Seasons Greetings
THE SOUTH AMBOY ★★★★ SAYREVILLE TIMES

Date: December 22, 2012 PRICELESS Vol. 22 Issue 3

Shore Aid Raises $35,000 For Hurricane Victims

By Tom Burkard

Although the final figures are not in as of yet, "Shore Aid: Supporting Our Neighbors In Need," a telethon to benefit Old Bridge, Sayreville and South Amboy Hurricane Sandy victims, was a huge success, and raised an estimated $35,000 at the event which was held at Old Bridge HS on Sunday, Dec. 10. The telethon, which was broadcast on local Cablevision and FIOS TV channels, and ran from noon to 5 p.m., was hosted by Frank Cipolla, and featured many talented musicians, an auction, and also renowned local, county and state officials and politicians. Several families who were affected by Hurricane Sandy appeared on TV and told their horrifying stories about losing their homes, many precious memories, and much more.

The idea for the telethon originated with Old Bridge resident Sharon Collucci, who works for a TV station in Montclair, where a similar telethon was held. She approached Old Bridge Councilman G. Kevin Calogera with the idea, and then Kelly Ellis-Foster one of the organizers, continued with the planning of the event. In addition, approximately 50 people served on the executive committee and there were over 150 volunteers.

Shore Aid funds are being collected in partnership with the Alumni Path Foundation, a New Jersey 501 © (3) endorsed by the Old Bridge, Sayreville and South Amboy Chamber of Commerce. All donations are tax deductible.

The funds received from the telethon will be divided equally between the 3 municipalities for distribution to those affected. Donations are still being accepted at www.shoreaid.webs.com or mail to: Shore Aid, PO Box 528, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.

Congratulations to everyone involved in any way with this very important telethon to help the victims of the superstorm!

Three-peat! The jubilant Sayreville Bombers undefeated CJ Group IV sectional champions are pictured celebrating their victory over Middletown South, after Coach George Najjar was presented with the championship award by an NJSIAA official. The title was their third in a row. (Photo/info courtesy of Eileen Downs-Giovenco)
*More exclusive photos/ story on pages 17 and 28.

Members of the Mechanicsville Hose Co. pose with Mayor Fred Henry (c) and the trophy for best decorated truck at the recent Tree Lighting in South Amboy. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Veteran Arnold Ziola a member of American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post #62, South Amboy prepares to toss a memorial wreath into the Raritan Bay on December 7th, in honor and rememberance of those killed at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Wisniewski Will Not Seek Governor's Post

Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski, who is the chairman of the state Democratic Committee, has decided not to run for governor in 2014. Wisniewski was regarded by many throughout the state, as the best- possible, potential candidate to challenge Governor Chris Christie next year.

Jean Galinski Jarusiewicz celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 20th with 70 friends and family members. She was born in Sayreville, married Edward Jarusiewicz and moved to South Amboy where she still resides. She raised 3 sons, Edward, John, and Richard, and has 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. She enjoys singing Polish songs. (Photo/info submitted by Lori Lee Szpara (Jarusiewicz)

Ed Paczkowski, owner of South Amboy Foodtown prepares to leave his popular business for the last time after closing the store. South Amboy Foodtown and previously Frank's Meat Market served the local communities for 84 years. See in-depth interview/photos on page 27. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

"Songs For Sayreville" A Benefit On Tap

"Songs For Sayreville," a benefit for Sayreville residents whose lives and homes were devastated by super storm "Sandy," has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013 with an inclement weather date of Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013 from 1-6 p.m. at Bello's Family Restaurant, 1 Roosevelt Blvd., in the Parlin section of Sayreville. There will be live music with The Rockdaddys, F.O.G., The Mike Lefton Express, acoustic sets from Danny Toye and Jerry Smith, and a very special appearance by Sayreville's first-ever garage band, Roger Johnson and The Hubcaps. Co-hosting the event will be Sayreville's own Michele Marzano, well-known female vocal impersonator and Connie's Lounge, Nick DeBiase. This will be a "family event" with drawings, 50-50's, musical items up for bid and the bands will be taking bids to play your favorite classic rock songs. ALL PROCEEDS will go directly to the Sayreville Storm Relief Fund, and a portion of all proceeds from Bello's food and beverage sales will also go towards the fund. Admission will be $10 per person and $5 for all children, Police, Fire, and EMT personnel. So, come hungry and enjoy the great food and atmosphere at Bello's, and let's not forget our friends and neighbors who have been affected by the damage from Sandy…See you there! For more info, call Clem Skarzynski at 732-824-2019.

South Amboy Voters Approve $8.4 Million Bond Issue

South Amboy voters approved an $8.4 million bond that will fund overdue renovations at the elementary school without raising property taxes by a narrow margin of 281-248 on Tuesday, Dec. 11. The mortgage for the South Amboy Middle School/High School was paid off, and Board of Education members and district officials plan to borrow money to repair boilers, windows, and replace or repair roofs and much more on the elementary school, located on John Street. The school was built in 1919 and had additions in 1956 and 1990.

Work will begin in June 2013 and will take between 18-24 to be completed.

School Business Administrator Patricia Martucci noted that district officials were initially considering $16 million for the repairs, but reduced the amount to $8.4 million to avoid a rise in tax.

NEXT ISSUE JAN. 19th

- CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
- SUPER BOWL
- VALENTINE'S DAY

DEADLINES Jan. 7th

FOR ADS CALL 732-727-0398 OR 732-727-1906

Talk Of The Towns

By Tom Burkard

Need A Christmas Gift For Someone Special?

O'Ireland on Broadway in South Amboy has a few autographed copies of G. R. Spiecker's books, "Jill," and "The Wayward Wind," remaining. They're excellent books by the terrific writer from Morgan.

In Memoriam

Stanley Ziobro, 88, of South Amboy died on Nov. 13. He worked 65 years as a butcher, most recently for South Amboy Foodtown. Eleanor Zupko, 85, of Parlin, died on Nov. 23. She was secretary for the Sayreville Board of Education in the high school before retiring in 1991. Prior to that, she was a secretary for Charles Komar & Sons in South Amboy. Robert "Bob" Lucas, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 24. He was the former owner of Olympic Pest Control in Sayreville. Marian Burkard, 85, of Parlin died on Nov. 29. She was past president of St. Bernadette Church Altar Rosary Society, and also past commander of the DAV Ladies Auxiliary Chapter 68 in South Amboy. In addition, she was owner/operator of Marian's Deli on Conover St. , South Amboy in the early 1960's. Prior to that, the business was Lena's Candy Store owned by Lena Weiler. Joseph "Bob" Simko, 80, of Morgan died on Dec. 2. He was a dedicated usher for many years at St. Mary's Church. John Motylewski, 65, of South Amboy died on Dec. 6. He was a member of the Sayreville Emergency Squad and also an assistant leader of Girl Scout Troop 527. George Zulin, 85, of Sayreville died on Dec. 11. He was a member and past president of Morgan Hose & Chemical Co., and former president and member of the Sayreville Health Dept. George was also a member of many other local organizations.

(Continued on page 30)

Pleasant Little Trivia

By Tom Burkard

1. St. Mary's HS Valedictorian in 1997? a. Courtney Kierst b. Mary Paola c. John Coveney
2. In '92, this dressmaker shop was located on Main St. in Sayreville? a. Spools & Threads b. Creative c. Sayreville
3. Where was the Lions Den located in South Amboy? a. South Broadway b. South Stevens Ave. c. John St.
4. St. Stan's new principal in 1992? a. Mary Penkoski b. Judith Dolan c. Mike Hasselberg
5. Received the South Amboy Elks first annual "Citizen of the Year" award in 1997? a. John T. O'Leary b. Betty Leveille c. Leo McCabe
6. This establishment was located on Jernee Mill Rd., Sayreville in '63? a. Jernee Mill Inn b. Hunka Bunka c. Starlight Room
7. South Amboy Lions President in '82? a. John Hulsart b. Robert Pawlik c. James Mulvey
8. Pastor of OLV Church in 1977? a. Rev. Madura b. Rev. Dalton c. Rev. Forker
9. In '64, this TV Sales service was located on Rosewell St. in South Amboy ? a. South Amboy b. Court House c. Waterfront
10. In 1983, where was Greens N Things located at Sayreville? a. Ernston Rd. b. Bordentown Ave. c. Main St.
11. Annabelle's Tavern on lower Augusta St. in South Amboy was originally called? a. Anna's b.Tush's c. Pete's
12. In 1975, where was the Parlin YMCA located? a. Washington Rd. b. Cheesequake Rd. c. River Rd.

Answers
1a 2c 3b 4b 5b 6a 7a 8b 9b 10b 11c 12a.

Bishop Paul Bootkoski, of the Diocese of Metuchen, paid a special visit to St. Mary's Church on Dec. 9th, to express his empathy for the victims of Hurricane Sandy, and urged parishioners to keep them in their prayers and help out if possible. Pictured (l-r) Congressman Frank Pallone, South Amboy Mayor Fred Henry, Bishop Bootkoski, South Amboy Councilman Michael "Mickey" Gross, St. Mary's Pastor Father Dennis Weezorak. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Business Of The Month
Peterpank Diner

Peterpank Diner manager Mary Sohor (l) and waitress Pat Kearns (r) are pictured at the popular Route 9 North business in Sayreville. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

Diner Fed Thousands After Hurricane

By Tom Burkard

Peterpank Diner, located at 967 Rt. 9 North in Sayreville, is one of the finest and most popular diners in the state of New Jersey. The Pank, in business for over 55 years, is family-owned and operated by Alice Panko, her son Alex, and daughter Patty. Open 24/7, 24 hours, 7 days a week, the diner continues to satisfy hungry patrons with outstanding, mouth-watering meals and superb service.

The Pank came through with flying colors following Hurricane Sandy's visit to New Jersey, and was fortunate to regain power at 4 a.m. the next morning. It was a blessing for thousands upon thousands of local residents who had no power, and most of their food was spoiled, with the Pank being the only food establishment open for business. According to Mary Sohor, Pank manager for 30 years, "By 5 a.m., we were open, and extremely busy." Waitress Pat Kearns, who has worked at the Pank for 9 years said that, "There were waiting lines around the building, and we ran out of food. We helped our neighbors in their time of need, when there was no food. I've never seen it that crazy in my life."

Mary said, "It was the busiest I've ever seen in over 30 years. We were very happy to serve the public when they were in need. Peterpank was a place to congregate and share. This was their safe haven. After the storm, it was something normal for them, when everything else was upside down. It's normal for them to be here. People met and helped each other out. Right from here, we were a communications center. Everyone shared information with each other."

Congratulations to the entire Peterpank management and staff for providing food , comfort, and hope to the many needy locals during superstorm Sandy!

Don't forget to get your holiday lottery tickets at the Pank, and if you're not a winner, re-enter the losing tickets in the Pank's drawing once a month, and the winner gets an entire pack of lottery tickets for FREE. Make your holiday a little less stressful by ordering your pies, cakes and homemade cookies from the Pank.

Stop in at Peterpank Diner for the finest dining experience you'll ever have. The Pank is located at 967 Rt. 9 North, Sayreville. Call ahead for orders at 732-721-2850.

Seniors Meeting

The OLV Senior Group will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, January 4 at 1PM in Monsignor Dalton Hall. After a short business meeting we will have our game day. Please being your favorite game to play with fellow members. Light treats will be distributed among the players. Please bring a non-perishable food donation for St. Vincent de Paul Society. Make sure it is not an out of date food item. If you have not yet ordered your sandwich for the January meeting, please call Geri no later than January 2, 2013.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library will hold their winter book sale on Saturday, January 19, 2013 and Sunday, January 20, 2013 from 1PM – 3:30PM in the library conference room located on Washington Road in Parlin. Fill a bag with books for only $8.00. Choose from a great selection of titles with something for all ages. Bags will be supplies by the Friends' group. Book donations can be dropped off for the sale at the beginning of June. Please do not donate encyclopedias or books written prior to 2000. For information, please contact 732-727-0192.

Santa visited the South Amboy Y on December 9th for our Annual "Swim with Santa" event. Children enjoyed games, holiday snacks, and of course swimming with Santa! More photos are posted on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/southamboyy. (Photo Submitted)

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Yearbook-Hoffman 1992

By Tom Burkard

When the Class of '92 returned for its final year in September 1991, Bryan Adams song "(Everything I Do) I Do It For You" ruled the pop charts in the U.S…The Hoffman HS yearbook was titled "Any Questions" and dedicated to teachers Lynn Davis and Tom Gifford. Tanya Yunker was yearbook editor and also of the Literary Magazine…A few faculty members included Robert Dougherty, Mrs. LaPoint, Mrs. O'Brien, and Rich Klein. Rich Gore was the Guidance Counselor.

