

Pleasant little TRIVIA By Tom Burkard

- In 1970, this new business opened at 135 North Broadway, South Amboy?
 a. Fisherman's Paradise b. The Wig Garden c. All-Star Sports Shop
- In '95, where was Charlotte's Western Wear located in Sayreville?
 a. Highway 35 South, Morgan b. Rt. 35 North, Melrose c. Washington Rd., Parlin
- In 2005 was selected the Senior Citizen of the Year for Sayreville?
 a. Mary Kruschki b. Eleanor Rosen c. Stella Misiewicz
- Cardinal McCarrick HS HSA President in 04-05?
 a. Carol Johnson b. Mary Smith c. Jennifer Jones
- This sub shop was located at 132 South Pine Ave., South Amboy in '05?
 a. Colleen's b. Chud's c. Anthony's
- In 2000, Dolphin Fitness Clubs was located where in Sayreville?
 a. Boehmurst Ave. b. Rt. 9 South c. Raritan St.
- Principal of South Amboy Elementary School in 2005?
 a. Alexis Misinkiewicz b. Carol Galley c. Joseph Donnelly
- Sayreville Fire Chief in 2009?
 a. Tony Jackowski b. Richard Kosmoski c. Stanley Mioduszewski
- Where was the Scarborough Fair shop located in South Amboy in '05?
 a. South Stevens Ave. b. North Pine Ave. c. South Broadway
- President of the OLV Columbiettes in 2011?
 a. Bernadine Newman b. Mary Lou Schwartz c. Katie Elichko

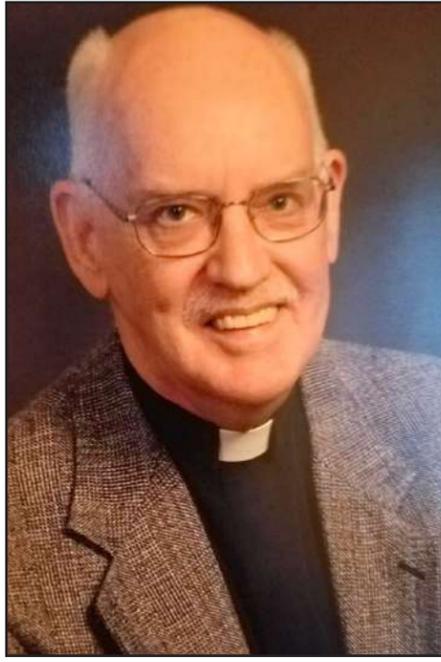
Answers
 1b 2a 3c 4a 5b 6c 7b 8a 9c 10c.

Local Church Names New Pastor

Messiah Lutheran Church, 3091 Bordentown Avenue, Parlin, is pleased to announce the appointment of Reverend Michael A. McKillip as Pastor, who began on December 1. Pastor Michael holds a Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. He has served in three other congregations, all of them in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

In his own words, Pastor Michael explains that he is "energized by people who are engaged in God's mission to heal and redeem the whole world, and who participate in God's work." The church family of Messiah is looking forward to Pastor Michael joining us, and pray that God leads us forward in a successful ministry together.

Messiah is a welcoming family of Christians- committed to renewing our witness to our Lord, Jesus Christ through prayer, hope, healing, and service. Please join us for worship at 9:30 A.M. every Sunday. All are welcome!



Reverend Michael A. McKillip

South Amboy Arts Announces January Events

As the new year 2020 begins, so do the events at South Amboy Arts, we wish to begin our programming in those areas that have been requested. The mission of South Amboy Arts is to strengthen our community through educating, entertaining and inspiring through cultural and artistic offerings that engage residents, and create new alliances that support artists."

So, we start with Craft Day Tuesdays, each week a different skill will be the focus to produce a creation to bring home. Cost will be dependent upon the craft. The class will run from 1-4 pm.

To make and take home your own painting, a winter theme has been chosen for our first painting event. Cost is dependent upon materials for each age group. This initial painting event is from \$5-\$15.

Participants will learn about perspective and color mixing. The Student Winter Solace

Painting Classes will take place on Monday, January 20th, students 8-12 years old from 10:30-noon and teens from 1:30-3:30 pm. Adult Class will be Friday, January 24th from 7-9:30 pm.

For those who love to move to music and do not want to dance alone, we are suggesting Line Dancing. This event will allow you to make new acquaintances and have some fun, while smiling, tapping and clapping as you learn the simple repetitive moves of a Line Dance. First class will be \$5. Friday, January 31 from 7-7:45 pm.

Look for 'FACES of the CITY' appearing around our city soon!

For our planning for each event you must register. Class space is limited and different for each event and will fill on a first come basis, 732-754-7913 or email southamboyartsalliance@gmail.com

Father Ryan Says Goodbye -continued from page 1

Sandy when he helped distribute household goods to local residents. He said Dalton Hall was filled with goods from wall to wall and he praised the many volunteers who pitched in to help. Father Ryan is leaving OLV after ten years to become pastor at Holy Family Parish in New Brunswick. He will be responsible for the New Brunswick churches of Sacred Heart, St. Joseph, and St. Ladislaus. He is in Rome now for ten weeks to attend the

North American Pontifical College Institute of Continuing Theological Education. He will study scripture, preaching, will tour different Rome churches, and help with Papal Masses. He is honored Bishop Checchio invited him to attend the school. He is also honored the Bishop gave him the responsibility for the New Brunswick churches. The South Amboy Sayreville Times wishes Father Ryan well in his future endeavors.

Looking Back: Who Was Who 50 Years Ago

1970-President of Sayreville Savings & Loan Association- Herman Smith; St. Mary's Alumni Association president-John Nappi; Morgan Lions President-Leonard Arboreen; South Amboy Memorial Hospital president of the Board of Governors-Daniel Zack; South Amboy Memorial Hospital administrator-Eugene Nieto; Chairman of South Amboy Industrial Commission-Wilbur Schmidt; South Amboy First Aid president-John Ciszewski; Hoffman HS principal-Adam Martin; appointed to 5-year

term on South Amboy Board of Education-Robert Morriss; South Amboy Rotary Club president-Ed Hayes; Sayreville Police Chief-Raymond Sweeney; president of OLV Columbiettes-Sandy Bohinski; Grand Knight of OLV Knights of Columbus-Carl Zumbano; Commander John A. Connors Chapter #67 DAV-Arthur Holmes; Auxiliary Commander John A. Connors Chapter #67 DAV-Kathleen Prusakowski; South Amboy PTA president-Shirley Aceta; South Amboy Democratic Municipal Chairman-J.R. Wojciechowski;

Annual Pasta Dinner Jan 31

South Amboy Columbiettes hold their annual Pasta Dinner Friday January 31 at the Knights of Columbus Columbian Club 308 Fourth St. South Amboy, from 6 to 9 p.m. before Open Mic. Proceeds benefit the Center for Great Expectations. Tickets

are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, \$5 for children age 3-12, under age 2 free. Call 732-721-2025 - leave a message, or call Nancy at 732-890-9796, or email her at nsmetana65@gmail.com.

OLV Senior Trip to Finger Lakes/Corning

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to the Finger Lakes/Corning from October 12 - 16, 2020. The five day trip includes: bus transportation, hotel stays at Staybridge Suites and DeLago Casino, all breakfasts, all dinners, two lunches- one at The Kitchen with a food demonstration, admission and guided tour at Corning Glass and Rockwell

Museum, guided tour and wine tasting at Sonnenberg Gardens, wine tasting at 5 wineries and amenities at the casino and bus driver gratuities and snacks during the trip. the price fro the trip is \$875.00. for further information or to reserve a seat, please contact Teri Yetsko at 732-727-7639.

15th Annual Dad - Daughter Dance

The South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary Club annual dad-daughter dance will be held on February 21, 2020 from 7pm - 10pm at the VFW Hall on Jernee Mill Road in

Sayreville. For more information contact Greg at 732-721-0400 or email greg@customfinancial.org.

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Pictured from left, Mayor Fred Henry after congratulating the 2020 South Amboy Fire Dept. leaders (l-r) 2nd Assistant Dave Szatkowski, Chief Bob O'Connor, 1st Assistant Andrew Bielak. The swearing in took place at a packed council chambers on New Year's Day at noon. A special thanks to 2019 Chief Brian Tierney for his dedication/service, and best of luck to the 2020 leaders. (Photo/info submitted)



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Yearbook-St. Mary's 1970

By Tom Burkard

St. Mary's High School Class of 1970 returned for its final year in early September 1969, only three months after the school's miracle baseball team won the state title. It was also only a couple of months since the U.S. put our first man on the moon, and the original Woodstock Festival rocked the nation. As the seniors returned to the Augusta Street campus, they most likely cruised through South Amboy, passing favorite hangouts like Frank's (Or Prasnal's as some called it), The Jug, and the Rec, while blasting their radios to the #1 song that morning, "Honky Tonk Women" by The Rolling Stones. Around this time, President Nixon pulled the first troops out of Viet Nam, but the war raged on. . .

While at St. Mary's, Sister M. Madeline was the principal, Sister M. Dominic-vice principal. Arthur Franck became the school's new bookkeeper, and Mary Lou Dunn the new secretary. Claire Cannon was the other secretary. Teachers not to be forgotten were: Sr. M. Charlotte, Father Fulton, Mark Koch, Joseph Bulman, Hulda Potthoff, Burton Robbins, Alex Kous, Thomas Rooney. Father McConnell became the new Parish Administrator. Who could forget the first-ever Bayhead Communications Workshop, where student council and administration held an honest discussion and communication? William Werner was Student Council President, Sharon Kurtz-Vice President, Vita Carulli-Sec./Treas. Fun-filled social activities of the day included: The Sock Hop; Vocation Day; the Retreat at Mt. Manresa; hanging out (Studying?) in the senior lounge; senior privileges; the special dances, basketball games, and much more. Stephen Jannos and Mark Ostrowski were co-editors of the yearbook. . . Michael Kulik was Editor-In-Chief of "The Crown." Eileen Fitzmorris was Glee Club President. At Christmas break, "Leaving On A Jet Plane" was the top hit on WABC 77 radio, and the Festival of Carols was a major success under Sister Margaret. "Do You Hear What I Hear" was the closing song. The Senior Trip to Hunter Mountain was a blast, as the soon-to-be grads frolicked on skis and snowmobiles. The school play was "Camelot," and the leads were played by Richard Tortorigi and Clare Zebro. "Senioritis" and "Spring Fever" hit SMHS, and the Senior Retreat was a big break for the students. The Senior/Junior Prom was held at Kings Grant Inn, and the couples were bused to and from the event, and a fine time was had by all. 1970 was a rough year for music lovers. Young and talented rockers, Jimi Hendrix, and Janis Joplin both died, and The Beatles also split up. Postage stamps were only 6 cents, a gallon of gasoline was 36 cents, and the minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour! "Patton" received an Academy Award for Best Movie, and George C. Scott won for Best Actor.

St. Mary's sports scene, the boys basketball team, under rookie coach Sandy Fishman finished an outstanding (20-6). All around star athlete, Nick Charmello and George Krzyzanowski were co-captains. The girls basketball club, captained by Maribeth Newcomb finished at (5-7). . . The baseball team had a tough (6-14) season under rookie coach Gary Ternyila. Other senior sports standouts were: John Ammon, James Buckler, Robert Duffy, Thomas Grabert, Paul Gulick, Mark Jendrzewski, Joseph Kelly, Ted Krzyzanowski, Sharon Lee, Bernard Mackiel, Melanie Newcomb, Glenn Sieber, Douglas Sprague, Deborah Surman, Joseph Wallis, Daniel Weinman, Cynthia Walczak. Carol Kirk and Kathy Fee were co-captains of the cheerleaders. I was privileged to know a very large number of the people in the Class of '70, and can honestly say that they were a highly spirited group that wanted to be friends with almost everyone, and more importantly to be successful in life. The ones that I've crossed paths with over the years were: Maryanne Baranowski, Beverly Barretta, Kathleen Beyer, Jim Bonis, Antoinette Brylinski, Carol Burke, Mike Burns, John Cross, Mike DeLucia, Michael DeRisi, Tom Donnelly, Brian Dowd, Ray Downs, Veronica Durnye, Ann Durski, Michael Felice, Leonard Fierro, Denise Filik, Edward Flannery, Sandra Franconero, Anthony Giunta, Barry Gomolka, Mary Sue Gosford, Vince Gosford, Kathleen Harkins, Michelle Harland, Mary Theresa Hayden, William Henry, Brian Holton, Catherine Keays, James Kemble, Barbara Kowaleski, Caroline Kurtz, Beverly Lapchuk, Maripat Lauritsen, Theresa Lave, Linda Leonard, Judith Lewandowski, Patrick McCarthy, Susan McCormack, Robert McGuire, Maureen McMahan, Robert McQuade, Mary Ann Majkowski, Francis Mancini, Margaret Marcano, Gary Mauro, Paul Mauro, Kevin Meszaros, Joanne Michalsky, Linda Moore, George Morgan, James Nebus, Mary Jean Nebus, Jean Norek, Edmund Nycz, Anne O'Brien, Patricia O'Brien, Michael O'Connor, Maureen O'Leary, Anthony Ostrowski, Eugene O'Toole, Diane Passafiume, James Pearson, Gerard Pizzillo, Gilbert Pritchard, Beverly Randall, Kenneth Rogers, Michael Roman, Thomas Ropelewski, Sandra Skopaz, Gerald Smith, Stephen Stanley, Carol Stephanick, Nancy Starzynski, Colleen Stramback, Elizabeth Therkelsen, Marguerite Tricarico, Adolph Truchan, Lorraine Vanni, Bernadette Vona, Kathleen Fuller, Kenneth Gallagher, Mary Ellen Nappi. I was really fortunate to know a lot of the '70 gang, and never forgot them. They were a great bunch of people back in 1970, and here's wishing them a healthy and Happy New Year 2020, and a rockin' good time at their 50th reunion!

