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# The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

**This issue is  
dedicated to**  
\*Joseph Bulman  
\*Dolores Casanova  
\*Eugene "Gene" Dennen  
\*John Golaszewski  
\*Roger Johnson  
\*Mary Harland Kelly  
\*Edward "Ed" Schaber  
\*Rosemary Lagoda Zera

**April 26, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 7**

## New Police Chief Kanecke Sworn In



**New Chief**-South Amboy's new Police Chief, Patricia Kanecke (c) is sworn in by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, as her husband, Jack holds the Bible, and family members (r) proudly look on. Pictured (l) is Mayor Fred Henry. Seated in back (l-r) Business Administrator David Kales, and Councilman Lenahan. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

## New Police Chief In South Amboy

South Amboy has made history with the appointment of Patricia Kanecke as the City's first female Police Chief on April 2, 2025. In a ceremony held at South Amboy City Hall, Chief Kanecke was officially sworn in by Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, former South Amboy resident. With twenty-seven years of dedicated service in law enforcement, Chief Kanecke has demonstrated exceptional leadership, commitment to public safety and is entrenched in the South Amboy community. Her appointment is a testament to her unwavering commitment and the evolving landscape of the city. The Chief has been quoted as saying "I am honored and humbled to serve as the Chief of Police for South Amboy. This role is not just about leadership; it's about service, trust, and building stronger relationships between our department and the community we protect." Mayor Fred Henry praised Chief Kanecke's experience and vision, having promoted her to sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and now Chief, stating "Chief Kanecke is a trailblazer whose leadership will inspire future generations. Her dedication to law enforcement and community engagement makes her the ideal choice to lead our police department into the future." As South Amboy's first female Police Chief, she plans to focus on community relations, crime prevention, officer development and training. The City of South Amboy congratulates Chief Kanecke and looks forward to a new era of policing under her guidance. Among the many relatives and friends in attendance were Middlesex County Sheriff Mildred Scott, Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopez, Superintendent of Police/Director of Public Safety for Port Authority Edward Cetnar, and Deputy State Director Laura Bustamante representing Senator Andy Kim. (Article Submitted)

## Camp Dill To Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Camp Dill has been the camping home of Troop 91 of South Amboy since 1925. To celebrate Camp Dill's Centennial, Troop 91 will be hosting two celebrations.

The first will be at the Court of Honor that is held each year during the Troops summer encampment. The date for this Court of Honor is Sunday July 13th at 12PM. Seating for this event is limited so if you are interested you must reserve a seat. To reserve a seat please contact Terry Geant [TEGeant@gmail.com](mailto:TEGeant@gmail.com).

The second celebration will be a **Gorman Recognized**



weekend camporee for all the 'old timers' who wish to reenact their scouting years as part of the centennial. This will be held in the fall of 2025. For information on this celebration please contact Kevin Manion [manionkevin@yahoo.com](mailto:manionkevin@yahoo.com). For information about Camp Dill please visit our website, [www.CampDill.org](http://www.CampDill.org).

## Police Promoted

Sayreville Police Chief Plumacker recently presented patrolmen with new detective badges. Promoted to detective were George Lestuck Jr., and Mark Nairooz. Congratulations and continued success, Det. Lestuck and Det. Nairooz.

## Local Structural Fire



A recent huge, structural fire damaged Mavis Discount Tire at Rt. 35 South in Sayreville. Gabriel Discount Tire & Auto Center, started by Vincent Gabriel in 1963, was located in this building for many years, before moving to another site. See additional photo on page 2. (Photo by Jamie Norek)



## 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 [djarivo@gmail.com](mailto:djarivo@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!**

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Deadlines May 12th**

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Ex-Fire Chief Thomas Gorman (c) received recognition for his 50 years of service to the South Amboy Fire Department. He is pictured with Mayor Fred Henry (l) and Councilman Tom Reilly (r). (Photo by Jamie Norek)

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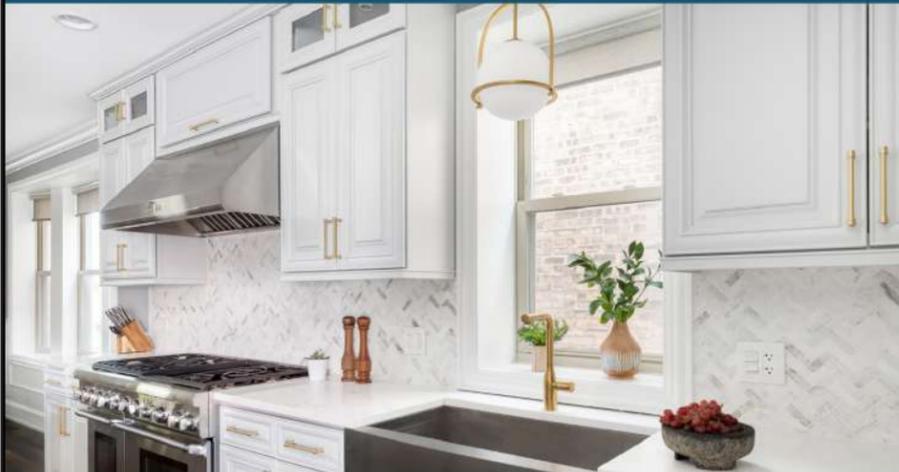
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South Amboy and Sayreville firefighters are pictured battling the blaze. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

## Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

### Lori Synarski Selected Elk Of The Year

Lori Synarski of Sayreville, was chosen the 2024-25 Elk Of The Year for South Amboy Lodge #784. Congratulations Lori on your outstanding honor!

### South Amboy/South River Police Dept. Connection

The South River Police Dept. has two St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick H.S. graduates on their staff. Chief of Police Mark Tinitigan was a member of the St. Mary's HS Class of '88, and Lt. Bernard Mackiel graduated from Cardinal McCarrick, the same high school in 2007. Mark and Bernard were both fine athletes while wearing the Eagles blue & gold colors.

### Miklaszewski Named Interim GM

Former Sayreville resident, Brian Miklaszewski was recently named Interim General Manager of The Dunes Golf & Beach Club at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Club will be hosting the Myrtle Beach Classic PGA Golf Tournament once again starting May 8th, and actors Kevin Costner

and Kurt Russell are expected to attend. Congratulations Brian, and may you have lots of success in your new position!

Brian's dad, Tony Miklaszewski is currently offering a Myrtle Beach Timeshare rental for a week for the last Friday in June through the first Friday in July. If interested, call Tony at: 732-236-8781.

### Rock My Universe Rocks The Meadowlands

Former South Amboy/Sayreville resident Bill Masterson's racing horse, Rock My Universe, has had an outstanding start at the Meadowlands Racetrack. So far, in 7 races there, this really fast thoroughbred has 4 wins, one 2nd place, and one 3rd place finish. Congrats Bill, and may your horse have many more victories!

### Chelle Martin's Short Story

Chelle Martin's short story, "Pleasant Drive," is now available as a podcast on Mystery Rat's Maze. First appearing in the Small Crimes anthology released by Wildside Press (July 2004) and edited by Michael Bracken, the story revolves around two neighbors in a quiet, suburban setting where things aren't always what they seem. Produced by Lorie Lewis Ham and read by actor Sean Hopper, this story and two of Chelle's previous stories can be found in the archives at <https://mysteryratsmaze.podbean.com/>

### 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.

### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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# The South Amboy/Sayreville Times

The "Good News" Newspaper

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## Pleasant Little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- President of South Amboy First Aid in 2008?  
 a. Chris Mader b. William K. Parsons c. Lee Steiner
- In '02, this Italian Restaurant Pizzeria was located on Bordentown Ave. in Parlin?  
 a. Bella Napoli b. Manga Mia c. A Taste Of Italy
- Appointed South Amboy's first Commissioner of Economic Development in 1994?  
 a. Tony Gonsalves b. John O'Connell c. Vince Mackiel
- Top vote getter in the Sayreville Board of Education election in 1999?  
 a. Ronald Van Tine b. Joseph Bellan c. Joseph Bera III
- President of South Amboy Exempt Firemen's Association in 2015?  
 a. Larry McMahon b. Charlie Hetzel c. Larry Parsons
- Pastor of OLV in '99?  
 a. Rev. Terence Lawler b. Rev. James McMann c. Rev. Seamus O'Callahan
- What year did South Amboy have their first Town-Wide Yard Sale?  
 A. 1988 b. 1994 c. 2020
- Where in Sayreville was National Plumbing located back in 1994?  
 a. Main St. b. Washington Rd. c. Rt. 35 North
- South Amboy's Fire Chief in 1994?  
 a. Charles Pickard b. Richard Johnson c. Jerry McCracken
- In 1996, who was the Principal of Eisenhower School in Sayreville?  
 a. James Brown b. Robert Decker c. Elisa Jackson

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

## Community Spotlight: NY Waterway's Reggie Jackson



**Reggie Jackson**

Riders on NY Waterway's commuter ferry from South Amboy to Manhattan can count on dependable service, a relaxing ride, beautiful views – and Reggie Jackson (no, not the New York Yankees Hall of Famer).

Jackson is the primary deckhand on the NY Waterway ferry, the friendly face who greets passengers every day and makes sure the hour-long ride is a smooth and enjoyable one.

Jackson's workday starts at around 5am every morning, as he gets the boat ready for its morning and return journeys. Later, he greets passengers, takes tickets, and records daily head counts. Along the way to and from the city, as the ferry passes the Statue of Liberty and comes within sight of Manhattan's

majestic skyline, he enjoys pointing out the sights and sharing information about the many notable landmarks.

Jackson is, himself, a South Amboy resident – in fact, he can see the NY Waterway ferry dock from his apartment window. It's just a quick drive or e-bike ride to work every weekday. A Queens, New York, native, he has lived in South Amboy for the past decade.

