



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

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This issue is dedicated to
*Edward Condiracci
*Pat Malik
*Ann Mulvey
*Robert Piskorski
*Pat Scully

December 21, 2024 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 3



Pearl Harbor Remembered



Veteran Tom Noble gets ready to toss the wreath in honor of the men and women who died during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. See more photos on page 13. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



RED SHIRT FRIDAY



Members of the Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211, proudly display the wearing of their Red Shirts at their monthly Post meeting held on Friday December 6th. RED SHIRT FRIDAY (REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED) is a movement created to show support for the military members who have been deployed past and present. (Photo Submitted)



Enterprise Hook and Ladder, Truck #8 took top honors in the Parade of Lights at the annual Tree Lighting in South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) Roy Dragotta, John Dragotta, Harry Ward and Mayor Fred Henry. See more photos on page 15. (Photo by Brian Stratton).

20th Annual Dad-Daughter Dance

The South Amboy – Sayreville rotary club will be hosting their 20th annual dad-daughter dance on Friday, February 21, 2025. It will be at the VFW located on Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville starting at 7pm. For more information and/or to register please contact Greg at 732-721-0400 or email greg@customfinancial.org

Friends Of South Amboy Annual Charity Basketball Games

Event is on December 21 at South Amboy Middle High School
12:00 Noon
South Amboy girls vs New Brunswick
2:00 pm
South Amboy boys vs Calvary Christian
4:00 pm
Sayreville boys vs CSI McCown Staten Island
6:00 pm
St. Thomas Aquinas boys vs Moore Catholic Staten Island
8:00 pm
St. Joe's Metuchen boys vs Montgomery

AOH Donation



Joe Szaro (c), Post Commander of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62, accepts a check from Ed O'Connor (l) incoming President of the AOH, and Joe Britton (r) outgoing President of the AOH, representing the proceeds from a recent fundraiser run by the AOH. (Photo Submitted)

Sayreville Election: Final Results

The final results are in for the two Borough of Sayreville Council seats: Mary Novak (D) 9,944, Stanley "Stash" Synarski (R) 9,805, Vince Conti 9,648 (D), Christina Sitaca (R) 9,415. The Firehouse Referendum passed with a whopping 11,140 to 5,689, a 2:1 margin.



Next Issue January 25th -- Deadlines January 13th
Catholic Schools Week, Super Bowl, Valentine's Day

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Members of Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 were excited to participate in the Rotary Club 5k event for Veterans housing on November 19th. All proceeds will benefit the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy. (Photo Submitted)

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Happy Wedding Anniversary Wishes

The following have recently celebrated significant wedding anniversaries:

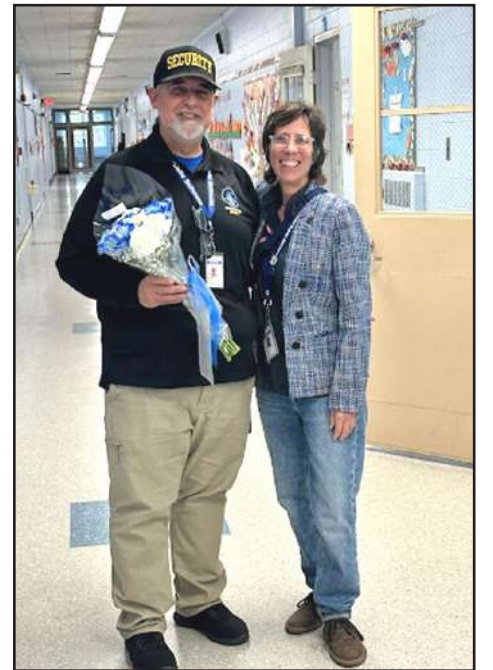
Former South Amboy resident and Major League Baseball player, John O'Brien and his wife Jean celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Oct. 7th. They have resided in Seattle, Washington for many years.

Eliot and Shirley Rodriguez of St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sayreville celebrated their 30th.

Couples celebrating their 25th are: Robert & Debra O'Connor, Sacred Heart, South Amboy; Daniel & Lisa Pawelek, St. Stanislaus Kostka, Sayreville; Norman & Felita Real, Our Lady of Victories, Sayreville. **Congratulations to all, and God Bless.**



Congratulations Selover School ESP of the Year



Mr. Frank Hernandez (l), who has worked at Selover Pre-School for over 6 years, was recently chosen SEA Sayreville Education Support Professional of the Year. Christa DeLucia, SEA President (r) (Sayreville Education Association), congratulates and thanks him for his outstanding work. (Photo/info submitted)

OLV Senior Trip

Hunterdon Hills Playhouse 23 Feb 2025 for Dr. K - Motown Revue cost \$145 per person; and 9 March 2025 Bill Haley JR and the Comets cost \$145 per person. The price includes show, dinner, transportation, snack and bus driver gratuity. For information contact Carmen 732-254-9425 OLV Seniors treasurer.

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.

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Tel: 732-360-8773
email: satimes@aol.com
website: thesatimes.com

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Publisher
Tom Burkard

Associate Publisher
Brian Stratton

Feature Writers
Teo Weber, Richard Kosmoski, Clem Skarzynski, John Phillips, Jordan R. Drevelus

Layout Design
Phyllis Stratton

Photographer
Jamie Norek

Poet Laureate
Albert Gomolka Jr.

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA By Tom Burkard

- South Amboy Fire Chief in 1997?
a. Larry Parsons b. Mike Geraltowski c. Phil English
- Back in '99, Dolphin Fitness Center was located in Sayreville. Where?
a. Raritan St. b. Main St. c. Washington Rd.
- South Amboy Board of Education in '97?
a. Robert Kelly b. Thomas Tice c. Margaret McCarthy
- In '99, where was The Fishery located in Sayreville?
a. South Pine Ave. b. Rt. 35 North c. Rt. 9 South
- This NJ State Trooper from South Amboy guarded Pope John Paul II at Giants Stadium in 1995?
a. Bill Reilly b. Mike Deitche c. Mike Downs
- In 2000, this company purchased Hercules, Inc., in Sayreville?
a. Future Gold Investors Corp. b. Green Tree Chemical Technologies c. Intrastate Trucking Inc.
- In '95, this hardware store was located at North Broadway in South Amboy?
a. Siemer's b. Rickel c. Reiner's
- President of the Sayreville VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4699 back in '1995?
a. Mary Martin b. Susan Angoletti c. Lorraine Rock
- South Amboy Fire Chief in '95?
a. Ed Szatkowski b. Jim Charmello c. Brian Kuhn
- Pastor of Our Lady of Victories Church in 2010?
a. Rev. Ryan b. Rev. Fulton c. Rev. Krull

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



Fine Wine & Grill



Jay Patel (r) owner of Fine Wine & Grill in South Amboy is pictured with two of his staff members, Meghan Witham (l) and Anita Patel (c). (Photo/Story by Tom Burkard)

Jay Patel, owner of Fine Wine & Grill in South Amboy is a true success story in the business world. Back in 1997, he started working as a stock boy at Krauszer's on Broadway in South Amboy across from Amboy Bank. Fast forward to 2003, after hard work, determination, and dedication, Patel purchased the former Tarallo's building on Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy, which is now Fine Wine & Grill. Not only did he bring plenty of experience in all phases of the business, but a certain finesse that has enabled him to become one of the most-liked and highly-respected business leaders in the City of South Amboy. Jay really loves the South Amboy community, and said that "We, at Fine Wine & Grill, are always ready to support and help the community, with almost all organizations and charities. We appreciate this community." Fine Wine & Grill also sponsors sports teams for the youth of South Amboy. So many people have noticed Jay's commitment to helping

within the City, and this year he received a beautiful Appreciation Award from the South Amboy Police Department. Fine Wine & Grill features a huge deli, liquors, beer, and a large selection of Bourbon and Wines. In addition, they offer excellent selections of delicious sandwiches and also a tasty breakfast. While you're in the store, don't forget your lottery tickets. The staff has plenty of experience, and is friendly, courteous, and very helpful to all patrons. Jay said "South Amboy is very helpful from the mayor, council and everyone. This community has given me lots of friends and some are now like my own family." Jay Patel has a great philosophy and said, "Just do your own thing. Don't expect anything in return. God is always watching us." Stop in and say hello to Jay and his outstanding staff at 717 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy. *Note: See the Fine Wine & Grill's beautiful Christmas/New Year's advertisement on page 28, offering many great bargains for the holiday season!

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FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

A new year is upon us. I hope all of you are enjoying the holiday season, planning big things for the year ahead, and – perhaps most importantly – reflecting on the year that was. Many of us struggle with the anxiety and hustle that comes with the holidays. It seems there are always more events and gatherings to attend and gifts to buy. Even so, I hope you have at least a few nights of quiet and peaceful hours to be with family or to reflect thoughtfully on fond memories of the past and great things to come. I also hope that you will remember those less fortunate and perhaps take time to bring them even just a bit of joy and comfort during this season of giving.

I believe I speak for our entire City Council in stating that we too are reflecting on the past year and thinking constantly about the great things to come for our City. As I have said before, it is an honor and privilege to serve the people of the Second Ward. The Council members and I are excited and ready to work on the grand ideas and important issues contemplated throughout this past year. Our front-and-center priorities include improving our



downtown, maintaining a high degree of public safety, and continuing to build a vibrant and strong community. Our future is bright and we are poised for great things in the year ahead. In the meantime, I hope you continue to enjoy the holiday season.

Please also allow me to express my best wishes to our incoming Fire Chief, Rafael Albarran.

The gift of love, the gift of peace, the gift of happiness—may these be yours this holiday season.

