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January 25, 2025 • The "Good News" Newspaper • Vol. 34 Issue 4

Father Jason Pavich Installed

(Article submitted, Photo by Frank Wojciechowski)



Father Jason Pavich

Former South Amboy resident Father Jason Pavich, was installed as Pastor of Our Lady of the Lourdes Parish, White House Station, NJ on Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024. Metuchen Bishop James F. Checchio installed Father Pavich at the Vigil Mass for the Feast of Christ The King.

Bishop Checchio, who was the principal celebrant and homilist, said he wanted to thank Father Jason for accepting his new role as Pastor here, to make Christ The King known. Father Jason said it was wonderful having Father Dennis Wezorak and Father Maurice Carlton in attendance, both of whom served at my home parish St. Mary, and were both instrumental in my discernment and formation for the priesthood, and are here to celebrate the Mass at my installation.

Father Jason was born in Perth Amboy and raised in South Amboy, and attended St. Mary's Elementary School. He graduated from St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel. His parents Nancy Hoffman Pavich and Stephen Pavich were born and raised in South Amboy and were parishioners of St. Mary Church, South Amboy.

Father Jason received a BA and BS Degrees from Stockton University, Galloway, and taught at Southern Regional HS in Manahawkin, NJ. Upon graduation, he felt a calling to the priesthood and entered Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University. Father Jason was ordained in 2012 by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski.

Prior to his current post, Father Pavich served as a Parochial Vicar at St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Bridgewater, NJ. He also served as Diocesan Director of Vocations, and as Chaplain and Administrator of St. Peter The Apostle University and Community Parish in New Brunswick, NJ.

At the reception following the Mass, Father Pavich spoke about how proud and humbled he was to be Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, and told the people that "You are always in my prayers and I look forward to working together for the parish."

Congratulations Father Jason, and may God Bless you for your continued success.



On January 1st, 2025 South Amboy Fire Department members, families, friends and city officials gathered at City Hall as Mayor Fred Henry swore in a new Chief of the Department along with new Assistant Chiefs. New Chief of the Department Rafael Albarran Mechanicsville Engine Co 10, 1st Assistant Chief Michael Kelly Enterprise Hook & Ladder Truck 8 and 2nd Assistant Chief Charles Honimar Protection Engine Co 6. The chiefs took their respective oaths of office surrounded by their families. Mayor Henry also congratulated outgoing Fire Chief Timothy Gay for an outstanding year. (Photo/Story by Jamie Norek) See additional photos on page 11.

Congratulations



On December 20, 2024, members of SAFD gathered at Independence firehouse to watch as Mayor Fred Henry presented a proclamation to James "Jimmy" Larkin for 50 years of service as a member of South Amboy Fire Dept., Independence Fire Co. Eng 7. Larkin joined the SAFD Eng 7 in 1974. Rising up through the ranks of company Lieutenant and Captain, he had served as Chief Driver for many years. From July 2006-June 2007 Larkin served as Assistant Chief of the Department, and became Chief of the Department from June 2007-June 2008. Larkin has been married to his wife Lois for 47 years. They have a daughter Brittany Ann, son in law Anthony and two wonderful grandchildren, Madison James and Chase Anthony. Congratulations Jimmy and thank you for your many years of dedication to the residents of South Amboy. (Photo and story by Jamie Norek)

Sayreville Wins In-Season Tourney

The Sayreville Bombers under Coach John Wojcik, captured the In-Season Basketball Tournament championship, winning a real nerve-wracker in the title tilt, 53-51 in overtime against Union. Chidi Chukwurah took scoring laurels with 21 points, and Keithan Shuler added 11.

The Bombers tripped Tottenville, 61-42 in the tourney opener, as Sam Jones tossed in 22 points, Shuler 18, and Chukwurah 12. Congrats Coach Wojcik and Bombers!

Sayreville Swimmer Sets New Record

Sayreville junior standout swimmer, Michael Wiszenko set a new school record in the 100-backstroke with a time of 0:53.74, to shatter a 13-year old mark, which was established in 2011 by Peter Dufprat, whose time was 0:55.10. Congratulations Michael, and keep up the great work!



This issue is dedicated to

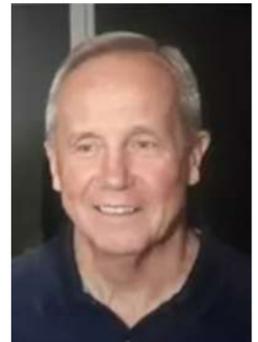
- *AnnRita Bartlinski
- *Barbara Gomolka Bottka
- *Linda Rudge Carney
- *Patricia DeLucia
- *John "Jack" Grimley
- *James "Jimmy" Keays
- *Mark Leschinski
- *Daniel "Danny" MacKay
- *Rosemarie Quackenbush
- *Michael Reilly



McCloud Enshrined In Hall Of Fame

By Tom Burkard, (Photo submitted)

Jim McCloud, a 1969 graduate of St. Mary's HS, and standout basketball player, who went on to a stellar superstar collegiate career at Biscayne College in Florida, was inducted on Oct. 25, 2024, into the school, which is now known as St. Thomas University Athletic Hall of Fame.



Jim McCloud

He was an All-County, All-State performer on the Eagles powerhouse '69 team that finished with one of the best records in school history (21-4), and went on to Biscayne, on a scholarship with St. Mary's teammate Mark Bratus. Jim, a '73 Biscayne graduate, was a 4-year starter for the Bobcats and had a career scoring average of 17 points per game, while shooting 50% from the floor and 80% of his free throws.

He was team captain for his last 2 seasons, and led the team to upset victories over NCAA Division programs La Salle, Southern Mississippi, Iona, St. Peter's, and SouthAlabama. His fine performances helped his team to the NCAA DII South Atlantic Regionals in '72, and was selected to the All-Tournament Team. He finished his superb 4-year career at Biscayne College as the All-Time scoring leader with nearly 1,800 points, and went on to play professional basketball

Continued on page 3

Next Issue February 28th -- Deadlines February 16th

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South Amboy House Decorating Winner



Adam Scapolatempore of Division Street put together this masterpiece that wowed all who saw it in person. Great job Adam! Keep it up. (Photo Submitted)



Father Jason Pavich (r), and Bishop Checchio (l) at Father Jason's installment ceremony. (Photo by Frank Wojciechowski)

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TIMES

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Pleasant Little TRIVIA By Tom Burkard

1. In 2010, some scenes were shot at Monaghan House in South Amboy, and Teddy's Bar in Morgan for this NBC TV series?

a. Mercy b. The Good Doctor c. Law & Order

2. South Amboy Fire Chief in 2020?

a. John Kelly b. Bob O'Connor c. Andrew Bielak

3. Sayreville Fire Chief in '17?

a. George Gawron b. Dan O'Herlihy c. Rich Kosmoski

4. President of the South Amboy Girls Softball League in 1995?

a. Gen McCreary b. Octavia Zampella c. Mary Chris Moskal

5. Sayreville Fire Chief in '97?

a. John Maher b. Daniel Martin c. John Jabloncki

6. President of Mechanicsville Ladies Auxiliary of South Amboy Fire Dept. in 1995?

a. Roxanne Keegan b. Martha Holton c. Beverly Kovacs

7. President of the Borough of Sayreville Council in '95?

a. James Zagata b. Kennedy O'Brien c. Scott Kominkiewicz

8. Where was the SA Pub located back in 1995?

a. South Broadway b. Main St. c. North Feltus St.

9. What year did Raritan Bay Federal Credit Union have a dedication for their new Raritan St. location in Sayreville?

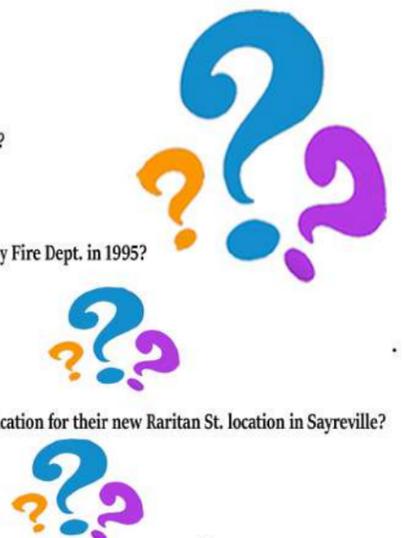
a. 1988 b. 1990 c. 1995

10. South Amboy City Council President in '95?

a. Beverly Samuelson b. James Reick c. Joseph Connors

11. Borough of Sayreville Council President in 2001?

a. Frank Makransky b. Arthur Rittenhouse c. Mary Novak



Answers
1a 2b 3a 4b 5b 6c 7a 8c 9c 10b 11a.

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY

A new year brings new goals and new opportunities. Even so, the first few months of the year can be hard for many of us. The holidays are over, the days are short, the weather is cold, and the landscape can seem bleak. Some of us miss the more joyous holiday season, others miss the warmth of summer, the coziness of autumn, or the optimism brought on by the spring. Winter can feel remote and isolating. Good things can feel very far away.

In Act II, Scene VII of As You Like It, William Shakespeare wrote that the winter wind “does not bite so nigh . . . as benefits forgot . . . as friend remembered not.” Four hundred years later the message is the same: remember and be good to your friends and loved ones. They are the key to making it through difficult times or a long, cold winter.

I hope in particular that all of us will think of those close to us who suffer from depression or other mental health problems. Statistics show that 1 in 20 American adults experience serious mental illness each year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people ages 10-34. As the new year begins it gives us the opportunity to check in with ourselves and our loved ones to see how they are doing. Fittingly, January also is National Mental Health Awareness Month. To that end, I hope that your new year’s resolutions focus not only on physical wellness but also mental wellness. Depression and anxiety are as real as any physical ailment, and those who suffer from them should receive commensurate care and compassion. If you are struggling, do not be afraid to seek help.

A few other, more positive, announcements.

The South Amboy Library was fortunate to secure the services of Earline Asbury. Earline is a social worker who can assist with resources and referrals for mental health issues, healthcare, substance abuse, housing, food assistance, and more. Earline is available every Monday from 5:00-8:00 p.m.; every Tuesday from 1:00-8:00 p.m. and every Saturday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. All meetings are confidential.