"Working for NY Waterway gives me an opportunity to interact with South Amboy commuters, share some of the things I love about the city and, most importantly, get them to where they need to be, safely and dependably," says Jackson. "It's a great job – and being out on the water every day is a huge bonus."

### FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

Our history has an astounding and often undervalued ability to teach us important lessons about our current affairs. Many of the seemingly novel issues we face are in fact old problems in a new guise. For example, I am sure many of us feel that mobile phones and the internet have had an unprecedented effect on our lives. True, but you might be surprised to know that people living through the late nineteenth century experienced similar changes brought about by (landline) telephones and the telegraph. In 1961, speaking about the newest machine of mass media at the time – the television – FCC chairman Newton Minnow lamented, "when television is good... nothing is better... when television is bad... nothing is worse... [it] is a vast wasteland." I am confident many of us share similar sentiments regarding the internet.

Allow me to share with you a historical event from close to home. Seventy-five years ago, in May 1950, a shipment of explosives arrived in the South Amboy waterfront terminal via the Pennsylvania Railroad. At the time, South Amboy held the only terminal in the Port of New York and New Jersey that permitted unloading of large quantities of explosives. On the night of May 19, 1950, without warning, over 100 tons of explosives detonated. Dozens of people died. Hundreds were injured. Every home in South Amboy suffered some form of damage. The city's power grid was destroyed, causing a blackout. Governor Alfred Driscoll sent in the State Police and New Jersey National Guard. In minutes, the waterfront became a disaster area. The danger did not abate for years – it was not until 1953 that the United States Army finally removed over 60 live mines still lurking in the bay.

Who was to blame? There was plenty of it to go around. Congress investigated the Kilgore Manufacturing Company for failing to abide by federal regulations regarding the transport of explosives. The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Coast Guard



also received blame for failing to enforce the regulations. One thing seemed certain: there were rules in place to prevent such a tragedy, but someone – or everyone – neglected to follow them. Buried beneath the tragedy is an important lesson: it can be appealing to bypass established rules for purposes of ease, expediency, or profit, but we do so at our own risk. It may be the case that we do not appreciate such rules – unappealing as they may seem – until we live without them. I hope that we may collectively take stock of the lessons from the tragedy as its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary nears.

May also brings Memorial Day. I know I speak for all of us in expressing sincere gratitude for every person who gave their life for our country. I often turn to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address as the greatest written work eulogizing those who gave their lives not just for our nation, but for its ideals. As Lincoln noted, our greatest act of remembrance is to continue to strive towards the nation's highest principles of liberty, equality, and democracy. Lincoln himself was murdered 160 years ago, in April 1865. New Jersey's own Walt Whitman captured the nation's sadness in his poem, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" – a brilliant work of remembrance evoking images of spring, and a very good read this time of year.

Respectfully  
**Tom Reilly**  
 2nd Ward Councilman  
 City of South Amboy

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Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased from members of the American Legion and Auxiliary or by contacting us at [post62americanlegion@gmail.com](mailto:post62americanlegion@gmail.com)

The drawing will be held 4pm at the picnic. You do not need to be present to win.

The winner will receive 50% of ticket sales with the remainder of the proceeds going to the American Legion Building Fund for the construction of the Stars & Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy to provide housing for homeless or at-risk veterans and new headquarters for American Legion Post #62.



**VENMO accepted.**  
Please include name, contact information and number of tickets requested

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## Yearbook-Sayreville 1980

By Tom Burkard

The Sayreville High Class of 1980 returned for their final school year in September '79, and more than likely had their radios cranked up with "My Sharona," the top hit at the time, blasting... Some of the faculty consisted of; Loretta Lamprecht, Susan Mills, Kevin Corrigan, Karen Joseph, Elyse Gelsinon, Ellen Shur, Robert Szabo, Richard Tewell, Connie Jardula, Arlene Dusel, Caryl Comeforo... Activities were plentiful, such as the popular "Anything Goes," the Fall Drama-"After Magritte," and "The Real Inspector Hound." "LaTuna" performed Spanish folk music on Columbus Day...The first Olympics of the Mind team was started in 1980 at SWMHS...On October 25, 1979, the Sayreville Marching Band played for President Jimmy Carter at New Brunswick... The 13th Olympiad was celebrated when a 52-year old man from Georgia carried the Olympic flame to Sayreville... Remember the Christmas Festival, and the rock band, "Schmeg?" How about the Acappella Chorus? 3 members were selected to All State Chorus... Don Ferenci was editor of the school newspaper...Anthony Matagrano was Chess Club president... Veronica Spolowitz was Homecoming Queen...Carol Durrua was the Twirling Capt... Managing Editors of the yearbook were Sandra Check and John Lynch... Some of the Class of '80 picked randomly included; Audrey Allman, Judy Amato, Steve Bukovec, Cynthia Connors, Kelly Conover, Jerry Covell, Jim Coyle, Joan Crummy, Cheryl DeLucia, Lisa Downes, Jim Dolan, Dawn Fallon, Lisa Falls, Sue Firestine, Ricky Garbowski, Tammy

Gerenza, Lisa Hammer, Sidney Hoover, Jeff Jedrusiak, Douglas Jolly, Jeffrey Juliano, Dave Karlowitz, George Karlowitz, Bob Keating, James Kenny, Christine Krieger, Judy Krzyzkowski, Larry Lenahan, Raymond Lockwood, Kitty Lynch, Dawn Lytkowski, Mike McKeon, Lisa McGee, Stephen Malik, Madeline Malkiewicz, Linda Marrazo, Sandy Megill, Paul Merski, Donna Miara, Kevin Moran, Linda Nagle, Ron Nash, Joseph Nehila, Kevin O'Connell, Ed Paczkowski, Jeanne Pavlik, Scott Pearson, Craig Peterson, Shelley Pickus, Denise Pognant, Ann Pytel, Betty Rathbun, Rich Sabb, Bob Seminario, David Singer, Mark Simko, Tracy Skarzynski, Linda Stary, Joel Stolte, Wilford Sutthill III, Brian Jeeter, Tourai Tehrani, Michael Tischler, Lisa Toth, Bob Triggs, Jeffrey Turback, Jeff Volosin, Kathleen Walsh, Sandra Wille, Vic Wolski, Brenda Zaleski, Jean Ziola, Dawn Zollinger... Two members of the Class of '80 have become very successful and highly-renowned public figures. John Bongiovanni (Jon Bon Jovi), better known worldwide as the leader of the Rock and Roll Hall-of-Fame band Bon Jovi, has also been successful in acting and business ventures. John S. Wisniewski has been an outstanding attorney/elected NJ State Assemblyman for many years. Big events in the world in 1980-Eric Heiden of the U.S. won 5 gold medals in speed skating in the Olympics..."Grease" became the longest running show in Broadway history...Genuine Risk became the first filly to win the Kentucky Derby in 65 years...

## Sayreville Library News

### ESL Class

**Tuesdays in May @5:30PM**

Join us for this session for English as a Second Language.

This class is designed for those beginning to learn the language and develop stronger conversational skills.

Attendees must register for the entire course. Registration required.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

### Mindful Yoga

**Tuesdays in May @6:30PM**

Come & join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic yoga class is open to all levels of experience.

This class is designed for stress relief. Participants should be able to get down to the floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing. \*Please note: young children cannot be left in the children's room unattended while an adult patron is in yoga class.\*

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

**Guided Meditation with Barbara (Virtual) May 13 & 24@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.

### Movie Matinee

**Tuesday, May 6 @1PM**

Join us at a special time for our monthly movie matinee:

This Month: The Lake House-Starring Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves

Rated PG-1 hr 99 mins

Refreshments provided

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

### 7 things you'll regret throwing away with Jamie Novak (Virtual)

**Monday, May 19 @6:30PM**

Sometimes, there's something you either can't get rid of, or will regret getting rid of when decluttering your home. Join Jamie Novak, Best Selling author and humorist, and learn how to avoid making some of those mistakes. This is a virtual session. Registration required to get the zoom link.

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

Patrons must provide a valid email address.

### Trivia with Dan

**Monday May 19 @6:30PM**

Think you are good at trivia? Want to try and win some prizes?

Dan Vetrano, Sayreville Library's own Adult Librarian and long time trivia enthusiast will be cooking up questions for this fun and exciting game.

Play solo or join up with a team. Prizes offered to the winners.

Open to teens and adults. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

No more than 4 per team please. All team members must register.

## Governor Hoffman's Letter To Board Of Education 90 Years Ago

New Jersey Governor, and South Amboy native, Harold G. Hoffman wrote the following letter dated March 30, 1935, to Oscar O. Barr, Acting Secretary Board of Education, thanking the South Amboy Board of Education for naming South Amboy High School after him. Dear Oscar, I have your letter of March 28th officially notifying me of the action of the Board of Education in changing the name of the South Amboy High School to the Harold G. Hoffman High School

of South Amboy. I suppose my modesty should cause me to object to this action, but frankly, I must confess that I am very much pleased. I cherish many fond memories of the South Amboy High School, and of course, I am very proud to know that the Board unanimously adopted the suggestion that it be named for me. Will you please convey my sincere appreciation to the members of the Board. Very Truly Yours, Harold G. Hoffman.

## Hoedown Mystery Show

A Hoedown Homicide Mystery Show will be held on Saturday, May 3rd at St. Bernadette's, 20 Villanova Rd., in Parlin. Cost is \$25 per person. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and the show is at 7 p.m. The family fun mystery show is sponsored by St.

Bernadette's Knights of Columbus Council #8478. BYOB, and there will be food to order from Vinnie's Pizza. Any questions, call Bill Bathe 732-236-4002. Ticket sales at: [KOFCCOUNCIL8478.COM](http://KOFCCOUNCIL8478.COM).

