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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is  
dedicated to  
**\*John Minardi**  
**\*Teresa O'Connor**



**July 28, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 10**



Former Morgan resident and St. Mary's HS Class of '69 member, Al Gomolka, one of the world's biggest collectors, had the dream of a lifetime, when he was featured on "The American Pickers" national TV show, which was on the History Channel, July 9th. See more photos on page 3 and 12

## Gomolka Outstanding On "The American Pickers"

By Tom Burkard

The long-awaited and much-anticipated appearance of former Morgan resident, Al Gomolka on the popular "American Pickers" TV show, became a reality on July 9th at 9 p.m. on The History Channel.

This was the first episode in 27 seasons that was dedicated to baseball cards and comic books, and Al's vast knowledge in both areas was prominent throughout the show.

Gomolka was chosen from all collectors throughout the United States, as the show considered his collections one of the greatest in America. The American Pickers star Mike Wolfe, his assistant Diamond Dave, staff and video crew were at the Gomolka house for 18 hours, and initially, Al thought he would be featured for about 10 minutes on the air, but it was so interesting, that he was on for about 45 minutes of the hour-long program.

His biggest sales on the show were for a 1909 Ty Cobb Tobacco card that the Pickers purchased for \$2,100, and also six Golden Age Comics that also fetched \$2,100! Al

said that "One of the surprising buys was the 1987 vinyl album by The Lincoln Conspiracy band titled "Like A Zombie." He continued saying "That's a real collectors item, which I personally autographed for them." Al, who resembled Abe Lincoln, portrayed the 16th President in the group.

The phone at the Gomolka house never stopped ringing following the show, as family and friends from all over called to congratulate him on his most outstanding TV stint.

Al said, "I considered it a great honor that they came over and appreciated my 70 years of collecting. Mike Wolfe, star of the show said that "they are museum pieces." I would also like to thank everyone who watched, and I appreciate all of the good wishes from everyone."

Note: If you missed this great show, you can see it on youtube.com by typing in: American Pickers Season 27 Episode 2 Recap & Ending Explained.



At the July 16th South Amboy City Council meeting, Mayor Fred Henry made two promotions within the South Amboy Police Department. Sgt. An Wang was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Ptl. Robert Besner to the rank of Sergeant. Both officers have served on the police department since 2014. Pictured (l-r) Sgt. Robert Besner, Mayor Fred Henry, Chief Patricia Kanecke, Lt. An. Wang and Business Administrator David Kales. (Photo/Info by Jamie Norek)

## McKeon Selected To Hall Of Fame

By Tom Burkard

South Amboy native Jack McKeon has been selected to the Miami Marlins Legends Hall of Fame inaugural class. He will be honored in Florida when the Yankees visit the Marlins on August 3rd. In 2003, McKeon managed the Florida Marlins, who defied all odds and captured the World Series Championship over the New York Yankees. For his outstanding leadership, he was selected Manager of the Year, was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated, and was a featured guest on The David Letterman Show, in addition to many other prestigious awards.

Also selected to the Marlins Legends

Hall of Fame were two of his starting players from the '03 champions, Luis Castillo, and Jeff Conine. Jim Leyland who managed the Marlins in '97, was also chosen.

Congratulations Jack on an honor so well deserved! We are also hoping that you get the call from the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown as well.

\*Note: In addition to the countless awards and honors Jack McKeon has received in his career, he is the only manager in pro baseball history to have over 1,000 wins in MLB, and also more than 1,000 in the minor leagues.

## 25th Annual Car Show-Sunday Aug. 3rd

Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1 at 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, will host their 25th Annual Car Show on Sunday, Aug. 3rd with a rain date of Aug. 10th. The spectacular event will take place on Broadway, and admission is FREE to the General Public. Vehicle Registration and lineup will be held on Broadway by the firehouse. Advanced entry fee is \$5 per vehicle, and day of show entry is \$20. Pre-registration deadline is July 31. Be sure to stop by and taste their firehouse burgers! \$2 Domestic Draft Pints at RTB Lounge for all registered participants (over 21 years old) with wrist band. There will also be raffles

& 50/50's; music by Jukebox Jimmy and Rockin Ronster; prizes & giveaways. Awards & Trophies: Sponsor Award Trophies; Chief's Trophy; Fans Choice of Trophies; Mayor's Trophy. There will be blacktop parking, and also no judging of Vehicles. For more information and mail registrations to: Mike Toth, 14 Haven Terr., Parlin, NJ 08859. Call Mike at: 908 930-3497 or Email: IndependenceFD@ SouthAmboyNJ.gov. The Antique & Classic Cars Flea Market is fun for the whole family, so don't miss it! Wanted: Car Vendors only! Early entry fee \$20, Day of show \$25.

## South Amboy Arts Alliance Brings Colorful Summer Theater to Old Bridge

This summer, A Block Off Broadway Productions and the South Amboy Arts Alliance invite audiences to experience a musical journey filled with laughter, heart, and a whole lot of color with their production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

Joseph is a vibrant, fast-paced musical

that tells the story of a dreamer, his famous coat of many colors, and the unforgettable adventures that follow. Featuring a wide range of musical styles—from country to rock 'n' roll to calypso—the show is a family-friendly favorite that has delighted audiences around the world for decades.

*Continued on page 4*

## Knights Honor Steve Schmid At Patriots Baseball Game

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are sponsoring an outing in honor of the late PGK Steve Schmid on Sunday, August 10th, 5:05 game time. Tickets are \$65 per person Include a 90- minute upscale buffet including: Grilled Bourbon Chicken, Sausage & Peppers, Penne Pasta, Baby Baked Potatoes, Garden Salad, self-serve fountain drinks for 7 innings. Seating is in the upstairs canopy covered outdoor SK Club. Bring your kids or grandkids for a great time. For tickets or more information call Gary M. @ 732 742-7919 or 732 721-2025 and leave a message. Tickets are non- refundable.

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**Poet Laureate**  
Albert Gomolka Jr.

## Juneteenth Commemoration At Dowdell Library



The Dowdell Library recently celebrated Juneteenth. Pictured (l-r) Elaine Gaber, Director, Deborah Brown, Dowdell Library Trustee, Maryanne Candelora, librarian. (Photo by Larry Brey)

## Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

### Bender, Oshman Receive Special Awards

The South Amby Elks were invited to Troop 91's 100th Anniversary of their camp in High Bridge, NJ, and at the Camp's Court of Honor, presented Eagle Scouts Jesse Bender and Gavin Keith Oshman with the Elks Eagle Scout special award. Congratulations Jesse and Gavin Keith!

### Jim Abbott An Inspiration

Former Major League Baseball pitcher Jim Abbott was recently featured in a very inspirational TV film on ESPN called

"Southpaw-The Life and Legacy of Jim Abbott." The 90-minute made-for TV documentary showed clips of him growing up, and throughout his professional baseball career, as he learned to thrive in a sport that he loved, despite being born without a right hand. He overcame all odds in addition to controversy and naysayers, to become one of baseball's best pitchers. Abbott also accomplished a rare feat by firing a no-hitter against the Cleveland Indians at Yankee Stadium when he was pitching for the NY Yankees.

### 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.E & K.J..

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- What year was Buchanan Riverfront Park in Sayreville dedicated?  
a.2006 b.2013 c.2020
- In 2019, this former South Amboy resident was the GM of the Bradenton pro baseball team, which played in the Florida State League and was owned by the Pittsburgh Pirates?  
a.Craig Warzecha b.Jamaal Wilson c.Seamus O'Riley
- Commander of Sayreville American Legion Post 211 in 2010?  
a.Edward Strek b.Art Valentino c.Gerald Springer
- Selected South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 Grand Knight in 2019?  
a.Jan Williams b.Mike DeJoy c.Les Wilson
- This Sayreville man ran for Governor of NJ in 2005?  
a.Jeff Pawlowski b.Kennedy O'Brien c.John Wisniewski
- President of the Dowdell Library Foundation in '19'?  
a.Anna Biletnikoff b.Mary Rager c.Shamira Jackson
- Popular Dentist in Morgan in '05?  
a.Dr. Patel b.Dr. Gee c.Dr. Montalvo
- Where in South Amboy was Todd's Dugout located back in 2010?  
a.South Stevens Ave. b.North Broadway c.Main St.
- In 2000, was selected Chairman of the Sayreville GOP?  
a.Kenneth Olchasey b.Edward Rappleyea c.Frank Bella
- South Amboy physician appointed in 2016 as Medical Director of Alameda Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare?  
a.Dr. Harry McKenna b.Dr. Mehta c.Dr. Eli Younes

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



FROM THE DESK OF  
TOM REILLY

What if I told you there was an exclusive club that included some of the world’s finest thinkers, athletes, entrepreneurs, and artists? This exclusive club includes such illustrious names as Neil Armstrong, Steven Spielberg, Gerald Ford, and Percy Sutton. It would appear on the resumes of several Nobel Prize winners, former Supreme Court justices, and CEOs of some of the world’s most profitable companies. The exclusive honor to which I refer is closer to home than most of you may think – I am referencing the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable within the Scouts BSA program of Scouting America. To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, a Scout must prove a significant commitment to service, leadership and skill development. The Scout must earn 21 merit badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and complete an extensive service project. The requirements are rigorous, and can be achieved only through steadfast commitment to the community and to continuous self-improvement.

I am pleased to announce that two local residents, Gavin Oshman of South Amboy and Jesse Bender of Old Bridge, received the rank of Eagle Scout at the Court of Honor on July 13, 2025. My sincerest congratulations go out to both young men on obtaining this prestigious honor. This award is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to South Amboy’s local Boy Scout Troop, and represents each recipient’s devotion to bettering themselves and their community through their commitment to public service. Both recipients have made their communities proud in receiving the penultimate award of their scouting career, and both should know that their efforts have made our community a better place to live. Best of luck to both of them as they continue their careers as proud representatives of their local Boy Scout Troop and communities. As promised, the Broadway Nights live music concert series begins on August 1, 2025, and continues every Friday throughout August. It is a great way to spend a summer Friday night, and I hope



to see everyone there. The schedule is as follows:

- August 1 -- Local Honey (pop and soft rock of the 70s, 80s, and 90s)
- August 8 -- Whiskey Time Machine (rock)
- August 15 -- The Emily Grace Lucas Band (jazz, soul, R&B)
- August 22 -- Almost Average (pop and soft rock of the 70s, 80s, and 90s)
- August 29 -- ForbiddenTropics (Latin/jazz)

One additional note to our residents. Beginning on Friday, August 1, 2025, the City will begin “Automatic Side Load” (ASL) recycling. All residents should have received one 95-gallon recycling cart. Each cart will have a serial number and barcode assigned to each resident. Every property owner and resident will receive an information packet describing the new program. All recycling contents must be placed in the cart. Recyclables that are not in the cart will NOT be collected. Residents are encouraged to review the recycling tab on the South Amboy City website for a list of acceptable items. After August 1, residents either can keep their old recycling bins or place them on the new rolling cart to be recycled. The City recycling schedule is NOT CHANGING. If residents have any questions about the new process, feel free to reach out to the recycling coordinator, Tyler Olivieri, at (732)-727-4600, extension 5973.

