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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is
dedicated to**

*Lt. Col. Daniel Cheeseman
*Fred Schaaf
*Joseph Spencer
*Shawn Switzer



August 26, 2023

• The "Good News" Newspaper •

Vol. 32 Issue 11

Sayreville Teen Hero Saves Two People

By Steve Schmid

19 year old Elisam "Eli" Santana of Sayreville is being remembered for his heroic actions in saving the lives of his 9 year old cousin and 14 year old brother. Eli recently saved them from drowning after they got into trouble while swimming in a cove of Beltzville Lake near Lehighton in Carbon County Pennsylvania. Tragically, Eli tired and disappeared under the water and drowned after his brave actions. "He was a hero. He saved two people's lives," Santana's mother Elizabeth Payano told NJ Advance Media from the family home in Sayreville. According to the family, Eli graduated from Sayreville War Memorial High School in 2022 and planned to study finance at Brookdale Community College in the fall. He is survived by his mother, Elizabeth Payano of Sayreville, his siblings Fanieliz and Nathan Santana, his father Samuel Santana, as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins, and a host of friends.

Father Leo Gets Promoted

By Steve Schmid

Our Lady of Victories parishioners remember Father Leo Salvania who was popular when he served as parochial vicar for the parish. Father Leo left OLV to become administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Hackettstown. He was named pastor earlier this year and was officially installed by Metuchen Bishop James Checchio.

APA Pool League Starting

The Monaghan House will be starting an APA Pool League very soon on their great tables with Simonis Pool Cloth, brand new rails, and brand new cues. Sign up at the Monaghan House or call Anthony Perkowsky at 732-374-6667. The Monaghan House offers frequent giveaways, in addition to a full bar and full kitchen.



South Amboy dignitaries turn out to honor Father Dennis at his retirement dinner at the Reception Center at St. Clement, Matawan. (l-r) Former Mayor Jack O'Leary, Councilwoman Zusette Dato, Father Dennis, Mayor Fred Henry, and Council President Mickey Gross. See more photos on page 21/ (Photo by Steve Schmid) Also, see Tom Burkard's exclusive interview with Father Dennis on page 3.

Congratulations!



South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 Grand Knight Jordan Drevelus awarded Gabby Mieczkowski the first place K of C scholarship. Gabby earned a 4.8 GPA at Old Bridge High School. She is in the National Honor Society for English, math, history, and science. Gabby is the daughter of Past Grand Knight Jack Mieczkowski and his wife Daniela. Gabby is attending St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia majoring in political science. (Photo/Story submitted)

St. Pat's Parade March 17

The South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on March 17, 2024. Grand Marshals Night is set for February 2, 2024 at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge.



Father Jay Celebrates 25 Years

By Steve Schmid

Former Saint Lawrence Church Pastor father Jay Toborowsky is celebrating 25 years of priestly ordination. He is currently serving as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Diocese of Metuchen. Father Jay accepted his position with the diocese after serving as administrator and then pastor at Saint Lawrence Parish. He was well liked at Saint Lawrence and moved to become pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Annandale. Father Toborowsky was ordained to the priesthood on May 30, 1998 by Bishop Vincent de Paul Breen.

Thank You

Independence Engine & Hose Company #1 would like to thank all the sponsors, mayor, city council, city workers and all the wonderful cars for their support for our annual car show. Pictured at the event is Car Show Chairman Mike Toth (r) and fellow firefighters who dedicated their time to help make this a huge success. See you all next year! (Photo by Brian Stratton)



SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Borough of Sayreville will be hosting the 22nd Annual Memorial Service to remember the victims of September 11, 2001.

The Memorial Service will be held at 1:00pm, Sunday, September 10th, 2023 rain or shine at the Sayreville Borough 9/11 Memorial in Burke's Park, Washington Road. Those wishing to attend are asked to arrive by 12:30pm. For more information, contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 732-390-7021.

A Taste of the Town for TJ

Sayreville Cares, a Sayreville based group, Co founded by Karen Bailey Bebert, Jenn Minkoff and Steven Christopher Minkoff, recently became aware of TJ and his family's journey through his recently diagnosed illness. TJ and his family are Sayreville residents and 14 year old TJ is battling a rare form of bone cancer. Sayreville Cares has reached out to local restaurants and asked them to participate in a dine and donate program. We are calling it "A Taste of the Town for TJ". Thus far, Five Guys Burgers is hosting "A Taste of the Town for TJ" on Thursday, September 21st from 12 to 8 pm. "Bubba's 33 Restaurant in Gateway Shopping Center is having their dine and donate on September 28th 11 am to 11 pm. If your restaurant would like to participate to help further these efforts, or any organization, please, reach out to Sayreville Cares at 732 910 8397. Please know that there is also a "Rally for TJ" Go Fund me set up if you would like to donate. Most of all your prayers would be very much appreciated for TJ's complete healing. Together, we can make things better. Sayreville Cares. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sayrevillecares>

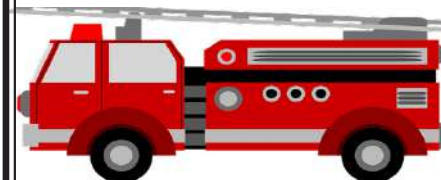
FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL MASS

When: Saturday October 7th, 2023
Time: 4:00pm

Location: Church of The Sacred Heart-531 Washington Avenue, South Amboy, NJ.

Attendees are asked to assemble in front of the church by 3:30pm in Class A uniform. Apparatus will park on Washington Avenue in front of the church.

PLEASE RSVP 732-570-7183 by 10/1/2023 or call for additional information.



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Talk Of The Towns
By Tom Burkard

**South Amboy Featured On
Channel 12 News**
On July 28th, Channel 12 News TV station ran a story titled "Main Street, New Jersey: Spotlighting local businesses in South Amboy." The outstanding interviews were conducted by News 12's Tony Caputo

at popular stores/shops with their owners. South Amboy's featured businesses were: Java Dave's Coffee; South Amboy Deli & Subs; Madura Pharmacy; Gem's House of Bagels; South Amboy Arena; Broadway Ange. Check this great showcase of our locals at youtube.com.



Java Dave's Coffee owner Efrén Castro (r) is interviewed on Channel 12 News TV station by Tony Caputo for the featured story titled "Main Street, New Jersey: Spotlighting Local Businesses in South Amboy." In addition Caputo interviewed owners of 5 other South Amboy businesses. (Image courtesy of Channel 12 News)

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.

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 -C.S..

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The
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TIMES

• The "Good News" Newspaper •

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

1. In 1994, this deli/grocery store opened at 3008 Bordentown Ave., Parlin?
a. Two Towns Deli b. HomeTown Deli/Grocery c. Parlin Deli/Grocery

2. In South Amboy '94, where was Wholesale Foods located?
a. Main St. b. Stevens Ave. c. North Broadway

3. Where was Gianna's The Fourth Generation Restaurant located in 1994?
a. Ernston Rd. b. Main St. c. Washington Rd.

4. In '94, this gas station was located at the corner of Main/Thompson Streets in South Amboy?
a. Massing's b. Gulick's c. Main Street

5. Back in '94, this nursery school was located in Parlin?
a. Oak Tree Village b. A-Plus c. High Hopes

6. Oak Tree Ceramics was located where in South Amboy circa. 1994?
a. South Pine Ave. b. Bordentown Ave. c. North Broadway

7. This movie premiered in 2000, and had scenes filmed in South Amboy?
a. Rocky 4 b. Coyote Ugly c. Purple Rose of Cairo

8. In '07, this South Amboy sports card shop was located at 102 South Broadway
a. Grand Slam Cards b. Ballpark Collectibles c. ABC Baseball Cards

9. Where was Plus Polskie Specialty Polish Deli located in Sayreville back in 2007?
a. Main St. b. MacArthur Ave. c. Jernee Mill Rd.

10. This world renowned rock star played at a fundraiser in Buddies Tavern in Parlin in 2013?
a. Jon Bon Jovi b. Bruce Springsteen c. Dave "Snake" Sabo

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

Goodbye Father Dennis And Thank You!

By Tom Burkard

Rev. Dennis Weezorak better known to parishioners of St. Mary's Church as Father Dennis arrived at "The Pleasant Little City" in June 1994, and became the church's eighth Pastor on October 26, 1997. He said that since that time, "The town has become more cosmopolitan, developed better transportation, and has more shops with a wide variety. St. Mary's Church has become younger. We have more families now, and it is more family-oriented. The cross-spectrum of people are involved and active."

When asked if there is one memory that stands out during his time in South Amboy, he responded, "The people in town. There is a goodness that's unusual. People go above and beyond to help each other or those in need. My hardest transition to retired life will be missing people. It's nice to see people going to different activities at the parish and in town, and they're all great people. Through my longevity here, I've gotten to know many people better. This is the most fun place I've been. It's the place where people know how to work together, and they are willing to make the church and town better. The events and activities are excellent, as is the library, which is a community center. We also have the Allie Clark Field for the youth of our community. I really have to give Mayor Fred Henry and former Mayor Jack O'Leary tons of credit. They have done so much for the town. South Amboy is on a good path. Of course, there are always struggles, but you grow from struggles, and they teach us a better way." Father Dennis said he was most proud of "bringing the parish together after a time of struggle."

What was your greatest accomplishment as Pastor? "Bringing more people together and getting them involved. The more they're involved, the more they own the parish. He described his tour at St. Mary's as "Definitely one of the happiest times in my life. I enjoyed the people and interacting, and I love New Jersey."

During Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Father Dennis was instrumental in getting help for many who were affected by the devastation at that time. He said, "Bishop Bootkoski called me and he wanted to come to town and tour South Amboy, to see first hand the damage, and the people who were in need of assistance. The police were great and took us around town. I coordinated with Catholic Charities to help people who lost their homes, clothes and other necessities. They helped the people who were in need."

What was the toughest part of your position as Pastor? "I have a Business Degree



Rev. Father Dennis Weezorak (Photo by Tom Burkard)

from Penn State University, and a Master Degree in Divinity. Sometimes I think that I use my business degree too much. As Pastor, I am the HR Dept., Finance Dept., Chief Administrator, and paper pusher." Father Dennis certainly had many responsibilities and different hats to wear indeed!

His love for the people of the parish comes through during the interview, and he said, "As I leave St. Mary's, I will miss the people most. There are so many good people here."

When asked about his retirement plans, he said, "I will have a fun and good retirement. I've saved well and made good investments. I hope to travel and spend. I've been to 36 countries, and would like to visit Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Kenya. I've seen most of Europe, love and adore Italy. I also hope to take a trip to China. I've really lived a charmed life, and was blessed with wonderful parents and siblings."

As a farewell message to his parishioners and the City of South Amboy, he stated, "I would like to thank you for being so kind to me, and supporting me, and building the community."

*Personal Note: Father Dennis Weezorak truly made a wonderful and lasting impact on St. Mary's Church and its parishioners, as well as the City of South Amboy. He has been a tremendous inspiration to so many including myself, and I was honored and blessed to know this outstanding priest since he gave a beautiful homily at my mother's funeral Mass in 1996. Thank you Father Dennis for all the lives you have touched in such a positive way through the years. May you have a happy and healthy retirement, and God Bless you always!

Undefeated Champions



Congratulations to The Mob men's softball team on winning the Sayreville B Div. Weeknight League championship. The Mob completed an undefeated, (20-0) season. The finale was played at The Pit on Woodland Avenue in South Amboy/Morgan on July 26th.

The champions are pictured as follows: (l-r) Darren Curran, Tim Kales, Pablo Hernandez, Dan Rodriguez, Stephen Samra, Shane O'Neill, Nolan Rivera, Mike Bertrand, Tyler Barriero, Mikey Ferro, Bobby Krepek, Ryan Casano, Joe Browning, Robert Holthausen, Connor Drabik, Dan DeLucia, Anthony Gambardella, Steve Samra. (Story/caption by Steve Samra). (Photo submitted by Patrick Douglas-Manager of the Vintage Bombers Senior Softball League Over 50; Prime Time Bombers Senior League Softball Over 60. (Story by Steve Samra)

Vendors Wanted

We are looking for vendors for the annual Flea Market at the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville. Our Flea Market will be held on September 9, 2023. The time is 8am to 2pm. The rain date is September 16, 2023. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough Hall. Spaces are

available for \$20.00 for one space, \$30.00 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$8.00. No food vendors please. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

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FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY


The end of summer is upon us. I hope all of you have enjoyed these past three months; perhaps you've taken a nice vacation, enjoyed time at the beach or the park, spent some time with friends and family, or at the very least had some time away from work or school. Summer is a great time of year for making memories.

Before we launch headlong into the labors of autumn, we have one final reprieve thanks to the labors of so many people who have worked to make our country a better place. As we prepare to celebrate Labor Day, I hope you will join me in taking time to acknowledge all the hard-working men and women who, over the centuries, have taken a stance for workers' rights and laid the foundation for our working lives today. No matter whether your collar is blue or white, we all owe something to these heroic people, too many of them lost to history, whose efforts have led to so many things we now take for granted: overtime pay, meal breaks, 40-hour work weeks, the right to organize, collective bargaining, and laws which entitle all people to equal rights and privileges in the workplace, to name just a few.

Please also remember to take time for yourself and to be proud of your own labors. Whether you are celebrating with a barbecue, family gathering, attending a parade, or just want to relax and enjoy the long weekend and the start of football season, remember that you have earned it. Enjoy. To all our local businesses who will continue working through Labor Day weekend, and who work hard to provide services to our residents and contribute to the growth of our City, thank you! Please also remember our volunteers, first responders, and other emergency personnel who are sure to be on call this Labor Day weekend.

Just a few announcements and well wishes before I conclude. On September 9th, the City will host its third annual Irish Festival from 1-8 p.m. at the Waterfront Park. This event is free to the public and will feature music, food, vendors of all kinds, and much more. Come celebrate with us as we reach halfway to St. Patrick's Day! Please also join me in wishing a healthy and happy retirement to Father Dennis Weezorak of St. Mary's Parish, who began his tenure at St. Mary's on October 28, 1997, and has served our community for over 25 years. The Most Rev. James Checchio, DD, Bishop of Metuchen, has appointed Very Reverend Guy Selvester to be the new Pastor of St. Mary's, effective September 1. Best of luck! Finally, I would like to wish good luck to all our students, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members as they embark on this new school year. In the words of Benjamin Franklin: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy



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Yearbook-Hoffman 1988

By Tom Burkard

When the Hoffman High School Class of '88 returned for its final school year in Sept. 1987, the #1 song that was a hit in the nation was "LaBamba" by Los Lobos. The Hoffman yearbook was titled "Talk of the Town" and was a tribute to Reggie Carney. Bill Beattie was principal, and some of the fine members of the faculty included David Inman, John Bernosky, Roberta Rim, John Green, Tony Gonsalves, Rich Klein and Sharon Silesky. Anne Marie Krygier was Student Council President, and Amy Toscano was President of the Honor Society. Some members of the Class of '88 selected randomly were Karen Applegate, Karen Baetz, Douglas Bowers, Frederic Brown, Rene Chartier, Walter Collins, Kim Kurrie, Denise Falk, Judith Ferraro, Sherri Gagliano, Sheri Hackett, Patricia Hermes, Orville Herrod Jr., Morzena Kobrzynski, Allison McCarthy, William McDonnell, Clint Mason, Lisa Melhorn, Dawn Milochick, Lynell Murphy, Erik Misler, Elizabeth Pawelczyk, Jennifer Pluskota, Helene Ramer, Melissa Rufus, Gregory Saggau Jr., Robert Santucci, Catherine Shea, Lisa Stegway, Jennifer Tague, Joni Waresk, Victoria Weeks, Margaret Witham, Carrie Woznica, Jack Zito, Lauryn Hess, Melissa

Vartholom, Donna Beckman. Worldwide news in '88 featured George Bush being re-elected President; Michael Dukakis losing his bid for the presidency, but his cousin Olympia Dukakis won an Oscar; Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson lost his gold medal in a steroid scandal; TV evangelist Jimmy Swaggert lost his pulpit after a scandal; Over 24,000 people were killed, and a half million left homeless after an earthquake in the Soviet Union. The Governors had many fine senior athletes in '88 including Stephen Chrzaszcz, Brian Gay, Francis Garguilo Jr., John Hefflin, Michelle Herrick, Robert Limardo III, Dawn Mocarski, William Moskal, Paul Noble, Brian Regan, Lisa Smith, Mary Ann Stephanick, Amy Toscano, Susan Van Reed, Kimberly Wallace, Theresa Zulin, Scott Watschinger. 1988 was the year that the incredible Lady Governors girls' basketball team breezed to its fourth consecutive Group I State Championship under the great Coach Reggie Carney. At graduation time, George Michael's "One More Try" was the top song in the U.S.A. Hoffman High's Class of 1988 was a great group of young adults with bright futures ahead.



Ward LaFrance Enterprise Hook & Ladder truck from mid 60's. Dennis Quinlan, who submitted this photo said, "Looks like Jimmy Slover riding in the truck. Anybody who knew 'Digger' knows why he was riding in the truck."



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Walczak, Wahler Retire

(Photos/story submitted)
MCUA Retirements

“The entire Board and staff of the MCUA congratulate Timothy Walczak on his Retirement! Mr. Walczak started his career at MCUA on 3/28/1994 in a temporary position as a Maintenance Mechanic, Class 1. On 11/20/1994 he was transferred to Operations as an Operator. On 3/6/2006, Mr. Walczak was promoted to Operator, Class A. In March 2008, he was transferred to Relief Operator, Class A. On 12/27/2016, Timothy was promoted to Shift Supervisor, where he finished out his career. Timothy Walczak has dedicated 29 years to the MCUA. We wish him well in retirement and thank him for his hard work throughout the years!”

“The entire Board and staff of the MCUA congratulate Frank Wahler on his Retirement! Mr. Wahler started his career at MCUA on 3/17/1992 as an Operator/Laborer 1st Class (Solids). On 1/1/1995 his title was later changed to Operator/Laborer, Class A- (Solids). On 11/4/1996, Mr. Wahler was reassigned to Utility/Laborer (Maintenance). In 2000, Frank was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic, and later, in 2015, was promoted to Maintenance Mechanic- Class A, where he finished out his career. Frank Wahler has dedicated just over 31 years to the MCUA. We wish him well in retirement and thank him for his hard work throughout the years!”



Tim Walczak, along with his wife Karen Walczak, and three of their grandchildren: (L to R) Abigail, Logan, and Mikayla.



Frank Wahler (r) and Joseph Cryan, MCUA Executive Director.



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Really Old People

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 1983

Really old people
Are a forgotten commodity of this society
Like a torn encyclopedia
Or a piece of fine silverware left to tarnish
By the younger generations
They have seen life at its utmost
And their potential to Advise and instruct and pacify young people
By words or example
Or even just a look on their aged faces
Is a gift that is enormous and unlimited
And something this society should reverend.