SH Seniors Trip Sight & Sound Trip April 28

Sacred Heart Seniors are running a round trip motor coach transportation, and bus driver tip. Motor coach will depart from the Sacred Heart parking lot. For more information call Judy at 732-727-0154.

Sacred Heart Seniors are running a trip to beautiful Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see the new Sight and Sound production of "Queen Ester." Cost of \$138 includes tickets to the show, lunch at Shady Maple restaurant,

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Members of the Sayreville Lions Club and St. Vincent De Paul Society presented checks to Damien Johnson and his family who lost everything in a house fire last month and were left homeless. Members of the Lions Club also donated much needed furniture. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Front Page News Long Ago On New Year's

10 Years Ago

2010-The new train station in South Amboy, which cost \$46 million, had its grand opening...Craig Coughlin was sworn in for his first term as NJ State Assemblyman... Paula Siarkiewicz. was re-elected Council President for the Borough of Sayreville.

25 Years Ago

1995-Kathleen Vigilante was appointed South Amboy's new City Clerk...South Amboy's Corey LaVigne was sworn in as an Old Bridge Police Officer...Sayreville Democrats Mary Novak and Scott Kominkiewicz were

sworn in to the Borough's Council. James Zagata was elected Council President... Beverly Kovacs was elected President of the Mechanicsville Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary.

75 Years Ago

1945-Mayor Joseph McKeon delivered his annual New Year's message...William Kurtz was selected President of the South Amboy City Council.

100 Years Ago

1920-Councilman Michael J. Stanton was re-elected President of the South Amboy Common Council (as it was called back then).

Former Bank Manager Restores Home In Pennsylvania

By Tom Burkard

Mariola Jones, former Branch Manager of Amboy Bank in South Amboy, moved to Pennsylvania last October, and is hard at work on the home she and her late husband Ronald started as a renovation project many years ago. The couple always dreamed of owning a Victorian house, and purchased a home in Berwick, PA, which was in desperate need of renovations and repair. They redid the library, kitchen and wrap-around porch, and Ronald built a stairway from scratch, but was diagnosed with cancer. That didn't stop him, and he kept working on the house, but in 2016, passed away after a courageous battle. Mariola said,



Mariola Jones

"While he was sick, he kept saying 'I need to finish my house, I need to finish my house.'"

So, after retiring from Amboy Bank last year, she moved to Berwick, PA, and has continued work on the home, doing smaller jobs herself, but for bigger jobs, she has hired a contractor. Jones expects to complete the sunroom, and renovate windows, and also the third floor.

She said if she didn't have the house work to keep her occupied, "I would have a very hard time coping with him not being here. Now I'm finishing his house like he wanted."

DISPLAYS @ DOWDELL LIBRARY

Hawaiian Quilts, Women's Suffrage Movement Mannequins & Photography

Hawaiian Quilts created by Gail Thompson, Women's Suffrage Movement Mannequins designed by Jackie LaPolla, and Photography by Joshua Lisojo, are all on display at the Dowdell Library. Hawaiian Quilts created by Gail Thompson showcase her passion for quilting. Thompson's started sewing at the age of 8 years old and was taught by her Aunt Grace. Thompson has sewed a large variety of items such as wall hangings, children's items, quilts, items with fabric origami flowers and items that have embroidered sayings on them. Thompson has her own business called Sewing Is My Passion, where she teaches sewing, quilting, hand embroidery and floral fabric origami.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote, designer Jackie LaPolla has fitted mannequins that feature two lovely historical outfits. The first is fitted with a reproduction of an 1840's dress to accompany the first Woman's Rights Convention held at Seneca Falls, NY. The second is fitted with an all-white frock from the early teens in the 20th Century which is what most people picture when they think of women's suffrage. British Suffragettes believed that "every cause needs its picture," and started wearing white to marches. Participants in New York's May 4, 1912 suffrage parade were instructed to wear white for the best effect.

Still on display is Disney World photography by Joshua Lisojo who was born and raised in Perth Amboy, NJ, where he resides today. His life changed forever

on December 15, 2001 when he suffered a devastating spinal cord injury while wrestling for Perth Amboy High School. His body was instantly paralyzed and, since he lost his ability to walk, he now depends on a motorized wheelchair to get around. This injury hasn't stopped Lisojo from pursuing his passions and chasing his dreams—especially photography. He purchased his first DSLR camera in 2016 and has been taking pictures ever since. The majority of his work is in street and landscape photography, but he experiments with other styles as well. A self-taught artist, Lisojo is guided by an abiding interest in beautiful light, sincere people, interesting architecture, and breathtaking landscapes.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

OLV Senior Trip to Doolan's

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to the St. Patrick's Festival - From Ireland to America on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost of the trip is \$90.00 which includes lunch/show, bus transportation and bus gratuity. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact Carmen Delikat at 732-254-9425.

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Home for the Holidays Part Two

By Elaine Holton Scott

When Tommy Furia was told by his wife, my cousin Jill, I was planning to return home to New Jersey, he asked, "Why is Elaine moving back to New Jersey when everyone else wants to leave?" That same question was asked by Rocky Kusic whose "big" brother Paul had gone to grade school with me in those early years of the Baby Boomer Generation. As a matter of fact, Jerry Arose, who also was our 1st grade classmate at St. Mary's, had commented on Facebook he would like to move out of state himself. After finally arriving on a rainy night in a 15' U-Haul truck this past October 8th, I began to wonder why myself as I very carefully stepped out of the truck with a badly scraped elbow, and pain in both my left hip and lower back. That's what happens to a person when they're not careful and ends up falling out of the truck in a parking area of a truck stop. Live and learn.

New Jersey has changed a lot since I had lived here. Having resided a total of 28 1/2 years in the South in two different states, I really had forgotten how tough the "Jersey attitude" is compared to the much more mannerly way the people are across the Mason Dixie Line. Having been born and "bred" in South Amboy from ancestors who came to the peaceful little city many generations ago, being "strong enough to survive" here is in my blood...and as I had told my Holton cousin Ro Naughton recently, according to Ancestry, our Holton ancestors seem to have passed on their DNA to half the town years ago...while my Polish ancestors, mainly the Wieczoreks, in Bergen Hill took care of the rest. So, unlike Tommy Furia who is considered a carpetbagger for having lived in South Amboy only 45 years, I really am very "rooted" in more ways than one to my hometown. So, why I chose to buy a place in Whiting, New Jersey is a good question. Possibly, the answer is that I had thought it was near Freehold. That's what happens to people who stay away from their hometowns so long and buy homes online.

The feeling of "home sweet home"

comes over me each time I hear both the Jersey accent and that of the New Yorkers. Years ago, people from NYC made Jersey seem like their bedroom community but now, decades later, many of their "bedrooms" are located way down the line, especially here in Whiting. This influx of New Yorkers began in the 1950s when Levitt Homes started being built in and around the area and the V.A began lending Veterans enough money at lower rates to buy them. Soon, Monsignor Sullivan happily accepted these "outsiders" into the, then, new elementary school on the condition they paid tuition, a word most of us had never heard before. In time, those same New Yorkers became New Jerseyites and one became like the other. As a younger brother will imitate than often surpass his bigger brother, that's what seems to have happened with the now well-known Jersey attitude. Screen-printed t-shirts like, "No one is perfect but if you were born in NJ, you're pretty darn close", and "New Jersey, where the weak get eaten" give a little glimpse of what it's like to live in a state where it's said, "only the strong can survive." Ah, but I'm strong too. Having grown up in a much different South Amboy breathing in the polluted air from all the nearby factories, swimming in the polluted Minnie Ditch, being blasted by the black smoky emissions pouring freely from car and bus tailpipes, and drinking tap water filled with fluoride or, if we were lucky, water straight from the garden hose.

The Holidays for 2019 are over...but for someone like I am, who has returned home to the greatest state of all, bar none, this new year of 2020 represents a new beginning. Home Sweet Home has never seemed sweeter. Happy New Year to "yall!!!!!"

The Miraculous Prayer

Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked for many favors. This time I ask you this my special one (mention favor). Take it, Dear Jesus, and place it within your own broken heart, where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine. Amen. (Say this prayer for 3 days, promise publication and your favor will be granted. Never known to fail.) -C.P.

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“SNOW MUCH FUN” THIS LEAP YEAR @ DOWDELL LIBRARY

Leap on down to the Dowdell Library this February Leap Year for some fun activities for all ages including the 02/20/20 Party, Hot Cocoa Happy Hour for Adults, Crafty Tuesdays, and more!

Celebrate Leap Year at the 02/20/20 Party Thursday, February 20 from 6:30-8 pm. Stay for music, fun activities, and light refreshments. Family fun for all ages!

Adults! Come unwind at the first ever Hot Cocoa Happy Hour for Adults on Monday, February 24 from 11 am to 1 pm. Catch up on the newest reads, share new recipes, and enjoy stress-free time with others.

There’s “snow” much family fun for all ages this month! Hear fun stories and stay for magnet shape playtime on Mondays at 1 pm and Wednesdays at 12 pm. Drop in for Crafty Tuesdays for easy crafts including Penguins, Strawberry Hearts, Snowmen Bookmarks &

Melted Snowmen from 11 am to 6 pm.

Watch the 3D Printer every Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 pm. See how the 3D printer is set up, and watch it make a new design. This month’s designs include a robot, music heart, owl and a lizard!

Get your groove on for Just Dance 2020 open play on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 pm. Create a tasty sweet MIY Mug Meal at this month’s Children Culinary program on Thursday, February 13 from 3:30-4:30 pm. Enjoy fun activities, and crafts at the Leap Year Party on Friday, February 28 from 3-4:30 pm.

Curious what else is going on at your local library? (We can never fit everything here!) Stop by in-person or visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and view adult and children’s activity calendars, which are updated on a monthly basis.

Roaring Twenties Return

By Steve Schmid

As we begin the year of 2020 it is interesting to think what the Great Gatsby Roaring Twenties were one hundred years ago. The Roaring Twenties are remembered for Prohibition when nobody in the country could legally drink alcoholic beverages. People still wanted to drink, and this led to distribution of illegal booze by organized crime. This was the silent movie era, and films had no talking or music. Local residents enjoyed silent movie stars like Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, Harold Lloyd, Pearl White and more. The silent movies led to today’s films with talking, music, and special effects. Jazz music was big during the 20s. Jelly Roll Martin, King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, and more were popular. Local residents could hear these songs on radio stations like WOR, WABC, WCBS, WNBC, WMGM, and more. The big sports of the Twenties were baseball, boxing, college football, and horse racing. Baseball fans followed the New York Yankees, New

York Giants, and the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Giants played at the Polo Grounds and shared it with the Yankees until 1923, when Yankee Stadium opened. The Dodgers played at Ebbets Field. Babe Ruth was the star of the 1920s, and set the major league home run record of 60 in 1927, which lasted 34 years. The most popular dance of the Roaring 20s was the Charleston, and fashionable ladies were Flappers who wore shorter, low waisted dresses. Long skirts, blouse and cardigan sweaters were also common. Men wore hats. Many people drove Ford Model T cars, before the production of the Model A in 1927. The Chrysler Model B-70 was very popular. People traveled mainly by trolley or train. Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover were the U.S presidents. Local residents enjoyed the booming economy where jobs were plentiful, until the stock market crashed in October 1929. The crash led to the Great Depression of the 1930s. It will be fascinating to see what the 2020s bring us now and into the future.

Local Businesses In 1966

South Amboy

Amboy-Madison National Bank; South Amboy Trust Co.; The Hillcrest Inn; Ses-Mar Sheetrock Contractors; Mason-Wilson Funeral Home; Raritan Iron Works; John’s Halfway House; English’s Chevron Service; Bobbie’s Alteration Shop; Bottle Stop Tavern; Roddy’s Bar & Grill; Robert J. Kubisiak (Insurance); Prasnal’s Delicatessen; Top Amusement Co.; Michael A. Birardi (Moving & Storage); Leslie & Son (Roofing); The Gundrum Service; Superior Auto Seat Covers; Eagle Package Liquor Co.; Edwin Corvino (Hair Stylist); Foodtown of South Amboy; Bay City Liquors; Madura Pharmacy; Flo-Ann Beauty Salon; Frank’s Tavern; Bulman’s Shell Station; Reiner’s Hardware; Mitch’s Tavern (117 N. Broadway); Broadway Cafe (114 S. Broadway); Chatter Bar (122 S. Broadway); Spud’s Bar; Anabel’s Bar; Main Liquor Store; Eugene A. Morris (Paints-Glass-Wallpaper); Walsh’s Cloverleaf (132 S. Broadway); Bob Lewis (Painting-Carpentry-Roofing); Eagle Food Market; Mr. Softee (ice cream truck); Arky’s Pharmacy; City Line Liquor Store (717 Bordentown Ave.); Bob’s Barber Shop; Wally & Bump’s Esso

Service; Astarita Florist; Superb Carpet; Philip Motors; Lewis Plumbing & Heating Inc.; Vince’s Barber Shop; The Daylight Bakery; Marathon Bus Line Co.; Swan Hill Ice & Coal Co.; Lou’s Pastry Shop; Murphy’s Citgo Service; Massing Esso Service; Jo-Toms; Kurzawa Funeral Home; Modern Shoe Repair; Gay 90’s (267 First St.); Spiral Metal Co. Inc. (Louisa St.); Peterson Pharmacy; Cataldi Liquor Store (631 Bordentown Ave.); Green’s Men Shop; Bill’s Highlander; Terry’s Garage; Frank’s Radio & TV Inc.; Albin “Tiny” Moroski (Milkman); Thunderbird Inn; Packard Motors Trans., Inc.; Briggs Chevrolet.