At a recent City Council meeting I asked if it would be possible for City Hall to



remain open late one night per week to allow residents easier access to the City’s facilities and departments. I am happy to report that beginning February 3, 2025, city hall will remain open every Wednesday night until 6:00 p.m. The following departments will be available: city clerk, police records, finance, redevelopment, tax planning/zoning, sewer, vital statistics, municipal court, and code enforcement.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (“AOH”) dinner dance is scheduled for February 15, 2025 at the Grand Marquis. Tickets are \$125 per person. For tickets and other information, please send email correspondence to: colkellyaoh@aol.com. The AOH honorees for this year include Irishwoman of the year Kelly Ann Reilly; Irishman of the year James Keegan; and Hibernian of the year Jeffrey White.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to the following outstanding citizens. Warmest welcome to Larry Lenahan as he joins the city council; to Dr. Frederick D. Williams as he joins the redevelopment agency; and to Amy Dundee and Gregory Czoch as they join the planning board. I also would like to thank Brian McLoughlin for his 8 years of service to the residents of the 1st ward; the volunteers and donors who made the Friends of South Amboy event a huge success; and former fire chief Tim Gay for his service to the residents of South Amboy. Also, Congratulations to Mark Herdman for being chosen Grand Marshall of the St Patrick’s day parade.

Respectfully
Tom Reilly
 2nd Ward Councilman
 City of South Amboy



Camp Dill Celebrating 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.

The second celebration will be a 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.

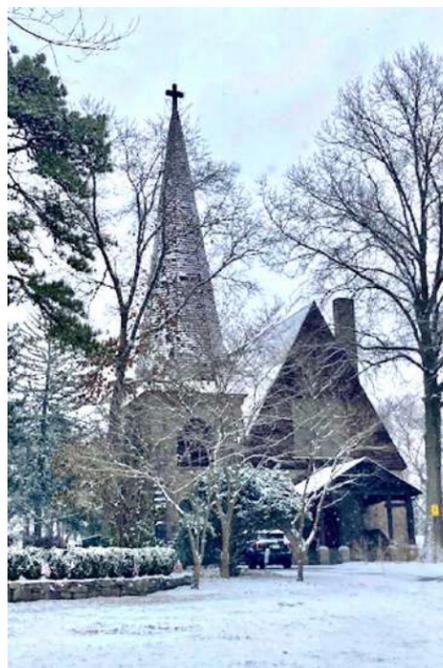
For information about Camp Dill please visit our website, www.CampDill.org.

McCloud Enshrined- continued from page 1

in Europe’s Netherlands Basketball Bond for Maarkt Utrecht, and also for the Jersey Shore Bullets in the Eastern Basketball League. Jim is still active playing basketball, and competes in State and National Senior Games around the country.

Congratulations Jim, on your terrific honor, and always being a tremendous basketball player and first-class guy, since your days at St. Mary’s HS!

Winter Wonderland



A beautiful winter scene at St. George’s Church in Helmetta, NJ. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Yearbook-Sayreville 1975

By Tom Burkard

Sayreville War Memorial H.S., Class of '75 returned to school in September 1974, and probably listened to their radios on the way in, and heard the #1 hit of the day, "Having My Baby" by Paul Anka. Dr. Marie Parnell was school principal. A few faculty members were: Patti Borak, Barbara Kolojaj, Henry Krupinski, Susan Maurer. Liz Donnelly was senior class president; Carol Nafey-V.P.; Leslie Boshko Treas.; Louise Grover-Sec. Pete Szechina was editor-in-chief of the yearbook, while John Hennessy was editor-in-chief of the school newspaper. There were always plenty of social happenings at SWMHS, such as the first horror production, "Count Dracula," which opened on Friday the 13th. There were 3 one act plays on Feb. 21-22, 1975, that delighted the audiences with their fine presentations. A new creative literary magazine was started by the Class of '75, and was called "Images." During Blue & Gray Week, the seniors dressed in the style of the Bicentennial era. How about Hillbilly Day? The Christmas and Spring Concerts featured the talented band and choir, and "Anything Goes" was a blast for all the students. Luke Bierman was Student Council president; VP-June Redford; Sec.-V. Geleti. Laurie Osnato was chosen Homecoming Queen. In 1975, 2 women tried to assassinate President Ford within a 17-day period in California. Patty Hearst was captured. Jimmy Hoffa disappeared. The U.S. was suffering from inflation. The World Football League crumbled. "Jaws" was the top movie of the year. Some of The Class of '75 selected randomly included: Kenneth Babo, Greg Babulak, Ron Bailey, Rita Ballantyne, Walter Beam, Kathleen Bird, Robert Boehm, Ann Brennan, Loree Burkshot, Donna Conlon, Jeff Connors, Charlene & Diane D'Amico, Michael Daddio, James Dieker, Barbara Eberle, Elva Feltz, Lisa Greenfield, Ray Harms, Mark Hayden, Kathleen Kabara, Nancy Keister, Gayle Kenny, John Kennedy, George Kierst, Wilma King, John Kopystecky, Harold Krumm, Robert Latham, Deborah Kroeger, Susan Liberty, Joseph Lone, John McCormack, Lillian Low, Susan Loniewski, Cynthia Malik, Salvatore Marconi, Delia Mancini, Robin Masarik, Harold Michalowski, Melanie Mitscock, Nancy Needham, Albert Noble, Elaine Noble, David O'Chat, Debra Petzel, Francine Piscitelli, Marlene Ziola, Ann Rathbun, Thomas Ryniec, Bernard Sadowski, Lois Roseninge, James Seaman, Gary Sheryka, Deborah Sheedy, Robert Shotwell, John Skutnik, Daniel Spencer, Lawrence Unkel, Eugene Reagan, Brian Triggs, Lynne Walerzak, Mary Williams, Deborah & Karen Wojcik, Diane Warden, Cindy Zazzarino, Janet Zebro, Thomas Zebro. Just to mention a few of the many talented senior athletes; Jay Buckiewicz, Dan & Dave Coyle, Jeff Georgiana, Scott Kaelin, Kathy Last, Sherry Popowski, Kevin Spiecker, Henry Zaleski, Paul Hilla, Mark Masterson, Marissa Fuoti, Theresa Totin, Dennis Walsh, Jack Fraass, Cliff O'Brien, John Albert. The #1 song in the nation at graduation time, 1975, was "Thank God I'm A Country Boy," by John Denver.



On Saturday December 14th members of SAFD as well family, friends and Mayor Fred Henry gathered at Protection Engine Co. firehouse for the annual Memorial Firefighter Christmas Tree. The tree was adorned with red lights and ornaments, with the initials of all firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2024. (Photo/info submitted)

Fish And Chicken Dinner Fry

The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville will be having a Fish and Chicken Fry on Friday, March 28, 2025 from 5pm-6:30PM. Tickets are \$17.00 in advance and there are limited tickets available at the door. Chicken is available by advance order only.

We will once again be offering take-out only. Each meal comes with a 6oz. piece of cod or chicken, French fries, corn, coleslaw, roll and slice of fruit pie. For tickets please call 732-257-6353 or email us at churchoffice172@optimum.net.

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The Smoke Column

By Ex-Chief Richard Kosmoski, BA., MS

This article is about an infamous fire that impacted the entire fire service for many years after it happened. There were many unforeseen circumstances that played out in the death of two FDNY firefighters and severe injuries to six others. Fortunately, there was one positive outcome which I will mention later. Many senior firefighters will remember the events of this fire either through the news media or through training. We all remember this fire by the name it was designated, "The Black Sunday at FDNY." Most large or infamous fires have been given a name to refer to and this one was no different. The fire service uses this type of fire to train others so it should never happen to them. We look at what we might have done differently that might have made a difference. This disaster took place on January 23, 2005, and will be remembered this year, 2025 as the twentieth anniversary of their loss. People may say that it was just another "ordinary" day in the fire service. But, as I have said many times before, there are NO "ordinary" days or ordinary fires. They may seem alike but they are all different one way or another. At the time of this fire, FDNY did not issue Personal Safety Ropes to their members as that practice was discontinued in the year 2000. Sometimes when an event starts to go downhill, it may go down quickly and lead to disaster as many factors come into play. This fire was originally reported at 8:03 am to be on the third floor of a four-story apartment building. Traveling to the scene was difficult due to the heavy snow on the roadways and cold temperatures. The first arriving attack Engine 42 had a frozen hydrant. These firefighters took an attack line to the floor above the fire to control its spread while using tank water which lasted only two minutes. Water pressure continued to be a problem due to kinked hoses, loss of pump prime, and relay operations. Other crews were

operating on the third-floor kitchen where the fire started inside the walls. With the loss of water to the firefighters on the fourth floor, the fire intensified causing heavy smoke and intense heat which eventually blocked their exit way from the fourth floor. The fourth floor was originally an apartment but single room occupancy rooms were illegally constructed which led to the intense fire and heat conditions to occur on that floor. As the six firefighters searched on that floor, their secondary means of interior egress was blocked by intense fire which left their only escape through an outside window. They called for a "MAYDAY" but help could not arrive in time. Their air supply was nearly empty. Rather than dying from the intense fire conditions they looked toward the windows for relief and a way out. The fire escape was too far down the building and inaccessible to them. Suffering from intense heat, heavy smoke conditions, and lack of breathing air their only choice was to vacate out the windows to the concrete ground six-stories below due to a basement cutout. FDNY LT. Curtis Meyran and FF John Bellew jumped first and died immediately when hitting the concrete. FF Joseph DiBernardo and FF Eugene Stolorski jumped second and were severely injured with multiple broken bones and internal injuries to their bodies. FF Jeffrey Cool and FF Brendan Cawley used a rope the FF Cawley had but the rope broke while in use and they also received severe injuries. The official report on this fire stated that the Personal Safety Rope would have been helpful and they were once again issued to FDNY firefighters. Firefighters throughout the country now have been issued these Safety Ropes so that they may never have to exit a burning structure without some type of rescue equipment.

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Dowdell Library News

Come show your library some love this month by joining us at our fun and exciting programs for all ages.

"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. This exhibition was made possible by the Dowdell Library Foundation.

New! **The Freegal Music+ Service** from Library Ideas, LLC 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.

Parents with Toddlers! Join Ms. Maryanne for Toddler Thursday Play Dates in February 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 February from 3:15 to 4:30 pm.

25 Years Ago-Front Page News In The SA Times January 2000

Kennedy O'Brien was sworn in as the new Mayor of Sayreville on New Year's Day. His running mates Frank Makransky and Vincent Zarcaro were also sworn in. Ed Rappleyea was the GOP chairman. Democrat Councilwoman Mary Novak continued as Council President...

South Amboy Mayor John T. O'Leary congratulated three South Amboy Police Officers on their promotions. Steve Pavich-Chief of Police, Jerry Pizzillo-Captain, Jim Wallis-Captain...

Former South Amboy Councilman/ Recreation Director, John "Jack" Hulsart was selected "Citizen of the Year" by the New Jersey Blind Citizens Association...

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

Teens 13+ can register for our **Teen Test Kitchen** on Monday, February 24 at 3:15pm to make mini pizzas!

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

Adults and Teens! Use your creativity and join our photo editing contest for our After Lunch sculpture. Take a picture of our friend and edit the background to send him on an adventure! Prizes for most creative teen and adult photo.

