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The South Amboy/Sayreville TIMES

This issue is dedicated to
*Henry "Henny" Conroy
*Major George Coyle
*Philip DeFort Sr.
*Timothy Farrell
*Beverly Kosmoski
*Natalie Laikowski
*Jim "Mushie" Mathisen
*John O'Brien
*Jack Piskorski
*Teddy Puchala

June 28, 2025

The "Good News" Newspaper

Vol. 34 Issue 9

25th Annual Car Show Sunday Aug. 3rd

Independence Engine & Hose Co. #1 at 140 North Broadway, South Amboy, will host their 24th Annual Car Show on Sunday, Aug. 3rd with a rain date of Aug. 10th. The spectacular event will take place on Broadway, and admission is FREE to the General Public. Vehicle Registration and lineup will be held on Broadway by the firehouse. Advanced entry fee is \$5 per vehicle, and day of show entry is \$20. Pre-registration deadline is July 31. Be sure to stop by and taste their firehouse burgers! \$2 Domestic Draft Pints at RTB Lounge for all registered participants (over 21 years old) with wrist band. There will also be raffles & 50/50's; music by Jukebox Jimmy and Rockin Ronster; prizes & giveaways. Awards & Trophies: Sponsor Award Trophies; Chief's Trophy; Fans Choice of Trophies; Mayor's Trophy. There will be blacktop parking, and also no judging of Vehicles. For more information and mail registrations to: Mike Toth, 14 Haven Terr., Parlin, NJ 08859. Call Mike at: 908 930-3497 or Email: IndependenceFD@SouthAmboyNJ.gov. The Antique & Classic Cars Flea Market is fun for the whole family, so don't miss it! Wanted: Car Vendors only! Early entry fee \$20, Day of show \$25.

Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshals

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Keith Kandel, served as the Grand Marshal representing VFW 4699 in the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade.

Carmen Delikat served as the Grand Marshal representing Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 in the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade.



Local veterans are pictured following the South Amboy Memorial Day service. They are the real heroes, who served in the military to protect the U.S.A. Thank you veterans! (Photo by Mary Szaro)

Congratulations



South Amboy's two newest police officers recently graduated from the Cape May County Police Academy! The new officers are Ptl. Raymond Perez and Ptl. Douglas Gumprecht Jr. They are currently in their FTO program. Congratulations and Best of luck and success! Pictured (l-r) Capt. Holovacko, Capt. Kelly, Chief Kanecke, Ptl. Perez, Ptl. Gumprecht, Ptl. Gasiewski, Det. Sgt. Kales. (Photos/Info Submitted)

O'Connor, Stratton Honored By City

Ed O'Connor and Jamie Stratton were both honored by South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and the City Council for their longtime commitment and dedication to the local residents. They both work long and hard in countless endeavors to assist those in need, and to create a better environment for all of us. Jamie and her family put together wonderful events related to the Housing Authority, and work with the First Presbyterian Food pantry. Ed works tirelessly as President of the AOH, Housing Authority Chairman, Friends of South Amboy, Alfie O'Connor golf outing, to provide scholarships to our students and more. Neither one seeks recognition for their efforts but we are a better community because of their dedication. Congratulations and Thank You for all you do for everyone!



South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry and the City Council recognized community champions Ed O'Connor and Jamie Stratton for their longtime commitment to the residents of South Amboy. Pictured (l-r) Councilman Larry Lenahan, Councilman Anthony Conrad, Mayor Fred Henry, Ed O'Connor, Jamie Stratton, Councilwoman Zuzette Dato, Council President Mickey Gross, Councilman Tom Reilly. (Photo/Story Submitted)

Sayreville Independence Day Celebration

Sayreville's Independence Day Celebration Saturday, will be held on June 28 (rain date June 29) from 4:00pm – 9:30pm at Kennedy Park. Live music will be featured by The Frontiers, The World's Number One Tribute To Journey; Inflatables and Attractions; Face Painting; Food Trucks; Spectacular Fireworks Show.

Event Schedule: 4:00pm – 8:00pm: Free inflatables, attractions, face painting 4:00pm – 9:00pm: Food trucks open 7:00pm – 9:00pm: Live music by The Frontiers (Approx.) 9:15pm: Fireworks show.

Food Trucks: Garden State Deli, MeMe's, Dellano's, Latin Flavor, Good Mood, Good Food, Brooklyn's Famous Pizza, Nessie Tea, Sayreville-South Amboy Rotary, Frank's Ice Cream, Danny's Soft Serve, Maglione's Italian Ice, Kona Ice. Free Inflatables & Attractions: Face painting, Rock Wall, Mega obstacle course, Giant slide, Inflatable play center, Leaps and bounds, 4-in-1 sports, Inflatable axe throwing.

**Next Issue July 28th
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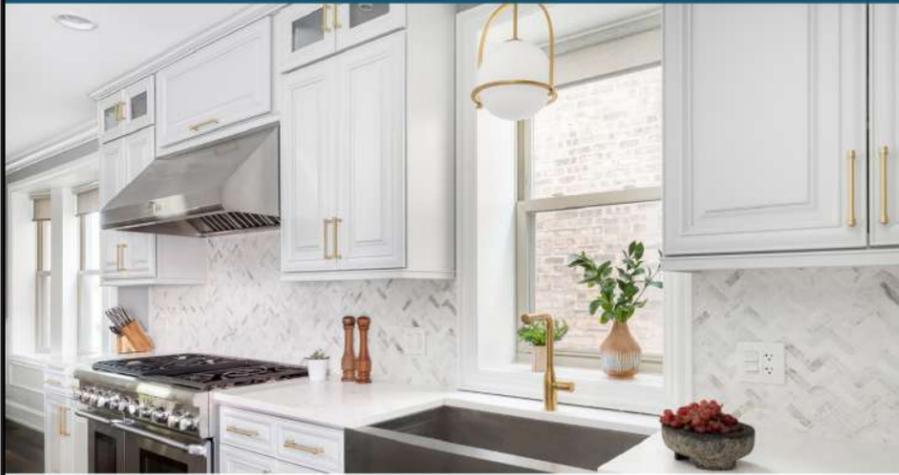
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Memorial Arboretum Dedicated Carmen Spezzi Remembered

By Clem Skarzynski



The Spezzi family (l-r) Moira Spezzi with daughter Aurora..Paul Kulakis with daughter Quinlan..Christine Spezzi..Deacon Andrew Ozaga holding Moira Spezzi's son, Carmen Sullivan..Meaghan Spezzi with daughter Nola..and son Mikey..Carmen Spezzi Jr. (Photos courtesy of Christine Cancilla)

A Memorial Project conceived by Sayreville's Shade Tree volunteers, was unveiled to The Spezzi Family, and Friends, Wednesday, May 26th, in Sayreville's Fielek Park. Designed for easy access, with benches, surrounded by native Oak Trees, designed to thrive in the local environment, it's a place for "quiet reflection," and thoughts. The beautiful layout was constructed by Sayreville Parks Dept. employee's, with a watchful guidance from Rutgers as to trees placement, and design. The sitting area greets you with a beautiful memorial stone monument, donated by Clinton Monument, with a dedication date of May 21, 2025, to signify a year passing of Carmen Spezzi. Local resident, veteran, and longtime friend of Carmen, Ken Kelly composed the beautiful words inscribed on the stone. Many thanks go out to Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, Business Administrator,



Glenn Skarzynski, for their efforts in assisting with this beautiful memorial, and to Richie Popowski, Parks Supervisor and his crew, Deacon Andy Ozga for our opening prayer for the Ceremony, and to Carmen Spezzi Jr. for his personal thoughts, and thanks to all who were there.

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. SS, SP, NP, MS, BS, PS...

A PRAYER FOR HEALING

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

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Pleasant little TRIVIA

By Tom Burkard

- President of the South Amboy Board of Education in 2018?
 a. Tyler Simko b. Janet Kern c. John Dragotta
- Sayreville Bar was located on this street?
 a. Main St. b. Price St. c. Cecelia St.
- Superintendent of South Amboy schools in '18?
 a. Juan Rodriguez b. Ed Krenchecki c. Jorge Diaz
- Named Pastor of St. Bernadette's in 2000?
 a. Father Lawrence Smith b. Father Andrew Szaroleta c. Rev. O'Day
- In 2010, became the new Municipal Court Judge in South Amboy?
 a. John Millhouse b. Stephen Gagliardi c. Emery Toth
- Grand Marshal in the 2010 Sayreville Memorial Day Parade?
 a. Adam Rosinski b. Roberto Aguayo c. James Garvey
- Bruce Springsteen played at this Sayreville nightclub in the early '70's with his band Steel Mill?
 a. Discovery Lounge b. Malibu Inn c. D'Scene
- In '67, South Amboy had a Teen Disco on Upper Main St. called?
 a. Dreamland b. The Cove c. The Cave
- In the 80's, this nightclub was located in Morgan on Feary Place?
 a. Hideaway b. Down Under c. The Cellar
- The last graduating class for Harold G. Hoffman High School was?
 A. 1992 b. 1996 c. 1998

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

FROM THE DESK OF TOM REILLY



I will start this month with a bit of trivia: What do the following names have in common? -- Abraham Clark, John Hart, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton, and John Witherspoon. You may know that there is a township and high school named after Abraham Clark, and a college named after Richard Stockton. You may not know that these are the five individuals who signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of New Jersey.

I ask because I think there is a valuable lesson in the question. All of us know and remember the great names in our history: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and so on. We often forget that there are many people who played a part in the great events of our past. Fifty-six people signed the Declaration of Independence. All of them risked their lives doing so – the British considered the Declaration, and the Continental Congress' very existence, to be an act of treason. Our Constitution similarly was made possible by the contributions of dozens, if not hundreds, of people. Indeed, before they appeared in the Constitution, many of our most cherished rights appeared originally in state constitutions and charters, drafted by committees in rowdy meeting houses by people whose names sadly are forgotten. Our greatest achievements as a nation always have been collaborative efforts. Ultimately, we owe our freedom and nationhood to every person who came before us and who strived so nobly to make a better world. Freedom always has been our national trademark, but it could be said that the secret to our success has been a tireless quest for national self-improvement, intended to leave the world a better place than we found it.

With that thought in mind it is fitting to turn to graduation season. As I do every year, I would like to wish all our graduates a heartfelt congratulations. Your dedication to learning, perseverance through challenges, and commitment to growth have brought you to this milestone. Each of you has contributed something unique to our school and community, and we are incredibly proud of the individuals you have become. We know you will continue to make us proud as you move into the next part of your life. Remember that your education never truly ends, no matter how old you become; that there is great value in meeting new people and experiencing new things; and that the secrets to success lie in hard work and an open mind.

To the parents and families of our graduates: Your unwavering support deserves special recognition. From early

morning drop-offs to late-night project assistance, from cheering on the sidelines to providing quiet encouragement during difficult times, your dedication has been essential to your student's success. The financial sacrifices, countless hours of engagement, and emotional support you've provided have helped shape these graduates into the capable people they are today. You have made them ready to take on the world. I urge our graduates to remember that commencement is more than the cap and gown or crossing the stage. It reflects every late night you pushed through, every challenge you conquered, and every dream you refused to give up on. Best of luck to our graduates. And be sure to enjoy your summer; healthy leisure time is essential, and it tends to dwindle as the years go on. Enjoy it.

To that end, our city has a fun-filled summer on tap. Our summer camp is back with an expanded program for children ages 5-12. The camp runs from June 30 to August 1. The Raritan Bay Waterfront summer concert series is back with live music each Wednesday from June 25 to September 10. The concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. South Amboy also will conduct its first ever concert series at the train plaza on Broadway each Friday night in August, beginning on August 2. Stay tuned for the lineup of artists.

The city will once again host free tennis clinics for all children who reside in South Amboy. The clinic runs for the month of July on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more details and/or to register, please call our recreation department at (732) 525-5965. Finally, National Night Out returns on Tuesday, August 5, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the South Amboy Middle High School parking lot. The event will include food, music, and activities.

Best wishes for Independence Day. Please take a moment to appreciate the freedom and liberties that make America a great nation, as well as the many men and women who have played a role in our national greatness. Respectfully

Tom Reilly
2nd Ward Councilman
City of South Amboy

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Congratulations!



South Amboy Middle/High School congratulated the Employees of the Month for May. (l-r) Phyllis Stratton, John Schnyderite and Cindy Falco who all retiring at the end of the school year.. Best wishes for the future. (Photo Submitted)

We would love to hear from you!



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Yearbook-South Amboy 2000

By Tom Burkard

The title of the yearbook for South Amboy High School Class of 2000 was "A Whole New World." It was dedicated to teacher Tom Magielnicki. . . Robert Bloodgood was the Superintendent of Schools, and William Beattie the principal of South Amboy High School. . . Some of the fine faculty members included: Mrs. Bartlinski, Mrs. Blitch, Miss A. Gallagher, Miss K. Gallagher, Mrs. Falco, Mrs. Cathy Charmello, Mrs. J. Charmello, Mr. Gundrum, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Mail, Miss Pawlik, Miss Primak. . . Some of the seniors were: Heather Charmello, Jasiu Clark, Shannon Craig, Freddy Cuba, Josea Curbelo, James Dougherty, Nicole Elifritz, Brian Fallon, Danielle Farrell, Michelle Graverson, Andrew Hathcock, Angelo Isenburg, Jamie Jarosz, Ginger Jensen, Kathy Johnson, Karolina Juchno, Jaroslaw Kaminski, John Kane, Jennifer Kazer, Christina Lagriola, Marzena Luba, Lauren Mundy, Marta Nicewicz, Rene Olivera, Isabel Pinto, Rosalia Puccio, Danielle Rager, Justyna Safin, Joey Scarfi, Kelly Schmidt, Jessyka Sirna, Robert Siuzdak, Lisa Steele, Thor Svenningson, David Szatkowski, David Twaruska, Tom Vazquez, Julia Wasnak,

Shannon Wisenfelder, Ahsley Young, Stacey Ziembra, Adam Gulick, Frank Nickolas, Gus Storey. . . Some of the top social events of the year were Lip Sync '99; Spirit Week; Homecoming '99, where Ryan Novak and Jane Kurtz were chosen king and queen. . .