I hope all of you enjoy the remainder of the summer. Like so many other things in life, summers seem to move ever more quickly as they reach their end. Enjoy!  
Respectfully

Tom Reilly  
2nd Ward Councilman  
City of South Amboy

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Mike Wolfe (r) star of the American Pickers TV show looks on as former Morgan resident Al Gomolka (c) shows some of his outstanding baseball card collection to Mike's assistant, Diamond Dave, who is a baseball card/comic book specialist.



This vintage photo was shown on “The American Pickers” TV show. Al’s father, Al Sr. owned this 1951 GMC truck for over 50 years.





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## Join us at the 25th Annual Car Show

# Historical Marker Unveiling & Dedication Ceremony

### for Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1

**Sunday, August 3rd | 11am**

\*Rain Date: Sunday, August 11

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Car Show Hosted by Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1

Dedication: Hosted by the Historical Society of South Amboy, in collaboration with the City of South Amboy

## Yearbook-Sayreville 1995

By Tom Burkard

Co-Editor-In-Chiefs of the yearbook were Michelle Romao and Erin Kaplan... Dennis Fyffe was the principal, and some of his outstanding teaching staff included: Cathy McCarthy, Linda Tanchyk, Stewart Cress, Eleanor Schneider, Christine Bill, Gregory Milan, Rosen, Carol Rolewicz. . . The Student Council lined up with president-Christine Scavone; vice-president Dana Feltz; secretary-Jennifer McTiernan; treasurer-Pat Walsh Jr.; executive member Erin Walsh. . .The '94 Fall Drama was "Witness For The Prosecution." Marissa Ferraro was Homecoming Queen. . . School groups, organizations and the presidents of each: D.E.C.A.-Elaina Chapman; French Club-Stephanie San Augstin; Math Club Adrian Murray; Improvisation Troupe-Melissa Skwira and Melinda Kramer; A.S.S.I.S.T.-Vinisha Agnihotri; Film & Video Society-Mike Heidelberg and Damian Bomm. . . Some of the huge graduating class selected randomly include: Susan Batissa, Jessica Brickman, Kelly Buckley, Roderick Chiasson, Anthony Cross, Demetri DeBiase, Rob DeLucia, Jennifer Dusko, Scott Frank, Jill Gawron, Dyana Gorman, Christy Hogan, Daniel Holderman, Robert Hospidor, Sean Jankowski, Soosik Lee, Jessica Leitner, Summer Levine, Danielle Luma, Jamie Lyn Lynch, Brian Maher, Jennifer Malik, Dana Mancini, Kelly Mason, Richard Masterson, Eve Moskowitz, Amy Nita, Brian O'Leary, Erick Pohl, Jennifer Poland, Jason Porcaro, Brad Read, David Sas, Richard Sauer, Jill Shackleton, Kristen Sosulski, Tom Suminski, Keith Wasnak. . The number of senior varsity athletes was overwhelming, and the following are some selected randomly: Patrick Walsh Jr., Joseph Wolski, Laura Zemsky, Bilal King, Nicole Head, Kiran Patel, Karl Sadowski, Paul Warden, Jay Roberts, Jessica Roneree, Tom Schaaf, Kurt Schrek, Kristine Schultz, Brett Scully, Mihir Shah, Purvesh Sheth, Maria Suravalas, Steven Tarr, Tracey Thomsen, Paul Thurston, Donald Unkel, Jaime Kelly, Jill Kelly, Deidre Kolarick, John Kubacz, Amy Kukulya, Robert Kupcha, Eric Kwiecinski, Keith Kwiecinski, Damian Marchesani, Robert Markovitch, Adrian Murray, Joseph Nalewajko, Andre Adams, Beth Alwell, Valerie Bello, Tara Bouchard, Teremiah Brown, Michael Cavalieri, Kevin Cebulski, Debbie Colella, Adam Devlin, Jennifer Drozd, Randy Estok, Lori Fallon, Dana Feltz, Adam Grossman, Robert Grover Jr., Daniel Hartman, Larry Hartman, Mary Huguenin, Gary Jaremba... Sayreville War Memorial HS Class of '95 was truly an amazing group.

## South Amboy Arts Theater

-continued from page 1

This production is another exciting step for ABOB and the SA Arts Alliance as they continue their mission of bringing affordable, high-quality live theater to the local community. With a cast of more than 50 local performers—ranging from young children to adults—Joseph offers a high-energy, colorful experience that's fun for audiences of all ages.

Performances will take place on July 30 and 31 and August 2 at 7:30 PM at St. Thomas the Apostle School Auditorium, located at 333 NJ-18 in Old Bridge.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors and children under 12. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.abobproductions.org](http://www.abobproductions.org) or at the door on performance nights.

For more information about the show and upcoming events from ABOB and the South Amboy Arts Alliance, visit the website or send an email to [abobproductionssa@gmail.com](mailto:abobproductionssa@gmail.com).



## St. Mary's Class Of 1975 50th Reunion Alert

St. Mary's HS class of 1975 will be holding their **50th reunion on Friday, October 10, 2025 at The Shore Club**, located at 700 Rt 71, in Spring Lake, NJ from 6pm to 10pm. The cost per person is \$70. A buffet dinner, with music and a cash bar will be served.

Anyone interested in attending is asked to contact Dario Valdivia at [djdariov@gmail.com](mailto:djdariov@gmail.com). Please provide your name, email address and phone number. If you have access to facebook, you can also join our Classmates of SMHS of 1975 group to get up to date information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## SOUTH AMBOY ELEMENTARY ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR TRIMESTER 3-2024-2025

**FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Jake Almazo-Delgado, AnaSophia Bodkin, Maksym Hevko, Melody Kolbinskie, Julia Philistin, Gianna Pierre, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, Xavier Santos-Ferreira, Ryder Stratton and Mikaela Sundquist.

**FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL:** Josef Alfonso, Genesis Alvarado, Sofia Castro-Tlanipa, Sara Kiesel, John Lawson, Caitlin Lynch, Yaseen Mohamed, Ayleen Peralto-Cruz, Andrew Rosario, Ryder Sepulveda and Nikko Sipsis.

**FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Hussain Abbas, Eliza DeSouza, Avery Dumonseau, Hudson Earl, Seraphina Fenton, Noah Padilla-Aleman, Divya Phillips, Troy Styler, Nazaret Vasquez-Diaz and Saya Yung.

**FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL:** Charles DeLeon, Samantha Dickert, Colin Finton, Katie Garcia-Polanco, Liam Green, Ronald Harvey, Katherine Hill, Yostin Juarez-Gil, Nikita Kolbinskie, Haley Lada-Behrens, Raymond LaMot, Jaxon Lawson, Khloe Lopez-Pena, Antonella Mori-Ramirez, Fin Mulligan, Arien Pierce, Sophia Santos, Sophia Scribner, Camilo Suarez, Matthew Tapia-Torres and Jake Zambrowski.

## Trip to Gavin's Irish Country Inn

The Ancient Order of Hibernians and Knights of Columbus are running a Weekend Road Trip to Gavin's Irish Country Inn, Cornwallville, New York on Friday, September 12, 2025 - Sunday, September 14, 2025. The Cost is \$475.00/p Double-Occupancy; \$575.00 Single-Occupancy. The price includes bus transportation from Our Lady of Victory Knights of Columbus, accommodations for two nights, two breakfasts, one lunch and two dinners, nightly entertainment in their very own Irish Pub. The Inn has a heated outside pool, nature trails, craft making, trivia and an afternoon house party and more. We will be visiting a winery on the way up and other sites. A few seats remain available. Interested parties should contact Joe Campbell @ 646-483-2883 or [jlcsoupy@aol.com](mailto:jlcsoupy@aol.com)

## Annual Hoffman High School Multi-Year Reunion

All alumni of Hoffman HS are invited to join us at our multi-year reunion. This nostalgic event will take place on Sunday, Oct 12th from 1-5pm at the Enterprise Snorkel Co. Fire Station, 107 George St, So. Amboy. The cost is \$60 per person, and tickets MUST be purchased in advance. Unfortunately, no walk-ins will be accommodated, as food/beverages are purchased based on ticket sales. Your ticket includes a delicious buffet, as well as beer, wine, and sangria. Please send your check payable to Bill Croddick, 130 So Stevens Ave., So. Amboy. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sept 30th. Don't miss out on your chance to see old friends! Questions? Contact Helenmae Stader Bilder at ([hbilder1@gmail.com](mailto:hbilder1@gmail.com)) or stop one of the other committee members, Edward Szatkowski, Grace Hoffman Spencer, Kathy Koerner O'Leary, or Roy Dragotta.



## Dowdell Library News

Have some summer fun with Dowdell Library!

Enter to win! Come visit the Dowdell Library this summer and enter to win one of the grand prizes! "Check-in" by taking out materials, using the computer, attending a program, or just stopping by! Adults could win a Round Trip Ticket for the New York Waterway Ferry. Teens and kids could win an Amazon Gift Card.

Get excited! For the Eyes of the Wild live animal programs this summer! On Tuesday, July 22 and August 19 at 2:00 pm! All ages welcome!

Visit the Dowdell Library at South Amboy's National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. The library will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Families! Join Dowdell Library for Celebrity Storytime on Thursday, August 7 with Police Chief Patricia Kanecke at 3:00 pm. Make your own ice cream sundaes!

"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 ZZZs. You're invited! to "Edward's" Bon Voyage party! Join Dowdell on Thursday, August 21 from 6:30-8 pm to say goodbye! Special door prizes and refreshments!

Toddlers! Exciting News! Join Ms. Maryanne for Thursday Toddler Play Dates with extended hours in August from 12:00 to 3:30 pm. Come for games, activities, crafts, and a fun story time. Meet other parents and make new friends!

Kids! Come and have some fun this summer every Wednesday at 1:00 pm. Do a fun craft, play some games, and join the Summer Reading program! Prizes!

Kids, join the Food Explorers on Friday, August 8 at 1:00pm. Registration is required! Call, email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 5-12

Kids and Teens! Don't miss the summer Drop in Club every Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm for Video Games. Ages 11+.

Teens! Bring a friend and make ice cream sundaes every Monday at 2:00 pm. Come solve the Escape Room on Tuesday, August 5 at 2:00 pm. Prizes!

Sign up for the summer Teen Test Kitchen! which takes place on Tuesday, August 12 at 2:00 pm. Registration is required! Call, email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 13+

Adults! Join the summer fun at the

library! Enjoy MIY Rainbow Crisps on Thursday, August 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Drop-in for Trekking the World board game fun on Tuesday, August 12 and Thursday, August 14 from 1:00 to 7:00 pm.

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, August 4 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Come learn about a new technology topic the first Monday of each month.

New! The VIP Senior Library trip will take place on Monday, August 11 at 10:30am. Sign up for a library card and check out what is happening. The city can provide transportation if needed.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, August 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed.

South Amboy Residents! Get free tickets to the Intrepid Museum! Contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org for more information.