Adults! Come and celebrate **Lunar New Year** with a Culinary Celebration Thursday, February 6 from 6:30 to 7:30. Please register ahead of time to save a seat. Enjoy Chinese noodle soup from 2:30 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 7:30.

The **Senior Book Club** will meet on Monday, February 24 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Snow date is Wednesday, February 26 at the same time.

The Borough of Sayreville swore in 2 new police officers, Douglas Gumprecht and Frank Olchasky. There were also 6 new recruits: Amy Sabine, Thomas Pavlik, James Cavallaro, Stephen Gulick, Jamie Sztukowski, Michael Gaines...

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.

South Amboy Embraces The Color Green At The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

March is the ultimate season of green—for more reasons than one! Of course, we have budding trees and flowers to look forward to during the first month of spring, but there's another reason to embrace the color green during March: St. Patrick's Day and the upcoming South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade, to be held on Sunday, March 16, 2025, will be a welcome respite from winter, filled with glorious green attire.

The earliest known St. Patrick's Day celebrations were held in the 17th century on March 17, marking the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick in the 5th century. Historians generally believe that St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Britain (not Ireland) and at the age 16 was kidnapped by Irish raiders and sold as a slave to a Celtic priest in the area now known as Northern Ireland, eventually returning to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

Much of what is known about St. Patrick's life has been interwoven with folklore and legend. Among the legends associated with St. Patrick is that he stood atop an Irish hillside and banished snakes from Ireland—prompting all serpents to slither away into the sea.

It is believed that the earliest celebration of the holiday in America took place in Boston in 1737, when colonists of Irish descent marked the event with a modest parade. Over more than two centuries the tradition of the St. Patrick's Day parade continues to flourish in American cities including the City of South Amboy where it has become an annual event.

What began as the idea of Frank Conley, the then owner of the Monaghan House, the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day parade consisted of one bagpiper, the South Amboy Police, Fire and First Aid Squads and a

small group of marchers representing the Frank Conley Association. Today the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade, scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 2 pm, has grown to over 20 bands and 2000 marchers.

Included in this year's parade will be the Uptown String Band based in Parkland, Pennsylvania. The band which was founded in 1937 has been a participant in the Philadelphia Mummers Parade String Band Division since 1938. A fully volunteer organization comprised of nearly 200 individuals, the band strives to bring the cheer and joy of the distinct mummers' sound and the profound pageantry of sequined and plumed costumes.

As a participant in the 2025 Philadelphia New Year's Day Mummers Parade, the Uptown String Band placed 4th in the Mummers judged String Band Division while its Captain placed second in the String Band Captain Division. The Uptown String Band are sure to add color, excitement and flare to this year's South Amboy Parade.

Following the parade many families will enjoy an American innovation that has become a St. Patrick's Day staple - corned beef and cabbage. Ham and cabbage were eaten in Ireland but for the impoverished American immigrants corned beef offered a cheaper substitute and has now become synonymous with St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Should you and your organization be interested in participating in the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade, participant registration information and parade updates can be found at www.southamboyparade.com.

This project is supported in part by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

SA Arts Alliance Wishes You a Happy & Enriching 2025

South Amboy Arts is looking forward to bringing family programming that fosters creativity and learning for children to adults. These experiences are also a means to nurture your spirit with new acquaintances. We want to thank all the individuals who helped us in supporting our mission this past year and hope they will be back to help us in 2025. Since we are a non-profit, volunteers are needed to bring events to you. Your thoughts and help are very important to us as well as our community. We are always open to suggestions and programs need people to plan and deliver them to our community. SA Arts would like to thank those who completed our surveys and our Elves Workshop. The results of our questionnaire showed that Friday PM is the day and time for programs and interest in once-a-month classes with possible special holiday theme workshops. So, for our month of hearts and flowers SA Arts will be offering the following programs:

- **Children's Arts & Crafts Class: 1st Friday of the Month at 3:30pm**
- **Painting & Crafting: 2nd Friday of the Month at 6:30 pm**
- **Painting on Glass: Create a Lighted Piece of Glass Artwork: A piece of Monet's Garden**
- **Acoustic Friday: 3rd Friday of the Month at 7pm**
- **Drawing Circle: Open to Teens & Adults (please email SA arts if interested)**

We are looking for interested individuals to create workshops or programs that would showcase their expertise and/or talent to share with our community. Artists, Crafters, Musicians and those with expertise in a specific area are welcome to join us in providing opportunities for our community.

If you are interested we would love to hear from you: Email SAarts141@gmail.com or call 732-727-4600x5971.

From the CYO Archives . . .



1959-This talented Sacred Heart 7th and 8th Grade CYO team bounced back from a winless season in '58 to finish with an outstanding (23-9) record. Pictured Standing (l-r) Coach Jim Inman, Rev. John Szymanski (CYO Moderator), Phil Belgio, Joe Pohl, Joe Chodkiewicz, Pete Inman, Tony Grimaldi, Rev. Walter Urbanik. Kneeling (l-r) Ken Wahler, Luke Lyons, Bob Kupcha, Rich "Ish" Ambroziak, Jim Vida, Bob Kukulski.

Statement from Speaker Coughlin on Governor Murphy's State of the State Address

Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex) offered the following statement regarding the Governor's annual State of the State address:

"I am proud of the progress we've made to keep New Jersey an affordable place to live while meeting our obligations and making prudent investments for the future. From our continued efforts to provide property tax relief and fund programs to help New Jersey families, we have made real strides in improving the quality of life for everyone in New Jersey.

"As the Governor acknowledged, we face challenges ahead, but thanks to sound fiscal management we have been able to improve our credit rating, pay down our debt, and fully fund our schools and the state pension system – achievements that reflect our commitment to responsible governance. We've also managed to cut taxes and avoid taking on new debt. I applaud the Governor for these actions, and support his efforts to

address tax fairness.

"While belt-tightening may be necessary, we cannot abandon our commitment to making New Jersey more affordable for the 9.3 million people that call it home. That is why property tax relief remains our highest priority. We will continue to fund the ANCHOR program and are moving forward with the launch of StayNJ – ensuring property tax relief for seniors while building on the affordability initiatives we have already championed.

"We also made New Jersey a safer place to live. I stand with the Governor in extending gratitude to the law enforcement agencies and social justice organizations who, through coordinated efforts, led New Jersey to a record low number of shootings and car thefts this past year. Our shared vision for a safer, more affordable New Jersey is becoming a reality and together through our partnership with the Senate and the Governor, we will continue to build on the momentum we have created."

Picture Middlesex County Contest Returns for Winter 2025

Photo contest runs January 16 – March 27, 2025

Middlesex County's popular photo contest, Picture Middlesex County, is back for the winter season. Running from January 16 through March 27, 2025, the contest invites residents to showcase life and nature across Middlesex County through their lenses. The winning photos, selected by a panel of judges, will be publicly displayed at future County events and featured in marketing materials.

"The Picture Middlesex County photo contest is not just about photography — it's about celebrating the unique communities and locations across our municipalities that showcase the beauty and diversity of life in Middlesex County," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "Each season, participants amaze us with their creativity and fresh perspectives. I can't wait to see the stunning images submitted this winter."

Who Can Enter:

The photo contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers, from youth to adults. Participants ages 17 and under require a parent or guardian's consent on the entry form.

How to Participate:

Photos must be taken within Middlesex County, New Jersey, during the contest

timeframe. Each participant may submit up to two photos per category from January 16 to March 27, 2025.

Contest Categories:

- Nature and Scenery: Landscape scenery, insects, plants, etc.
- People and Places: Community members and locations that make Middlesex County special.
- Animals and Pets: Pets or wildlife such as deer, birds, turtles, etc.
- Comfy and Cozy Moments: Crackling fireplaces, warm beverages, etc.
- Photo Filters and Tricks: Show off your creativity with clever angles, filters, or lighting effects.

After the contest ends, all eligible entries will be added to a new album on the Middlesex County Facebook page. An anonymous judging committee will evaluate the submissions and select the winning entries, which will be announced on the Middlesex County Facebook, Instagram, and X pages and on the Picture Middlesex County landing page.

For full contest rules and more information, please visit: discovermiddlesex.com/picture-middlesex-county.

Pallone Delivers Permanent Financial Relief for Sandy Survivors

HUD Waiver Eliminates Federal Clawbacks, Delivering Relief to Hundreds of NJ Constituents After Years of Pallone's Advocacy

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced a major win for New Jersey residents impacted by Superstorm Sandy during an event with survivors and advocates at Union Beach Borough Hall. After years of determined advocacy, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved Pallone's request to waive disaster aid clawbacks for low- and moderate-income Sandy survivors, as well as individuals facing foreclosure or who lost loved ones.

This federal waiver eliminates the unjust requirement to repay disaster assistance—a policy that has placed undue hardship on those still grappling with the storm's aftermath. The relief is expected to be worth millions of dollars impacting hundreds of households.

"Superstorm Sandy devastated our state, and for far too long, disaster aid clawbacks added unnecessary hardship for people still trying to recover," said Pallone. "Every time I spoke with survivors, I heard stories of fear and uncertainty about how they would pay back money they used to rebuild their homes and lives. This relief is about justice for those who have endured so much—people who lost everything through no fault of their own—and ensuring they can finally move forward without this unfair financial burden. It's a step toward helping our state heal, and I'm grateful to HUD for working with us to make this happen."

The waiver provides targeted relief to eligible low- and moderate-income households, allowing forgiveness of up to \$27,000 in disaster assistance debt. It also benefits those who experienced foreclosure, bankruptcy, or the loss of a loved one after receiving federal disaster aid. The State of New Jersey will now determine eligibility among approximately 900 households who have been asked to return more than \$30 million in federal disaster assistance.

Joe Mangino, Board President of the New Jersey Organizing Project, joined Pallone at today's event, saying, "This is major progress for us and low- and moderate-income Sandy families who will see forgiveness, survivors who have had to file for bankruptcy or are in foreclosure, and those heartbreaking cases where Sandy survivors have passed away. These are the folks who need the life jacket the most. It will mean everything. We are so grateful to Congressman Pallone for spearheading this major step forward and for fighting for clawback forgiveness alongside Sandy survivors for years. We know he'll continue to stand with us and work toward relief for all of us."

Pallone's sustained engagement with HUD, including direct discussions with Acting HUD Secretary Adrienne Todman, was instrumental in securing the waiver. In 2022, he successfully advocated for an

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Nine Line Rhyme

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
C.1998

This is the first line of my rhyme- I never wrote a verse of this kind. With what inspiration or sign, Came this nine line rhyme of mine? Will there be a topic I can find? As I'm contemplating words this time, Who knows what may exit my mind. I'm running out of cadence, I'm in a blind! This nine line rhyme isn't worth a dime.