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.S....

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Success Bound !



This summer thirty-one of our South Amboy HS students participated in the 'Success Bound Program' offered to our SAMHS students. This partnership with MCC program offers students a jump start to graduating with a high school diploma from SAMHS and an associate degree from Middlesex County College. This 5 week program entailed students to attend a morning class at SAMHS and intern at a local business or non-profit organization 4 days per week for three hours per day .Our students had placements in our city at the YMCA, Children's Center for Learning, South Amboy Arts and City Hall. During this time students were also given the opportunity to sign up for other course opportunities to help accumulate the courses needed for their associates. The Success Bound Program facilitators communicate regularly with the student to keep them on track toward their goal of receiving a high school diploma and associate degree at their graduation. (Photos/Info Submitted)

Sayreville Library News

Breakfast and Brunch with Vanessa (Virtual)

Tuesday, Sept 5@6PM
Who doesn't enjoy a good breakfast or brunch? Learn how to make some delicious treats to make breakfast even better. Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish for another virtual cooking session and learn how to make some new recipes for your morning meals. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the Zoom link. Registeronline or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Elvis: A trip through history

Saturday, Sept 9@ 2PM
Join Vinnie Bruno, rock music historian, for this look at the life of Elvis Presley. See his journey to become "The King." With photos

and sound clips, this trip through history is sure to rock. Registration Required Registeronline or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

How to finally write and publish your book with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

Monday, Sept 11 @ 6PM (Part 1)
Monday, Sept 25 (Part 2)
Think you have the next great best seller in your mind? Unsure what to do? Then join Jamie Novak, Humorist and best selling Author for this two part workshop. Learn how to deal with writer's block, navigating the world of publishing and self-publishing and much more. This is a two part series. Attendees are encouraged to sign up for both sessions but not required. Registration required to get the zoom link. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, Sept 19 @1PM
Join us for our Monthly Movie Matinee This month: Book Club: The Next Chapter. Starring Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, and Candice Bergen. Rated PG-13 1hr 47 mins Refreshments provided. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Be the first to know about great reads, services and library programs--sign up for our newsletter. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram! www.sayrevillelibrary.org

Grand Re-Opening



Dunkin' manager Christopher Duran, celebrates the grand re-opening of the Dunkin' Donuts store, at Washington Rd. and Raritan St., Parlin. Photo submitted)

You Are Invited to Tea!

The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women is hosting tea on Saturday, September 9 at 1PM in Memorial Hall, 529 Washington Avenue, South Amboy, lower level.

If you have ever been curious about the Council, now is your chance to get to know our Ladies, learn what we do, and join us for tea and sandwiches.

RSVP is appreciated to ensure enough is available for all. (732-727-0336, Ruth).

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FREE Pest Inspection

South Amboy National Night Out

August 1, 2023
(Photos By Brian Stratton)



City of South Amboy staff pose with City BA David Kales (c).



There were plenty of activities.



The Dowdell Library had treats and a cornhole contest. Pictured (l-r) Mayor Fred Henry, Linda Henry, Library Director Elaine Gaber and Librarian Dennis Kuhn.



Members of the Historical Society of South Amboy.



Lukas riding the new bike he won during one of the many free raffles held at the event!



The man on stilts was a big hit!



South Amboy Elementary School Vice Principal Michelle Buchanan.

The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, B.A., M.S.

One of the largest fires to ever occur in New Jersey was the Great Paterson Fire of 1902. Though only two deaths occurred from this massive blaze, there were over 450 structures destroyed including large business buildings, banks, five churches, the Free Public Library, and City Hall. More than a quarter of the city's structures were burned to the ground within an area totaling twenty-six city blocks. The fire originated in the trolley car sheds of the Jersey City, Hoboken, and Paterson Railway Company which were located on Broadway in the City. As the fire grew in size, it was fanned by gale force winds of sixty miles per hour. The fire tore through these tinder-like buildings in a matter of minutes. The entire Paterson Fire Department responded but their efforts were in vain as the wind-swept flames jumped in a leapfrog manner from structure to structure. Many other fire departments from the surrounding area helped fight the fire. The Paterson Fire Department, which played a major role, was ill equipped with old fire engines that threw weak streams of water at the fire. One of the biggest mistakes is that fire companies were not sent downwind to the residential neighborhood to take care of embers and firebrands dropping down on the wooden frame homes and shingled roofs. As the fire jumped across streets, it grew in intensity as new fuel became available. Over five hundred families lost their homes and all their possessions. The Great Paterson Fire was the biggest conflagration in the City's history and ranks with the largest in the United States. The fire burned from midnight on February 8th until 1:00pm on February 10th. The fire stopped spreading and started to extinguish itself only when it reached a cemetery which lacked fuel for the fire to continue. The total cost of the fire amounted to over \$6 million

and in today's economy the amount would be over \$220 million. Most of the reconstruction of the City was financed by local banks, insurance monies, and private donations. The wealthiest families in the City paid for relief to the local families that were burned out of their homes. Monetary donations poured in from throughout the state but they were denied by the then Mayor John Hinchcliffe. He did so because he wanted to show Paterson's strength and that the fire was nothing but a minor setback and that Paterson could really take care of itself. Back in those days, Paterson was a very prosperous city and thrived on its industries. It was one of the major manufacturing centers in the United States with its silks and textiles, locomotives, and machine shops. Silk mills have been a mainstay in Paterson since the mid-1800's and were a dominant factor in the economics of the city and the reason Paterson was nicknamed the "Silk City." Just recently there have been renovations made to a rundown and neglected baseball stadium in Paterson. Once a well-known minor league baseball stadium, it was neglected for many years and was not used. This stadium was built in 1931-1932 and was dedicated to Mayor John Hinchcliffe, the mayor at the time of the Great Fire. Additionally, it was named in honor of his uncle, also named John Hinchcliffe, serving as mayor of the city years ahead of the Great Fire. Today those silk mills and manufacturing plants are just a memory in the history books. Paterson, with a crippling economy and a huge unemployment rate, became an inner-city in the 1980's where crime significantly increased. The population of the City is approximately 145,000 residents.

Community Vacation Bible School



Children enjoy their recreation period outside at the recent Community Vacation Bible School held at Saint Bernadette Church (Photo submitted)

The children performed a wonderful closing program at the Community Vacation Bible School held recently at Saint Bernadette Church. (Photo submitted)



Saint Bernadette Pastor Father Jim Hagerman gives the opening prayer at the Community Vacation Bible School held at Saint Bernadette. (Photo submitted)





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The Vintage Car Contest

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Ever see this car on the road? Let us know what it is: Make and Model- send your answer to satimes@aol.con by September 18th.

July Vintage Car

Last month’s ride was a MGB GT, the hardtop coupe version of the MGB roadster. The following got it right:Guy Farrell, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Ed English, Thomas Harrigan. Incorrect answer: ‘72 MG, Aston Martin.



MGB GT

Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

July Who is it?



Can you identify these two guitar icons? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by September 18th.



Brad Pitt

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit, thou who art all knowing - Who brightens every path that I may reach my ideal - Thou giventh me the divine gift of forgiving and forgetting wrongs done unto me and who in every instant of my life art with me. I'd like in this short dialogue to affirm my gratitude for all your blessings and reaffirm once again that I never want to part from thee though illusions of material things abound. My desire is to be with thee and all my loved ones in perpetual grace. Thank you for our mercy on me and mine. Persons should pray 3 consecutive days without revealing petition. Within 3 days grace will be obtained regardless of how difficult the petition may be. Publish this prayer once the petition has been attained. Thank you Holy Spirit. -S.S..

WHAT IS IT?????

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Have you ever used one of these? Let us know what it is, hint it was replaced by a 3.5” one. Send your answer to satimes@aol by September 18th.

July What Is It?

Last month’s What Is It? Was a Tamagotchi Pet. The Tamagotchi Is a handheld digital pet that was created in Japan by Akihiro Yoko.. It was released by Bandai on November 23, 1996 in Japan and in the United States on May 1, 1997, quickly becoming one of the biggest toy fads of the late 1990s and the early 2000s. The following got it right:Jacqueline Riley, Edna Pilch, Luke O’Connor, John & JoAnn French, Patti Tengelics, Nanci Deverin, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr., Mark Moniello, Betty Leveille, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Jim Malkiewicz, Thomas Harrigan.



Tamagotchi Pet

LETTERS

Letter to Editor:

Summer’s Greetings to the S-A Times Team!

Referencing this months’ car, it’s an MGB/GT. Pictured is a 1965/1967 model due to it not being equipped with side marker lights (68/74 had them) It’s always a pleasure to catch up with what’s going on in the Pleasant I ttle City. Wishing you continued success!

Bill Billich

Hudson, FL



A Favorite Childhood Memory

In 2nd grade of Bedford Elementary in New York many years ago, the Good Humor truck came every day around lunchtime. At the time, my favorite Raspberry ice was 7 cents ...one day I was upset because I only had a nickel, 5 cents. As I walked away, I realized I was wearing my “penny loafers”... each shoe with one penny in it, so I got my Raspberry ice after all. I never forgot how good that ice tasted that day.

Sonia Iglesias



What Exit?



This month we are looking for the most direct GSPexit heading south from our area to get to this month’s Where In NJ. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by September 18th.

What Exit?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton

July What Exit:

Last month’s GSP exit was 98. The following got it right:Edna Pilch, Luke O’Connor, John & JoAnn French, Nanci Deverin, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr, Mark Moniello, Betty Leveille, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Jim Malkiewicz, Ed English, Peter Mc Intyre, Thomas Harrigan.