Sayreville

V.M. Rentals; B & E Liquors; Centre Hardware & Auto Supply Co.; Chevalier Enterprises; Georgette’s Restaurant; Amboy’s Boiler Repair Corp.; Economy Auto Body; American Window Cleaning Co.; Gomolka’s Auto Body; Sun Valley Furniture House; Don Stilo’s Inc.; Kirsch Auto Repairs; Parkway Aluminum Products; Hess Service Station (Rt. 9); Dairy Queen of Sayreville (Rt. 9); Ted’s Auto Radiator; J.J. Harrigan & Co., Inc.; Joe’s Kozy Bar and Kozy Lanes.

ELF ON THE SHELF FUN CONTEST WINNER IS JACKSON NEWCOMB

Jackson Newcomb was the fastest amongst 30 participants of all ages to locate a 3D printed Elf on the Shelf that was hidden in the Dowdell Library this past December.

Participants who attempted the challenge were given a clue to the general area where the elf was hiding. Once located, participants were given a small 3D printed object as a prize for their hard earned efforts. Lastly, those who found the Elf on the Shelf the fastest, were entered into a drawing to win the 3D printed Elf when the contest was over. Congratulations to Jackson Newcomb for locating the Elf on the Shelf in one minute and to all the participants who took part in this holiday contest.

The Elf on the Shelf is now resting for

the year and will awaken next December to hide in the Library once more.

Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O’Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School.

OLV Seniors February Meeting

The OLV Seniors will hold their February meeting on Friday, February 7 at 1:00 PM in Monsignor Dalton Hall. After the business portion of the meeting, we will have cake and coffee. Any questions please contact Teri Yetsko at 732-727-7639.

Mark Herdman OEM Coordinator Interview

By Rich Kosmoski

OEM stands for The Office of Emergency Management. OEM staff and myself respond to all Emergencies within the City of South Amboy. Structure Fires, Events that require evacuations, sheltering, Haz Mat incidents, etc. Work to develop IAP's (incident action plans for events), EOP (Emergency Operation Plans.) for schools, Senior Housing buildings. Special Needs population. I have a staff of 10 individuals that work directly with me and a list of individuals that make up the Emergency Management Council which is approved by the City Council. They are volunteers from different agencies FD, EMS, Haz-MAT, PD, DPW and Engineering that work hard for the City in helping me accomplishing the goals that are needed. I am also responsible for the City's Reverse 911 and Nixle notifications which can be obtained from the City's web page.

Here are some of the duties that as coordinator I perform that are required of me to be OEM Coordinator set by NJOEM.

The Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator shall be responsible for planning, activating, coordinating and the conduct of Emergency Management operations within the municipality.

The Mayor shall appoint a Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, from among the residents of the municipality. The Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator shall serve for a term of three years. As a condition of appointment, and the right to continue for the full term of the appointment, the coordinator shall successfully complete the approved courses within one year of appointment.

1. Wherever, in the opinion of the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, a disaster has occurred or is imminent in the municipality, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator shall proclaim a state of local disaster within the municipality. The Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the State Director of Emergency Management, shall be empowered to issue and enforce such orders as may be necessary to implement and carry out Emergency Management operations and to protect the health, safety, and resources of the residents of the municipality.

2. Whenever the disaster is confined to one municipality, the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator shall have complete authority to issue and enforce such orders as may be necessary to implement and carry out Emergency Management operations. Any requests for assistance outside the municipality shall be directed to the County Emergency Management Coordinator, and all assistance sent to the aid of the municipality struck by disaster shall come under the authority of the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

3. The Municipal Emergency Management coordinator is responsible for the provision of leadership in the field of Emergency Management at the municipal level of government. As such, the Coordinator is responsible for Emergency Management program administration and program development encompassing the four phases of Emergency Management, mitigation,

preparedness, response and recovery. The Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator shall also be responsible for the following:

*OEM is responsible to Prepare Damage Assessments reports to get reimbursement from the State or Federal Governments.

*Ensure that the Municipal Office of Emergency Management is available on a 24-hour basis. Tel # 732-588-5830 or email saodem@southamboynj.gov

*Supervise the day to day operations of the Municipal Office of Emergency Management.

*Ensure that the municipality meets all the requirements for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Management Assistance Program; including meeting goals agreed to in the annual work plan, maintaining a currently approved Municipal Emergency Operating Plan, and providing the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management with quarterly program status reports.

*Prepare, submit, and justify the annual Municipal Emergency Management budget.

*Secure County, State and Federal technical and financial assistance available through the County Office of Emergency Management.

*Maintain a continuing knowledge of all municipal, county, State and Federal laws and plans concerning Emergency Management.

*Interact with County Emergency Management Coordinator regarding: Municipal Operations Plans (EOP) review, All mutual aid agreements, The approval and scheduling of attendees for state and Federally sponsored Emergency Management courses, etc.

*Maintain adequate files, records, and correspondence relating to Emergency Management activities.

*Coordinate with the municipal agencies, departments, and bureaus regarding Emergency Management responsibilities.

*Implement policies and procedures regarding Emergency Management. Conduct quarterly staff meetings, providing advance notice to the County Office of Emergency Management.

Receive and react to weather emergency notifications.

*Cooperate with National Warning System (NAWAS) program.

*Comply with all directives, rules and regulations issued by the State Office of Emergency Management.

*Recruit, organize, coordinate and train staff to administer the following Emergency Management functions and programs: Alerting and Warning, Communications, Damage Assessment, Emergency Public Information, Evacuation, Fire and Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Emergency Medical, Law Enforcement, Public Health, Public Works, Radiological Protection, Resource Management, Shelter Reception and Care, Social Services.

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The Blahs Of Winter Long

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.2009

*Cold and dreary holds my heart
In these months that last like years
Though the embers glow their warmth
Snowflakes fall as do my tears
Not for the spring bloom yearns my eyes
Nor for the harvest autumn brings
Nor for the tan rays of the summer
Just for the wail as the blizzard sings
Long gray days of winter's drone
Cannot extinguish that which burns
Thru closed eyes I think of you
And I wait for your return.*



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Pictured (l-r) Top Row: Karen M. Robson, South Amboy YMCA Branch Director of Operations; Mary Taylor, YMCA's Annual Support Campaign Volunteer; Val Tarr, Elks ENF Chairman South Amboy Elks Lodge #784; Anthony Conrad, YMCA Annual Support Campaign and Branch Board Chair; Rose Cushing, CEO YMCA of MEWSA. Middle Row: Adonus Curtis, Avry Roque, Jaliel Davis, Adrian Deplet, Christian Merino, Daniel Reyes, Bottom Row: Ximena Rosas, Fredrick Meyer, Antonella Mori, Sebastian Salgado, Annabelle Keremes (Photo/Story Submitted).

Elks Lodge # 784 Donates To YMCA Fund

With the support of the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and other local donors, the Y has already raised over \$8k since January 1st. All funds raised are used to address community health needs and subsidize program fees for community members. The lodge will be officially recognized at the Y's Annual Support Campaign Kick-Off event on January 15th 5:30-6:30pm. All community members and leaders are encouraged to attend this event held at the South Amboy YMCA Branch to learn about the Y's cause to strengthen community.

The South Amboy Elks Lodge No. 784 helped launch the South Amboy YMCA's Annual Support Campaign with a donation of \$2,500. The Lodges National Foundation gift made possible through the efforts of the Elks Care/Elks share community service initiative, will help fund the Y's Safety Around Water initiative. This initiative, including transportation, engages children in swim safety activities and educates parents about the importance of water safety. The curriculum is offered to all second grade students in the Y's aquatic center during the school year in partnership with the City of South Amboy School District.

The cost of the program is funded through donations received from the YMCA of Metuchen, Edison, Woodbridge & South Amboy's Annual Support Campaign. Children learn two basic skills that will reduce the risk of drowning and give participants' confidence around water: how to get to safety if they fall into a pool, and how to safely

swim to safety without tiring.

Val Tarr, Elks Lodge Member, said "The Y is a great place that serves and welcomes everyone. When I was in remission from cancer several years ago, I participated in the Y's LiveSTRONG program at no cost. It feels good to support another Y-sponsored initiative that makes an impact on our community."

"The Y strengthens our community with several outreach programs and activities. We are grateful to the South Amboy Elks Lodge #784 and all major gift donors who support our efforts to make our community healthier and safer," said Anthony Conrad, 2020 South Amboy YMCA Annual Support Campaign Chair. "The Safety Around Water program helps children, families and adults make sure they learn essential water safety skills, which can open up a world of possibilities for them to satisfy their curiosity safely."

The Y offers free community swim times, welcoming all, due to the efforts of the Y's Annual Support Campaign. All guests are swim-tested by a YMCA-trained lifeguard. A YMCA membership is not required; however, a guest application is required. YMCA scholarships, funded by the Y's Annual Support Campaign, are available for any membership or program, including swim lessons, child care, camp, youth sports, and special needs activities. Call the South Amboy YMCA at 732.553.9622 or visit ymcaofmews.org for more information. Contact Karen.Robson@ymcaofmews.org for sponsorship opportunities.

Pancake Fundraiser Feb. 23

Sacred Heart Seniors and South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 will hold a Pancake Fundraiser on Sunday February 23rd from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm at Sacred

Heart Memorial Hall. Proceeds will benefit Memorial Hall repairs. Cost is \$10 adults, \$5 children 7 and under. For more information call Sacred Heart at 732-721-0040.

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Super Bowl Sunday
By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.2004



What's so super about "Super Bowl" Sunday
Compared to other Sundays past?
Oh, the game, the game to play
The best two teams at last
To distinguish superiority and football lore
But to many a housewife it's just a bore
For the men and the boys they honker down
To this annual rite and act like clowns
Whoopin' and cheerin' their faces a smear
With wings, chips, and pizza, soda and beer
They can't be disturbed not even for one play
Except for a pit stop, but most will delay
To watch the commercials, expensive persuasions
And elaborate halftime dubbed worthy occasions
Many bowls spent with my friends like Jay and Ro
Partying hearty, good times, that's the show
Who wins in the end is second to the event
It's the time spent in fandom, a moment to vent
Once a year wildness, yet more I see
A Sunday of togetherness, friends or family
Much like a holiday and a theatre of sorts
We root and we bond thru the cheering of sports
So this Sunday is super for more than you know
A day to share spirit-go team go!




10 Years Ago: TV Show Was In Town



In 2010, the Monaghan House, located at 400 South Pine Ave., South Amboy, appeared in NBC's Mercy TV show as the Red Fox Saloon.



Spotlights set up outside of Teddy's Bar, 379 South Pine Ave., Morgan for the filming of the Mercy TV show. (Photos by Tom Burkard)

TV Show Films In Sayreville, South Amboy

By Tom Burkard

The popular new NBC television series, "Mercy" was in Sayreville and South Amboy on Jan. 26, 2010, filming scenes for upcoming episodes. Open 4 Business Productions, in association with NBC-Universal began the day producing at Waterfront Park in the morning, on the beach, by the far side in Sayreville. The actors and crew battled the very chilly wind off of the Raritan Bay for a few hours, before moving to the next location, The Monaghan House in South Amboy, where the name was replaced for the shooting, and the outside sign now read, "RedFox Saloon." Throughout the afternoon, and into the evening, filming took place at Teddy's Bar in Morgan. Teddy's Bar owner, Mark Rasimowicz said, that, "Filming was pretty amazing with 100 plus cast and crew members coordinating several scenes in the bar, and one outside in a car in the driveway. Lots of prep work was done inside the bar

to match what the director wanted. The spotlights were set up at each window on both sides to make it look like mid-day inside even though filming happened in late afternoon and evening through 10 p.m. The actors even had dressing rooms and a "green room" upstairs. Anyone who has been to Teddy's Bar will certainly recognize it on TV." The scenes include the main character, Veronica (Taylor Schilling), husband Mike (Diego Klattenhoff), and Veronica's imaginary companion who helps her through some of her "issues." Teddy's Bar was selected by producers who were riding around the local area, scouting out the best location to shoot scenes for "Mercy." There were a few other local bars under consideration, but Teddy's won the honor.



Open Mic Jan 31

South Amboy Knights of Columbus resume their Open Mic series Fridays January 31 and February 28 beginning at 8 p.m. The events will be held at the K of C Columbian Club 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. Any group

or solo act is invited. All you have to do is to plug in. No cover charge. Refreshments will be available. For more information call 732-721-2025.