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Rumbles from the Rock and Roll Reunion

By Clem Skarzynski

A New Year is upon us once again. My thanks along with my bandmates, thank everyone who came out to see, hear us at our shows in 2024! And of course, those who made it possible for us to be there, onstage, playing the music we love, and sharing that joy with everyone, and all who were there with us, making our shows so memorable. "Clem and Friends" also want to extend a Huge thank you, to our Tenor/Keys virtuoso, Mr. Craig Hoek, who came into our family several years ago as our 2nd horn, alongside Jerry Mokar and the late Gary "Tripps" Trippiedi. easily stepped into the #1 horn spot, then upon the departure of our superb keyboardist, Mr. Scott Bishop, so he could live his "dream" in his new lakeside home in Upstate N.Y., Craig took over double duty on the keys and tenor sax..Craig, to be closer to Family, has now moved to New Hyde Park, N.Y., making the travel time just too

consuming for him to stay with us..So, with that.."C"...we all thank you, sincerely, for bringing your talent to us, making us sound just so much better, and sharing your musical knowledge with mine, and being such a welcome addition to my music direction in the band! Every member of the band has contributed to its success and awesome sound, and without "egos"! A RARE occurrence in ANY BAND! We wish you well,"C" in all you do! You will be missed! Clem and Friends are now in the process of getting together, for shows this year, and what we will offer. This is "Jam Time" for us! Putting together new set lists, and venturing into new musical styles and times. As possible new shows come together, this column will let you all know! Remember.."When words fail, music speaks"...Be well and safe...see you next column.



Former Sayreville Board of Works Superintendent Bernie Bailey (l) visited with his old friend, the great Jon Bon Jovi back in 2013, when Jon was in town to donate a \$1 million dollar check to the Borough to aid in relief from Superstorm Sandy. Bernie, who was an owner of the Hunka Bunka on Jernee Mill Road many years ago, recalled Jon and his band rehearsing the song "Runaway" for 6 weeks prior to going into the studio to cut the record, which became a huge hit, and propelled the band Bon Jovi to superstardom. Former NJ Governor Chris Christie is in the background to the right. (Photo/info courtesy of Bernie Bailey)

Hangin' With The Stars

(Photo/info submitted by Walter Krzyzkowski)



Former Parlin resident Walter Krzyzkowski (r) sure knows a lot of rock stars. Pictured (l) is Albert Bouchard, the original drummer (and probably responsible for the term "More Cowbell!") from the iconic band Blue Oyster Cult and more recently The Dictators.



Top 10 Songs 100 Years Ago

1925-The Top 10 songs/Performing Artists for the year were in no particular order: I'll See You In My Dreams-Isham Jones, Guest Conductor with Ray Miller's Orchestra; Yes Sir, That's My Baby-Gene Austin; Sweet Georgia Brown-Ben Bernie/His Hotel Roosevelt Orchestra; The Prisoner's Song-Vernon Dalhart; St. Louis Blues-Bessie

Smith; See See Rider Blues-Ma Rainey; Charleston-The Knickerbockers; Charleston Baby Of Mine-Austin Wylers Golden Pheasant Orchestra; I'm Gonna Charleston Back To Charleston-Austin Wylers Golden Pheasant Orchestra; Insufficient Sweetie-Fred Waring/The Pennsylvanians.

Sayreville Library News

Heart Health Awareness-Sponsored by St. Peter's Hospital

Tuesday, 2/11 @1PM
February is Heart Health Month. Come out for a free blood pressure and blood sugar screening, sponsored by St. Peter's University Hospital.

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

Meditation with Barbara (Virtual)
Feb 4 & 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, 2/18 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: Mean Girls-Starring Lindsay Lohan, Rachel McAdams, and Tina Fey. Rated PG-13 1 hr 37 mins.

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

Hackensack Meridian Health Presents: Stress Management

Monday, 2/24 @6PM

Stress is part of life, but don't let it get you down. Join Hackensack Meridian health for this informative seminar on how to better manage stress in your life.

Registration required

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

S.A. Columbiettes Sweet Heart Dinner Dance

The South Amboy Columbiettes will be hosting a Sweet Heart Dinner Dance on Friday February 21st from 6pm-10pm at the Columbian Club 308 4th Street South Amboy. This Dinner Benefit will benefit the Marisa Tufaro Foundation. Marisa, a shining star in her community of Edison, survived six open-heart surgeries and a heart transplant before succumbing to a rare form of cancer in 2017 at the age of 13. Despite being hospitalized for more than two years and maintaining hundreds of doctors' appointments, Marisa was an honor roll student involved in myriad extracurricular activities who lived a vibrant life that inspired so many. The Marisa Tufaro Foundation has

been able to provide scholarships for students throughout Middlesex County amongst other initiatives in Marisa's memory. For more information about the Marisa Tufaro Foundation, please visit their website at <https://marisatufarofoundation.org/>

The Sweet Heart Dance will have Live music By Zuko, Phillips, Cohen, and Starr, a melodic, harmonious acoustic quartet from Englewood Cliffs, NJ, an Italian-style buffet dinner, and so much more. Tickets for Adults are \$25, and Children Under the Age of 12 years old are \$12. Please RSVP by calling or texting Sarah Van Clef, the Columbiettes President, at 732-865-2863.

Pallone Celebrates Next Round of Medicare Drug Price Negotiation

Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) released the following statement after the Biden Administration unveiled the list of the next 15 prescription drug prices that will be negotiated by Medicare this year:

"Today's list of 15 drugs builds on the progress we made with the first 10 drug prices that were negotiated last year. Taken together, these 25 drugs represent one third of all Medicare Part D spending. It is transformative progress that will lower costs for millions of seniors and save taxpayers billions of dollars. I challenge the incoming Trump Administration to try to negotiate a better deal.

"It is also good news for the American people that today's list includes Ozempic and Wegovy, which the federal government spent over \$7 billion on in 2023 alone and costs patients hundreds of dollars each month.

"Democrats stand ready to defend Medicare drug price negotiation against Republican repeal efforts or any attempts to undermine the benefits of the law. We successfully fought to lower costs for America's seniors, and we will not allow

Republicans to take us backward as a favor for their greedy corporate allies. Instead, Republicans should work with Democrats to build on Medicare drug price negotiation to save taxpayers' money and make these new lower prices available to all Americans."

Last year, the Biden Administration announced the new lower prices of the first 10 prescription drug prices negotiated by Medicare. American seniors are expected to save \$1.5 billion on these drugs in the first year alone.

Pallone was a key author of the legislation empowering Medicare to negotiate drug prices. He was the lead sponsor of H.R.3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which first passed the House in December 2019 and established the Medicare drug price negotiation framework that was eventually signed into law in August 2022 as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. In 2023, Pallone introduced legislation to build on this progress by negotiating more drug prices sooner, making these lower prices available to people with private health insurance, and extending inflation rebates to the commercial market.

#1 Country Hits Jan. 25

2021-Die From A Broken Heart -Maddie & Tae

2014-Drink A Beer-Luke Bryan

2005-Awful Beautiful Life-Darryl Worley

1997-Nobody Knows-Kevin Sharp

1988-Goin' Gone-Kathy Mattea

1974-I Love-Tom T. Hall

#1 Pop Hits Jan. 25

2022-Easy On Me-Adele

2017-Shape Of You-Ed Sheeran

2004-Hey Ya!-Outkast

1995-Creep-TLC

1986-That's What Friends Are For

-Dionne & Friends

1977-Car Wash-Rose Royce

One Hit Wonders 50 Years Ago

1975-Doctor's Orders-Carl Douglas; Lovin' You-Minnie Riperton; Chevy Chase-Sammy Johns; Jackie Blue-Ozark Mountain Daredevils; Shaving Cream-Benny Bell; How Long-Ace; Magic-Pilot; The Hustle-Van McCoy; Feelings-Morris Albert; Sky High-Jigsaw; Love Won't Let Me Wait-Major Harris.

Music Trivia

By Tom Burkard

1. Atlantic City
2. Viva Las Vegas
3. Tallahassee Lassie
4. Wichita Lineman
5. Do You Know The Way To San Jose
6. Mendocino
7. Allentown
8. Monterrey
9. The Night Chicago Died
10. Please Come To Boston
11. City Of New Orleans
12. A Rose In Spanish Harlem
13. Woodstock
14. Last Train To Clarksville
15. The Boy From New York City

- a. Eric Burdon & The Animals
- b. Freddy "Boom Boom" Cannon
- c. Paper Lace
- d. Glen Campbell
- e. Billy Joel
- f. The Monkees
- g. Ben E. King
- h. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- i. Bruce Springsteen
- j. Dionne Warwick
- k. The Ad Libs
- l. David Loggins
- m. Elvis Presley
- n. The Sir Douglas Quintet
- o. Arlo Guthrie

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



Members of the South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426 presented a check to the Menlo Park Memorial Home from money raised during the council's annual "Veteran's Day Dinner" at the hall. (Pictured l-r) Jan Williams (Grand Knight), Gary Mangaicacina (council 426 member), Marissa Konopka & Christine Caratozzolo (Menlo Park Veterans Home staff members) and Ed Vassallo (Deputy Grand Knight) (Photo/ info submitted by Ed Vassallo)



South Amboy Elks is proud to Donate \$3,000.00 to the South Amboy Y.M.C.A. for their sponsorship of the S.T.E.M. Program (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to the children at the South Amboy Elementary school. In photo (l-r) Alex Korsak, Director of Operations, Kyle Strohm, Vice President of Operations, John Leo, South Elks Exalted Ruler, Val Tarr, South Amboy Elks Lodge Nation Foundation Chairman, Rose Cushing, Y.M.C.A. President and CEO, Mary Taylor, Y Board member/Elk Member. (Photo Submitted)



Sayreville's Kenny K., (l), lead singer/guitarist for Kenny K. & The Way band, shows his Ibanez guitar to his friend Efen Castro, owner of Java Dave's Coffee shop in South Amboy, during a visit to the local business. Kenny K., better known in Sayreville as Kenny Kurczeski, and his group will be performing on Feb. 8th at Albert Hall in Waretown, NJ. On Feb. 15th, Kenny K. & The Way will play at The Blue Moon in South Amboy at their new, CD release show. The CD titled "Pick It Up," will feature 11 great tracks by this exciting band. On March 4th, they will trek to Nottingham Tavern in Hamilton to continue their busy rockin' schedule. (Photo/story by Tom Burkard)



Former South Amboy resident Alexander Fedorka was recently sworn in as a City of Charleston, SC FireFighter. Pictured (l-r) are his father John Leo Fedorka, Alexander, his mother Linda, his wife Peggy Rose Dowd-Fedorka, his sister Allison Fedorka-Tylek and in the center Allison's daughter Leanna Tylek. Congratulations Alex! (Photo Submitted)



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St. Stan's School

(Photos Submitted)



The 8th Graders wrote and illustrated winter stories to read to the elementary students.