A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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 -B.S...

Coughlin, Freiman Discuss Property Tax Relief

New Jersey’s senior citizens will receive historic property tax relief over the next few years according to state legislative leaders who spoke at a Princeton event earlier this week.

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex), Assemblyman Roy Freiman (D-Somerset, Mercer, Middlesex, Hunterdon) and Senator Andrew Zwicker (D-Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset, Hunterdon) spoke at an August 1 town hall meeting at the Princeton Senior Resource Center to share information about new and expanded property tax relief programs designed to make New Jersey more affordable.

They discussed StayNJ, a new program that will provide tax credits to cut property tax bills in half for many seniors. The maximum benefit is \$6,500, and seniors with incomes up to \$500,000 are eligible. Seniors can apply for the StayNJ program next year, with benefits beginning in January 2026.

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation creating the StayNJ program into law on June 30.

“I came up with the StayNJ program as a way to help seniors stay in New Jersey, so that they can spend their retirement years continuing to live in the communities they love, near family and friends,” said Speaker Coughlin. “Property taxes are a top concern for seniors, and StayNJ puts to rest the worries

seniors have about whether they can afford to stay in our state.”

The lawmakers also provided details on how the recently enacted state budget will provide additional property tax relief for seniors this year. The budget expands the ANCHOR property tax relief program, providing eligible senior renters and tenants with a \$250 boost in relief payments. Tenants will receive \$700, while homeowners can receive a maximum of \$1,750.

Additionally, eligibility for the Senior Freeze program has been expanded, by raising the annual income eligibility to \$150,000, up from \$99,700. The residency requirement was reduced to 3 years, down from 10 years.

“Thousands of seniors across the state will benefit from the additional property tax relief payments this year and beyond,” said Assemblyman Roy Freiman. “The changes will be especially beneficial for our residents who live on a fixed income. We’ve worked very hard to address affordability issues for our seniors.”

Beyond providing property tax relief, the new state budget also lowers prescription drug costs for seniors by expanding income eligibility limits for the Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled Program (PAAD) and encouraging enrollment in PAAD and the Senior Gold Prescription Program.

September at South Amboy Elks.

We will be having our monthly Buffet Breakfast on Sunday September 17 from 9-11:30 am. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Children 7 and under are \$7.00.

On Wednesday the 27th we welcome The Jersey Shore Medium Linda Shields. Doors open at 5:30 with food available for purchase. The show begins promptly at 7pm. The cost is \$40.00 a person and is Advance sales only. For tickets call 267-897-3108 or visit the lodge.

Saturday September 30th we will be hosting a delicious dinner open to the public of Chicken Francese served on a bed of rice with a side of green beans and a tossed salad. Also included is your dessert, coffee, and tea. The price of this dinner is \$18.00 in advance and \$22.00 at the door. Take out available.

South Amboy Elks is Located at 601 Washington Ave, stop in for tickets or call 732-727-7170

Thank you in Advance for your support.



Another successful car show hosted by our dedicated Firemen. August 6th, the annual event was the biggest show and all who attended enjoyed a wonderful afternoon looking at the many cars and gathering with friends and family.

The day was filled with great excitement as each awaited to see who would receive a trophy for their cars. More importantly, this event paid tribute to our Vets who gave us the freedom we are enjoying today. Included in the picture George Schaefer who served 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Sky Soldiers presented a trophy to Joseph Albin who was Grand Marshal in the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade and a member of VFW Post 4699. Joseph Szaro, Commander of the South Amboy Post 62, is pictured on the right. (Photo/info submitted)

Food Drive September 16

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are holding a food drive Saturday September 16 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at the K of C at 308 Fourth St. South Amboy. The Knights thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, call 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

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Raindate: Saturday, September 16
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*This project is supported in part by the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners
and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,
a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.*

This event is handicapped accessible.

Rumbles From The Rock And Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

Well, the time has come, circle these upcoming dates. Saturday Sept.23rd, 5 to 8 pm, the Sayreville Recreation Departments "Blast from the Past" Car Show and Concert. Hosted by none other than Mr. Car Show D.J.himself, Richie Hart, and the "Just us Cruisers" Car Club, along with Central Jerseys Rockin' and Rollin' Classic Rockers "Clem and Friends" Band, in our 18th year at Sayreville's Kennedy Park. A vast array of Hot Rods, Customs, Motorcycles, Muscle Cars, and Motorized Beauties from all Eras. The show draws Clubs and Car Owners from N.Y., Long Island, Pennsylvania, Conneticut, and New Jersey. DJ Richie will be spinning the hits from the era those cars ruled our streets, and "Clem and Friends" Band will supply the "live" versions of the songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's, that ruled the "airwaves" and speakers from those car radios that "Cruised" the avenues. Bucket Seat Rock 'n Roll to the "Backseat Ballads" that we all grew up on, and I'm sure you know what I mean by that! "Friends" adds a new member to its list of Jerseys top rockers with a "steal" from "The Paul Nagy Project" Band..Highland Park's own Dave Lipincott, will take over in the high energy percussion Dept. as the band's drummer. Along with Scott Bishop on the Keys, another 'steal" from The PaulNagy Project. Mr.Fran Fee on guitar and lead vocals, Jim Heuer and myself, the writer will fill in the guitar work, behind Matt Esposito's Fender Bass, with N.Y.State's premier tenor saxman, Craig Hoek, pushing those notes that put rock 'n roll music into a new "sound" with raunchy, crying solos and riffs that surpassed the guitar..AND, you'll have the chance to hear the group the following day when the Rec. Dept sponsors its annual "Sayreville Day" Sunday Sept.24th again, at Kennedy Park. Festivities start at around 11am.with vendors, food trucks, rides, entertainment, etc. "Clem and Friends" should be onstage around 2pm and we'll close the activities at 4pm. IMPORTANT-Rain Dates for both of the above mentioned shows are..Saturday Sept.30th for the Car Show and Sunday Oct.1st for Sayreville Day. So circle those dates c'mon down to the Park for 2 days of fun, music and friends..One more date to circle on your calendar is Sunday Oct.29thth for St.Stan's of Sayreville for their Annual Car Show and Concert..A benefit Show for the late Tommy Samuels, St.Stans official Photographer, and for the late Jerry Ust, former Sayreville Rec Director ,who was instrumental in bringing Car Shows to our town..Trophies in Tommy and Jerry's names will be given out to the 2 "Best in Show" Cars at the show.Last Year's show drew Over 250 cars. Again, hosted by Richie Hart and the Just us Cruisers, and 'Clem and Friends" Band, who will supply the music that went along with the era of cars you'll see at the show. We'll be there from 11am to 3pm and beyond, so stop in, check out the rides, say hi to your neighbor, listen to the music..try the food..trick or treating for the kiddies, raffles,. in other words.."Have a Great Time"..Rain Date...the following week Sunday Nov.5th.. So, hoping to see all our "Friends" at all the upcoming events..it's been a long time for all of us..Be well and Rock n Roll!!



Brothers Jeb and Jock Guthrie, of the Simon and Garfunkel tribute band Scarborough Fair, recently played at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park. The free Wednesday night concert series continued through August. (Photo/Info by Steve Schmid)

#1 Pop Hits-Aug. 26

- 2004-Lean Back-Terror Squad
- 1990-Vision Of Love-Mariah Carey
- 1983-Every Breath You Take-The Police
- 1977-Best Of My Love-The Emotions
- 1969-Honky Tonk Women
- The Rolling Stones

#1 Country Hits Aug. 26

- 2001-Austin-Blake Shelton
- 1997-Come Cryin' To Me-Lonestar
- 1985-Real Love-Kenny Rogers/Dolly Parton
- 1973-Everybody's Had The Blues
- Merle Haggard
- 1968-Already It's Heaven-David Houston

MUSIC TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

One Word Song Titles

1

1.One

2.Yesterday

3.Undun

4.Sundown

5.Desperado

6.Groovin

7.Faithfully

8.Words

9.Darlin'

10.Lady

11.Truly

12.Girlfriend

13.Always

14.Celebration

15.Longer

a.The Eagles

b.The Beach Boys

c.Atlantic Starr

d.The Bee Gees

e.Kool & The Gang

f.The Guess Who

g.Dan Fogelberg

h.Kenny Rogers

i.Journey

j.Gordon Lightfoot

k.Avril Lavigne

l.The Young Rascals

m.Lionel Richie

n.Three Dog Night

o.The Beatles

Answers

1n 2o 3f 4j 5a 6i 7l 8d 9b 10h 11m 12k 13c 14e 15g.

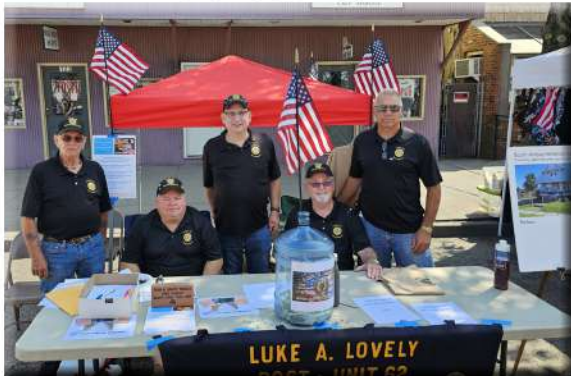
23rd Annual Car Show

Hosted by Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1

August 6, 2023
(Photos by Brian Stratton)



Chevrolet Alley!