OLV Senior Trip to Hunterdon Playhouse

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see Sherlock Holmes Returns, an all new immersive musical-mystery comedy on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 for the afternoon

matinee. The cost of the trip is \$105.00 which includes the show, lunch, bus transportation and all gratuities. For further information or to reserve a seat, please contact Carmen Delikat at 732-254-9425.

25 Years Ago In The Times Students of the Month

South Amboy Elementary School These students have been selected for achievement attained by consistent effort for the month of December, 1994: Mrs. DeHart: David Ciszewski. Mrs. Stroz: Nicholas Klein. Brianna Septor. Mrs. Tighe, Daniel Bixby, Katey Charmello. Mrs. Butieb: Brittany Kolln, Katie Soto. Mrs. Bernosky: Edward Campbell, Crystal Flagg. Mrs. Johnson: Eric Barchowski. Mrs. Ravaioli: Joey Bloodgood. Mrs. Durski: Molly Switzer. Mrs. Tobin: Billy Pollack. Miss Heinze: Jimmy Disbrow.

Miss Fitzgerald: Sarah Bublinc. Mrs. Lund: Matthew Sweatt. Mrs. Cannella: Jessica Nadalin. Mrs. Kennedy: Craig Schwarz. Mrs. Owens: James O'Connor. Mrs. LaVigne: Jilyne Laratta. Mrs. Zach: Brittanian Kotula. Ms. Skata: Melissa MacDonald. Miss Hess: Amy Haug. Mrs. Sibol: Amanda Lagriola. Mrs. Koy: Timothy Canosa. Mrs. Shafer: Rita Marino. Mrs. Meisner: Mandie Kotula; Miss Parillo: Marion Marino. Mrs. MacKay: Matthew Sweatt. Miss Kosmoski: Timothy Beam.

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The Avenel Performing Arts Center

BIG BAND BROADWAY starring Tony Award winner **Debbie Gravitte** January 22-26

Tony Award Winner Debbie Gravitte and The Russ Kassoff Little Big Band bring BIG BAND BROADWAY to the Avenel Performing Arts Center Wednesday, January 22 through Sunday, January 26, 2020 for six performances. Tony Award Winner, Debbie Gravitte, brings her sassy style, blaring brass and swinging orchestrations to an evening of song and fun. Join the party with "...one of the best voices on Broadway!" (AP) You've never heard "Surrey With the Fringe on Top" sound anything like this!

Showtimes for BIG BAND BROADWAY are Wednesday, January 22 and Thursday, January 23 at 8:00pm; Friday, January 24 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm; Saturday, January 25 at 8:00pm and Sunday, January 26 at 3:00pm.

The Avenel Performing Arts Center is located at 150 Avenel Street in Avenel, New Jersey (located within Woodbridge Township). To purchase tickets, visit www.avenelarts.com or contact the Box Office Tuesday-Saturday from 12pm-5pm at (732)314-0500.

Tony Award Winner Debbie Gravitte (JEROME ROBBIN'S BROADWAY), one of Broadway's biggest personalities, has found herself in demand from the Broadway Stage to the concert stage and beyond. After making her Broadway debut in the original cast of THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG, she went on to appear in: PERFECTLY FRANK (DRAMA DESK AWARD NOMINATION), BLUES IN THE NIGHT, AIN'T BROADWAY GRAND, ZORBA, CHICAGO, and LES MISERABLES. Debbie has been seen in the ENCORE'S series productions of THE BOYS FROM SYRACUSE, TENDERLOIN, and CARNIVAL at New York's CITY CENTER.

She has appeared as Reno Sweeney in ANYTHING GOES, LOVE LIFE at the Walnut St. Theatre, RED, HOT AND BLUE at the Papermill Playhouse and the West Coast Premiere of THE GOODBYE GIRL.



Debbie Gravitte

Debbie has performed her nightclub act worldwide, from New York's RAINBOW AND STARS, 54 BELOW, and BIRDLAND to London's PIZZA ON THE PARK, and back home again to Atlantic City, where she's had the honor of performing with JAY LENO, HARRY ANDERSON, and the legendary GEORGE BURNS.

The Avenel Performing Arts Center opened April 10, 2019. The Avenel Performing Arts Center promises to energize Avenel and surrounding communities by programming exceptional, professional theatre, music, comedy, dance and more. The Avenel Performing Arts Center is also the home of Curtains Bar and Restaurant.

Curtains Bar and Restaurant serves an expansive menu featuring bar apps, salads, burgers, pasta and steaks alongside a full-service bar with a seasonal cocktail menu and weekly specials.

Funded by the Woodbridge Arts Alliance (WAA), the organization's goal is to inform and help build capacities needed to organize and distinguish Woodbridge as an arts destination to help advance the economic position of artists, creative entrepreneurs and associated entities. Woodbridge Arts Alliance will build and expand on these existing arts activities to further activate the Township of Woodbridge as a regional hub for the arts.

Avenel Performing Arts Center's line-up continues with:

January 22-26: Big Band Broadway; February 15-16: Erich Bergen Live in Concert; February 25-March 1: Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus- Live; March 12-13: When Irish Eyes are Dying Murder Mystery; March 20-22: The New York Tenors; April 3-5: Rearview Mirror: Dancing through the 80s; April 17-26: My Big Gay Italian Midlife Crisis; May 27-June 7: My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy.

At The Movies

Here are some more movies from 2019 that were viewed/rated over the past couple of months.

"A Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood" This movie has a great message for anyone, even those who have never watched one episode of Mr. Rogers TV show. Outstanding performance by acting great Tom Hanks. Rating: **9.5** out of a possible 10.

"The Irishman" This excellent film, one of the longest in recent memory, 3 1/2 hours, featured many mega movie stars, including Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Ray Romano, Harvey Keitel, and Steven Van Zandt (of Bruce Springsteen's E-Street Band, and "The Sopranos"). Rating: **8.7**.

"Phil" Pretty good movie, worth looking at. Stars: Greg Kinnear, Taylor Schilling. Rating: **8.2**.

Music at Saint Mary's

Music at Saint Mary's presents an Organ Recital with Shea Velloso! Shea has performed recitals throughout New Jersey and New York City. He has appeared in concert on the national public radio show "Pipedreams" and on Metuchen Television. As Director of Music at United Methodist Church at Milltown, he is the organist, director of the church's three choirs, and is responsible for planning the church's concert series; Music & Meditation for Lent series and Advent Noonday Worship & Recital Series. Come join us on Sunday, January 19, 2020, 4:00pm, at Saint Mary Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy NJ, 08879. Free admission (\$15 donation suggested). A wine and cheese reception will follow the recital. For questions call MASM @ 732-857-0202.

Seniors I Love Lucy Trip June 3

Sacred Heart Seniors are sponsoring a four day three night trip to upstate New York to see the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum in Lucy's hometown of Jamestown New York. You'll learn about the history of the "I Love Lucy" TV show which was the number one comedy show in the 1950s. You will also see the National Comedy Museum and learn about your favorite comedians. Cost of \$900 includes round trip motor coach transportation, three nights at the Chautauqua Hotel in Celoron NY, southeastern end of Chautauqua Lake, admission to the museums, a fully guided tour of the American side of

Niagara Falls, Maid of the Mist boat ride, NYS Observation Tower, Cave of the Winds, Whirlpool State Park, Niagara Gorge, Goat Island, Terrapin Point, a visit to the Made in America Store with dinner cooked by a local chef, and free time to view 9,000 different made in America items. You will visit the Chautauqua Institution and get a guided tour of the historical grounds, lunch at the Atheneum Hotel the country's oldest standing wooden hotel. A historical steam boat on the "Chautauqua Belle" and a chicken BBQ dinner will be provided as you sail the lake. For more information call Judy at 732-727-0154.

Remembering Ben Scibek

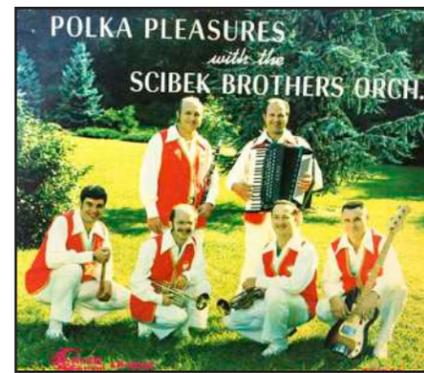
By Joe Lotkowitz

Ben Scibek of The Scibek Brothers Orchestra passed away at home on Dec. 21, 2019. He was the leader of the orchestra and one of the most diversified musicians who made up the highly-popular performing Polka orchestra in New Jersey during the 1970's and 80's. At the time, Polka music was coming back strong throughout the state and country. The orchestra's reputation of playing popular, standard, rock and Polish music was a valuable asset which affectionately made them one of the groups in most demand for all types of occasions and "gigs."

The Scibek Brothers Orchestra traveled quite a bit, but managed to record a single record and two albums. The single's "A" side was "Peanuts Polka," recorded in 1972. The first album was titled "You're My Baby,"

and was released in '74. The following year, they cut another album "Polka Pleasures."

Bennie will be missed by his family, friends and fellow musicians. Bennie, rest in peace.



#1 Pop Hits- January 18

- 2000-What A Girl Wants-Christina Aguilera
- 1991-Justify My Love-Madonna
- 1982-Physical-Olivia Newton-John
- 1970-Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head-B.J. Thomas
- 1965-I Feel Fine-The Beatles
- 1959-The Chipmunk Song-The Chipmunks

#1 Country Hits- January 18

- 2003-19 Somethin'-Mark Wills
- 1997-Nobody Knows-Kevin Sharp
- 1989-Change Of Heart-The Judds
- 1972-Carolyn-Merle Haggard
- 1966-Giddyup Go-Red Sovine
- 1958-Great Balls Of Fire-Jerry Lee Lewis

You Tube-In

Hop on the time machine and go back 50 years to 1970 and check out these one-hit wonders, that sounded pretty good then and now. The following few mentioned the song, performer, and number # the song peaked at on the Billboard chart. "Long Lonesome Highway" by Michael Parks, #20; "Vehicle"-The Ides of March, #2 ; "A Song of Joy"-

Miguel Rios, #14; "Are You Ready"-Pacific Gas & Electric, #14 ; "Tighter, Tighter" was a hit for the band Alive and Kicking, #7, which was written by Tommy James; "In The Summertime"-Mungo Jerry, #3; "All Right Now"-Free, #4; "Indiana Wants Me"-R. Dean Taylor, #5; "Evil Woman Don't Play Your Games With Me"-Crow, #19.

One Hit Wonders-50 Years Ago

1970-Venus-Shocking Blue; Hey There Lonely Girl-Eddie Holman; Ma Belle Amie-Tee Set; The Rapper-Jaggerrz; Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes)-The Edison Lighthouse; Spirit In The Sky-Norman Greenbaum; Long Lonesome Highway-Michael Parks; Reflections Of My Life-Marmalade; Vehicle-Ides Of March; My Baby Loves Lovin'-White Plains; Ride Captain Ride-Blues Image; O-O-H Child-

Five Stairsteps; Are You Ready?-Pacific Gas & Electric; Tighter, Tighter-Alive And Kicking; Spill The Wine-Eric Burdon & War; Lay A Little Lovin' On Me-Robin McNamara; In The Summertime-Mungo Jerry; Rubber Duckie-Ernie; All Right Now-Free; Indiana Wants Me-R. Dean Taylor; Somebody's Been Sleeping-One Hundred Proof Aged In Soul; Montego Bay-Bobby Bloom; 5-10-15-20 (25-30 Years Of Love)-The Presidents.

Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Dedicating this month's column to a Dear Friend and awesome Musician, who took me under his wing in the 70's to play some Polka Music with "The Scibek Brothers" as their bass and guitar player! The Late Mr. Bennie Scibek, who took the time to teach me the "Charts" and put some "rock and roll bass in the polkas! Thank you Bennie, it was a period in my musical career I'll never forget! Rest in Peace Bennie! Wishing you all a blessed, healthy New Year, and plenty of music to make you happy! Especially, Rock 'n Roll. Clem and Friends Saxman, Gary "Tripps" Trippiedi, doing well after his battery of treatments, and thanks you all for your prayers and concerns. Johnny Maestro Tribute Band back at "Fractured Axe" Rehearsal Studio..sounding as great as ever! Their Spring and Summer calendar filling up, with Saturday March 7th, at the Count Basic Theater in Red Bank,"An

Evening of Doo-Wop-Volume II" Check out their website, thejohnnymaestrotributeband.com for more info. "Clem and Friends" welcomes a new Tenor Saxman to the family, Richie Taskowitz. He'll be with us on March 28th 2020, at Sayreville VFW Post, for the 5th annual "Support the Troops" benefit Dinner Dance. So, put the date on your calendars. Doors open at 6pm, open bar/buffet dinner, and live Classic Rock and Oldies, from "Clem and Friends." So, c'mon out and enjoy a great nite of music and friends, \$50.00 a Ticket, call Carmen @732-254-9425! S.A. Knights restart the "Open Mic" on January 31st. "Bring your Talent," and WOW THE CROWD!! Joe Durnya and "Northstar" on the club tour again, with a March 28th Show at Ryan's Pub in Spotswood. Saxman Craig Hoek from "Friends on the mend with his new "hip"! Now he's "really hip"! See you next month!