Some '92 class members included: John Brown, Michael Caputo, Danielle Aramini, Lisa Disbrow, Kelly Flannery, Charles Goble, Christine Hackett, Gina Kay, Margaret Kobes, Pamela Krieger, Michelle Lucovitz, Melissa McCarthy, the late and beloved Timothy Moglia, Dania Musto, Gina Nicorvo, Samantha Picklo, April Pluskota, Michelle Roberts, Jennifer Ramer, Krista Ryan, Aaron Sargeant, Thomas Singura, Walter Schuck, Enzo Torino, Karen Wallace, Laurie Webb, Geraldine Westcott…Michelle Szaliga was National Honor Society President…

A few of the most popular social events were: Photos With Santa; Homecoming; Donkey Basketball game…Some of the talented Purple & Gold senior athletes included: Paul Bouchard, Brian Christensen, Keith Erickson, Patricia Gay, Kenneth Glasser, John Gundersen, David Hess, Jennifer Ingstrup (scored over 1,000 points in basketball), Kevin Kerr, Brian Komski, Aneca Matarangolo, Kathryn McLaughlin, Dennis McQuade, Nicholas Nicholaisen, Brian Noble, Beth Ann Pearson, Amy Poland, Mary Purcell, Gene Ryan, Krista Ryan, Elizabeth Samuel, Kevin Sturgis, Elyssia Wassung, the late and beloved Jeffrey White, Corey Wisniewski, Kevin Wolff, Daniel Wunderlich…Michelle Lucovitz and Jennifer Ramer were co-captains of the soccer cheerleaders…Patricia Gay and Elyissia Wassung were co-captains of the basketball cheerleaders. Amy Poland and Aneca Matarangolo were co-captains of the girls' soccer team…Hoffman High's Class of 1992 had some very fine people who have helped to make the world a better place!

Senior Men's Day Outing

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a Men's Day Outing to Pennsylvania on Wednesday, March 13, 2013. The day trip will include a stop at Cabela's, a tour of Yuengling Brewery, and lunch at Maroons. The cost of the trip is $88.00 which includes all of the above in addition to bus transportation, bus driver gratuity, and snacks on the bus. For further information or to make a reservation for the trip please call Michael at 732-727-7639.

ESL Conversation Groups

The ESL Conversation Group helps individuals 18 years or older speak English with more confidence and ease! People attending these groups should already have a basic understanding of the English language. Focus will be on pronunciation, accent reduction, American idioms, and conversation skill development. Evening sessions will be held in Sayreville Public Library's Young Adult Room starting Tuesday, January 15 from 6:30 to 8:00PM. The group will continue to meet every Tuesday until March 19. Daytime sessions will be held in the Meeting Room starting Thursday, January 17 from 10:30AM to 12:00PM. Sessions will continue until Thursday, March 21. Registration forms will be located at the Reference Desk & in the Lobby. These conversation groups are made possible by the Sayreville Public Library and the Literacy Programs of New Jersey. If you have any questions, contact Alaina by calling her at 732-727-0212 ex. 25 or by emailing her at alainad@lmxac.org.

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Locals Miss Foodtown

By Steve Schmid

The closing of the South Amboy Foodtown store has left residents very sad with the loss of their local supermarket. Foodtown closed its doors 84 years after it opened as Frank's Meat Market in 1928.

Former South Amboy Fire Chief Chuck Pickard said, "It's a big loss for the town. They used to deliver to the seniors. Now you have to get it out of town. It's a big hurt for everyone." He had fond memories of the service. Gene O'Toole of South Amboy also felt the loss. "It's terrible. I go back a good many years with them. I was a customer for 77 years. I go back to the father Frank Paczkowski Sr. The whole family always went out of their way."

Parlin resident Catherine Walsh used to live in South Amboy, and was also disappointed. "It's heartbreaking. It's been here forever. I enjoyed Pector's Rye bread, and they had the best butcher department." Her mother Agnes McLean of Parlin added, "It's a small, compact store, and you could get everything you want." South Amboy's Amy Caputo was also upset. "It stinks. It's so convenient. You forget something and just run out and get it." She misses the meat department and service.

"They always had the best meat, and everybody was always friendly. It's the hometown store," said Lori Zadlock, who used to live near Foodtown on Highland St. and now resides in Sayreville. She blamed the economy, and remembered the great service. "I know almost everybody who worked here. I remember coming here as a kid with my parents. They used to give me money to get things."

Jerry Smith of South Amboy said, "I don't know why this memory sticks in my mind, but once when Foodtown was still Frank's Market, there was a big snowstorm, and I remember Frank giving out slices of cheese saying, "Free slice of cheese to anyone who came out in the storm." Another memory I have is when my daughter Melody was in her preschool or early school age year. We'd drive by Foodtown and check the temperature on the outside of the building and compare the Foodtown temperature to the one on our car thermometer or to temperature announced on the radio. Melody always accepted the Foodtown temperature as the most accurate. She used to say, "I believe in Foodtown."

SA Times publisher Tom Burkard had fond memories of Christmas at Foodtown, saying that, "Ed Paczkowski made it very special for the children with live music playing and a chance to visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus. He really went out of his way decorating the store, and making it a memorable occasion for children and adults."

Trip to Sands Casino

The OLV Senior Group is sponsoring a bus trip to the Sands Casino on Sunday, February 10, 2013. The price of the trip is $30.00 with $20.00 slot play and $5.00 food voucher. The bus will leave OLV lower parking lot at 1:30PM and return approximately 9:30PM. For information or to make a reservation, please contact Geri at 732-257-4351.

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. -E.P..

Students from Sacred Heart Elementary School, under the direction of Ms. Robin Weaver and Mr. Roger Johnson were excellent as they performed 3 Christmas songs at South Amboy's Annual Tree Lighting on Dec. 5th. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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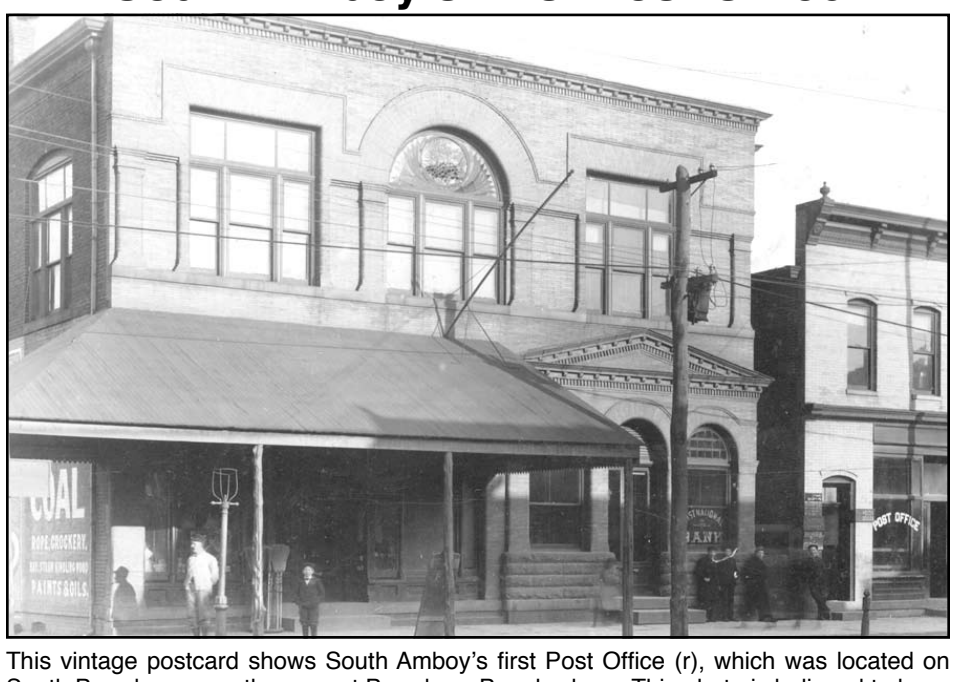
In December, we honor our Girls Club members as the South Amboy Y's "Members of the Month"!
The South Amboy YMCA started Girls Club for girls in grades 5 to 7 to connect over themed activities and interactive discussions that focus on real life issues teenage girls face.
We are honoring these girls for their service to the community. Last month, the Girls Club made crisis kits with hygiene products for victims of Hurricane Sandy. They have furthered their efforts to help hurricane victims during the holiday season with their December Giving Tree, asking Y members to donate new toys to children of displaced families.
The Girls Club meets with the leader, Alexandra every Wednesday and they participate in fun activities such as a workout session, making desserts, makeovers and hairstyles, guest speakers, and many more to come! They will even be taking a field trip to Woodbridge Center Mall to do some holiday shopping this month.
Thank you to the Girls Club members: Kayla, Alexis, Haley, Elana, Salua, Aislinn, Morgan, Erika, Alison, Madison, Fallon, Renee, Kelly, Sheicelly, Emma, Jessica, Aliyah, and volunteer Allyssa for their continued community volunteering! (Photo/Story Submitted)

South Amboy High School October Athletes of the Month

Amanda LaVigne – Cross Country
Amanda is a welcome new face to our Cross Country team this year. After transferring back to South Amboy for her sophomore year, Amanda has energized the Cross Country team making an immediate impact in every race she took part in. Coach Mecca describes Amanda this way, "Sophomore Amanda LaVigne finished either first or second for South Amboy in every dual meet this season. Despite never having run cross country before this season Amanda became the number one runner on the girls' team. Amanda's personal best time of 21:32 is the fastest South Amboy girls' time in recent memory and possibly a school record. Amanda is the future of South Amboy cross country and after a strong performance at the GMC meet has been recognized by rival teams and coaches as a formidable runner to watch next season." Congratulations to Amanda on becoming the October Athlete of the Month for South Amboy High School. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Jacob Anderson and David Lopez – Cross Country
Jacob and David have been a formidable one-two punch for the South Amboy HS Cross Country team. The two boys have been the top two runners for the Governors in each race and have logged many "PR's" (Personal Records) throughout the year. Coach Mecca describes the two runners in this way, "Despite being first time cross country runners seniors Jacob Anderson and David Lopez took the top two places for South Amboy in every dual meet of the season. Jacob was the only runner to break the 20 minute barrier when he ran 19:40 in a meet against rival Cardinal McCarrick. David was never more than 1 or 2 minutes behind Jacob in every race giving the boys team a very competitive number one and two runners. Jacob and David both turned in good performances at the GMC meet and the State sectional meets." Congratulations Jacob and David on being the South Amboy High School Athletes of the Month for October! (Photo/Info Submitted)

South Amboy's First Post Office



This vintage postcard shows South Amboy's first Post Office (r), which was located on South Broadway near the current Broadway Bagels shop. This photo is believed to have been taken in the early 1900's.

Stacey Maher (Principal), Grace Gabrielle and the students at Samsel Upper Elementary School provided a very enjoyable visit and lunch on Friday, Nov. 30th for the Color Guard of American Legion Lenape Post No. 211. Pictured (l-r) Principal Stacey Maher, Walter Balon, Edward Strek, Michael Fischer, Donald Yetman, Frank Sullivan, Arnold Valentino, Edward Pedersen, Kenneth Kelly. (Photo/info submitted)

The SA Times Staff Shares Foodtown Memories

Tom Burkard, Publisher-"Foodtown will always be remembered in the hearts and minds of the people of South Amboy and Sayreville. No one will ever forget the excellent Foodtown floats and military vehicles in parades, as well as the festive Christmas celebrations featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, which gave the children an opportunity to visit with Santa as well as having their photos taken. Ed Paczkowski has a big heart and really loves South Amboy. He has proven it many times with his involvement in various events and organizations throughout the years, and through his charitable nature. Plus, Foodtown will always be #1 in the hearts of shoppers for being convenient and of course for its top-rated meats. I wish Ed and his family all the best, and thank them for everything they have done for the community."

Brian Stratton, Associate Publisher-"As a kid, my grandmother sent me up with a list for items for dinner. I vividly remember the Grand Opening of Foodtown when they first converted the store. The store was crowded and there was a lot of excitement."