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 August 12 and 26 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

The Knitting and Crochet Club meets 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.

New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website which utilizes modern application practices to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store.

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. Connect on social media.

## Netflix Comes To South Amboy



Netflix is filming a movie starring Kevin Hart called "72 Hours" in the alleyway between N. Broadway and Second St. and at the Krauszer's food store. (Photos/info by Jamie Norek)



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"All In"

By Gene (Lopy) Lopez

It's been said, "there's no friend like an old friend." As far as I'm concerned, truer words were never spoken.

I met Henny Conroy on a rundown, blacktop basketball court, known in those days, as "the tank." We were both around 13 or 14 years old and we both fell in love with a version of basketball called "half court 3 on 3, losers sit." What transpired in that place isn't something the word "game" sufficiently describes. It was a lot more like war than a game.

You can learn a lot about a person playing that rough version of basketball. You learn who has the stomach to keep fighting when all seems lost. You learn who you can depend on, and who can be trusted. You learn who's honest, and who's not. Henny Conroy passed all those tests and a lot more; and he kept on passing them for the rest of his life.

Henny lived his life like he played that game... "give it all you've got... don't hold back." He was always "all in." Growing up with him I saw it over and over again. Even in the years when peer pressure was at its peak, demanding that everyone conform... even then, he had the courage to step out of his comfort zone... to ignore the crowd, and try something different. I have to smile when I think about it; he actually had the audacity to buy a used hot dog cart and set it up in the middle of downtown. He sat there, under his umbrella, day after day all summer long selling hot dogs. He did this, mind you,

Sayreville Library News

Medicare 101

Monday, Aug 4 @5PM

Medicare can be daunting. Thankfully there is help. Join us for this informative seminar and learn the ins and outs of the program. Learn about selecting different plans, what's changed in 2025, supplement policies, prescription programs and much more. Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Guided meditation with Barbara (Virtual)

Aug 5 @ 19 @6PM

Join Barbara Brown, an expert in stress reduction meditations, for this virtual meditation session. Ease your mind and relax with some deep relaxed breathing and focused meditation. This is a virtual event. Registration is required to get the Zoom Link Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Please be sure to be in a quiet room, where you will not be disturbed, and be seated in a chair with your feet flat on the floor.

Summer Fun: Art Drawing and Fundamentals for Adults

Monday, Aug 18 @5PM

Join us for this fun session and learn some new techinques with watercolors and gouache paints. Using these as well as layering, tiling, as well as effective brush and paint manipulation, participants will be able to paint a bird's eye view of koi fish in a pond. Materials will be provided. Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, Aug 19 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Driving Miss Daisy-The Classic starring Morgan Freeman, Dan Aykroyd, and Jessica Tandy. Rated PG-1 hr 29 mins. Refreshments Provided. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Adult Summer Reading Finale

Thursday Aug 28 @5:30PM

Join us for our end-of-summer party. The winners of the Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo will be announced tonight. Also joining us will be world-class mind reader and hypnotist, Mark Zacharia who will be presenting a Murder Mystery. Prepare to be amazed and entertained. Refreshments sponsored by Bubba's 33 on Rt 9.

while carloads of the "cool guys" in town drove by laughing and yelling insults. He didn't budge. That's a rare kind of courage. A little later in life he decided he wanted to be an entertainer, but he really had no musical skills. In spite of that he got up on stage, ignoring the naysayers and the critics, and somehow, against all odds, he pulled it off! He became the area's most successful DJ! He, once again, went all in!

A trait that made Henny so special, especially in today's cruel world, is that he never, and I mean never, looked down or talked down to anyone. That alone, to me, is such an exceptional, admirable part of who he was. Here's this English teacher, highly educated, with multiple degrees, who has writing skills that are off the charts; yet he didn't hold himself up to be any better than the least of us.

I don't claim to have life figured out... not even close, but one thing I'm sure of is Henny Conroy was a good guy. He gave it all he had. He wanted to make us sing, and make us dance... he wanted to make our lives a little better. And he surely did that.

It's normal to be sad when someone you know and care about dies. One of the hardest parts of growing old is watching time take everyone you love away from you. But that's OK. That's life. And every life that Henny touched is a little better for having known him. He'll always be an inspiration.... all in!

Engaged!



The Van Clef/Juliano Family and Mitarotondo Family would like to announce the engagement of their children, Christopher Mitarotondo and Sarah Van Clef of South Amboy on July 12th 2025. Both Christopher and Sarah are active parishioners of Sacred Heart Church and are apart of the South Amboy Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes #426. (Photo/info submitted)

ST. MARY'S "CLASS OF 70" REUNION PARTY

COME ONE, COME ALL! WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN!

DATE: Saturday October 25, 2025

PLACE: Friendly Sons of Shillelagh (same place as 2022) 815 16th Avenue, Belmar, NJ 07719

TIME: 2pm – 7pm

Good Food, Music, Dancing, Door Prizes?

Cash Bar.

COST: \$50 – 3 ways to pay - Ann U'Halie is treasurer.

1)Send a check to:

"Ann D UHalie" with note "Class 70 reunion".

Ann U'Halie - 4013 Kara Court - Hermitage, PA 16148

2) Venmo account is <auhalie@gmail.com>

3) PayPal account is <ann\_jerseygirl@yahoo.com>

Please make reservations by Oct 1, 2025.

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 -A.G.

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 -G.S.

LETTERS



Brian & Tom

It was certainly a heartfelt edition. With the loss of Henny Conroy, Jim "Mushie Mathisen and Johnny O'Brien as well as my brother, Tim made this edition one difficult for all of us. This along with the passing of such figures as Brian Wilson, Lou Christie and Rick Derringer made for a difficult month of June. Thanks for all the reporting and the great tributes to these fine people. Blessings to all

Bill Farrell, (Formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville)



The South Amboy Elks donated \$3,500.00 to help celebrate Troop 91's 100-year anniversary of their Camp Dill, in High Bridge, N.J. The grant will be used toward the camp's new state of the art comfort station. ( Good by "ROSIE"). In photo (l-r) Elks National Foundation Grant Coordinator Val Tarr, Troop 91 Foundation Chairman Brian Dowling, Elks Exalted Ruler John Leo, Camp Dill Foundation Secretary Terry Geant. South Amboy Elks is proud to play a positive role in our community. Showing "ELKS CARE ELKS SHARE." To learn more about the great works Elks do, go online to www.elks.org or stop by our Lodge.



Jay Kelly (c), nephew of Tim Farrell, holds a plaque in the winners circle along with family and friends. (Photo/info submitted)

Monmouth Park Remembers Tim Farrell

(Photos/story submitted)

On July 12, 2025, Race 5 In Loving Memory of Tim Farrell was held at Monmouth Park. Colleen, a family cousin, organized this special event as it was a tradition for Tim to celebrate his birthday there with Jay Kelly, his nephew, and sometimes other family members and friends.

This was a particularly unusual race. Tim's favorite numbers were 7,5,3 and the race was the fifth race. The 7 horse was Billy's Legacy, Tim's father was Bill and so is his brother. The excitement rose to a new high when Billy's Legacy bolted out of the gate before the race began and threw the jockey. Billy's Legacy was scratched Nonetheless, Tim's spirit rides on in our memories. Happy Heavenly Birthday Tim, and thank you Colleen for making this happen, and thanks to all those who attended this race.

Bus Trip to Citi Field

Knights of Columbus Council 426 "Annual Bus Trip to Citi Field" When: Saturday August 2, 2025 (game starts @4:10pm) Bus leaves the K of C parking lot @12:30pm 308 4th Street South Amboy N.J. 08879 Cost: \$160.00 (non-refundable) per person (\$24.00 back in Mets Cash) Snacks for the ride included. Call Ray @ 732 721-2025.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

(To be said when problems arise or when one seems to be deprived of all visible help, on far cases almost despaired of). Most holy Apostle St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of, pray for me, I am so helpless and alone. Make use I implore you of that particular privilege given to you, to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever. I promise O Blessed St. Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor you as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to you. Amen. Thank You St. Jude. -P.S.



The late Tim Farrell handicapping the horses at Monmouth Park.

CCD Registration

Now's the time to register for September CCD classes at Sacred Heart Parish..

Registration forms are available at the Parish Office. Also, email Mrs. Duffy @ prep@sacredheartsa.org or call 732-721-0040 for additional information.

If your child is older and has no previous CCD education, we can get him/her back on track for sacraments.



The Smoke Column

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

How has society changed in our country? On June 29, 2025, a brushfire was reported on a small-peaked mountain within visible sight from Spokane, Washington. Firefighters responded to the fire call just as all firefighters would do in similar instances. They were prepared to locate the fire and take necessary steps to extinguish it. Unfortunately, this brush fire was maliciously ignited with the intention to harm the first responders arriving on scene. Unbeknownst to these first responders was that hidden on the scene was a crazy lunatic that wanted to kill them. As the first responders arrived on scene to investigate the fire, the killer actually spoke to them but the conversation was only regarding where his vehicle was parked and gave no reason for the Battalion Chiefs to anything out of the ordinary but size up the incident. As they went to investigate the fire area, the killer opened fire with a deadly shotgun and killed the two Battalion Chiefs instantly and wounded another firefighter sustaining serious gunshot injuries to his chest. The actions that these firefighters took at the scene are exactly what we do all across our country in similar situations and not consider defending ourselves from deadly killers. We must not forget that two firefighters were also ambushed by another maniac on Christmas Eve in 2012 in West Webster, New York when they responded to an intentionally set house fire. They were gunned down before any firefighting was attempted. Killed in Idaho was Battalion Chief John Morrison, 52, of the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department. He served his community for 29 years and is survived by wife and son. Battalion Chief Frank Harwood, 42, of Kootenai County Fire & Rescue served for 17 years. He was a

combat engineer with the U.S. Army National Guard and is survived by his wife and two daughters. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation, known for supporting first responders and military families, honors those who have died in the Line of Duty and has decided to pay off the home mortgages of these two fallen Idaho firefighters. As firefighters, we are trained to fight burning structure fires, rescue people trapped inside these buildings, remove injured victims of motor vehicle accidents, and solve a multitude of other emergency situations too long to list. We are trained to be aware of Situational Awareness and aware of our surroundings at all times in anticipation of something going bad. As firefighters, we try to plan ahead and have plans B, C, and D in place if plan A is not accomplished. Unfortunately, in the Idaho massacre incident, there was no time to make survivable plans as the killer surprisingly fired his weapon. At no time during my fifty-plus years in the fire service have I ever had the inkling notion that someone was attempting to kill me while at a working fire scene. How could someone have that thought in their head to kill first responders who are out in the field attempting to save others, protect properties, and the environment? Recently I have seen firefighters in urban cities being issued bullet proof vests to be worn under their personal protective equipment [PPE]. This may be the case when firefighters respond to areas that are having community disturbances and causing fires deliberately and the possibility of weapons in use. When firefighters put on all their PPE and carry hand-tools to do their jobs an additional 40-60 pounds is added to their body. Do you really think bullet-proof vests would help them do their jobs?