Luke A. Lovely Post Unit #62 American Legion South Amboy.



Your food has been served it's sitting on the window!



The huge crowd enjoyed all the different classic cars.



A beautiful bright yellow Chevelle SS.

Congratulations!



Bill and Carol Masterson, formerly of South Amboy/Morgan are pictured with their new race horse "Shiv," a 2-year old filly, who recently raced in the New York Sires Stakes and finished 2nd at Yonkers Raceway. "Shiv" is scheduled to run on August 28th at Vernon Downs. Congrats and lots of success always, Bill & Carol!



Where in NJ?
By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Have you ever been to this very popular spot? Let us know where it is located. Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by September 18th.

Last month's mystery location was Point Pleasant NJ. The photo showed the famous but now defunct train that ran along the boardwalk from Jenkinson's arcade dhow to the Manasquan inlet. The following must have ridden that train: Edna Pilch, Luke O'Connor, John & JoAnn French, Patti Tengelics, Nanci Deverin, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr., Bruce Grankowski, Mark Moniello, Betty Leveille, James Novak, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Jim Malkiewicz, Ed English, Peter McIntyre, Thomas Harrigan.



July Where in NJ?
Point Pleasant NJ

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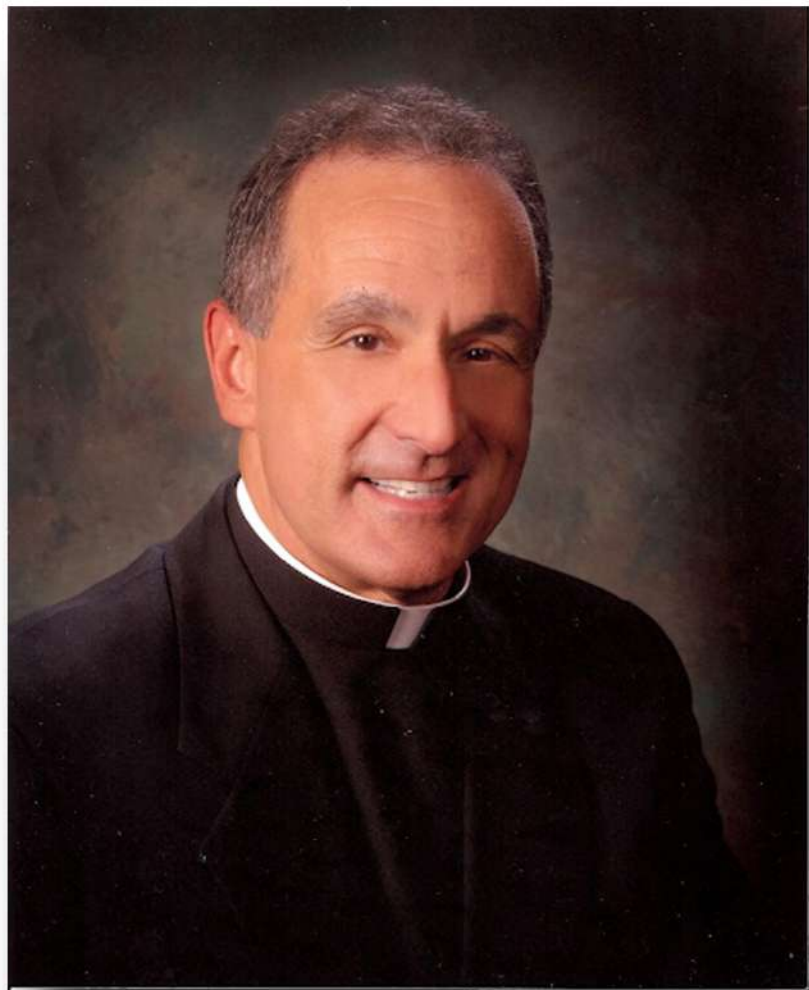


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Congratulations Father Dennis On Your Retirement!



We, the members of the
St. Mary Food Pantry would
like to wish Father Dennis
Weezorak a safe, happy, and
healthy retirement.

We appreciate all his support
over the past 30 years,
allowing us to serve the
community through the use
of St. Pat's Hall.

His support has enabled us to
grow and meet the needs of
those less fortunate.

Enjoy!

Best Wishes From

The Members of St. Mary's Food Pantry





Coach Mike Novak (l) and his son Michael after Sayreville's last game against South River, which was Michael's last game as a high school player, and his dad's final game as coach in an outstanding, record-setting career. (Photos/info submitted)

School Sports

By Tom Burkard
2023 High School Baseball Pitching Records
The final won-lost records for South Amboy/ Sayreville HS baseball pitchers in 2023:
South Amboy
Coach Dan Poulsen
Matt Stempinski 4-0; Steven Evanski 4-2; Christian Smith 2-0; Isiah Mercado 1-0; Benjamin Smith 1-0; Brandon Gasiewski 1-4.
Sayreville
Coach Mike Novak
Aayush Mehta 4-1, 3 saves; James Kehoe 4-2; Thomas Schlaline 4-4; Jake Romanello 2-1; Jack Zapotyczny 1-2.

Bombers/Governors Honored

Sayreville Coach Mike Novak was named Coach of the Year, and his standout player, Jake Romanello was a GMC All-Conference selection. Bombers chosen for the All-White Division team were: Romanello, Michael Colonnello, Aayush Mehta, and Mike Novak.
The GMC selected their All-Gold Division players for 2023. The South Amboy Governors selected were; Gabriel Albarran, Benjamin Hernandez, Diego Colon, and Steven Evanski.
Congratulations to all on your outstanding 2023 season!

Coach Novak Retires

Sayreville Bombers baseball Head Coach Mike Novak announced that he will retire from coaching, ending a highly-successful career of 23 years at the helm. He finished as the winningest coach in Sayreville history, racking up an outstanding (257-241-2) record, with an impressive list of major awards and honors which were all well-deserved. Just to name a few: GMC Coach of the Year 2005, 2011, 2012; GMC Division Coach of the Year 2005, 2011, 2012, 2023; Division Titles 2005, 2012, 2023; GMC Finalist-2012, 2015.
The SA Times tips their hat and sends congratulations to Mike on a truly superb coaching career! We wish you the best of luck always!



The talented Sayreville Bombers (l-r) Aayush Mehta, Michael Colonnello, Michael Novak, and Coach Mike Novak are pictured at the GMC Senior All-Star Game. All three players were captains of the Bombers this year, and were named to the All-White Division Team for their standout play.



Congratulations!



The scoreboard at USA Softball Hall of Fame Stadium shows South Amboy Middle School softball player Reagan Restiano who proudly represented the City in Oklahoma at the All American Games. (Photo Submitted)

Strawberry Visits NJ



Sayreville resident and Mets fan Edna Mazur Pilch was excited to meet one of her all-time favorite baseball players, Darryl Strawberry, when he was guest preacher at Ocean Grove's Great Auditorium. (Photo/info submitted)



Former Sayreville resident Walter Krzyzkowski, got to meet Mets/Yankees great Daryl Strawberry, at The Great Auditorium Sunday service in Ocean Grove. (Photo Submitted)

Pro Baseball Report

Sayreville's Brandon Bielak was optioned by the Houston Astros Major League Baseball Club to their Triple-A Sugar Land farm team recently. Bielak pitched 14 games with the big club, starting 13, worked 74.2 innings, struck out 59, and had an ERA of 3.74, and a (5-6) won-lost record. Hopefully, the Astros will recall him soon, to help them as they shoot for the playoffs.

SA Arts Seeking Original Artwork

SA Arts Gallery is seeking original artwork for our Artsfest '23 Exhibition. Artwork that reflects special moments and shows the importance of your heritage and/or cultural views. It may be one that was inspirational, or a memory of a special time, emotion or lesson learned. When you look back on this memory, you will know the story it tells. Over the past years, you may have recreated that 'one' memory that lives in your heart. We ask you to share that special moment with us for 'Celebrating Culture through the Arts' in the artform of your choice. For an entry form email us at SAarts141@gmail.com

Wind Creek Trip October 1

South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are running a trip to Wind Creek casino In Bethlehem PA Sunday October 1. Cost of \$35 includes round trip motor coach transportation, refreshments, and \$25 back in slot play. Motor coach leaves at 9:30 AM from the K of C parking lot. To secure your reservation, call Steve at 732-727-1707 or 732-721-2025 and leave a message.

Hardy Mum Sale

The Sacred Heart Council of Catholic Women will hold a hardy mum sale the weekend of September 22-24 in front of Memorial Hall, 529 Washington Avenue, South Amboy (across from Sacred Heart Church).
Locally grown 8" hardy mums in assorted colors will be available for \$6 each or 3 for \$15.
Please come by Friday, September 22, 3-5PM; Saturday, September 23, 12 Noon-5PM; and Sunday, September 24, 7:30AM-1PM, and support our organization's fundraising.

Champions



The South Amboy Plumbing men's softball team captured the Sayreville Weeknight A Division Spring championship. Pictured top row (l-r) John Scafidi, Dave Matthews, Jared Mundy, Jake Fasano, Ryan Shereyka, Kyle Savoia, Mario Batista. Bottom row (l-r) Christian Geant, Joseph Sepelyak, Brian DeJoy, Joel Rodriguez, Michael McCormick, Joseph Cesaro. (Photo/info submitted)



Middlesex College was awarded a \$1,000 Freedom Grant from the Edison Elks Lodge #2487 to go toward the purchase of college supplies for military and veteran students. Veteran students Peyton Brady and Carlos Perez, along with Vice President of Academic Affairs Linda Scherr, Student Life Coordinator Mary Tutalo, and Chief Financial Officer Frank Maltino gathered at the Veteran's Lounge on campus last Tuesday for a photo with some of the supplies purchased with the grant funds. The Freedom Grant award comes on the heels of Middlesex College achieving Gold status among the 530 schools designated by G.I. Jobs magazine as a 2023-2024 Military Friendly® School.