The graduating class had some of the most talented athletes in the history of Hoffman/ South Amboy HS. The senior standouts included: Edward Behnen, Kimberly Peterson, Richard Klein, Daniel Poulsen, Randi Rone, Elena Bajkowski, Christopher Ball, Jessica Bartlinski, Antonio Bellanich, Gary Bigg Jr., Patrick Cohoon, Kimberly Cottrell, Denise Cross, Casey Cushing, Shanna Dempsey, Karen Felice, Joshua Gonzalez, Jane Kurtz, Nicole Magnifico, Gina Rae Miller, Jennifer McCarthy, Brian McNamara Jr., Peter Niestempski, Ryan Novak, Kenny Peschi, Nicole Silva, Justin Steffens, Daniel Waldman. . . It's been 25 years already since this extremely talented South Amboy High School Class of 2000 graduated, but their outstanding accomplishments, both academically and athletically continue to live on. This class was truly an amazing group!

Dowdell Library News

Jump start your summer with Dowdell Library!

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

Support the library by participating in the Dowdell Library Foundation 50/50 fundraiser. Tickets are \$5 each. Prize drawing on July 1.

"After Lunch" by Seward Johnson - caught sleeping on the job! Drop in to the Dowdell Library to visit this special sculpture on loan from the Seward Johnson Atelier. In the meantime, he will be catching some ZZZs. You're invited! to "Edward's" Bon Voyage party! Join Dowdell on Thursday, August 21 from 6:30-8 pm to say goodbye!

Stop in to see the "Care Package" exhibition through the end of July.

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

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

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

Join the Food Explorers on Friday, July 18 and August 8 at 1:00pm. Registration is required! Call, email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 5-12

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

Get excited! For the Eyes of the Wild live animal programs this summer! On Tuesday, July 22 at 2:00pm see some reptiles and amphibians! On Tuesday, August 19 at 2:00pm meet some mammals!

Teens! Bring a friend and make ice cream sundaes every Monday at 2:00 pm. Get creative with Sharpie Tie Dye on Tuesday, July 8 at 2:00 pm. Come solve the Escape Room on Tuesday, August 5 at 2:00 pm. Prizes!

Sign up for the summer Teen Test Kitchens! Tuesday, July 29 and August 12 at 2:00pm. Registration is required! Call,

email, or drop in to sign up! Limited spots available. Ages 13+

Adults! Join the summer fun at the library! On Thursday, July 10, get creative with Drop-in Crafting Fun! from 1:00 to 7:00 pm. Do some 3D Pen Designing on Tuesday, July 15 from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm and Thursday, July 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. On Thursday, July 31 compete in Guess the Painter Trivia from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Prizes!

Seniors! Senior Tech Time will be held on Monday, July 7 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Come learn about a new technology topic the first Monday of each month.

New! The VIP Senior Library trip will take place on Monday, July 14 at 10:30am. Sign-up for a library card and check out what is happening. The city can provide transportation if needed.

The Senior Book Club will meet on Monday, July 28 from 10:30 to 11:30 am. Ask about joining! The city can provide transportation if needed.

South Amboy Residents! Get free tickets to the Intrepid Museum! Contact the library for more information.

Dowdell Library, in collaboration with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and RWJ Barnabas Health, offers online virtual health programs. Please register by emailing communityed@rwjbh.org. Guided Imagery Relaxation Sessions are on Tuesday July 8 and 22 at 1:00 pm. Additionally, Stretch it Thursdays occurs all month long at 1:00 pm The Knitting and Crochet Club meets Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00pm and 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bring your supplies, tools, and let's get started! Interested in learning how to knit? Drop in for some informal tips.

New! The Freegal Music+ Service allows you to access a collection of over 18 million songs from more than 93,000 music labels. Freegal Music+ also offers a mobile app and website which utilizes modern application practices to ensure an easy-to-use and enjoyable experience. The free application is available for library cardholders and can be downloaded in the Apple® App Store and Google® Play store. *Comments, queries, compliments? Please visit www.dowdell.org, or contact the Library at 732-721-6060 or comments@dowdell.org. The library is located off John O'Leary Blvd, adjacent to South Amboy Middle High School. Dowdell Library's hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 10am-8pm; Wednesday and Friday from 10am-5pm. Connect on social media.*



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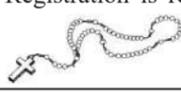
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A PRAYER FOR HEALING
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PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
Oholy St. Anthony, reach down from heaven and take hold of my hand. Assure me that I am not alone. You are known to possess miraculous powers and to be ever ready to speak for those in trouble. Loving and gentle St. Anthony, reach down from heaven I implore you and assist me in my hour of need. Obtain for me (mention request here). Dearest St. Anthony, reach down from 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.

Just Like Alice Sang... "Schools Out For Summer"



Last day of school circa 1950's or 1960'? Does anyone recognize this photo or the school? Let us know at satimes@aol.com



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

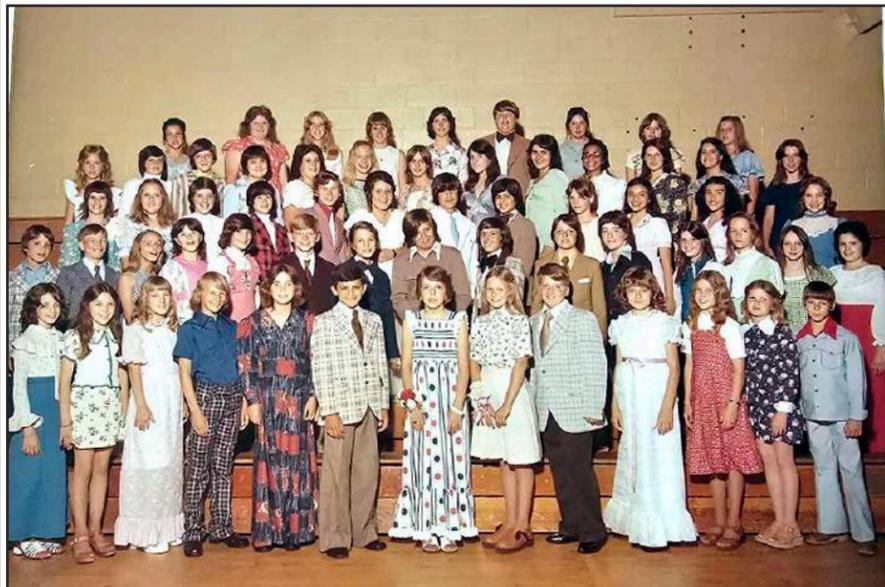


St. Mary's HS class of 1975 will be holding their 50th reunion on Friday, October 10, 2025 at The Shore Club, located at 700 Rt 71, in Spring Lake, NJ from 6pm to 10pm. The cost per person is \$70. A buffet dinner, with music and a cash bar will be served.

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

We look forward to seeing you there!

50 Years Ago



The 1975 6th grade graduating class of South Amboy Public Elementary School!

Annual Hoffman High School Multi-Year Reunion

All alumni of Hoffman HS are invited to join us at our multi-year reunion. This nostalgic event will take place on Sunday, Oct 12th from 1-5pm at the Enterprise Snorkel Co. Fire Station, 107 George St, So. Amboy. The cost is \$60 per person, and tickets MUST be purchased in advance. Unfortunately, no walk-ins will be accommodated, as food/beverages are purchased based on ticket sales. Your ticket includes a delicious buffet,

as well as beer, wine, and sangria. Please send your check payable to Bill Croddick, 130 So Stevens Ave., So. Amboy. The deadline to purchase tickets is Sept 30th. Don't miss out on your chance to see old friends! Questions? Contact Helenmae Stader Bilder at (hbilder1@gmail.com) or stop one of the other committee members, Edward Szatkowski, Grace Hoffman Spencer, Kathy Koerner O'Leary, or Roy Dragotta.

50 Years Ago



Hoffman High School Varsity cheerleaders 1975 see class of 1975 50th Reunion story on page 6.

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Hoffman High Class Of 1975 50 Year Reunion

June 14th was a nostalgic experience for the graduates of Hoffman High School Class of 1975 who gathered for their 50th-year class reunion at Harbor Lights in South Amboy. As we flipped through the old yearbook, it was hard to believe that five decades had passed. Old photos of the prom and the senior class sparked a lot of laughs, storytelling, and

memories. Some moments were somber as we remembered classmates who have passed since graduation.

Thank you to our classmates who traveled near and far to attend this meaningful milestone and share a fun-filled afternoon of laughter and 50 years of memories.



(L-R) Mary Barry (Szaro), Tom Suau, Sal Richiusa, Joe Gonsalves, Bob Besner, Peggy Hulsart (Grady), Ed Slusarek, Joni Therckelsen, Grace Hoffman (Spencer), Ed Stratton, Rich Garsick, John Bogdanski and Greg Wzyzkowski. (Story/Photo Submitted)

South Amboy Elks Welcomes Antlers

The South Amboy Elks are proud and honored to welcome the institution of our Antler Lodge 45. A dream that finally came to fruition after several years.

The Antlers is a youth group within the Elks for young inspiring teens 13-20 years old. Members participate in Elks events and create their own under the leadership and guidance of mentors. Our Antlers will learn about the traditions and values of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. (B.P.O.E)

Lodges that charter an Antler program provide leadership skills, appreciation

for community and community service, patriotism, volunteerism and respect for the flag and country.

We are excited to work and mentor this group of fine boys and girls. We know they will exceed all our expectations! Keep an eye out for some of their upcoming events.

If you have teens interested in joining the Antlers, they hold their meetings at our lodge located at 601 Washington Ave., South Amboy on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm. For more information you can contact Dawn Roberts, Antlers Lead Advisor at 732-642-5949



Charter Members of the Antlers #45. (front row l-r) Lauren O'Hagen, Gianna Stewart, Adam Chihab, William Vasquez Diaz, Ralph Lengyel, Nicco Grasso, Kcen Ventura, Brody Galimoto, Jarred Stewart, Mia Alvarado, (back row l-r) Dalton Leo And Zac Leo. (Photo/Story Submitted)

Upcoming Fundraisers at the South Amboy Elks

On Thursday July 24th the South Amboy Elks will be hosting our Annual Thanksgiving in July Dinner with a tricky tray. Tickets must be purchased in advance due to the high demand. This event features a home cooked Thanksgiving Dinner including freshly roasted turkey breast, mashed potatoes, homemade stuffing, vegetables, cranberry sauce, rolls, dessert, coffee & tea. After the delightful food, we will have our tricky tray. Tickets go on sale July 1st. For more

information call us on 732-727-7170

The Lodge will hold its monthly breakfast on July 20th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 am. The price is \$12.00 per person, children 8 yrs. and under \$7.00.

Finally, Friday August 1st, our "cooked to order" Steak Dinner, from 5:30 to 7:30. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Please contact the lodge, the number is above. Leave your name and the best number to reach you, and we will return your call.

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..

Wedding Prayer

"Lord, we thank you for the love that has brought Brianna and Robbie together. We ask that you bless their marriage with a lifetime of happiness, joy, and companionship. May their love for each other be a source of strength and inspiration, and may their home be filled with laughter and warmth. In your name, we pray, Amen. B.M., R.A.



LETTERS



Brian & Tom

Thanks for always keeping me informed about my hometown. The articles bring back many fond memories and some sad memories when I read of the passing of classmates and friends. They still provided many great memories and I am blessed to have had them in my life, even if it was for my school years in SA.

I appreciated the memories in your article The Five Good Guys and yes they were great! Of course I always love to read about the baseball greats and the basketball court artists!

Always enjoying the SA Times and your friendship

Bill Farrell, (Formerly of South Amboy/Sayreville)

South Amboy YMCA Gets A Father's Day Makeover

(Photos/Story Submitted)



Thanks to Amazon and WeLoveU Volunteers, Amazon and the International WeLoveU Foundation joined forces to carry out a large-scale beautification project at the South Amboy YMCA.

From 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., 90 volunteers—including Amazon employees, WeLoveU Foundation members, and local residents—dedicated their morning to revitalizing the YMCA's outdoor space. Volunteers worked in teams to plant vegetable seeds, mulch garden beds, repaint benches and exterior surfaces, clean up litter, and landscape areas around the facility—creating a more welcoming and vibrant environment for families who rely on the YMCA for programs and support. In total, they filled 21 bags, removing roughly 750 pounds of debris.

"This is our fourth year collaborating with WeLoveU, and every year the partnership gets better," said Elizabeth Rivera, Senior HR Business Partner at Amazon. "It means a lot to us to work together and to know we are not alone in our community."

To keep the energy high and show appreciation, Amazon added a fun and meaningful twist to the day. They donated \$19,300 to the International WeLoveU Foundation and presented a special plaque recognizing the organization's commitment to building stronger communities. The support didn't stop there—Amazon also

hosted a lively raffle packed with exciting prizes like the Stanley Quencher, Ring Video Doorbell, and a Charge 4 Bluetooth speaker. Volunteers were thrilled to take part, and the giveaways added a festive touch that brought everyone together. It was the perfect way to thank participants for their time, hard work, and heart—making a great day even more memorable.

Liz Bennett, Director of Development for the YMCA, added, "This garden and clean environment help our kids learn confidence, leadership, and environmental stewardship. It ensures that camp is accessible and meaningful for all children, regardless of their background."

Councilman Anthony Conrad, who serves on both the YMCA board and the Green Team, praised the foundation's commitment: "These projects have a lasting impact, especially for the children who will benefit from the garden and improved spaces."

This beautification effort was part of the WeLoveU Foundation's Kinder World campaign which promotes safer and more nurturing spaces for children and families. It also aligned with the nonprofit's Clean WORLD Movement; an environmental initiative launched in 2009 that encourages local action to achieve global environmental impact.