## The Smoke Column

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

In previous "Smoke Column" articles I have written about Lithium-Ion (LI) batteries and fires that have occurred in the home as a result of them. Articles included Electric Vehicles (EV's) and the hazardous materials they present. In most of these scenarios, the responding fire department was able to determine a burning hazardous material upon their arrival. But how about the unknown, where LI batteries are stored for repairs, exchanges, or replacement distribution? Must the warehouse/storage facility sites report to someone that LI batteries are stored on site? On June 29, 2021, in Morris, Illinois at the old Federal Paper Board facility an estimated 180,000 to 200,000 pounds of LI batteries caught fire. This fire caused a series of explosions that destroyed the warehouse and sent thick plumes of "highly poisonous" and "very deadly" fumes into the surrounding community. Local officials and first responders were unaware that the building, believed to be unoccupied for the past 35 years since the plant closed, was housing approximately one hundred tons of LI batteries. First responders initially attacked the fire with water since that was their only option at the time but that only intensified the fire and it turned into an uncontrollable situation. The fire continued to burn until specialized chemicals, "Purple K," were brought to the scene. A year after this incident, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was still in the process of cleaning up the hazardous substances from the fire. The Superior Battery Inc, owners of the site, were cited for violations of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and the Pollution Control Board regulations related to the release of pollutants to the atmosphere and water, and to improper waste handling. The concern following this incident is how aware are the local communities of any type of LI battery storage sites in their towns?

How easily could these sites be overlooked and not reported? Every town has some type of warehouse or storage facility. Why can't a pallet or truckload of LI batteries be stored inside one? How about someone's two-car garage in the neighborhood being used as a small site? Any amount of LI battery storage can lead to a major disaster, quick and deadly. Laws, regulations, codes and building inspections are all necessary for life safety. But what happens when the storage site is established illegally? Surprising a fire department to a LI battery explosion/fire site has many unknowns. The potential is there for local first responders to come across a similar incident. Take a look at what homeowners store in their garages besides gasoline, propane tanks, etc. The most common sources for LI batteries in our garages come from portable yard tools, e-mobility devices (bicycles, scooters), and electric vehicles which contain thousands of battery cells. Any one cell can become defective and start to burn which will ignite adjoining cells alongside it and will continue to intensify in uncontrolled fire. It is also reported that over 13% of residential homes have photovoltaic arrays on their roofs with many having a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) installed in their garage, or worse yet, inside their living spaces such as a closet or basement. These BESS's use LI chemistry cells and any failure could cause a discharge of carbon monoxide or hydrogen, both deadly gases. For emergency responders this represents an extremely dangerous situation. These types of areas need to be strictly monitored and made known to first responders of what is being stored inside. A signage program that is used for the truss floor/roof identification on structures may be a helpful starting point for initial identification of storage facilities.

## South Amboy Elementary Academic Achievement For Trimester 2 - 2024-2025

**FOURTH GRADE- HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Genesis Alvarado, AnaSophia Bodkin, Sara Kisiel, Melody Kolbinskie, A'Lahna Moran, Gianna Perre, Gabriel Sanchez-Campos, Xavier Santos-Ferreira, Nikko Sipsis, and Ryder Stratton.

**FOURTH GRADE-HONOR ROLL:** Josef Alfonso, Jake Almazo-Delgado, Sofia Castro-Tlanipa, Maksym Hevko, Phoenix Jantas, Yaseen Mohamed, Allison Oliveira, Julia Philistin, Ryder Sepulveda, and Mikaela Sundquist.

**FIFTH GRADE-HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Hussain Abbas, Eliza DeSouza, Hudson

Earl, Seraphina Fenton, Liam Green, Nazaret Vasquez-Diaz, and Saya Yung.

**FIFTH GRADE HONOR ROLL:** Charles DeLeon, Samantha Dickert, Avery Dumonseau, Colin Finton, Katie Garcia-Polanco, Ronald Harvey, Yostin Juarez-Gil, Nikita Kolbinskie, Haley Lada-Behrens, Raymond LaMot, Jaxon Lawson, Khloe Lopez-Pena, Thanializ Mejia-Batista, Antonella Mori-Ramirez, Fin Mulligan, Noah Padilla-Aleman, Divya Phillips, Arien Pierce, Sophia Santos, Troy Styler, Matthew Tapia-Torres, Paisley Waitowicz, and Jake Zambrowski.

## 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 13, 2025. The time is 8am to 2pm. The rain date is September 20, 2025. We are located at 172 Main Street, Sayreville-directly across from the Borough

Hall. Spaces are available for \$20 for one space, \$30 for two. There are a limited number of tables to rent for an additional \$8. No food vendors please. For information please leave a message on the church answering machine at 732-257-6353 or e-mail us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.



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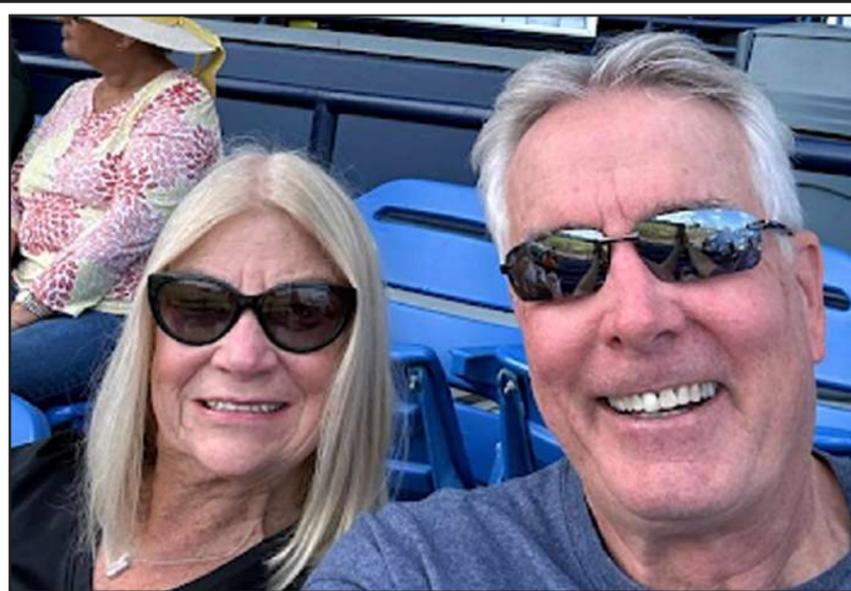
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South Amboy's Ray Downs and his wife Gail, had a great time at the Mets Clove Stadium in Florida watching a charity softball game. Ray said that, "All the players were over 70, and the pitcher was 83 years old!" (Photo/info submitted)

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## My Hometown, South Amboy

John Flip Phillips

God willing, I plan to write several stories about my growing up years in this Pleasant Little City. As I look back at those days from where I am today, I smile and wonder where the time went. However, before we get to my stories I want to tell you a little about the history of this little town and the part it played in the history of our state and country.

Today, South Amboy is a mile square. Back in the 1800's it was much larger. It once extended as far as Cranbury and to the border of Monmouth County. It was a sprawling township 18 miles long and 6 miles wide.

The town grew out of the city across the Raritan Bay, Perth Amboy. Perth Amboy was a colonial port, and the first capital of the area called East Jersey. It eventually became the capital of the Jersey colony until the 1776 Revolution. William Franklin was the last royal governor. He was also the estranged son of Benjamin Franklin. The area across the bay was called the South Ward of Perth Amboy and hence the name when it separated from Perth Amboy. South Amboy was a perfect connecting point for the journey from New York to Philadelphia. A ferry connected the Amboys to the long stagecoach road from South Amboy to Bordentown, the stagecoach road that continued the long journey to Philadelphia. That road still exists today and is called Bordentown Avenue. It begins at the water's edge of Raritan Bay and continues through the city on its way across the state.

Back in the colonial days the journey from New York City to Philadelphia took around five days. South Amboy was a perfect spot to rest and relax prior to continuing the journey. So, several hotels sprang up, and taverns for "socializing" thus began the long tradition of taverns in the city. In my day there were about 40!

During the Revolution it is reported that the town was used as a lookout for British ships in the bay, at that time called Amboy Bay. An important early resident was Major General James Morgan who was on Washington's staff and was responsible for patrolling and protecting the area. He is buried in the family cemetery on a hilltop overlooking a picturesque view of Raritan Bay. A section of the town is called Morgan in his honor.

South Amboy's economy was always directed to shipping, fishing and manufacturing. It had big clay deposits, and a profitable pottery and terra cotta industry developed. There were once three terracotta and pottery factories in town. I remember exploring the abandoned factories as a kid and finding pottery items that were still usable.

However, it was the railroad that was to become the greatest factor in the city's growth and development. The Stevens family-owned property in both Perth and South Amboy. They would later settle in Hoboken where they founded Stevens Institute of Technology. John Stevens brought the first steam engine (the John Bull) made in England to New Jersey. His sons founded the Camden & Amboy Railroad in 1831. Here again, South Amboy's unique location became very important as the rail line followed the old stagecoach route. The Camden & Amboy railroad was the first of several railroads that passed through the city. Later there would be many: The New York & Long Branch, The Raritan River, Jersey Central, and of course, The Pennsylvania Railroad. The train whistles were heard throughout the day when I was growing up. Many of those trains brought coal from the Pennsylvania coalfields to be unloaded into barges for transport to New York City and power plants along the northeast coast. However, there were other types of goods transported to the city for further water distribution. One of these was military explosives that led to one of the major disasters the town experienced.