Respectfully

Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting



On December 3rd South Amboy PBA Local 63 held their annual Memorial Christmas Tree lighting ceremony at the corner of Main and David St's. The tree adorned in blue light is done in remembrance of all law enforcement officers that died in the line of duty nationwide during 2024. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

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Yearbook-St. Mary's 1994

By Tom Burkard

Seniors at St. Mary's Regional High School returned to classes for their final go round in early September, 1993. "Dreamlover" by Mariah Carey was near the top of the national radio list at the time, and the spirit was high at the Augusta Street institution. . . Principal was John Gloss, and some of his faculty members included; Patrick Borbely, Sr. M. Kateri, Robyn Orr, Fr. John Gordon, Dorothy Tighe, Sarah Shipman, Kathleen Redling, Madeline Tharney, and Sr. M. Alexandra. . . The yearbook was called "A Carousel of Memories" and dedicated to Mary Ann Woolf. Heather Hanko was Editor-In-Chief. Social activities were plentiful at St. Mary's, and included: Christmas Celebration; The trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor; Dress Down Day, Christmas Ball '93, which was held at the Sayreville K of C, the Talent Show; Christmas Concert. . . Kelly Brennan was editor of the school newspaper, and also the Literary magazine. . . Some of the '94 seniors picked randomly included; Amanda Christensen, James DiComo, Dawn Weiser, Lauren Gorga, Gabriel Gutierrez, Vanessa Hernandez, Jill Hebron, Stacy Hicks, Steve Huminski, Jeff Ingram, Javier Jimenez, Megan Kayser, Steven Kovacs, Lori Kuniella, Matthew Lee, Lois Merritt, Theresa Menno, Eulices Montiel, Kimberly Nemeth, James

Nicora Jr., Tracy Paduano, Augustin Rojas, Jennifer Silvestri, Sylvia Solakov, Kimberly Respol, Marisol Torres, Mary Whitlock, Altagracia Camilo, Christopher Nieratko. . . On the sports scene, the girls basketball team under Coach Don Szatkowski was a fine 15-7; Coach Bill Garnett's softball squad finished an excellent 14-9; boys basketball went 9-13; baseball turned in a 6-15 mark. Some of the fine senior athletes included; Nyree Arana, David Benyola, Dianna Borysiewicz, Kelly Brennan, Robert Britting Jr., Martin Campbell, Tara Capello, Eli Ciuffaldi, Lisa Coppola, Katherine Coutrobis, Jennifer Daly, Joanna De La Cruz, Michelle De La Pena, Joseph Donato, Brian Gorcealiak, David Graham, Heather Hanko, Thomas Haughey, Ross Hull, Jennifer Jacukiewicz, Gina Kim, Daniel Krulikowski, John Kugel, Rosalie La Rosa, John Letteriello, Manuel Lopez, Thomas McCreary, Jason Melaga, Rebecca Moskowitcz, Patricia O'Toole, Lisa Schreck, Kristen Palomo, Elizabeth Tighe, Patrick Vattelana, Ronald Petrella, Tami Redd, John Rios, Jennifer Szuba, Ramon Valera, Karen Weber, Alexander Wertz. . . "I Swear" by All-4-One was the most popular song in the nation, as St. Mary's Class of '94 picked up their diplomas on Graduation Day, after making a very positive mark in the school's history.

Dowdell Library News

Don't have a New Year's Resolution? We've got you covered! Come visit the Dowdell library to see what we have to offer!

"After Lunch" by Seward Johnson - caught sleeping on the job! Drop in to the Dowdell Library to visit this special sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier. In the meantime, he will be catching some ZZZZs. This exhibition was made possible by the Dowdell Library Foundation.

Parents with Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in January from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Stop by for weekly fun at the **After School Fun Club** on Wednesdays in January from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

Teens! Don't miss **Teen Drop in Club** this January from 3:15-4:30 pm on Mondays for Board Games and Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+

Kids and Teens! Don't miss out on the **Game On Basketball Contest** happening all January long. Stop in the library for a chance to win an NBA basketball. Watch for new games and programs including Foosball and Shuffleboard @ the Library!

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, January 27 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Snow date is Wednesday, January 29 at the same time.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers **online virtual health programs**. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday January 14 and 28 at 1:00 pm. Additionally,

Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

The **Knitting Circle** will be meeting Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started! Interested in learning how to knit? Drop in for some informal tips.

Join us for **Mah Jongg Mondays** and **Card Game Wednesdays** every week from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring your own or use our set!

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.

Dowdell Library's hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday from 12pm-4pm. Connect with us on social media.

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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The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS.

How do we keep New Jersey safe from devastating wildfires? Unfortunately, that would be an impossibility. New Jersey, along with the entire world, has been sustaining massive wildfires since the beginning of time. Every year we hear of massive wildland fires occurring mostly in the western states where hundreds of thousands of acres may be involved in large open landscapes. New Jersey, being a more condensed state compared to the western states, has many residential structures built within close proximity to the wildlands. Many people like to live in secluded areas with nature surrounding their structure on all sides. How peaceful is it to look out your window and see deer and other wildlife foraging in your backyard? For many people it would be a pleasant experience. Both the state and federal government have literature available to the public on how to prevent wildlands from encroaching on your residential structure, but most people will ignore those warnings. You have heard the saying, "the fire won't happen to me, it will happen to someone else" but remember, YOU are that other guy to someone else. As of this writing in late November, 2024, there are four massive wildland interface fires occurring simultaneously throughout the state. The New Jersey Division of Forest Fire Services has available response personnel and equipment to cover the entire state but to have them all in use at the same time is stressful for everyone. Fighting a wildland fire is much more difficult than fighting a stand-alone structure fire. The topography of the landscape has a great deal of impact on the burning wildland fuels as the fire intensifies and moves much faster up a hill. Humidity also plays a part in the moisture of the material/fuel. With a higher humidity

level, the material will be less likely to burn. With a low humidity level, the fuel is dry, easy to ignite, and burn as we had witnessed during the entire month of October. There were some days the weather was predicted to be dry with gusty winds causing the fires to intensify and travel quickly throughout the wildlands. Fire responders will need updated weather reports during windy conditions so they know how and where to move personnel and equipment to a safe area and suppress the fire before it reaches residential areas. The wildland firefighters must be well fed and hydrated while working. They require between 5,000 and 6,000 calories each day to keep up their stamina. Some of these firefighters may work from 8 to 12 hours a day before being relieved for rest and rehabilitation. They physically need to be in top shape to move around some of that rough topography. Most of the firefighters that are fighting these fires do so with hand tools such as rakes, shovels, Pulaski tools, and saws. It is difficult to get fire apparatus into these areas because of the topography and the thick growth of trees that makes it impossible to navigate through them. As these fires burn, the ground surface will show flames and smoke which is what is being suppressed. But this is only the top fresh/dry material. Below this surface material could be inches of buried debris that has accumulated over hundreds of years that can also burn and be difficult to locate. The only way to suppress these deep fires is with heavy rain [or snow] for multiple days that will penetrate into these deep seeded grounds. The only advantage of these massive fires is that they produce fertilizer and help generate new growth in the forest but that could take decades to accomplish. When out in the woods, be careful with fire!

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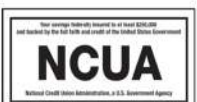
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Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

The final column for the year always leaves time for remembering all the events that shaped our lives with memories and thanks for all blessings we were given thru the year! Music wise..being surrounded by such terrific talent in "The Clem and Friends Band," Craig Hoek on tenor sax, Fran Fee on lead vocals and guitar, Jim Huer on guitar, Matt Esposito on the bass, and Mr. Energy, Dave Lippencott, on the drums..Ya couldn't ask for a better lineup to play Rock n Roll, as it should be played! And, with Sayreville Rec Director, Brian VanDongen

and his staff, we were given the chance to do so, at the annual "Blast from the Past" Car Show and Concert, and the annual Sayreville Day Show..continuing our 20 plus years doing so! Then, Tony and Brian Jackowski and their staff, allowing us to come and join the St. Stan's Annual Car Show, 4 years running. So, friends helping friends...What a Year! Our thanks as a band to you all, for helping us enjoy our love of music and sharing it with such appreciative crowds! Such wonderful interactive memories too...Ms.Ella Cook, (the late Jerry Ust's granddaughter) opening the St.Stan's Car Show with her truly beautiful vocal of our "National Anthem," and her

"Big Brother," Jackson Cook picking the winning car for his grandpa's (the late Jerry Ust's) Memorial Trophy for best in show! With Jerry's other grandson, Benjamin Ust keeping an eye on all those trophies! And having members of the Ust family there, Eileen Ust, Janet Cook, David Ust, and Jack Ust, and The Samuel Brothers, for the Tommy Samuel Trophy, was heartwarming. And The "Dynamic Dancing Duo" of Sayreville, Riley Wisniewski and Alana Foster, doing their dance routine at BOTH the "Blast from the Past Car Show, AND at the Annual Sayreville Day Show! Not done yet! Then one half of the duo, Riley Wisniewski was onstage a month later at the St. Stan's Car Show showing off her stuff! Did we all luck

out, or what! Then..all hearts melted when handsome Vincenzo Senape asked little Miss Grace Spezzi to dance to "Earth Angel" at St.Stan's Car Show! Right in the middle of the Parking Lot! C'mon! You can't ask for moments anymore wonderful,

or sweeter, to round out your year! On the personal side ... My truly courageous, brave beautiful wife Kathy, kicking cancers away for the second time..No way I've got the guts she's got, such an inspiration to everyone who knows her. And I dare to complain about my "aches and pains"? Love keeps us all going for one another, and it has worn off on our daughter Jessica, who, while awaiting for a very late train home from New York, took the time to go get food and a drink for a young homeless woman, who was asking for help, not money-food, as others just passed her by. Tears flowed, because of "love" shared! Hey Kathy, we did o.k. as parents I guess! Lost a few musician friends, and quite a few close friends this year, with a very dear friendship lost with the passing of a real "Human Being," who believed in everyone he met, Mr.Carmen Spezzi Sr..

So, just be thankful for everyday, we're all blessed. My sincere thanks to so many friends who have been there for me, my bandmates, the family, and wonderful staff at The Carmen F.Spezzi Sr. Funeral Homes. And, of course. Mr. Tom Burkard and Brian Stratton from this wonderful local newspaper, for allowing me to express my thoughts in writing! Remember-be nice to one another, smile, open a door, buy a coffee, a good morning, afternoon, to a stranger, and watch what happens..oh yeah, you'll feel it in your heart! You will.

So,..most important..Happy Birthday Baby Jesus"..Merry, Blessed Christmas to all!

Let's look forward to a New Year on a Positive Note..."Music Heals All"..Be well!

Acoustic Friday, January 17, 2025

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance will kick off a new year of monthly musical showcases on January 17 by welcoming local resident Dave Krasnow back to the stage.

Originally from Connecticut, Kras, as he's also known, has lived in DC, Rochester, NY, and the Carolinas, where he's hosted several open mics along the way. He moved to NJ in 2019.

While he cites his dad's jazz as one early influence, Kras also draws inspiration from a long list of musical icons such as the Rolling Stones, Harry Chapin, Leon Russell, Gordon Lightfoot, Jackson Browne, Joan Baez and Carole King to name just a few. The audience

is sure to enjoy Dave Krasnow's quiet and introspective songs, a repertoire well-suited for our venue.

SA Arts Alliance is located at 141 N. Broadway, South Amboy, NJ. Doors open at 6:30 pm, and the show runs from 7 to 9 pm. Admission is \$5.00 and complementary light refreshments will be offered.

The Alliance seeks interested acoustic-oriented performers of any genre for future performances. For additional information, contact SA Arts at 732-727-4600, extension 5971 or by email at SAarts141@gmail.com. Watch for updates on the South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook page.

One Hit Wonders

1964-Midnight Mary-Joey Powers; Popsicles & Icicles-The Murmaids; Surfin' Bird-The Trashmen; Hey Little Cobra-The Rip Chords; California Sun-The Rivieras; Navy Blue-Diane Renay; Suspicion-Terry

Stafford; Little Honda-The Hondells; Tobacco Road-The Nashville Teens; Last Kiss-J.Frank Wilson/The Cavaliers; Ringo-Lorne Greene; (Just Like) Romeo & Juliet-The Reflections.