Steve Schmid, Feature Writer-"Foodtown was very convenient when we did the Easter Bunny Breakfast at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426. You could always go there for extra supplies when needed."

Al Gomolka Jr., Times Poet Laureate-"My grandmother lived 2 blocks away, and I used to shop for her at Foodtown, and the old Frank's Market before it was Foodtown. She always raved about getting fresh meat there, saying it was the best in the state. They wrapped in the brown meat wrapping paper after they butchered it."

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&
Happy New Year
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Friendship Tree-The "Friendship Tree" which survived Hurricane Sandy, stands tall with all its dignity and grandeur at the Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in South Amboy/Sayreville for the Christmas season. This is the fourth year for this seasonal tradition for everyone to put their memorial ornaments on this beautiful tree. (Photo/info by Joe Lotkowictz)

LIVESTRONG at the YMCA Kicks Off New Session in January

Cancer is a life-changing disease that takes a tremendous toll on a person, both physically and emotionally. The Y and LIVESTRONG have joined forces to create LIVESTRONG at the YMCA, a research-based physical activity and well-being initiative designed to help adult cancer survivors achieve their holistic health goals.

The South Amboy Branch YMCA will be kicking off its next session on January 9, 2013. Throughout the free 12-week session, LIVESTRONG at the YMCA participants work with Y staff trained in supportive cancer care to safely achieve their goals. These include building muscle mass and strength; increasing flexibility and endurance; and improving confidence and self-esteem. By focusing on the whole person and not the disease, LIVESTRONG at the YMCA is helping people move beyond cancer in spirit, mind and body.

For more information about LIVESTRONG, please contact Debbie Martinez at 732-316-8223 or livestrong.-southamboy@ymcaofmewsa.org.

Attention South Amboy / Sayreville Residents:

Sayreville Auxiliary Police are seeking new members to join its volunteer force. Interested applicants must be 18 years of age or older, be able to pass a criminal background check and possess a valid New Jersey driver's license.

Interested applicants can download an application from: www.sayrevillepoliceaux.org, or send a letter of interest to: Sayreville Police Department, Attn: Auxiliary Police, 1000 Main St., Sayreville, NJ 08872.

Include your full legal name, address, phone number and a brief summary about yourself.

Church Schedules For Christmas Eve/ Day

St. Mary Church
Mon. Dec. 24-Vigil Masses for Christmas 5 p.m & 7 p.m.
Tues. Dec. 25-Masses for Christmas (Holy Day of Obligation) 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

Our Lady of Victories
Mon. Dec. 24-Masses at 4, 6, 11 p.m. (Carols at 10:30 p.m.)
Tues. Dec. 25-Masses at 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
Mon. Dec. 24-Daily Mass at 8 a.m.; 3:30-Children's; 9 p.m.-English; Midnight Mass-Polish.
Tues. Dec. 25-Masses at 7 a.m.; 9 a.m. (Polish); 10:30 a.m.; noon.

St. Stanislaus Kostka
Mon. Dec. 24-Masses at 5 p.m. and midnight.
Tues. Dec. 25-Masses at 7:30 a.m.; 9 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. (Polish); noon.

Christ Episcopal Church
Mon. Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Service 9 p.m.

"Miss Jesus"

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 2009

It's only a thought—but…
Does God have a gender?
The bible says God made man and woman
In his own image and likeness—
And if one believes,
God was made flesh in the person of Jesus…
Present day doctrine points to the equality of the sexes—
What's not to say,
That upon the second coming
Jesus, the Savior,
Returns this time as a female!
With God all things are possible…
No disrespect
It's only a thought…

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 (mention 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.) -E.P.

The SA Times Past Christmas Issues Front Page News

1 Year Ago…

2011-The State Superior Court Appellate Division upheld the verdict of Fred Henry as Mayor of South Amboy, by a final count of 1128-1127…The powerhouse Sayreville Bombers football team celebrated winning its second consecutive CJ Group IV championship…Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John F. O'Connell was selected as one of seventeen 2012 Afghanistan/Pakistan (AF/PAK) Fellows at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF)…Sacred Heart School participated in the 2012 Polar Plunge at Sea Bright…Bob "Zak" Sekerak, tossed the memorial wreath into the Raritan Bay to remember those who died at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941…

5 Years Ago…

2007-Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski's bill to create a statewide bridge safety program advanced…Bridget O'Connor was named as one of the 100 most influential women in New York by Crains New York Business Publication…Richard Kosmoski of Parlin was selected to lead the NJ Fire Chiefs Alliance…Cardinal McCarrick HS received a $50,000 grant to complete Phase 2 of its Research Skills Development project…

10 Years Ago…

2002-The NJ Sportswriters Association selected the O'Brien twins, John and Ed to be inducted into its Hall of Fame on Feb. 2, 2003…South Amboy HS students Erin Campbell, Kiera Dorrick, Amy Haug, Patrick Buczynski were recipients of the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars award…St. Mary's High School Sports Hall of Fame selected 12 alumni for a March 29, 2003 induction into the prestigious Hall. Those selected were: Joe Pohl, Robert "Don" "Pep" Bennett, Ray Stockton, Jo Ellen Paczkowski, Luke Lenahan, Lou Lagoda, Eileen Reilly, Sue Wilson, Woodrow "Woody" McCarthy, Jim McCloud, Jerry Gorczyca, Ellen Wallace…Sacred Heart priest Father Joseph Krajewski was promoted to administrator of St. Joseph's in New Brunswick. He had served Sacred Heart for 10 years…Sayreville War Memorial HS students, Kristen Flakker, Colleen Fischer, Montana Barone, Sharon Lasko toured the State House in Trenton, and the Annex and the Office of Legislative Service, as part of an internship they served in the Legislation Office of Assemblyman John S. Wisniewski. Claire Goscienski program supervisor and Christina Montorio, a staff member from Wisniewski's office also attended….

15 Years Ago…

1997-Jane and Bob Redford were selected by the Sayreville Lady Dems to receive its 1997 Community Service Award…South Amboy's Glenn Fallon won $1,000 on WCBS 101.1 FM radio station for the underprivileged of South Amboy and Sayreville. He stated in his entry that he wanted to help The South Amboy-Sayreville Times/South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council 426 with their annual Christmas Dinner for the underprivileged…It certainly helped, as over 100 needy adults and children made the party a huge success…

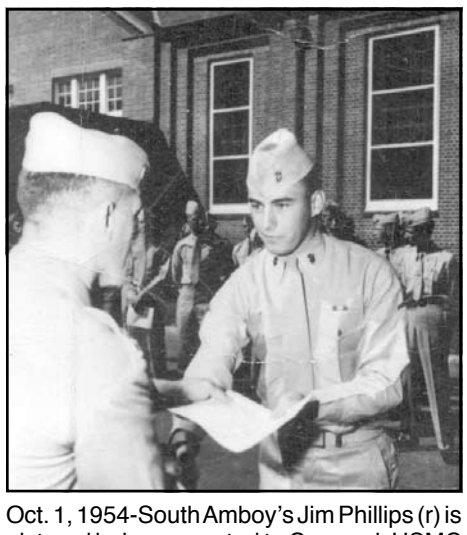
20 Years Ago…

1992-Fred Henry was selected by the South Amboy Democratic Party to replace Craig Coughlin as councilman…South Amboy Superintendent of Schools John Olexa was honored with a retirement dinner at the Holiday Inn at Carteret…

Tips & Tricks for Beginner Computer Users

We are happy to offer this brand new course that will shed light on some computer basics such as: How do I copy and paste? What is software? What is hardware? How do I use folders? How do I navigate through my computer's files and folders? How do I email pictures to my friends and family? And many other topics not covered in our beginners classes! Sayreville Public Library, Wednesday, January 30 from 6:00 to 8:00PM. First preference goes to Sayreville patrons who have not taken this class before. You must know how to use the mouse already to take this class. For more information or to register, email Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org, or call her at 732-727-0212 ex. 25. Adults only, please.

Semper Fi!



Oct. 1, 1954-South Amboy's Jim Phillips (r) is pictured being promoted to Corporal, USMC at Parris Island, SC. Commanding Officer Capt. A.A. Monti is pictured (l). (Photo/info submitted)

Terri Kelly, owner of Garden Friends and Mark Squillace, owner of GKB Landscaping, at the annual Garden Friends tree lighting with Santa. Unwrapped toys were collected for Sayreville/ South Amboy victims of hurricane Sandy. This was the second annual tree lighting sponsored by GKB Landscaping. Many children attended and a fun time was had by all.(Photo/Info Submitted)

2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade Underway

Preparations for the 2013 South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade are underway. This year's parade will be held on Saturday March 9th and will step off at 2:00PM. This event is one of the city's highlights each year. The parade continues to be a success because of donations we receive from our local businesses and corporations which covers the cost of the numerous marching bands that participate every year. Along with the bands, we have many floats and thousands of marchers.

The South Amboy Parade Committee has announced that James Downey, owner of the Landmark Tavern will be serving as Grand Marshal and Middlesex County Freeholder Ronald Rios has been named the Honorary Grand Marshal.

Several fund raisers will be held in the New Year, including Grand Marshals' night celebrating the parade's honorees being held on Friday Feb 1st(place to be announced in Jan 2013 issue), Sunday Feb 17th "Hoist a Pint afternoon" at the Landmark Tavern and Wednesday March 6th "Hoist a Pint Nite" at the Munck-ee Bar. Details of times will be updated in the January 2013 SA times issue.

If you have a group interested in being a part of this great event or for additional information, please visits the South Amboy St. Patrick's Day Parade website at southamboyparade.com or you can contact the parade committee chairperson, Betty Sturgis at rbsturgis@optonline.net

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NEW YEAR
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Bring in the New Year with a healthy attitude & a healthy body!

Try a group exercise class, a new program, or stop by for some lap swimming.

We'll be open from 10am-3pm on New Year's Day so you can start the year off right!

The South Amboy High School Players held their 2nd annual Holiday Idol show on December 18th. The audience was treated to Holiday songs from performers from: OLV school, St. Stan's, Sacred Heart, South Amboy Schools, Sayerville HS and Perth Amboy HS. Brian O'Connor (pictured center with guitar) provided the music for the performers. Pictured with Brian (l-r) are Sophia Murillo from Sacred Heart School who won the 7th and 8th grade category, Lili Poland from South Amboy Elementary School who won the 4th, 5th & 6th category, and Maggie Bera of Sayreville War Memorial HS who won the grades 9-12 category. Great job to all the performers. (Photo By Kyle O'Connor)

Gary Walsh, VP Sales & Client Care for PrintMail Systems; Patrick Hutton, Computer Operations Manager, Amboy Bank and Sylvia Rapoport, AVP Marketing Manager, Amboy Bank get ready to bring a truck load of food to the Old Bridge Food Bank. (Photo Submitted)

Amboy Bank Hosts Annual Food Drive

During the month of November, all 23 offices of Amboy Bank collected food and household items for food banks in their branch areas. Every Amboy office manager selected a food bank to collect for in their community. In many cases Amboy has a strong relationship with the organizations including Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick, the Old Bridge Food Bank and Lunch Break in Red Bank.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the need was even greater. Amboy Bank had the added support of one of their vendors. PrintMail Systems of Newton Pennsylvania arranged a food drive of their own to support Amboy's efforts. Their employees brought in donations and PrintMail matched every dollar that was collected.

Gregory Scharpf, Amboy Bank's Chief Retail Banking Officer, stated "Thanks to the support of our generous clients, neighbors, staff and PrintMail the program has been a huge success. We were able to distribute our collectables in time for Thanksgiving. In light of the ongoing need we will continue our food drive through December."

Founded in 1888, Amboy Bank a full-service commercial bank with 23 offices in Central New Jersey prides itself on quality service and responsiveness. Amboy Bank has been voted "Best Bank in Central Jersey" for the past 15 years in a row.