It happened on May 19, 1950, at the coal docks. Explosives (land mines) were being loaded onto barges for transport to a larger ship in the bay when something went wrong. Thirty-one loaders were killed, and debris was blown on the streets near the waterfront, and just about every window in town was blown out and many people were injured. The National Guard came into

town that night to protect property and help restore calm. I lived on the waterfront and will remember that day for the rest of my life. My friend "Tank" Leonard and I were playing stickball down by the water when a large orange ball started to rise in the sky. We stood there looking at it with awe and wonder. Then the ground started to shake, and a tremendous roar followed. I remember people coming out of their houses in shock and many were bleeding from the windows that shattered in their homes. Our house was a mess: there were no windows, and the floor had caved in. We spent the next several days with relatives whose home did not suffer the damage that the waterfront houses did. I was not injured, but my brother and mother were. A plate glass window at a candy shop got my brother, and my mother was hit by flying can goods at the grocery store. My dad, who had a few Jameson's in him, slept through the whole thing. When he woke up, he asked: "What the hell happened?"

I could go on, but I think you have a pretty good picture of the town I was born and raised in. Now some lighter stuff!

### Some Of Our Notable People

Let's start with Harold G Hoffman, the 41st governor of New Jersey from 1934 to 1938. He enlisted as a private in World War I and served overseas rising to a captain and eventually a full colonel. While he was governor, he was fully involved in the Lindberg kidnapping case. He strongly felt that Bruno Hauptmann was innocent of the kidnapping and murder of the Lindberg child and did everything he could to commute the death sentence. He was unsuccessful and some say that was the end of his political career. However, to me his most important achievement was getting my father back into the country after he was deported for jumping ship. Except for him, I might not have come along!

For its size South Amboy was well represented in major league baseball:

Allie Clark played for the New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Athletics, and Chicago White Sox. He was a teammate of many famous players and had two World Series rings: 1947 with the Yankees, and 1948 with the Cleveland Indians. During the off-season he had a tavern called The Sportsman's Inn, and many of his big-league friends would visit. I pestered him into giving me a Cleveland Indian hat. I had to fill it with paper to make it fit. He was a nice man who always had time for the kids. He died in 2012.

The O'Brien twins (Johnny and Eddie) put my high school, St. Mary's on the map. They were outstanding basketball and baseball players. They got scholarships to Seattle University and put that school on the map. Johnny, only about five ten, scored 43 points against the Harlem Globetrotters in 1952. They were very instrumental in convincing Elgin Baylor to attend Seattle University. Both were All-American basketball and baseball players. Bing Crosby, then a part owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates, signed them to a "Bonus Baby" contract. They were the first twins to play in the same game in major league history. And they were only one of four brothers in major league history to play second base and shortstop in the same game. They played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Braves. After they left baseball, they returned to Seattle and had very distinguished careers. Eddie died in 2014.

John (Jack) McKeon, famously known as "Trader Jack," had a long-distinguished career as a major league executive and manager. He managed: The Kansas City Royals, Oakland Athletics, San Diego Padres, Cincinnati Reds and finally the 2003 Florida Marlins (now Miami Marlins) when they won the World Series. He was also the General Manager of the National League Pennant-winning Padres of 1986. He is the only manager in professional baseball history to have won over 1,000 games in both the minor leagues and Major League Baseball.

Part 2 next month!



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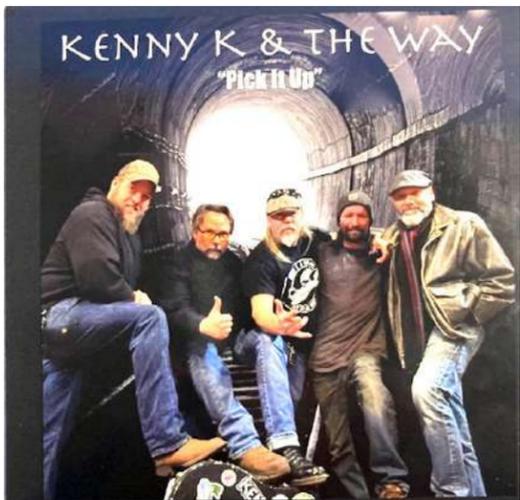


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Kenny K, (l) leader of the band Kenny K & The Way stopped in for a coffee at Java Dave's Coffee in South Amboy, and to present owner Efrén Castro with a copy of the group's newest CD release, "Pick It Up." (Photo by Tom Burkard)



### Kenny K & The Way Release New CD

By Tom Burkard

Kenny K & The Way band have released their third CD titled "Pick It Up." Their new masterpiece offers 11 great songs including 2 covers, known by almost everyone, "Country Roads," a 1971 mega John Denver hit, that peaked at #2 in the nation, and "Rocket Man" by Elton John, which reached #6 in '72. Kenny K's late father Richard, a former Sayreville Police Sergeant, is featured on "Country Roads." You can get this terrific album on Amazon or Spotify, and it is streaming everywhere.

"We have 26 songs from 3 albums streaming, and we hope you check this new one out, and get in The Way," said Kenny. He also mentioned that "I am very proud of

the song "Keepin' On," so be sure to check this one out."

Kenny, better known to locals as Kenny Kurczeski of Sayreville, and his talented group, have been kept very busy with live performances, and their fans are anxiously awaiting the world premier video titled "Reach For The Sky," which will be out in May.

Upcoming shows for Kenny K & The Way include May 3-Albert Hall; May 10-Belmar Porchfest; Stay tuned for the Summer Series in Sayreville at Kennedy Park.

You can keep up with this exciting band by going to: [kennyktheway.com](http://kennyktheway.com).

### #1 Pop Hits-April 26

- 2023-Flowers-Miley Cyrus
- 2012-Somebody That I Used To Know-Gotye
- 2005-Candy Shop-50 Cent
- 1992-Jump-Kris Kross
- 1980-Call Me-Blondie
- 1972-Disco Lady-Johnnie Taylor
- 1966-Soul & Inspiration-The Righteous Bros.

### One Hit Wonders

- 1988-Come On Eileen-Dexys Midnight Runners;
- Don't Worry Be Happy-Bobby McFerrin;
- She's Like The Wind-Pat Swayze;
- Hot Hot Hot-Buster Poindexter;
- I Heard It Through The Grapevine-The California Raisins.

### #1 Country Hits April 26

- 2020-I Hope-Gabby Barrett
- 2013-Cruise-Florida Georgia Line
- 2002-The Good Stuff-Kenny Chesney
- 1994-If The Good Die Young -Tracy Lawrence
- 1987-Ocean Front Property-George Strait
- 1977-She's Got You-Loretta Lynn
- 1962-Good Luck Charm-Elvis Presley



Mike Campbell, who played for the late and great Tom Petty, and Chris Holt are pictured performing at NJPAC on 03/19/2025, part of an event for the release of Campbell's biography. (Photo by Ed English)

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## MUSIC TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

## City



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- 2.Suffragette City
- 3.Hot In The City
- 4.City Of New Orleans
- 5.We Built This City
- 6.In The City
- 7.C.I.T.Y
- 8.City Of The Angels
- 9.Paradise City
- 10.Hot Child In The City
- 11.You Belong To The City
- 12.Atlantic City
- 13.Surf City

- a.The Eagles
- b.Journey
- c.Jefferson Starship
- d.Nick Gilder
- e.Guns 'N' Roses
- f.John Cafferty/Beaver Brown Band
- g.David Bowie
- h.Arlo Guthrie
- i.Bruce Springsteen
- j.Glenn Frey
- k.Jan & Dean
- l.The Lovin' Spoonful
- m.Billy Idol

Answers

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

### 50 Years Ago

In 1975, South Amboy's City Law Director was John Vail. Richard Schultz was the Democratic Party Chairman. Bruce Richmond was the South Amboy Board of Education President. Walter Kozak was South Amboy's Fire Chief. South Amboy Police Reserve Captain Raymond Parrish was elected to a 2-year term as State President by the American Federation of Police. Stanley Jankowski was South Amboy City Council President. Sayreville's Alan Karcher was a state Assemblyman. Bruce Buckiewicz of Sayreville graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. John Czernikowski was Mayor

of Sayreville. Oak View Nursing Home was located on Ernston Road in the Morgan section of Sayreville. South Amboy held a huge 85th Anniversary Fireman's Parade Celebration. Michael Nagle was Grand Marshal. Colonial Lunch & Ice Cream Parlor opened at 124 North Broadway, South Amboy. Alice Kupper was President of the South Amboy Historical Society. Colonel's Garter was a popular nightclub on Rt. 35 North in South Amboy. Edward McLane was South Amboy's first City Administrator. Fred Kurtz was South Amboy's City Engineer.

#### 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. M.L..

#### 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 heaven and guide me with thy strength. Plead for me in my needs. And teach me to be humbly thankful as you were for all the bountiful blessings I am to receive. - B.S., P.S. S.S.



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**Dowdell Library News**

New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels worldwide including Sony Music, Epic, RCA, and Columbia. 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.

"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 the library's "After Lunch" Tea Party hosted by "Edward" on Thursday, May 8 from 4:00-7:00pm. Don't miss this special event! Fancy tea sandwiches, iced lemon tea, and other refreshments will create a savory spring experience. Door prizes!

Stop in to see the Creations by Pearl exhibition and admire some beautiful hand-made knits!

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

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

Kids and Teens! Don't miss Drop in Club this May from 2:45-4:30 pm on Tuesdays for Board Games and Fridays for Video Games. Ages 11+. Watch for new games and programs including Foosball and Shuffleboard @ the Library! Come peruse the new video games and graphic novels available to check out!

Teens! Stop by to register for the Teen Test Kitchen on Monday, May 5 at 3:15pm to make quesadillas for Cinco de Mayo! Ages 13+

Teens and Adults! Sign up for the Spring Sewing Series. This two part series is for folks who are looking to buff up or begin their sewing journey. In the first session, the basics of sewing, everything from tools and terms, basic fabric cutting, to hand vs. machine sewing, were introduced. For the second session on Thursday, May 15, participants will machine and hand sew their very own hand-made item. Learn a lifelong skill, and take home your very own handmade "me-make"!