By Tom Burkard

Names Of States

- 1.Mississippi Queen
- 2.California Girls
- 3.New York State Of Mind
- 4.Sweet Home Alabama
- 5.Indiana Wants Me
- 6.North To Alaska
- 7.Blue Hawaii
- 8.Arizona
- 9.Midnight Train To Georgia
- 10.Ohio
- 11.Jersey Girl
- 12.Kentucky Woman
- 13.California Dreamin'
- 14.Georgia
- 15.New York, New York



- a.The Beach Boys
- b.Elvis Presley
- c.Billy Joel
- d.Johnny Horton
- e.Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- f.Johnny Horton
- g.Gladys Knight/The Pips
- h.Lynyrd Skynyrd
- i.Mountain
- j.R. Dean Taylor
- k.Mark Lindsay
- l.Frank Sinatra
- m.Ray Charles
- n.The Mamas/The Papas
- o.Neil Diamond
- p.Bruce Springsteen

Answers

11 2a 3c 4h 5j 6f 7b 8k 9g 10e 11p 12o 13n 14m 15l.

Christmas Long Ago



1963—"The Travelers Three" performed their rendition of the song "The Glorious Kingdom" at St. Mary's High School Festival of Carols. The talented musicians pictured (l-r) John Klimkiewicz, Rick Jarusiewicz, and Tom Kelly.

#1 Country Hits Dec. 21

- 2022-You Proof-Morgan Wallen
- 2010-Why Wait-Rascal Flatts
- 2003-There Goes My Life-Kenny Chesney
- 1999-Breathe-Faith Hill
- 1981-Love In The First Degree-Alabama
- 1975-Convoy-C.W. McCall
- 1968-Wichita Lineman-Glen Campbell

#1 Pop Hits Dec. 21

- 2020-Willow-Taylor Swift
- 2013-The Monster-Eminem/feat. Rihanna
- 2008-Single Ladies-Beyonce
- 1994-Here Comes The Hotstepper -Ini Kamoze
- 1983-Say Say Say -Paul McCartney/Michael Jackson
- 1977-How Deep Is Your Love -The Bee Gees
- 1966-Winchester Cathedral -The New Vaudeville Band

The SA Times Past Christmas Issues Front Page News

5 Years Ago 2019

Sayreville Democrat Vicky Kilpatrick won a recount for the mayoral seat by 6 votes to edge GOP candidate Arthur J. Rittenhouse 3634-3628... Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin received the Legislator of the Year Award at the NJ State PBA 123rd Annual Valor Awards Banquet... The SA Times remembered beloved South Amboy businessman Rich Wendell, who died on Dec. 7th. He was the owner/operator of Old Towne Deli & Liquors on South Broadway from 1982-1996, and also owned Tutty Tease bar, which was on the corner of John St. & South Broadway, and is now Sciortino's.

10 Years Ago 2014

Former Morgan resident and 1970 St. Mary's HS graduate Barry Gomolka

South Amboy City Officials

25 Years Ago

1999-Mayor-John T. O'Leary; Council President-James Reick; Councilman-Donald C. Thomas; Councilman-Russell Stillwagon; Councilman-At-Large-Fred A. Henry; Councilwoman-At-Large-Beverly Samuelson; City Clerk-Kathleen Vigilante; Chief of Police-James Holovacko; Tax Collector-Joanne Brennan; Finance Director-John E. McCormac; Fire Official-Edward

starred in the lead role as "Scrooge" in "A Christmas Carol" play at Candlelight Theatre in Wilmington, Delaware... The building on the corner of Old Spye Rd. & Rt. 35 South in Morgan was demolished. The structure was formerly known as Joe's Cozy Bar; Club Bene; Krome.

20 Years Ago 2004

Former St. Mary's HS Principal Sister Mary Madeline McCarthy, who passed away on Nov. 14, was remembered in a beautiful tribute by Cheryl Ruszczyk Schmid.

25 Years Ago 1999

Memorial Medical Center in South Amboy announced plans to reopen the facility in January 2000... South Amboy's Regan Rone captured her second consecutive Middlesex County soccer scoring title.

South Amboy Players Snow White



The South Amboy Players recently performed "Snow White" to enthusiastic crowds. A great job was done by the cast and crew. (Photo by Len Estrada Photography)

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*We would like to thank all of you who
have visited the hall in the last year.
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and also want to wish you, your family,
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a very Merry Christmas and a Happy
Healthy and Safe New Year.*

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Annual Food Drive



Pictured: (l-r) Matthew Mercurio, Director Old Bridge Parks and Recreation Director, Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank President and CEO, Debbie Walker, Mayor of Old Bridge, Kristin Agunbiade, Food Bank Manager, Jacklyn Otken, Food Bank Coordinator, Anahita Feltz, Business Administrator. (Photo/Story Submitted)

Amboy Bank's Annual Food Drive

Amboy Bank's annual food drive was deemed another success after collecting gift cards and shelf stable foods across all 22 local branches throughout Monmouth and Middlesex counties throughout November, as well as its administrative office headquartered in Old Bridge. After decades of holding its Food Drive, this year's number of donations did not disappoint. The Old Bridge Food Bank sends a truck to the Amboy Bank Administration Headquarters to pick up the food donations every year and Manager of the Food Bank, Anahita Feltz, commented on the wide variety of food donations included, as well as the impressive \$550 in gift cards to local grocery store chains that had been generously donated. While food donations are always welcome, the gift cards allow the Food Bank to distribute immediate relief and funds to families that may be facing critical times. Food donations items are commonly associated to shelf stable foods like rice, beans and oats, but with the advent of a wider variety of healthy choices that are also shelf stable, people interested in donating to food banks are also encouraged to keep in mind some variety as families and individuals

facing food insecurity, like many people, enjoy variety and choices in their diets and meals. Amboy Bank has been New Jersey's local bank for over 135 years and an integral part of their community minded mission has been to support their clients and employees, many of whom are often also their families, friends and neighbors. Being a part of the local community for over a century, Amboy has a deep understanding of some of the challenges people are facing, like food insecurity. Said Greg Scharpf, Amboy Bank's President and CEO, "Every year, we are grateful for our customer and employee's generosity in donating food and monetary gifts to our food drive, and we wanted to find a way to further encourage the spirit of giving back by matching up to \$100 per individual donation or total campaign match of \$1,000. We hope that the local communities feel how committed our branches and employees are in helping the members of our community in need." For more information on Amboy Bank and their partnership with local food banks, please visit AmboyBank.com or stop by any Branch.

Sayreville Library News

**Resumes and Cover Letters (Virtual)
Monday, Jan 6 @6:30PM**

Learn how to create eye-catching resumes and cover letters in this interactive seminar. Learn how to use the right words and language to really catch the eye of potential employers. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

**The Calm Kitchen with Vanessa
(Virtual)**

Wednesday, Jan. 15 @6PM

Welcome the new year with some wintry recipes. Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish, and learn some new weekday meal recipes. She'll also be sharing some self-care tips to help you greet the new year with creativity and new energy. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link. Patrons must provide a valid email address. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

**Wills and Powers of Attorney
Thursday, Jan 16 @6PM**

Join Kenneth Verammen, local attorney, for this informative seminar on wills and estate planning. Learn about what goes into

a will, how to handle your estate planning documents, living wills, powers of attorney, and much more.

Registration required
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Movie matinee

Tuesday, Jan. 21 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: "It Ends With Us." Starring Blake Lively.

Rated PG-13-2 hrs 10 mins
Refreshments provided
Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Trivia with Dan

Monday Jan. 27 @6:30PM

Think you are good at trivia? Want to try and win some prizes? Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game.

Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners. Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112 No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.

Statement from Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin on Drone Sightings in New Jersey

Speaker Craig J. Coughlin today released the following statement concerning the recent drone sightings.

"New Jersey state legislators have been briefed by federal and state homeland security officials and law enforcement on the recent spike in drone sightings. While state officials were told today there is no known threat, there was also no explanation given for the increased sightings. Like most residents, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and I want answers as soon as possible, and we

will continue to press federal authorities for additional information."

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
(Never known to fail) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, Fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. You must publish it and it will be granted to you. Thank you. -M.M.



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South Amboy Crossing Guard Karen Rodia

Crossing Guards Ensure Children's Safety
 (Photo/Story by Jordan Drevelus)

When we think about the safety of our local community, we often think of our local police, fire, and EMTs. Beyond these valorous, large, and well known groups are smaller organizations and employees which care for the community. One such group is our local crossing guards. While they do not run into burning buildings and dodge gunfire, crossing guards have an important role in ensuring the safety of our community's children and risk their own safety to do so. Whether it be rush hour traffic on Washington and Ernston Roads or in the hilly terrain of South Amboy, the traffic and drivers can be a serious hazard. It takes an upstanding individual to put themselves in harm's way for others and for this our crossing guards deserve the community's appreciation. As it slowly grows colder, these hard workers brave the weather to continue their service even in the winter months.



South Amboy Crossing Guard Karen Rodia.

Local South Amboy resident Steven Szabo, who works as a crossing guard, said that, "we do what we do for the safety of the children and even the adults who are walking to work. When I used to drive my daughter to school, I know I used to rush and I know that many people need to get to work after so they rush when they drive. I am glad that we are able to protect the safety of the children and young adults." Another crossing guard, Karen Rodia said that "seeing the children everyday is her favorite part of the job."

Karen memorizes the names of many of the children that she sees daily and always greets the children with a smile to brighten their day. In a world where many people are enveloped in their phones, having vigilant individuals such as Steve and Karen ensure the safe passage of children across the ever busier roads of our local communities.



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 -R.S., A.S., L.P., H.S., L.S., E.P., I.P.

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.P, N.P, L.P., E.P., I.P.



South Amboy School District Teacher and Support Staff Of The Year



Congratulations to Jessica Grasso-Finochio Middle/High School Teacher of the Year and Shari Lieboff Educational Support Personnel of the Year. Pictured (l-r) Athletic Director Ja'mon Dunn, Vice Principal Erin Lamberson, Principal James Brown, Shari Lieboff, Jessica Grasso-Finochio, Superintendent Dr. Frederick Williams, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Martin Gurczeski Jr. (Photo Submitted)



Congratulations to Elementary School Teacher of the year Sheri Harlan and Educational Support Personnel of the Year Maureen Strzykalski. Pictured (l-r) Superintendent Dr. Frederick Williams, Vice Principal Michele Buchanan, Sheri Harlan, Maureen Strzykalski, Principal Sean Dunphy and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Martin Gurczeski Jr. (Photo Submitted)

The Staff and Management at John Auto Center

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Wish Everyone A

**Merry Christmas,
Happy Hanukkah &
A Happy New Year!**



A Raisin

By Al Gomolka
Times Poet Laureate
C.1997

I feel as unappreciated as a raisin on the vine
But being a raisin isn't all that bad
It's not just one's looks, or one's prime that matters
Though society believes, and isn't that sad
Add me to some cereal, or pudding, or cake
To the center of chocolate to enhance it's flavor
I've grown past my grape's age, but hey what the heck
With regard and esteem, I can still be a favor
Value the elderly the next time you see
We're neither old and wrinkled, nor rotten or tart
Rather, still sweet and pretty, and quite full of taste
We'll always be grapes at heart!
(Ah...who will ever read this-a raisin's poem?
I now put down my pen, in my convalescent home).