By Tom Burkard

Key Word - NEW

1. New Years' Day
2. New Kid In Town
3. What's New Pussycat?
4. New York, New York
5. Brand New Key
6. You Make Me Feel Brand New
7. New Orleans
8. Papa's Got A Brand New Bag
9. Battle Of New Orleans
10. Weekend In New England
11. New Moon On Monday
12. New York State Of Mind

- a. Melanie
- b. Johnny Horton
- c. Frank Sinatra
- d. Barry Manilow
- e. U2
- f. Gary U.S. Bonds
- g. Duran Duran
- h. The Eagles
- i. James Brown
- j. Billy Joel
- k. The Stylistics
- l. Tom Jones

1e 2h 3i 4c 5a 6k 7f 8i 9b 10d 11g 12j. swans

School Sports

By Tom Burkard

Boys Basketball

South Amboy (2-6) Joshua Jimenez, Michael Ajilowura, Aiden Pelkey, and freshmen Brandon Gasiewski and Artis Ray have been lighting up the scoreboard for the Guvs. Ajilowura and Deavonte Jones are also tough under the boards, and are turning in strong rebounding performances.

Sayreville (2-6) Aidan Ryan, Luca Ventricelli, Dan Giozysawski, Danny Golaszewski, Ryan Ament, and Casey Hodder, are capable of scoring in double figures every game.

Girls Basketball

Sayreville (3-3) The Holland girls, Janeva and Brooke, along with Stephanie Van Note provide lots of scoring punch for the Bombers, while Jordan Wehrle pulls down plenty of rebounds.

South Amboy (1-5) Faith Nemeth and Taylor Gliese are the two top players for the Lady Guvs so far, and can really burn the nets with good shooting.

Wrestling

Sayreville (5-3) Looking really good for the Bombers: 106 lbs.-Tristan Hidalgo 113-Dylan Acevedo 126-Darren Figueroa 145-Jeriel Severino 152-Marcos Moriera 170-Sohab Safri 182-Thomas Wasieczko 195-Ryan Bouchard 220-Joseph Porcaro 285-Vincent Rebak.

Sayreville Wrestlers Take 2nd

In the Old Bridge Icebreaker Wrestling Tournament featuring 11 teams, Sayreville finished 2nd with a 167.5 score behind champion Marlboro who racked up 201 points. Victorious for the Bombers were 113-Dylan Acevedo, who pinned Eric Sternfeld in 3:05; 195-Ryan Bouchard decisioned Marcus Granadeiro, 3-2; 220-Joseph Porcaro won a 6-3 decision over Jordan Campbell, 6-3.

School Sports News

Congratulations go out to North Brunswick HS boys basketball coach Ed Breheny who recently notched his 400th varsity victory. Ed formerly coached boys hoops at Sayreville War Memorial HS...Samir Sanu, who played basketball at Sayreville War Memorial HS from 1999-2002 is the head coach at New Brunswick HS.

Bombers Fall In Blue Devil Tourney

Sayreville girls basketball team nipped Matawan, 42-40 in the first round of the Blue Devil Holiday Tournament. Janeva Holland and Stephanie Van Note burned the nets for 15 points apiece. Our locals were eliminated by a strong Howell in the semis, 57-46. Brooke Holland and Van Note divided 32 points evenly.

Congratulations



Congratulations to the Bulldogs 2005 Soccer team for an undefeated fall season! Great job coaches and boys! (Photo Submitted)

Sayreville Bows In Buc Classic

Sayreville boys basketball team ripped and Ryan Ament added 10. The Bombers then Monmouth, 59-47 in the opening round of the Buc Holiday Classic. Aidan Ryan led the scoring with 15 points, Luca Ventricelli 13, and Ventricelli scored 10.



20 Years Ago In The Times South Amboy High Sports Standouts Ed Behnen & Kim Peterson

An Exclusive Times Interview By Tom Burkard

TB: How old were you when you started playing sports?

EB: About 6 when I started playing T-Ball.

KP: In the Rec Leagues at 5, and even before that with my brothers.

TB: What is your best memory of back then?

EB: My Little League All-Star team in Sayreville. I was around 8.

KP: When I was 10, my soccer team went to the state cup and got runner-up.

TB: What sport do you enjoy playing most?

EB: Whatever is in season, baseball or basketball. I enjoy watching baseball or college basketball.

KP: It's hard to tell between basketball and soccer, but I'd have to say soccer. I really enjoy watching basketball.

TB: You've had so many highlights in your great high school career. What moment is most important to you?

EB: Probably winning our state game against Bound Brook and moving on to play Highland Park.

KP: My 1,000 points, because all the people that did it were really good at basketball.

TB: As you come to the end of your high school career, do you have any goal you're shooting for before graduation?

EB: I'd like to go far in the states, and hopefully win a Central Jersey title.

KP: To do good in the states in basketball and counties, and see how far we can get.

TB: What are your plans after high school?

EB: I'm going to college and play basketball. I applied to Princeton, Penn, Columbia, and Tufts. I'll probably only play basketball. It's a top priority.

KP: I'm going to Wagner College and playing soccer there. It's a Division I school. I'll pursue an Educational degree.

TB: Why do you feel you've been so successful in high school?

EB: A lot of work. Putting in extra hours before school even started. It's just the little things.

KP: All the time I put into it since I was young. Dedication.

TB: What occupation do you expect to have some day?

EB: I'd like to go into the business field or come back and teach.

KP: Education. I'd like to be a teacher.

TB: Who are your heroes?

EB: My parents.

KP: My mom. She has had the most effect on me in whatever I did. Always pushing me to do better, she gave me confidence when I needed it.

TB: Who are your favorite athletes?

Favorite teams? Favorite movie? Favorite TV show?

EB: Don Mattingly, my all-time favorite, and Michael Jordan. Yankees. "Jerry McGuire," and "Pulp Fiction." Sports Center.

KP: Helen Miahm and Grant Hill. Pistons in basketball, Metro Stars in soccer. "Billy Madison," and "Forest Gump." The Simpsons.

TB: If you competed in another division, in all sports, how would you have done?

EB: My numbers wouldn't have been as high, but I would have been competitive with other teams. I think I would fit right in.

KP: I've played with most girls that are in higher divisions, so I think I would've done all right. On the state soccer team, I played with all Group 4 girls.

TB: How will your team do in the tourneys?

EB: It's pretty much a crap shoot in the states. Every team is playing pretty much on the same level for Central Jersey. We have as good a chance as anyone else right now. If we can win our division, we'll end up with an 8th seed in the counties, and then who knows? We can get on a hot streak and win a couple of gam

KP: In basketball, I think we'll get pretty far in the states. The county is a little tougher.

TB: How will your baseball/softball teams do this year?

EB: Our nucleus is returning. We've had the same team since our freshman year. We'll be pretty strong with Danny Poulsen pitching, Richie Klein at second, and Danny Waldman leading off.

KP: Good. We have most of our players returning. Most are seniors and we didn't lose too many.

TB: What is it like to know you are a hero to little kids?

EB: It makes me feel really good, but academics come first. That's what everyone has to realize.

KP: It makes me happy. When I was little, I used to go to games because my cousin was on Reggie (Jarney's team when they won the states. I looked up to those girls and they were good. It kind of makes me feel real good.

TB: Who is the toughest team you ever faced? Toughest player?

EB: St. Mary's because of the rivalry, and they always end up pulling ahead of us at the end. I played against Jason Williams, not in organized ball, but at open gym in our high school, and he has some lightning, quick moves!

KP: East Brunswick in soccer. They were so fast!

TB: What will you miss most about South

Amboy High School?

EB: All the teachers and principal, and seeing all the kids.

KP: The sports, because I enjoy doing that most. In college you can only play one sport. I'll even miss intramurals.

*Kim and Ed are two of the classiest, All American young adults you could ever meet. Tremendously successful in high school, they should continue to make South Amboy proud, as they move up the ladder to the college ranks. Editor's Note: Special thanks to South Amboy High School Principal. Bill Beattie for granting me the interview.



20 Years Ago...



South Amboy High School superstars Ed Behnen (l) and Kim Peterson (r). (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Hoffman / South Amboy High School

1000 POINTS CLUB

GOVERNORS

Boys

Curt Wood, Billy Clayton, Gary Lange, Bob Clayton, Frank Kuziemski, Peter Smith, Gary Kuhn, Ed Behnen, Nick Shaw, Brian Seres, Joe Bartlinski, Joe Charmello, Steve Herdman, Joe Fruncillo, Kyle Gasiewski.

Girls

Chris Dill, Jamie White, Sue Check, Nancy Garsick, Lynn Ust, Tricia Popowski, Krissy Kuziemski, Jenny Kuziemski, Jen Ingstrup, Kristy Parfianowicz, Kim Peterson, Regan Rone, Kiersten McCarthy, Katey Charmello, Amanda LaVigne.

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1959-60-Hoffman HS basketball team swept St. Mary's to win the City Series. Governors pictured (l-r) Harry Wernett, George Reick, Dennis White, Jim Reick, Bob Dennis, John Keller, Eugene Lopez, Paul Poetsch, John Jarusiewicz, and Coach Jim Croddick.

The Cheerleaders



1959-60-The Hoffman HS varsity basketball cheerleaders pictured (l-r) Joan Brown, Patty Giddes, Sandy Costanzo, Capt. Ann Brennan, Patty Kach, Carol Ann Hartman, Lois Kurtz.

Hoffman Sweeps St. Mary's

1960-Coach Jim Croddick's Hoffman Governors swept the St. Mary's Eagles boys basketball team in the 1959-60 season City Series. In game #1, Denny White hit a pressure-packed jump shot from the right side, before the final buzzer to give the Guvs a thrilling 46-44 victory. George Reick was the game's high scorer with 17 points, while White finished with 11. The Saints were topped by Len Lawson with 14, and Henry "Henny" The D.J." Conroy scored 10.

In Game #2, George Reick played the

greatest game of his career by connecting for 28 points (12-for-17) on the free throw line), to lead the Purple & Gold to a 70-63 triumph over their crosstown rivals. Henry Conroy, after missing his first 2 free throws in the first half, swished in 13-for-13 in the second half, and finished with 21 points in a fine, losing effort. Len Lawson scored 11 points, and Joe Jankowski 10 for the Eagles. Hoffman finished the season with a (6-13) record.

Glory Days In Local Sports

1954-Sayreville boys clubbed Carteret, 68-49 in basketball play. Stan Kojkowski fired in 18 points, and Bob Shorosky 15. 1965-St. Mary's boys hoopsters nipped St. Peter's, 72-70. Tom Zalewski was high-scorer with 18 points, and Rick Jarusiewicz added 9 points and 11 rebounds. 1976-St. Mary's girls basketball club rocked Roselle Park, 47-27. Mary Jane Pascale and soph sensation Kathy Redling popped in 12 points apiece. 1980-Hoffman boys pounded Piscataway Tech, 73-58 in hoops play, as

junior guard Frank Wahler burned the nets for 25 points.

1995-Hoffman girls basketball team walloped Woodbridge Tech, 70-37, as Kristy Parfianowicz poured in 30 points, Jessica English 15, and Hanna Glomska 13. 2004-Sayreville boys basketball squad blasted North Bergen, 79-64. Pat Ryan paced the Bombers with 16 points and 12 rebounds. Sean Reeves scored 16 points and Brian Miklaszewski 15.

South Amboy Touch Football

1974-Mechanicsville A.C. won its first game of the year 3-0 over the Presidents, on a clutch game-winning field goal by Brice Craver Jr. with 0:18 left in the game.

*It was recently brought to our attention that Brice Craver Jr. passed away on Oct. 6, 2019 at age 65. May God bless him.

Back In Those College Days

Samir Sanu (Sayreville), football-William Paterson; John Wojcik (Sayreville), basketball-Ramapo College; Ed Mosakowski (Sayreville), football-Millersville College (PA); Brandon Hoyte (Sayreville), football-Notre Dame U.; Greg Kuczynski (Sayreville), men's cross country-Rowan U.; Frank O'Brien (St. Mary's), baseball, basketball-Belmont Abbey College.

Going Way Back...97 Years Ago

1923-St. Mary's girls basketball team lost a tough 12-9 contest to Keyport. Our local girls who saw action in this low-scoring game were: Gertrude Braney, Adeline Chevalier, Anna Manion, Mary Maher, Margaret Kerwin, Regina Dooling, Veronica Meacham, L. Ginter...The Sacred Heart basketball team topped Maurer AA, 35-31. Bartkowiak and McDonnell led the scoring with 10 and 8 points respectively. Also playing for the Hearts were Zdanowicz, Triggs, and Jaskowiak.