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

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

The Smoke Column

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

Structures such as supermarkets, strip malls, and taxpayers are found in every community. Supermarket fires occur infrequently but when they do, the outcome could result in a conflagration. Most of these buildings are constructed with large open spaces and a roof section being held in place using a form of truss construction. A report of an intense fire inside one of these structures would result in it being fought defensively from the exterior. Sending firefighters inside the structure to fight the fire could result in a negative outcome if the ceiling/roof collapsed into the structure due to burned/deteriorated trusses. Every town across the country has some form of a strip mall. The number of facilities joined together is not as important as the type of business they are conducting. Every strip mall has one or more cooking/restaurant facilities which can become a fire hazard at any moment. These facilities have cooking appliances that use hot oil and grease to cook foods which at any time can ignite and become a fire hazard. Firefighters have been killed in these small strip mall eateries and fast-food restaurants. Most of these facilities do not have a basement so their A/C and heating units are installed on the roof adding excessive weight to the roof support materials. A small fire in the ceiling space could destroy the support material quickly and cause a roof collapse just as the firefighters may be entering the structure to investigate the situation. A taxpayer structure can be found on any Main Street in your town. It is storefront businesses located on the ground floor with apartments on the upper floors. These businesses can have a variety of hazards in stock such as hardware, liquor, auto parts, heating equipment, LI batteries, and any other combustible materials of which you can think. A fire occurring in any of these structures would require an immediate call

for additional response personnel due to the possible quick progression of an intense fire. If it is determined that additional responders are not needed, they can be returned. It is more efficient to have coverage at the scene than to wait for assistance to arrive. Fire history shows that six firefighters were killed in the New York Waldbaum's Supermarket fire when the large open area truss roof collapsed. History also shows that two firefighters were killed in the line of duty when they responded to a hidden ceiling fire in a McDonalds fast food facility. The fire was located inside a concealed ceiling which burned the above lightweight, wooden roof supports causing the weight of the heating/ac unit on the roof to collapse on the two firefighters. Within our area, there have been multiple strip mall fires that have damaged businesses. Many of these structures had to be totally demolished due to the fire. Before conducting any tactics to suppress the fire or sending responders inside, we must know all the information we can of the location and possible progression of the fire. These buildings and structures are a valuable asset but they can be replaced. In thinking of safety, remember that a firefighter may be injured in one of these fires or even killed and can't be replaced. There have been times when we may not suspect a serious fire occurring because the fire is not visible upon our arrival. This is the reason doing a 3600 size-up of the entire structure is so important. Also remember that a major factor in these fires is the time of day they occur. A supermarket during the day may be loaded with shoppers that need help evacuating the burning structure quickly. This may not be necessary if the fire occurs during the middle of the night in a vacant store. The person in charge, Incident Commander, is responsible for all events and operations at the scene of these fires.

Local Wildlife

(Photos By Tom Burkard)



A Blue Heron is pictured (left) at a local park prior to taking flight, and in photo (right) starting its flight.

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Sayreville Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, performs the marriage ceremony for Sayreville residents Mary Ann Spisso and Richie Santa on May 24th.



The newlyweds, Richie and Mary Ann Santa (Photos submitted)

Boomer's Backyard Bash

By Megan Amato

This article proposes to share the union and celebration of Sayreville residents, Mary Ann Spisso, and Richard Santa. The happy couple tied the knot in their scenic backyard at their North Edward Street home on Saturday, May 24, 2025.

The two first met at the Sayreville Senior Center. Mary Ann explains, "At the time, I was president of the Thursday Senior Club. I called an agency for an Elvis impersonator – he performed! I never thought I'd meet anyone later in life. My mom loved Elvis. Even though she is gone, I'm sure she sent him my way." As Mare's niece, I can attest my grandmother was a lifelong fan of Mr. Presley, which made him a presence in our family's lives. To me, there could not be a more kismet duo than Aunt Mare and "Uncle Elvis."

The couple courted for three years, until one day at an antique shop, Richard found the perfect ring and popped the question. They wanted a simple ceremony in their backyard. Luckily, Mary Ann, a devoted gardener, has a yard suited for a wedding-day dream destination.

The guest list was Mare and Richie's VIPs; thirty adults – six children, comprised of immediate family, neighbors, and lifelong friends. They reserved an open table in honor of their parents, Walter, Carmelita, Dominick, and Agnes, and all loved ones passed who were with them in spirit. Their next-door neighbor Elisabeth Haney, photographed the day, and Mare's former employees and friends from Sayreville's old Brick House, Lori Ratica and Kayla Metz, helped host. A family friend catered, my mother Donna brought the wine, Aunt Diane baked the cake, and numerous family and friends

helped decorate. And to no surprise, Richard provided the entertainment singing Mary Ann's favorites. The Elvis Edition, of course.

As the couple share a love of the classics, all their favorites played throughout the day, with three specially selected songs leading the wedding march. The young ones, Mary Ann's grandnieces and grandnephews, Scarlett, Bobby, Lucy, and Vivian Moccio, eagerly trotted to "This Will Be an Everlasting Love," by Natalie Cole. The groom and remaining party, Richard's brother and son, Robert and Richie Santa, and Mary Ann's sisters, Donna Amato, and Diane Rondesko, followed with, "That Sunday, That Summer," by Nat King Cole. Finally, the bride, escorted by her brother, Walter Rondesko, down the slated pathway to the back porch, stopped the show with, "True Love Ways," by Buddy Holly.

Mary Ann was a remarkable sight in her 1950's veil and vintage inspired, sequined Bloomingdale's find. Richard stood in astounding awe and adoration for her, struggling to hold back tears. The couple was married by their dear friend, Mayor Kennedy O'Brien, who many years ago promised to perform the ceremony if Mare were ever to marry. After Richard kissed his bride, the guests joined in a dance, the kids, too, blowing bubbles in celebration.

The couple look forward to continuing the music together, enjoying the simple things, and their passion for decorating their forever home. When asked about plans, Mare exclaimed, "Finding the next thrift shop!"

Cheers to finding romance where and when you least expect it, to embarking on new endeavors in our golden days... and to love that never ages.

South Amboy Arts Present Activities You Are Invited

(Article submitted)

Coloring doesn't have to be a child's activity or a solitary activity. It can be a social activity as well, whether you're coloring with friends or those individuals you may not know. It can help create and enjoy a sense of community and a connection that can come from coloring with others. It can also be a great way to spend quality time with friends and family.

Coloring is more than just a hobby, it's a way to relax, de-stress, and express your creativity. Whether you're a fan of mandalas and patterns or more free-form designs, there are endless possibilities in finding joy and fulfillment that you might feel through coloring. So why not try? You may be surprised by the sense of peace or a few smiles appearing on your face that 'Coloring & Conversation' can bring you.

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'Drawing Circle' is for like-minded people who want to improve their skills in seeing. Our Drawing Circle helps and encourages the process of learning

'How to see'. As we continue to grow our offerings enhance the artistic eye. We will need our arts community to help.

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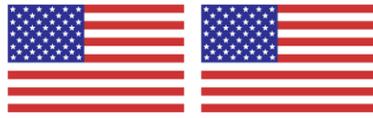
Acoustic Music and ABOB Productions need your support or help to build our programming for what you would like to see.

Please let us know what that program might be.



Congratulations Jayden!

Jayden Adackapara, a 7th grade student from South Amboy/Sayreville, was selected and announced by America250 National contest, as a 1st place award winner, on June 4 in Washington, D.C for his inspirational essay on "What Does America Mean To You." The National contest had thousands of submissions from all over the country. America250 is the national organization charged by Congress with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. Congratulations Jayden! (Photo/info submitted)



Jayden Adackapara

Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop

The Trinity Treasures Thrift Shop at 815 Bordentown Avenue is now open Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 11 am. The Drop Off Shed is open 24/7. We accept clothing, household items, toys, small furniture, and mostly everything else. We do not accept large furniture and large electronics.

During the summer months we are

having DOLLAR DAYS - all clothing is \$1.00 unless marked otherwise. Children's clothing is 25 cents. During July, we will be having Christmas in July, all Pictures will be \$1.00 to \$3.00, and daily/nightly sales as we assess our inventory.

We take CASH and also Venmo at this time. If you have any questions, please call Lori at 732 763 6232. All proceeds are used for community services.

500 Smiles: Edison Edition

Rishi Shah (r), a high school senior from Sayreville, is presented with an official proclamation from Edison Mayor Sam Joshi recognizing the "500 Smiles: Edison Edition" initiative at Edison Township's Municipal Complex on May 22, 2025.

What is "500 Smiles: Edison Edition"?

The initiative will deliver 500 handmade cards to senior centers throughout Edison. Each card will contain a personal message of encouragement, appreciation, and care, offering seniors a reminder that they are seen, valued, and not alone. (Photo/Info Submitted)



Edison Mayor Sam Joshi (l) Rishi Shah (r)

Did You Know?



Aunt Bethany from "Christmas Vacation" was Betty Boop! Mae Questel was best known for providing the voices for the animated characters Betty Boop (1931) and Olive Oyl (1933).

How To Achieve Success

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 1994

Begin with a dream

Maintain a positive attitude

Hard work, hard work, work hard

Steadfast in the face of setback and

adversity

Make failures but steps towards the goal

Realize and never forget that

God is Part of your support team

Congratulations!!



Twins Hunter and Logan celebrated their graduation from Pre-K with Andy Armadillo at Texas Roadhouse/ (Photo Samantha Pagan)

PRAYER FOR THE SUMMER

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

Remembering Johnny O'Brien

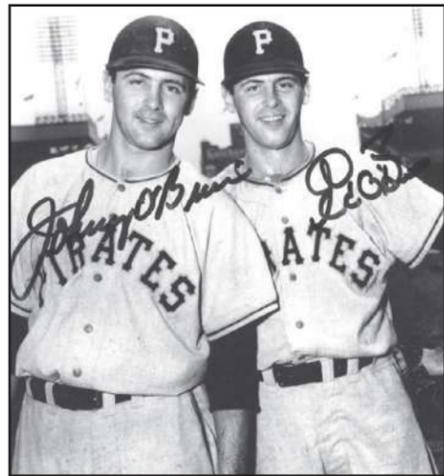
By Tom Burkard

Johnny O'Brien, who was born and raised in South Amboy died on June 13th at age 94. He and his identical twin brother Eddie, who passed away on February 21, 2014, led St. Mary's HS basketball team to the state title in 1948. Following graduation, they took their many talents to Seattle University, where they literally put the school on the NCAA sports map, with their outstanding play in baseball and basketball. During their 3 seasons of varsity ball, the basketball team put up an unbelievable (90-17) record, and the baseball squad was an outstanding (62-14).

During this time, the brothers were the most renowned twins in the U.S., and probably throughout the world. They appeared on magazine covers, and on popular TV shows such as "The Ed Sullivan Show," "The Buick Berle Show," (Milton Berle) and others.

Johnny was an All-American basketball selection in his junior and senior years, and holds the distinction of being the first collegiate player to score 1,000 points in a season (He finished the year with 1,051), as a junior. Upon graduation, he was the NCAA's #1 All-Time leading scorer with 2,733 points, and a 25.8 scoring avg. He also scored 569 points on the freshman team, which gave him 3,302 points combined, making him the first collegiate player to score over 3,000 points. His phenomenal scoring ability, and Eddie's superb playmaking and passing helped lead the Seattle University Chieftains to the National Tournament each year.

On January 21, 1952, the world-famous



Johnny and Eddie O'Brien when they played for the Pittsburgh Pirates following their outstanding college days at Seattle University.

Harlem Globetrotters faced Seattle U. in a U.S. Olympic Games fundraiser. The Globies actually played serious b-ball that night, and tried to stop the college boys, especially their big scorer Johnny. Seattle, who rode a 43-point scoring performance from the 5-9 Johnny O'Brien, pulled off a major upset, winning, 84-81 before an SRO crowd. The Globetrotters were led by Goose Tatum with 23 points. He also tried to stop the hot-shooting, much smaller O'Brien, but to no avail. The boys were drafted in the NBA by the Milwaukee Hawks, but chose baseball.

Following their final college basketball game, Johnny and Eddie signed with the Pittsburgh Pirates as amateur free agents, and were the first ever to be called "Bonus Babies." The legendary singer/actor, Bing Crosby, who was a part owner of the Pirates, was inspirational in getting the twins to sign.

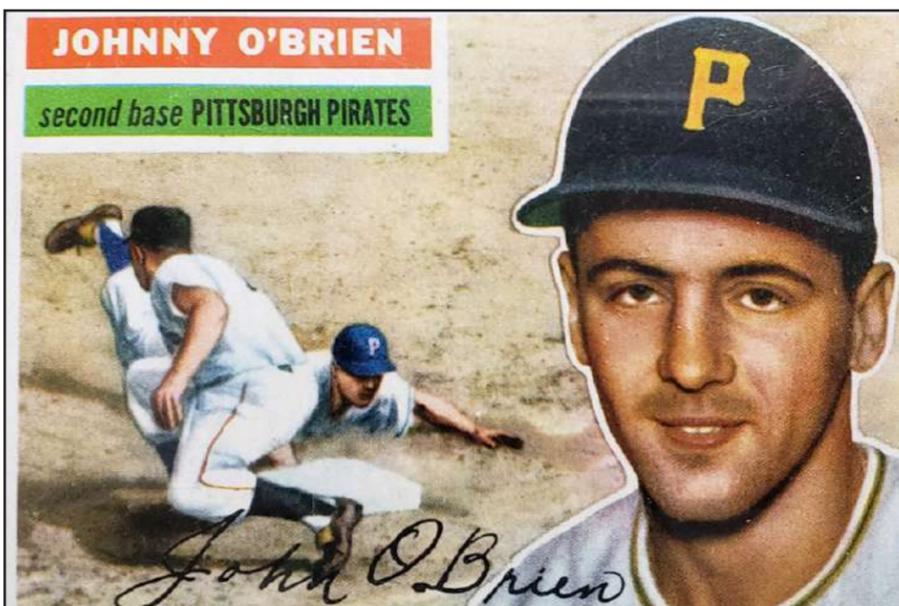
On May 10, 1953 against the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds, the O'Brien boys became the first twins in Major League history to play for the same team in the same game, Johnny at second base, and Eddie as a pinch runner. They also were one of four brother combinations to play second base/shortstop on the same Major League club.

Johnny played in the bigs for 6 1/2 years with Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Milwaukee. He and brother Eddie had the distinction of being the only twins in Major League history to have a pitching victory.