What's new @ Dowdell Library

The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is dedicated to providing its community with the resources and support it needs to flourish. As part of our endless community support, we now have a Social Work Intern, from Adelphi University at the library. Earline Asbury is available to help the community connect to various resources and referrals for mental health issues, healthcare, substance use, housing, food assistance and more. All meetings with her are confidential. Our goal is to provide community resources, information and expand awareness for other opportunities. Patrons can meet Earline at the library on Mondays 5pm – 8pm, Tuesdays 1pm – 8pm and Saturdays 1pm – 4pm. Please contact the library to verify availability.

So, what name did the community choose for the Seward Johnson "After Lunch" sculpture? EDWARD! Eugene B. and Isamar P. both nominated this name and won tickets

to the Grounds for Sculpture. Even though "Edward" enjoys his ZZZZs, he will be glad to greet you @ the library through the end of February. Don't miss him!

The Library will once again offer museum tickets in 2025; stay tuned for more information!

To find out about all the fun things coming up in 2025 - drop in the library, sign up for the monthly E-newsletter, view the library's website at dowdell.org, or follow them on Facebook.

Contact the Library at comments@dowdell.org or 732.721.6060. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 am – 8 pm; Wednesday, Friday 10 am – 5 pm, and Saturday 12 Noon to 4 pm. The Library is adjacent to the South Amboy High School off John T. O'Leary Blvd. Further information is available at dowdell.org.



A Special Wish

By Ed "Shots" Szatkowski
HG Hoffman HS Class of '65

If one wish in your life could be granted,
What do you suppose that would be?
More wealth, better health, more accomplishments. . .
All of the above?
Seems pleasing, don't you agree?
How can we all be rewarded,
By having this wish come true.
It's not impossible you know
For every once in awhile
A special one slips through.
So tonight before you retire
Pause and gaze at the heavens above
Whisper to yourself while imagining
Peace on earth, can it be?
Will it be?
Let it be.
And maybe one day, just maybe
It becomes that very special one
That slips through.

Wishing all of our Advertisers & Readers



From The Staff At
The South Amboy/Sayreville Times



"Stay Calm, Call Tom"

TOM EHRLICH Esq.

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Participants and sponsors at the Hit the Bricks Run.

Hit The Bricks Run

(Photo/info submitted)

It was a great day to run or walk in the Hit the Bricks Trail Run recently, supporting the Sayreville BIC! Thank you to all of the participants and our sponsors for their support.

Congratulations to our podium finishers!

Female Open

- 1. Morgan Koonce (21:46)
- 2. Sophia Stanley (22:10)
- 3. Kristen Hager (24:08)

Male Open

- 1. Gregory Kuczynski (18:40)
- 2. Mark Parisen (19:31)
- 3. Brian Tyska (22:47)

Congratulations to all runners!

(Photo/Info Submitted)



South Amboy Elks Donation



Lori Synarski from the South Amboy Elks presents a donation check (proceeds from their Veterans Day dinner) to Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62 Commander Joe Szaro. (Photo Submitted)

Advent Begins



Oh, what a fun way to begin Advent! Thanks to Shirley and Ernie Read, The Church of the Sacred Heart Religious Education students and our Church of the Sacred Heart Youth Group braved the cold weather to decorate the Christmas tree. Next to the huge Advent wreath in the rectory yard. Over 100 children sang carols and warmed up with hot chocolate. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas here at Sacred Heart. Joy to the world!!! (Photo/Info Submitted)

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Christmas '24

By Tom Burkard

It's hard to believe
It's Christmas '24
The tree is up
The wreath is on the door
The family is here
There's love all around
Just look out the window and
See snow falling on the ground
It's Christmas '24
It seems everyone is happy
Who could ask for more
Sharing memories of Christmas long ago
The great times past
Where did they go
Remembering our loved ones
Who passed away
We'll think of them
On Christmas Day
The baby Jesus arrives
He's with us all the way
Always watching us
Especially on Christmas Day
It's Christmas '24
Where love is all around
Who could ask for more.

Remembering Pearl Harbor

(Photos by Brian Stratton)



American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post #62 held it's annual memorial service on December 7, 2024 the 83rd anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor. Post Commander Joe Szaro (l) holds the memorial wreath while Post Chaplain Jan Williams (r) reads the opening prayer.



There was a great turnout for the Memorial Service.



St. Stan's School

(Photos Submitted)

The whole school came together to celebrate the First Friday in December. This marked an important milestone for our 8th Graders as they received their class rings, a symbol of commitment and dedication to our school.



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Sayreville's Parade Of Lights (Photos Submitted)



Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien (left of microphone) and NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (right of microphone) along with other local dignitaries on the reviewing stand.



St. Stan's Christmas Bazaar (Photos Submitted)



Father John Alvarado says the opening prayer with the help of a St. Stan's student.



There were plenty of gifts and beautiful decorations on display.



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19⁹⁹
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OFF**

On Holiday Decorations

South Amboy Annual Tree Lighting

(Photos by Brian Stratton)



The beautiful tree shining bright!



Santa making his appearance!



Santa told these two that they were on the Nice list!
(Photo by Samantha Pagan)



The SA Middle/High School chorus did a great job.



Truck #8 took home the trophy.



The Girls Scouts provided the crowd with some yuletide favorites.



Jim Spinosa (r) helped the youngsters with arts and crats at the Art Alliance.

The
SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET
is Here! 9am - 2pm

\$18 ADULTS
Per Person

\$10 Kids 4-11

Kids Under
4 Eat **FREE**

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NO CREDIT CARDS. Taxes
already included in price.

LARGE GROUPS WELCOMED!

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Coffee, Tea & Juices included with Buffet. Come Enjoy our Breakfast, Muffins, Pies, Fresh Fruit Display & More

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OLV Christmas Bazaar

(Photos/info by Jordan Drevelus)



The Bazaar was as crowded as ever, and familiar faces from previous years, as well as new vendors and families filled the event, which left parking at a premium.



One of Sayreville's newest residents, Sofia Reo, met Santa for the first time at OLV's Christmas Bazaar.



Central Jersey Medical Center recently hosted their Annual Fundraising Gala. Pictured (l-r) Thomas Hudanish, Barry Rosengarten and Jack O'Leary. (Photo Submitted)

Central Jersey Medical Center Hosts Annual Fundraising Gala

On November 7, 2024 the Central Jersey Medical Center hosted its fundraising gala at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge, NJ.

The annual event selects honorees who have positively impacted the CJMC's Women's Health Initiative that provides critical services such as 3S mammograms, OB/GYN care, behavioral health, and more to the underserved members of the community. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, the CJMC accepts Medicare and Medicaid and accepts most health insurance plans.

This year's honorees include Dr. Wei Chu, Healthcare Hero Award; Lisett Labron, Woman of Leadership Award; Susan and Stanley "Rocky" Kusic, Service Award; and Barry Rosengarten, Lifetime Achievement Award.

The proceeds from the gala will support the Women's Health Initiative along with the Nicholas Hudanish Foundation that raises awareness about opioid addiction and

educational resources for local schools.

Top Sponsors (2024 Prestigious Sponsors): Carteret Business Partnership; United Roosevelt Savings Bank

Visionary Sponsors: Vlasac & Cassidy LLC; Provident Bank

Other Sponsors (on different levels): Henry Schein; LabCorp; Medicare Options; Triton; Diva Cleaning; The Y; Mid Penn Bank; District 19 Legislators; Executive Color; AQ Imaging; Central Jersey Pharmacy;

Notable Attendees: Mayor Dan Reiman (Carteret); Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios; Mayor Helmin J. Caba (Perth Amboy); Mayor Fred Henry (South Amboy); Councilwoman Zusetta Dato (South Amboy); Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez; Sheriff Mildred Scott; Members of the City of Perth Amboy, South Amboy, and Carteret; Central Jersey Medical Center Board of Directors.



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732-376-9333**



City of South Amboy Department of Public Works 2025 Holiday Garbage Pickup Schedule

New Years Day	Wednesday	January 1 st No trash pick up
Martin Luthur King Day	Monday	January 20 th will be picked up January 22 nd
Lincolns Birthday	Wednesday	February 12 th No trash pick up
Presidents Day	Monday	February 17 th will be picked up February 19 th
Good Friday	Friday	April 18 th will be picked up Wednesday April 16 th
Memorial Day	Monday	May 26 th will be picked up Wednesday May 28 th
Independence Day	Friday	July 4 th will be picked up Wednesday July 2 nd
Labor Day	Monday	September 1 st will be picked up Wednesday Sept. 3 rd
Columbus Day	Monday	October 13 th will be picked up Wednesday October 15 th
Election Day	Tuesday	November 4 th will be picked up Wednesday Nov.5 th
Veterans Day	Tuesday	November 11 th will be picked up Wednesday Nov. 12 th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 27 th will be picked up Wednesday Nov. 26 th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	November 28 th will be picked up that day
Christmas	Thursday	December 25 th will be picked up Wednesday Dec. 24 th

2025 Bulk Pickup Schedule

Please Note the following changes:

NO CONSTRUCTION/HAZMAT materials or tires.

ALL BOXSPRING MATTRESSES MUST BE BAGGED OR THEY WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

NO MORE THAN 10 ITEMS

Items must be bundled, bagged or canned.

If your trash pick up is Monday -your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: <div style="text-align: center;"> January 8th March 5th May 7th July 9th September 3rd November 5th </div>	If your trash pick up is Tuesday (*Broadway included) - your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: <div style="text-align: center;"> January 15th March 12th May 14th July 16th September 10th November 12th </div>	If your trash pick up is Thursday -your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: <div style="text-align: center;"> January 22nd March 19th May 21st July 23rd September 17th November 19th </div>	If your trash pick up is Friday -your bulk pick up days are Wednesday: <div style="text-align: center;"> January 29th March 26th May 28th July 30th September 24th November 26th </div>
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**DPW YARD OPEN
TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY 9a -12p**

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER & UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

BULK DROP OFF will be scheduled every 3rd Saturday between 7a-11a

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1994-The Hoffman Lady Governors girls varsity basketball team pictured top row (l-r) Assistant Coach John Bernosky, Mary Skrynka, Hanna Glomska, Kristy Parfianowicz, Renee Serrano, Michelle Petras, Julie Lambert, Coach Bob Dougherty. Middle row (l-r) Beth-Ann Gregoreski, Erin Mulligan, Jessica English, Joy Ingstrup. Bottom row (l-r) Carolynn Schultz, Kristen Henry, Jacklyn Tomaszewski, Amy Felice.