SA Arts Programming for July - August

Submitted by Joan Conway

SA Arts Alliance is showcasing Jacki Dickert's artwork at our new exhibition, 'World of Wonder' at the SA arts Gallery on July 18th. During her exhibition she will be scheduling talks regarding her subjects and the materials used to create a luminous look. She also relates science to the magic she has captured.

You will find South Amboy Arts at the following City Venues over the next months:

Night Out on August 5th , Music on the Plaza Every Friday Night in August with Children's Crafts & Sidewalk Art Contest, South Amboy Day on September 27th. SAarts will offer Children's Crafts, Rock Painting, Adult Workshops and a Drawing Circle.

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.



### Keep The Faith

By Albert Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate  
c.2006

Tribulation has a purpose  
Perseverance will survive  
If we are to only trust Him  
Character will soon arrive  
Hope is so extraordinary  
With it miracles occur  
Then life's pressures will find glory  
In God's grace which we'll secure



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## PUBLIC URGED TO REDUCE MOSQUITO POPULATION AND RISK OF BITES BY ELIMINATING STANDING WATER AROUND PROPERTIES

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), and New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) are reminding the public of the importance of controlling mosquito populations and risk for disease from bites by eliminating standing water that can become breeding grounds for the insect.

Frequent and recent wet weather across the state has produced an abundance of larval pools for some mosquito species, resulting in an increase in local nuisance mosquito complaints to county mosquito control agencies. As peak mosquito season gets underway, the public’s assistance in taking common-sense steps to reduce mosquito populations will help protect public health and bolster the work of the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission.

“New Jersey’s Mosquito Control Commission works with the county-level commissions to ensure best practices statewide in combatting the nuisances and risks that result from breeding mosquitoes,” Environmental Protection Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette said. “However, it is just as important for the public to do their part by eliminating standing water and doing seasonal home maintenance that can help protect public health.”

New Jersey’s mosquito control agencies use a variety of methods to combat mosquitoes, including public awareness campaigns, targeted larval habitat source-reduction programs, use of natural predators such as mosquito-eating fish, and judicious application of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency- and DEP-approved insecticides by ground and aerial means.

“New Jersey has an extensive, well-established mosquito control and prevention program, strengthening our overall protections. But the best way to protect yourself from mosquito-borne diseases is to prevent mosquito bites in the first place,”

said Acting Health Commissioner Jeff Brown. “Use insect repellent and wear protective clothing if you plan on being outdoors. Also, be sure to take steps to control mosquitoes outside your home and prevent them from coming inside.”

Removing larval pools and eliminating mosquito breeding grounds is important to help reduce the risk of bites from mosquitoes, which can spread vector-borne illnesses such as West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV).

“It is important for New Jersey farmers to remove standing water from their farms to avoid the spread of West Nile and Equine Encephalitis to animals and people,” said Ed Wengryn, New Jersey Secretary of Agriculture. “It is also important for farmers to treat their animals with the vaccines that prevent them from contracting these diseases if exposed to virus-carrying mosquitoes.”

Mosquito-borne Disease Threats Explained

West Nile virus is the leading mosquito-borne disease in New Jersey. In 2024, 41 residents were reported to have WNV, including eight fatalities. Eastern Equine Encephalitis is less common than WNV but is the most severe mosquito-borne disease transmitted in New Jersey. Last year, two residents were reported with EEE. Jamestown Canyon Virus is found throughout much of the country, but most cases are largely reported from the upper Midwest, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Most people who are infected with WNV or EEE have no symptoms or will experience mild illness, which can appear flu-like with fever, headache, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, and sometimes a rash. While rare, some people will develop severe neurological illness, including meningitis or encephalitis. Severe symptoms include high fever, stiff neck, mental confusion or disorientation, seizures, and paralysis. Common symptoms

of JCV are fever, headache and fatigue, but the virus can also cause severe disease such as encephalitis, or brain inflammation. There are no specific vaccines or medications to prevent or treat JCV.

There also are no specific treatments or vaccines for WNV or EEE. People 55 years and older are at greatest risk of severe illness. Early symptoms may be confused with COVID-19 or several other common viral illnesses, and blood tests are needed to confirm a diagnosis.

### Prevention Tips

The best way to prevent illness is to take steps to avoid mosquito bites. The public is asked to follow these tips to eliminate standing water and protect themselves from the bites of mosquitoes as much as possible:

- Use EPA-registered insect repellents when outdoors and wear protective clothing.
- Empty water from flowerpots, pet food and water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, buckets, barrels and trash cans at least once or twice a week.
- Clear clogged rain gutters.
- Check for and remove any containers or trash that may be difficult to see, such as under bushes and homes or around building exteriors.
- Dispose of unused tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have accumulated at your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom and elevate recycling containers left outdoors.
- Repair and clean storm-damaged roof gutters, especially if leaves from surrounding trees tend to clog drains. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Avoid allowing water to stagnate in bird baths.

- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens become major mosquito producers if they stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, including those not in use. An untended swimming pool can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood-wide complaints. Also, be aware that mosquitoes may develop in the water that collects on pool covers.
- Stay in air-conditioned places or rooms with window screens that prevent access by mosquitoes.
- If a mosquito problem remains after taking the above steps, call your county mosquito control agency and ask for assistance. There are larval habitats that may only be appropriately addressed by local mosquito control programs.

### About the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission

The New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission was founded in 1956 to protect the public from nuisance mosquitoes and the threat of mosquito-borne disease. It works closely with all 21 county mosquito control agencies, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers, the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture on coordinated control efforts. The commission also recommends to the Governor and Legislature changes in state laws needed to protect public health and carry out efficient and safe mosquito-control efforts throughout the State.


To learn more about the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission and for links to county mosquito agencies, visit [dep.nj.gov/njfw/councils-and-committees/state-mosquito-control-commission](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/councils-and-committees/state-mosquito-control-commission).



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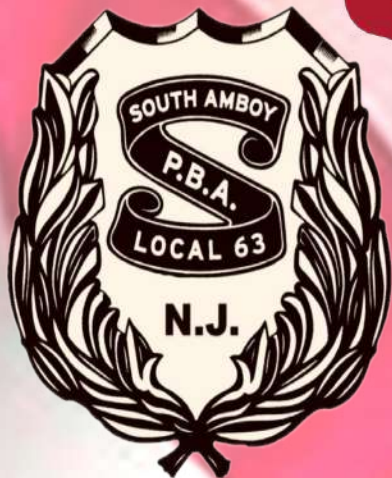
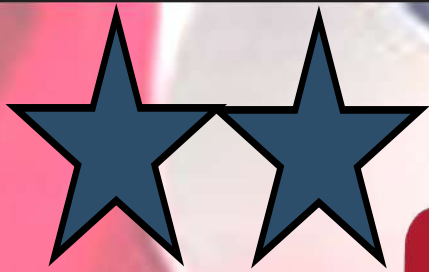
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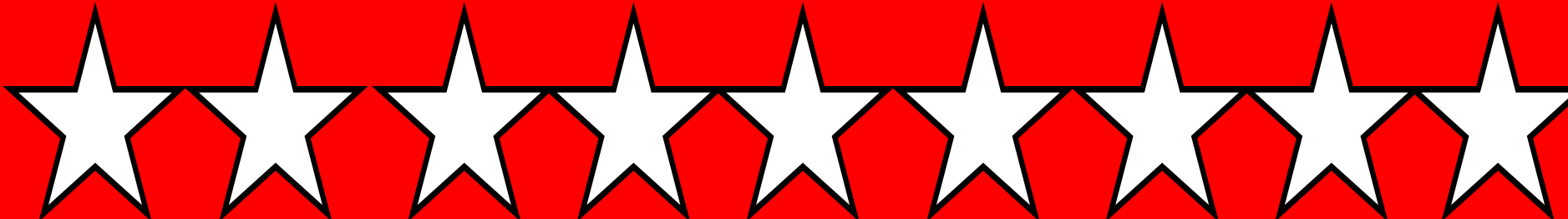


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Congratulations!



Samantha Mierzwiak from South Amboy and her NJ Premier 2008 teammates have completed an incredible 2025 season. Coached by Marijn Sanders, the girls not only won their 3rd consecutive State Cup Title, they also won the 2025 National Title with a win over Maryland SAC. During the season NJ Premier put together a 26 match winning streak and once again will be traveling to Europe in July to play against Pro Level competition from the Netherlands and Germany. Congratulations! (Photos/Info Submitted)



Samantha Mierzwiak

CULINARY PROGRAM AT DOWDELL LIBRARY



A culinary program was enjoyed by community members and led by Dennis Kuhn, librarian (far right) (Photo by Elaine Gaber)



South Amboy Elks Americanism Chairperson Steve Tarr recently had the pleasure of providing Gold Star Mother Barbara Walsh with a spiffy new walker. Elks Care, Elks Share! Try keeping up with Barbara now. (Photo/Info Submitted)

SWMHS CLASS OF 70 & 71 CELEBRATES 55 YEARS!

Sayreville War Memorial High School Classes of 1970-71 are planning a 55th reunion on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 1-5 pm. The barbecue will be held at the Knights of Columbus Picnic Grove, 755 Washington Road, Parlin, NJ. The cost is \$55 a person and includes classic picnic fare and an open bar. No tickets will be sold at the door. To RSVP, please send your check payable to Debbie Weck at 249 Morgan Ave., South Amboy, NJ 08879. Include your maiden name if applicable, class year, and contact information. For more information contact Debbie Cuddihy Weck, debbieweck@aol.com or Jacque Kimball Unkel, jacque.unkel@gmail.com. For accommodations, contact Susan Boyle – sjboyle4@yahoo.com. Please pass the word!





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The highly-successful South Amboy City Wide Yard Sale took place on June 7th. People found great bargains and collectibles. Another sale will be coming up in the very near future, so don't miss it! (Photo by Tom Burkard)

That 70's Show



The cast from "That 70's Show" take over Scooby Doo's Mystery Machine. (l-r) Kelso, Jackie, Hyde, Fez, Donna and Eric.

RIP Connie Francis 4th Celebration!



Concetta Rosa Maria Franconero (December 12, 1937 – July 16, 2025), known professionally as Connie Francis, was an American singer, actress and one of the top-charting female vocalists of the late 1950s and early 1960s. She is one of the best-selling music artists in history, with estimated sales of over 100 million records.



Watching the fireworks from the South Amboy Waterfront.

Summertime Camping



Sharing a campfire and stories are (l-r) Mr. Peabody, Rocky, Sherman and Bullwinkle.