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, May 19 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining!

Senior Tech Time will be on Monday, May 5 from 10:30-11:30 am. Come learn about a new technology topic the first Monday of each month.

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 May 13 and 27 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.

Card Game Wednesdays take place every week from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Bring your own set or use ours!

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

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

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**ENROLL NOW!**

### South Amboy Citizen Recognized



Joan Conway (c) was recognized for her service to the South Amboy Arts Alliance and her service on the South Amboy Board of Education. (Photo By Jamie Norek)



South Amboy Fire Department, First Aid Rescue Squad and the Office of Emergency Management held a public display at the Sadie Pope Dowdell Library. (Photo by Jamie Norek)

**SAYREVILLE RECREATION'S FISHING DERBY**

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**  
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**FISHING: 9:00 - 10:30**  
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### Government Week In South Amboy



Mock council meeting with 5th grade students from South Amboy Elementary School running a mock Council meeting.



The 5th grade students pose for a group photo with City Officials. (Photos by Jamie Norek)



### Bunny Celebration!



The Easter Bunny made an appearance at the SAYAA Easter Egg Hunt held at the Allie Clark Sports Complex. (Photo by Samantha Pagan)

### Gone Fishin'



Former South Amboy resident and 1978 St. Mary's HS graduate, Brian Burkard caught this gigantic redfish in Florida. (Photo/info submitted)

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On Sunday, April 13, the Easter Bunny was at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426. The event was the annual "Breakfast with the Easter Bunny." Approximately 30 children received gifts of candy from the Easter bunny. Our excellent bunny was our own Jack Mieczkowski, who the kids just loved. Our beautiful stage and backdrop was provided by Bill Mattsson and Karen Kline of Mattssons Auto Tech. (Photo/Info by Donna Williams)



Sayreville Senior Center held its annual Wills, Estate Planning & Probate Seminar on February 26, 2025. Speakers were Kenneth Vercammen Esq. and Dan Fabrizio. (Photo/info submitted)

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The winners of The City of South Amboy's essay contest were announced at a recent council meeting. The winners shown with certificates are: 1st place Lilian Khalil (r), 2nd place Eryk Gurdak (not pictured) and 3rd place Dina Bashir (l). Mayor Henry and Council members proudly pose with the winners. (Photo Submitted).



## Building Bridges

### Veterans Resource Workshop

Connecting veterans with services, resources, and community support systems



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- American Legion Service Officers
- NJ State Veterans Chamber of Commerce
- Veteran Services - New Jersey Reentry Corporation
- Local & County Resources

■ A documentary film screening of "Rohna Classified" will be presented in memory of crewmember Sgt. Louis Nelson from South Amboy. Hidden from the public behind a veil of secrecy for 50 years, the sinking of the HMT Rohna remains one of WWII's most disastrous yet least acknowledged tragedies of WWII

**ROHNA CLASSIFIED**

**Saturday, May 3, 2025 | 1-4:30 pm**

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GABRIEL

### Congratulations SAMHS Cast of "Matilda"!



The South Amboy Player's spring production was "Matilda". The huge cast and crew put on three spectacular performances. Great job! (Photo by Len Estrada Photography)

*Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep  
I am a thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
A quiet bird in circled flight  
I am the soft star that shines at night  
Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there, I did not die.*

**Just Me and You**  
By Dennis O'Leary  
There's nothing really wrong with me,  
I'm one of life's poor fools.  
It seems like I'm so different,  
But this world is cruel.  
Watching with amusement  
As I stumble down it's path,  
Letting things have at me,  
With its smiling, loving laugh.  
The universe is on my side,  
Somehow I know that's true.  
I know I couldn't make it,  
If it were not for you.

**If I Could**  
By Robert W. Eginton  
If I could change the world, I surely would try  
To make living on it, A better place for you and I.  
If I could have one wish today,  
It would be to better our world, Then be on my way.  
A world without sorrow, hunger and greed  
Where no one would take, What they don't need.  
Where those who can, learn to help themselves  
Instead of depending on everyone else.  
Yes, if I could only change the world  
That's what I would do,  
Make it a better place for me,  
And make it a better place for you.



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# School Sports (As of April 14)

By Tom Burkard

## Baseball

Sayreville (2-3)

Coach Timothy Ballard

Team Leaders

### Batting

Runs-Thomas Schlaline 5, Justin Marrero 5; Hits-Michael Robinson 7, Schlaline 6; Doubles-Robinson 2; RBI-Logan Kaufman 5, Robinson 5; Batting Avg.-Robinson .389, Schlaline .333, Kaufman .333.

### Pitching

Innings Pitched-James Kehoe 11, Schlaline 10, Kaufman 9.1; Strikeouts-Schlaline 18, Kaufman 14, Kehoe 12.

South Amboy (2-3)

Coach Dan Poulsen

Team Leaders

### Batting

Runs-Diego Colon 8; Hits-Micah Nemeth 9; Nemeth 2, Benjamin Smith 2; Doubles-Nemeth 2, Smith 2; Triples-Nemeth 1; Home Runs-Nemeth 1; Batting Avg.-Smith .500, Nemeth .412, Robert Senape .386.

### Pitching

Innings Pitched-Colon 9, Nemeth 9; Strikeouts-Colon 13, Nemeth 11.

## Softball

Sayreville (2-2)

Coach Amanda Mochen

Team Leaders

### Batting

Runs-Mya Infante 6, Rose Joseph 5; Hits-Infante 5, Joseph 5, Hailey Kilpatrick 5; Doubles-Kilpatrick 2; RBI-Kilpatrick 7, Gianna Falto 4; Stolen Bases-Infante 5, Kilpatrick 3; Batting Avg.-Joseph.385, Kilpatrick .385, Infante .333.

### Pitching

Innings Pitched-Josephine Vanore 25; Strikeouts-Vanore 31; ERA-Vanore 1.40.

South Amboy (2-2)

Coach Lindsay Durant

Team Leaders

### Batting

Runs-Sarah McLaughlin 10, Mia Pina 6; Hits-Sophie Hernandez 11, McLaughlin 9; Doubles-Pina 2, Emma Kalantis 2; Triples-McLaughlin 2; RBI-Emma Kalantis 8, Hernandez 7, Pina 6; Home Runs-Hernandez 1, Emma Kalantis 1, Gwen Kalantis 1, Pina 1; Batting Avg.-Hernandez .647, McLaughlin .562, G. Kalantis .538.

### Pitching

Innings Pitched-Hernandez 17; Strikeouts-Hernandez 29; ERA-Hernandez 4.12.

## Opening Day 2025

### Softball

The South Amboy Lady Guvs softball squad romped to an 18-4 Opening Day victory over Mother Seton. The explosive Purple and Gold offense was led by Emma Kalantis, who belted a homer and double to drive in 3, Gwen Kalantis, a single and homer for 2 RBI, Sarah McLaughlin 2 singles and a triple, winning pitcher Sophie Hernandez, who stroked 2 singles and a double, while striking out 11 batters in 5 innings, and Leangeliz Deleon, who laced 3 singles...

A powerful Sayreville girls softball team blasted J.P. Stevens, 19-0, as Josephine Vanore fired a 5-inning 1-hitter while striking out 11. Hailey Kilpatrick led the offensive explosion by having a perfect 4-for-4 game including a double and 5 RBI, with 3 stolen bases. Gianna Falto had 3 hits with a double and 3 RBI. Mya Infante drilled a single and double to drive in a run, in addition to swiping 4 bases for the Bombers...

### Baseball

North Brunswick nipped Sayreville, 3-2. Thomas Schlaline suffered a tough setback despite striking out 13 batters in only 5.1 innings...

South Amboy had an early season opener on March 29, and dropped a 16-5 contest to a strong Spotswood contingent. Benjamin Smith blasted a 3 run double for the Governors.



2007 Sayreville HS Seniors (l-r) Kate Esposito, Ryane Brush, Moanike Axinregon, Sabrina Waryah, Coach Janet Ust, Isi Enahoro, Patrice Harding. (Photos submitted)

## Hoop Dreams and Beyond Sayreville's Janet Ust Cook

By Clem Skarzynski

As many times as I sat with her dad, the late Jerry Ust, and heard (with pride I might add),

him tell of the accomplishments over the years of his daughter Janet, you'd think I'd get the "message" to put it all in print! Well, the time has come, sorry Jerr... shoulda done this years ago, long overdue, but worth the wait! So, I contacted Janet, hoping she would be on board with the look back in her sports achievements. Thank you, Janet for the opportunity to do so... So, here we go.....

At the age of 4, Janet began watching her ultra talented cousin Lynn Ust playing basketball for Rutgers. The "bug" bit her! Janet, at ages 5-6 attended Rutgers Camp, where she also played soccer and softball with the same group of girls (there was no rec b-ball for girls that young), so Janet's b-ball journey didn't start till 2nd/3rd grade! Age 9..went to North Carolina with East Brunswick's AAU team, she also played AAU ball for the NJ Monarchs, and Bergen Jazz.. Her AAU teams placed in the top 10 several times. Janet attended Wilson School played rec ball until she was old enough to join the OLV Parish team, playing for Dennis Coyle... and with Tami Coyle, the 7th graders

Both, at age 12, became 1,000 point scorers! 8th grade rolls around with Janet playing for the Sayreville Middle School averaging 24 points a game! Then came Janet's Bishop Ahr's High School basketball expertise under Coach Kevin Harper, where she started varsity as a freshman, and was All Division/All Conference, and All-Area player! Janet's junior year saw her reach the 1,000 point club! Janet also BROKE the records for points, steals, three pointers, and free throw percentage, selected as the GMC Overall Female Athlete, and Gene

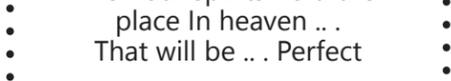
## College Notebook

Michael Novak (Sayreville) is playing baseball for New Jersey City University (10-17), and is batting .200, with 8 hits including 1 triple, and has driven in 7 runs. Michael Colonnello (Sayreville) plays for Kean University (26-5), and has a .217 batting avg. He has 5 hits, including a 3-run homer against NYU, and has 4 RBI on the year.