On Dec. 7th, the American Legion Lenape Post No. 211 Color Guard presented a ceremonial flag to St. Stanisalus Kostka School in honor of our nation's deceased veterans. Pictured (l-r) Charles Marzano, Edward Strek, Richard Kosmoski, Mrs. Gina Foxx (Principal), Walter Balon, Rev. Kenneth Murphy (Pastor), Frank Sullivan, Donald Yetman, Arnold Valentino. (Photo/info submitted)

Dr. Jorge Gonzalez (second from left) presents a $1000.00 check from the South Amboy Business Association to the Hurricane releif fundraiser held at the basketball game between South Amboy HS and Cardinal McCarrick HS. Pictured (l-r) Dave Kales, Gonzalez, Bill Lewis, and Jack O'Leary. (Photo By Brian Stratton)

Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Event

Join the Sayreville Public Library and Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Center on Saturday, January 26, 2013 from 2:00 to 4:00PM as we host a series of fun and interactive events to help you understand why it is important to embrace a healthy lifestyle especially in the New Year. Representatives, including a nurse, trainer, and doctor who run RWJ's community education program, will be in house to answer questions about RWJ and their events, but most importantly, they will share their tips for healthy living. All ages are welcome to come! And even if you are a member of RWJ or other fitness centers, please feel free to come and take advantage of a panel of experts, prizes, food and a workout session! Items on the agenda include a panel of experts who will discuss healthy changes anyone can do to make 2013 the best and healthiest yet! Enjoy a fun and lighthearted game of Jeopardy: the Fitness Edition. Face off with your fellow attendees on questions regarding blood pressure maintenance, cholesterol, good vs. bad, nutrition, arthritis, diabetes I and II, muscle building and toning, weight loss and strength training just to name a few. Winners get some awesome prizes! A proper Health Fair would not be complete without a mini-workout. Enjoy this exhilarating workout led by one of the RWJ trainers in a boot camp style. RWJ will also be doing blood pressure and BMI readings during this fun night. And don't forget refreshments! To register, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org, call her at 732-727-0212 ex. 25, or register right now online!

Commander Bob "Zak" Sekerak (2nd from right) of American Legion Luke A. Lovely Post #62, South Amboy, conducts a memorial service on December 7th in remembrance of all the service men and women who perished in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. The service took place at the South Amboy Boat Ramp, on a rainy and cold afternoon, but it did not stop these loyal veterans from paying tribute. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

SEASONAL MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY

By Elaine Holton Scott

*Victrola, that's what my dad had called our new record player that Christmastime of 1952, just as he would call every other record player until he passed away. Although still a tiny child, I can vividly remember him placing the small suitcase-type container with the player inside of it onto our living room area rug, the one with the big cabbage rose pattern. Taking a 78 rpm from our new pressed paper record album, he gently dropped the record over the spindle before turning on the machine. Lifting the small arm, he carefully placed its needle onto the spinning record, and within a few seconds, the sound of Gene Autry singing *Christmas Choo Choo Train* filled the air…just as he has done in my memory for the past sixty years.

*The sound of car chains deeply crunching into heavy snow, while "doing a duet" with a broken chain as it flapped this way and that way with each rotation of the tire.

*The little "whistly" sound of the freezing winter wind softly blowing through small gaps around windows and doors in those days before insulation, weather stripping, and storm windows were common in homes.

*Seeing the big old mangers in front of government buildings, placed in the same spots they had been placed for so many years before. Even the sight of the manger in front of Perth Amboy's Vocational School, seen from the dirty, steamy window of the old Marathon Bus, was as much a part of Christmas as the many Santa Clauses lining Smith Street.

*The understated glow from single strands of Christmas lights around front doors, occasionally mixed with a glowing Hanukkah window candelabra, bringing a cheerful brightness to the dark winter evenings.

*The clickety sound hunks of coal made hitting against each other as they were shoveled into a basement coal furnace.

*A live Christmas tree being placed into a metal bucket filled with coal for support, and the sound the shaking boughs made as the tree was lifted into place.

*Going to bed on Christmas Eve and worrying Santa wouldn't bring any gifts because your home had no fireplace chimney.

*Icicles hanging from rooftop antennae sparkling in the winter sunlight.

*Making angel wings in the newly fallen snow.

*As a child, wearing pants, long-sleeved shirt, sweater, 2 pairs of socks, snowsuit, rubber galoshes, muffler, mittens, woolen hat, and hood in those pre-thermal years.

*Being warmed by a cup of hot chocolate made with Bosco or Nestles Quik.

*Using the hot oven door to dry clothes or boots wet from the snow.

*Hearing *Silent Night* and other secular Christmas songs loudly playing from radios everywhere before becoming "socially incorrect" to do so.

*Remembering days gone by when Christmas was a celebration of Christ's birth and not a generic, retail holiday used as an indicator of our nation's economic index.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANUKKA, EVERYONE!!

This Month In South Amboy History-79 Years Ago

By Fran Fitzmorris

December 1933-Daylight Bakery opened its doors for the first time on Broadway in the middle of the block between David St. and Augusta St. The original owners were Otto and Edna Doucha. This was probably the best known and loved bakery in the town's history. The last owners closed the doors for the final time in 2009.

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.

An Introduction to Self-defense for Women

Master basic techniques for fending off an attacker! Participants will learn basic jujitsu techniques using little to no strength to ensure you are able to protect yourself. Don't let yourself be a victim. Take advantage of this great, FREE opportunity at Sayreville Public Library! Part I will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:00PM. Part II will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013. You will automatically be signed up for Part II when you register for Part I. You MUST take Part I to be eligible to take Part II. Participants should wear a t-shirt, sweat pants and socks. Adults age 18 and older only. Limited availability so register quickly! To register, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org, call her at 732-727-

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year From

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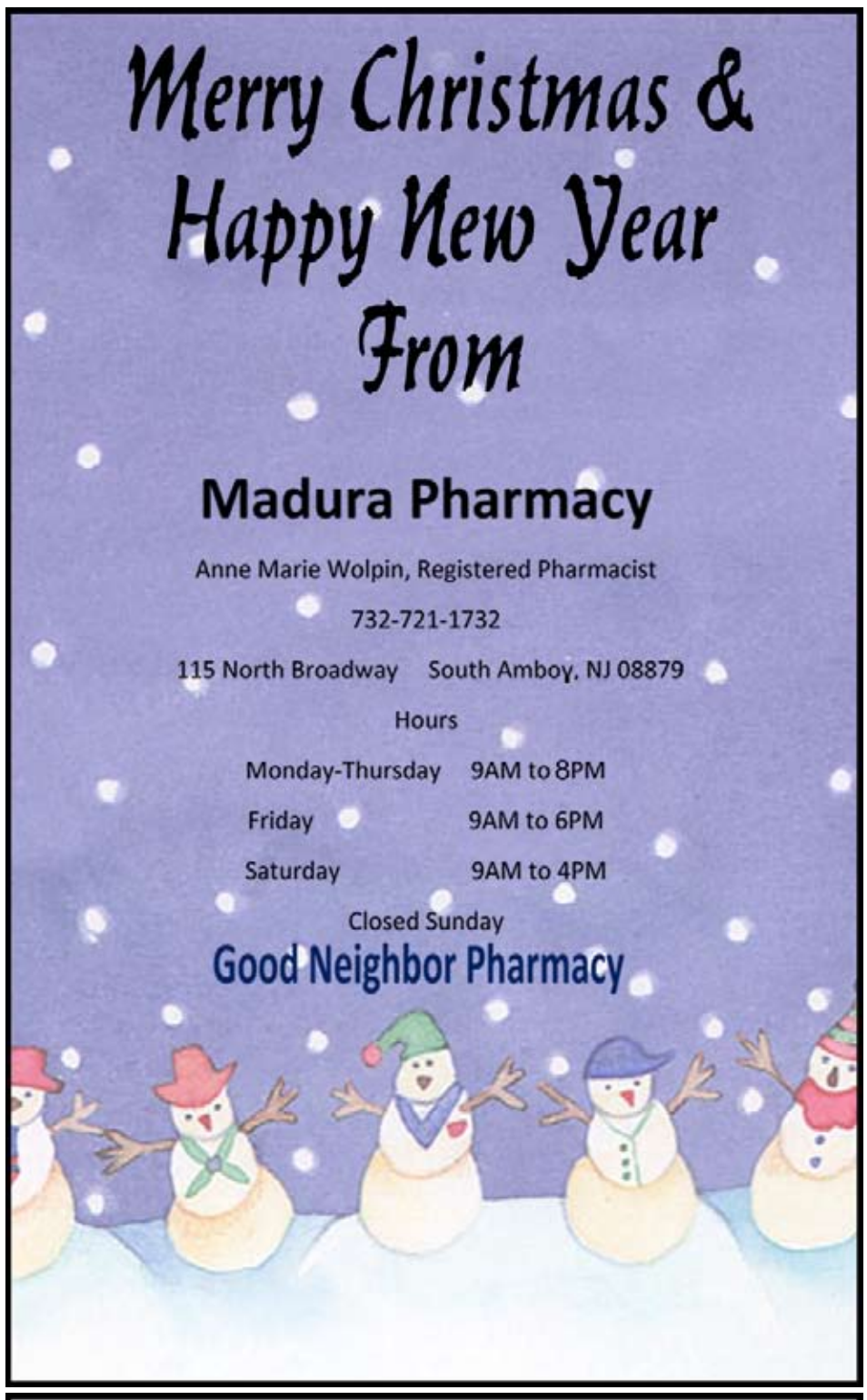

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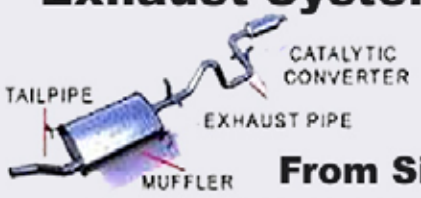

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At its Eagle Board of Review held on October 3rd, Troop 95 was pleased to welcome two new Eagle Scouts. Pictured (l-r) Ed Peterson-Asst. Scoutmaster, Tracy McCarty-Committee Chairman, Robert Pulchny-Eagle Scout, Nick Bellanich-Eagle Scout, John Bellanich-Asst. Scoutmaster. Congratualtions, Robert and Nick on your outstanding accomplishment! (Photo/info submitted)

Red "The Barber" Will Still Cut Hair

Robert "Red" Jankowski closed his shop on 162 Main Street in Sayreville on Nov. 30, because of a change of landlords. Red "The Barber" has been one of the most popular clippers in the area for over 40 years, of which the last 25 were spent at his Main Street business.

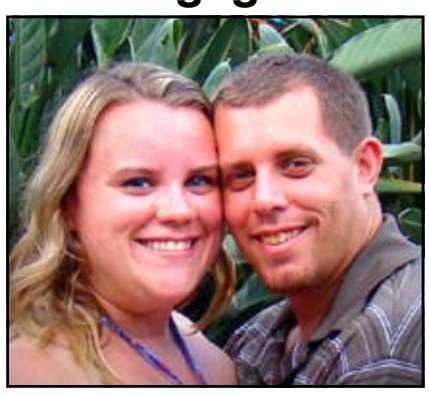
Red, however, has no plans to hang up his electric hair trimmers for the last time, even though he doesn't have a new place for his professional work. He said that, "I'm looking to cut hair for the homebound people that can't get out."

He was notified to evict by November 30. The new landlord purchased the building from the family of the former landlord Benedict "Ben" Porowski died in Oct. 2011. Red said that, "I didn't want to buy it and put a million dollars into it."

Customers or the homebound who can't get out, are urged to call Red at **732-257-2171** to make an appointment for a haircut.

(Photo by Tom Burkard)

Engaged



Mr. and Mrs. David Kulcsar of South Amboy, New Jersey announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristi Annelie Kulcsar, to Christopher John Palma, son of Richard and Diane Palma of Parsippany, New Jersey. The couple was engaged on September 22, 2012 on Hawk Rock at the Ramapo Reservation in Mahwah, New Jersey.

The bride-to-be graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2009 with a bachelor of the arts degree in Literature and dual teaching certifications in English and Elementary education. She is employed as a paraprofessional at South Amboy Middle/High School.

The future groom received a bachelor of the arts degree in Justice Studies from Montclair State University in 2009. He is employed as a Warehouse and Collateral Manager at American Financial Resources, Inc. in Parsippany, NJ.

A November 2013 wedding is planned.

Creative Writing Group

Gather on the third Thursday of every month at Sayreville Public Library to meet with other writers to bounce ideas off of one another or clear that infamous writer's block! Special guest professional writers will join the group from time to time to give advice and talk about their experiences as writers. This month's date is January 17, from 2:00-4:00PM. ADULTS ONLY! For more information, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org or call 732-727-0212 x25.