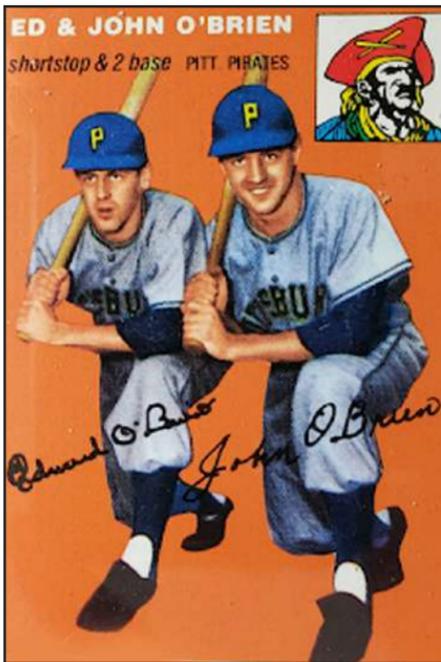
Following his baseball career, Johnny served as an elected county official at King County, Washington as Commissioner, a post he held for 12 years. He then worked at the Seattle Kingdome for 18 years as a 2-time Interim Manager, and Operations Manager.

The O'Brien twins racked up numerous awards and were members of prestigious halls of fame and organizations including St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick Athletic Hall of Fame; New Jersey Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame, and many more.

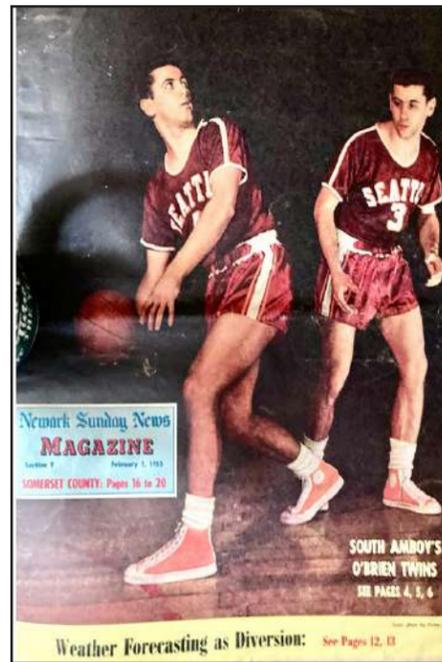
In 1977, they started the Forgotten Children's Fund in Seattle along with their brother Jimmy "Troubles" O'Brien. This was a fundraising charity to help the kids of Seattle, and at Christmas, they would have "Santa" deliver gifts throughout the community, and even gave away new bicycles to those in need. Of course they were involved in many other groups and organizations to help people, and the boys were always ready to lend a hand.



Johnny as he appeared during the '56 season when he played for the Pittsburgh Pirates.



Johnny and Eddie were the first identical twins ever featured on a baseball card back in 1954.



Johnny (l) and Eddie O'Brien on the cover of the Newark Sunday News Magazine in 1953.

I'm proud to say that I was honored to have Johnny O'Brien as a personal friend, who I got to know very well through many different interviews and meetings with the brothers, and found Johnny to be one of the most interesting, knowledgeable, and caring individuals I have ever known. May God Bless Johnny O'Brien and his family at this difficult time.

*Note: To read some of my Exclusive Interviews with The O'Brien Twins through

the years, go to the following at: www.thesatimes.com:

- April 30, 2021 page 15 titled "John O'Brien Recalls Amazing Career"
- Nov. 22, 2008 page 19 titled "The O'Brien Twins" Part 1
- Dec. 20, 2008 page 19 titled "The O'Brien Twins" Part 2
- Dec. 16, 2006 page 14 titled "Johnny, Eddie & "Troubles" Help The Needy"

Middlesex County's Music-in-the-Park Free Summer Concert Series Return

Now Featuring a New Children's Series

Concerts will take place from June-September across the County's parks

WHAT:

Join Middlesex County this summer for the return of its beloved **Music-in-the-Park** free summer concert series! The series features some of the County's most talented musicians and runs from June through September at scenic parks across the County, including Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, Thompson Park, Spring Lake Park, Joseph Medwick Park, and Johnson Park. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. All events are free and open to the public and media.

New this year: a Children's Summer Series, offering an evening of music and hands-on activities tailored for kids, including bilingual music education and puppet-making workshops! This will take place on Thursday, July 24, at Spring Lake Park and on Thursday, August 21, at Johnson Park.

Support a good cause: Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food donations to support REPLENISH and Feeding Middlesex County, which will be on-site at each concert. Donations will help local families in need. For more information, visit feedingmiddlesexcounty.org.

WHEN/WHERE:

2025 Music-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series:
Raritan Bay Waterfront Park
O'Leary Boulevard | South Amboy

Note: In case of inclement weather (July 2-September 10), concerts will move to South Amboy Middle/High School Auditorium
 Wednesdays 1 6:30-8:30 pm

- June 25: New Jersey Symphony – A Medley of Timeless Classics **Concert on June 25 runs 6-9:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, the concert will take place at Sayreville War Memorial High School**
- July 2: Danny V's 52nd St Band – A Tribute to Billy Joel
- July 9: Parkway Soul – A Variety of Motown Classics
- July 16: Verdict – Music with Caribbean Flavor
- July 23: British Invasion – Spanning the 1st wave of the British Invasion Era
- July 30: Ring of Fire – Johnny Cash Tribute
- August 6: Zydeco a Go GO – New Orleans style Rhythm & Blues, 40's Jazz & Swing
- August 13: The Chronicles of Rock & Roll – The Ultimate 50's, 60's and 70's Party
- August 20: Step by Step – Celebrating the music of Johnny Maestro
- August 27: Vinyl Madness – A Variety of Classic Rock, Pop, and Country
- September 3: JoBannano & The Godsons of Soul – A Variety of Rock and Soul

- September 10: 1/2 way to St. Patrick's Day – Irish Favorites and More

Thompson Park
Forsgate Drive | Jamesburg/Monroe Township

- Wednesdays 1 2-3:30 pm
- July 2: Mark Heter Band – Contrasts in Melody
- July 9: Sandy Sasso and her Swingin' Big Band
- July 16: Jersey Polka Stars – Polka Favorites and More
- July 23: St. Peter's Brass – Broadway to Patriotic
- July 30: Garden State Symphonic Band – Stage and Screen Favorites
- August 6: Zydeco a Go GO – New Orleans style Rhythm & Blues, 40's Jazz & Swing
- August 13: Greg Giannascoli – Marimba Around the World
- August 20: Kraus Memorial Band – And All That Jazz
- August 27: Underwater Airlines – A Classic Rockin' Band

Spring Lake Park
Pearl Place | South Plainfield

- Sundays 1 6-7:30 pm
- July 6: Mark Heter Band – Contrasts in Melody
- July 13: Wood Vibration – A Variety of Tributes spanning many eras

- July 20: The Fireflies – Doo-Wop favorites from the 50's and 60's
- July 27: Sandy Sasso and her Swingin' Big Band
- August 3: Perry Brothers – Irish Favorites and More
- August 10: Underwater Airlines – A Classic Rockin' Band
- August 17: Garden State Symphonic Band – Stage and Screen Favorites
- August 24: Kraus Memorial Band – And All That Jazz

Joseph Medwick Park
Post Boulevard | Carteret

- Thursdays 1 6:30-8 pm
- August 7: Five Strings – Bollywood Rock/Fusion/Sufi Band
- August 14: Greg Giannascoli – Marimba Around the World
- **Children's Summer Series**
 Thursdays 1 5-7 pm
- Bilingual Birdies – Fun Language Learning through Music
- Children's Museum of Central NJ – Puppet-making activity
- July 24: Spring Lake Park – Gazebo
- August 21: Johnson Park – Grove 1

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.



**Luke A. Lovely American Legion Post #62
Memorial Day Services**
(Photos by Mary Szaro)



Working From Home?



It's never too early to start! (Photo Submitted)

Assembly Advances Bill to Expand Housing Opportunities

Coughlin, Speight, Reynolds-Jackson legislation would provide municipalities with incentives to modernize zoning laws

With housing prices continuing to rise across New Jersey due to a shortage of available homes, the New Jersey General Assembly recently advanced legislation that would incentivize municipalities for making efforts to update their zoning laws in order to encourage new housing in their communities. Bill A4913, is sponsored by Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin and Assemblywomen Shanique Speight and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.

“This bill strikes a critical balance, expanding housing opportunities while ensuring towns have the resources to support that growth,” said Speaker Coughlin (D-Middlesex). “We enacted landmark legislation, A4, last spring that will spur the construction of thousands of new homes throughout the state. Now, we must ensure that our towns have the tools they need to move forward. The construction of additional housing would help stabilize the cost of housing.”

Under the bill, municipalities that reexamine and revise their master plans and zoning regulations to support additional housing would receive a competitive advantage when applying for certain state grants and financial assistance programs. That could include permitting accessory dwelling units, eliminating or reducing parking minimums or lot size requirements, allowing multi-family development in

commercial areas, and encouraging housing near transit hubs.

“In the past, increasing housing often meant straining schools, infrastructure, and local services. This legislation would change that by giving municipalities the resources they need to expand housing – ensuring the necessary investments follow,” said Assemblywoman Speight (D-Essex, Hudson). “By providing incentives to municipalities, we are encouraging local leaders to adopt zoning policies that will open doors for more New Jersey residents, because everyone deserves an opportunity to settle down.”

The incentives provided through this bill would help address the primary concerns municipalities have regarding the rising costs of infrastructure and education when increasing housing density. The bill would offer a balanced approach to addressing the housing crisis, encouraging smart growth and additional housing without removing any zoning powers from local governments.

“Too many families are being priced out of the communities they’ve called home for generations,” said Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson (D-Mercer, Hunterdon). “Bill A4913 would make right on that wrong by establishing real pathways to homeownership and stable housing and gives municipalities the tools and support they need to grow.”

Pallone Announces \$266,000 for New Jersey to Monitor Beach Water Quality and Protect Public Health

Funding Supports Statewide Efforts to Keep Beaches Safe Under BEACH Act He Helped Author and Is Working to Reauthorize

Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-06) today announced that New Jersey will receive \$266,000 in federal funding through the BEACH Act to monitor water quality at coastal beaches and notify the public when conditions are unsafe for swimming. The grant is part of a nationwide \$9.7 million investment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help states, Tribes, and territories keep recreational waters safe and clean.

“New Jersey’s beaches are a cornerstone of our state’s identity, drawing millions of visitors every summer and powering our local economies,” Pallone said. “This funding ensures beachgoers can enjoy our shorelines with confidence, knowing that water quality is being rigorously monitored and that they’ll

be informed if there are any health risks. I am fighting to reauthorize and strengthen the BEACH Act so states like New Jersey have the tools to protect public health and preserve our coastal environments for generations to come.”

The funding comes on the heels of bipartisan legislation Pallone helped introduce earlier this year to reauthorize and expand the BEACH Act, which has played a critical role since 2000 in helping states like New Jersey test recreational waters and warn the public of potential contamination. The reauthorization bill increases eligible uses of grant funds to include identification of pollution sources, a change Pallone championed to help communities address contamination at its root.

Not Anymore

By Robert W. Eginton

Remember when doctors made house calls
And the milkman delivered milk
Right to your door?
There was a phone booth
On every other corner?...
Not anymore.

When television was only in black and white

The price of things was so much lower
When you went to the store?...
Not anymore.

So prepare for the future,
And live for the now,
But remember yesterday,
The times they are a changing
So very, very fast.

Because what was once the future
Will soon become the past.



Summer Fun



Hanging with friends at the splash park, drying out on a beach towel, what a way to start the summer fun!





The Sayreville Fire Department held Memorial Day services for the members of the Department who had passed away this past year. Services included the placement of a memorial paver by family members of the deceased followed by the "Final Alarm". (Photo/Info by Rich Kosmoski)

Congratulations Devan!



NJVFCFA President Rich Kosmoski presents a scholarship to Devan Zsorey, a member of the President Park Fire Company while his dad Ex-Chief Michael Zsorey looks on. (Photo/Info Submitted)

SAFD/SAFAS HOLD MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

(Photos/Story by Jamie Norek)



On May 25th members of South Amboy Fire Dept and South Amboy and First Aid Squad held memorial services in remembrance of deceased members. The Fire Chiefs placed a wreath of remembrance in front of the Firefighter monument, and family members placed a wreath in front of the SAFA monument. Also, SAFD did flag raising ceremonies at local cemeteries. The American flags and Exempt Firefighter flags were placed at half staff.



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Emma Arleth Memorial Day Service

(Photos/Info Submitted)

On Friday, May 23, 2025, The Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard conducted a Memorial Day Service at the Emma Arleth. During the service, students were shown the proper way to fold the American Flag and the meaning of each fold as it was made. Thereafter, all students participated in the proper folding and presentation of the Flag.



Past Commanders Ed Streck (l) and Rich Kosmoski speak to the students on proper Flag folding.



Past Commander Rich Kosmoski and Legionnaire Frank Sullivan demonstrate the Flag folding procedures and then allow the students to fold the Flag.



The South Amboy Public Works Dept. under Superintendent Len Moffa always does an outstanding job in keeping the "Pleasant Little City" running smoothly, keeping it clean and beautiful, and so much more. Congratulations to Len and all the workers for the great job they do! (Photo submitted)

Memorial Day

A reflective commemoration on Memorial Day, honoring our heroic veterans at Sacred Heart cemetery, was held by Rev. Stanley Gromadzki, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church. These fearless veterans gave their yesterdays for our today's, the bravest of hearts! Every veteran was honored and remembered. (l-r) Frank Sullivan, Larry Zamorski, Alex Dobrinsky, Steve Tarr, Fr. Stanley Gromadzki and Jan Williams. (Photos/Info Submitted)



We would love to hear from you!



Sayreville's
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
JUNE 28 - 4:00 - 9:30PM
KENNEDY PARK

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 ROCK WALL - FACE PAINTING - FAMILY FUN**



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South Amboy First Aid Squad Receives New Ambulance



SAFAS recently took delivery of its new ambulance Unit 602 purchased by the City of South Amboy. The vehicle was manufactured by Horton Ambulance on a Ford F450 chassis and is equipped with the latest safety equipment. The new ambulance will be in service after final equipment mounting and inspection. (Photos and story by Jamie Norek)



The South Amboy First Aid Squad and city officials.

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Sayreville's Memorial Day Parade

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



Sayreville Councilman John Zebrowski (l), NJ Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin (2nd from left), and other dignitaries are pictured marching to the Borough Hall on Main St.



The Sayreville Memorial Day Parade was an outstanding tribute to all of our heroes who fought for and defended our country.



SWMHS Marching Band provided great music for the thousands who attended the parade.



Local businessman Greg Wyzkowski (2nd from left) and other members of the South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary enjoyed marching on Main St. in the beautiful parade.