The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



2005-The talented South Amboy Governors varsity baseball team standing (l-r): Jared Mundy, Mundy, Steven Poltrictzky, Bill Wern, Coach George Krzyzanowski, Tom Szatkowski, Joe Bartlinski, Bill Wanko. Front row (l-r) Brian Seres, Joe Magnifico, Kyle Blum, Kyle Krzyzanowski, Mike DeJoy, Joe Tarallo. The Purple & Gold finished with a fine (17-8) record.

Glory Days In Local Sports

1964-Sayreville beat Piscataway, 5-3 behind pitcher Jim Shaw who was making his first start of the year. Paul Slovik and John Wojcik stroked 2 hits apiece....1977-Hoffman pounded Perth Amboy Vo-Tech, 18-1. Catcher Greg Kardos blasted 2 doubles and a triple to drive in 2 runs, and Bob Clayton notched the pitching victory...1986-St. Mary's belted Perth Amboy Tech, 6-2. Winning pitcher Bill Reilly struck out 9, and ripped a 2-run double, while Chuck Connery added 2 RBI...1999-South Amboy throttled Timothy Christian 10-0 in baseball play. Craig Colfer fired a 5-hitter and fanned

5, while Ed Behnen blasted a grand slam homer...

2008-Cardinal McCarrick shocked South River, 13-1 in 5 innings. Winning pitcher Jessica Hartland fired a 5-inning 2-hitter and struck out 4. Jen Shereyka, Rebecca Beshada, and Jamie Williams drilled 3 hits apiece...2011-Sayreville jolted J.P. Stevens, 11-1 in a 5-inning baseball contest. Dan Seaman unloaded a grand slam homer and single to drive in 6, and Blake Cuomo crunched a homer and double. Scott Griffin was the winning pitcher...

50 Years Ago

1973-In CJ Group 1 semifinals play, Ray Poulson fired a beautiful 6-strikeout shutout, to lead Hoffman for an 8-0 hammering over Hunterdon. George Bongiorno went a perfect 3-for-3 with 2 RBI, and Rudy Neumann ripped a single and double, good for 3 RBI.

35 Years Ago

1988-Hoffman (6-4) stopped St. Mary's (4-7) in baseball action by a 9-6 count. Hoffman blasted 4 home runs to support winning pitcher A.J. Boyer. Corey LaVigne, Billy Moskal, and Bryan Wanko orbited solo HR's, while Steve Chrzaszcz rocketed a 3-run dinger.

T.H.E. Game

Year-2005

Sport-Baseball

Teams-South Amboy vs. Cardinal McCarrick (City Series)

Recap-Joe Tarallo came through with a game-winning, 2-run single to lead the Guvs to a 6-5 come from behind victory. Mike DeJoy ripped a double, triple and knocked in 2 runs, while Joe Bartlinski notched the victory. Co-Players-of-the-Game-A tremendous team effort for South Amboy! Joe Tarallo, Mike DeJoy, and Joe Bartlinski.

20 Years Ago

2003-Cardinal McCarrick's ace pitcher Ed Fulham turned in a perfect season, by compiling an amazing (7-0) record.

65 Years Ago

1958-Hoffman blasted Ocean Regional, 9-2 on the baseball diamond. Winning pitcher Dave Inman fired a 5-hitter and fanned 4. Archie Moore and Tom Adams stroked 2 hits apiece.

Hoffman/South Amboy Update:

All-Time Most Career Victories

Brian Seres (25-9); John Skarzynski Jr. 24-5; Dave Gumprecht (22-8); Dan Poulsen (22-9); Mark Thompson (21-3); Curt Wood (20-16); *Tim Kales (18-10); Jason Cross (16-9); *Jayson Olivares (15-3); Joe Bartlinski (15-6); Scott Gumprecht (15-6); George Bongiorno (15-7-1); Gary Lange (15-7); Dustin DeVoe (15-13); *Kyle Gasiewski (15-15); Jim Inman (13-8); Craig Warzecha (12-7); Ray Poulson (12-10); Marty Veilleux (11-4); Jared Mundy (11-4); *Zach Honimar (11-5); *Steve Evanski (10-?); Dennis Wood (10-8); Jim Bright (9-2); Dave Inman (9-3); Dennis Leonard (9-3); Jack Conlon (9-10). *Denotes new additions to the All-Time Most Career Victories list.

85 Years Ago

1938-Hoffman shortstop Art "Archie" Pohl topped the team with an outstanding .562 batting avg. for the season.

Put Me In Coach!



Pictured is a group of South Amboy Little League coaches for the late 80's or early 90's. How many do you recognize? (Photo Submitted)

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N.J. Wildlife
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



“Happy” the hummingbird stops for a sweet drink on a hot day.



This large frog was spotted near lily pads in an area lake.



A Great Egret is waiting for an uber ride at an area lake. LOL



A large Snapping Turtle looks for a place to deposit her eggs.
(Photo courtesy of Dennis Yanoski)



A beautiful White-Tailed Doe was spotted walking through the backyard of The SA Times Poet Laureate Al Gomolka recently.



This Chipmunk answers to the name of “Chipper Jones.” LOL



A young Blue Heron is on patrol for food.
(Photo by Kim Carling)



Wearing the latest in new fashion is “Daisy Duck”



A large Cicada paid a recent visit.



A Black Runner Duck at a nearby lake.

SAVE THE DATE

Artsfest '23



A Celebration of Culture through the Arts

Sunday, September 24, 2023 (Raindate-10/1) 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Looking for Artists, Performers, Vendors & Volunteers

Contact: southamboyartsalliance@gmail.com or Call: 732-754-7913 for more information

Artsfest'23

Artsfest'23 is a celebration of our Community and Culture through the Arts. Sunday, September 24th is a day to bring your lawn chair and enjoy the events of the day. Free arts and Crafts, music and performances will fill the day! You may find yourself dancing in the street to the music you just could not sit and listen to! Come out meet your neighbors and make a new friend@ We are still looking for help and accepting business and non-profit business and vendors to enhance our great plans for the day. Contact SAarts141@gmail.com for an application for the event and/or call 732-727-4600x5971 for any questions you may have.

WWW.?



Can you identify this business? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by September 18th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Last Month's WWW.?- Head Hunters South Amboy
Winners: Edna Pilch, Dennis Quinlan, Guy Peters, Jessica Lopez, Don Zrebiec, John & JoAnn French, Patti Tengielics, Pat Sullivan, Joanne Niestempski, John Gelsinon, Pat Scully, Zusette Dato, Lisa Grankowski, Lynn Loy, Walter Starzec Jr., Barb Bockus, Mark Moniello, Betty Leveille, Eleanore Westerholm, Mary Agnes Morris, Steve Laskiewicz, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Ed English, Peter Mc Intyre.



July WWW.?
Head Hunters South Amboy

Remember This TV Show?



A show about this group of people trapped on a distant planet.

SNIPPETS OF MY LIFE IN SOUTH AMBOY

By Bob Olenczak-Olin

It was a little over 90 years ago, I was actually born in our home. Our home at 509 John Street is 800 square feet of luxurious living. Well at that time, in the midst of the depression, we thought it was luxurious. It was a roof over our heads.

We thought it was luxurious to us even though it did not have a bathroom, heating, hot water, and air-conditioning and of course we did not even know what air conditioning was at that time. The home did have a stove in the kitchen. It was capable of burning wood, which we did. There was a small vent in the ceiling so some heat could go up to the second floor where we had two bedrooms.

On the first floor, with the kitchen, was a living room. It was the center of entertainment for our family with, of course, the ubiquitous radio for us to gather around. The Lone Ranger, Inner Sanctum, Gang Busters, Captain Midnight were some of the shows we had on every night.

One of my favorites was Home Town Frolic on Sunday afternoon which was the “old style” country western music with Hank Williams, Lefty Frizzell, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Ernest Tubb, Del Reeves, Hank Snow Red Foley and a host of other country singers. Only a couple of those names people would remember today, but their songs will live on.

They are the country music legends, whose songs told stories which you could understand, but most are gone to the prairie in the sky. I still love this type of country western music and record a TV show called Country Family Reunion, on RFD-TV which had some of the old country western stars on their shows before they passed away; There are also repeats of other shows featuring them on RFD-TV like the Jimmy Dean Show,

Our bathroom was outside with the little moon neatly cut into the door. For the evening we had our night potty in our small hall of our bedroom area. If you had the urge, rather than the long walk outside, especially when it was freezing, you made do with the little potty on the floor.

Keeping warm in our bedrooms was provided by the fire in the kitchen stove and the vent in the kitchen ceiling. But we could not burn the stove all night for fear of choking. So to improvise, and to keep us warm during winter months, our mother made, what we called a Pierzyna, feather quilts from duck feathers. We had a lot of duck soup for dinners and therefore enough feathers to keep us warm in the winter.

A hot brick covered with a towel for your feet was great at night. In the winter watching your breath steam while under the warm feather quilt, was fun. Two bedrooms housed two brothers in one bedroom and a mother, father and daughter in another bedroom. We were a family of five at that time. Father, Stanley, mother, Viola, sister, Doris, brother, Stan and me Bob. Brother Jack came later in 1942 when we moved to another home on Feltus Street.