Father Paul, Mrs. Hodder, and Father John were all smiles as they wished the school community a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year! →



OPEN HOUSE

January 26, 2025
Following 9am Mass

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- Tours by Student Ambassadors
- Meet the Staff
- Enjoy a hot breakfast with the SSK community

Why St. Stan's?

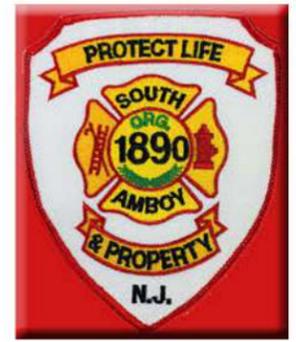
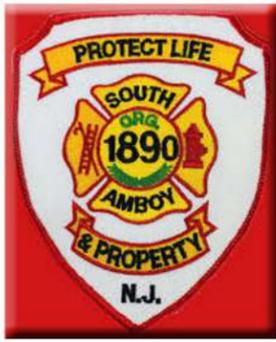
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South Amboy Fire Chiefs Sworn In (Photos by Jamie Norek)

Mayor Fred Henry administers the oath of office to each Chief as their families proudly look on,



Chief of the Department Rafael Albarran Mechanicsville Engine Co 10.



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2nd Assistant Chief Charles Honimar Protection Engine Co 6.

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The creche at Sacred Heart Christmas Activities at Christ Church.



The carolers at the Venetian.

Reason for the Season

Story/Photos by Jordan Drevelus

At the local Church of the Sacred Heart in South Amboy, during a special children's Mass on Christmas Eve, the children of the parish gathered around the manger along with the pastor, Fr. Stanley Gromadzki. During that time, they donned party caps and sang happy birthday. This tradition allows the children to reflect on the holiday season and recall the "reason for the season." The church, being beautifully decorated, showed the parish's love for the season which is a love also shared by the parishes' youth who also gathered to light a Christmas Tree in the rectory yard as well.

As is tradition, Christ Church held its annual Christmas Concert on December 15th. Whether it was the roaring organ played by yours truly or the subtle strum of the guitar by Tommy Strazza, Christ Episcopal Church in

South Amboy was filled with lively Christmas Music to celebrate the holiday. This tradition which started a few short years ago has grown with time and remains completely free! All are invited to attend these concerts. While some musicians were paid, many volunteered their time to support the church.

In addition to the formal concert held in the church, members that made up a Christ Church "Schola" went to the Venetian to sing carols and hymns to the residents. The attendees were given cookies and gifts to speed along their healing. Some residents, so excited by the concert, even got up to dance! This event, sponsored by the Woman with Purpose, was only one of their holiday activities. They also raised funds and donated gifts to needy families.



The many gifts for children that were assembled in the back of Christ Church.

Sayreville Siblings United

Sayreville siblings united to lend a helping hand during Sayreville Bombers fall Soccer Unified Sports Program. The Muller siblings have enjoyed participating in

the program since elementary school. They look forward to future unified competitions in basketball and track and field. (Photos/Info Submitted)



Pictured: Top left: Sophomore, Sofia Muller and Senior Barry Muller; Middle left: 8th grader Gianna Muller & 7th grader Miranda Muller; Bottom right: Samsel Upper Elementary 5th grader Brandon Muller.



Lighthouse Bay Community Raises Over \$3,000



South Amboy's Lighthouse Bay Community successfully raised more than \$3000 for local charity.

Dawn Massamillo, founder and organizer of the Lighthouse Bay Christmas Tree Crawl, is pleased to announce the resounding success of its 2024 fundraising event which raised more than \$3000 for the food pantry at the South Amboy First Presbyterian Church. A check for \$3335 was delivered recently to Mary Porcello, director of the food pantry.

Although this is the South Amboy community's 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Crawl, this is the first time a fundraising goal has been attached. Massamillo said "I added the fundraising aspect to this year's Christmas Tree Crawl at the suggestion of my granddaughter Marie. Marie and I had a goal in mind of \$1500 based on the need expressed by Mary at the Food Pantry. Attendees of the event, and other members of the community including local businesses responded to the call and we were overwhelmed by their



generosity!"

The check was presented to Porcello recently. The funds will help the food pantry continue its vital work in the community and will directly impact people in South Amboy who are in need, particularly at Christmas. Special appreciation is given for the generous donations from local businesses including Mid Jersey Medical Suppliers of South Amboy, and Enjou Chocolate of Morristown.

The Christmas Tree Crawl was held on December 14 over various homes in the South Amboy neighborhoods of Lighthouse Bay and Harbor Village. Dawn Massamillo organized the first Lighthouse Bay Christmas Tree Crawl in 2022 for neighbors to get to know one another and their cultures and to build community. Participating neighbors open their homes for a short visit and go around the neighborhood admiring each other's holiday décor and sampling food and drink from one another's cultures and customs. (Photos/Story submitted)

We would love to hear from you!

EMAIL or MAIL or Guestbook

School Sports

(As of Jan. 11)
By Tom Burkard

Boys Basketball Sayreville (9-2)

Coach John Wojcik

Team Leaders

Points-Chidi Chukwurah 177, Sam Jones 162, Keithan Shuler 143; Rebounds-Chukwurah 68, Andrew Provenza 50, Shuler 46; Assists-Jones 27, Shuler 24, Joe Santamaria 23; Steals-Jones 15.

South Amboy (2-7)

Coach Matt Wiater

Team Leaders

Points-John Kelly 178, Darion Joubert 46, Wesley Lowe 44; Rebounds-Kelly 101, Jaidel Vasques 64, Joubert 59; Assists-Vaughn Pelkey 17, Kelly 14; Steals-Kelly 18; Blocks-Kelly 12, Vasques 10.

Girls Basketball

South Amboy (4-6)

Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr.

Team Leaders

Points-Sarah McLaughlin 90, Gwen Kalantis 73, Emma Kalantis 60; Rebounds-E. Kalantis 104, G. Kalantis 61, McLaughlin 53; Assists-E. Kalantis 30, Ashley Moreira-Burgos 19; Steals-Moreira-Burgos 33, E. Kalantis 14; Blocks-G. Kalantis 3.

Sayreville (3-8)

Coach Janet Cook

Team Leaders

Points-Natalia Glazewski 82, Weronika Glazewski 82, Angelina Sepulveda 67; Rebounds-W. Glazewski 55, N. Glazewski 51; Steals-Gianna Falto 22, W. Glazewski 12; Blocks-W.Glazewski 5, N. Glazewski 4.

Pallone Applauds FDA Ban on Red Dye 3 in Food Products

Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) released the following statement applauding the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for moving to finally ban the use of Red Dye 3 in products the agency regulates, including food.

"Today is a great day for parents across the country. Red Dye 3 is a known animal carcinogen and has been shown to have long-lasting neurobehavioral effects on children. Moreover, it's been banned for use in cosmetic products for over 30 years. Simply put, this chemical certainly has no place in products that are on grocery store shelves. I applaud FDA for doing the right thing by protecting kids and ensuring Red Dye 3 will no longer be used in our food."

Red Dye 3, chemically known as Erythrosine, is a colorant that has been on the market as an authorized food dye under FDA's purview despite the agency banning its use in other products over 30 years ago. Today, FDA announced it will no longer allow for the use of Red Dye 3 as a food additive in all commercially available food products and in ingested drugs.

In December, Pallone wrote to FDA urging the agency to take swift action to ban Red Dye 3. Earlier this month, he joined Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) to again urge the agency to use its authority to ensure Red Dye 3 is no longer used in food products.

Don't Miss

THE



Sunday February 9th



Sarah McLaughlin All Tournament Team

Bombers Rip Guvs In Opener

The Sayreville Bombers boys basketball team blasted South Amboy, 85-39 in the season opener. The Bombers attack was led by Sam Jones with 16 points, Keithan Shuler 14 and Joseph Lewis 10. Devin Aldridge ripped down 7 rebounds. John Kelly topped the guvs with 16 points.

Super Bowl Sunday

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c.2004

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



Pallone-Sandy Survivors- continued from page 7

indefinite pause on federal recoupment deadlines, laying the groundwork for this breakthrough.

This announcement underscores Pallone's long-standing commitment to disaster recovery and his dedication to ensuring New Jersey residents receive fair and comprehensive support as they continue to rebuild their lives.



The South Amboy High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team hosted a Holiday Tournament at the school during the Winter break. The Lady Guvs finished as the runners up to Keansburg. Sarah McLaughlin was selected to the All Tournament Team for South Amboy. Congratulations Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr. and Lady Guvs! (Photos/Info Submitted)

Lady Guvs Win Opening Game

South Amboy Lady Guvs under the guidance of Coach Jeffrey D. Gumbs Jr., opened their season with a 30-24 victory over Keyport. Sarah McLaughlin topped the scoring with 8 points, while teammate Emma Kalantis scored 7 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Ashley Moreira-Burgos contributed 4 assists and 4 steals.

Bombers Split In Blue Devil Tourney

The Sayreville Bombers girls basketball team blasted Matawan, 51-32 in first round play at the Blue Devil Tournament. Natalia Glazewski pumped in 14 points and had 10 rebounds, while Daniella Verlingo scored 12 points. In Game 2, Sayreville dropped a heartbreaker to Ocean Twp., bowing 35-33. Verlingo tossed in 11 points.

Friends Of South Amboy Charity Games

In the Annual Friends of South Amboy Charity Basketball Games, our local South Amboy and Sayreville teams notched victories.

Sayreville 70 CSI McCown (NY) 48-Sam Jones poured in 25 points and Keith Shuler 12 to lead the way.

South Amboy 49 Calvary Christian (Old Bridge) 39-The Purple & Gold of South Amboy won their first game of the season behind a huge game from John Kelly, who popped in 29 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and had 4 steals.



Guvs Bow In Holiday Tourney

The South Amboy Governors boys basketball contingent dropped two straight games, and were eliminated from the Middlesex/Shore Holiday Tournament. In game 1, Henry Hudson hammered the locals, 61-34, despite 16 points from John Kelly. In the second contest, Keansburg clobbered the Purple & Gold, 63-34. Kelly scored 8 points, while Darien Joubert and Jaidel Vasques hauled in 12 and 9 rebounds respectively.