South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball

League: 1973-74

Bottle Stop (11-0) Roster-George Krzyzanowski, Gary Lange, Ray Downs, Dan Paone, Ron Croddick, Larry Kurzawa, Jim Lyons, Gary Read, John Kugel, Mark Jendrzejski, Bernie Mackiel, Kevin Nemeth, Tom Gorman, Jankowski, Jerry Prusakowski, Jerry Disbrow, Jim Tingle, Bill Cheeseman. Lions Den (10-1) Ron Ciszewski, Greg Havlusch, Mark Bratus, Bob Ciszewski, Jerry Drill, Bob Keegan, Jim Croddick, Jim Keegan, Ted Krzyzanowski, Bill Keegan, Bob "Ozzie" Levins, Leo Dohan, Dave Stolte. Pilots (8-3) Paul Borgan, Gilbert Stankiewicz, Dan Mackay, Ed Lee, Joe Noble, Steve Skarzynski, Jack Phillips, Tom Wronski, John Kaboski, Doug Batruk. Bowery (7-4) Tom Wortley, Tom Boychuk, Al Sorrentino, Walt Binkowski, Alan Haag, Joe Belmonte, Dan Ballance, Mike Boychuk, Mike Holovacko, O'Connor, Jim Shannon, Gary Rojek. Bay City Liquors (7-4) Nick Charmello, Tom Kelly, R. Kukulski, Bill Connors, Paul Jankowski, Dennis Bratus, Ken Wahler, Curt Wood, Chet Meinzer, Mullane, Gary Kosovich, Pawlowski. Playboys (7-4) Val Nadin, "Pistol" Pete McIntyre, McDonald, Andy Liyana, Joe Zailski, Joe Murtha, Wisniewski, Smith, Don Walczak, B. Walczak, Nagle, Johnson. Frank's Cafe (6-5) Fran Fitzmorris, Gene Cross, Bob Howarth,

Tom Grabert, Gil Pritchard, Fred Henry, Bob Paulukiewicz, Greg Lyons. Halfway House (3-8) Jim Pavlonnis, Jack Bloodgood, Jay Derent, Don Fross, Bob "Zak" Sekerak, Pat Hertlein, Stan "Rocky" Kusic, Al "Jocko" Jakimowicz, Bernie "Toby" Tabasko. South Amboy A.A. (3-8) Ed Paczkowski, George Ogborne, Bob Carew, Ron Kuran, Bob Witkowski, Bill "Biff" McKeon, Andy Sabine, Bob Kupcha, Joe Hoffman, Warren Eberle, Ray Wesley. Mechanicsville A.C. (2-9) Bob Jones, Bob Martin, Billy Clayton, Bill Masterson, Ernie Read, Ed Suchecki, Tom Burkard, Craig Kierst, Charlie Lange, Joe Jaskowiak, Larry Parsons, Al Braun, Frank Jonason, Wayne Pillar. Hot Dog City (2-9) Tom Holovacko, Henry "Henny The D.J." Conroy, Gene Lopez, Rick Jarusiewicz, Vince Gosford, John Conroy, Mike Felice, Paul Zulin, Rummage, Jack Brennan, Stawinski. Bulman's Shell (0-11) Ed Campbell, Lockwood, Joe Keegan, Boehm, Ray Nebus, Walczak, Bove, Joe Connors, Mark Abbatiello, Kurtz, Henry, Brown, Hoagland, Booker, Jim Shannon.

*There are no official scoring stats, or who won the playoff championship available. If you can help with any info on the 73-74 League, please let us know.

Back In Those C.Y.O. Days

1969

Coach Rick Ferguson's talented Sacred Heart 8th grade basketball team won its 17th in a row without a loss, by pulverizing St. Andrew's of Avenel, 80-13. Steve Makwinski captured game scoring honors by burning the nets for 23 points. Dan Clark added 14 points, Rich Krzyzanowski 13, and Stan Dzioba 10. Other Hearts seeing action were: Mark Clark, Dave Usa, Andy Liyana, Fred Chodkiewicz, John Norman, Mike Zaremba...

Sacred Heart C.Y.O. Little League (Intramural) Basketball

6-8th Grade

Manhattan 31 Loyola 17-Top scorer was Ed Tyler with 16 points.

Xavier 27 Georgetown 20-Tom Szatkowski pumped in 9 points.

Notre Dame 43 Providence 29-John Szatkowski fired in 28 points for the winners.

4-5th Grade

Niagara 24 LaSalle 6-Eugene Dzioba burned the nets for 16 points.

T.H.E. Game

Year-2004

Sport-Boys Basketball

Teams-Cardinal McCarrick (17-2) vs. South Amboy (3-11)

Recap-The Eagles blasted the Governors, 71-42. Bill Wagner led the Blue & Gold attack with 19 points, all in the first half, and freshman Vince Rosario hit for 14. Brian Seres led South Amboy with 11 markers.

Player-of-the-Game-Bill Wagner.

40 Years Ago Sabres Fall In Final

1970-Coach Bob Eppinger's South Amboy Sabres Pee Wee Pop Warner football team, saw its unbeaten season end, as they fell to the Fords Bobcats, 12-6 in the Central N.J. Pop Warner Football Federation championship game. Ronnie Stillwagon raced 49-yards on a right end sweep to score the Sabres only touchdown. South Amboy received two trophies, for winning the National League title, and also the runner-up trophy.

Notes: South Amboy finished (7-1-2) overall on the season. They outscored opponents 127-38. The leading offensive players were Ronnie Stillwagon 14 touchdowns (TD's), 3 extra points (EP); George Bongiorno 2 TD's; John Connors 1 TD, 1 EP; Pete Szaro 2 TD's; Herbie Belmonte 1 TD; Ronnie Masarik 2 EP; John Hayden 2 EP.

Looking Back



This is the 1974 South Amboy Touch Football League championship trophy that was won by Frank's Cafe, which turned in an undefeated season. The talented roster included Tom MacKay, Jack Phillips, Neil O'Connor, Pat Quinlan, Tom Grabert, Larry La Brocq, Ray Leonard, Ed Lee, Bob Howarth, John Kaboski, Poncho O'Connor, Bob Carew, Bob Paulukiewicz. (Photo/info courtesy of Bob Paulukiewicz)

Yogi-isms

When asked the time, Yogi said, "You mean now?"

LETTERS

A Special Thank You

The Citizens of South Amboy

Now that the holidays are over and our lives have resumed back to relative normalcy, I must comment on the recent event the Historical Society of South Amboy and the City of South Amboy sponsored on the Hometown Heroes Veterans Street sign event that took place on November 9, 2019. The Historical Society of South Amboy, as well as I, were overwhelmed by the huge turnout and support the residents of South Amboy has for our fallen veterans. With a crowd estimated at over 150 plus, it just shows how our city has the respect to honor the memory of our fallen heroes. A special thanks goes out to Mayor Fred Henry and the city Business Administrator, Glenn Skarzynski for initiating this program, and giving the SAHS the responsibility to plan the event, research and organize the names and locations of the fallen veterans, and where they resided.

The mission of The Historical Society of South Amboy is to preserve and pass on to future generations the history of South Amboy. This is accomplished by programs and events like the Historical Marker Projects, and events like the Hometown Heroes. While your driving around town, take the time to look at the street signs with the names above the street name, they look great!

Also thanks go out to the Len Moffa and the city workers, the Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, Col. David B. Kelly Pipe and Drum Band, the John Basilone Marine Corps League Detachment, all veterans in attendance and especially, you, the Citizens of South Amboy.

Sincerely,

Jerry Pizzillo

The Historical Society of South Amboy



Letter to the Editor:

I would just like to comment upon Tom Burkard's tribute to the life and passing of Melanie Newcomb, who sadly passed away last month. Tom did more than just a write-up about her death. Instead, he wrote about Melanie, as one who had known her well, could only do. Mel and Tom were more than "across the street" neighbors. They were good friends. His grief over her loss was apparent in every word. Great job!

Sincerely,

Elaine Holton Scott

(Formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville)

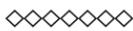
Letter to the Editor;

Charlie Eppinger was one of the finest Coaches I had the experience of playing for (St. Mary's HS Basketball 1946.) Unbelievable, but the St. Mary's HS Eagles Basketball Team actually practiced basketball on New Years Eve 1946 in the old, low ceiling Augusta Street Eagle Gym. Toby Tobasko/ Shinty Kenndey / Ray Foley/ Eddie/Jackie O'Brien/ Ray Stockton/ Jack McKeon/ Ace Hennessy/ Big Bill (from Bergen Hill) all practiced up until 9:30 PM. Charlie was a student of practicing weaving/passing for the open shot, however in the game, he would say go out there and win. One thing I shall always remember about Mr. Charlie Eppinger's practicing remarks was, "on your way home reach up and hang from the tree limbs this will help you grow."

Bill "Biff" McKeon

Eagles 1946-1950

(Formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville)



Hey Tom,

I really enjoyed reading the November issue of the SA/Sayreville Times. Your article featuring Fred's Bait & Tackle was excellent! - Since the store had opened back in the mid-1980's, Kash and Christine have become very good friends of mine. I love stopping in the store just to shoot the breeze with them. Every year, Kash and I participate in the Spring and Fall Beach Sweeps at Sandy Hook. I could go on and on about their most outstanding accomplishments, and their exceptionally fine qualities, but, you've pretty much covered it. Again, great article!

P.S. And, thanks for posting the photo of one of my classmates i.e. Steve Makwinski. I had scanned it and posted it on my FB group site; Graduating Class of 1974. It went over well! Many of my classmates had joyfully responded.

Paul A. During

Morgan



40 Years Ago



1980-Coach Reggie Carney (c) stands proudly with Hoffman High School's two standout basketball stars, Sue Check (l) and Jamie White (r) who hold their historic game balls from when they scored their 1,000th points.

Yogi-isms

The late, great New York Yankees Hall-of-Famer Yogi Berra said some of the most interesting things in a funny way.

The following are several of Yogi's famous quotes:

"The other teams could make trouble for us if they win.

Well, if they lose, they're no trouble at all."

"It's never happened in World Series history, and it hasn't happened since."

"It's deja vu all over again."

"We made too many wrong mistakes."

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The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a trip to Lancaster from October 28 - 30, 2020. The price is \$590 which includes: hotel accommodations at the Eden Rock Resorts and Suites, all meals while in Lancaster, show at Dutch Apple Theater and dinner, Mount Hope Estate show, wine tasting, and dinner, Amish experiences, and lots more,

bus transportation, bus driver gratuity and snacks. For further information or to reserve a seat, contact Teri Yetsko at 732-727-7639.



The Vintage Car Contest



The Muscle Car Era started here! Good luck! Send your answer in to satimes@aol.com. Deadline is February 17th.

Vintage Car Winners for December

The correct answer to December's photo was a 1958 Rambler American. English, Steve Laskiewicz, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss.

Drew Cross, Dane Colburn. Ed





Where in New Jersey December Information

By Brian & Phyllis Stratton

The Where in NJ for December is called Paramus Chevrolet today, but from 1961 until 1996, the big dealership on busy Rt. 17 in Paramus, New Jersey, was Malcolm Konner Chevrolet, which advertised as "New Jersey's Headquarters for new Corvettes." Malcolm Konner made it so, building his dealership into a mecca for Vette enthusiasts. Corvettes were sold from a separate, upper-level

showroom and were serviced by exclusive techs. Because the dealership was selling so many Corvettes, Chevy stationed a field engineer there on a semi-permanent basis when the C4 debuted.

Winners for December

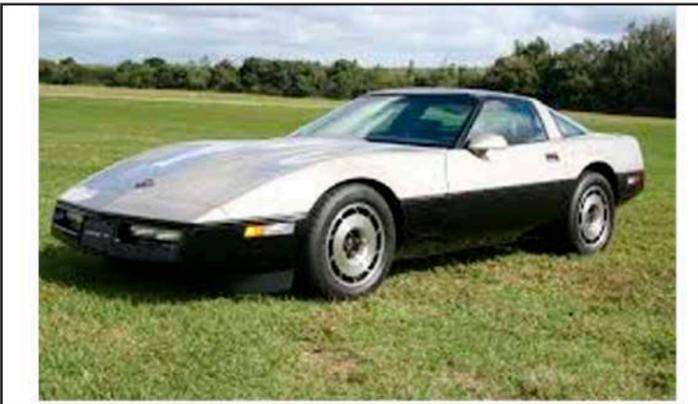
Winners who correctly answered were: Jack & Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Dennis & Kathy O'Leary, Dane Colburn.



Currently Paramus Chevrolet, previously Malcolm Konner Chevrolet.

Colburn Wins Title

Congratulations to Dane Colburn who went 12-for-12 in our Where in NJ? contest. Honorable mention goes to the following: Dennis Quinlan, Jack Piskorski, Keith Piskorski, and Lorraine Krauss, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Marie English & Ed English and Pat & Bill Scully. This will conclude the Where in NJ? For a while. Look for our new contest: WHAT IS IT??



The 1986 Malcolm Konner Special Edition Corvette. Limited to just 50 cars in total the owners got to drive their new cars from the factory in Bowling Green Ky. to the Konner dealership in Paramus NJ.

WWW.?

WWW.? Winners For December

Last month's picture was of the Landmark Bar on North Broadway, which is presently the RTB (Raise The Bar). Back in the early 1950's it was known as Allie Clark's Sportsmen's Inn, owned by the late, great New York Yankee Allie Clark, who lived in South Amboy, and his partner Gene O'Toole.

Winners who correctly identified the establishment were Chuck Pickard, Jack & Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss, Peggy and Steve Yuhas, Jim Quinn, Jan Williams, Michael Greenhaus, Judy Guilfoyle, Leon Credico, Gerry Sherry, Dennis Quinlan, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Stephen Laskiewicz, Lisa Grankowski, Joan Gorczyca, Eleanore Westerholm, Maryanne Matarangolo, Pat & Bill Scully, John Gelson, Don Zrebiec, Joan Fulham, Pete McIntyre, Mary Agnes Morris, Kathie Godoy, Elizabeth Leveille, Dane Colburn. Marie English, Ed English, Marlene Letwenski, Chelle Martin, Gary Feret.