This family was blessed to have this home which belonged to our grandmother. Our grandfather passed away in 1917 and in 1919 just before World War 1 ended our uncle Patsy was killed at the 2nd Battle of the Marne.

A second blessing during the depression was, my father had a job in Du Pont’s. Even with our blessings, when you had a hole in your shoe you put a piece of cardboard in it to last longer before you would even consider taking it to the shoemaker.

In the early 40s we bought the home on 334 S. Feltus Street, a 1400 square foot home. It had a kitchen, dining room, living room. 3 bedrooms and a very small room off the master bedroom, a basement and an attic But I still slept with my brother Stan since our sister Doris got her own bedroom. It was a mansion to us.

Life on 509 John Street was fun, fun, fun. Our street was just sand at the time. We had a large sand mixer at the end of the street beyond the train tracks. Oh! I forgot to mention the train tracks were basically in our backyard.

Listening to the train coming by was one part of the fun. They traveled slowly since they were just going back to the roundhouse a mile or so away.

We finally were able to convert our wood stove to coal. So to supplement our purchase of coal, we would pick up stray pieces from the train tracks. They used coal to get their steam boiler working, had a coal car attached to the engine and some would drop off. .

Our street was only sand, but it was great to play all the games and not get too hurt if we fell. Baseball, a little football and the rest of games like tag, hide and seek, kick the can, red rover and horse. Horse?? I will let you research that game.

Stick ball was fun down at the train overpass on the bottom of Feltus street, only a block away. A bike ride was also fun from John Street to the end of the hill by the train overpass but it resulted one time breaking my arm going too fast. Feltus Street was the best to sleigh ride in the winter. Generally from Bordentown Ave.

There was a large, what we called a sewer pipe, about 5 feet high that handled water from a stream in the field in the back of our home. It was at the bottom of the railroad tracks. Walking into the sewer down to where it ended on Feltus Street was scary but fun... Never sure if any rats, snakes or something else would show up.

More fun was digging for clay up in “the woods” at the end of John Street beyond the railroad tracks. Picking huckleberries in the woods, sleigh riding down the paths in the woods, playing capture the flag in the woods. We played outside and were safe. No television games, just good clean fun. Television, what was that????

Both of our grandparents lived close by so we always had a place to go. They both emigrated from Poland back in the late 1800s. Worked hard and were very grateful for having been able to come to a country with freedom and opportunity. They are typical of those during the many years who found

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness as indicated in the Declaration of Independence in the United States. Life and Liberty was already there and they strived to pursue their own happiness by hard work and giving back to our country. They always thought that Happiness is not given to you, you have to pursue it. And they did.

We went to school in those early years at Sacred Heart Grammar School. It was at least a mile to the school and yes Charlie Brown, we walked every day through the rain and the snow we carried our lunch in a brown paper bag. No free meal at a school cafeteria. Cafeteria what the heck is that?

Life, I guess, was simpler then but was very fulfilling. Growing up had its trials and tribulations but we overcame them? Our parents were strict and made sure we behaved ourselves. We respected adults, family, honesty and any person we came in contact with. We took care of our elderly relatives. Family life was the center of the universe which I believe has somewhat diminished in our country. I wished everyone could have experienced living during those years.

One Hit Wonders-1993

Insane In The Brain-Cypress Hill; More and More-Captain Hollywood Project; Love You More-Sunscream; Give It Up-The Goodmen; No Rain-Blind Melon; Passionate Kisses-Mary Chapin Carpenter; When I Fall In Love-Clive Griffin/Celine Dion; Cannonball-The Breeders.

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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water
Beach fishing in Raritan Bay remains slow. I checked Keansburg a few times but didn't see anything. At Cliffwood I did see someone catch a Bluefish under 2 lbs. At the Perth Amboy fishing pier, I did see a few short Fluke caught. Surf fishing coastwise is mostly Fluke, quite a few small Bluefish and the usual junk fish like Skates and Sea Robins. At Island Beach a 4 pound Pompano was caught in the surf. More southern visitors are showing up. Small Jacks at Barnegat Inlet along with some Triggerfish and Sheepshead. Blowfish are being caught in the Bay along with some good size keeper Fluke. There are only a few Kingfish in the surf right now, but that should improve. A 4 foot Tarpon was spotted in Barnegat Bay near a private dock. Party boat Bluefish fishing got better. Fish go from 3 to 7 pounds. The party boat, Miss Beach Haven, has been doing well with Sea Bass and Fluke at Little Egg Reef on the AM trips.

Fresh Water
Hot heat and thunderstorms haven't made freshwater fishing very productive. My wife and I checked one of our favorite spots on the Pequest River and found the water level far above normal, off color and unfishable. It's the usual summer pattern statewide, with fishing best in the early morning and evening as it is too hot during midday. Bass Panfish, Carp and Catfish are the fish that are biting.



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.

Gone Fishin'



Dennis Poulson of South Amboy recently caught this 4lb. Largemouth Bass while fishing at Kennedy Park in Sayreville. (Photo/info submitted)



Memorial for Friends



Leon Letts of South Amboy recently designed three memorial name plates as a special tribute to his good friends who he would always meet at the Fishing Beach in South Amboy. The memorials for Charles Koerner, William Reilly, and William Scully can be seen on the posts at the Fishing Beach parking lot, where these four wonderful friends spent lots of time, keeping up with current events, as well as reminiscing. (Photos/info by Tom Burkard)

Car Show Fun!



Linda Henry is pictured at the wheel of a vintage 1932 Pontiac that was the winner of the Mayor's Trophy at the 23rd Annual Car Show, which was hosted by Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1. (Photo/info submitted)

Prayer to St. Gerard
O good St Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder worker of our day, confidently I call upon you and seek your aid. On Earth you always fulfilled God's designs, help me now to do the holy will of God. Implore the Master of Life, from whom all paternity proceeds, to render me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in this life, and in the world to come, heirs to the Kingdom of His Glory. Amen.. S.P. & M.W.

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

Dowdell Library News

September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. Sign up for a library card to access valuable online content such as streaming media withHOOPLA, eBooks and eMagazines with LIBBY, online tutoring with BRAINFUSE and so much more for you to explore. You even have access to more than 30 local libraries who are members of the same library cooperative! Everyone who uses their library card in September can enter a raffle to win a daypack, perfect to use when you explore your local library!

Dowdell Library is excited to offer museum passes to the American Museum of Natural History in the Big Apple, New York City! South Amboy residents 18+ who have a Dowdell Library card in good standing can take part in this culturally enlightening program. A small service fee of \$2 per ticket will be required. Only 2 tickets per family for each 12-month period.

Kids! **The After School Fun Club** begins Wednesday, September 13 from 3:30-4:30 pm.

Get creative with **3D Pens** on September 13. Play **Bingo** and win some fun prizes on September 20. Build your craziest Lego structure during **Lego Mania** on September 27.

Parents with toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for **Reading Rascals** storytime on Thursday September 14 and 28 from 1-2 pm for an afternoon of fun stories, games, activities, and crafts.

Adults and Teens grab your knitting needles and crochet hooks! Drop in for the **Crocheting and Knitting Circle** on Mondays from 3:30-5 pm and 6:30-8 pm.

Existing **Dungeons & Dragons** players will meet on Thursdays, September 14 and 28 from 6-7:30 pm. Are you a Dungeon Master looking to run your own adventure? Contact us at comments@dowdell.org.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, September 18 from 10:30-11:30 am. Stop by the Library to pick up this month's book. Want to join? Just contact the library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org.

Adults! Unwind your day with **Adult Mindfulness Zen Evening** on Thursday, September 21 from 6-7:30 pm. Have a chance to win small non-monetary prizes at **Adult Bingo** on Friday, September 29 from 10:30- 11:30 am.

Visit the library's **9/11 Memorial poster exhibit** in collaboration with the the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and **RWJ Barnabas Health**, offers **online virtual health programs**. Some courses include Stress Reduction through Imagery and Stretch It! Chair exercising, a stretching, and flexibility workshop. Please register by emailing Camilla at Camilla.comer-carruthers@rwjbh.org. For a complete list of the classes, please visit Dowdell.org.

Coming in October is the annual **Halloween costume contest** and party and the **Annular Solar Eclipse** viewing on Saturday, October 14 when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, and when it is at or near its farthest point from Earth.

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.

Fall Library Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm. Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Saturday starting September 16 from 12-4 pm.

Novena Prayer to St. Anthony of Padua
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I import you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle. Even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. -M.S., S.S., N.P., S.P

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And let it's message send.
So smile awhile,
And maybe you will see,
The happiness you
Have inside of you
And the happiness
that's inside of me.

Wishing Them The Best!



J & S Pizza located on South Pine Ave. in Morgan, recently closed their doors for the last time. The business was owned and operated for nearly 6 years by Frank and Diana Mashkuli. The SA Times wishes them the best of luck and success in the future. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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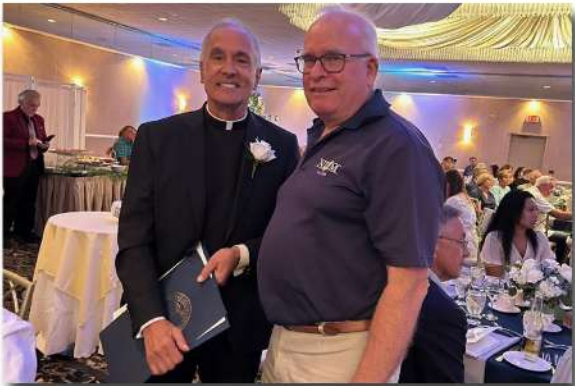
(Photos by Brian Stratton)

Father Dennis Retirement Dinner

August 20, 2023
(Photos by Steve Schmid)



South Amboy native and NJ State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin presents Father Dennis a proclamation from the NJ legislature honoring him for his years of community service. The proclamation was given at Father Dennis's retirement dinner at The Reception Center at St. Clement, Matawan. With 290 people in attendance.