Sugar Bolk, a 14-year old Jack Russell from Parlin, enjoys her Thanksgiving dinner. Sugar's owners are Ed and Nancy Bolk. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

On Dec. 7th, the American Legion Lenape Post No. 211 Color Guard presented a ceremonial flag to St. Stanislaus Kostka School in honor of our nation's deceased veterans. Left side of photo: Mrs. Gina Foxx (Principal), and St. Stan's students. Back row (l-r) Charles Marzano, Edward Strek, Richard Kosmoski, Walter Balon, Donald Yetman, Rev. Kenneth Murphy (Pastor), Frank Sullivan, Arnold Valentino, Kathy Krolick. (Photo/info submitted)

Pictured above are Brian and some of his students from the Brian O'Connor School of Music performing at a holiday party on 12/1/12 for the Menlo Park Veterans Nursing Home. The group features (back row) Brendan O'Keeffe, Kevin O'Connor on drums, Ron Sutter, Nick Zonak, Brian Batista & Giovanni Spataro. (middle row) Suhani Shah, Alexis Pawlowski, Tyler McCormack, Brian O'Connor & Mark Kocsis. (front row) Micheal Autunnale, D.J. Crocker & Anthony Pesch. A group of talented musicians rocking in the Christmas spirit and bringing alot of joy to this special group of people. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Student Government at SAEA! initiated with Assemblyman Craig Coughlin. (Photo Submitted)

Job Search & Networking Support Group

Are you sick and tired of the constant disappointments you experience while trying to find a job? Share your personal experiences and frustrations with fellow job seekers in this job search support group designed to help people cope with the ups and downs one faces while trying to navigate through a challenging job market. Group members are encouraged to trade job search and interview tips with one another, in addition to establishing a network among their peers to keep one another aware of potential job opportunities. This group will be led by career coaches and experts to provide essential tips and tricks for trying to land a job in a market that can be overwhelming. We meet on the 4th Thursday of every month at Sayreville Public Library from 7:00 to 8:15PM. The January meeting will be on Thursday, January 24, 2013. Light refreshments will also be served! For more information about this group or to register, contact Alaina at 732-727-0212 ex. 25 or email her at alainad@lmxac.org.

Looking Back….To 1970

The Middlesex County Pulaski Day Parade Committee consisted of 10 Polish-Americans from our county. Our two towns were represented on the committee by Grand Marshal of Middlesex County Edward Fielek of Sayreville, Marshal Stanley Mazurowski also of Sayreville, and South Amboy residents, Marshal Theodore Midura, and Adam Rzepka.

Christmas Day

Author Well-Known

On Christmas Day
As the choir sings Silent Night
It's such a beautiful sight
The world seems perfect
Everything is so right

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Birthday Girls

South Amboy sisters, Alyssa (l) and Abigail Berecsky recently celebrated their 4th and 1st birthdays with a "princess" party in their backyard. They looked beautiful in pink gowns along with many of their friends who also "dressed for the occasion." All of the children enjoyed themselves. Their parents Lisa and Robert Berecsky along with proud grandparents, Marlene and Bob Moglia, wish both girls many more happy and healthy birthdays. (Photo/story submitted)

3 v 3 Basketball Tournament at the South Amboy Y

The South Amboy Branch YMCA announces they will be hosting a 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament on Saturday, December 29th at 12pm. The Tournament is open to anyone ages 18+. Must sign up as a team of 3, and all players must wear the same color shirts. All games will be refereed. Please visit the Y's Welcome Desk to register. Please contact Mike Manfre with any questions at 732-316-8208 or mike.manfre@ymcaofmewsa.org.

For Youth Development – For Healthy Living – For Social Responsibility

Relax and let the Y host your child's next birthday party! No fuss, no mess, no worries… Parties can be almost totally customized by you. Try a Y! Party for younger children featuring games, mat play and parachute, or a Make-Believe Sleepover Party for older children with PJs, sleeping bags and a favorite movie. Of course, most children love our Swim/Gym Parties with an hour of swim time, followed by an hour of sports play in the gymnasium. All parties include pizza and party hosts. Dates are booking quickly for 2013, so reserve your child's birthday weekend today! For more information on Birthday Parties, please contact Sherry at 732-553-9622 or sayparties@ymcaofmewsa.org.

Sharing Photos on the Internet!

With the enhanced camera apps on your smart phone and the digital photo boom, it is becoming easier than ever to share photos on social media. Photos receive 50% more engagement than text and they are a lot more fun to share and look at. Come join Social Media trainer, Karlton Utter, at Sayreville Public Library for this informative class that will focus on sharing photos through sites such as Pinterest, Facebook, and Instagram. We will also take a look at sites such as flickr and photobucket that allow you to back up your photos and share them through the cloud. If you like pictures, then this class is for you! Thursday, January 31, 2013 from 7:00 to 8:30PM. To register, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org, call 732-727-0212 ex. 25, or register right now online!

Seasons Greetings from the City of South Amboy

FRED A. HENRY
Mayor

JOSEPH E. CONNORS
Council President

CHRISTINE NOBLE
Councilwoman

DONALD APPLEGATE
Councilman

WILLIAM SCHWARICK
Councilman

MICHAEL "MICKEY" GROSS
Councilman-At-Large

KATHLEEN VIGILANTE
City Clerk

CAMILLE TOOKER
Business Administrator

DARREN LAVIGNE
Chief of Police

JAMIE NOREK
Fire Chief

JOANNE KATKO
Tax Collector

JOHN R. LANZA
Law Director

ELAINE GABER
Library Director

GERALD MAGEE
Acting Superintendent of Public Works

MARY LOU DeBLIS
Superintendent of Recreation

TERANCE O'NEILL
Finance Director

DYNGUS DAY – YOU GOTTA FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHT…..TO POLKA!

By DJ Henny

It all started with a blurb on television last April about the uproar caused by a snide comment by one of the blowhard Talking Heads on talk television demeaning a holiday celebrated by the Polish people living in the city of Buffalo, New York. All I remember seeing and hearing were the words "Dyngus Day" followed by the commentator going into childish giggles based on the sounding of the word "Dyngus". But that display of immaturity was nothing new in what passes for entertainment nowadays, so I just clicked once or twice and got back to looking at my heroes bicker and bid over moldy, sweaty Storage Lockers … back where I belong… the classy stuff.

However, the Dyngus Day rhubarb didn't just go away; the Polish in Buffalo were enraged by this unfair media slight and they demanded and received an apology from CNN's Anderson Cooper for his ignorance. It then came to light that the holiday in question, Dyngus Day, (Dyngus actually being the name of a pagan god representing water and moist earth) is actually Easter Monday, a special day has a long tradition of good cheer in Europe, especially in Poland. The earliest tradition was going to neighbors', relatives, and friends' homes in search of gifts of Easter Eggs and soaking with water anyone who didn't come up with the eggs for you.

Modern innovations of Dyngus Day in Buffalo include giving a hard smack with newly sprouted pussy willows to the object of your affection, the tossing of water balloons, and polka dancing and parties that last until daylight. On Dyngus Day in Buffalo there is a big parade through the heavily Polish East Side of Buffalo followed by a huge Polka Party in the cavernous Buffalo Central Railroad Terminal. There are kegs of beer of course and great Polka Bands, my favorite Polka Band "Those Idiots" changing The Beastie Boy anthem "You Got To Fight For the Right to Party" into, you guessed it, "You Gotta Fight For the Right To POOOLKA".

However, there is one other element of Dyngus Day in Buffalo that has me so psyched that I have decided I must go there this coming Easter Monday to take part in the festivities myself. It's not the dancing. I tried to be a good Polka dancer but I always seemed to just come out mediocre. I just didn't have the snap, pop and hop of a Marie Wisneski or the pivoting glide of a Gus Potts. I can't drink beer with the gusto I had when I was young so I'm not going up there to "tie one on". If I hit someone with a handful of pussy willows you can be sure I'd be sitting in a cell in the main Buffalo lockup trying to explain why they shouldn't put away forever. I'm going up to Buffalo this Dyngus Day because on that Day every single business worth it's salt has a Polka Band playing on the premises.

Not only the Bars.--every Business, Imagine if this was the case in South Amboy on Dyngus Day, the day after Easter. You go into Foodtown.- Polka Band; Amboy National Bank – Polka Band; Madura's –Polka Band; Krauser's - Polka Band; Blue Moon – Polka Band; Sciortino's-Polka Band; Lagoda's – Polka Band; Protection Fire House – Polka Band; Munck ee Bar – Polka Band; Black Betty's – Polka Band (wouldn't that be something?) The Road House Tavern – Polka Band; Big Shots 35 South - Henny the DJ and a Polka Band,(hahahaha), Landmark – Polka Band; Peterson's Pharmacy – Polka Band; Peter Pank – Polka Band; Dunkin' Donuts – Polka Band; Monaghan House – Polka Band. See what I mean? It sounds like heaven, doesn't it?

Go on You Tube. Enter Dyngus Day in Buffalo. Look for me. I'll be there.

The Cardinal McCarrick HS Cross Country team won the Sportsmanship award for their outstanding season in the Blue Division. The girls team finished 14th in the county at the Greater Middlesex County Meet, ending the season with a record of 5-3. Our boys finished 23rd at the Greater Middlesex County Meet, ending their season 2-6. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

Sayreville's standout baseball player Christian Campbell signed a letter of intent to attend Rutgers University after graduating in 2013. Pictured at the signing ceremony are seated, (l-r) James Brown, prinicipal, Mike Novak, varsity baseball coach, Christian Campbell and Rich Gluchowski, vice principal. Standing (l-r) Tim Ballard, Asst. varsity coach, John Kohutanycz,athletic director. (Photo/info courtesy of Eileen Downs-Giovenco)

Open Mic Hurricane Fundraiser
At South Amboy K of C #426
Nov. 30, 2012
Photos By Tom Burkard

Mike Squillace of Morgan is one of the most-talented young sax players around.

One of the top cover bands in the state of NJ, Smoke & Mirrors rocked the house.

Is there a doctor in the house? Dr. Jim Campbell, (l) and good friend and old teammate Tim Kelly sounded great sitting in with Smoke & Mirrors.

Paul Nagy (r) really gets into the song with his outstanding rock band.

Local rock legends reunited at the Broadway Bistro in South Amboy recently. Pictured (l-r) Bill Lotkowictz (Now living in Florida and performing solo), Joe Lotkowictz, Clem Skarzynski (The Rockdaddys), Jerry Mokar (Jobonanno & The Godsons). (Photo by Tom Burkard)

May the Peace and Joy of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year!

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ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI

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"Carteret " Perth Amboy " South Amboy " Sayreville " Woodbridge "

You Tube-In

By Tom Burkard

Some of the best Country songs of 2012 to check out on Youtube.com: Summer Back-Andy Gibson; That's Why I Pray-Big & Rich; I Ain't Your Mama-Maggie Rose; Right Here Now-Scarletta; Drinking Side Of Country-Bucky Covington & Shooter Jennings; Do What Makes You Feel Good-Lucas Hoge; Love Train-Big & Rich; Beer With Jesus-Thomas Rhett…

Give a look & listen to "Country Christmas" by The Front Porch Country Band. It was released in 2009, and is a beautiful song/video. The group's "Christmas" CD was the #1 Christmas song in the world for 44 weeks on the world's largest internet music subscriber system. Don't forget to view/listen to "Where's The Line To See Jesus," sung by Becky Kelley. It's one of the greatest Christmas songs ever written…

Odds & Ends-Bruce Springsteen's right-arm man, Little Steven Van Zandt had an excellent solo release in '82, "Until The Good Is Gone"… The Wallflowers tunes, "The Difference" in '96, and "Three Marlenas" in '97 are both top notch…Two of my favorite 2012 songs are by the group called Fun. The songs "Some Nights," and "Carry On," both deserve a listen or two, or three or more…

#1 Pop Hits-Dec. 22

2002-Lose Yourself-Eminem
1997-Fly-Sugar Ray
1986-Walk Like An Egyptian-The Bangles
1977-You Light Up My Life-Debby Boone
1962-Telstar-The Tornadoes
1959-Heartaches By The Number-Guy Mitchell

Record Donations

The Friends of the Sayreville Public Library will continue its program of record donations. The records must be either 45's or 33 1/3. We do not accept 78's. Please contact Teri at 732-727-7639 for further information or if you have large record donations.

Do You Remember?

1969-The Sacred Heart CYO Dances were held at Parish Hall. On April 26th, a band called "The Flesh & Blood" performed, and on July 26th, a rock group called "This Is It" entertained the local teenagers. Does anyone recall who the band members were in each group. Please let us know. Thanks!