College Notebook

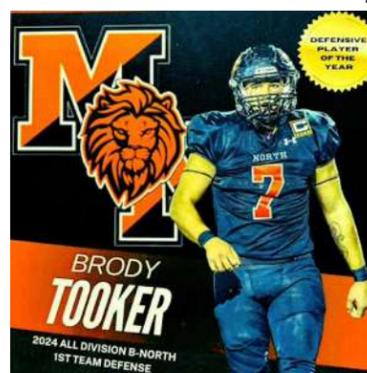
Ashley Sofilkanich, a 6-3 sophomore forward of South Amboy, who was All-Everything at St. John Vianney (Holmdel), is having a standout season at Bucknell University. In 14 games, she has piled up 260 points (18.6), and ripped 119 rebounds (8.5) to lead the women's basketball team. In addition, he .483 field goal percentage is tops for Bucknell. Last year as a freshman, she played in 31 games, and averaged 12.5 ppg., and 6.3 rpg. Her proud parents are JoEllen Paczkowski Sofilkanich, who scored over 1,000 points for St. Mary's HS team, and Don Sofilkanich a top-notch high school football coach who has won several state championships.

South Amboy Splits In Holiday Tournament

The Lady Guvs of South Amboy girls squad topped Henry Hudson, 29-24 in the opening round of the Middlesex/Shore Holiday Tournament. Gwen Kalantis scored 14 points and ripped 10 rebounds, while Emma Kalantis pulled down 10 rebounds.

In Game 2, undefeated Keansburg grounded the Lady Guvs, 58-37. Sarah McLaughlin led the locals with 11 points, Moreira-Burgos had 10 points and 4 steals.

Congratulations



Former South Amboy resident Brody Tooker is pictured with his parents Barbara and Ryan Tooker at his Awards Dinner. Brody played football for Middletown North high school whose record of (8 - 2) was the best in school history since 1983. Tooker was selected Division Defensive Player of the Year and Shore 1st Team Defensive End. His coaches said Brody was a great football player and All- America Coach on the sidelines. Brody's Grandparents Bob Tooker and Al Ust are current South Amboy residents. His Grandmothers, Camille Tooker and Joanne Ust are deceased,(Photos/Info Submitted)





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Fishing Flashes
 By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water

It's the Weeblemeister once again wishing you another great fishing year for 2025. The big news is that the Striped Bass board under the National Marine Fisheries Service is going to either eliminate all fishing or close certain months to fishing entirely. The reason given was low recruitment and poor hatch of the 2029 biomass of fish as per their Scientific Projection paperwork. An outcry and support from the public stopped this, so the rules this year are the status quo, one fish between 26 to 31 inches. Anything bigger or smaller caught can't be retained. When I checked local beaches from South Amboy to Keansburg several times, very few people were fishing. I didn't see any fish caught and no one even had any bites. The good fishing they had out in the ocean has stopped due to very cold weather. Very few fish came inside the rivers and bays. Now party boats are catching fish. Some big Black Fish weighing in at 12 to 14 pounds have shown up. Some Ling are also being caught too. River and bay fishing for Striped Bass and Winter Flounder are closed until March 1st.

Fresh Water

It's the worst of both worlds as rain and snow along with the cold makes it hard to get out. There is more water now to raise the water table in the low stream waters somewhat, but we could use more rain. Holdover Trout are a possibility where there may have been enough water. There is no safe ice at this time for ice fishing. Not much else to report on for now until we get cooperation from the weather.

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 (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.

2024 Contests Winners

Congratulations to all of our loyal and dedicated readers who faithfully played our fun contests throughout the year. The Winners are as follows

WWW Pictures:

12 correct answers: Barbara Bockus, Betty Leveille, Ed English, Lisa Grankowski, Steve Laskiewicz
 11 correct answers: Don Zrebiec, Gary Feret, Pat Scully, Walter Starzec Jr.
 10 correct answers: Edna Pilch.

Who Is It?

12 correct answers: Gary Feret.
 11 correct answers: Mark Moniello, Walter Starzec Jr.
 10 correct answers: Ed English, Betty Leveille, Edna Pilch, Laurie & Gary Loftus, Pat Scully.



Dowdell Library Collaborates With Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

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 February 11 and 25 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, **Stretch it Thursdays** occurs all month long at 1:00 pm.

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

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

Coming soon! **Women's Expo this Spring!** Interested parties may contact the library to participate.

Comments, queries, compliments?

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

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

The Sadie Pope Dowdell Library is dedicated to providing its community with the resources and support it needs to flourish. As part of our endless community support, we now have a Social Work Intern, from Adelphi University at the library. Earline Asbury is available to help the community connect to various resources and referrals for mental health issues, healthcare, substance use, housing, food assistance and more. All assistance is confidential and free of charge. Our goal is to provide community resources, information and expand awareness for other opportunities. Community members can meet Earline at the library on Mondays 5pm - 8pm, Tuesdays 1pm - 8pm and Saturdays 1pm - 4pm. Please contact the library at 732.721.6060 or comments@dowdell.org to verify availability.

OLV KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS / COLUMBIETTE FISH FRY

OLV Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes Lenten Take Out Fish Fry at OLV Knights of Columbus, 775 Washington Rd, Parlin will take place this year on: Mar. 5, Mar. 14, Mar. 21, Mar. 28, Apr. 4, Apr. 11 and Apr. 18, 2025. Time: 4:30 to 7 p.m. Reminder: this is a Take-Out Only dinner. More Details to follow!



Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you name this trio? Need all three..Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by Feb. 16th.

Who Is It?

Last month's mystery Santa was the late great funny man Chris Farley. The following knew it was him. Erin Senape, Debbie Kurinzi, John Giaquinto, Rich Angerstein, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Edna Pilch, Mark and Pam DePazza, Georgianna McDonald, Jim & Debbie Sissick, John Harris, Steve Laskiewicz, Eileen and Len Truchan, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret, Ed English, Dane Colburn.



December Who is it?
Chris Farley

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AnnRita Ryan Bartlinski

AnnRita Ryan Bartlinski, age 92 of South Amboy, passed away peacefully at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, surrounded by her loving family. Born in South Amboy, she was a lifelong resident. The proud co-owner of Marathon Bus Company with her beloved husband Joseph, AnnRita also worked for



Surviving are her loving children and their spouses Joseph Jr. and Carol, Robert and Liz, John and Cathy, Mary Griswold, her cherished grandchildren Jessica, Melissa, Becky, John Jr., Joseph III, Jeffrey, Robert Jr., her great-grandchildren Taylor, Robbie, Joseph IV, Olivia, Charli, Cole, Zoey, Jeffrey Jr., her siblings

Elizabeth, Catherine and Thomas Ryan, and many loving nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

Funeral services were from the Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home 15 Cherry Lane, Parlin followed by a Mass at Sacred Heart RC Church in South Amboy. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Parlin.

In lieu of flowers, donations in AnnRita's name may be made to the Sayreville First Aid Squad or Morgan First Aid Squad.

Robert Wood Johnson Hospital Radiology Department. Always one for civic duty, she worked the election polls at Eisenhower School for many years. She was a past president and former member of the Morgan Hose and Chemical Company Ladies Auxiliary. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart RC Church in South Amboy where she was a member of their Rosary Society.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband Joseph, her parents Richard and Frances Ryan, her brother Richard Ryan and her sister Constance Ryan.

WWW.?



Do you recognize this building? Let us know, we will accept current and past businesses. Send your answer to satime@aol.com by Feb. 16th.

December Winners

Last month the WWW.? was Priscilla Westerholm, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Jewelry, in Sayreville. Don Zrebiec, Octavia Zampella, Steve Laskiewicz, Eileen and Len Truchan, Lisa Grankowski, Barb Bockus, Walter Starzec Jr, Gary Feret, Betty Leveille, Ed English.

Winners: Veronica Konopka, Rich Jurkiewicz, Corrie Samra, Ralph Jurkiewicz, Edna Pilch, Lynn Loy, Eleanore



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In Memoriam
 John "Jack" Grimley, 85, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 11. He was one of the good guys who worked many years for the USPS in South Amboy. Barbara Gomolka Bottka, 82, of South Amboy died on Dec. 15. She was a very kind and generous lady who crocheted blankets, and gave them as gifts to family and friends, in addition to the ill, and those in need. "Jimmy" Keays, 73 of South Amboy died on Dec. 21. A great guy, who was a 1969 St. Mary's HS grad, he went on to work and retire from DuPont's, and later was a very popular bartender at Lagoda's Saloon in South Amboy.
 RoseMarie Quackenbush, 76, of Parlin died on Dec. 31. She was a Pharmacy Technician for many years at Madura Pharmacy in South Amboy, and her glowing smile and kindness will be missed by all who were blessed to know her. Patricia Brasfield, of Sayreville died on Dec. 31. She was the secretary for The Friends of Sayreville Public Library. Janet Frank, 58, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 5. She and her husband were owners of Barry's Automotive in Sayreville for the past 20 years.

Michael Patrick Reilly
 Michael Patrick Reilly, 68, of South Amboy died on Sunday January 12, 2025 at JFK Medical Center, Edison. Born in South Amboy he lived there all his life. Before retiring he was employed for 39 years by E.I. DuPont, Parlin. A member of Messiah Lutheran Church, Parlin he was also a member of the South Amboy Ancient Order of Hibernians, Historical Society, Historical Preservation and Youth Athletic Association. Mike was an avid fan of the New York Yankees, New Jersey Devils and Notre Dame football. He was active in South Amboy Rec as a girls' softball coach, manager and umpire. Mike loved trivia, walking, history, reading, flea markets and had a great sense of humor. He was exceptionally proud to be honored as Irishman of the Year in 2023.
 Son of the late Charles J. and Claire Stores Reilly he is survived by his wife Sandra Schall Reilly; his daughters Amy Reilly and her fiancé Edward Timmons and Vicky Reilly; his brother and sister-in-law Thomas and Monika Reilly; several niece and nephews and furry friends and family pets.
 Funeral services were held on Friday January 17, 2025 from The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy, which was followed by a 10am service at Messiah Lutheran Church, Parlin. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Sammy's Hope, 1400 Main Street, Sayreville, NJ 08872.

The SA Times offers complete obituaries (with or without a photo) of your loved ones, provided by you or the funeral parlor to The SA Times. Prices vary depending on the size required.
 In Memory Of / In Memoriam Tribute Remember your dear loved ones who have passed on through the years by placing an In Memory Of / In Memoriam Tribute ad (with or without a photo). Art work (flowers/religious theme) will be included. For pricing
 E-mail your requests to: sasayrtimes@gmail.com or call: 732-360-8773.

Patricia A. Cunliffe DeLucia

 Patricia A. Cunliffe DeLucia, 70, passed away on January 9, 2025 at Riverview Medical Center in Red bank. Patty was a 1972 graduate of Sayreville War Memorial High School and then graduated Middlesex County College. She grew up in the Morgan section of Sayreville. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She was employed by ASCAR in Perth Amboy before retiring as an executive secretary at United Jersey Bank. She was known as Pretty Patty at Gerbers Beauty Salon in Keyport, and Patty was still a beauty when she drew her last breath. Patty battled numerous strokes over a 48-year span, but she was tough and fought to the very end. She is survived by, Michael her husband of 44 years, a son, Michael, and the joys of her life, triplet granddaughters, Nicollette, Rosalie and Isabella. Her siblings include her brother Charles and his wife Donna of Barnegat, her sister Dorothea and her husband Steve of Delaware, her sister Miriam and her husband Mike of Florida and her brother Michael of South Amboy. Patty was a devoted Roman Catholic, avid Atlanta Braves fan and proud Republican.