Mayor Fred Henry presents Father Dennis a proclamation honoring him for his many years of service at St. Mary Church in South Amboy.



Father Dennis is happy after being honored by members of the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426.



Monsignor William McCarthy (l) and Father Sean Winters attended the retirement dinner of St. Mary Pastor Father Dennis Weezorak, to celebrate his years of service at St. Mary.

Ten Years In Heaven



Dr. Sandra Joy Gatt
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"Death took you from our grasp, but not from our hearts, Ten years later, we continue to carry your memory with us - like a cherished gem that sparkles even in the darkest nights."



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Sayreville National Night Out

August 1, 2023
(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Members of the Sayreville Police Dept. are pictured near their tent/tables.



Sayreville GOP candidates (l-r) Kennedy O'Brien who is running for Mayor, Michael Colaci, a Council Candidate for a 3-year term, and Karen Bailey Bebert, Republican Party Chairperson.



Sayreville Auxiliary Police at the Command Post.



Democratic Councilwoman Mary Novak (r) and Kenneth Scott, who is running for a 1-year council seat in November's election.



Youngsters enjoying a game.



The Sayreville PBA Local tent/tables was a popular stop.



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Joseph P. Spencer



Joseph Peter "Poppa Joe" Spencer, 84, of Columbus died on Wednesday July 26, 2023 at Virtua Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Camden. Born in South Amboy he grew up in Morgan and was employed by the Milltown School System until retiring. An avid fan of the New York Mets he enjoyed gardening, crabbing and grocery shopping. He loved calling his children and grandchildren everyday no matter what. He was a Master Mason at Mt. Moriah Lodge #28, was an Eagle Scout, served as Scoutmaster and was involved with the food pantry at First Presbyterian Church.

Son of the late Joseph and Mary Stafranski Spencer he is also predeceased by his brothers Arthur, John and James Spencer and his sister Mary Spencer Pollack. He is survived by his wife Lois Dill Spencer; his children Denise Spencer and Tom Edgington of Columbus, Colleen Spencer Roberts and her husband Brandon of South Amboy, Maureen Spencer Bizien and her husband Frank of South Amboy, Joanne Spencer Noble and her husband Robert of South Amboy and Joseph Spencer, III and his wife Kylie of Tomball, Texas; his siblings Robert Spencer of Georgia and Patricia Spencer Klosek and her husband John of Parlin; his grandchildren Gregory and his wife Samantha, Nicholas and his wife Juliann, Theresa, Alex, Brandon, Jr., Ryan, Jakki, McKenna, Paul, Kayla Emma, Beth Anne, Rory and Leila; his great-grandchildren Orion, Lyla, Stefan, Justin, Jada, Amira, Chase, Liam and Lexii; his brothers-in-law Edwin Dill and George Quirk; his sisters-in-law Dorothy Dill and Roz Dill; many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews and his best friend George Schaefer of South Amboy.

Funeral services were held on Monday July 31, 2023 at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or Wounded Warrior Project.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Joseph P. Spencer, please visit our floral store.

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING


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

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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 -B.S.



Shawn John Switzer

Shawn John Switzer, 66, of Monroe died on Thursday August 17, 2023 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge. Born in South Amboy he was employed by the Middlesex County Utilities Authority until retiring. He was a member of House of Mercy Missions.

Son of the late William and Lillian Litka Switzer he is also predeceased by his siblings Anna Fiore, Lillian Horbatt, Eugene Switzer and his wife Barbara, William Switzer, and Robert, Michael, Keith and Patrick Switzer; his nephews Eugene and Jason Switzer and Timothy Moglia and his brothers-in-law Stanley Zakrzewski and Domenic Santucci. He is survived by his wife of 44 years Norine Croddick Switzer; his children James Switzer, Lauren Switzer, Julia Brandon and her husband Kyle and Jonathan Switzer and his wife Adalyse; his sisters Linda Zakrzewski, Eileen Zonkowski and her husband Tom, Colleen Santucci, Marlene Moglia and her husband Bob and Erin Koller and her husband Bill; his grandchildren Elijah, Mirra, Camila, Donovan, Brody, Liliana and Prescott and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy.

Obituaries

Beniquez, Jose A. "Pito," 75, of South Amboy died on July 30.
Cheeseman, Daniel F., 73, formerly of South Amboy died on July 24.
Conlin, William H. "Billy," 80, of South Amboy died on July 21.
D'Agostino, Geoffrey J., 72, of Parlin died on July 25.
Delgado, Josue J., 85, of Sayreville died on Aug. 5.
Douglas, Ronald "Ron" A., 52, formerly of Sayreville died on Aug. 3.
Evanego, Patricia, 80, of Sayreville died on July 27.
Kerekes, Laszlo, 85, of South Amboy died on July 27.
Latham, Gregory E. 39, formerly of Sayreville/South Amboy died on Aug. 10.

Mezger, Beverly, 82, of South Amboy died on Aug. 10.
Patskanick, Louise, 83, of Parlin died on July 29.
Prasnal, Sandra Ann, 67, formerly of South Amboy, died on July 28..
Pritting, Mary Bukovec, 68, of South Amboy died on July 20.
Schaaf, Fred, 54, of South Amboy died on July 29.
Spencer, Joseph P. "Poppa Joe," 84, formerly of Morgan died on July 26.
Straczynski, Karen A. Okulski, 68, of Sayreville died on Aug. 18.
Switzer, Shawn J., 66, formerly of Sayreville/South Amboy died on Aug. 17.

Lt. Col. Daniel Cheeseman

Lt Col, Daniel Francis Cheeseman – 73 – passed away with his family and grandchildren by his side on Monday, July 24th, 2023 in Redondo Beach, CA.

Dan was born in South Amboy, NJ on November 1, 1949, to the late Francis W. "Trip" and Catherine Patricia Cheeseman. On June 8th, 1972 he married the love of his life, Pamela (Wilson) Cheeseman and started a loving family of two children, Natalie and Kelly, and four grandchildren.

After growing up and graduating from St. Mary's Catholic High School in South Amboy, Dan went on to the Air Force Academy where he met Pam and graduated in 1972. At the Academy he received his degree in Aerospace and Aeronautical Engineering, while becoming an officer and Air Navigator. Dan served eight years in the Air Force as a Navigator of B-52's, followed by 20 more years in the Minnesota Air National Guard as Navigator of C-130's. He also served in many other base and squadron leadership roles, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Dan spent his 36-year professional and business career as an engineer in various roles of leadership at Honeywell and Alliant Tech Systems in Minnesota, Litton Guidance and Controls in California, then retiring as a Senior Fellow of Engineering at Raytheon in Tucson, AZ.

Dan was a passionate and creative leader, mentor and coach, who dedicated his life to supporting and serving the people, teammates and communities around him. He loved being creative and had a true passion for space, flying and family. As a military officer, he was a hero and warrior who rescued citizens of the US and many other countries, in addition to fellow members of the armed forces. For this, he was honored with multiple medals and ribbons of recognition. As an executive business leader, he took immense pride in building teams that invented unique solutions to problems that were needed to meet complex missions, while mentoring other young engineers to become future leaders. As a father, he dedicated himself to service alongside his wife Pam, being a constant presence at their children's schools, while also serving as a coach and mentor in sports such as hockey and



baseball. Dan even created new sports programs for baseball and hockey at his children's Catholic Schools that still exist to this day. He was known as the Father of the Benilde St. Margaret's Bantam Hockey Program, as well as the BSM American Legion Baseball program. His leadership as both coach and mentor was something he took great pride in, and his dedication helped position these youth to have successful High School and College careers. Dan's commitment to these efforts took place while also serving in a full-time manner as an engineer and Lt. Colonel in the Air Guard. To this day, many of his ex-players will recall him arriving to practice or games in his flight suit to coach after a long day of guard duty, leaving an impression upon their future work ethic and pride to play.

Dan was predeceased by his Father, Francis William, his Mother, Catherine Patricia (Cashman) Cheeseman and his sister Francine (Cheeseman) Shaw. He is survived by his wife Pam, his daughter and son-in-law Natalie, and Ulises Ochoa, his son and daughter-in-law Kelly and Andrea Cheeseman, brother and sister-in-law Bill and Debbie Cheeseman, brother-in-law Bob Shaw, brother and sister-in-law Frank and Debbie Cheeseman and sister and brother-in-law Maryanna and John Samuel, his grandchildren Sean and Vivi Ochoa, Emma and Maisie Cheeseman.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, August 18th at Air Force Academy Community Chapel followed by interment at the Air Force Academy Cemetery. Private family visitation and prayer service took place in Redondo Beach, CA on August 2nd.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the Travis Mills Foundation at <https://give.classy.org/Lt-Col-Daniel-Francis-Cheeseman> or by mailing a check to: Travis Mills Foundation 647 Castle Island Road, Mount Vernon, ME. 04352 – Memo: In memory of Dan Cheeseman.

The Travis Mills Foundation supports recalibrated veterans and their families through various programs that help these heroes overcome physical and emotional obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide a well-deserved rest.



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

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