Do you recognize this building? If so send your answer to satimes@aol.com by February 17, 2020. (Photo by Tom Burkard).



December-WWW.?

Formerly Landmark Bar, North Broadway; presently RTB (Raise The Bar)

Champions



A record number of WWW.? champions, 15 in all, named a perfect 12-out-of-12 Mystery Photos through 2019. Pictured top row (l-r) Keith Piskorski, Jack Piskorski, Elizabeth Leveille, Bill Scully, Steve Laskiewicz, Chuck Pickard. Seated (l-r) Lorraine Krauss, Pat Scully, Mary Agnes Morris. Missing from photo: Don Zrebiec, Peg & Steve Yuhas, Gerry Sherry, Leon Credico, Dennis Quinlan. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Former South Amboy resident Dennis Quinlan turned in another perfect WWW.? Mystery Photo year in 2019, to retain his share of the title.

Wreaths Across America

(Photos/story by Joe Lotkowitz)



American Legion Lenape Post #211 is getting ready to put wreaths on the graves of veterans at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Parlin, as part of the Wreaths Across America Day, which was held to honor all the men and women who made the supreme sacrifice for our country.



The Wreaths Across America ceremony was concluded with "Taps," and a 21-gun salute.

15 WWW.? Mystery Photo Co-Champions Crowned

It was a record-setting year for the 2019 WWW.? Mystery Photo Contest, as we crowned an unbelievable, record-setting 15 people as co-champions, who correctly identified a perfect 12-out-of-12 pictures throughout the year.

Former South Amboy resident, and area expert Dennis Quinlan successfully defended his 2019 championship, by once again scoring a perfect 100% on id'ing the pics. In a telephone interview, he said, "The contest was a lot easier this year. You only had to get 12 answers correct. Last year with the bonus, you needed 19. There was nothing too difficult this year." Other winners include Pat & Bill Scully who won their share of the title for the 7th year, Elizabeth Leveille, Don Zrebiec, and Gerry Sherry captured their 2nd titles, Peg & Steve Yuhas won for the first time since 2012, while a determined Chuck Pickard finally became a champion,

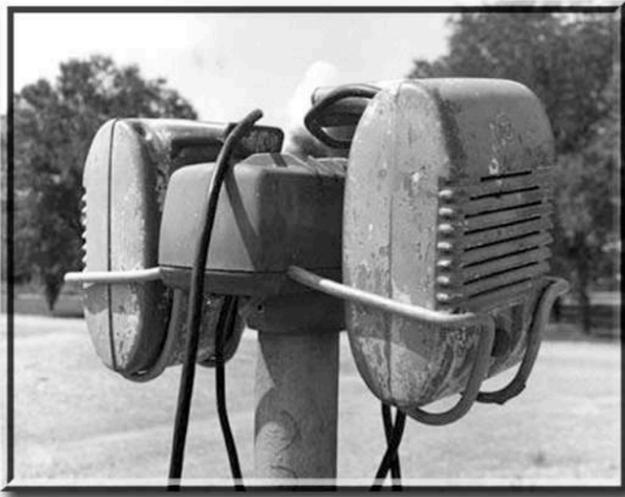
after many years of being on the edge of greatness. Mary Agnes Morris also won her 2nd championship. Steve Laskiewicz, and Leon Credico were first time winners, as was the team of Jack & Keith Piskorski & Lorraine Krauss.

Just missing a share of the championship were Joan Gorczyca with 11 correct answers, Ed & Marie English, Joan Fulham, Lisa Grankowski. Contestants with 10 correct were: Judy Guilfoyle, Eleanore Westerholm, Dane Colburn. Gary Feret had 9, while the following nailed 8 correctly: Estelle Pluskota, Kathy & Dennis O'Leary, Maryanne Matarangolo, Laurie & Gary Loftus.

There were many loyal readers/contestants who had 1 to 7 correct answers.

Congratulations to all who participated in the WWW.? Mystery Photo Contest and best of luck in 2020!

WHAT IS IT?????



Does this object look familiar to you? Send us your name and answer to satimes@aol.com by Feb. 17th. Winners will be announced in the Feb. 29th issue.

Local Past Businesses-Part 3

(Photos by Tom Burkard taken in 2004)



Foodtown



Freddie's S.A. Pub



Harry's Automotive



Bev's Cozy Corner



In an undated photo, owner Adam Rzepka (l) and his brother "Chappy" Rzepka are pictured by Adam's longtime South Amboy business Air Electric Inc.



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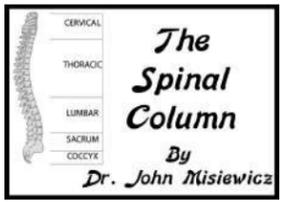
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Dorland's Medical Dictionary defines health as "a state of optimal physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease and infirmity." Our experience has shown that the majority of people in the world do not know what health really is. Most are prepared to link up symptoms to health in that if they "feel well", they are healthy and if they are in pain, or have some kind of symptoms, they are sick. It is our job to make you understand the meaning of true health. Chiropractors understand that most Americans are brought up in a household that follows the "medical model". It is our desire to educate you so that you will question your own past beliefs about health and search for the truth. The truth to us (chiropractors) seems quite evident. To the extent that your body is able to have a properly functioning nervous system without interference, that is the extent that you are healthy. Remembering that your nervous system controls every single function of the body. In other words, symptoms are your body's alarm system, designed to inform you that you have some form of nerve interference that the body is not able to deal with on its own. The avenue through which the body does all of this miraculous work is through the nervous system; it is the "electrical system" that joins the body together as a whole. The in born wisdom of your body completes all of the tasks necessary to sustain life by using the nervous system to communicate with every cell in your body. No cell in your body is just floating around with its own ideas and how it wants to behave. This organization in the body is doing precise, that every cell functions in harmony with the ones around it in order to complete specific tasks. This design allows for no independent action. We have discovered that if our nervous systems aren't expressing themselves perfectly, then our bodies will be functioning at less than one hundred percent. Enjoying health seems to be perceived by most as a privilege that is saved for the fortunate few, when in reality it should be experienced by the vast majority. I want you to realize that from this day forth, it is time to treat your health as the utmost priority, whether you are one minute old, or one hundred years old. We all only get one turn at life. It is my sincere desire to have you live that life with one hundred percent health. By eating correctly, exercising, getting enough sleep, drinking plenty of water, keeping your spine in correct alignment, and nervous system functioning, you will enjoy the greatest gift of all...you are as healthy as you're designed to be.

South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club Donates To Dictionary Project

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club donated \$1,656.00 to The Dictionary Project on December 2, 2019. Project Dictionary's goal is to reach every third grade student in the United States and to give them each this valuable reference tool. All third grade students in South Amboy and Sayreville (10,800 students) received dictionary's as a result of the efforts of the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club.

Saint Gerard
O good St Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder worker of our day, confidently I call upon you and seek your aid. On Earth you always fulfilled God's designs, help me now to do the holy will of God. Amen. K.S..

To St. Jude
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude gave me hope. -M.S.



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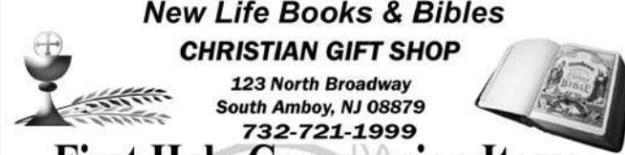
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South Amboy and Sayreville Boards of Education Approve Cooperative Sports Program

At the December 16th, 2019 Board of Education meeting, the Board unanimously approved a Cooperative Sports Program upon the recommendation of Superintendent Diaz. While the idea of such a program has been discussed in the past, the required steps to implement such a program have never been taken. In October, Superintendent Diaz met with Sayreville Superintendent Dr. Labbe to discuss the possibility of offering a cooperative sports program for sports not currently offered in South Amboy. With a mutual interest by both school districts, a subsequent meeting was held with the

Athletic Directors to discuss the necessary steps to garner approval at the conference and state level. In November, Athletic Director Frank Zalocki and the Sayreville Athletic Director proposed the co-op program at the monthly Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) meeting. This was the first approval needed to proceed. The Conference approved the co-op program by a 14-1 vote. The co-op would include Football, Wrestling (Coed), and Girls Field Hockey. The second approval necessary was board approval by both school districts. Sayreville's Board of Education also approved the co-op at their

December 17th BOE meeting. The final step is to get approval by the NJSIAA, the state entity that governs high school sports, however, this is generally granted when all the prior approvals have been achieved. The application to the NJSIAA will be submitted by the deadline in early January, so that South Amboy students may participate in the co-op sports at Sayreville starting in the Fall of 2020. "This is an exciting opportunity for us to expand our athletic options and offer sports programs that we couldn't offer before. Our students will now have the opportunity to

play football, wrestle, and join field hockey at Sayreville War Memorial High School. I thank our partners next door for opening their doors and arms to welcome our student athletes. We have talented students that will undoubtedly add to the competitive programs offered in Sayreville." said Superintendent Diaz. More information will follow regarding cost and transportation arrangements, however, nominal fees have been negotiated to make the co-op a viable sports option for South Amboy student athletes.

Local Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday

(Photos/story by Joe Lotkowitz)



Joe Lula (c) celebrated his 100th birthday on Jan. 11th at Venetian Care & Rehabilitation Center in South Amboy. Joe is surrounded by family and friends.

Commander Larry Bishop (r) of American Legion Lenape Post #211, Sayreville, presents Joe (c) with a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding service, which he contributed to the advancement of the American Legion over many years. Carmen Delikat (l), President of VFW Post #4699 Auxillary, and Joe's daughter Cheryl (back center) looks on approvingly.



Joe (c) is pictured with his family (l-r) Cheryl, Vinnie, and Ron. Joe was a World War II veteran, and saw action in the South Pacific during his time with the U.S. Navy.

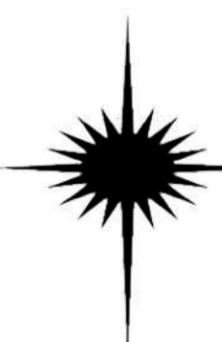


Joe is pictured near his beautiful birthday cake with family members (l-r) son-in-law Ron, grandson Vinnie, and daughter Cheryl.

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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber



Salt Water

First and foremost the Weeblemeister, once again, is wishing to all of you a great fishing year for 2020. Striped Bass fishing in the bay and rivers only is now closed until March First. It's just as well since fishing from shore was just nonexistent. Only a few were caught in Raritan Bay. In the open ocean it's a different story. The surf at Island Beach and LBI has new bodies of fish moving in. They are mostly shorts with a few keepers mixed in. Lures that imitate sand eels work to catch them. This fishing may not last too long with bad winter weather approaching. They were catching Flounder in Shark River but that too is closed until March First. Party Boat fishing is mostly Blackfish; some are quite large going up to 11-12 pounds. There are also some ling and very few Mackerel have been caught. The new proposed regulations for Striped Bass do not look good. All three options look like, one fish with a much higher size limit and a possible season. As for Bluefish, there is also consideration to limit shore anglers to 3 Bluefish apiece with charter boats limited to 5 fish per man. The scientists feel Bluefish are overfished, yet in the past years of "scarce fish" there has always been plenty of Snapper Blues.

Fresh Water

Rain and bad weather has made everyone cut back on fishing. Round Valley Reservoir has dropped 30 feet. You can still fish by the boat ramp but it's harder to cast out. I tried my luck at Spring Lake for a few hours at the end of December but came up empty handed! The other people I saw there were not doing much better either.



**Nap...Rest
Nap...Rest**

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.1994

So much to do, so much to do
When will I ever find time?
My spirit's yearning, my body's yelling
Let it all be... Rest!
Nap - sure! - When is there time?
Every minute of my day is filled
And problems with no resolutions appear
Mind, body, and emotions... Rest!
Nap - I'd love to - the best thing to do
Refreshed the right answers might come
New balance, new strength,
a boost I will feel
As labor and pressures are lifted
Communications and influence
awaken with me
For every decision I make
For every action I take
From the wisdom of the NAP... REST!



Another New Year

C.2020

Another New Year
On planet earth
How's your health
What's your net worth
Time goes much faster
As you're gettin' old
Better live it up
Life's too short
So you're told
Believe in prayer
Because God's always there
Count your blessings everyday
Always thank the Lord
Don't forget to pray.

The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA, MS

It is interesting as we look back to 2019 and the fire deaths that have occurred during the year. In the United States alone there were 2132 reported fire deaths. That is almost 6 people dying in a fire related death each day. Of the total deaths, just over 27% were senior citizens over the age of 65 years and 11% of those deaths were children under the age of 14 years. None of those figures are surprising and have been consistent throughout the years. What stands out is the fact that in 10% of these cases there was no smoke detector installed or if there was one installed, it wasn't working. In 53 fire deaths, it was reported that there was NO smoke detector present. How can this happen in 2020? Laws in the State of New Jersey require smoke detectors in residential homes. Complete fire alarm systems are required in multi-family buildings. Fire inspectors are required to inspect residential homes when they are sold and before new owners move in. Every residence MUST have a working smoke detector. Even in those households that can't afford a \$10 smoke detector, there are fire departments and other community agencies that will provide a detector free of charge and even install it if necessary. Firefighters will come to homes and install a new battery for those people incapable of doing so. Don't feel ashamed or embarrassed to call your local fire department for assistance because we would rather you and your family be safe from fire than the other alternatives.