Obituaries

Bartlinski, AnnRita Ryan, 92, of South Amboy died on Dec. 31.
 Bellanich, Rosanna, 89, of South Amboy died on Dec. 30.
 Bottka, Barbara J. Gomolka, 82, of South Amboy died on Dec. 15.
 Bourke, Bridget, 83, of Parlin died on Dec. 3.
 Brasfield, Patricia M., of Sayreville died on Dec. 31.
 Chance, William J. Sr., 90, of Sayreville died on Dec. 26.
 Coogan, Charles V., 78, of Sayreville died on Jan. 2.
 DeJohn, Albert A., 73, of Sayreville died on Dec. 19.
 DeLucia, Patricia Cunliffe, 70, formerly of South Amboy died on Jan. 9.
 Donnelly, Mary Ellen McGuire, 69, of Parlin died on Dec. 30.
 Frank, Janet M. Arkis, 58, formerly of Sayreville died on Jan. 5.
 Goldy, Robert M. "Bob," 73, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 27.
 Grimley, John "Jack," 85, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 11.
 Hernandez, Maria V., 66, of Sayreville died on Dec. 19.

Hyslop, Eva A., 91, of Sayreville died on Jan. 3.
 Jaskowiak, Helen C., 97, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 24.
 Keane, Kerry B., 58, of Sayreville died on Dec. 30.
 Keays, James Sr., 73, of South Amboy died on Dec. 21.
 Lefkowitz, Stephen E., 64, of Parlin died on Jan. 4.
 MacKay, Daniel "Danny," 71, formerly of Parlin died on Dec. 10.
 Opalinska, Zyta, 72, of South Amboy died on Dec. 29.
 Prydun, Leon T., 70, of Sayreville died on Dec. 13.
 Puchala, Edward, 83, of Sayreville died on Dec. 16.
 Quackenbush, RoseMarie, 76, of Parlin, died on Dec. 31.
 Reilly, Michael P., 68, of South Amboy died on Jan. 12.
 Rodgers, Glenn N., 70, formerly of Parlin died on Dec. 18.
 Salagaj, Stanley, 97, of Sayreville died on Jan. 6.
 Ust, Amy M., 68, of Sayreville died on Dec. 19.

Donald F. Lewis Sr.



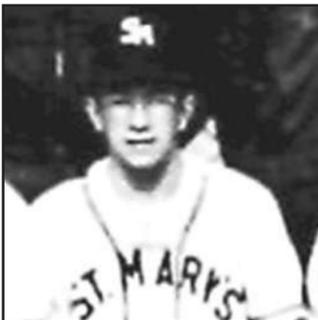
April 3, 1949 to February 2, 2010

Even after 15 years, our love for you still shines bright. Always in our hearts Forever in our thoughts.

**Love
The Lewis Family**

Daniel Charles MacKay

Daniel Charles MacKay born September 2, 1953 died December 10, 2024.



Dan attended St Mary's Grammar School and graduated from St Mary's High School in 1971. In 1969 as a sophomore Dan played on the Baseball State Champions, St Mary's Eagles, a special moment in Dan's athletic career. He later went on to play at Middlesex College. Dan was always a great athlete no matter the sport. Dan is leaving behind his wife of almost 40 years Terri (Ruston) MacKay, their Three Children; Hannah Hennessy

and her husband Chris, and their two boys Declan and Aiden. Dan's two sons James and Liam. Dan's two sisters Margaret (Peggy) Davis and Eileen Erdman and her husband James, and Dan's older brother James. Also several nieces and nephews and cousins. Dan is predeceased by his parents James and Regina MacKay, his Brother Tom MacKay, sister-in-law Dawn and brother-in-law Ronald Davis. Dan was known to us as a truly Gentle Man and He will be greatly missed.

James Keays, Sr.

James Keays, Sr., 73, of South Amboy died on Saturday December 21, 2024 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge. Born on January 19, 1951, he was a lifelong resident of South Amboy. Jim graduated St. Mary's High School in 1969 and shortly after began a 35 year career at DuPont, Parlin. Jim was an avid sports fan, loved the New York Mets and the Miami Dolphins and was a member of a dart league for many years. He was a music lover, loved to travel and often took cruises and vacations. After retiring, he took up bartending at Lagoda's just to keep busy.



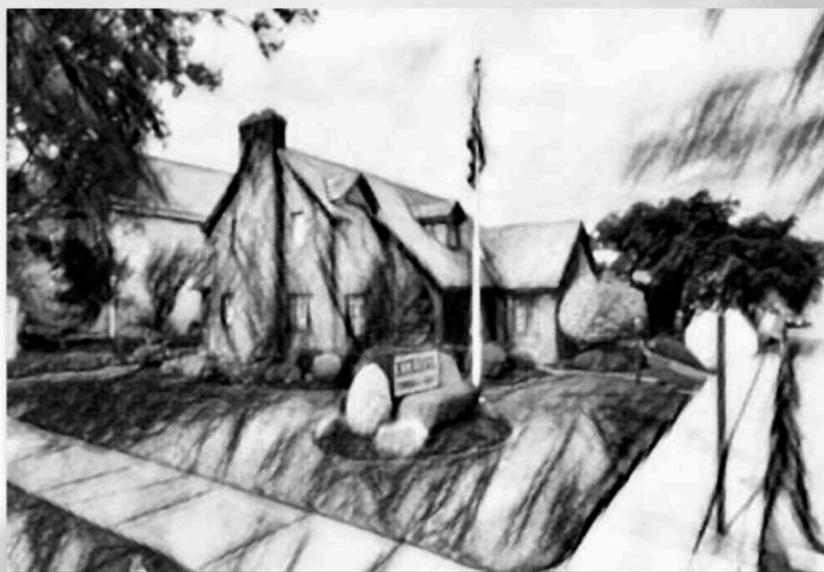
Son of the late Martin Thomas and Christine Kizinkiewicz Keays he is survived by his sister Cathy Keays; his son Jimmy Keays, Jr.; his stepdaughter Amy Roberts; his grandchildren Liam Roberts and Bethany Cahill and many friends and family. A memorial service was held on December 30, 2024 at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the South Amboy Fire Department.

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



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As new years may come and as new years may go, they are all pieces of time all in a row. As we live our life, each second and every minute, we know we are privileged to have what we have. Our appreciation never ends, for our greatest blessings are, our family and our friends.

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

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1995-96-St. Mary Regional HS boys varsity basketball team started off their season by winning the St. Mary's Christmas Tournament under first-year coach Joe Lewis, and finished with a (13-11) record. Sophomore Nick Sas topped the club with 296 points and a 16.4 avg. for the year. Pictured standing (l-r) John Ewtushek, Tom Rizzo, Nick Sas, Capt. Jesse Holovacko. Kneeling (l-r) Mike Gall, Ed McCabe, Gabe Rocco. (Not pictured)-Coach Joe Lewis, Joe Majkowski.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2018-Blake Bouchard of Sayreville captured the 152 lb. GMC wrestling championship in the Large School Division... 2008-South Amboy boys basketball squad won their own South Amboy Holiday Tournament by beating Keansburg, 57-44. Mark Simko topped the scoring brigade with 22 points, and was followed by Larry Lenahan 18, and soph Joe Charmello with 9. All 3 Guvs were selected to the All-Tourney Team... 1997-Sayreville boys basketball team nipped state-ranked powerhouse Piscataway, 68-67. The Bombers set a county record by hitting 14 three-point field goals, 7 from

soph Marcin Ziobron, who scored 27 points. Leland Norris added 23, and Rafi Hargrove had 8 assists and 7 steals... 1981-Monroe hammered Hoffman boys basketball team, 71-54. Steve Richmond scored 14 points, Bob Aucone 11, and Pete Smith 11... 1978-St. Mary's girls basketball team downed St. John Vianney, 60-55. Kathy Redling fired in 33 points and Sue Wilson 13...

1961-St. Mary's nipped Carteret, 45-44 in the Holiday Festival Tournament. Joe Jankowski paced the Saints with 21 points, and Bill Tibbitt added 10.

Back In Those College Days

Marcin Ziobron (Sayreville) had an outstanding 2000-2001 season playing for Ocean County College. In 36 games, he poured in 465 points (12.9) avg., and had 249 rebounds (6.9) avg... Tom Gulick (St. Mary's) and Greg Havlusch (Hoffman) played for Biscayne College in Florida back in the '70's... John Ciol (Hoffman) played for the University of West Virginia. He once scored 65 points in a high school game back in 1952 to set a county record that lasted for 15 years, and later went on to a professional career while playing for the Washington Generals, a team that toured with the legendary Harlem Globetrotters.

60 Years Ago

1965-St. Mary's leading tracksters and their scoring totals for the year were: John Pintauro 34, Mike Leppig 25, Tony Januszak 20, John Toris 10, Walt Pryzgocki 7, Bill Casey 1. Other contributing members of the team were Richard Pine, Bob McNeil, Phil D'Atre, Ed Ziegler, Ed Chicorek, Ed Suchcicki, Jack Diem, Ray Stanley, John Keenan, Dan Mayer.

25 Years Ago

2000-South Amboy's all-around, standout athlete, Kim Peterson joined the elusive 1,000 points scoring club by attaining the milestone against Piscataway Tech...

Boys superstar Ed Behnen set a new career scoring record for Hoffman/South Amboy boys, by pouring in 40 points, in a 71-60 loss to East Brunswick Tech. He broke the previous mark which lasted for 31 years, and was held by Curt Wood, who graduated in '68 with 1,630 points for Hoffman.

15 Years Ago

2010-Cardinal McCarrick (4-1) girls basketball team nipped Sayreville (6-1) by a 42-40 count. Olivia Gorczynski topped the Blue & Gold with 13 points. Teammate Sydney Ransom scored 9 and ripped down 11 rebounds. Jessica Kitrys of the Bombers took game scoring honors with 16 tallies.

Flashback...1963

The South Amboy Sabres Pop Warner football team finished (5-5) but outscored their opponents 178-95. The team leaders were: Touchdowns-Pat McDonough 15, Tom Kelly 6, Fred Poli 3, Norm Kilcomons Jr. 1, Bruce Buckiewicz 1, Tom Downs 1. Points-McDonough 97, T. Kelly 37, Poli 22.