T.H.E. Game

**Sport-Boys Basketball
Year-2007**

Teams-Cardinal McCarrick vs. South River

Recap-The Eagles slugged South River, 92-50. Mike Burwell led the offense with 28 points and ripped 12 rebounds while dishing out 9 assists. Vince Rosario also had a huge game with 23 points, 10 assists and 8 rebounds. In addition, he set an all-time record for the GMC with 256 career 3-pointers. The victory was also a milestone win for Coach Joe Lewis, who notched number 200, raising his record at the time to (200-96).

Player-of-the-Game-Mike Burwell.

City Series Basketball-Eagles vs. Guvs Moments Of Glory

2004-Cardinal McCarrick (17-2) easily defeated the young South Amboy (3-11) squad, 71-42. The Eagles built a 46-15 cushion at halftime, and Blue & Gold Coach Joe Lewis rested his starters, and played the reserves throughout the entire second half. Superstar center Billy Wagner took game scoring laurels with 19 points in only one half of play. Freshman Vincent Rosario tossed in 14, Kevin Olivieri 12. The Guvs were paced by Brian Seres with 11 points and Joe Bartlinski 7.

1999-St. Mary's topped South Amboy, 54-33. Wilson Montero was the high scorer in the game with 22 points for the Eagles. Adam Ropelewski pumped in 15 points and Tom Boychuk 12. The Governors were paced by Matt Martins 17, and Ed Behnen 14 points.

1969-The St. Mary's Eagles blasted the Governors of Hoffman, 76-44 to sweep the City Series. The Krzyzanowski brothers Ted and George paved the way with 20 and 16 points respectively for the Saints. Larry Kurzawa scored 14 and Frank Chonsky pumped in 8 for Hoffman.

C.Y.O. Days

1959-Undefeated Sacred Heart made it 7 wins in a row by hammering St. James of Woodbridge, 60-40. Ed Pietraszka scored 22 points, and Len Blaszk 21 for the Hearts...1964-65-St. Mary's talented 8th Grade team roster consisted of Jim McCloud, Mark Bratus, Brian Kreiger, Gary George, George Beck, Bob Howarth, Mike Powers, Ken Lyon, Marty O'Connor, John Ammon, Doug Sprague, Nick Charmello, Pat Gorman, Ray Downs, Jim Croddick. McCloud was selected MVP in the Trenton Diocese Tournament. Al Zegan was the Head Coach of the team.

St. Mary's 76

Ted Krzyzanowski 20 George Krzyzanowski 16 Mark Bratus 8 Jim McCloud 8 Bob Howarth 6 Jim Day 2 Bob "Rex" Paulukiewicz 2 John Kibbler 2.

Hoffman 44

Larry Kurzawa 14 Frank Chonsky 8 Jerry Disbrow 6 Jimmy Lyons 5 Jim Tingle 4 Ron Croddick 3 Jim Croddick 2 Dan Paone 2.

1929-In the deciding game 3 of the City Series, 95 years ago, St. Mary's prevailed over South Amboy, 35-27. Ed Carroll and Joe McGonigle topped the Blue & Gold with 9 points each, while South Amboy's Ansel Morris took game scoring honors with 10.

St. Mary's 35

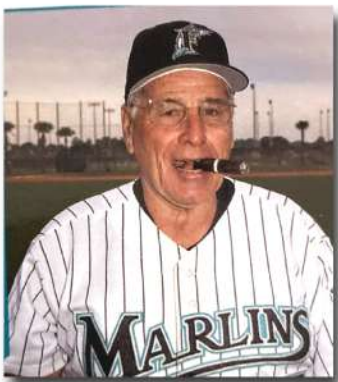
Carroll 9 McGonigle 9 Johnny Grimes 7 Walling 6 Lou Lagoda 4.

South Amboy 27

Morris 10 Eugene "Jimmy" Dobrzynski 6 Fox 4 Bill Kurtz 2 Fred Reese 2 Adams 2 Milt Newmark 1.

Boxscore

Happy Birthday Wishes To South Amboy's Great Major Leaguers



**Jack McKeon
November 23**



**Johnny O'Brien
December 11**

From:
**Tom Burkard, Publisher
Brian Stratton, Associate Publisher
The SA Times Staff**

Glory Days In Local Sports

2018-In CJ Group 5 quarterfinals play, the Sayreville football powerhouse hammered Hillsborough, 42-7. Connor Holmes broke loose for 3 touchdowns, and Savon Kirksey added another to lead the way. Quarterback Mark Whitfield fired 2 touchdown passes...2007-Piscataway boys basketball team topped Cardinal McCarrick, 59-50 to capture the GMCT title. Mike Burwell pumped in 16 points including his 1,000th career point, and Vince Rosario tossed in 14 points, 10 in the first quarter to capture the MVP award for the tourney. The Eagles finished (19-7) for the season...1996-South Amboy girls basketball team won the consolation in the South Amboy Tourney, beating Sayreville, 47-34. Freshman Kim Peterson topped the scoring with 12 points,

25 Years Ago

1999-St. Mary's (17-5) girls basketball team downed South Amboy (17-3) by a score of 65-56 in the second round of the GMCT. The Saints were led by Kaitlyn Katko with 16 points, Jacqui DuBois 14, and Heather Baumlin with 13. Kim Peterson topped the Lady Guvs with 19, and Kristen English scored 14.

30 Years Ago

1993-94-Local high school basketball players selected to the GMC All-Division Teams were: Boys-Red Division-Chris Sola, Sayreville; Gold Division-John Kugel, St. Mary's; Girls-Gold-Shannon Kemble, Trish O'Toole, St. Mary's.

35 Years Ago Hoffman Wins Fifth Straight Title

1989-The Hoffman Lady Guvs, under the brilliant coaching of Reggie Carney captured an unprecedented fifth consecutive Group 1 state championship, as they defeated a powerful University of Newark squad, 52-44. Renee Bialblocki, who was chosen the game's MVP, connected on some clutch shooting, as she fired in 4 of 6, 3-point attempts, and scored 16 points for the Purple and Gold. Jennifer Kuziemski took game scoring honors with 19 points. Hoffman finished with a (27-5) record, while University ended at (25-3).

50 Years Ago

1974-South Amboy Recreation had an official Men's Touch Football League for the second and final season. The 6 teams that competed were; Lions Den, The Presidents, The Bombers, The Mystic Knights, Mechanicsville A.C., Frank's Cafe.

Eagles First Football Game

1998-The St. Mary's Eagles football team under Head Coach Jim Kazanjian, played their first varsity football game in 66 years, and bowed to a strong Monroe squad, 41-0...The Saints went on to score for the first time since 1932, when John Matousek booted a 34-yard field goal in a 47-3 shellacking by Metuchen, in the second game of the season.

Remember When?

2006-Cardinal McCarrick pounded Piscataway, 71-59 in boys basketball. Vincente Rosario missed the school's single game record by one point, as he fired in 49 to lead the Eagles. He connected on an amazing 24 free throws to set another St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick single game mark. Mike Costello chipped in with 7 points.

Hoffman Girls Won 3 GMCT Titles

The Hoffman girls basketball team captured 3 consecutive GMCT basketball championships from 1986 to 1988 under legendary Head Coach Reggie Carney. In '86 the Lady Guvs topped Bishop Ahr 55-52 for the crown. They blasted Ahr in '87 by a score of 73-46, and in '88, beat St. Peter's, 45-38. Hoffman made it to the final in '89, but fell to a powerful Kristen Somogyi led St. Peter's, 70-56.

and Hanna Glomska added 11...1983-The Sayreville wrestling team had their first winning season in history, finishing (10-5-1) under Coach Len Zaleski, Tony Viola won a District championship. Other fine wrestlers who finished 1st in the Woodbridge Invitational Tournament were Ed Mahalick and Matt Pachkowski...1975-In Game #1 of City Series action, St. Mary's halte Hoffman, 65-55. The Eagles were led by John Miller with 18 points, John Conlon 10, and Joe Kolakowski hauled down 21 rebounds. Joe "Moose" McCarthy scored 15 and George Bongiorno 14 for the Guvs...1963-Sayreville boys basketball team pounded Metuchen, 66-46. Jeff Osowski and Bob Pawelek scored 18 points apiece, and Steve Gozora added 10.

95 Years Ago

1929-Carteret's football powerhouse annihilated South Amboy, 53-0. Joe "Ducky" Medwick, who went on to baseball superstardom and the Hall of Fame, ran wild, with 2 touchdowns and 5 extra points for 17 points. Some familiar names in the SA lineup were: LE Bill Colucci LT Joe Beshada LG Stanley Steiner C Bob Welden RG Fernandez RT Fred Reese RE Howard Lambertson QB Manuel Applegate LHB Tunis Johnson RHB Red Olsen.

60 Years Ago

1963-Evening News All County Boys Basketball selections: 1st Team-Jack Kreiger-St. Mary's (SM), John Lange-Hoffman; 2nd Team-Tom Farrell, (SM); 3rd Team-Ken Wahler-Hoffman; Honorable Mention-Jay Derent-(SM), Manny Formoso, Jerry Drill-Hoffman.

50 Years Ago

1973-74-The South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball League featured 12 teams, and all of the games were played at the Hoffman HS gym on George St. The teams and their won-lost records for the regular season: Bottle Stop (11-0), Lions Den (10-1), The Pilots (8-3), The Bowery (7-4), Bay City Liquors (7-4), The Playboys (7-4), Frank's Cafe (6-5), South Amboy AA (3-8), The Halfway House (3-8), Mechanicsville A.C. (2-9), Hot Dog City (2-9), Bulman's Shell (0-11).

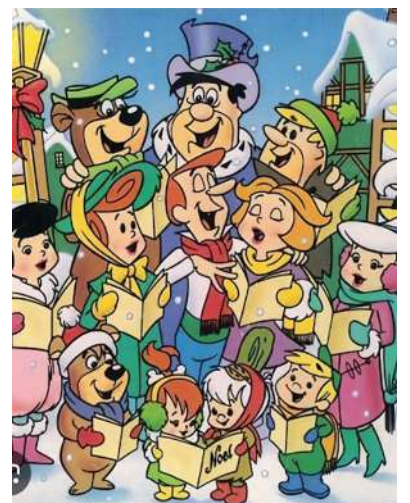
95 Years Ago

1929-St. Mary's boys basketball team jolted St. James, 37-18. Ed Carroll poured in 18 points, and Joe McGonigle 11.

Flashback 1980 Ryan Captures State Title

June 4, 1980-Sayreville Bombers javelin star, Mark Ryan captured the state championship with an incredible toss of 234-5 in the preliminaries that sailed clear out of the retaining area in the middle of the field and over the rope that was supposed to be the outer reaches of the javelin toss. It was more than enough to capture the crown, and at the time was the 4th best in New Jersey schoolboy history.

Ryan became Sayreville's second javelin champion in 2 years for Coach Bill Scarola's talented track & field squad. In '78, Ken Drwal took the title, with his best toss in high school of 212-7.