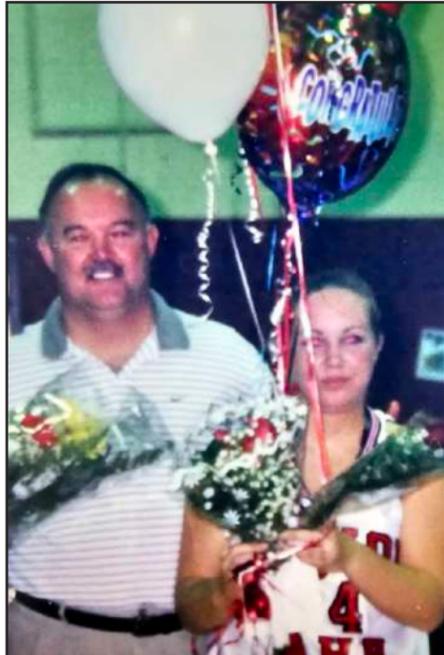
## Perfect!

By Albert Gomolka Jr.  
Times Poet Laureate  
c. 1994

No problems, at any time  
Nothing to worry about, ever  
Wouldn't that be ... Perfect!  
Total health, all the time  
Happiness & joy, forever  
Wouldn't that be ... Perfect!  
In reality, imperfections -  
Hassles, sadness, & infections  
This life can never be ...  
Perfect!  
Take heart human race,  
When our spirits hold their  
place In heaven ...  
That will be ... Perfect



Janet Ust age 4 in the arms of her cousin Hoffman High/Rutgers star basketball player Lynn Ust.



Bishop Ahr H.S., Dad Jerry Ust (l) Janet Ust (r).

and look up to." And, of course the most important people in her academic/athletic career.. Like all of us in our lives... Mom, and Dad!! Spending hours with Dad, the late Jerry Ust, driving all over the state for games and practices, and Mom, Eileen, there for the moral and #1 fan support!! What an outstanding athletic and academic life.. Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, and Soccer.. then onto teaching.. and coaching! And I thought I was a "hot shot" with 4 touchdowns in my illustrious 1-Year career as a South Amboy Sabres football player!! Congratulations on your success Janet.. And many thanks for allowing me to delve into such an awesome life of commitment, the struggles, the good and not so good times and seasons. So, there ya go Jerr... better late than never.. enjoy the read!!!

## Sayreville Little League Special Guest



From driving Uber to starting catcher for the New York Yankees, JC Escarra inspired the next generation at Sayreville Little League on Sunday, April 13th. The autograph signing, sponsored by Mama Dee's Empanadas, gave young players a chance to meet a true underdog turned pro. (Photo by Mac Media Productions - Dan McDonnell)





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

**Salt Water**

Striped Bass fishing in Raritan Bay remains slow. I checked local beaches at Cliffwood, Keansburg and South Amboy. The people I spoke to did not get any bites either. I heard of a few fish caught but have yet to see any. Party boats that fished in the bay have caught very few short Stripers. It's different in Toms River and in the Barnegat Bay area. It's mostly a bait deal on blood worms. Some keeper fish have been caught here. Some Winter Flounder have been caught here but Shark River in Belmar has produced a decent number of fish. Party boat fishing remains a pick of Ling and Blackfish. Some of these Blackfish are good sized. Surf Fishing so far has been nonexistent. The few people who tried it at LBI and Island beach did nothing so far. This should change any day now that the warmer weather is on the way.

**Fresh Water**

The bad weather that gave us problems carried into opening day on April 5th. High water, rain and cold limited catching. I didn't get out that day, but I checked Spring Lake the day after and saw 3 nice size Rainbows caught between 16 and 18 inches. Some Walleyes have been caught at a few locations along the Delaware River. The first Shad have also entered the river. The first commercial fishing above Lambertville dropped the nets and came up with 3 Shad. More will follow.

**Sayreville Fishing Derby-May 10**

The Sayreville Recreation will hold their annual Fishing Derby on Saturday May 10th, at Kennedy Park on Washington Rd. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and fishing is from 9-10:30 a.m. Awards will be presented at 10:30 a.m. The derby is open to Sayreville Residents Ages 3-15. For more info, go to SAYREVILLEREC.COM.

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**Back Home**  
 (Author Unknown)  
 If I had the power to turn back the clock,  
 Go back to that house at the end of the block-  
 The house that was home when I was a kid,  
 I know I'd love it more now than I did.  
 If I could be back there at my mother's knee,  
 And hear once again all the things she told me,  
 I'd listened as I never listened before,  
 For she knew so well just what life had in store.  
 And all the advice my dad used to give,  
 His voice I'll remember as long as I live;  
 But it didn't really seem important than;  
 What I'd give just to live it all over again.  
 And what I'd give for the chance I once had,  
 To do so much more for my mother and dad;  
 To give them more joy and a little less pain;  
 A little more sunshine—a little less rain.  
 But the years roll on and we cannot go back,  
 Whether we were born in a mansion or in a shack,  
 But we can start right now—in the hour that's here,  
 To do something more for the ones we hold dear.  
 And since time in its flight is traveling so fast;  
 Let's not spend it regretting that which is past;  
 But let's make tomorrow a happier day,  
 By doing our "good to others"-TODAY.

## Knights Of Columbus Trip

(Article/Photos Submitted)

On Saturday, March 29, 46 members of the Knights of Columbus along with wives and friends, traveled to New Haven, CT. There they visited the "Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center." The center was formerly called the "Knights of Columbus Museum." After taking a guided tour, everyone boarded the bus for the short trip over to St. Mary Church. This is the church where Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus. Holy mass was celebrated by Fr. Stanley Gromadzki from Sacred Heart Church of South Amboy. After mass, everyone spent time praying

over the sarcophagus containing the remains of Father McGivney. The sarcophagus is polished marble in the shape of a cross and is located at the entrance of the church.

After some prayer time everyone again boarded the bus to travel to Brezi's Italian Restraunt for dinner and fellowship. After dinner the return trip was made back to South Amboy. The cross in the group photo is 400 years old and stood over the plaza of St. Peters in Rome. It is a gift the Vatican made to the Knights for supporting repairs made to the church in Rome.

## OPERATION: SNOWCONE

The WWII Letters From The Soldiers Of Sayreville Book Release

In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, the Sayreville Historical Society is proud to announce the publication of a new, limited-edition book honoring the borough's World War II veterans, "Sayreville's Operation Snow Cone: The WWII Letters From The Soldiers of Sayreville," by author and former Sayreville resident, Chris Nieratko.

The 204-page hardcover book contains letters and postcards written by Sayreville servicemen and women to local businessman Danny O'Brien, owner of Danny's Luncheonette and Spa on Main Street, Sayreville in the last years of WWII. During WWII, O'Brien penned one of the most comprehensive letter-writing campaigns in U.S. history to locals serving in the war asking for their photographs he planned to display in albums. Many responded with words from around the globe telling tales of their experiences far from home and a longing for hamburgers and banana splits.

These 185 letters remained unopened and unread until they were recently discovered by O'Brien's granddaughter, Kristen O'Brien Neymarc, in January of 2024 as she and family members sorted through her father's papers. While she and her family knew of her grandfather's diners in Sayreville and Woodbridge, no one was aware of his WWII correspondence until they found the letters sealed and preserved in a water-tight ammunition box.

After the discovery, O'Brien Neymarc reached out to The Historical Society and Nieratko, the author of the 2023 Historical Society collection "Give 'Hell: Sayreville Goes to War," a collection of photographs of Sayreville WWII servicemen and women displayed in attorney Joseph Karcher's office on Main Street. Over the past year, the letters were catalogued and preserved

by Historical Society volunteers. O'Brien Neymarc authored a one-act play describing both the discovery of the letters and the writers themselves. The title of the book comes from one soldier's homesick letter where he states he was missing Danny's ice cream so badly that he took his chocolate ration and crushed it onto some packed snow to create a makeshift snow cone.

In recognition of the 80th Anniversary of WWII's V-E Day and the book's publication, the Sayreville Historical Society is planning an afternoon of remembrance on May 3 from 1 to 3 pm in the Active Adult Center, 423 Main Street, Sayreville. "Sayreville's Operation Snow Cone: The Danny O'Brien Letters" will be available for purchase at \$45.

O'Brien Neymarc and Nieratko will be on-hand to discuss the project and be available for questions. Several correspondences will be read, and the letters will be available for viewing. In addition, O'Brien Neymarc's play will be read by local actors.

The Historical Society will display artifacts from its own WWII collection, including recent donations from the family of Ed Kolodziej, the holder of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.

In addition, children will be able to write letters or color pictures to be delivered to the Menlo Park veteran's home. Local veterans will be available to talk about their experiences with children and students. Outside the building, visitors can explore several historic military vehicles in the parking lot.

Light refreshments, including snow cones, will be served.