50 Years Ago

1975-St. Mary's boys basketball team (3-12) blasted Hoffman (4-11) for the third time in the season, 73-38. Joe Kolakowski had a huge game with 25 points and 31 rebounds. Pete Bukovec scored 14. Joe "Moose" McCarthy topped the Guvs with 12 points. Others scoring for the Saints: Mike Cleary 7, Kurtz 6, John Miller 6, O'Dowd 6, Mike Grimley 4, Conlon 4, Durnien 1. Guv contributors also included: George Bongiorno 7, Tom Suau 6, Tom Billich 6, Lewis 4, Ed Slusarek 2, George Hubbs 1.

*In the previous 2 meetings, the Blue & Gold beat the Guvs by 25 and 17 points.

20 Years Ago

2005-Brian Seres scored the game winning basket with 0:01.5 seconds left as South Amboy nipped Timothy Christian, 50-49. Seres finished with 16 points, Joe Bartlinski 15, and Mike DeJoy 12...

Herbie Nieves layup with 0:15 seconds in the game gave the Bombers of Sayreville a 48-46 victory over East Brunswick. Shaune Thomas took scoring laurels with 18 points...

South Amboy Lady Guvs basketball team (5-6) pulled off the biggest upset of the year, beating undefeated St. Peter's (11-0), by a score of 42-37. In the final quarter, Jen Braun made 5 clutch free throws and a 3-pointer to seal the win. Nicole Scarillo also hit a big 3-pointer down the stretch. Braun led the scoring with 12 points, and Katey Charmello scored 11, and hauled in 8 rebounds.

10 Years Ago

2015-Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's boys captured the Kearny Holiday Basketball Tournament title by beating Belleville, 71-53. Ralph Menard topped the Eagles with 18 points.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1995

Sport-Girls Basketball

Teams-Hoffman vs. Sayreville in the 1st Round of the South Amboy Christmas Tournament.

Recap-The Bombers had no trouble romping over the Lady Guvs, 64-45. Stephanie Allocco fired in 20 points and had 11 steals, Heidi Behrens scored 16 points and pulled down 15 rebounds, and Jessica Painchaud added 14 points for Sayreville. Jackie Tomaszewski topped the Purple & Gold with 13 points, and Hanna Glomska popped in 10. Co-Players-Of-The-Game-Stephanie Allocco and Heidi Behrens of Sayreville.

Fathers & Sons Who Played Varsity Sports At Local High Schools Updated

As expected, there were more father & sons names to add to last month's gigantic list: Frank Bongiorno (Hoffman), Joe Bongiorno (South Amboy/Sayreville);

Joe Castellano, Joe Castellano Jr. (Sayreville); John Harris (Sayreville), Michael Harris (Cardinal McCarrick); Bill Lewis (Hoffman), Aaron Lewis (Cardinal McCarrick); Joe Lewis (Hoffman), Mike Lewis (Cardinal McCarrick); Jeff Pacansky

(St. Mary's), Kevin Pacansky, Eric Pacansky (Cardinal McCarrick); Don Szatkowski Sr. (Coach St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick), Don Szatkowski Jr. (Hoffman); Don Szatkowski Jr. (Hoffman), Jake Szatkowski (South Amboy); Jim Wojcik (Sayreville), Tim Wojcik (Sayreville), Dan Wojcik (Sayreville), Hank Zaleski Sr (Sayreville), Hank Zaleski Jr. (Sayreville).

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
O Holy Spirit, thou who art all knowing - Who brightens every path that I may reach my ideal - Thou givest 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. -P.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 -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.

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..

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

Dan MacKay (St. Mary's) played baseball for Middlesex County College back in the '70's... Rick Kurczeski (Sayreville), who never played a varsity basketball game in high school, went on to play and star for the Millersville State College basketball team in the late 1970's. As a senior in 1980-81, he led the team with 169 rebounds, 7.3 avg., and also field goal percentage .516. He also scored 268 points, 9.8 avg. for his team that finished (8-15)... Jerry Connors (St. Mary's), and Frank O'Brien (St. Mary's) played basketball at Belmont Abbey College in the early 50's.

LANCASTER SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP

The South Amboy / Sayreville Elks are running a Sight and Sound Bus Trip on Saturday, March 29. Tickets are \$170 pp and include bus, show and lunch at Shady Maple. The bus leaves at 9:30 am from the Elks parking lot and returns home approx. 8:00 pm. If you have never been there - you will be amazed. Call Lori for tickets or questions - 732 763 6232.

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

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

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.

What Is Love?

By Robert W. Eginton

It's the link of the chain that will never be broken.

The words of a poem which will always be spoken.

It's the tears of the sad that will never be shed.

The mouths of the hungry, which will always be fed.

The seed of the flower that never stops growing.

The endlessness of a breeze that never stops blowing.

It's a dream to be dreamt and waiting to share,

The comfort of a friend, who will always be there.

It's the never ending waves, that crash on the shore,

The security of a lock, on an always open door.

A forest of joy, of hopes, and devotion.

A stream of never ending emotion.

It's the face of a new born child, waiting to be kissed,

It's the time spent in anger that will always be missed.

It's fighting the battles, no matter the cost,

It's winning fights that should have been lost.

It's the battles of life, that challenge a heart,

And the test of time that will never pull us apart.

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..





The South Amboy Knights celebrated their 125th anniversary in 2024 with many friends and supporters in attendance where they thanked their supporters. (Photo by Jordan Drevelus)

Knights of Columbus Vow to Continue Charitable Works

By: Jordan Drevelus

The South Amboy Knights met and exceeded their charity goals for the previous year! To provide some background, it has been the practice of the Knights for the past few years to give to charity almost all that they earn minus operating costs and startup funds. Countless thousands last year alone went towards local community groups and fundraisers in addition to larger groups such as the Saint Jude Children’s Hospital and the American Society for Suicide Prevention. Locally, to name a few of the many recipients, the Knights gave to both Roman Catholic Churches in South Amboy, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Music at Saint Mary’s, the Christ Church Christmas Concert, local fire department fundraisers, Sayreville Brain Injured Children, the Menlo Park Veterans Home, Catholic War Veterans, the YMCA, the Life Choices Center, the We Care Adult Center, the Sayreville Domestic Response Team, the Boy Scouts of America, and Riley’s Touch a Truck. These few donations listed are only a small sample of the total. For the past few years, the Knights have worked hard with the 2023 total in donations exceeding \$15,000. Beyond financial donations, the Knights also held food drives for both Saint Mary Food Pantry and First

Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. In addition, they also served as manpower for a wide variety of charitable causes run by other groups including their sister organization, the Columbiettes. The Knights do not brag about their accomplishments, but, with some convincing, the Grand Knight allowed an article to detail the good things done by the organization for the sake of support for events and growth of the organization.

Grand Knight Jan Willams said, “The people of this council keep finding ways to help our community and keep finding ways to raise more to donate. Its members always step up to the place where help is needed beyond fundraising. We have helped other groups with manpower and so on. Whether it be a festival, Mass, or even a parade, our members are around and willing to help.” The Grand Knight reminded that the money for these donations came from all the fundraisers that the South Amboy Knights hold in their hall and elsewhere. All of the Knights are asking for your help with attending fundraisers so that they might keep their charitable works going. This goal aligns with the pillars of their order which are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONY

Photos/Story
Submitted by Staff Writer Rich Kosmoski



Wreaths are prepared to be placed on the gravesites of Veterans.

The South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club sponsored the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the Sacred Heart Cemetery. This year there were in excess of 250 wreaths placed on the graves of America’s Heroes. Jeff Pawlowski of the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club, with assistance from the Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard, conducted the ceremony which began at exactly 12:00 noon as were over two-thousand similar ceremonies being conducted at the same time across America. Each branch of the military was recognized by placing a memorial wreath on the monument by a Veteran of their

respective branch of service. The American Legion Honor Guard fired a volley of rifle rounds followed by the playing of TAPS in honor of our deceased Veterans. Veterans and volunteers from the community gathered up the donated wreaths and went throughout the cemetery placing them on Veterans graves as they read off the name of each Veteran they were honoring. These wreaths were all donated by the South Amboy/Sayreville Rotary Club and other individuals and were tracked down by refrigerated tractor trailers. These trailers then continued on their way to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and many other cemeteries, to honor hundreds of thousands of American Veterans.



Jenny Ma (l) in her South Amboy Art Studio presenting her commissioned work to Joan Bolla. (Photo/Story Submitted)

SA Arts Introduces Jenny E Ma

One of our South Amboy Artists, Jenny Ma, is a beautiful, passionate, soft-spoken artist who is truly dedicated to her artform. We initially met as we were walking in our community and immediately found our shared commitment to the arts. Jenny showed me her collection of her work which included watercolor sketchbooks. Her keen vision in interpreting emotions, movement, and form were vivid recordings of emotions displayed in her stories of her travels. Beside her sketch book you can see these stories leaving you wondering about the time, place, reason and/or outcomes.

In the photo submitted, Jenny shows us the commissioned piece requested by a local business owner. Jenny noted she is a local young mom who saw her artwork at the SA Artsfest on SA Day this past fall. The woman requested her contact information and asked if she would be interested in painting an oil painting of the family-owned business

including with her mom's nearby birthplace home as an extraordinary gift for their mother.

“What a splendid idea for her mom and family”, Jenny thought, but she knew she needed to visit the area to see if the request could be accomplished. After viewing the area, she sketched the best perspective where she was able to capture the establishment including the mom’s home. In five days, Jenny painted a 20" x 24" professional linen canvas with her interpretation of the work as requested. The moment the owner saw the result, Jenny knew she was pleased and knew her mother would be very happy and touched by its sentimental message of family, love and gratitude.

Jenny Ma will be exhibiting her work at the SA Arts Gallery in Mid-February. You are cordially invited to her opening which you will see on our South Amboy Arts Alliance Facebook Page and our social media platforms.



The Knights of Columbus council 426 hosted a breakfast on December 15 with a special visit from “Mickey” Santa Claus and his Elf “Yolanda.” (Photo/info submitted by Donna Williams)



Bobby Kosmoski placed a Memorial Wreath in honor of his grandfather, Ambrose Kosmoski, a Veteran of World War II.





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\$9.99

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Wine All Types



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\$12.17

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\$5.99

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750ML
\$11.71

FLAME VODKA



750ML
\$9.99

CMARENA TEQUILA



750ML
\$25.71

JAMESON IRISH WISKEY

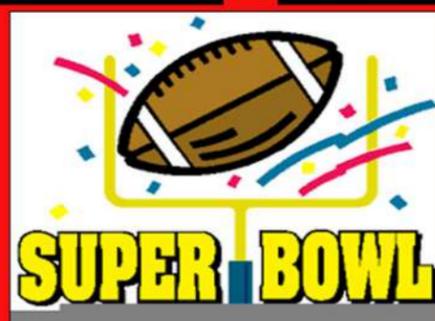


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