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# Rumbles From The Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Before I get started on the Rock n Roll News, it's July, the month of the year that has the true meaning of a wonderful blessed life for me. July 21,1982..The day I was given a lifetime of happiness when Kathleen Kane, said 'I Do' and became, Kathleen Skarzynski, my wife, and life partner...43 Years ago..Yes, it goes by so, so fast, and so many things change everything in your lives.. One year after our vow of marriage, we were truly blessed once again with our daughter Jessica, July 31,1983... 11:31pm..so, began parenthood..learning, loving, everyday...the bills...oh yes...Our home..where we enjoyed theholidays, birthdays, etc....And then Kathy became a Breast Cancer fighter and survivor.. And yet again, after 18 years, it returned,and yet Kathy as strong as she is..took it head on and fought back..I could never be as "Tough" as she is..Kathy, keep showing us what courage really looks like!..But all aside.. truly July...I'm blessed with Kathy, and Jessica...So...to my girls...Happy Birthday, and Kathy, Happy Anniversary..you are both my "Heroes" and the "Loves of my Life!" Now...on with the latest news in the local music scene. Get out the calendars kids... Saturday, September 20th "Blast from the Past" Car Show and Classic Rock Concert..5 to 8pm..Kennedy Park, Sayreville..Yup, our 20th plus year with DJ Richie Flash,The Just Us Cruisers Car Club, and Central Jerseys

#1 Do Wop and Classic Rock Band,"The Clem and Friends Band".AND..going into our25thplus year..."Clem and Friends" will be at Sayreville Day, Sunday, Sept.21st... along with a vast array of local talent, we'll share the stage at Kennedy Park from 12 to 4 pm..RAIN DATES for both events... the following weekend..Sept.27th and the 28th!..The 'Friends' lineup includes, Fran Fee on guitar and vocals, Jim Huer on guitar, Matt Esposito on bass, Dave Lippincott on drums..and our premier tenor/keyboardist, Mr. Craig "C" Hoek,will join us form Hyde Park N.Y.,With yours truly filling out the sounds on lead guitar and vocals..Looking forward to seeing all our friends and fellow musicians both days...AND coming up.. SundayOctober26th..Central Jersey's largest late fall car show...St.Stan's, Sayreville 5th Annual ! A super show! More info will follow in future issues of the S.A. Times also,The Sayreville Cultural Arts have begun their weekly musical shows at Kennedy Park with 2 bands performing from 6;30 to 8;30PM Check there website for bands etc.. some upcoming shows are 7/24 Elvis and Rythem..7/31Springwood sound DJ Jared and Hawaiian Dancer..8/7 Bon Jovi cover band..8/14 Kenny K and Mikells Plot.. So,see you all in September..lets Rock n Roll together..remember...Music "sez it all"!AND the louder the better!!!



Pop star Bobby Sherman died on June 24th. The singer/actor had hits with "Julie Do You Love Me" and "Easy Come, Easy Go" and was on "Here Come The Brides" playing Jeremy Bolt. Sherman also had his own sitcom called "Getting Together." He was 81.

- #1 Pop Hits-July 28**  
2022-About Damn Time-Lizzo  
2013-Blurred Lines-Robin Thicke  
2007-Hey There Delilah-Plain White T's  
1994-I Swear-All-4-One  
1988-Roll With It-Steve Winwood  
1974-Annie's Song-John Denver  
1961-Tossin' and Turnin'-Bobby Lewis



Sayreville's Richie Santa, one of the nation's top Elvis Tribute Artists (ETA) entertained a sellout crowd of nearly 200 at a "Spaghetti Dinner-Elvis Returns" event sponsored by SS Peter & Paul Orthodox Church Men's Club, South River on July 12th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Mick Ralphs guitarist and founder of the bands Mott The Hoople and Bad Co. died June 23rd. He was 81.

- #1 Country Hits July 28**  
2020-I Hope-Gabby Barrett  
2016-H.O.L.Y.-Florida-Georgia Line  
2009-People Are Crazy-Billy Currington  
1993-Chattahoochee-Alan Jackson  
1982-I Don't Care-Ricky Skaggs  
1977-It Was Almost Like A Song -Ronnie Milsap  
1966-Think Of Me-Buck Owens



Sayreville's Kenny Kurczeski, leader of the band, Kenny K & The Way, stopped by to see his friend, Efrén Castro, owner of Java Dave's Coffee located at 110 North Broadway in South Amboy. Kenny really enjoyed a tasty ice coffee on another near 100 degree day in July. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

# Kenny K and the Way



Kenny K & The Way, fresh off the release of their new and exciting CD "Pick It Up," have been busy rehearsing for their upcoming shows. They also found the time to shoot a new video "Reach For The Sky," which you can watch on Youtube.com or Facebook. The talented group will bring their great act to Kennedy Park in Sayreville on August 14th from 6:30-8:30 p.m., for the Tunes In The Park summer music program. On August 23rd, the band will be at Bradley Beach's Riley Park from 7-9 p.m., and their September schedule includes: Sept. 20th at Albert Hall in Waretown; and on Sept. 27th at The Blue Moon in South Amboy at 8 p.m. Be sure to catch this great group of musicians in action! Kenny K & The Way pictured (l-r) Kenny Kurczeski, Alex D'Agnese, Marc Wasserman, Chris Macock.



Mike Wolfe, star of The American Pickers TV show, is very happy with his unique find in Al Gomolka's collections. The Lincoln Conspiracy rock 'n' roll band featured 3 locals, with Al portraying Abraham Lincoln. Mike purchased 2 of the very rare vinyl albums which were released in 1987.

- Broadway Nights**  
The city of South Amboy will have its first concert series beginning August 1st, at Train Station Plaza, 139 S. Broadway Plaza. "Broadway Nights" live music will be held every Friday in August from 6-8 p.m. The musical lineup includes:
- August 1  
Local Honey--Pop/Soft rock 70's 80's 90's
  - August 8  
Whiskey Time Machine--Rock
  - August 15  
The Emily Grace Lucas Band--Jazz/Soul/R&B
  - August 22  
Almost Average--Pop/Soft Rock 70's 80's 90's
  - August 29  
Forbidden Tropics--Latin/Jazz

- One Hit Wonders**  
30 Years Ago  
1995-I Believe-Blessed Union Of Souls;  
Total Eclipse Of The Heart-Nikki French;  
Cotton Eye Joe-Rednex; I Got 5 On It-Luniz;  
One Of Us-Joan Osborne.

**Volunteers Needed**  
South Amboy Arts Alliance needs your help with typing, designing, crafting, organizing or helping at our events. Since we are all volunteers, we are reaching out to others for their help. If you enjoy art and/or make art, we hope you might like to join our mission. Contact us at 732-727-4600x5971 or email: SAarts141@gmail.com



**MUSIC TRIVIA**

By Tom Burkard

1.One

2.Faithfully

3.Groovin'

4.Believe

5.Magic

6.Runaway

7.Still

8.Footloose

9.Reunited

10.Honey

11.Jump

12.Firework

Answers

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

**Songs With 1 Word Titles**

a.Cher

b.Del Shannon

c.Katy Perry

d.Three Dog Night

e.The Rascals

f.Peaches & Herb

g.Journey

h.Kenny Loggins

i.Olivia Newton-John

j.Bobby Goldsboro

k.Van Halen

l.The Commodores



Middlesex County's DataCity Command Center Highlighted at 2025 Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey (ITSNJ) Research Showcase

Attendees explored the County's smart mobility lab and cutting-edge transportation initiatives

On Tuesday, June 24, Middlesex County joined the Intelligent Transportation Society of New Jersey (ITSNJ) for the 2025 ITSNJ Research Showcase followed by a tour of DataCity Command Center—the County's smart mobility lab located in Piscataway. The annual event brought together leaders in transportation technology, featuring research from Rutgers University, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), and Rowan University.

As part of the event, attendees had the opportunity to experience Middlesex County's DataCity Command Center, showcasing the integration of autonomous and connected vehicle technologies. Additionally, the Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation (CAIT) hosted a presentation led by Dr. Peter Jin and his students. Guests engaged in interactive demonstrations highlighting the latest research and innovations in transportation technology.

To learn more about Middlesex County's transportation services and initiatives, please visit [middlesexcountynj.gov/transportation](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/transportation).

What'll You Have?



The Pabst Blue Ribbon brewery in New Jersey was located in Newark. Specifically, it was situated on South Orange Avenue, near the intersection with 20th Street. The brewery operated at that location for 40 years before relocating in 1986.

South Amboy Arts Alliance's Acoustic Friday



South Amboy Arts Alliance's Acoustic Friday July 18th final curtain call Left to right: Jerry Smith, Billy T Midnight, Patrick Bamburak,Reina Williams, and Paul During. The surrounding artwork is courtesy of Jacki Dickert. (Photo Submitted)

25th!! Annual Car Show

Sunday, August 3, 2025  
10:00am to 4:00pm

Rain date: Sunday, August 10, 2025

Hosted by Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1

at

140 North Broadway, South Amboy, NJ

Admission is FREE for the General Public



25th Anniversary Event

\*Vehicle Registration and Lineup on Broadway by the Firehouse\*

Advanced Entry Fee \$5 per Vehicle / Day of Show Entry \$20  
Pre-Registration Deadline: July 31, 2025

Raffles & 50 / 50

Come taste our firehouse burgers

Prizes & Giveaways

Music By Jukebox Jimmy and Rockin Ronster

Sponsor Award Trophies  
Chief's Trophy  
Blacktop Parking



Fans Choice Trophie  
Mayor's Trophy  
No Judging of Vehicles

\$2.00 Domestic Draft Pints @ RTB Lounge for All Registered Participants (over 21 years old) with wrist band

For more information contact:  
\*(also mail registrations to)

Mike Toth  
14 Haven Terrace  
Parlin, NJ 08859

Wanted: Car vendors only!  
Early entry fee \$20.00  
Day of show fee \$25.00

Call Mike at: (908) 930-3497  
Email: [IndependenceFD@SouthAmboyNJ.gov](mailto:IndependenceFD@SouthAmboyNJ.gov)



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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Plate: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Upon signing this form I release the City of South Amboy from any responsibility for injury, accidents, damages, or stolen property, that may or could occur to myself or my vehicle(s) while at the event. I will be responsible for any and all persons entering the event with me. I will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the Independence Engine & Hose Co #1. while participating at said event.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY

O holy 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. - M.L.



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# Sayreville’s Independence Day Celebration



A portion of the huge, overflow crowd that packed Kennedy Park in Sayreville for the Independence Day Celebration on June 28th. (Photo submitted)



The Sayreville Independence Day Celebration featured a beautiful fireworks display over the lake at Kennedy Park. (Photo submitted)



The South Amboy Sayreville Rotary tent was stocked up and ready for the thousands of people who attended the Sayreville Independence Day Celebration at Kennedy Park. (Photo by Peggy Yanuzzelli)



Food trucks were kept busy, as they offered all kinds of tasty foods for everyone. (Photo by Peggy Yanuzzelli)



Children had lots of fun playing in the inflatables. (Photo by Peggy Yanuzzelli)



Rock Wall climbing was a challenge for everyone! (Photo by Peggy Yanuzzelli)

# 50 Year Reunion



SWMHS ‘Class of 1975’ attendees tour of their Alma Mater (pictured at SWMHS gymnasium 50 years later).



After the SWMHS Alma Mater tour, and before the reunion celebration for the Class of 1975, a get-together was held at Sean’s Pub N’ Grub.



SWMHS ‘Class of 1975’ alumni celebration at Forsgate Country Club 50 years later.