Rocco Cuoco, who is an active member of the South Amboy-Sayreville Rotary, and also a local businessman, waves to the crowd during the Sayreville Memorial Day Parade.

The crowd loved the parade and all of the great music that was provided. (Photo by Brian Stratton)



John McQuade keeps a strong beat with the Col. D.B. Kelly Pipes & Drums.



George Fuller keeps the Col. D.B. Kelly Pipes & Drums group in step throughout the parade.



The Sayreville Little League is still having fun and going strong!

St. Stan's Carnival

(Photos by Tom Burkard)



The 28th Annual St. Stan's Carnival was from June 19-21. "Chaos and The Coconut" band entertained the crowd on opening night.



Sayreville Police Officers did a fine job while on duty at the carnival.



There was a variety of ethnic and homemade food offered for the large crowd.



There were rides for all ages, and everyone had a fun time at the St. Stan's Carnival!



South Amboy Elks Chaplin Barbara Maher and Americanism Committee Chair Steve Tarr visited South Amboy Schools to present them with 55 new classroom flags. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Sayreville Library News

ESL Class

Tuesdays in July @5:30PM

Join us for this session for English as a Second Language. This class is designed for those beginning to learn the language and develop stronger conversational skills. Attendees must register for the entire course. Registration required. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Mindful Yoga

Tuesdays in July @6:30PM

Come & join us for a relaxing evening of yoga. This basic yoga class is open to all levels of experience. This class is designed for stress relief. Participants should be able to get down to the floor easily. Either a Yoga Mat or a towel is required. Masks are optional. Please wear comfortable clothing.

Please note: young children cannot be left in the children's room unattended while an adult patron is in yoga class.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112

Spring Baking with Vanessa (Virtual)

Wednesday, July 9 @3PM

Join Vanessa Young from Thirsty Radish for another fun cooking demonstration.

This time: learn a new recipe for a one-layer cake, perfect for sharing in the spring or summer, along with plenty more baking tips.

This is a virtual session, registration required to get the zoom link.

Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112. Patrons must provide a valid email address.

Movie Matinee

Tuesday, July 15 @1PM

Join us for our monthly movie matinee. This month: The Hundred-Foot Journey-starring Helen Mirren. Rated PG-2 hrs 2 mins. Refreshments Provided. Register online or call 732-727-0212 Ext 112.

Trivia with Dan

Monday, July 28 @6:30PM

Sayreville's most exciting game show returns. Join Dan Vetrano, Sayreville's own Adult Librarian and longtime trivia enthusiast, as he cooks up questions for this fun and exciting game. Play solo or join up with a team. All team members must register. Open to teens and adults. Prizes offered to the top 3 teams.

Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo

Beginning July 10

Back by popular demand, our Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo will be returning. Stop by our reference desk beginning on July 10 to sign up. Read books and fill out your bingo card. Every bingo gets you a chance to win some fabulous prizes at our finale party in August.

South Amboy Town Wide Yard Sale

The South Amboy City Wide Yard Sale was a huge success on June 7th & 8th. People throughout the city also held Garage Sales during the weekend. (Photos by Tom Burkard)



This popular yard sale was found on Ward Ave.



Yard Sale customers show off the great treasures they found in South Amboy.



Who is it?

By Brian and Phyllis Stratton



Can you identify our mystery person? Think Underwood Deviled Ham! Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 16th.

Who Is It?

Last month's mystery guest was none other than Snagglepuss who is a fictional cartoon character who debuted in prototype form on The Quick Draw McGraw Show in 1959 and was established as a studio regular by 1961. Snagglepuss enjoys the finer things in life and shows a particular affinity for the theatre. The following know their Saturday morning cartoons! Patti Tengelics, Edna Pilch, Anne and John Erbetta, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Pete McIntyre, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, John & JoAnn French, Dane Colburn, Ed English, Walter Starzec Jr.



May Who is it?
Snagglepuss

WWW.?



Can you identify this local business? Send your answer to satimes@aol.com by July 16th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

May WWW.? Winners

WWW.? Winners for May who correctly named any of the following as the business establishment that was pictured: Las Delicious, Jules, Off The Hook, Broadway Seafood, Albern's, Savage Bistro.

Winners: Edna Pilch, Dennis Quinlan, Jim & Debbie Sissick, Lynn Loy, Mary Agnes Morris, Pete

McIntyre, Elaine & Rich Angerstein, Ed Coddling Jr, Georgianna McDonald, John & JoAnn French, Marybeth Chodkiewicz, Don Zrebiec, Dan Volosin, Steve Laskiewicz, Dermot Scales, Barb Bockus, Gary Feret, Dane Colburn, Ed English, Walter Starzec Jr, Lisa Grankowski, Don Munn.



Las Delicious



The Brian O'Connor School of Music performed their 24th concert at the NJ Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park on May 18th. The residents always look forward to Brian's annual Spring and Christmas concerts with his top students. Everyone had a wonderful time and got to enjoy some great talent, performing some cool classic rock with a little mix of country. The performers are as follows: front row: Jayden Adackapara, Chris Schaaf, Charlotte Crilley, Brian O'Connor, Rayansh Basin, Daria Dobrin, and Nathan Messenger. 2nd row: Jake Wells, Carolina Paredes, Vincent Lee, Monica Boehler and Brandon Motherway. 3rd row: Jonathan Marcarski, Anuraag Godavari, Lance Kennedy, Abhiram Godavari, Sean Rapplevea and Matt Boehler. brianoconnormusic.com. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Acoustic Friday, July 18

By Jerry Smith

South Amboy Arts Alliance will present its next Acoustic Friday showcase on July 18, 2025 with musical performances by Patrick Bamburak, Reina Williams, and Billy T. Midnight.

Patrick Bamburak has South Amboy roots and remains a great friend of SA Arts, having played in previous Acoustic Friday events. In October 2024, he was part of the Alliance's stellar lineup on South Amboy Day. Bamburak is a veteran recording artist, touring musician, songwriter, producer, and radio personality. His music consists of originals and classic rock covers from artists such as Elvis Costello, Sting, and Paul Simon.

Patrick Bamburak is the great-grandnephew of Harold G. Hoffman and is an avid researcher of the Lindbergh Kidnaping case. On March 22, he was the speaker at an event on the topic hosted by the Historical Society of South Amboy.

Baltimore native Reina Williams will share the SA Arts stage with Bamburak. According to her website, "her music is a unique fusion of acoustic soul, hip hop/R&B, and conscious roots music blended with elements of live electronic production to create an evocative, raw, and edgy style all her own. Her signature sound taps into

the unspoken emotions of self-discovery, revealing, healing, and returning to love."

She is the daughter of an opera singer, and thus grew up around theaters and opera houses. Baltimore Magazine voted her "Baltimore's Best Solo Artist" in 2010. When the opportunity arises, she enjoys giving back to local communities, including mentoring inner-city children on music production.

If you search Billy T. Midnight on YouTube or other music platforms, you'll find videos of the Manahawkin-based singer/songwriter performing the music of Garth Brooks, the Doobie Brothers, or Roger Miller, along with his original songs. The July 18 Acoustic Friday showcase will mark Midnight's SA Arts debut.

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

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

PNC Concert

(Photos/Info by Tom Burkard)



The Grass Roots band performed in concert at the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel on June 10th. The group charted 14 Top 40 hits from 1966-72, including their biggest "Midnight Confessions," "Let's Live For Today," and "Sooner Or Later."



The Buckingham band also performed at the PNC Arts Center on June 10th. The band charted 5 Top 40 hits, all in 1967, with "Kind Of A Drag" reaching #1. Their other biggest hits were "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy," and "Don't You Care."



Music Trivia
By Tom Burkard

Fruits/Veggies

- 1.Strawberry Fields
- 2.Raspberry Beret
- 3.Watermelon Man
- 4.Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie
- 5.Blueberry Hill
- 6.Banana Boat Song
- 7.Cherry Pie
- 8.Green Onions
- 9.Cherry Cherry
- 10.Lemon Tree
- 11.Sweet Cherry Wine
- 12.One Bad Apple
- 13.Mashed Potato Time
- 14.Sweet Pea
- 15.Orange Blossom Special
- 16.Cherry Bomb

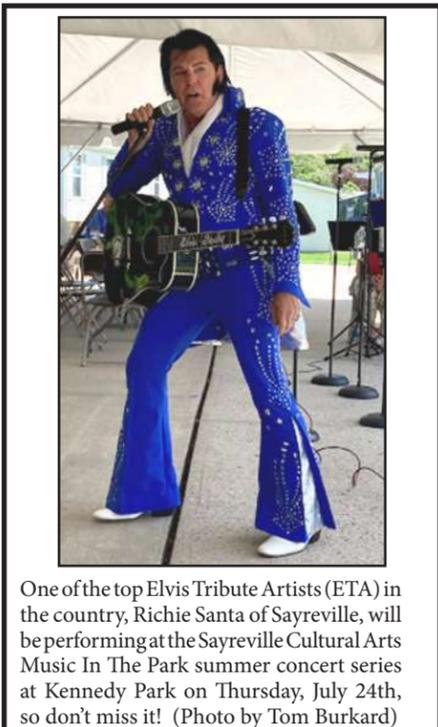
- a.Johnny Cash
- b.Harry Belafonte
- c.Trini Lopez
- d.The Osmonds
- e.Booker T. & The MG's
- f.John Cougar Mellencamp
- g.The Beatles
- h.Mongo Santamaria
- i.Dee Dee Sharp
- j.Prince
- k.Neil Diamond
- l.Tommy Roe
- m.Jay/The Techniques
- n.Tommy James/The Shondells
- o.Warrant
- p.Fats Domino

Answers
1g 2j 3h 4m 5p 6b 7o 8e 9k 10c 11n 12d 13i 14i 15a 16f.

The Rascals



The Rascals packed the house at the Carteret Performing Arts Center on Friday June 13th, and turned in a fine performance. Originally known as The Young Rascals back in '66, they charted 13 Top 40 hits including 3 songs that reached the #1 spot on Billboard; "Good Lovin'," "Groovin'," and "People Got To Be Free." Pictured (l-r) Felix Cavaliere, and Gene Cornish, both original members of this legendary band. (Photo by Tom Burkard)



One of the top Elvis Tribute Artists (ETA) in the country, Richie Santa of Sayreville, will be performing at the Sayreville Cultural Arts Music In The Park summer concert series at Kennedy Park on Thursday, July 24th, so don't miss it! (Photo by Tom Burkard)



Teen Nights/Music In The Park At Sayreville

(Article submitted)

Sayreville Cultural Arts to Kick off 2025 Season with Teen Nights and Music in the Park

Sayreville Cultural Arts is finalizing their lineup for the 2025 Season. In addition to the very successful and well attended Teen Nights, we can look forward to 8 weeks of cultural diversity through music in the Park.

Every Thursday night at Kennedy Park starting from July 10 through August 28, attendees will enjoy a variety of entertainment ranging from Sayreville's own hometown bands, Spanish Salsa and Latin to Pacific Islander Hawaiian Luau Party and let's not

forget fan favorite music from the 50's to today.

All band events are at Kennedy Park and run from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

Chairman Chris Cuneo said, "We are really excited about our lineup, and we are still only in our second year. Get ready for vibrant and culturally diverse experiences."

Vice-Chair Sharon Rodas, who is the promoter behind Teen Nights says, "We needed more activities for our teens in Sayreville. The Teen Nights are a great way for our young adults to stay in touch with each other over the summer season and

have some fun."

The next Teen Night is scheduled for Wednesday, June 25 from 7:30 – 10:30 at Burkes Park. The theme is "A Marvelous Summer Kick Off" featuring a Marvel Comic Book theme. The night's movie selection is "Guardians of the Galaxy," and there will be refreshments. Teens are encouraged to wear their favorite Marvel t-shirt to be entered to win prizes. Registration for teen events is required. Create an account at <https://sayrevillenj.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>. Full schedule of activities will be available soon.

Remembering Two Great DJ's And More

By Tom Burkard

Locals were saddened by the passing of two very popular music men/DJ's, Henry "Henny" Conroy, 83, formerly of South Amboy, died on June 1, and also Jimmy "Mushie" Mathisen, 72, formerly of Morgan, who died on May 14.

One of the most renowned and loved



Henry "Henny" Conroy
(Photo Submitted)

people in South Amboy history, he made an incredible mark on all who were blessed to meet him on the road of life. His story is most interesting, and I'll try to share certain things about this great guy that I recall.

At St. Mary's High School, Henny, who graduated in the class of '60, was a fine basketball player, and team captain, and also played baseball on the team with his twin brother Eddie. Henny always showed signs of being a good leader, and was elected President of St. Mary's Student Council. Following graduation, he headed to Belmont Abbey College, where he got his degree, and later received another degree from Kean University. Following his Abbey days, he went into the U.S. Army and served as a Drill Sergeant.

He started teaching English/World Geography, Health and Phys. Ed at St. Mary's in the mid-60's, where I first met him, during his fun-filled and memorable classes. The kids all loved Henny, and his light-hearted and humorous ways of teaching and connecting with his students. I can still remember our gym class with Mr. Conroy, where we had to march military style (left, right, left, right) around the gym! Also during this time, he succeeded Luke Lenahan as varsity basketball coach, a post which he held for 2 seasons—1965-66, and 1966-67.



Brian Wilson, who was regarded by many as "the genius songwriter" for the legendary and fabulous Beach Boys rock 'n' roll band, died at 82 years old on June 11th. He and his cousin Mike Love wrote most of the band's 35 Top 40 Hits, that included four #1 chart toppers including "I Get Around," "Help Me Rhonda," "Good Vibrations," and "Kokomo." (Photo/info by Tom Burkard)

#1 Pop Hits June 28

- 2024-I Had Some Help -Post Malone/Morgan Waller
- 2016-One Dance-Drake
- 2008-Viva la Vida-Coldplay
- 1993-That's The Way Love Goes -Janet Jackson
- 1980-Coming Up-Paul McCartney/Wings
- 1974-Down-Gordon Lightfoot
- 1965-I Can't Help Myself-The Four Tops



Following his several years at St. Mary's High, he took a position in the Woodbridge School District, where he was an English teacher and also basketball coach.