"We Wish You A Merry Christmas"

School Sports

Sayreville Girls Volleyball

By Darryl Martincavage

Sayreville HS just completed their first girls volleyball season with an impressive (10-4) in the GMC Blue Division, and (11-8) overall. In the 1st round of the GMC, the Bombers stopped St. Thomas Aquinas, 2-0. Kailyn Koonce had a huge game with 7 kills and 3 blocks. Angely Sanchez contributed 4 assists. Sayreville fell to Monroe in round 2, by a 2-0 score. In NJSIAA Group 4 Central Jersey, the locals were seeded #8 and hosted Edison, but bowed in the 1st round, 2-0.

2024 Team Leaders

Kills-Kailyn Koonce 111, Skye Hunter 69, Weronika Glazewski 56, Natalia Glazewski 34; Assists-Celine Agustin 122, Angely Sanchez 93.

The Sayreville JV girls volleyball team had an outstanding campaign, going undefeated...The boys varsity volleyball team will debut this coming spring.

Congratulations to Sayreville girls volleyball Head Coach Amanda Moken on being awarded the Blue Division Volleyball "Coach of the Year."



Ava Mason

Sayreville Girl Stars For Rutgers Prep

Ava Mason of Sayreville turned in a fine season playing for the undefeated Rutgers Prep (23-0) girls soccer team. Only a junior, she was a starting defender, and still notched 3 goals and 3 assists for the Prepsters powerhouse that captured county, prep and state championships, in addition to being ranked #1 in the nation. It was the third straight NJ state title team that Ava played for.

The talented soccer player will travel and compete in the Women's World Cup qualifiers for representing the U20 Dominican Republic U20 National team in February. Congratulations Ava, and best of luck!

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 -M.L, L.F, C.E.

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Remember When?



1961-Ron Kukulski, Sports Editor for the South Amboy Citizen presents St. Mary's Captain, Jim Heffernan with the City Series championship trophy. Pictured (l-r) in this classic photo are Joe Jankowski, Heffernan, Hoffman Coach Jim Croddick, Kukulski, Joe Martin, St. Mary's Coach Luke Lenahan, and Father Russell of St. Mary's Parish.

A Simple Christmas Prayer

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 2012

A babe was born on
Christmas Day
To save us from our sins
All we have to do is believe
And everybody wins!
Merry Christmas,
Christ is with us
And everybody wins

Seasons Greetings from the City of South Amboy

FRED A. HENRY
Mayor

MICHAEL GROSS
Council President

ANTHONY CONRAD
Councilman-At-Large

ZUSETTE DATO
Councilwoman

THOMAS REILLY
Councilman

BRIAN McLAUGHLIN
Councilman

DEBORAH BROOKS
City Clerk

DAVID S. KALES
Business Administrator

DANIEL BALKA
Finance Director

JOSEPH MATARANGOLO
Chief of Police

FRANCIS M. WOMACK
Law Director

KELLY WOLFF
Municipal Court Administrator

TIMOTHY GAY
Fire Chief

LEONARD MOFFA
Public Works Superintendent

JOANNE KATKO
Tax Collector

ELAINE GABER
Library Director



Walk to Bethlehem



The local churches of South Amboy, with attendees from other churches in Old Bridge and Sayreville, undertook their annual Walk to Bethlehem. This event, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is a yearly citywide walk that visits a number of churches that had activities for young and old alike to celebrate the coming of Christmas. From the roaring organ at Christ Church to the children's choir at Saint Marys and the Columbiette Schola at Sacred Heart, attendees sang their hearts out in anticipation. Each minister or a designee gave a heartfelt ecumenical talk. This event was, and will continue to be, free to all as it has been since its inception. The Knights of Columbus invite all to attend again next year! (Photo/Info by Jordan R. Drevelus)

Matawan Turkey Trot 2024



Former Morgan resident/St. Mary's '69 graduate "Pistol" Pete McIntyre (r) along with his wife Joan (l) and Pete's cousin Patrick O'Connell, formerly of South Amboy, are pictured at the Matawan Turkey Trot 2024 race. The weather was pretty chilly, about 30 degrees, but over 800 runners participated. Patrick finished at #602, "Pistol" #603, and Joan #604. Joan was 1st place in her age group and Pete finished 4th in his age group. (Photo/info submitted)

The Story of the South Amboy Lighthouse Bay Holiday Crawl

Today in a world that can feel divided, lives a beautiful community tradition of celebrating the holidays together.

Started by Dawn Massamillo in 2022. This tradition is about bringing people together, embracing all cultures and sharing holiday food and celebratory traditions as a community. Families "crawl" from house to house and experience a tasty treat and holiday cheer at their neighbor's home. It is a tradition that opens doors, opens hearts and minds.

To date, the Holiday Tree Crawl includes more than 15 cultures already participating - Chinese, German, Lebanese, Israeli, Argentinian, Puerto Rican, Russian, Ukrainian, Greek, Swiss, Indian, Grenadian, Polish and more.

The traditions that are shared are very

individual but the joy it brings is universal. Sharing their homes, their tables and building community unity.

The Crawl lit a spark in Dawn's 8th grade grand-daughter Marie who was inspired by this event and thought it would be even more special if it became a tradition of giving back to the community as well.

Partnering with the SA First Presbyterian Church & Food Pantry, Marie is following in Dawn's footsteps and bringing a little lighthouse light to families in the community in need. To contribute, checks can be dropped off at 1 Lighthouse Drive or picked up by a committee member.

Email Dawn or Marie at dmassi504@gmail.com for Zelle or Venmo. (Story submitted)



Jesse Bender (r) with South Amboy Boy Scout Troop 91, doing his Eagle Scout Project at Sayreville's Kennedy Park on 11/15/2024 with the help from some scouts and leaders. They put together 2 event bulletin boards. Congratulations! (Photo/Info Submitted)



*Merry Christmas from
South Amboy American Legion
Luke A. Lovely Post #62*



At this time of the year when we are safely at home spending time with our families let us remember those who do not have that luxury since they are away fighting to keep America safe. Even with the letters, care packages and the occasional phone call that our men and women in the Armed Forces receive they will be especially lonely and will miss their families more now than at any other time of the year. Please keep them and their families in your hearts and prayers during this holiday season! If you know of a family that will be celebrating without a loved one please reach out to them to see if there is anything that you can do to help make their Christmas brighter. In order to show your appreciation to the Veterans at home shake their hand and thank them for serving this great Country that we live in when you see them on the street or while out shopping.



From The Times Archives
SANTA'S STORY

By Elaine Holton Scott

Say "Saint Nicholas" fast, and you'll hear "Santa Claus," the name of America's favorite Holiday visitor. Historically beloved by children of all ages, what do we really know about this iconic symbol of Christmas? Is he a saint, legend, folklore hero, myth, or all of those things? To find the answers, we have to go back to where Santa's story began, to a place on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. Around 17 hundred years ago in the Greek governed village of Patara, a baby boy, named Nicholas, was born to very wealthy Christian parents. Orphaned at an early age, Nicholas would later give away his entire inheritance to help the poor before he entered the priesthood. Eventually, he became Bishop of Myra, thereupon, donning the red garments and red mitre hat of his elevated rank within the Catholic Church. As was the custom, Nicholas also grew a full beard, one which would whiten with the passing years. Known for his piety and benevolence while alive, it wasn't until after Nicholas died on December 6th, in the year 343, did his fame spread. When more and more miracles were attributed to him, people began calling Nicholas a Saint, "canonizing" him by popular opinion. Through time, Saint Nicholas became Patron Saint of many varied occupations, but will always be best remembered as the Patron and Protector of Children. From an unwavering devotion to "old Saint Nick," a custom started many centuries ago, one which continues to this day, mainly in the Netherlands, Germany, and Central Europe. On the night of December 5th, the eve of his Feast Day, children put their shoes by the front doors of their homes. As the legend goes, Saint Nicholas comes on that night, walking from door to door carrying a big bag filled with little presents. He also carries a list of all children. Good children always find tiny gifts inside their shoes when they awaken the next morning, while the shoes of bad children remain empty. When Dutch and German settlers came here

to the New World, they had brought their old customs with them, including the one of their beloved St. Nicholas. Proving, "the power of the pen," the "morphing" of the European, religious Saint into a non-secular American Santa Claus would begin in 1821 with the publication of an anonymously written book, "The Children's Friend." In this first lithographed book ever published in America, Saint Nicholas was referred to as "Santeclaus," and said to arrive each year from the North in a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The American author, Clement Clarke Moore, expanded on this new identity of Saint Nicholas in his classic poem, "The Night before Christmas, published on Dec. 23, 1823." In it, gone were the Bishop's robes and mitre hat. Gone, too, were his somber countenance and tall, slender figure. Saint Nicholas was now transformed into a jolly, "roly poly" grandfatherly fellow. Dressed in a red suit and fur-trimmed red cap, each year on the night of December 24th, he'd come on a sleigh pulled by reindeer, bringing gifts for all good children. Another chapter in the story of our newly Americanized Santa had begun. As Clement Clarke Moore wrote 192 years ago..."Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night"!!

A Gift Card For Christmas

c. 2010

If you're Christmas shopping
 And don't know what to get
 Give a gift card It's the easiest thing yet
 Christmas shopping is not so hard
 When you buy friends and loved ones
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Fishing Flashes
 By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water
 The big news is Striped Bass. Party boats are doing a number on these fish. Jigs and poppers are catching most of them. Surf fishermen from Monmouth Beach to LBI are also doing quite well. With the cold weather, Spiny Dogfish are moving in giving bait fishermen problems, however, in Raritan Bay it's a different story. I checked local beaches from South Amboy to Keansburg. Some nights only a few people are out and other nights quite a few people are fishing. Everyone I spoke to didn't get any bites, let alone a few fish or two. I saw no one with any fish. Fishing in the bay is very slow, but that should change by the end of the month when Strippers move in, to winter over, with the coming of cold weather. Pete at the Atlantic Bait and Tackle gave me the same info as it's slow all over. Blackfish are being caught at Barnegat Light rocks and on party boats along with Porgies, Seabass and Ling.

Fresh Water
 Low water is the biggest problem statewide at this time. My wife and I went up to the Pequest River and found that situation in the spots where we usually fish. I did find a spot with some water in it. I hooked and lost a nice Rainbow Trout about 16 inches and missed another one, otherwise we didn't do anything. Winter Trout stocking will take place at Spring Lake. Fishing there may be worth a try. Cold weather and drought conditions will slow up fishing in lakes and rivers.

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Dennis Poulson of South Amboy caught this gigantic Rainbow Trout on November 27th at Lake Topanemus in Freehold. Congratulations on your great catch, Dennis! (Photo/info submitted)

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Prayer to St. Jude
 Saint Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of impossible causes, walk through my house and take away my worries and any illnesses. Please watch over and heal my family & friends, in the Name of Jesus. Amen. S.S., S.P., M.S., P.S..

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
 Oholy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from heave and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. - B.S., P.S. S.S.

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Christmas Eve Prayer
 Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Christmas Prayer
 Lord, we give you all the praise for this significant season where we celebrate your birth. We thank you as we reflect on your joy, peace and grace. May you give us wisdom and the opportunity to give back this Christmas and be a blessing to each other Amen. .