# 50th HS Class Reunion

(Photos/story submitted)

Sayreville War Memorial High School ‘Class of 1975’ celebrated their 50 year reunion on June 27, 2025 at Forsgate Country Club in Monroe Township, N.J. The evening started with appetizers, drinks, then dinner and dancing. The theme “We May Never Pass This Way (Again)” mirrored their Senior Prom theme back in May 1975. A welcome speech was given by Kim Bright Molteg which included a moment of silence in remembrance of deceased alumni. The Class Valedictorian, Barbara Merski Fitzgerald then spoke, followed by Joseph Ballo who presented a toast to the ‘Class of 1975.’ Programs along with a 2025 John F. Kennedy Uncirculated Half Dollar (50 years later) were handed out to all in attendance upon entering. Gift Cards, cookies and T-shirts were given away in a drawing that took place during dessert.

A tour of the high school given by the Principal, Richard Gluchowski and assisted by Thomas Biesiada, who was on the Board of Education during reconstruction, was held the night before and followed by a get-together at Sean’s Pub N’ Grub.

Among the topics overheard both nights were: How have you been? Are you now retired? Just reminiscing.

107 alumni with spouses and their guests were in attendance. Also included in

the alumni were 5 couples of the class who married the love of their life. Folks traveled from 14 different states including AZ, CA, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NV, NY, PA, SC, VA as well as various parts of NJ to join in on the celebration.

Beautiful floral centerpieces welcomed guests warmly into the room along with a balloon arch and other festive décor. Many photos were taken professionally and by others during the night to capture memories to be shared.

Laughter and dancing filled the room with a DJ furnishing music for the people in attendance. Barbara Eberle Ivins’ birthday was celebrated with everyone and all sang Happy Birthday to her.

As the night drew to a close, the traditional tune now played at all of the ‘Class of 1975’ reunions played as all alumni formed a circle and held hands while singing, “That’s What Friends Are For.” Remember, “Once a Bomber, always a Bomber!”

Thanks to the committee members for all their time and effort to make this a huge success.

Also, many thanks to all the sponsors who helped make this reunion something special.

“Let’s make our next celebration great again!”



## Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office Now Accepting Applications for New Internship Program

Internships are available for summer, fall, and spring; applications are accepted on a rolling basis

**WHAT:** The Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office is now accepting applications for its new internship program. This program offers college students an exciting opportunity to explore and gain experience in law enforcement and court procedures.

In each internship cycle, interns will get to experience:

- Hands-on experiences in law enforcement, court procedures, community outreach programs, communications, and more
- Observe daily operations and participate in various divisions within the Sheriff’s office
- Explore career opportunities and pathways in law enforcement

**Eligibility:** Internships are open to current college students for academic credit. The program is designed to align with course requirements so that students can receive

academic credit through their college or university for their participation.

**How to Apply:** Interested candidates should send their resume and a Statement of Purpose (not exceeding 500 words) to Brittney Brodniak at [Brittney.brodniak@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Brittney.brodniak@co.middlesex.nj.us)

**WHEN:** Internships are available for summer, fall, and spring semesters. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and students are encouraged to submit them as soon as possible.

**WHERE:** Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office 701 Livingston Avenue | New Brunswick, NJ 08901

**WHO:** For questions about the internship program, please contact Brittney Brodniak at [Brittney.brodniak@co.middlesex.nj.us](mailto:Brittney.brodniak@co.middlesex.nj.us) or call 732-745-3375.

To learn more about opportunities and programs offered by the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office, please visit [middlesexcountynj.gov/sheriff](http://middlesexcountynj.gov/sheriff)

## Middlesex College Dental Hygiene Professor Recognized for Outstanding Student Service



Professor Nadine Thompson has received the 2025 Mary Jane Kellogg Dutton Faculty Mentorship Award from the New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association.

Middlesex College Professor Nadine Thompson is the recipient of the 2025 Mary Jane Kellogg Dutton Faculty Mentorship Award from the New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association. The annual award is given to a faculty person in New Jersey who demonstrates a commitment to the future of the dental hygiene profession and provides outstanding service to students.

“I’m truly touched and honored to receive this award, especially following in the footsteps of mentors who helped shape my own path,” said Thompson, of Metuchen.

Thompson earned her associate degree in dental hygiene from Middlesex College in 2008, where she returned as an adjunct clinical instructor in 2014 and a full-time faculty member in 2021. She states that the opportunity to work alongside some of the faculty and adjuncts that mentored her as a student has been a career highlight.

“I owe so much to my mentors; it was through their guidance, encouragement and example that I discovered my passion for teaching and am where I am today,” said Thompson. “I didn’t have to think twice about returning to Middlesex College with its commitment to excellence. It felt like coming home.”

“I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Nadine for over 10 years, and I can say with confidence that she truly embodies the excellence, leadership, and dedication this award represents,” said

Middlesex College Dental Hygiene Chair Michelle Roman.

In Thompson’s time teaching at Middlesex College, the program opened a new dental hygiene clinic and was recognized with a Teledentistry Innovation Award in 2023.

“Working to develop and integrate new technology into our curriculum to provide screenings and preventive treatment for children with special needs at ESCNJ [Educational Services Commission of New Jersey] was also very exciting,” said Thompson. “This academic year will be the third of our continued collaboration with ESCNJ.”

“Professor Thompson is a passionate educator, dedicated mentor, and proud alumna who continues to give back to the institution that helped launch her career,” said Middlesex College President Mark McCormick. “Her recognition with the Mary Jane Kellogg Dutton Faculty Mentorship Award is a testament to the impact our faculty can have on students’ lives, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement.”

Though a panel of judges selects the winner, the nominations for the faculty mentorship award are submitted by students. In their nomination, Middlesex College dental hygiene students stated that Thompson was not just a teacher, but a “true leader who supports her students’ success and journey both mentally and emotionally.”

Thompson will be formally recognized at the 2025 New Jersey Dental Hygienists’ Association Annual Conference in October.

### PRAYER FOR THE SUMMER

“May we make our homes places of relaxation, joy, love, peace, and safety. May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime. Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer and vacation days. Grant us refreshment of mind and body. May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us as we enjoy the warm days of summertime. Amen.” RS, AS, LP, HS, LS, EP, IP

### 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.

## Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this entertainer? I bet you think you know this one..don’t you, don’t you! Send your answer to [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com) by August 18th.



## Who Is It?

Last month’s mystery person was Mason Reese, an American former child actor and restaurant entrepreneur who appeared in numerous television commercials in the 1970s, including Underwood Deviled Ham, Ivory Snow, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Post Raisin Bran.

The following got it right: Patti Tengelics, Anne and John Erbetta, Pam and Mark DePazza, Thomas Harrigan, Edna

Pilch, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Edward Hamlin, John Giaquinto, John & JoAnn French, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Jennifer & Edward Coddling, Sarah Conlon, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pete McIntyre, Bev and Bob Pomponio, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Ed English, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr, Dane Colburn.

\*We missed Betty Leveille’s answer for May.



June Who is it?  
Mason Reese

## WWW.?



Does this look familiar to you? It is located in South Amboy or Sayreville. If you think you know the answer send it to: [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com) by Aug. 18th. Good luck! (Photo by Tom Burkard)



### June WWW.? Winners

WWW.? For June Gems House of Bagels, Broadway Bagels

Winners: Edna Pilch, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Dennis Quinlan, Stephen Laskiewicz, Mary Agnes Morris, John & JoAnn French, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Betty Leveille, Marybeth Chodkiewicz,

Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pete McIntyre, Lynn Loy, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Ed English, Gary Feret, Walter Starzec Jr, Dane Colburn, Barb Bockus,

\*We missed Betty Leveille’s answer for April and May.



Gems House of Bagels





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**Fishing Flashes**  
By Teo "Weebles" Weber



**Salt Water**  
Checking our beaches close to home, I didn't see anyone catch anything. The people I talked to said they had very few bites. Some small Bluefish were around but I didn't see any fish caught. It's a different story in Raritan Bay as there are a good number of Fluke with more than a few keepers plus the usual number of shorts from both party and private boats. Surf fishing off the beaches, especially at LBI and Island Beach, is Fluke and the ever present Dog Fish. Some Fluke are large; there was an 8 pound fish and a 6 pound fish caught right in the surf! Be aware that there is a shortage of killies for bait this time. Party boats that fish for Bluefish are doing well with mostly 2 to 5 pound Bluefish when they decide to bite. It's on and off fishing so they fill out the day with Ling. Some Fluke and one Seabass you can keep for now. Some Bonito are mixed in at times.

**Fresh Water**  
High Water caused by heavy rains still persist at times. As I have said before, plenty of trout remain. My wife and I returned to the Pequest River and found it to be fishable with high water at the end of June. We caught 2 trout apiece. I had one nice Rainbow at 15 inches. We missed quite a few bites. Statewide warm weather prevails for Bass, Panfish and Catfish in lakes and ponds.

**Catch Any Fish Lately?**

Let The SA Times and its readers share in your good day of fishing. Why not show it to everyone? Send a photo of you and your catch with a caption including your name and town, type of fish, when and where you caught it, the length and weight if you wish, or any other pertinent information. Please make sure it's a clear picture and we will be glad to publish it in The SA Times for FREE! Email your photo/caption to: [satimes@aol.com](mailto:satimes@aol.com).

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**25 Years Ago Guvs First Tennis Win**  
2000-Coach Tony Gonsalves' South Amboy Governors boys tennis team defeated Spotswood. 3-2 for its first win of the season. Actually, it was the Guvs first tennis win in 25 years.! South Amboy, (it was then Hoffman High School) fielded its last tennis team way back in 1975, and decided to bring the sport back for the year 2000. Singles winners for the Purple & Gold were; Dan Nuzzie, and Jan Kmiecik, and the doubles team of Jared Gonsalves & Randy Fallon.

**Wind Creek Casino Trip**  
The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are hosting a Bus Trip to Wind Creek Casino Bethlehem PA on Thursday, August 28th. 2025. The bus departs council parking lot 9:00 am at 308 4th Street South Amboy N.J. 08879. Cost is \$40 per person w/\$25 back in slot play. Must be 21 years old and have proper ID.

Contact Ray at 732-721-2025 to reserve your seat. Snacks included on the bus. All proceeds to benefit local charities.

**South Amboy Arts Presents Jacki Dickert's 'WORLD OF WONDER' Exhibition.**  
This is a dynamic high-definition photographic metal print exhibition celebrating Natural Beauty and Wonder of Land, Water, and Sky. The opening reception will be Sunday, August 3rd from 2-4pm. Jackie will be giving gallery talks offered to interested groups. We will post signage on SATV and gallery.  
Please call SAarts at 732-727-4600x5971 or Email [SAarts141@gmail.com](mailto:SAarts141@gmail.com) for requests, or questions you have or information you may need.



# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



The 1969 South Amboy Babe Ruth League champions, South Amboy Trust Co. were a proud bunch of teenagers. Top row (l-r) Coach Jim Heath, Henry Sager, Al Pasztornyicky, Jim Keegan, Billy D'Amico, Gary Lange, Rich Krzyzanowski, Jim Heath, Tom Boychuk, Trust Co. Representative Jim Beshada, Manager John Lange Sr. Bottom row (l r) Tommy D'Amico, Frank Trpisovsky, Charlie Lange, ? Kevin Nemeth. (Photo and information courtesy of Tom Boychuk)

## South Amboy Greats Reunite

By Tom Burkard



Three of the greatest local high school basketball players of all-time got together recently. Pictured (l-r) George Krzyzanowski-St. Mary's, Nick Shaw-South Amboy, and Ed Behnen-South Amboy. (Photo by Starr Morris)

This trio of superstars racked up close to 5,000 points combined during their schoolboy careers. Behnen burned the nets for 1,993 points, and would have cracked 2,000 if not for a broken hand he suffered in the next to the last game of the season. Krzyzanowski fired in 1,592 points for the Eagles, and holds the single game scoring record of 50 points which he scored against South River. Shaw pumped in 1,325 points, and set the school's single game mark by scoring an incredible 73 points against Perth Amboy Tech, to eclipse the 65 points performance in 1952 by John Ciol, who played for Hoffman HS. Ciol went on to play for the Washington Generals, the team that toured with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Shaw's 73 points is also the second highest one game total in Middlesex County history, which is only behind former NBA star Brian Taylor, who while playing for Perth Amboy HS, tossed in 84 points against their crosstown rival, Perth Amboy St.Mary's.

Notebook: Behnen and Shaw had identical scoring averages in their senior years at South Amboy HS, an outstanding, off the charts 32.6 ppg...Krzyzanowski was the head basketball coach at both Hoffman/ South Amboy HS, and coached Nick and Ed..."Nick said "Eddie was the best player in South Amboy history. There are debates on everything in this world, but that one isn't."

## T.H.E. Game

Year-1960  
Sport-Baseball  
Teams-Hoffman vs. St. Mary's City Series Game 2

Recap-Winning pitcher Jack Seaman fired a brilliant 2-hitter and also had an RBI double to lead the Saints to a 4-0 victory. Frank Ruszala was a perfect 3-for-3, and Jim Heffernan belted a 2-run double.

Co-Players Of The Game-Jack Seaman, Frank Ruszala.

## Tennis Flashback: 1998 Bombers Down Eagles

Sayreville's tennis team nipped St.Mary, 3-2. Alan Mody battled past Neel Bhatt. 5-7. 6-2. 6-4; Amil Mody topped Jason Budsock, 6-3,6-4; in doubles. Brian Nakielny & Glen Braunsdoi shut down Walter Horzega & Charles Riccardi, 6-0, 6-0. St.Mary's County champion, Matt Sabo easily handled Mike Provenza. 6-0, 6-0; The Saints also won in doubles with Peter Malinowski & Anthony Valdivieso notching a tough win over Rob Salagaj & Doug Kelly, 4-6, 6-0. 6-4.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

2022-South Amboy boys baseball team captured the Gold Division championship under Coach Dan Poulsen, who was named Gold Division Coach of the Year. Five of his talented players also were selected for All-Division honors: Gabriel Albarron, Anthony Vella, Benjamin Hernandez, Steven Evanski, and Matt Stempinski...2017-South Amboy's track/cross country superstar, Patrick Walsh captured the Group 1 state championship for the 3,200 meters in 9:16.85...2000-In a battle of unbeaten girls spring track teams, Monroe (5-0) beat Sayreville (5-0), 69-53. Toni Beninato won the 400 hurdles and high jump; Kristin Hubela captured the long jump; Claire Inskeep was victorious in the shotput...1998-St. Mary's swept the City

## 85 Years Ago Clark Leads Eagles

1940-Allie Clark blasted 2 home runs and a single to lead St. Mary's baseball team to a 10-6 romp over Good Counsel of Newark, 10-6. John Stolte was the winning pitcher for the Saints. Clark, after serving in the military went on to a career in pro baseball with his highlights being a contributing member to the '47 Yankees and '48 Cleveland Indians World Series Championship teams.

## 25 Years Ago Wisniewski, Jackson Set Sayrevite Records

2000-Matt Wisniewski vaulted 13 feet 7 1/4 inches to set a new record for boys track at Sayreville. He had shared the old mark of 13-6 with Kevin Haines (1973), and Dustin Smietana (1994). In a dual meet, Yazid Jackson set a new school record by running 10.8 in the 100. He erased the previous record of 11.0, which was held by Mike Wasko (1992).

## 3 Years Ago Bombers Blast Governors

2022-In the GMC Baseball Invitational, Sayreville blasted South Amboy, 17-0 in 5 innings. Three Bomber pitchers combined to no-hit the Guvs. Aayush Mehta started the first 2 innings, struck out 4, was followed by Whitford Dennis the next 2 innings who struck out 3, and Ryan Anthony then closed out by striking out the side of Purple and Gold players. Dennis was awarded the victory. Michael Colonnello ripped a single and 2 doubles to drive in 2, Jake Romanello had a double and knocked in 3 runs, Mehta belted a single and double good for 2 RBI, and A.J. Zapoticzny drove in 2 runs.

Series over South Amboy by edging them, 3-2. John Florentino blasted an RBI single in the bottom of the 6th inning to break a 1-1 tie, and Brian Burns added an RBI single to give the Saints the victory. Ed Behnen had a sacrifice fly to drive in the Guvs first run. Winning pitcher Nick Sas fired a 5-hitter for the Eagles...1983-Sayreville girls softball team downed Woodbridge, 10-6 in 8 innings on a grand slam home run by soph Vanessa Carney...1976-South Brunswick blasted St. Mary's boys baseball squad in the Middlesex County Tournament, 10-5, despite a 3-run homer by Mike Grimley...1965-St. Mary's topped Hoffman 5-3 in a City Series baseball contest. Fran Fitzmorris was the winning pitcher and struck out 6.

## 65 Years Ago South Amboy Babe Ruth League Champs

1960-Sacred Heart swept Independence Fire Co. in a best of 3 championship series, giving them their second crown in 3 years. Jim Vida won the deciding game, and got a save from Joe Pohl. Vida also drilled 2 hits to help his own cause, while Wayne Olsen stroked 3 hits, Frank Jankowski and Art O'Donnell added 2 hits apiece for the champs.

The Sacred Heart team was managed by Ed Zebro, and his coaches were Frank Zebro and Ed Jarusiewicz. The player roster: Joe Pohl, Frank Jankowski, Frank Pauloski, Rich Barglowski, Jim Vida, Ed Suchcicki, Tom Trenta, Rich Ambroziak, Bill Garaffa, Wayne Olsen, Art Kowaleski, Art O'Donnell, Tom Vona, Ted Wallace, Bob Kukulski.

\*Note: The final scores of both games were unavailable.

## 55 Years Ago Eagles Split Opening Doubleheader

1970-St. Mary's baseball squad opened the season by splitting a doubleheader with Perth Amboy St. Mary's, losing the first game, 3-0, and winning the next, 8-6, behind winning pitcher Mike Luczkow. Nick Charmello and Tom Boychuk each had an RBI single.

## 45 Years Ago Sayreville Baseball

1980-The Sayreville Bombers baseball team finished at a respectable (14-9) record. The top batting averages were: centerfielder Ray Kreiger .443, junior third baseman Tom Cannon .340, leftfielder Jim Comerford .330, second baseman Doug Haley .315, junior first baseman Mark McSpadden .290. Kreiger topped the club with 24 RBI, and Cannon's 11 stolen bases was the high mark on the Bombers.

## Diamond Dust South Amboy Little League 65 Years Ago

1960-Knights of Columbus 6 Enterprise 0-Fran Fitzmorris was the winning pitcher... Daylight Bakery 6 Rotary 0-Lou Zrebiec notched the pitching victory...Progressive 11 Protection 1-Winning pitcher Carl Chodkiewicz blasted a single and triple... Weiss Clothing 19 Enterprise 18-Gary Roberts was the winning pitcher, while Ken Kowaleski ripped 4 hits...Enterprise 14 Protection 5-Don Wernett was the winning pitcher and blasted a home run, and teammate Leo McCabe also belted a home run. Ralph Mundy hit a round-tripper for Protection... Lions Club 13 Rotary Club 6-Mike Keller was the winning hurler for the Lions...First Aid annihilated Progressive, 17-0 on a beautiful 1-hitter by Tom Kelly (Not the pro baseball player). He also stroked 4 hits.



The South Amboy Recreation Department held tennis clinics for the youth in the city. There were 26 children that registered to participate. Classes were held on Mondays & Wednesdays during the month of July. Great Job Coach Greg Wyzykowski! (Photo/Info Submitted)

## All-Time MLB Home Run Leaders

The Top 10 All-Time Major League Baseball Home Run Leaders are: 1.Barry Bonds 762; 2.Hank Aaron 755; 3.Babe Ruth 714; 4.Albert Pujols 703; 5.Alex Rodriguez 696; 6.Willie Mays 660; 7.Ken Griffey Jr. 630; 8.Jim Thome 612; 9.Sammy Sosa 609; 10.Frank Robinson 586.







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## Patricia Joan Witkowski

Patricia Joan Witkowski 94, of Brick, died Monday June 16, 2025 at Brandywine Senior Living at the Gables, Brick. Born in East Orange, she lived most of her life in South Amboy before moving to Brick in 2011. Pat was a member of Sacred Heart Church, she enjoyed swimming and playing volleyball. Pat was a fan of the NY Mets and Rangers and also liked to watch tennis.

Daughter of the late Cornelius and Evelyn Trowbridge Flanagan she is also predeceased by her husband Eugene in 2016; her brothers Neil, Jerry, Stephen, Charlie and Richard Flanagan and her sister Marijane (Suzie) Flanagan. She is survived by her sons and daughters in law, Eugene Witkowski and Susan Rutledge, Michael and Nancy Witkowski, Stephen and Patty Witkowski and Peter and Sharon Witkowski; her daughters, Carol Keough and Mary Kaminski, her brothers, Brian and Gary Flanagan; her grandchildren, Lauren Strausberg and her husband Rob, Michele Miller and her husband Charles, Stephen Witkowski, Kevin Witkowski, Daniel Witkowski, Sean Keough and his wife Maria, Adam Witkowski, Brian Keough, Julia Witkowski, Conner Keough, Gabriella and Andrew Kaminski; her great grandchildren, Madison, Jack and Mateo.

Funeral services were held on Friday, June 20, 2025 at 9:15am from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by a 10AM Mass of Christian Burial at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy. Interment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery . Visitation was on Thursday from 2-6PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alzheimer's NJ.



## Ruiz, Vitale Bill Requiring Schools to Adopt USDA's Healthy Meals Standards Passes Senate

To create healthier communities and ensure meals in New Jersey schools are of the highest nutritional quality, the Senate passed a bill sponsored by Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz and Senator Joe Vitale that requires public and certain private schools to comply with lunch and breakfast nutrition standards adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

"Proper nutrition is foundational to a child's ability to learn, grow, and thrive. For many students, a healthy school breakfast or lunch is their most dependable source of food each day, a lifeline for children who face food insecurity at home," said Senate Majority Leader M. Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex/Hudson). "By upholding strong USDA nutritional standards, our schools can serve as powerful spaces to combat hunger, advance equity, and support the health, focus, and academic success of every student."