In 1981, he embarked on a new adventure as a DJ. Henny was an instant hit no matter where he played, and that was mostly The Landmark Tavern, where he was a mainstay for many years at the South Amboy hot spot, owned by Bob Heiser. He continued with his highly-successful career as a DJ until late 2024, where he was featured at Raise The Bar (formerly The Landmark Tavern), so altogether, he spent about 43 years as a top-notch DJ, who not only played locally, but also in New York City, and at many different types of events in addition to bars and clubs.

In the 80's he was a great teammate of mine on Gene Lopez' Sanitary Fuel Men's Softball League team in South Amboy, and then he played on my South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball team along with Gene, Rick Ferguson, Ed Paczkowski and Bob Martin. Those were really good, fun times, and Henny always livened things up at the post-game celebrations. He was such a friendly, likeable, intelligent man, with a priceless sense of humor and a generous personality.

Somewhere around 2000, Henny asked me if he could write a column for The SA Times about his wonderful memories of South Amboy, and I whole-heartedly agreed to have him join the staff, and so "The Ghost" became a popular monthly feature to read for locals, about his days of growing up and performing in and around South Amboy, and much more.

Henny Conroy was an incredible man, who made such a wonderful impact on anyone who was blessed to know him. We've talked to countless people about him and everyone loved him for the guy he was, and the positivity and happiness he brought to all. Henny was a shining light, who could bring a smile to your face and make you laugh, even if you were having a bad day, and things were looking bleak. He will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. I remember him playing one song on his playlist, almost every time I caught his great performance, "Thank You For Being A Friend"...Thank you for being a friend Henny, to myself, and everyone you've met on the road of life, and



1960's singer songwriter Lou Christie, 82, died on June 18th. He had 5 Top 40 songs, including "Lightnin' Strikes," which topped out at #1, and a #6 tune "Two Faces Have I," back in '63. (Photo submitted/info by Tom Burkard)

ICE CREAM MONSTER JAMBOREE RETURNS

A Concert and Car Show benefiting Stars and Stripes Veteran Housing of South Amboy The I Heart Horror & Hot Rods Ice Cream Monster Jamboree rolls into VFW Post 4699, 575 Jernee Mill Road, Sayreville, NJ 08872, on Sunday, June 29, 2025, from 10AM to 4PM—a spooky-cool mash-up of hotrods, horror, and hometown fun, all benefiting the Stars and Stripes Veterans Center of South Amboy. The fun event is hosted by the Rotary Club of South Amboy-Sayreville, and sponsored by Ice Cream Monster & I Heart Horror Day Co.

Expect creepy vendors, classic rides, and trophies for Best in Show, People's Choice,

helping to make the world a much happier place. God Bless, Henny!

NOTE: In my April 2002 exclusive interview with Henny, he told me that he wanted to be remembered as "Somebody that tried to help people have a good time."

Go to our website at: www.thesatimes.com to see the entire interview that starts on page 1, from the April 2002 issue.

Jimmy got his start in music around



Jim "Mushie" Mathisen
(Photo submitted)

1967, as a bass guitarist, playing with my first rock band, "The In-Between," which also featured Walt "Corkey" Moskal, Bob Masterson, and Rick Shingola. We had a lot of fun learning songs by The Young Rascals, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, and many other groups during that time in the 60's. Our first gig was at the Sportsman's Show at Perth Amboy's McWilliam Stadium, and it was quite a thrill playing on an outdoor stage with a large audience watching. We then performed at a couple of parties, and later changed the name of the group to "The Fifth Extent," and played at two summer block dances in South Amboy, in the square that was between the old City Hall on John St. and the high school, where about 500 local kids had a blast dancing and listening to the music on those hot summer nights. For those shows, we added one of the best local keyboard players of all-time Bill Lotkowitz. In addition, we played at a couple of Sock Hops at the South Amboy Skating Arena, a huge Battle of the Bands at St. Mary's HS auditorium, which had about



Rock star Rick Derringer, 77, died on May 26. He played lead guitar for the 60's band The McCoys, who had a #1 hit with "Hang On Sloopy" in 1965. He also played with Ringo Starr's All-Star Band. (Photo from the Tom Burkard Archives)

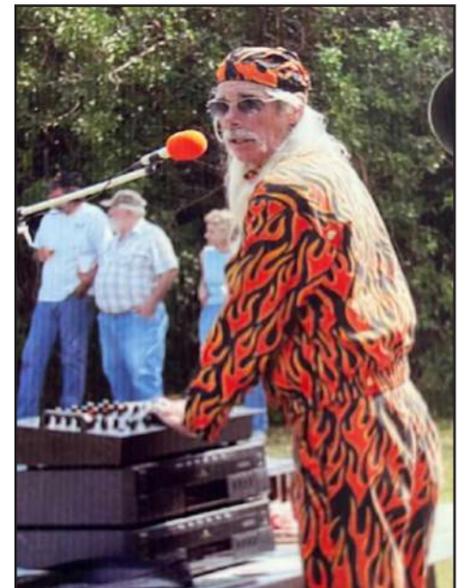
1,000 teenagers in attendance. Our final performance came on November 15, 1968 at the East Brunswick HS Battle of The Bands in front of a packed house. Our band name had changed again, this time to "The Live Five," and we added a new lead vocalist Mike Conley to our group.

After that event, everyone went their separate ways, and I only saw Jimmy at Foodtown, occasionally where he was a butcher, and then when he became well-known as "DJ Mushie," playing records at local establishments, where he also ran "Turtle Races" as an added attraction.

In addition to his busy schedule, he was a member of the popular area band, "People," who played all along the Rt. 35 strip and other big nightclubs and venues. The group reunited in 1998 at the Music Box, where Clem Skarzynski organized a highly-successful fundraiser for the Morgan First Aid, and that was the last time I got to visit with my bandmate from many years gone by.

Jimmy was living in Florida for many years, and according to his sister Sue Mathisen Henry, "He was recently doing Turkey Bowling, and also Rat Races.

I was fortunate to get to know Jimmy, as we both broke into music around the same time in our first band. God Bless Jimmy "Mushie" Mathisen.



DJ "Mushie" performing at an outdoor gig. (Photo submitted)

"Henny The D.J."

By Al Gomolka
Times Poet Laureate
C.2025

He had a way
Did Henny the D.J.
To create smiles
Within life's trials
With accomplishments a-many
And accolades for Henny
His end game was for joy
For every girl and boy
An icon of his town
His love was all around
Bars, sports, and the music scene
Happiness was his routine
All who knew him
will never forget
His lasting impression
you'll never regret
He used to call me by my name
three times
I asked him why,
he said it rhymes
He had a way
Did Henny the D.J.

#1 Country Hits June 28

- 2020-The Bones-Maren Morris
- 2011-Honey Bee-Blake Shelton
- 2003-Beer For My Horses -Toby Keith/Willie Nelson
- 1991-Don't Rock The Jukebox-Alan Jackson
- 1982-Tears Of The Lonely-Mickey Gilley
- 1970-A Week In A Country Jail-Tom T. Hall
- 1969-Singing My Song-Tammy Wynette



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Fishing Flashes
 By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water

Fluke fishing remains good in our local Raritan Bay with a decent number of keeper fish and plenty of shorts. It's also good in the surf, especially at Island Beach where a big one over 8 pounds was caught. Some big Bluefish are present as are a few Black Drum and some Kingfish. Striped Bass are being caught with Skates and Dogfish to keep you busy. Party boats that bottom fish are catching Blackfish and Sea Bass with a few Ling mixed in. Barnegat Bay has Blowfish and a few Weakfish. Some unusual catches are a small Cobia caught off the Barnegat Inlet jetty and Cow Nose Rays. These Rays are showing up so you better hold onto your rod! A few Weakfish are around too. I haven't seen many catches when I checked Cliffwood or South Amboy beaches. Most of the people I saw had no bites at all.

Fresh Water

High water caused by too much rain has hindered Trout fishing statewide. I visited the lower Pequest River the first week in May, but it was impossible to fish due to high water. My wife and I returned there a week later and found similar conditions, but I was able to fish one spot, catching one and losing one. We waited and returned the first weekend in June with somewhat better conditions. My wife caught her limit of four after June 1st. I caught one and missed quite a few with plenty of fish remaining when we left.

Catch Any Fish Lately?

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

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Trip to Gavin's Irish Country Inn

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

Wind Creek Casino Trip

The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 are hosting a Bus Trip to Wind Creek Casino Bethlehem PA on Thursday August 28th, 2025. The bus departs council parking lot 9:00 am 308 4th Street South Amboy N.J. 08879. Cost is \$40.00 per person w/\$25 back in slot play. Must be 21 years old and have proper ID.
 Contact Ray at 732-721-2025 to reserve your seat. Snacks included on the bus. All proceeds to benefit local charities.

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

School Sports

By Tom Burkard

Boys Baseball

Sayreville (10-15) Coach Timothy Ballard 2025 Final Team Leaders

Batting
Runs-Chase Cannan 16, Justin Marrero 12, Thomas Schlaline 11; Hits-Michael Robinson 28, Logan Kaufman 23, Canaan 19; RBI-Kaufman 15, Robinson 14, Canaan 11; Doubles-Robinson 7, Kaufman 5, Cannan 4; Triples-James Kehoe 2; Home Runs-None; Batting Avg.-Robinson .350, Kaufman .280, Cannan .268.

Pitching
Innings Pitched-Kaufman 42.2, Schlaline 39, Kehoe 35.2; Strikeouts-Schlaline 54, Kaufman 44, Kehoe 41; ERA-Schlaline 3.23, Kaufman 3.45, Kehoe 4.12.

South Amboy (7-14) Coach Dan Poulsen

Batting
Runs-Jeremy Vasquez 23, Robert Senape 16, Benjamin Smith 14; Hits-Vasquez 26, Smith 26, Diego Colon 17, Micah Smith 17; RBI-Vasquez 19, Smith 18, Nemeth 13; Doubles-Diego Colon 6, Vasquez 6, Smith 5; Triples-Vasquez 3; Home Runs-Vasquez 5, Nemeth 1, Daniel Evanski 1; Batting Avg.-Smith .400, Vasquez .361, Colon .288, Senape .281.

Pitching
Innings Pitched-Colon 40, Nemeth 35, Vaughn Pelkey 32; Strikeouts-Colon 48, Nemeth 35; ERA-Pelkey 3.28, Colon 4.20.

Girls Softball

Sayreville (14-9) Coach Amanda Moken 2025 Final Leaders

Batting
Runs-Mya Infante 19, Josephine Vanore 17, Rose Joseph 14, Gianna Falto 13; Hits-Joseph 24, Hailey Kilpatrick 23, Rose Joseph 22, Infante 20, Gianna Falto 20; RBI-Kilpatrick 16, Infante 13, Sara Williamson 13; Doubles-Kilpatrick 7, Joseph 6, Vanore 6; Triples-None; Home Runs-Infante 2, Vanore 1; Batting Avg.-Kilpatrick .354, Joseph .348, Marissa Shipman .341, R. Arena .327, Vanore .323.

Pitching
Innings Pitched-Vanore 109, R. Arena 39.1; Strikeouts-Vanore 120, Arena 49; ERA-Vanore 1.61, Arena 1.78.

South Amboy (8-10) Coach Lindsay Durant

Batting
Runs-Sarah McLaughlin 24, Sophie Hernandez 17, Emma Kalantis 16, Mia Pina 15; Hits-Hernandez 34, Gwen Kalantis 23, E. Kalantis 23, McLaughlin 22, Leangeliz Deleon 20; RBI-Hernandez 23, E. Kalantis 20, G. Kalantis 18; Doubles-E. Kalantis 5, Pina 4; Triples-Hernandez 4, E. Kalantis 4, McLaughlin 3; Home Runs-Hernandez, E. Kalantis, G. Kalantis, McLaughlin, Pina, 1 each; Batting Avg.-Hernandez .586, G. Kalantis .489, E. Kalantis .418, McLaughlin .400, Deleon .400.

Pitching
Innings Pitched-Hernandez 91; Strikeouts-Hernandez 117; ERA-Hernandez 3.77.

Bombers Win Medals At GMC Spring Track

In the 2025 Spring Track GMC Championships competition, Zaila Khan of Sayreville captured the gold medal for 1st place in the shot put with a toss of 37.7.5. She also finished 3rd in the discus action. The 4x400 relay team of Laila Stevenson, Loily Anning, Jayda Roque, Jennaly Then took the silver medal for 2nd place. Molly Logan came in 3rd in the girls 800 meter run. Chase Rogers finished 2nd in the boys 800 meter run.

The 4x400 relay team set a new school record with their time of 4:01.50. Congratulations to all on your fine accomplishment.

Sayreville Falls In Group 4

In NJSIAA 1st Round CJ Group 4 action, the Bombers bowed to a strong Edison (15-10) team, 4-2. Jarret Intili drilled 2 of Sayreville's 4 hits in the contest. Sayreville finished the season with a (10-15) record, and high hopes for 2026.

Bombers Down Guvs

Sayreville boys baseball team topped the South Amboy Governors, 7-5. The Bombers hitting attack was led by Andrew Provenza, who ripped a single and triple to drive in 2 runs. Teammate Chase Cannan belted a single and double, for 2 RBI, and Justin Marrero stroked 2 singles and knocked in a run. Jeremy Vasquez paced the Purple and Gold of South Amboy by blasting a double and triple to drive in a run, and also scored 3 runs. Robert Senape added 2 singles and an RBI.

Guvs Win Thriller In 13

The South Amboy Governors, under Coach Dan Poulsen upset a strong Manville team, 5-4 in an exciting 13-inning battle in 1st round CJ Group 1 state tourney action. The Purple & Gold had to overcome a 4-run deficit to pull out the victory. Benjamin Smith belted a single and double to drive in 3, and also scored a run to lead the offense. Diego Colon contributed a single, double, and RBI, and Daniel Evanski stroked 2 hits. Vaughn Pelkey notched the pitching win by hurling 8 scoreless innings, allowing 7 hits, and striking out 5 in relief of starter Colon.

South Amboy Falls In CJ Group 1

A powerful Point Pleasant Beach (18-7) blasted the South Amboy Governors, 12-2 in the quarterfinals of the CJ Group 1 state tourney. The locals finished a tough season with a (7-14) record, but are looking forward to a banner year in '26.