Operation: Snow Cone will be available to purchase online starting April 11, 2025 at <https://square.link/u/XtIffm9S>

## Knights Of Columbus Trip

(Photos/Info Submitted)



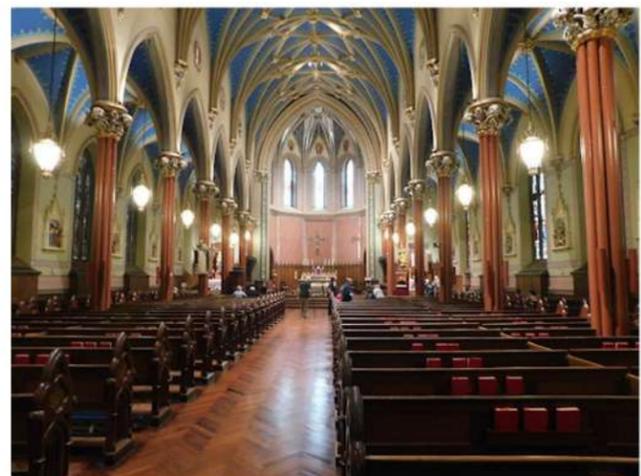
46 Pilgrims from South Amboy at the McGivney Center in New Haven, CT.



Deputy Grand Knight (L) Ed Vassallo and Grand Knight Jan Williams.



Brother Knights with Father Stanley on the altar of St. Mary's Church in New Haven.



Interior of St. Mary's church, completed in 1870.



The sarcophagus containing Blessed Michael McGivney with a brother knight in prayer.

## WWW.?



March Winners

Last month's WWW.? was Sadie Pope Dowdell Library.

Winners: Paul Conlon, Edna Pilch, Dana Colburn-Gallo, Rich Angerstein, Dennis Quinlan, Do Zrebiec, Mary Agnes Morris, Jim & Debbie Sissick, JoAnn & John French, Steve Laskiewicz, Betty Leveille, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret, Barb Bockus, Ed English, Lisa Grankowski, Dane Colburn, Pete McIntyre.

Last month we missed Walter Starzec Jr who had the correct answer.



Sadie Pope Dowdell Library

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**Richard S. Orban**



Richard S. Orban, 84, of Laurence Harbor died on Sunday April 6, 2025 at Complete Care at Madison. Born in Lackawanna, New York he grew up in Elizabeth before settling in Laurence Harbor. A member of St. Lawrence R.C. Church, Laurence Harbor, he was also a member of the Keyport Elks Lodge and a veteran of the U.S. Army. He loved watching and playing golf, working in his garden, he was very proud of his homemade model railway and train collection, he enjoyed trips to Atlantic City and was an avid fan of the New York Giants.

Son of the late Sophia A. Stomski he is also predeceased by his son Larry Rand; his son-in-law Keith Reitler and his dog Misty. He is survived by his loving wife Judith Ratchford Orban; his daughters Debbie O'Connor and her husband Bob, Patti Reitler and Terri Orban-Mocik and her significant other Mark Kocsis; his grandchildren Eric, Matthew, Christopher, Michael, Emily, Zachary and Justin and his beloved dog Rocky.

Funeral services were held on Friday April 11, 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 St. Lawrence Church. Entombment was in Holy Cross Burial Park Mausoleum, Jamesburg. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Lawrence Church or The Laurence Harbor First Aid Squad.



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**Rosalia Semashko**  
 Rosalia Semashko, 95, of Morgan died on Saturday April 12, 2025 at St. Joseph Senior Home, Woodbridge. Born in Perth Amboy she was previously employed by Lockheed Electronics, Plainfield.  
 Daughter of the late Otto Hunt and Helen Struskowitz she is also predeceased by her husband George Semashko and her sister Anna May Mackenzie. She is survived by her daughters Michele Saporita, Karen Fallon and her husband Glenn, Cynthia Rowley and her husband John, Jr. and Lisa Batista and her husband Mario; her grandchildren Erin, Gordon, III and Michael Arnold, Glenn, Jr., Brian and Randy Fallon, John, III, Daniel and Michael Rowley and Mario and Bryan Batista and 15 great-grandchildren.  
 Funeral services were held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 9:30am from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy followed by interment in Clover Leaf Memorial Park, Woodbridge. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Joseph's Senior Home, 1 St. Joseph Terrace, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

**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 -G.S.

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

**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.

**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.

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

**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.

**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 -J.B.

### Obituaries

Anderson, Victor, 88, of Sayreville died on March 20.  
 Billie, Joanne M., 78, of Sayreville died on April 2.  
 Brozyna, Justine Robe, 42, formerly of Sayreville died on April 12.  
 Bucherer, Arline T., 87, of Parlin died on April 8.  
 Bulman, Joseph R., Esq., 74, formerly of South Amboy died on March 27.  
 Casanova, Dolores, 75, formerly of South Amboy died on March 29.  
 Daino, Joseph M., 79, of Laurence Harbor died on April 7.  
 Dennen, Eugene "Gene," 80, of South Amboy died on April 4.  
 Engelhardt, Thomas R., 76, formerly of Sayreville died on April 10.  
 Golaszewski, John, 61, of Sayreville died on April 2.  
 Johnson, Roger L., 83, of South Amboy died on April 12.

Kelly, Mary S. Harland, 70, formerly of South Amboy died on March 16.  
 Larsen, Barbara J., 91, formerly of Morgan died on April 4.  
 Marrazza, Anthony, 71, of Sayreville died on March 7.  
 Nelan, Elizabeth "Betty," 80, formerly of Sayreville died on April 7.  
 Orban, Richard, 84, of Laurence Harbor died on April 6.  
 Petro, Ronald J., 77, formerly of Sayreville died on March 17.  
 Schaber, Edward B., 79, formerly of South Amboy/Parlin died on April 2.  
 Semashko, Rosalia, 95, of Morgan died on April 12.  
 Yuhas, Richard A. "Pal," 86, of Sayreville died on March 27.  
 Zera, Rosemary L. Lagoda, 81, of South Amboy died on March 21.

### In Memoriam

Richard "Pal," Yuhas, 86, of Sayreville died on March 27. Prior to his retirement, he worked at DuPont in Parlin for over 35 years as a sheet metal mechanic. Joanne

Billie, 78, of Sayreville died on April 2. She was a cafeteria worker for over 20 years at Sayreville Middle School.

#### One Year Anniversary In Heaven



Steve Schmid



#### A Master Of Trivia By Al Gomalka Jr.

*\*A tribute to The SA Times writer/ad sales/photographer Steve Schmid who passed away May 6, 2024  
 Ask him a question about anything  
 He'll give you the answer true  
 His knowledge of subjects common or odd  
 It seemed he just always knew  
 Steve was a patriot, sports fan, and bright  
 And a friend to all thru and thru...  
 A man of this world and a man of God  
 A traveler, writer, and reporter of news  
 Steve wore many hats and one could say  
 He practiced his Christian views  
 So many did know him and loved him, but  
 He's one you don't want to lose...  
 Steve and wife Cheryl would volunteer  
 In many community endeavors  
 He couldn't or wouldn't ever say no  
 A man humble, wise and clever  
 But I'll always remember him simply as friend  
 And the "Master of Trivia" forever.  
 Sadly Missed By, Tom Burkard,  
 Brian Stratton and The SA Times Staff*

### Rosemary Lee Lagoda Zera

Rosemary Lee Lagoda Zera, 81, of South Amboy died on Friday, March 21, 2025 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge.

Born in South Amboy, she resided in South Amboy or Sayreville her whole life. She was previously employed by the South Amboy Board of Education and Woodbridge Board of Education as a Media Specialist. Rosemary served on the Sayreville Rent Leveling Board, the Dowdell Library Board and served as the alternate on the Dowdell Library Board for the South Amboy Public Schools Superintendent. She was a member of several women's clubs over the years where she met lifelong friends. She was a member of Sacred Heart R.C. Church, South Amboy.

Rosemary was an avid reader, instilling the importance of reading and education to all of "Aunt Roe's Kids". Her love of golf and the beach just added to her favorites of reading, restaurants and relaxation.



Daughter of the late Edmund and Mary Urbanik Lagoda, she is predeceased by her husband Robert A. Zera. She is survived by her sister Patricia A. Rock and her husband Robert J.; her loving niece Amy Rock and her fiancé Joseph E. Maratta; her brother-in-law Raymond Zera and his wife Joan; her Fitzsimmons family, nieces and nephews, and many cousins and best friends.

Funeral services were held on Thursday March 27, 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 R.C. Church. Entombment was at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Parlin. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Shenandoah University  
 In memory of Rosemary Zera  
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*These are difficult times, our world has changed and innocent lives have been lost. The world as we know it, will never be the same. The one thing that will never go unchanged is the unending love of our mothers. We must pray that we all get through this. Please cherish those in your life and never forget.*



**Rocco M. Cuoco, Manager**  
 N.J. Lic. No. 4605

#### 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.

#### A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

#### 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 -B.S., P.S.

# The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

## From The Sports Archives



**2010-1,000 Point Scorers**-Four St. Stan's 8th Grade basketball players reached the elusive 1000 point milestone. The talented players (l-r) Jackie Rodriguez, Zach Doring, Chris Latchney, and Brandon Bielak received 1000 point ball awards at the St. Stanislaus Kostka Awards Banquet. (Photo/info was submitted by Dawn Zollinger-Doring). NOTE: Brandon Bielak has gone on to a successful Professional Baseball career, and is currently pitching for the Arizona Diamondbacks Reno team in Triple A ball.

## Opening Day 15 Years Ago



**2010-Former New York Yankee great, Allie Clark (c) of South Amboy gets ready to throw out the first ball on Opening Day at Waterfront Park as the Cardinal McCarrick Eagles played South Amboy Governors in a City Series baseball game between the local hometown rivals. Guvs' coach Joe Szaro (l) and Eagles coach Frank Notaro (r) proudly look on. (Photo by Brian Stratton)**

## Sayreville Sports History



This rare photo, which was probably taken over 100 years ago of a youth baseball team in Sayreville known as Breuers Nine, was sent in by former local resident Richard Sullivan. The names of the players were in graphite on the back of the photo, which was dark, and mostly impossible to read. In the top row (1st on left was Frank Long), (3rd from left is manager Breuers), bottom row (1st on left was John Guilfoyle), and all the other names cannot be deciphered. \*Note: Check out the gloves, bat, and catcher's mask, as well as the players uniforms compared to the style of today's players. (A special thank you to Richard Sullivan for submitting the photo/information).