"School cafeterias are one of our greatest opportunities to reduce childhood hunger and chronic illness by providing healthy food options to our students," said Senator Vitale (D-Middlesex). "The USDA guidelines, which require more access to

whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, have been shown to positively impact children's diet quality, lower obesity rates, and improve health outcomes. By adopting these standards statewide, we can improve public health and ensure our schools are a steady source of nutrition for our children."

The bill, S-2167, would require all New Jersey public schools and private schools that participate in the USDA breakfast and lunch program to follow the nutritional guidelines issued by the USDA in 2024 or any more stringent standards adopted thereafter. These standards include reducing calories, sodium, and saturated fat in school meals and increasing the offerings of grains, fruits, vegetables, and nonfat milk.

Under the bill, if the USDA adopts stricter nutrition standards in the future, public schools in New Jersey would also be required to adopt those updates. New Jersey schools already follow the USDA's guidelines, and this legislation would ensure that all schools are following the highest quality standard implemented.

The bill shall take effect immediately and apply to the 2025-2026 school year.

The Miraculous Prayer


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

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 -K.B..

Prayer to St. Jude

Most Holy Apostle St. Jude Thaddeus, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the name of the traitor who delivered your beloved Master into the hands of the enemies has caused you to be forgotten by many, but the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of hopeless cases and of things despaired of. Pray for me who is so needy; make use, I implore you of that particular privilege accorded to you to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired. Come to my assistance in this great need that I may receive the consolations and succor of heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings and that I may bless God with you and all the elect throughout eternity. I promise you, O blessed St. Jude to be ever mindful of this great favor, and I will never cease to honor you as my special and powerful patron and to do all in my power to encourage devotion to you. Amen. Thank you St. Jude for answering my prayers. J.J.



## John Howard Sten

John Howard Sten was born in South Amboy, NJ on April 29, 1938. He was a graduate of H. G. Hoffman High School, class of 1955. He later graduated from Rutgers University, class of 1959, with a degree in Business Administration. He received an Honorable Discharge after serving in the N.J. National Guard and the U .S. Army Reserve. His corporate career was primarily in sales and marketing, and culminated in 1981 as National Sales Manager of Celanese Plastics Company in Greer, SC when he decided to form a new company.

John saw a wonderful opportunity and formed Interfilm, Inc. to convert and sell polyester film and other high performance substrates for numerous industrial applications. This highly specialized company with headquarters in Piedmont, SC grew rapidly and became a true leader in its field. Sixteen years later he sold Interfilm to a venture capital group from Little Rock, AR and went into complete retirement at age 57.

John and his loving wife Polly moved to Colleton River Plantation in the Hilton Head Island area of SC and built a second home in Big Sky, MT. Since his youth, he was consumed with the outdoors and hunted and fished all of his life. His true passion became fly fishing, both salt and fresh water, which took him throughout the United States and Canada as well as far off

places such as New Zealand, Costa Rica, and the Bahamas. Summers were spent in the mountains of Montana and North Carolina with fly rod in hand.

Born and baptized a Baptist in South Amboy, NJ, he remained a devout Christian all of his life. He became an Episcopalian after meeting Polly in 1982. Both were very active in the Church. John was a member of the vestry at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Greenville, SC and finished his term being elected Senior Warden.

During that period the Church went through a major expansion and renovation with John providing much of the leadership. He also provided similar leadership at All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island, SC.

John was predeceased by his parents, Oscar and Elizabeth Sten, and his two brothers, Martin and Bruce. He is survived by his loving wife Polly, a son Jon, a daughter Jill, and six grandchildren.

"God grant that I may fish until my dying day, and when it comes to my last cast, I then most humbly pray, when in the Lord's safe landing net I'm peacefully asleep, that in his mercy I be judged as good enough to keep."

A Memorial Service will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, Hilton Head Island, SC. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to All Saints Episcopal Church or Palmetto Animal League.



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..

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA

O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.

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



Obituaries

Ambrosio, Diane “Di,” 69, of Sayreville died on July 6.

Apito, Nancy A., 70, of Sayreville died on July 17.

Curtis, Robert W., 84, of South Amboy died on July 4.

Goralczyk, Bogdan, 50, of South Amboy died on July 13.

Grossweiler, Sophie “Blondie,” 104, formerly of Sayreville died on July 8.

Hegyes, John J. “Jack,” 66, of Sayreville died on July 15.

Jankowski, John J. “Jack,” 83, of Sayreville died on June 11.

Johnson, Ann Marie, 72, formerly of Sayreville died on May 23.

Kaslavage, Patricia M., 78, formerly of Sayreville died on June 15.

Loniewski, Thomas W., 74, of Sayreville died on July 12.

Marcano, Grisel, 54, of South Amboy died on May 15.

Melia, John “Jack,” 79, formerly of South Amboy died on July 4.

O’Connor, Teresa M. Gallagher, 96, of South Amboy died on June 26.

Pipitone, Carmela M., 74, of Parlin died on July 6.

Prato, Mary A., 95, of Sayreville died on July 3.

Roginski, Florence, 98, of Sayreville died on July 9.

Romano, Michael, 51, of Parlin died on July 13.

Sten, John H., formerly of South Amboy died recently.

Sumski, Emma H., 96, of Morgan died on June 21.

Tumbleson, Theresa L. “Teri” Restivo, 72, of Sayreville died on June 17.

In Memoriam

John Minardi, 67, died on May 12. If you ever had the chance to shop at Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck, and happened to be in the Produce Dept., you probably were blessed to meet a friendly man who worked there for over 25 years, John Minardi. He was known to fellow employees as “Apple Johnny,” and was one of the kindest and most helpful people you could ever get to know. Even though he wasn’t from the South Amboy/Sayreville area, he loved reading The SA Times, and when finished he passed it on to two Sisters of Mercy who resided in Perth Amboy, and had local ties. They also enjoyed keeping up with happenings in South Amboy and Sayreville. Diane “Di” Ambrosio, 69, of Sayreville died on July 6. She was office manager for her husband Joseph P. Ambrosio, Esq. for many years. Sophie “Blondie” Grossweiler, 104, formerly of Sayreville died on July 8. She was active in the Sayreville Democratic Organization, and served as Democratic Committee member in District 4 for 32 years, and held the Vice-Chair position for 6 years. “Blondie” was also a member of many organizations in Sayreville. Florence Roginski, 98, of Sayreville died on July 9. She worked for 52 years in publishing at McGraw-Hill in New York City. In 1951, she survived a tragic train wreck in Woodbridge, which killed 85 passengers, and is known as New Jersey’s deadliest train wreck in history. The locomotive “The Broker” derailed on a temporary trestle and plunged to the street below. Florence was a member of the Sayreville Historical Society, and took part in writing the Sayreville History picture book published by Arcadia Press.

Teresa M. Gallagher O’Connor

Teresa M. Gallagher O’Connor, 96, of South Amboy passed away on Thursday June 26, 2025 at home surrounded by her loving family.

Teresa (Terry) was born in Phillipsburg, NJ and was a graduate of St. Phillip and St. James High School. Before retiring Terry was an office manager for the Rockford Furniture Company in Woodbridge for many years. Terry was a world traveler, visiting all 50 states and 19 countries with either her late husband Bernard O’Connor, who passed away in 1993, or one of her children. She was a wonderful mother and great friend to her children and grandchildren. She was very witty with a great sense of humor and lots of fun to be around. She was also very proud of her Irish and American heritage. Always the go-to person if you needed help with a problem of any kind, her loyalty and generosity had no boundaries. Terry loved to read and would always write down great quotes or poems that she found meaningful and down to earth. We are fortunate enough to have many of those handwritten books to cherish in the future. We would always joke that when Mom did a crossword puzzle, she used a pen!



An avid lover of music, which she passed on to her children, it was very common to walk into her house and hear a wide variety of songs playing from country to Bob Dylan and Kris Kristofferson. She loved deep thinkers and songs that told some kind of life story. She will be missed more than words can say. We are all heartbroken.

Fighting unbearable breast cancer for the last three years of her life, she was a trooper and always kept her faith. Terry leaves behind (which she always referred to as her priorities) three loving sons Bernard, Kevin and Brian and daughter Jill, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We have all been extremely fortunate to love and be loved by this wonderful woman for all these years. Rest in peace Mom.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday July 1, 2025 at 10:15am from The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy, followed by an 11am Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary’s Church, South Amboy. Interment was at New Calvary Cemetery, Parlin. Visitation was on Monday from 4 to 8pm.

Philip F. De Fort Jr.

Philip F. De Fort Jr., 78, of South Amboy, died Sunday June 15, 2025 at Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel. Born in South Amboy he was a life-long resident. Philip was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Progressive Firehouse and a past president with the South Amboy First Aid Squad. He enjoyed family vacations to Walt Disney World and camping all over the East coast.

Son of the late Philip F. and Olivia Nelson De Fort, Sr., he is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jean Elaine Read De Fort, his son, Philip F. De Fort III and his wife Allison, his daughters and sons in law,

Cynthia and David Gallagher and Bridget and Christopher Mader, 6 grandchildren, Philip F. De Fort, IV, Jordan Kate Gallagher, Brodie F. Gallagher, Gianna D. De Fort, Samantha Jean Mader and Zoey Rose Mader.

Funeral services were held on Saturday June 21, 2025 at 10AM at The Gundrum Service “Home For Funerals” 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Visitation was on Friday from 4-8PM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Tunnel to Towers or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

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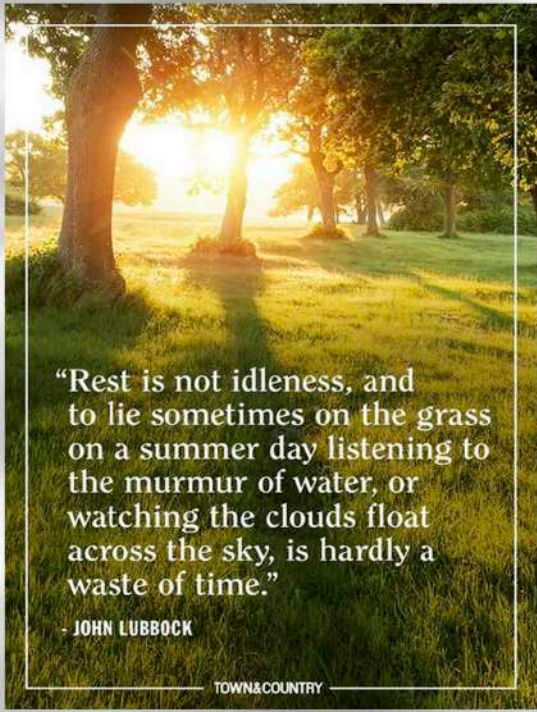
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