Ann Daly Wallace
 February 3, 1949 – December 8, 2023
 Nancy, Kentucky

It is with great sadness the family of Ann Wallace announce her passing on the 8th of December 2023. She will be missed and loved by all. She was preceded in death by her loving husband William (Billy) Wallace and her parents Francis and Joan Daly. She is survived and loved dearly by her daughter Sarah Tirpak and sons Jeremy and Jonathan Tirpak, her stepchildren Mark and Monica Wallace and grandchildren Madylen and Daniel Tirpak.

Ann was born in South Amboy, NJ and grew up there, graduating from St. Mary's High School in 1967. She attended Nazareth College in Louisville, KY. This is where her deep love of this state grew, one that would bring her back in retirement and ultimately be laid to rest. Ann majored in Speech Therapy and English, then would later attend Stetson University in Florida for her masters. She was employed by Bell Atlantic and then Fujitsu.

After school Ann would return to NJ, get married and start her family. After her divorce she met the love of her life, Bill, and relocated to Cary, NC and they were married in 1994. They enjoyed the water and sunshine at Bill's condo on the coast and she began to take an interest in cooking.

After retirement they moved to Nancy, KY where they purchased their dream house on Lake Cumberland. They split their time between their home in Nancy and their winter home in Boynton Beach, FL. They loved to travel nationally and internationally until 2018 when they took their last trip with the family to Ireland, a place where her family was from.

In 2021 Ann and Bill moved to Florida and settled into a care facility where she would spend the last years of her life. In November of 2023 Bill passed away and Ann soon peacefully followed, surrounded by her children. She will forever be missed by her family and friends.

A small celebration of Ann and William was held with immediate family in Nancy, KY earlier this year. Her family asks a donation in Ann's name be made to the American Diabetes Association which was an organization close to her heart.



Who is it?
 By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

Do you recognize this Santa? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 13th.

Who Is It?
 Last month's mystery man was Robert "Bob" Norman Ross (October 29, 1942 – July 4, 1995) an American painter and art instructor who created and hosted The Joy of Painting, an instructional television program that aired from 1983 to 1994 on PBS in the United States, CBC in Canada, and similar channels in Latin America, Europe and elsewhere.

The following knew it was him: Edna Pilch, John & JoAnn French, Betty Leveille, Pat Scully, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Mark Moniello, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Walter Starzec Jr.

November Who is it?
Robert "Bob" Norman Ross

WWW.?

Do you recognize this local business? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by January 13th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

November Winners
 Last month's WWW.? was St. Mary's Jim & Debbie Sissick, Lynn Loy, Mary HS, Cardinal McCarrick HS and currently Agnes Morris, Lisa Grankowski, Steve home to Acelero Learning Center, South Laskiewicz, Barb Bockus, Marlene Amboy. Winners were Phyllis Nappi, Letwenski, Dane Colburn, Walter Starzec Sandy Owsik, Dan Owens, Edna Pilch, Jr, Pete Mcintyre, Ed English. Sonia Iglesias, Marybeth Chodkiewicz, Betty Leveille, Pat Scully, Don Zrebiec, School.

The SA Times offers complete obituaries (with or without a photo), of your loved ones provided by you or the funeral parlor to The SA Times.

Prices vary depending on the size required. A one-line listing of any local, recently deceased is offered FREE of charge.



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In Memoriam

Michael Samuel, 62, of Sayreville died on Nov. 10. He was a St. Stan's Carnival Chairman, and also known as the "Voice of the Carnival" for years. Edward Condிரacci Sr., 84, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 10. He was President of the South Amboy Lions Club, and had a passion for coaching. He & League, and Sacred Heart Intramural basketball, and also was an Advisor for Sacred Heart CYO. Marie Hammer, 95, of Parlin died on Nov. 15. She was a Bookkeeper for Chas. Komar & Sons in South Amboy for 10 years. Ann Mulvey, 94 of South Amboy died on Nov. 16. She taught for over 50 years at St. James School in Woodbridge, and St. Stephen's School in Perth Amboy. Ann was a very kind-hearted and caring lady, who was a founding member of the Caring Listeners, a reading group for preschoolers. Patricia "Pat" Scully, 82, of South Amboy died on Nov. 30. She was a fine lady, and one of the most avid readers of The SA Times. She especially enjoyed competing in the WWW.? contest, as well as all of the other fun challenges in each month's edition. Robert Piskorski, 88, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 10. He retired as a Captain with the Middlesex County Police Dept.

Pat Malik



By Earl Krause - Area Auto Racing News

Woodbridge, NJ – Pat Malik, a beloved racing wife and mom, passed away on November 10 at age 82 after an extended illness. Mrs. Malik was a long-time resident of Woodbridge.

Pat and her husband John co-owned the No. 19m TQ Midget race team that competed for many years on the Winter Indoor Racing Series; at Wall Stadium's Turkey Derby and in selected events with the American Three-Quarter Midget Racing Association (ATQMRA). Their son Ed Malik is a staff photographer at Wall and with Area Auto Racing News.

Drivers of the Malik TQ Midget included Chris Allen Jr., Russ Bailey, George Chevalier, Stef Palmi, Billy Pauch Jr., Frank Polimeda, Marc Rogers and Luke Marzano.

At the Indoor Races, Pat coordinated all food and social activities at the team's enclosed trailer as operator of what came to be known as "Malik's Country Kitchen." There, Pat welcomed racers and media to stop in for a hot cup of coffee, cold water, a snack and overall friendship.

"Pat was truly the 'chief cook and bottle washer' for our team," said her husband John. "She would prepare for the (Indoor Series) events way in advance, to make sure that our team members and 'racing guests' who stopped by would be taken care of during the race weekend. It was a lot of work, but something she enjoyed." Pat and John also hosted their "Country Kitchen" at the former Old Bridge Speedway Reunion at the township museum. Always a fan of the sport, Pat attended NASCAR and IndyCar events with John at Pocono Raceway; and was "Commissioner" for the weekly NASCAR race pool held for family and friends. Pat and John were also season ticket holders for the Army football games at West Point.

Pat Malik is survived by her husband John; daughter Sharon Behr; son Ed; and grandchildren Alyssa and Tristan.

Donations in memory of Pat Malik may be made to the Woodbridge Animal Shelter, or a township shelter of the person's choice.

Obituaries

Andreski, Dorothy, 92, formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville died on Nov. 29.
 Boehm, Katherine Fritz, 94, of Sayreville died on Nov. 16.
 Burdak, Rose C. Olszewski, 99, of Sayreville died on Nov. 24.,
 Carroll, Jeanne A., 68, of South Amboy died on Nov. 14.
 Condiracci, Edward C. Sr., 84, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 10.
 Finnegan, Elizabeth A., 81, of Sayreville died on Nov. 20.
 Flanagan, Mary E., 76, formerly of South Amboy, died on Nov. 28.
 Furrevig, Mark J., 71, of Sayreville died on Dec. 3.
 Grodzki, Louise E. Ziemba, 94, of Sayreville died on Nov. 29.
 Hammer, Marie, 95, of Parlin died on Nov. 15.
 Kotula, Pamela A., 62, of Sayreville died on Nov. 12.
 Loughman, Francis "Frank" J., 92, of Sayreville died on Nov. 13.

Malik, Pat, 82, formerly of South Amboy died on Nov. 10.
 Mulvey, Ann, 94, of South Amboy died on Nov. 16.
 Murphy, Joan A. Duggan, 91, of South Amboy died on Nov. 20.
 O'Neill, Lisa M. Halmo, 41, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 20.
 Penn, Robert C. "Bob," 82, of Parlin died on Nov. 14.
 Piskorski, Robert, 88, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 10.
 Samuel, Michael J., 62, of Sayreville died on Nov. 10.
 Scully, Patricia L. Munn, 82, of South Amboy died on Nov. 30.
 Slanski, Paul, 66, of Sayreville died on Nov. 26.
 Solasky, Christine C. Cross, 92, of South Amboy died on Nov. 23.
 Zielinski, Marilyn Turner, 64, of Sayreville died on Dec. 7.

Ann Mulvey



Ann Mulvey, 94, of South Amboy, passed away on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at her home. Born and raised in South Amboy, Ann lived her entire life in the community she loved. She was a devoted member of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church in South Amboy. A dedicated educator, Ann spent over 50 years teaching at St. James School in Woodbridge and St. Stephen's School in Perth Amboy, shaping the lives of countless students. In addition to her teaching career, she was a founding member of Caring Listeners, a reading group for preschoolers, which reflected her deep commitment to early childhood education. Ann's greatest legacy, however, was her family. She was a loving and devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend to all who knew her. Ann's kindness, wisdom, and warmth touched the lives of so many, and she will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and former students. Ann was predeceased by her beloved husband of 72 years, John "Jack" Mulvey in 2021, and her siblings, Ruth Loniewski and

James Ballo. She is survived by her children, Susan Heimall and her fiancé Mark Felice, and Tom Mulvey and his wife Carole; her grandchildren, Lauren Stolte and her husband Ryan Villig, Mark Stolte and his fiancée Lynnette Aucone, Kevin Mulvey and his wife Athena, and Dr. Erin Mulvey and her husband Len D'Andrea; her great-grandchildren, Jack and Max Mulvey, Maverick Stolte, and Margot D'Andrea; as well as her nieces, nephews, and cousins. Ann's memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate to know her. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy First Aid Squad, PO Box 328, South Amboy, NJ 08879 or St Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org. Letters of condolence, directions, and completed arrangements can be found by visiting <http://www.spezzifuneralhome.com>. The family would like to thank the South Amboy First Aid Squad for their service. Also a thank you to Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home for their heartfelt care at a difficult time.

Patricia Lee Munn Scully

Patricia Lee Munn Scully, 82, of South Amboy died on Saturday November 30, 2024 at home. Born in South Amboy she lived there all her life. Before retiring she was employed by the Sayreville Board of Education as a bus driver. She enjoyed crocheting and doing puzzles. Daughter of the late Curtis and Dorothy Coddington Munn she is also predeceased by her loving husband of 62 years William J. Scully in 2022 and her grandchildren Cheryl Lynn Henke, Lawrence William Henke, III and William Patrick Scully.

She is survived by her children Barbara McKeon, William Scully, James Scully and Kelly Foldi; her grandchildren Melissa, Beth, William, Jr., Joseph, Krystal and Ed and 19 great-grandchildren. Interment in Christ Church Cemetery, South Amboy was private under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy First Aid Squad.

Mary E. Flanagan



It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Mary E. Flanagan on 11/28/2024 at the age of 76, in Duke Hospital in Durham, NC. Marybeth was born in South Amboy, NJ on 8/7/1948 to Joe and Marie Vigilante. She was the older sister to Donna and Joseph. Marybeth dedicated her life to others. She was a stay at home mother to her daughter, Amy, and later in life cared for the sick and elderly. As a caregiver she was a beacon of light, laughter and hope for those she looked after as well as their families. She gave of herself unconditionally and will be remembered for her fabulous sense of fashion, her wit and humor as well as the kindness and

compassion she offered to whomever she met. She is predeceased by her parents Joe and Marie Vigilante, her beloved brother Joseph Vigilante and his wife Kathleen. Marybeth is survived by her husband of 54 years, Paul; daughter, Amy Passo of Apex, wife to Andrew and her "Grands", Samuel and Victoria; her sister, Donna Vigilante of Manchester, NJ; her mother's sister, Patricia Burke of South Amboy, NJ and all of her beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. Visitation was held on December 10th at St. Stephen the First Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Sanford, NC.