Lady Guvs Bow In State Tourney

In the 1st Round of CJ Group 1 girls softball state tournament play, a powerful Shore (15-8) team shattered the Purple & Gold's dream, by eliminating them, 10-0 in 5 innings. South Amboy garnered only 3 hits, 2 from Sophie Hernandez, and another one by Emma Kalantis. The Lady Guvs finished the year with an (8-10) record.

South Amboy Routs Rahway

The South Amboy boys baseball team blasted Rahway, 11-1 in a 5-inning contest. Winning pitcher Diego Colon fired a 4-hitter to lead the way. Jeremy Vasquez was a standout at the plate, blasting 2 doubles to knock in 3 runs for the Purple & Gold.

Sayreville Girls End 8-Year Skid

The Sayreville Bombers girls softball squad won an opening round CJ Group 4 state tourney game for the first time in 8 years, as they nipped Old Bridge, 2-1. Hailey Kilpatrick provided the game winner, with a huge double in the bottom of the 6th inning. Winning pitcher Josephine Vanore was outstanding, firing a 5-hitter, while striking out 10, and in addition, belted a single and double. Rose Joseph added 2 singles for the winners.

Hightstown Eliminates Sayreville

In CJ Group 4 quarterfinal softball action, #3 seed Hightstown (14-6) ended the Bombers season, 8-1. Sayreville (14-8) seeded #6, was held to 2 hits by winning pitcher Kasey Olsen, who struck out 17 of our locals. Julia Diffin ripped a double, and R. Arena stroked a single for the Bombers.

All-Academic Selections

Robert Shaw of Sayreville and Adam Murray of South Amboy were selected for the 2025 GMC Baseball All-Academic team. Congratulations!

Vanore Selected To All-GMC

Josephine Vanore, ace pitcher for the Sayreville Bombers girls softball team was chosen for the 2025 All-GMC team. Congratulations, Josephine!

Vasquez, Smith Chosen To All-Blue Team

South Amboy baseball standouts Jeremy Vasquez and Ben Smith were selected to the 2025 GMC All-Blue Division squad. Congratulations!

2025 GMC All-White Division Baseball Team

The GMC announced their All-White Division selections for 2025. Sayreville players chosen were: Logan Kaufman, Thomas Schlaline, and Michael Robinson. Congratulations!

Champions



Samantha Mierzwik of South Amboy and her NJ Premier FC 2008, from Somerset NJ, led by their long time coach Marijn Sanders, have won their 3rd consecutive NJYS National Championship Soccer Series NJ State Cup Title. (Photos/Info Submitted)



Prayer to St. Jude

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



Yogisms

New York Yankees legendary Hall of Fame catcher Yogi Berra always had some funny wise and witty sayings, which left some people scratching their heads after hearing them. The following are some that were recently discovered, and you probably never heard them before.

"You give 100% in the first half of the game, and if that isn't enough, in the second half you give what's left."

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going because you might not get there."

"I take a two-hour nap from 1 o'clock to 4."

"What's the saying? Don't look a good thing in the eye?"

"If you ask me something I don't know, I'm not gonna answer."

"This is the earliest I've ever been late."

"We made too many wrong mistakes."

"Uniforms are all the same. Some are just hotter than others."

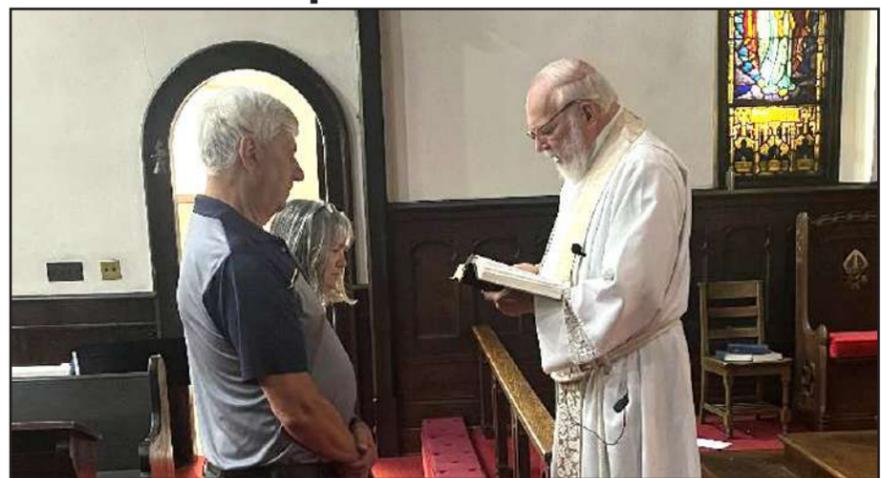
"I think Little League is wonderful. It keeps the kids out of the house."

"All I know is that my players are frosting at the bit."

"A home opener is always exciting, no matter whether it's at home or on the road."

"I didn't say everything I said."

Local Couple Celebrates 50 Years



Steve and Connie Osterberg of Parlin recently celebrated 50 years of marriage at the beginning of June. They started their celebration with a blessing from Fr. Paul Van Sant at Christ Episcopal Church where the two were married. The Osterbergs will be celebrating their anniversary with a small gathering of family and friends including their children and grandchildren. (Photo/Story by Jordan Drevelus)

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

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

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

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

MIRACULOUS INVOCATION TO ST. THERESA
 O Glorious St. Theresa, whom Almighty God has raised up to aid and counsel mankind, I invite your miraculous intercession. So powerful are you in obtaining every need of body and soul, our Holy Mother Church proclaims you a "prodigy of miracles, the greatest Saint of modern times." Now I fervently beseech you to answer my petition (mention here) and carry out your promise of doing good upon earth of letting fall from heaven a shower of roses, henceforth, Dear Little Flower, I will fulfill your plea to be made known everywhere and I will never cease to lead others to Jesus through you. Amen.
 Say prayer every day for 9 days. By the 4th day ask for a sign, if prayer is to be answered between 4th and 9th day you will see a rose in a magazine, tv, picture or receive roses. Must promise publication. C.P.

Jacob Gregoreski
 Jacob Gregoreski 56, of Sayreville, formerly of South Amboy, passed away at home on May 30, 2025.
 Jake was formerly employed as a courier, warehouse manager, survey party chief, and draftsman. He enjoyed watching movies, playing video games, taking care of cats, attending concerts, riding a Harley, fishing and hunting. Jacob was predeceased by his mother Betty Gregoreski. He is survived by his father Joe Gregoreski, brother Clark Gregoreski, sister-in-law Christine Pluskota, sister Beth Ann Dileo, brother-in-law John Dileo. Services were under the direction of The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals," 237 Bordentown Ave., South Amboy. Cremation was private.

Beverly Kosmoski
 Beverly Kosmoski, age 80, of Parlin, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, with her devoted husband by her side. Born in Perth Amboy to the late John and Mary Fazekas, Beverly was a lifelong resident of Parlin and a cherished member of her community.
 Beverly dedicated much of her life to service and support of veterans and local organizations. She was a proud and active member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 211, where she served on the executive board, and held the role of Treasurer for the Ladies Auxiliary of the President Park Fire Company.
 She was predeceased by her loving parents, John and Mary Fazekas, and her siblings Robert Fazekas, Maryann Yaremko, and John Fazekas.
 Beverly leaves behind her beloved husband of 57 years, Richard Kosmoski; her son, Bobby Kosmoski; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends who will forever remember her warmth, kindness, and unwavering love.
 Visitation was held at the Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home, 15 Cherry Lane, Parlin. Funeral services were from the funeral home, followed by a 10am Mass at Sacred Heart RC Church in South Amboy. A burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Parlin.
 In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Beverly's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
 Complete funeral details, directions, and letters of condolence to the family may be found by visiting www.spezzifuneralhome.



Henry M. Conroy
 Henry M. Conroy, 83, died on Sunday, June 1, at the Atlantic Rehabilitation Center in Lakewood, NJ. A true "son of South Amboy," he grew up playing both basketball and baseball for St. Mary's High School. After graduating, he earned degrees from both Belmont Abbey College and Kean University. An Army Veteran who served as a Drill Sergeant in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, he moved his family to Brick, NJ in 1973. Before retiring from the Woodbridge School District, he worked for 36 years as a respected and admired English teacher and basketball coach.
 Since 1981, Henry has been a successful and accomplished DJ and entertainer in both NJ and NYC. Until 2024, he was a featured DJ at Raise the Bar (formerly The Landmark Tavern) in South Amboy. He will be remembered as a man who lived for music and loved bringing people together. Later in his DJ career, he contributed articles as "The Ghost" to The South Amboy-Sayreville Times. His articles were a collection of memories of growing up and performing in and around the South Amboy area. Though music was his passion, it was Henry's warmth, humor, and generous spirit that truly defined him.
 Son of the late Henry and Joan Dooling Conroy, he is also predeceased by his brothers Edward and John Conroy. He is survived by his wife Eileen Norek Conroy; his daughter and son-in-law Shannon and Peter Farnsworth of Brick; his godson John Conroy of Los Angeles; his sister and brother-in-law Blanche and William Savage of Virginia; his sister-in-law Cathy Conroy of Whiting; his sister-in-law Suzanne Conroy of Morgan; the Norek family and numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, friends, and fans.
 Visitation was held on Wednesday June 4, 2025 from 3 to 5:30pm at The Gundrum Service "Home For Funerals" 237 Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy with a service at 5:30. Cremation was private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mary's Church, 256 Augusta Street, South Amboy, NJ 08879.



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



Obituaries

Adamec, Donna M. Lotrario, 64, formerly of Sayreville died on June 5.
 Berecsky, Frank A., 73, of Parlin died on June 2.
 Branagan, Judith A., 88, of Parlin died on May 27.
 Bryk, Edna M. 94, of Sayreville died on May 18.
 Carlo, Barbara J. "Judy," 83, of Parlin died on June 5.
 Conroy, Henry "Henny," 83, formerly of South Amboy died on June 2.
 Coyle, Maj. George T. Sr., 91, of Sayreville died on May 27.
 DeFort, Philip F. Jr., 78, of South Amboy died on June 15.
 Farrell, Timothy 70, formerly of Sayreville died on June 10.
 Furslew, Jennie, 97, of Sayreville died on June 12.
 Gregoreski, Jacob, 56, of Sayreville died on May 30.
 Herrera, Aristeo, 53, of South Amboy died on June 12.
 Korkowski, Dolores Scarfi, 88, of South Amboy died on June 8.

Kosmoski, Beverly, 80, of Parlin died on May 28.
 Laikowski, Natalie Kaczmarek, 84, of Parlin, died on June 2.
 Le, Leonilia, 83, of South Amboy died on June 6.
 Mathisen, James "Mushie", 72, formerly of Morgan died on May 14.
 Merrill, Margaret, 79, of Parlin died on May 30.
 O'Brien, John T. "Johnny," 94, formerly of South Amboy died on June 13.
 Piskorski, John "Jack," 85, of South Amboy died on May 15.
 Puchala, Teddy F., 79, formerly of Sayreville died on June 4.
 Singerline, William "Bill," 70, formerly of Parlin died on June 14.
 Sosnowitz, Walter A., 98, of Parlin died on May 29.
 Witkowski, Patricia J., 94, formerly of South Amboy died on June 16.
 Zarzyczny, Dorothy, 79, of South Amboy died on May 26.

In Memoriam

John "Jack" Piskorski, 85, of South Amboy died on May 15. He worked as a plumber/pipefitter for 60 years with Local 9. Jack served as Captain of the South Amboy First Aid back in '75, and was an avid reader of The SA Times, and enjoyed playing our monthly WWW? Photo contest. Major George Coyle Sr., 91, of Sayreville died on May 27. He was a New Jersey State

Trooper, and retired with the rank of Major. Teddy Puchala, 79, formerly of Sayreville died on June 4. He was the owner/operator of Frank's Service Station on Washington Rd. in Sayreville for 42 years. Philip DeFort Jr., 78, of South Amboy died on June 15. He was a Past President of the South Amboy First Aid Squad.

Timothy Patrick Farrell

Timothy Patrick Farrell, 70, passed away in Delaware where he resided with his loving wife, Deb.



Tim attended St. Mary's Schools in South Amboy and Brookdale Community College. He worked as a mechanic at PPG and later was the head of Bus Transportation for the Sayreville Board of Education. He later followed his father and grandfather in working for Hercules Powder Co. which later became Ashland Corp.

July 15, 1954 - June 10, 2025

Tim was "one of the good guys," always willing to help anyone. He enjoyed fishing and hunting early on and later became an avid golfer. He was a die hard Raider fan! He liked "playing the horses" too. Trotters and Pacers or Thoroughbreds, he had a knack for picking winners most of the time.

Tim is survived by the Love of His Life- Deb Sullivan Farrell His daughter, Courtney

Farrell and Granddaughter Gabrielle Stamour (NJ)

Deb's son Michael Bagarello and grandkids Jayden Vogel, Marley and Piper Bagarello (NJ)

Tim's sister and husband - Kathleen Kelly and Tom Kelly (Wake Forest NC) and their families, Jay (nephew) and Tanya, and family Marshal, Aven and Elsa from NJ; Jill (niece) and Scott McGowan, and their children Liam and Caitlin (Raleigh NC)

Colin (Nephew) USCG California; Tim's brother and sister-in-law Bill & Pam Farrell (Colorado Springs) and their family, Melissa (niece) and Keith Frisbie and their family Jeanne, Lilly, Meagan and Dalton (Colorado)

Chris (Nephew) and Kim Yuan Farrell and their children Teagan and Piper (Denver, CO).

Marguerite Moskwa (Nee: Hatarick)

Marguerite Moskwa (Nee: Hatarick) 91, of South Amboy entered eternal rest on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. Marguerite was born in Perth Amboy, NJ, the daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth. Most will remember Marguerite (Marge for most) from working for 23+ years in the Water/Tax Department for the City of South Amboy. She was also a proud parishioner of the Sacred Heart Church and a member of the Holy Rosary Society. Marguerite enjoyed day trips, cruising to various islands as well as the Panama Canal and Alaska, and traveling to different countries, especially parts of Europe. One of her favorite pastimes was doing crossword puzzles, above all spending time with her friends, family and grandchildren.



Marguerite is survived by her children Debbie Salomon and her husband Larry, Richard Garsick, Thomas Garsick and his wife Kathleen, Diane and her husband Thaddeus and Nancy Garsick. Grandchildren Mark and his companion Kari, Kevin, Thomas and his wife Jennifer, Katie and her husband Ian, Robert and his wife Anya, Kelli and her husband Evan and also ten beautiful grandchildren.