Rock And Rant

By Rev. Buck Daddy Flash

The sky is falling, the world is ending, the planets are pointing to our untimely demise, and the U.S. is about to fall off the "fiscal cliff." So, batten down the hatches and say your prayers, because an ancient civilization said so.

We can all breathe a sigh of relief when we wake up the next day, and realize that we are still all here. That will soon fade with all the pressure that is on us to make sure we are ready for this fast moving holiday season, after we are still reeling from the beating we took from an angry Mother Nature. This leaves us just like the mighty Led Zeppelin, Dazed and Confused.

We must remember to take some of the love from within our hearts and spread it through our family and friends. These may be the darkest days of the year, but, we need to let our "Hair" hang down, put The Fifth Dimension into our lives by knowing that this is The Age of Aquarius, and to "Let the sun shine in." Enjoy!

#1 Country Hits-Dec. 22

2000-My Next Thirty Years-Tim McGraw
1991-My Next Broken Heart-Brooks & Dunn
1988-A Tender Lie-Restless Heart
1973-If We Make It Through December-Merle Haggard
1969-Afraid Of Losing You-Charley Pride
1957-My Special Angel-Bobby Helms

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Sunday, December 23, 2012, 8:00 PM

Black Nativity
Saturday, December 29, 2012, 7:30 PM

New Year's Eve with Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes
Monday, December 31, 2012, 9:00 PM

Christmas Songs Trivia Challenge Part 1

By Tom Burkard

1.__Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	a. Roy Orbison
2.__Blue Christmas	b. Bing Crosby
3.__Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer	c. Elmo & Patsy
4.__White Christmas	d. The Beach Boys
5.__Pretty Paper	e. Bruce Springsteen
6.__Little St. Nick	f. Elvis Presley
7.__Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer	g. Gene Autry
8.__Holly Jolly Christmas	h. Band Aid
9.__Do They Know It's Christmas	i. Burl Ives
10._We Need A Little Christmas	j. Percy Faith

*This should be easy for most. Get 6 answers right and advance to **Part 2 on page 30.** If you don't get at least 6, dig out some old 33 1/3 rpm vinyl records, and give them a listen, while your read the album covers and find out who they're sung by. (LOL)

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

School Sports

(As of Dec. 13th)

By Tom Burkard

Bombers Win Third Straight State Title To Continue Dynasty

The Sayreville Bombers amazing, powerhouse football team captured its third consecutive Central Jersey Group 4 championship, by downing a determined Middletown South, 35-28 in a contest played at Rutgers' High Point Solutions Stadium in Piscataway. The Bombers excelled in all phases of the game, and on the third play from scrimmage, Malik Pressley intercepted a pass, and with less than two minutes into the game, Myles Hartsfield bolted into the end zone on a 15-yd. sweep. Middletown battled back to tie it at 7-7, but quarterback Isaiah Cureton found a hole on the left side and cruised 61-yards for a touchdown, making it 14-7, Big Blue. Cureton then connected on a 17-yd. TD strike to senior tight end Rob Geiger, giving Sayreville a comfortable 21-7 lead after one quarter.

Pressley intercepted an Eagle pass and dashed 98 yards to pay dirt and another Sayreville score, as the locals upped their lead to 28-7. Middletown South scored another TD, and the score was 28-14 at halftime.

Following halftime festivities, the Eagles fought back with another touchdown, cutting the Bombers lead to 28-21. Sayreville scored its last TD of the season in the third quarter, when Cureton broke loose on a quarterback draw play from 4-yards out, making it 35-21. Middletown South scored a TD with 2:25 left on the clock, and as the fans counted down, our Sayreville Bombers reigned supreme by capturing the CJ Group 4 Championship for the third consecutive year, and in addition, became only the third Bomber team in school history to go undefeated with a perfect 12-0 record. The last team to accomplish a perfect year was the '49 squad, who went 8-0. Congratulations, to one of the greatest high school football coaches in the state of New Jersey, George Najjar, his coaching staff, and the incredible Sayreville Bombers football team!

Bomber Notes: Hats off to the Sayreville defense, which also excelled as it did all season. Pressley had 2 interceptions and a forced fumble that was recovered by Hartsfield. Middle linebacker Deion Miller notched 6 tackles, while linemen Thomas Spiecker and Bryan McMahon pressured South quarterback Brey for most of the game. Hartsfield, Cureton and Perkinson also excelled on defense. Other defensive corps members included William White, Chris Tricarico and Robert Geiger. Talented offensive linemen were Anthony Caso, McMahon, Spiecker, Dylan Thillet, Dan Grecco, Geiger, Brian McDonough As a team, Sayreville rushed for 310 yards in 51 attempts…It was the Bombers' fourth sectional title under Coach Najjar, who led them to their first in 1997… Senior quarterback Isaiah Cureton turned in an off-the-charts performance by rushing for 173 yards on 18 carries and scoring 2 touchdowns, passed for 58 yards and a TD, kicked 5-for-5 extra points, and booted 3 excellent punts that helped the Bombers immensely…Senior tailback Zeke Perkinson racked-up 107 yards on 20 carries…In addition to his 98-yard interception return for a TD, Malik Pressley also intercepted another Lion pass…

In the semifinal contest the Big Blue blasted Colonia 42-0. Hartsfield scored 2 TD's on runs of 27 and 33 yards. Perkinson added an 8-yd. touchdown run, Cureton bolted in the end zone from 2-yards out, Deion Miller scored on a 20-yd. TD run, and standout defensive/offensive lineman, Thomas Spiecker blocked a punt and raced 36-yards for a big Bomber touchdown. It was his second TD of the season.

Girls Bowling

Cardinal McCarrick (4-0) The defending Group I state champion Lady Eagles are playing very well to start the season. Katie Latham, Katie Rose Noble, Kristen Pianka, and Asia Howard are leading the way.

Sayreville (2-3) Chantelle Glowacki, Ara Herrera, Mary Kate Kersting, and Keri Pentek have rolled well so far.

South Amboy (0-4) Brandie Charmello and Caitlin Toomey have been leading the Lady Guvs.

Boys Bowling

Sayreville (5-0) It looks like another awesome year for the Bombers, as Jay Ciszewski, Kevin Nettler, A.J. Angotti, and Mike Bernstein have been outstanding.

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's (1-1-1) Ryan Zsamba and Zack Durso lead a balanced bowling attack.

South Amboy (1-3) Phil Oppenheimer, Alex Van Reek, Jake Piazzolla, and Mike Pagan lead the Guvs.

Sayreville Bowlers Win Tourney

The Sayreville boys bowling squad proved that it is one of the most talented in the state, by capturing the prestigious Warren Wheeler Memorial Tournament at Jersey Lanes in Linden. Missing standout player, Jay Ciszewski and one other starter, the Bombers of Coach Mike Weinert, overcame all obstacles, and rode an outstanding 701 series by A. J. Angotti, which was the highest in the tourney that featured 20 teams. Angotti also rolled the third highest game with a superb 275. Congratulations, Bombers!

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's Look Forward To Great Season

The Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary' girls bowling team under the coaching genius of Maureen Jones is hoping to roll to another outstanding season. Jones, now in her tenth year, guided the Lady Eagles to the Group I state championship last season, the first state crown for the Augusta Street school. In addition, her squad finished a perfect 15-0 in the Blue Division, marking its third successive undefeated season in the division. The Blue & Gold advanced to the final of the Tournament of Champions (TOC), but bowed to a powerful Manchester Twp. In 2011 the locals made it to the GMC tournament semifinals, and in 2010 fell in the quarterfinals.

Despite losing last year's GMC individual champion Nicole Higgins, CM/St. Mary's will feature many talented bowlers to hopefully roll them to another highly-successful campaign. Katie Latham, Katie Rose Noble, and Asia Howard appear ready to carry the torch of highly-competitive Lady Eagles bowling.

Bielak Gets A Full Boat To Notre Dame

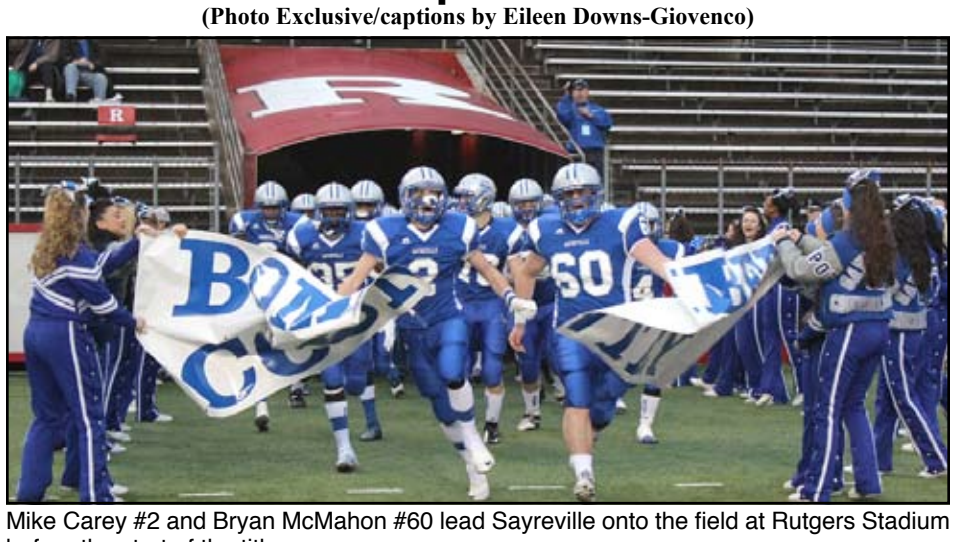
St. Joseph's super pitcher, junior Brandon Bielak, who resides in Sayreville, made a non-binding agreement to attend the University of Notre Dame on a full athletic scholarship. Congratulations and best of luck Brandon!

Remember When?

If you took 10 shots in a basketball game, some people would call you a gunner. Well, recently, Jack Taylor poured in 138 points in one game to break the NCAA record by 25 points! His team Grinnell (Iowa) College romped by a 175-104 margin over Baptist Bible, in a historical contest held at Grinnell. Jack connected on 52-of-108 shots overall, 27-of-71, 3-point attempts, and was 7-10 on the free throw line. Taylor is a 5-10, 170 lb. soph from Black River Falls, Wisconsin.

Sayreville Bombers Win Third Straight Group IV Title

(Photo Exclusive/captions by Eileen Downs-Giovenco)



Mike Carey #2 and Bryan McMahon #60 lead Sayreville onto the field at Rutgers Stadium before the start of the title game.

Players from Sayreville and Middletown South shake hands before the coin toss.

The Sayreville Bomber fans are pictured having a great time cheering on their hometown heroes.

Bombers' Mike Carey hoists championship award to lead the team as it celebrates its third straight title.

(Continued on page 28)

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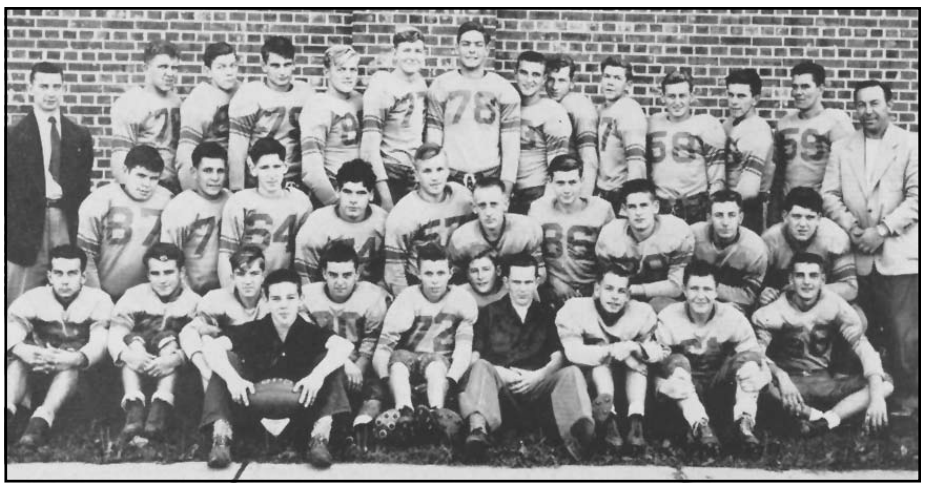
The Local Sports Memory Machine

By Tom Burkard

From The Sports Archives



1949-Sayreville's last unbeaten team finished 8-0, as it played a much shorter schedule than today's teams. The championship Bombers pictured bottom row (l-r) Tom Vazquez, Fran Nugent, Gene Sempkowski, Bob Rhatican, Walt Zamorski, Gene Logan, Don Karwatt, Tom Covert, Al Bailey, Bob Evanovich, Stan Bonczek. Middle row (l-r) Coach John Gutkowski, Joe Rudy, Ed Podbelski, Dave Ritter, Jim Halsey, Frank Kuc, Joe Schmidt, Walt Kurczeski, John Lytkowski, Stan Wojcik, Pete Tilquest, Head Coach Vince Abbatiello. Top row (l-r) John Sinuk, Edwin Johanson, Ed Mosakowski, Matt Prusik, Bob Janicker, Charlie Kolakowski, Rich Ritter, Ron Burkshot, Ed Przybylko, Dennis Connors, Al Draeger.