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



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"Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones."

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Fathers & Sons Who Played Varsity At Local High Schools

By Tom Burkard

Through the years, many fathers and their sons have played varsity sports at the local South Amboy and Sayreville high schools: St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick; South Amboy/Hoffman; Sayreville. In some cases the father/son played at different South Amboy or Sayreville schools. If the son played varsity sports out of the local area, he will not be listed here. The father/son had to be in either South Amboy or Sayreville High Schools.

Chances are that we've missed some father/sons, unintentionally of course, so if you know of any others, we would love to hear from you, and will update next month. Please let us know at: satimes@aol.com.

The following is a list of many fathers and sons and the schools they played varsity sports for:

Joe Blaha (Hoffman), Joe Blaha, Matt Blaha, Dan Blaha (St. Mary's); Tom Boychuk, (St. Mary's), Tom Boychuck (Cardinal McCarrick); Dennis Bratus, Chris Bratus (St. Mary's); Frank "Hank" Bulman, Bill Bulman (St. Mary's); Frank Burkard, Joe Burkard, Tom Burkard (St. Mary's); Reggie Carney Sr. (St. Mary's), Reggie Carney Jr. (Sayreville); Joe Charmello, Nick Charmello (St. Mary's); Nick Charmello (St. Mary's), Joe Charmello (South Amboy); Frank "Trip" Cheeseman, Dan Cheeseman, Frank Cheeseman (St. Mary's); Frank Chonsky Sr., (St. Mary's), Frank Chonsky Jr. (Hoffman); Allie Clark (St. Mary's), Al "Alfie" Clark (Hoffman); Fran "Frank" Cleary, Mike Cleary (St. Mary's); Henry "Hank" Conroy Sr., Henry "Henny The DJ" Conroy, Ed Conroy (St. Mary's); Jim Croddick Sr., Jim Croddick Jr., Ron Croddick (Hoffman); Joe Crowe Sr., Joe Crowe Jr. (St. Mary's); Nick DeBiase Sr., Nick DeBiase Jr. (Sayreville); Mike DeJoy (St. Mary's), Mike DeJoy (South Amboy); Al Gomolka Sr., Dave Gomolka (St. Mary's); Tony Gonsalves (Hoffman), Tony Gonsalves, Jared Gonsalves (South Amboy); Frank Grimley (Hoffman), Mike Grimley, Pat Grimley (St. Mary's); Fred Henry Sr. (Hoffman), Fred Henry Jr. (St. Mary's); Jim "Bootsie" Inman (South Amboy), Jim Inman, Dave Inman (Hoffman); Jim Inman (Hoffman), Jim Inman, John Inman (St. Mary's); Stan "Sweets" Jankowski Sr., Paul Jankowski (St. Mary's); Bob Kenny Sr. (St. Mary's), Bob Kenny Jr., Paul Kenny (Hoffman); George Krzyzanowski (St. Mary's), Colin Krzyzanowski, Kyle Krzyzanowski (South Amboy); John Kugel, John Kugel (St. Mary's); Rich Kurczeski, Kenny Kurczeski (Sayreville); Bill "Willie" Kurtz Sr. (South Amboy), Bill Kurtz Jr., Fred Kurtz (Hoffman); Bernie Mackiel Sr., Bernie Mackiel Jr. (St. Mary's); Bernie Mackiel Jr. (St. Mary's), Bernie "B.J." Mackiel (Cardinal McCarrick); Steve Makwinski Sr., Steve Makwinski Jr. (Sayreville); Woodrow "Woody" McCarthy (St. Mary's), Mike McCarthy (Hoffman); Phil McCutcheon, Rich McCutcheon (Sayreville); Rich McCutcheon (Sayreville), Ricky McCutcheon (Cardinal McCarrick); Harold McLaughlin, Brian McLaughlin (St. Mary's), Brian McLaughlin (St. Mary's), Steve McLaughlin (South Amboy); John "Jack" McNamara Sr., John McNamara Jr. (St. Mary's); Chet Meinzer Sr. (South Amboy),

Chet Meinzer Jr. (Hoffman); John "Bing" Miller, John Miller (St. Mary's); Bob Munck, Daryl Munck (Hoffman); Rudy Neuman Sr., Rudy Neuman Jr., Randy Neuman (Hoffman); Bob Noble Sr. (St. Mary's), Brian Noble, Paul Noble (Hoffman); Joe Noble Sr., Joe Noble Jr., Mark Noble, Mike Noble (St. Mary's); Frank "Inky" Norek, Frank "Fran" Norek, Jamie Norek (St. Mary's); Jamie Norek (St. Mary's), Chris Norek (Cardinal McCarrick); John Norek, John Norek (St. Mary's), Rich Norek (Hoffman); Tom O'Connell Sr., Tom "Tee" O'Connell Jr. (St. Mary's); Al "Alfie" O'Connor, Ed O'Connor, Sean O'Connor (St. Mary's), Tom O'Connor (Hoffman); Ed O'Connor (St. Mary's); Ed O'Connor (St. Mary's), Luke, Dan, Jack (South Amboy); George Ogborne, Dan Ogborne (Sayreville); Bill "Doc" O'Leary, Tom O'Leary, Billy "Will" O'Leary (St. Mary's); Jack O'Toole, John D. O'Toole (St. Mary's); Ed Paczkowski, Frank Paczkowski (St. Mary's); Terry Popowski, Mike Popowski (Sayreville); Ernie Read Sr., Ernie Read Jr., Gary Read (Hoffman); Mickey Roberts, Mickey Roberts (Sayreville); John Ruszala (St. Mary's), Nick Ruszala (Sayreville); Tom Scully, Tom "Bo" Scully (St. Mary's);

Bob "Zak" Sekerak (St. Mary's), Rob Sekerak (Hoffman); John "Skeets" Skarzynski Sr., John "Skeets" Skarzynski Jr., Tom Skarzynski (Hoffman); Al Smith (St. Mary's), Peter Smith (Hoffman); George Spiecker (St. Mary's), Ken Spiecker, Kevin Spiecker, Scott Spiecker (Sayreville); Doug Sprague Sr. (Sayreville), Doug Sprague Jr. (St. Mary's), Jeff Sprague (St. Mary's); Charlie Steuber, Charlie Steuber Jr. (St. Mary's); Ed Szatkowski (Hoffman), Ed Szatkowski, Dave Szatkowski (South Amboy); Tom Szatkowski (Hoffman), Tom Szatkowski (South Amboy); "Honcie" Thomsen, Russ Thomsen, (Hoffman); Russ Thomsen (Hoffman), Rusty Thomsen (Sayreville); Al Ust, Al Ust (St. Mary's); Hank Walerzak, Warren Walerzak (Sayreville); Joe Wallis Sr., Jim Wallis, Joe Wallis Jr. (St. Mary's); Vince Wisniewski Sr. (Hoffman), Vince Wisniewski Jr., Dave Wisniewski (St. Mary's); John Wojcik Sr., John Wojcik Jr., Jim Wojcik (Sayreville); John Wojcik Jr., John Wojcik (Sayreville); Wally Wood, Dennis Wood, Curt Wood (Hoffman); John Wortley Sr. (Sayreville), John Wortley Jr. (St. Mary's); Ed "Lefty" Zebro, Vince Zebro (St. Mary's); Frank "Box" Zebro (Hoffman), Kevin Zebro (St. Mary's).

Christmas Time

It's Christmas time
So don't feel down
Santa Claus is comin' to town
It's hard to believe
It's the end of the year
Now it's time to spread
Some Christmas cheer.



Toys For Tots Bike Record Set!



Former South Amboy resident Rich Schnyderite once again conducted a very successful Toys For Tots drive collecting over 3,500 toys and 213 bicycles (The largest one man collection in NJ). Rich is very grateful for everyone that donated and also those who helped get the toys and bikes to the Toys For Tots warehouse. Keep up the Great Work Rich! This will make Christmas very special for a lot of children. (Photo Submitted)

Santa Came To Town-On A Fire Truck!

(Photos by Samantha Pagan)



Santa was chauffeured around South Amboy by the Mechanicsville Fire Co. He made a stop to see this very excited group of youngsters!



Big cousin Ryder (l) helps Isabella (r) open a gift that she received from her first visit with Santa.



We would love to hear from you!



or



or



Santa says "shhh" as to not wake the sleeping children.



This original 1910 postcard is almost 125 years old, and wishes everyone "A Happy New Year."

Brian O'Connor School of Music All Star Band



The Brian O'Connor School of Music All Star Band performed their annual Christmas Rock Show at the Veterans Hospital in Menlo Park on Dec 8th for their 23rd concert at that facility. All the players and singers were in prime form. The band rocked and the Vets and the crowd loved every minute of it. The performers are as follows: (front row) Charlotte Crilley, Brian O'Connor, Jayden Adackapara, Carolina Paredes and Nathan Messenger. (2nd row) Sean Rappleyea, Monica Boehler, Chris Schaaf, Lance Kennedy, Abhiram Godavari, Jake Wells, Jonathan Mocariski and Anuraag Godavari, (3rd row) Matt Boehler and Brandon Motherway. brianoconnormusic.com (Photo/Info Submitted)

Stuck In The Chimney

By Tom Burkard
C. 2014

Where's Santa
He may not show
He's stuck in the chimney
Guess you didn't know
He's gotta get out
Or the kids will pout
Christmas won't be the same without
It just won't be the same this year
But, hey kids have no fear
The fire truck is here
And if that won't work
They'll get a crane.
Yes, it may seem a bit insane
Santa's stuck in the chimney.
Who's gonna bring the gifts
For you and me
Let's get him out
Get Santa Claus free.

The Best Things At Christmas

The three best things
At Christmas time
Are family, friends and memories
They're so important
And mean the world to me
Family, Friends and memories.

Waste Not Want Not

By Robert W. Eginton

The things that we have in life
And we take for granted,
They don't cost even one cent.
But take away the air we breathe
And we'll wonder where it went.
The water we drink, we think
That it will always be there.
But on the day that the rains don't come
Will give us quite a scare.
So waste not, want not
Appreciate the things you have in life
And show a little care.
Don't take for granted
What has been given
So that they can always be there.
Just like the water.
Just like the air.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

Senator Joseph F. Vitale
Speaker Craig J. Coughlin
Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez



May your holidays be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with loved ones.

Paid for by the election funds of Joe Vitale, Craig Coughlin, and Yvonne Lopez



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KHOR VODKA



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**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah,
And Happy New Year
To All Our Patrons!**



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