Services were held at Kurzawa Funeral Home, 338 Main St., South Amboy, NJ 08879. The Sacred Heart Rosary Society offered a service for Marguerite at the funeral home. A funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church, South Amboy, and she was laid to rest at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Parlin, NJ. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Research Center at https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html?sc_icid=header-btn-donate-now

Or American Heart Association <https://www.heart.org/>

She is predeceased by her parents, her son Joseph (JoJo) Garsick, first husband Joseph Philip Garsick and second husband Joseph Moskwa; siblings Dorothy Silakowski, Rosemarie Scully and Michael Hatarick.

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



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A powerful country made a strong history with its courage and determination. Wishing you great joy on this sparkling day! Happy Fourth of July!!!

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

The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Youth League Archives



1965-The South Amboy Knights of Columbus Little Fellas League champions are a happy team after defeating Rotary for the title. Pictured kneeling (l-r) Batgirl Kathy O'Connor, Regis Bulman, Frank Trpisovsky, Leroy Kurtz, Dave Keenan, John Musolf, Jim Lenahan, Lee Mataranglo, Mike Kusic, Wayne Kryoler. Top (l-r) Coach Charles Steuber, Ron Croddick, Charles Steuber, Don Volosin, Kevin Bergin, George Morgan, Neil O'Connor, Jim Croddick, Joe Wallis, Jim Fitzmorris, Marty Bergin, Manager Jerry O'Connor. Missing from photo: Brian Flannery, Scott Davies. (Photo courtesy of Ron Croddick)

T.H.E. Game

Sport-Baseball
Year-2000

Teams-St. Mary's vs. South Amboy in City Series action

Recap-The Eagles nipped the Guvs, 7-6 behind winning pitcher Troy Mellios, who blasted a dramatic 3-run homer to tie the game in the 7th inning. Greg Fay ripped a two-base hit for South Amboy.

Player of the Game-Troy Mellios, St. Mary's.

30 Years Ago

1995-Adam Devlin of Sayreville captured the CJ Group 4 hurdles championship in 14.3. Teammate Adrian Murray finished 3rd in 14.7

Pro Baseball Report

Former Sayreville resident and pro baseball player, Brandon Bielak suffered a shoulder injury and is out for the season following surgery. Bielak was playing for the Arizona Diamondbacks AAA affiliate Reno Aces, when he was injured. He worked in 2 games as a starting pitcher going 9.2 innings, and struck out 5, while posting a 2.79 ERA.

Brandon has pitched on the Major League level for 5 years mostly with the Houston Astros, and briefly last season with the Oakland A's. His 5-year stats are: Games-76; IP-204; Strikeouts-160; ERA-4.63; Won-12; Lost-13.

The D-backs released him from a minor league contract after he went on the full-season injured list in April. Brandon is expected to be ready for Spring Training in '26.

Get well Brandon! The SA Times, and all local baseball fans are praying for your speedy recovery, and lots of success in 2026.



Pro baseball player Brandon Bielak in action before a shoulder injury ended his season. (Photo submitted)



Battle Of The Unbeatens

1962-St. Mary's (9-0) baseball team hosted Red Bank Catholic (10-0) at Veterans Field. The Eagles, riding the strong arm of winning pitcher Joe Pohl, and some excellent hitting, downed the Caseys, 3-2. Pohl tossed a fine 4-hitter while striking out 13. Tom Vona belted a single and double, Joe Jankowski and Art O'Donnell split 4 hits evenly for the Saints.

60 Years Ago

1965-St. Mary's topped Mater Dei, 6-4 on the baseball diamond. Bill Beyer was the winning pitcher and struck out 6. Bill Bulman drilled 2 singles and an RBI double, Jim Fritz a single and bases loaded triple, Tom Kelly 2 singles and a double, Brian George executed a squeeze bunt to drive in a run, and Tom "Tee" O'Connell an RBI single.

85 Years Ago

1940-St. Mary's nipped Hoffman, 5-4 in game #1 of the City Series. Allie Clark belted a single and RBI double, Tom Zebro and Frank "Trip" Cheeseman both hit RBI doubles, and Joe Conroy an RBI single. John Stolte was the winning pitcher and struck out 8. Walt Rogers tripled in a run for the Governors.

The Lineups: Hoffman

Read 2b W. Rogers ss Buckalew 3b Nick DeBiase cf Gregor 1b Karl Marks c Hess lf Jonason rf Adam Westernick p Res. Evigan rf.

St. Mary's

McNamara 2b Conroy lf Clark ss John "Mikey" Carroll 1b T. Zebro c Backus 3b Schultz rf Cheeseman cf Stolte p Res. John "Bing" Miller rf.

2010 Softball Wrap-Up

South Amboy (9-11) Five Lady Guvs belted the ball for a .400 or better batting average. Vanessa Carney led the club with a .452 mark, followed by Mary O'Connor .446, McCleery .431, Larkin .406, Victoria LaVigne .400. Carney led Coach Kim Peterson's SA squad in doubles-5, runs scored-25, while O'Connor was tops in hits-29, RBI-23.

Cardinal McCarrick (7-12) Jen Shereyka, one of the greatest softball players in St. Mary's/Cardinal McCarrick history, topped the Lady Eagles in almost every offensive department including batting avg. .544, (#2 in GMC, #1 in Middlesex County), hits-37, doubles-11, triples-3 (#1 in the county), home runs-4, RBI-30. She was followed in batting avg. by Jamie Williams .458, Wiemer .407, Rebecca Beshada .370, Balon .346. Williams pitched all of the Blue & Gold games, finishing (7-12), but had a very outstanding 140 strikeouts in 103 innings, and a nice 2.24 ERA.

Sayreville (8-14) There were no statistics available for the Bombers, but Katie Dovidaskas was a 3rd Team All-Area outfield selection in Home News Tribune.

Glory Days In Local Sports

2018-In CJ Group 4 1st round baseball action, Sayreville defeated Princeton, 2-0. Christian Aich struck out 10 in 5.3 innings while allowing only 2 hits. Nick Lodzinski was perfect in relief and had 3 K's. Anthony Gambardella and Tommy Kearns had an RBI apiece, and James Ryan laced 2 hits...2022-South Amboy boys baseball hammered Highland Park, 18-4. Gabriel Albarran had a perfect 3-for-3, drove in 2 runs and scored 4. Benjamin Hernandez went 4-for-5 with a double, 3 RBI, and scored 4 runs. Jeremy Vasquez drilled 3 hits and knocked in a run...2006-South Amboy captured the CJ Group 1 baseball title by downing Keansburg, 8-0. Joe Bartlinski fired a brilliant perfect game, the first ever in Hoffman/South Amboy

HS history. Brian Seres had a huge game with a grand slam home run, and also a 3-run homer to drive in 7 of the 8 Purple & Gold runs. Joe Tarallo ripped 3 hits, Jared Mundy 2 hits and a stolen base, and Billy Wanko 2 hits and an RBI...1996-St. Mary's Eagles baseball team under Coach Jim Kazanjian finished (10-9). Jeff Ebner topped the squad with a .454 batting avg., and 18 RBI..1985-St. Mary's girls softball standouts, Jean O'Toole and Debbie Kelton were selected 1st team All-Conference...1973-Walt Rondesko fired a 1-hitter, struck out 8, and also hit an RBI single to lead Sayreville to a 2-1 victory over Hamilton East in CJ Group 4 state tournament play. Glenn Pearson added an RBI double for the Bombers.

American Legion Wins Championship

(Photo/Story reprinted from July 21, 2007 issue)



2007-Champions! The outstanding American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62 of South Amboy baseball team captured the Middlesex County American Legion championship in a thrilling 4-3 win over South Brunswick, on Nick Scarillo's walk-off home run. Pictured bottom row (l r) Ed Goldmann, Nick Scarillo, Rob Applegate, Joe Bongiorno. Middle row (l-r) Kyle Blum, Mike DeJoy, Joe Magnifico, Brian Seres, Adam Szatkowski, Jared Mundy. Top row (l-r) Head Coach Don Applegate, Asst. Coach Dan DeJoy, Billy Woods, Rick McCutcheon, Asst. Coach Kevin Mundy. Missing from photo: Paul Conlon, Joe Tarallo, Joe Charmello, Rob Geant, B.J. Mackiel, Craig Warzecha. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

South Amboy American Legion Wins County Championship

By Tom Burkard

Nick Scarillo blasted a walk-off home run, to lead American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post 62 of South Amboy to the Middlesex County American Legion championship over South Brunswick, 4-3. Brian Seres notched the win with 2 scoreless innings in relief. SA had won the North Division crown by winning a coin toss over Father & Son, after finishing in a regular season tie. The Legion, under the guidance of rookie Head Coach Don Applegate, and assistant coaches Kevin Mundy and Dan DeJoy, have built the greatest team ever in local American Legion ball, as can be attested by its current record of (21-2). Post 62 breezed through its first 16 games, and then dropped 2 in a row, but never got down. Coach Applegate said, "We have a well-balanced team with hitting and pitching, and the best local players. This team is nonchalant, never panics, and is always confident." The club currently sports a mini-winning streak of 5, as it gets ready to head to the state tournament at either Wildwood or West Deptford on the weekend of July 28th. Scarillo was leading the SA "power house" through the first 20 games with 30 RBI and 7 homers. Jared Mundy had 22 RBI, 5 HR's, and Brian Seres 22 RBI, 4 HR's. B.J. Mackiel and Joe Magnifico each had 5 wins. Applegate, who has coached Little League, Babe Ruth, and Traveling teams in South Amboy and Sayreville, has known most of the players for

many years, and they certainly enjoy playing for him. What makes his club so special? "They have a special knowledge of baseball, plus they're great athletes and take pride in the game," he stated. The roster features 18 of the most talented baseball players ever assembled for a South Amboy American Legion team, or any South Amboy club for that matter, as it showcases a powerhouse lineup from 1 through 9 in the order. The well-known and established local high school players on the team include: Nick Scarillo, Brian Seres, Jard Mundy, B.J. Mackiel, Joe Magnifico, Rob Applegate, Kyle Blum, Joe Bongiorno, Joe Charmello, Paul Conlon, Mike DeJoy, Rob Geant, Ed Goldmann, Rick McCutcheon, Adam Szatkowski, Joe Tarallo, Craig Warzecha, Billy Woods. Six seniors will play for Middlesex County College next year, and two for Brookdale. Local fans will be looking forward to seeing them play against each other. Before Opening Day, the team decided to dedicate the season to the memory of Sgt. First Class Benjamin Sebban, a South Amboy resident, who was killed in Iraq. The players have been wearing black armbands with his initials to honor him throughout the year. *Mark your calendars for the weekend of July 28th. Try to get to the state tourney at either Wildwood or West Deptford, and cheer these outstanding SA ballplayers on to victory!

40 Years Ago...

1985-Hoffman's pitching ace, Scott Gumprecht finished with an outstanding (11-1) record, and was Middlesex County's strikeout king with 116 k's on the year. His only loss was a heart-breaking 2-1 contest to Manville in 11 innings in the CJ Group I tourney. He was All-County 1st team, all-everything, and received many other honors for his fabulous season.

Diamond Dust

By Tom Burkard
50 Years Ago....

1975-Progressive Fire Co. captured the South Amboy Little Fellas championship by defeating Enterprise 2 games to 1 in the best of 3 series. In the first game, Rich Schnyderite blasted a grand slam homer, and Tom O'Leary stroked 3 hits to lead Progressive to a 13-6 romp. Enterprise bounced back in game #2 to even the series by pounding Progressive, 11-2, as John Stefanski ripped 4 hits and drove in 5 runs. In the finale, O'Leary smashed 3 hits and had 4 rbi's to lead Progressive to the title. Tom finished the series with a sizzling 8 for 10 at the plate, and also notched both pitching victories for the champs.

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.

Sayreville Flag Retirement Ceremony

(Photos/info submitted)

On Flag Day, June 14, 2025, the Sayreville American Legion Lenape Post 211 Honor Guard conducted the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. The event had over 200 attendees.



Past Commanders Ed Strek (l) and Rich Kosmoski conduct the final inspection of the American Flag and render the flag to be retired.



Past Commander Rich Kosmoski initiates the retirement ceremony.

American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post #62 Flag Retirement Ceremony

(Photos by Mary Szaro)



Veterans prepare for the flag retirement ceremony.



Members of the South Amboy Fire Dept. and veterans look on as the worn, damaged and no longer in use flags are retired.

American Legion At The Bombers Beyond Cafe

(Photos by Rich Kosmoski)



Members of "The Brew Crew" and American Legion Honor Guard.



"The Brew Crew" and Veterans properly folding the American Flag.



Everyone listening intently as Legionnaire Frank Sullivan recites the meaning of each fold as the folds are made.



Presentation of the certificate to "The Brew Crew" as members of the Board of Education, American Legion Post 211. And others look on.

Flag Folding Ceremony

Submitted by American Legion Post 211 Past Commander Rich Kosmoski

On Tuesday, June 3, Sayreville American Legion Post 211 Honor Guard participated in an American Flag folding ceremony at the "Bombers Beyond Cafe" on Main Street in Sayreville. The workers at the "Café" are all students at the Sayreville War Memorial High School and are referred to as "The Brew Crew". The Crew were shown how to fold the flag properly and the meaning of each of the thirteen folds. "The Brew Crew" runs the entire operation of the Café from ordering, receiving, preparing, serving, cleaning, and security. It was a fantastic flag ceremony for

these young energetic students. "The Brew Crew" were also presented a certificate from the American Legion Post Commander Joel Green for their participation in placing over 800 American Flags on the gravesites of our departed heroic Veterans. The Crew placed these Flags at St. Stans cemetery in remembrance of Memorial Day. Please consider stopping in for some delicious morning coffee, donuts, bagels, rolls, etc. and support these dedicated individuals, you will be happy you did!

Bus Trip to Citi Field

Knights of Columbus council 426 "Annual Bus Trip to Citi Field" When: Saturday August 2nd 2025 (game starts @4:10pm) Bus leaves the K of C parking lot

@12:30pm 308 4th Street South Amboy N.J. 08879 Cost: \$160.00 (non-refundable) per person (\$24.00 back in Mets Cash) Snacks for the ride included. Call Ray @ 732 721-2025.





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