The Blue & Gray outscored their opponents 226-38 on the season, while Draeger was the Middlesex County scoring champion with 105 points. He and Prusik were selected for the Perth Amboy Evening News All-County First Team. Mosakowski was a Second Team pick as an end, and Vazquez- Third Team Guard, and Kolakowski -Third Team back.

Sayreville 1958-65: A Hot-Bed For Basketball

Sayreville's Tony Miklaszewski took us on a trip down memory lane, and recalled that the old Lincoln School, across from Spinelli Ford on Washington Road in Sayreville was "A hot-bed of outdoor basketball from 1958-65. The court had no lights and it was a rather rough surface. "Easer" Cox would wear out a pair of sneakers in less than 2 weeks. Jay Derent lived two houses away, and Bob Nita was next door to Jay. Mike "Leo" Lyons was a regular as was Bob "Chib" Suminski and Jay "KI" Kukulski. "Wild" Bill Mandy, Ron "Mucki" Ciszewski, Joe Demetski, Ron Kuran, Dave Wohl (From East Brunswick, who played in the NBA), Tom Lewinski, Fred Popowski, Bill "Moose" Connors and many others made frequent appearances.

There was no bottle water and we drank from a garden hose on the side of Spinelli's. I remember playing games until 100 points in the heat of the afternoon."

Publisher's Note: Great memories of the good old days, and the very gifted basketball players (mostly from Sayreville) who went on to standout high school careers and beyond. Thank you, Tony, for taking the time to share your fond memories with The SA Times readers.

Munn Played For Champs

Don Munn Sr., 82, of South Amboy died on Dec. 3. He was a fine infielder on the 1945 Hoffman HS baseball championship team. In addition, Don was a former captain of South Amboy Fire Dept., Progressive Fire Co.

1967-Hoffman HS senior Billy Clayton (r) became the second Governor in school history to score 1,000 points. Coach Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski (l) proudly presents his star with the game ball.

Ogborne Remembered

George Ogborne, 75, of Morgan died on Dec. 2. He was an excellent basketball player in the South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball League on the South Amboy AA team for many years, playing into the 1970's. George was known for being a very tough competitor and strong rebounder, who always scored in double figures. In 1971, he finished 10th in the league in scoring with 182 points, and a 13.0 avg. While competing in the SA Slow Pitch Softball League, also for the SAAA, he was a good first baseman and power hitter. Ogborne was with the US Navy Submarine Force during the Korean War, and later worked for JCP&L for 37 years before retiring. He was a great guy who will always be remembered.

50 Years Ago

1962-Sayreville football players received recognition from area newspapers. Ed Gorchinski was selected 1st Team All-County end by The Home News. Marty Szarvas was a 2nd Team back, and John Tyskiewicz was a 3rd Team tackle selection. All three received the same honors from the Perth Amboy Evening News. The Sentinel newspaper selected its first All-Area team that included Bombers' stars, Gorchinski-left end, Walt Keller-center, and Marty Szarvas-fullback. Sayreville finished (3-6) under Coach Homer Dill.

More On Morgan Merchants

Last month's article "Morgan Merchants/Lions Remembered, which was Mark O'Connor's memories about his team from the early 1960's that played in the South Amboy Babe Ruth League also brought back memories to Walt Hermann of Parlin. He sent an e-mail saying, "I was a catcher on the Morgan Merchants, and I remember that Russell Clune played third base. I sure wish I could remember some of the other guys who played, but it was such a long time ago."

*Could anyone help Walt by naming some other players from the Morgan Merchants or Lions?

Glory Days In Local Sports

1948-St. Mary's boys' basketball team ripped St. Rose, 73-50. Ray Stockton led the way with 15 points and had plenty of support from John & Ed O'Brien, who notched 14 apiece, and Jerry Connors 12 points. 1954-Sayreville won its opening round Group I state tourney game over Metuchen 51-50 on a driving layup by Bobby Shorosky with less than a minute left. He finished with scoring laurels by dropping in 17 points, while Stan Kojkowski hit for 12. 1964-Jeff Osowski poured in 30 points to lead Sayreville to an 83-73 win over Perth Amboy St. Mary's powerhouse basketball team. Bob Nita followed with 17, Wally Senkowski 15, Bob Kupcha 10 and John Karlowitz 10. Jerry Paluch, the Lions big gun tossed in 27. 1978-Henry Hudson hammered Hoffman boys' basketeers, 76-55 in a CJ Group I first round contest. Bob Clayton tossed in 14 points, and Frank Kuziemski scored 12 and ripped 10 rebounds. 1983-Hoffman girls' basketball squad beat Middlesex, 46-43 in the CJ Group I quarterfinals behind a strong 19-point performance from Nancy Garsick. Hoffman boys basketball team opened the season with a thrilling 53-51 victory over Piscataway Tech. Charlie Honimar connected on a huge 3-point play with 0:20 left to win it. Joe Salkiewicz led the Guvs attack with 22 points. 2000-Kaitlyn Katko fired in 24 points to lead St. Mary's girls' basketball team to a 44-21 opening game triumph over Monroe. Erin Kilduff added 11 tallies for the Lady Eagles.

T.H.E. Game

Year-1952
Sport-Basketball
Teams-Hoffman (3-0) vs. Sayreville (0-1)
Recap-Bill Kurtz drove in for a clutch, game-winning layup with 0:01 left to give Hoffman a thrilling 59-57 victory over Sayreville. Kurtz also hit a huge set shot at the end of the third quarter to put the Purple & Gold ahead 45-43. The Guvs were led by Jim Inman with 20 points, Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski 15, and Don English 10. Joe Rudy topped the Bombers with 20 markers, Stan Kojkowski 17 and John Callahan 11.
Boxscore
Sayreville 57
Rudy 20 Kojkowski 17 Callahan 11 Dave Ritter 6 Charley Kolb 3 Stan Marcinczyk 0 Keenan 0.
Hoffman
Inman 20 Tomaszewski 15 English 10 Kurtz 7 Bob Munck 7 Gary Stratton 0 Meszaros 0.
Players-of-the-Game-Bill Kurtz, Jim Inman.

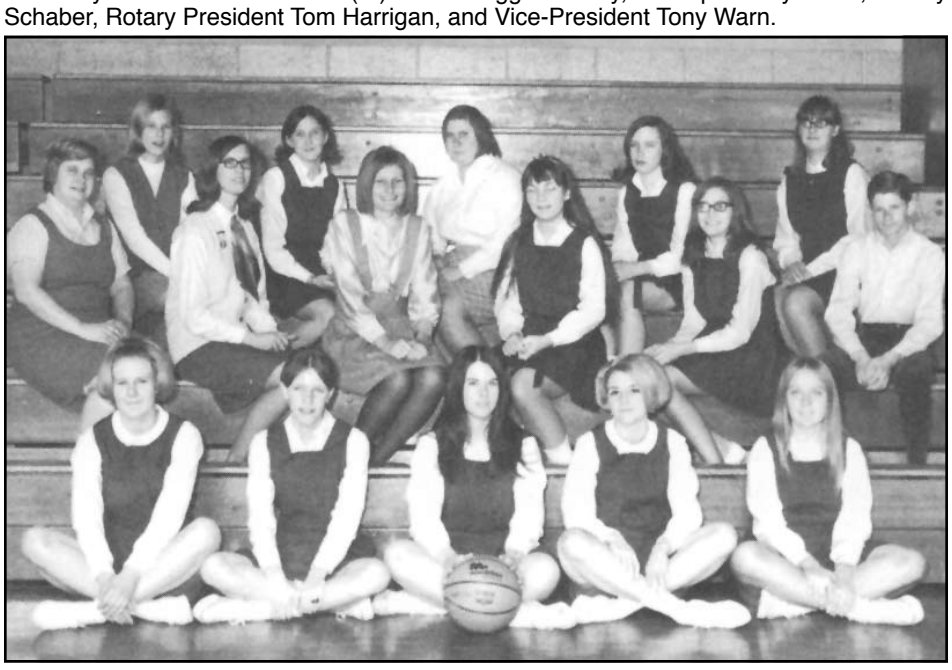
55 Years Ago

1957-Sayreville won the first Holiday Festival Tournament by defeating Metuchen, 56-40.

Did You Know?

Sayreville High School featured its first track team in 1958 under Coach Ed McGarigle, who did a fine job for several years.

1985 State Champions-The South Amboy Rotary Club presents a plaque to Hoffman High's girls' basketball team in recognition of winning the 1985 Group I State Championship. The title was the first of 5 consecutive state championships under Coach Carney. The players, coaches and managers were honored at a luncheon sponsored by the Rotary Club at Clare and Coby's Restaurant. Pictured (l-r) Coach Reggie Carney, Co-Captains Lynn Ust, Tammy Schaber, Rotary President Tom Harrigan, and Vice-President Tony Warn.



1969-Hoffman High's girls varsity basketball team consisted of bottom row (l-r) Linda Kojzar, Ruth Bloodgood, Wendy Romer, Denise Jedwabnik, Kathy Baranowski. Middle row (l-r) Coach Miss Search, Kathy Kubinak, Chris Zavodsky, Janet Shaluha, Peggy Mundy, manager Bill Parsons. Top row (l-r) Sharon Nemeth, Colleen Switzer, Carol "Pinky" McCarthy, Mary Ann Chonsky, Kathy Bouchard.

Sandy's Remnants...Now Recovery Begins

(Photos by Tom Burkard)

Debris from Hurricane Sandy is piled high on Rosewell St., South Amboy.

Another look at the aftermath on Rosewell St.

Members of the Mormon Church Helping Hands volunteer group from Maryland are hard at work cleaning up after the hurricane on the corner of Henry and Rosewell Streets.

Timber! A Mormon Helping Hands worker runs to get out of the way of a falling tree cut down by a co-worker.

Remnants of Hurricane Sandy at the curb on Miller Ave. in Sayreville.

Once treasures of a Sayreville family, and now sadly ruined by superstorm Sandy.

McArthur Ave. in Sayreville also suffered devastating damage.

John Belew, his wife Elizabeth and sons, of Rising Sun, Maryland, who are friends of Paul and Mary Bouchard of South Amboy, took it upon themselves to collect a huge trailer load of items from 5 other towns in MD, to bring to the victims in South Amboy. The Bouchards, and son Jon, along with the Belew family and Dawn Matthews are pictured prior to unloading the trailer at the Munck Building on lower Main St. Elizabeth said that "It's something God told us to do."

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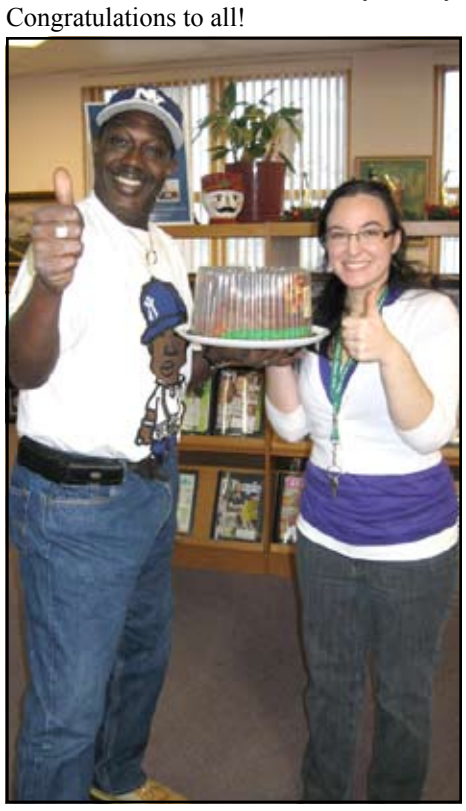
WWW.?