### Bus Trip to Citi Field

Knights of Columbus council 426 "Annual Bus Trip to Citi Field"  
 When: Saturday August 2nd 2025 (game starts @4:10pm)  
 Bus leaves the K of C parking lot @1:00pm 308 4th street South Amboy N.J. 08879  
 Cost: \$160.00 per person (\$24.00 back in Mets Cash)  
 Snacks for the ride included. Call Ray @ 732 721-2025.

### 45 Years Ago Wahler Ties

### Brother's Record

**1980-Hoffman's** standout soccer star Frank Wahler blasted in 5 goals to lead the Guvs to a 7-0 triumph over East Brunswick Tech, to tie the school record for most goals in a single game, which was set by his brother Mark in 1978.

## Glory Days In Local Sports

2015-Sayreville softball ace pitcher Erin Fitzsimmons fired a 3-hitter and struck out 16, as the Bombers romped over Edison, 11-1...2008-Jessica Hartland fired a 7-inning complete game no-hitter, and fanned 16, as Cardinal McCarrick hammered Highland Park, 8-0. Jamie Williams and Rebecca Beshada both went 2-for-3 with 2 RBI apiece...1997-St. Mary's downed St. Mary's in baseball action, 7-3. Sean Knofel ripped an RBI single in the 5th inning to break a 3-3 tie, and put the Eagles ahead for good in Game 1 of the City Series. Jeff Ebner belted 3 doubles. Winning pitcher Brian Moy tossed

a 4-hitter and fanned 9...1985-Hoffman freshman baseball standout, Bill Moskal finished the season with a scorching .395 batting avg. and blasted 2 home runs...1973-Mike Downs unloaded a 2-run triple in the 7th inning to tie the game, and Mike Kelly singled Tom Szatkowski with the game winner, as the Governors nipped St. Thomas Aquinas, 3-2...1968-Winning pitcher Reggie Carney orbited a 3-run homer to lead Sayreville to a 5-3 victory over East Brunswick. Bob Rodziewicz contributed an RBI triple, and Gary George an RBI single.

### T.H.E. Game

Year-2003

Sport-Softball

Teams-Cardinal McCarrick vs. South Amboy (Season opener for both clubs)

**Recap**-Caitlin Solli ripped a line drive single with two outs in the bottom of the 7th to win it. Jessica Wojcik, Carissa Nadonley, and Jessica Fiore stroked 2 hits each for the Lady Eagles. Keryn Rosenberger blasted a 2-run homer for the Lady Guvs.

**Player-of-the-Game-Caitlin Solli.**

### 10 Years Ago

**2015-Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's** superstar softball pitcher Jackie Riley fired an incredible perfect game, as the Lady Eagles defeated Brooklyn Tech, 4-0. The senior standout struck out 19 of the 21 batters she faced in the regulation 7-inning contest. She received plenty of offensive support from Melissa Adams, who stroked a single and double to drive in 2, Katrina Bilakowski an RBI double, and Alysa Piptione, a double and RBI.

### 15 Years Ago Opening Day

**2010-Coach Joe Szaro's** South Amboy Governors baseball squad belted Cardinal McCarrick, 8-1. Winning pitcher Craig Warzecha fired a 2-hitter and struck out 5. Dustin DeVoe led the hitting attack with a stellar 4-for-4 performance and 2 RBI...The Cardinal McCarrick softball team shocked South Amboy, 9-2. Jamie Williams was the winning pitcher tossing a 2-hitter and striking out 12. Jen Shereyka ripped a single, 2 doubles and an RBI. South Amboy got an RBI single from Melissa McCleery.

### Remember When

**1997-South Amboy Guvs** slugger Vinnie Sendziak blasted 3 home runs in one game over the fence at Veterans Field, and drove in 5 runs, as the Purple & Gold plastered Piscataway Tech, 12-1.

## Thomsen Leads Felician U. To Title

By Tom Burkard

Rusty Thomsen, who was the Middlesex County boys bowling champion while starring for Sayreville War Memorial HS, has carved out an impressive career as a highly-successful bowling coach, initially on the high school level with St. Joseph's of Metuchen boys team, then as an assistant coach for the women's bowling squad from 2001-2012 at New Jersey City University (NJCU). From 2020-2023, he became head coach at NJCU, and this year, his 22nd season as a bowling coach, and his first at Felician University, he guided the women's bowling team to their first Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship by beating Caldwell University, 2-1. Congratulations Rusty and Felician U. women's bowling team! Coach Thomsen's motto is "Don't practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong."

The Rusty Thomsen Notebook: He has been part of the Pro Bowlers Association since 2007, when he won 4 regional titles, and finished 17th in the U.S. Open in 2003... During his outstanding and illustrious bowling career, he has rolled an unbelievable 135 perfect 300 games!

## 1-Year Ago 2024 Opening Day

**Baseball**-South Amboy Guvs topped Carteret, 6-3, behind the pitching and hitting of Benjamin Smith, who belted a single and double to drive in 3 runs while picking up the victory...

Sayreville nipped Middlesex, 4-3 to present rookie head coach Tim Ballard with his first win. Jake Romanello ripped a single and triple, and Michael Robinson lined a 2-run single. Logan Kaufman was the winning pitcher and struck out 4...

**Softball**-Josephine Vanore fired a 4-hit shutout, and struck out 11 to lead Sayreville to a 2-0 victory over Spotswood. Mya Infante laced 2 hits for the winners.

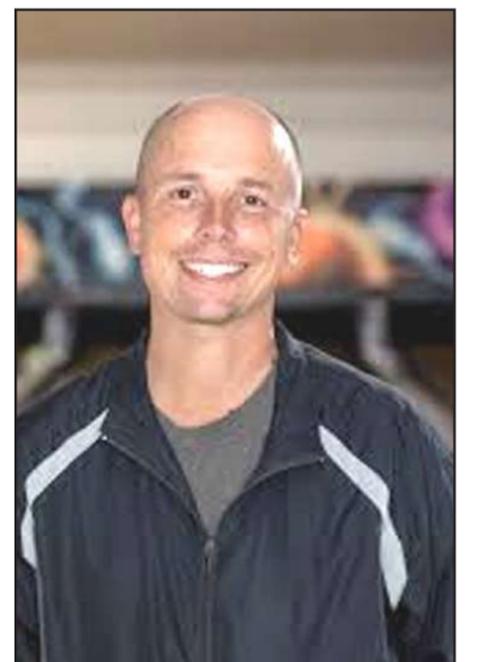
Highland Park downed South Amboy, 8-3. Mia Pena had 2 hits and an RBI, while Sarah McLaughlin added an RBI single.

## 55 Years Ago Kotula Fires 2 No-Hitters

**1970-In** South Amboy Little Fellas League baseball action, Jerry Kotula, talented pitcher for Daylight Bakery accomplished the nearly impossible by firing 2 no-hitters in only 4 days. Wow, an incredible feat! On June 16th, he pitched his team to a 10-0 victory over Lions, and received lots of offensive support from Pat Douglas, who ripped 2 singles and a triple. The second masterpiece came on June 20th, as Daylight blasted Knights of Columbus, 14-2, as Jerry struck out 15 batters. Douglas continued his red-hot hitting by leading the offensive attack with 3 hits.

## 100 Years Ago

**1925-St. Mary's** defeated Perth Amboy Vocational School, 8-3 in diamond action. Winning pitcher Angelo Rapello struck out 17 batters. Monaghan went 3-4 to lead the Saints hitting attack, while Phillips and Leonard had 2 hits apiece. \*Back in those days, most first names were not mentioned in the newspaper articles.



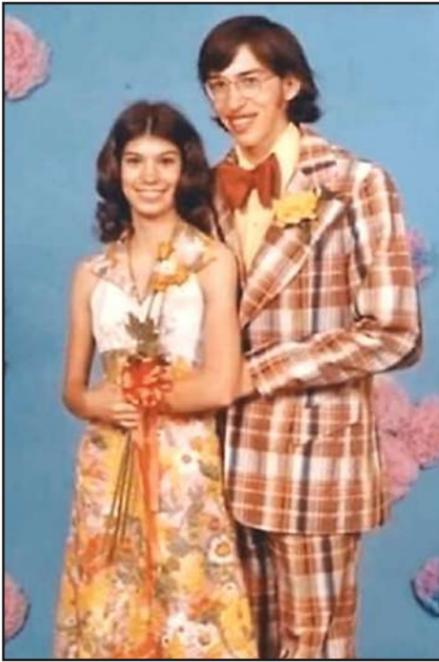
Rusty Thomsen





### Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify this young ladies prom date? Just looking for his name..Gabba Gabba... Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by May 12th.



### Who Is It?

Last month's mystery duo were Mayim Bialik and Jennifer Aniston who co-starred in the short-lived 1990 sitcom, Molloy, on NBC. The show starred Bialik as Molloy Martin, an 11-year-old girl who moves to Los Angeles, and Aniston played her step sister Courtney. The series only lasted seven episodes.

The following got it right:Patti Tengelines, Erin Noble, ,Edna Pilch, Dana Colburn-Gallo, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret. Last month we missed Walter Starzec Jr who had the correct answer.



March Who is it?  
Mayim Bialik and Jennifer Aniston  
"Molloy"

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## South Amboy Elementary School Living Wax Museum 2025

(Photos by Brian Stratton)



The 4th grade students filled the gym with Historical figures and brought them all to life as students, parents and family members toured the museum. Great job!!



Stan Lee



Milton Hershey



Dolly Parton



Albert Einstein



Susan B. Anthony



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