The leading causes of residential fires is from smoking materials followed by electrical sources, cooking, and heating. These causes change during the winter season as cooking and home heating systems become the leading causes of residential building fires. We see year after year the percentage of smokers declines thus becoming less of a cause for fire.

What is now becoming alarming to first responders is the increasing trend in unintentional non-fire Carbon Monoxide (CO) deaths associated with consumer

products. There have been on average 184 deaths per year over the past 20 years with most of these deaths associated with heating systems and portable generators. With the cold weather upon us, many households find the need for additional heating sources. Portable space heaters, using either kerosene or electricity, can easily become a source of fire ignition. Place space heaters on a floor that is flat and level. Do not place them on rugs or carpets. Keep them at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. To prevent the risk of fire, NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or leave your home. If there is a power failure and you are using a portable generator, make sure that the exhaust is far enough away from your home. Exhausted CO can not only enter through windows and doors but can seep in through seams and cracks in the foundations and siding. Never use gas or electric stoves to heat the home. They are designed for cooking/baking purposes only, not to be run constantly as a source of heat.

In homes that have a working fireplace, have the flue and chimney inspected for leakage and blockage from creosote or debris every year. If possible, have a guard installed on top of your chimney to prevent animals from entering the flue.

You will see that some of these tips have appeared in past articles, but it never hurts to remind people to be safe rather than sorry.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -L.P.

ST. JUDE

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank You St. Jude. -E.P.

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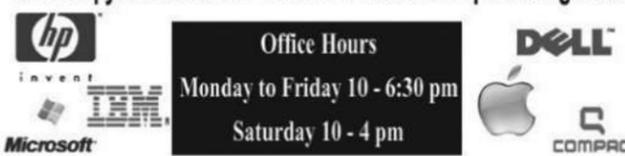


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Valentine's Day Rose Sale

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Justina Ann "Tina" Mastro

Justina Ann "Tina" Mastro (Busch), age 57, of South Amboy, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 26, 2019, at Bayshore Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Born in South Amboy, she was a lifelong resident. Tina worked as a registered nurse for Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel for many years in their endoscopy department. She was the superintendent of Sunday school at the First Presbyterian Church in Sayreville as well as the Head of Deacons.

Tina is predeceased by her father Paul Busch and her brothers Timothy and Paul Busch. Surviving are her loving husband of 22 years Louis of South Amboy, her beloved son Louis of South Amboy, her mother Barbara Busch of South Amboy, her sisters in law Maria Busch, Maria Smisek and her husband Paul, Felicia Bitto and her husband Steven, her brother in law Sean Mastro and his wife Maria and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends who will miss her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Tina's name may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville 172 Main St. Sayreville, NJ 08872. Letters of condolence to the family, directions and completed arrangements may be found by visiting www.spezzifuneralhome.com.

Middlesex County Sheriff's Office Summer Program

The Middlesex County Sheriff's Office is excited to announce our 3rd annual D.A.R.E. -Jr. Academy this summer. Due to an increased interest in the D.A.R.E. program, Sheriff Mildred Scott decided to implement a summer program for all (children entering) 5th and 6th grade and 8th and 9th grade in Middlesex County in the 2020-2021 school year.

This program will include the D.A.R.E. program, as well as a junior police academy. The 5th and 6th grade program will run for two weeks, from Monday, July 6th to Friday, July 17th, 8:30am-3:00pm (M-F). The 8th and 9th grade program will run for two weeks from Monday August 10th to Friday August 21st. The \$150 fee per child will include a t-shirt, a ball cap, a water bottle, supplies and a graduation party at commencement.

Our D.A.R.E. Jr. Police Academy class will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, 1001 Fire Academy Way, Sayreville. Jr. Recruits will be responsible for their own lunches and snacks, as well as their own "gym style" shorts (fingertip length at least) and sneakers. Our daily routine will include roll call, platoon formation, D.A.R.E. lessons, lunch, drill, multiple demos and police lessons, and daily P.T. (physical training).

We are limited to 60 seats, so please contact the office as soon as possible to reserve your spot, spaces fill up quickly. Registration will only be confirmed once we have the completed forms with payment.

Please contact Sgt. Frank Sautner, S/O Tracey Miello, S/O Rob Galiardo at 732-745-5909 or Frank.Sautner@co.middlesex.nj.us between the hours of 8-4, M-F to schedule a pickup time for the full packet.

Address/Location: Middlesex County Sheriff's Office, 701 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Dorothy Zajak Jesberger
 January 28, 1940 - February 2, 2000

*I feel a warmth around me,
 like your presence is so near.
 And I close my eyes to visualize
 your face when you were here.
 I endure the times we spent together,
 and they are locked inside my heart
 As long as I have those memories
 we will never be apart.
 Even though we cannot speak anymore,
 my voice is always there,
 because every night before I sleep,
 I have you in my prayers.*



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Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign, if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, tv, picture or receive roses. Must promise publication. M.L..

A PRAYER FOR HEALING
 Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -T.B...

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ST. ANDREW
 Hail and blessed by the hour and the moment in which the son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of his Blessed Mother. Amen. -- B.S.

2020 Publishing Schedule
 The Area's #1 newspaper
Now In Our 29th Year

The South Amboy/Sayreville
 Serving The Bayshore Area

TIMES
 The "Good News" Newspaper

Publication Date	All Deadlines	
February 29th	17th	Winter Special
March 28th	16th	St. Patrick's Day Parade, Easter
April 25th	13th	Mother's Day
May 30th	18th	Memorial Day, Father's Day
June 27th	15th	Graduation, 4th Of July
July 31st	19h	Summer Spectacular
August 29th	17th	Football, Labor Day, Back To School
September 26th	14th	Fall Special
October 24th	12th	Halloween, Election 2020, Veterans Day, SA Times 29th Anniversary!
November 21st	9th	Thanksgiving Special
December 19th	7th	Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years 2021

In Memoriam



Walter "Bud" Zamorski, 85, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 23. He along with Warren Rappleyea Sr. coached Weiss Clothing to the 1971 South Amboy Little Fellas League championship. In addition, he ran the concession stand, and later became league president. Walt also coached the South Amboy Sabres Pee Wee football team for many years. Feliciano Ojeda, 79, of Sayreville died on Dec. 16, and had served as an Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Victories for 20 years. George Schmidt, 83, of Sayreville died on Dec. 21. He was always spotted at South Amboy Deli in the mornings, and also hanging at the river in Sayreville with friends. Frank Weber, 82, of Morgan died on Dec. 22. He was a career ironworker with IBIW Local 40 in New York, and Local 11 in New Jersey. Frank was the original owner/operator of Weber's Garage on Rt. 35 in Morgan. Alice Coman, 96, of South Amboy died on Dec. 25. She was the former vice-president of the Sayreville Historical Society and a member of the Sayreville Senior Citizens. Theresa Streck, 89, of Sayreville died on Dec. 26. She was the Sayreville High School valedictorian/yearbook editor, and was a legal secretary for the Law Offices of Joseph T. and Alan Karcher in Sayreville for over 50 years. Justina "Tina" Mastro, 57, of South Amboy died on Dec. 26. She was Superintendent of Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville, and also head of Deacons. Marie "Mary" Vigilante, 88, of Parlin died on Jan. 5. She was a lunch aide for the Sayreville Board of Education for 20 years.

Keith Switzer

Keith Switzer, 60, of South Amboy died on Thursday December 26, 2019 at home. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. He was employed as a diesel technician and enjoyed gardening, cooking, camping, playing baseball, being with his family and playing with his grandchildren.

Son of the late William and Lillian Litka Switzer he is also predeceased by his brothers Eugene, Patrick, William and Michael. He is survived by his wife Gaye Boudinot Switzer; his children Megan Jakl and her husband Matthew of Sayreville, Molly Frisch and her husband RJ and Jaime, Shane and Savannah Switzer all of South Amboy; his brothers Robert Switzer and Shawn Switzer and his wife Norine; his sisters Anne Fiore, Lillian Horbatt and her husband Peter, Linda Zakrzewski, Eileen Zonkowski and her husband Thomas, Colleen Santucci and her husband Domenick, Marlene Moglia and her husband Robert and Erin Koller and her husband William; his grandchildren Adam, Liam, Jacob and Sonny and many nieces and nephews.

Obituaries

Ahearn, Susan, 54, of Parlin died on Jan. 2.
 Burns, Robert E. "Bobby," 61, formerly of Morgan died on Oct. 14, 2013.
 Coman, Alice F. Shuler, 96, of South Amboy died on Dec. 25.
 Gallagher, Eleanor M., 80, of Parlin died on Jan. 3.
 Hineson, Madeline, 90, of Parlin died on Dec. 31.
 Lyons, Florence, 82, of Morgan died on Jan. 3.
 Mastro, Justina Ann "Tina" Busch, 57, of South Amboy, died on Dec. 26
 Nowak, Marion A., 89, of South Amboy died on Dec. 19.
 O'Brien, Michael T. "The Mick," 56, of South Amboy died on Dec. 31.
 Ojeda, Feliciano, 79, of Sayreville died on Dec. 16.
 Schmidt, George M., 83, of Sayreville died on Dec. 21.
 Scibek, Bennie, 82, of Parlin died on Dec. 26.
 Streck, Theresa, 89, of Sayreville died on Dec. 26.
 Switzer, Keith, 60, of South Amboy died on Dec. 26.
 Vigilante, Marie "Mary," 88, of Parlin died on Jan. 5.
 Weber, Frank P., 82, of Morgan died on Dec. 22.
 Woods, Martha, 80, of Sayreville died on Dec. 16.
 Yohannon, Judith A., 73, formerly of Parlin died on Jan. 1.
 Zamorski, Walter E. "Bud," 85, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 23.

Happy Birthday In Heaven!



In loving memory of
Ronald S. Gorczyca
 Jan. 22, 1934
 June 27, 2005

*We think of you in silence
 We often speak your name
 But all we have are memories
 And your picture in a frame
 Your resting place we visit
 And put flowers there with care
 But no one knows the heartache,
 As we turn and leave you there
 Not a day goes by
 That you are not in our thoughts.*
**Wife Marge, Children &
 Grandchildren**

To St. Jude
 May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored and glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude gave me hope. -S.S.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING
 Lord, you invited all who are burdened to come to You. Allow your healing hand to heal me. Touch my soul with Your compassion for others. Touch my heart with Your courage and infinite love for all. Touch my mind with Your wisdom, that my mouth may always proclaim Your praise. Teach me to reach out to You in my need. Help me to lead others to You by my example. Most loving heart of Jesus, bring me health in my body and spirit so that I may serve You with all my strength. Touch gently with this life that you have created. Amen -S.R...

**Donald F. Lewis Sr.
 10 Years In Heaven**



April 3, 1949 to February 2, 2010

*I hide my tears when I say your name
 But the pain in my heart is still the same
 Although I smile and seem carefree
 There is no one who misses you more than me!*
All Our Love, The Lewis Family

*There is truly only one thing that
 can be done once.....your loved one
 deserves the best!*



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 South Amboy and Sayreville with
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*Today we are not together,
 Still we are not apart.
 No matter what life brings us,
 You're always in my heart.*

Happy Valentine's Day



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 N.J. Lic. No. 4605

Sayreville Memorial
Funeral Home
 Joseph J. Kurzawski, Manager
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2019 Holiday Happenings



Pictured at the Dowdell Library in South Amboy Holiday Open House is (l-r) Councilman Tom Reilly, Library Director Elaine Gaber, Mayor Fred Henry, and Council President Michael "Mickey" Gross. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Santa Claus arrives just in time at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 Christmas Brunch to get the children's list of toys, and have their pictures taken with him. It was a festive day, and all in attendance had a great time. (Photo/caption by Joe Lotkowitz)



Sitting in this beautiful Christmas scene (l-r) is Mary Ann Spisso, President of the Sayreville Thursday Senior Club, and Bob Kole, Vice-President of the Thursday Senior Club. They were getting ready to have a chat with Santa Claus about what they would like to have for Christmas. (Photo/Info by Joe Lotkowitz)



Mary Ann Spisso, President of the Sayreville Thursday Senior Club (r) congratulates Caroline Facezne (l), who celebrated her 100th birthday in 2019, and also wished her a Merry Christmas at the Senior Club party on Dec. 12. (Photo/Info by Joe Lotkowitz)



Santa Claus arriving on his Harley for his visit to Dad's Royal Bakery in Parlin. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus were on hand to greet patrons at Dad's Royal Bakery in Parlin for Christmas. Here Mrs. Claus proudly shows The SA Times with Santa's picture on the front page. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



On December 19th, South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and his wife Linda wished all the seniors in attendance at the Mayor's Annual Christmas Party, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. (Photo/Info by Joe Lotkowitz)



Santa stopped in at the South Amboy YMCA for some R&R in the pool, prior to his journey on Christmas Eve. (Photo submitted)



Santa arrived at this young family's house by Fire Truck! (Photo by Brian Stratton)



This little guy celebrated his first Christmas this year. (Photo by Brian Stratton)