This is our final "Mystery Photo" for 2012. The picture was taken locally in 1987, and the business is no longer in existence. Good luck! The 2012 champion will be pictured in the January 20th issue.

November Winners

The correct answer for last Month's mystery photo was either the Raritan River Railroad Roundhouse or Raritan River Railroad Engine House which was located by Catherine Street at the end of South Stevens Ave., near Bordentown Ave. in South Amboy. There was only one incorrect answer: the Raritan Valley Railroad Barn.

The winners were: Glenn Fallon, Pete McIntyre, Joe Prusik, Matt Prusik, Chuck Pickard, Marian Mills, Tommy Parsons, W. Tom Kross, Charlotte Sadowski, Peggy Yuhas, Pam Kenny, Charlie "Nonnie" Nonnemacher, Jerry Celecki, Pat & Bill Scully, James Creed, Betty Silvaney, Joan Fulham, Bill "Biff" McKeon, Marc Matuskiewicz, Estelle Pluskota, John Harris, Lynn Loy. Congratulations to all!



Pernell Parham won the Sadie Pope Dowdell library's drawing for a turkey cake during the Thanksgiving weekend! Staff member Jessica Festini presented the cake. (Photo Submitted)

Hospital Picture

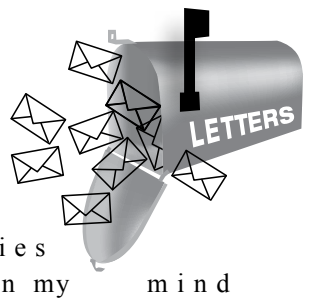
A photo last month showing South Amboy Memorial Hospital employees with turkeys at Thanksgiving, caught the attention of Rose Celecki of South Amboy, who worked there at the time. She told her husband Jerry that "The picture was probably taken in the 1980's, and the people in the shot were John O'Brien, Head of the Laboratory, Sarah Brown, Head of Housekeeping, Ronnie Pado, Executive Secretary to J. Ryan, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and Mike ?, from the Transportation Dept.

Movie Matinee

Sayreville Public Library offers its monthly movie matinee on Friday, January 25, from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Enjoy popular movie hits on our 84" x 84" screen and fresh popcorn from our popcorn machine! Watch a movie and meet fellow movie enthusiasts! Check our website at: www.sayrevillelibrary.org to see this month's selection and to register. Adults only, please. Contact Alaina by phone at 732-727-0212 x25 or email alainad@lmxac.org for more information!

Mensa Testing

It's time to show the world that you're simply brilliant. You can start by answering a simple question: Do you like to take tests? If so, take the Mensa Admission Test! Are you 14 to 18 years old? You will need a guardian's signature. Our testing fee is $40 (U.S.) cash, check, debit or credit card. Bring photo ID and 2 pencils. You can also join Mensa by submitting a qualifying score from a standardized intelligence test you've taken previously. Sayreville Public Library, Saturday, January 12 or Sunday, January 13, 2013. Candidates should arrive no later than 9:45AM on the Saturday test date. The test will start promptly at 10AM and end at 12PM. Candidates should arrive no later than 1:15PM on the Sunday test date. The test will start promptly at 1:30PM and end at 3:30PM. To Register: Contact the Central New Jersey Testing Coordinator. E-mail testing@cnj.us.mensa.org. Walk-ins are welcome!



Tom,

When I saw the WWW.? picture, memories sparked in my mind and brought back those summer days when us kids would roam the neighborhood looking for "whatever" just to pass the time. When you take Stevens Ave. to the end and cross Bordentown Ave., under the red blinking light, you come to a side street with a hill going down into a wooded area. I can remember investigating the wooded area only to find Trains! Yes, a roundhouse filled with some trains kind of scared me as a young 12-year old boy. The trains from the perspective of a kid were huge. The sound of the train is fixed in my memory. I did not want to get close yet, I would wait for the train to disappear, only to run across the front of the station and peek inside. Yes, this was part of growing up in South Amboy, and it was wonderful to be able to ride my bike, walk the streets, play sandlot baseball at Vets, and simply grow up with dreams yet to be fulfilled.

Thank you for the picture and for wonderful childhood memories of those summer days growing up in SA.

Sincerely,
Dennis Nardone
(Formerly of South Amboy)

Tom,

I believe the mystery photo is the Raritan River Railroad Roundhouse at the bottom of Stevens Ave. There was a turn -around table located in front so that train engines that needed repair would enter one way into the shop, whereby after repairs, the engine would enter the turn around and head back to its normal job of carrying freight and such to Sayreville (DuPont & Hercules, and beyond, etc.).

Former St. Mary's HS Hall of Famer, Ray Stockton was General Manager at one time before his death. Mr. Hartman, my former John St. neighbor, who worked there back in the 1930's-1940's, repaired my bike fork many times in that shop.

I really enjoy your newspaper! It's about real people.

Bill "Biff" McKeon
(Formerly of South Amboy & Sayreville)
Indiana

Hi Tom,

Have a great holiday and thanks again for a great year of news and entertainment.

Lynn Loy
Morgan

Dear Tom,

I enjoy your issues so much! I still see so many people we grew up with in the issues.

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays,
Ann Travinsky
(Formerly of South Amboy)

Tom,

The story and photo's by SA Times intern Allyson Keegan in the Nov 2012 edition were outstanding. I think you found a diamond in the rough. Congradulations Allyson!

Joe Lotkowictz
South Amboy

Readers Feedback On SA Times Hurricane Sandy Special

Mary Ellen Subjack Mauro (Formerly of South Amboy) "Thanks for the photos! I wondered how my hometown did in the storm."

Jerry Smith (South Amboy) "The South Amboy-Sayreville Times has done a great job of documenting the effects of Hurricane Sandy. It's the best photographic work of any publication covering this event I've seen so far."

Rod Timmons (Formerly of Sayreville) "Living in Florida myself, I have obviously not seen this edition yet, but I'm sure it is the best depiction possible if Tom Burkard had anything to do with it. I hope all my fellow New Jerseyans are well and safe and on the mend."

Sandra Franconero Taylor (Formerly of Sayreville) "Thanks for the link and the photos. I too live in Florida. My dad's old house was in one of the pictures, and I'm glad to see it survived."

Betty Lounsbury Silvaney (Formerly of South Amboy, now residing in PA) "I hope all are recovering from the storm. Those were incredible pictures of the damage you published in The SA Times. We here in Pennsylvania are with you all and hope you get back on your feet soon. Best regards to all the people in "The Pleasant Little City."

Maureen Wlodarczyk (Formerly of Sayreville) "The hurricane coverage you did was excellent!"

Pete McIntyre (Formerly of Morgan) "Your coverage of the Sandy disaster was very good, thoughtful, and well done. The photos of the damage were to the point, but not graphic or exploitive. Good job. As bad as it is in South Amboy, the damage here in Monmouth County is heartbreaking. Keyport was heavily damaged, but Union Beach was devastated, and the further down the coast you go, the worse it gets. Ye Cottage Inn has survived many storms, but I am not sure it can come back from this. There is only a shell left. So many people have heavy damage to their homes and or lost businesses. At least I don't know anyone who lost a life. Stuff can be replaced, but not lives."

Glenn Fallon (Formerly of South Amboy) "Another great edition! It was sad to see the devastation in South Amboy and Sayreville, but thanks for the chance to see it."

Ray Andrejewski (formerly of Morgan, now residing in CA) "Great job on the hurricane coverage. So sad. Your photographs are excellent!"

Walt Hermann (Parlin) "I love the newspaper and look forward to seeing it every month. The coverage you did on the hurricane was outstanding! Please keep up the great work!"

Vintage Cheerleader Photo

The excellent cheerleader picture from long ago in the November issue still remains a pretty big mystery, although Linda Larsen Szatkowski of South Amboy identified her mother Eleanor Lorraine Geant Larsen, who was the 4th from the right, and also Hazel Berry Mount, who was 5th from the left. Linda also said that she believed the cheerleaders were from the 1946 or 1947 squad. Can anyone else help identify the girls from way back when?

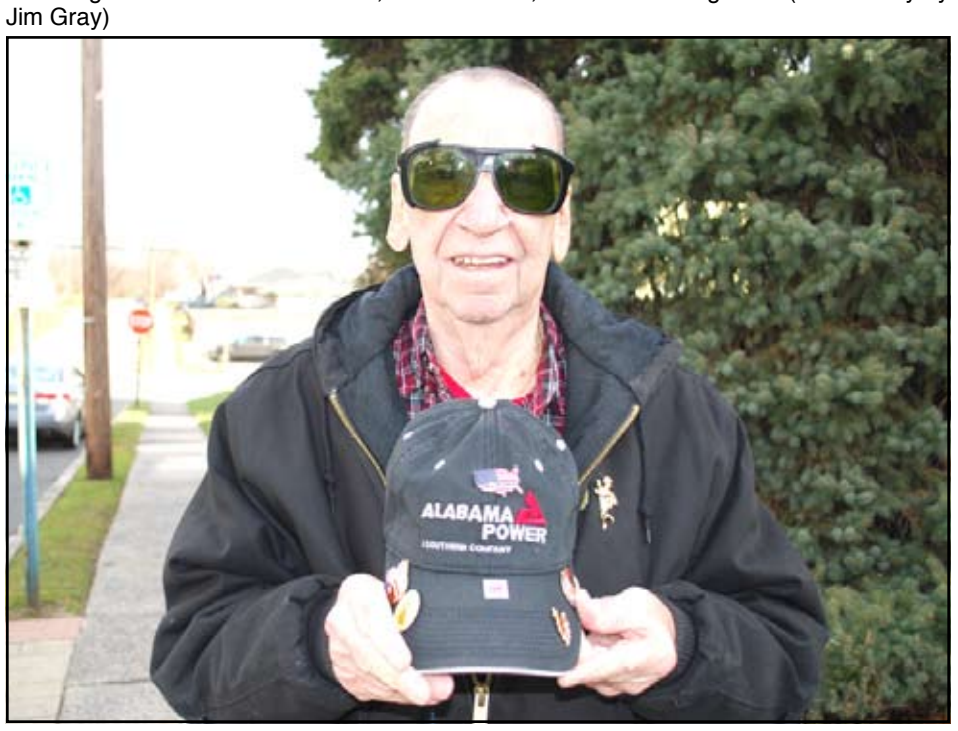
Computer Mouse for Beginners

This is the ultimate in beginners computer courses and an absolute prerequisite for those wanting to take our other computer courses. Learn how to use the mouse in Microsoft Windows 7. First preference goes to Sayreville Public Library patrons who have not taken this class before. Monday, January 28 from 6:00-8:00PM. For more information, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org or call 732-727-0212 ex. 25. Adults only, please.

Scrabble Club

Join us at Sayreville Public Library on the first and third Friday of every month to play a few rounds of Scrabble. This month's dates are January 1st and 18th, from 1:30-3:30pm. The library has a Scrabble Board, but you may bring your own also. No need to sign up in advance, just show up and make new friends! If you have any questions, email Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org or call 732-727-0212 x25.

The city of South Amboy breathed a sigh of relief when a convoy of Alabama Power trucks pulled into South Amboy to help restore power following Hurricane Sandy. Pictured (l-r) are our good friends from Alabama, Robert Smith, and Lance Raughton. (Photo/story by Jim Gray)



Retired PSE&G employee, Jim Gray of South Amboy proudly shows his Alabama Power hat he received in a trade with the foreman of Alabama Power. Jim swapped a PSE&G hat to acquire this beauty. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Bar News & Entertainment

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Call For Details

Friday
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Thank you to everyone that has participated in all of the fundraising we have been doing for the Sandy relief fund. Without your help we would not have been able to raise as much and help so many people!!

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Merry Christmas from
South Amboy American Legion
Luke A. Lovely Post #62

At this time of the year when we are safely at home spending time with our families let us remember those who do not have that luxury since they are away fighting to keep America safe. Even with the letters, care packages and the occasional phone call that our men and women in the Armed Forces receive they will be especially lonely and will miss their families more now than at any other time of the year. Please keep them and their families in your hearts and prayers during this holiday season! If you know of a family that will be celebrating without a loved one please reach out to them to see if there is anything that you can do to help make their Christmas brighter. In order to show your appreciation to the Veterans at home shake their hand and thank them for serving this great Country that we live in when you see them on the street or while out shopping.

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Fishing Flashes

By Teo "Weebles" Weber

Salt Water

The big storm Sandy came and went, changing the fishing after its destructive path. At nearby Cliffwood Beach I saw one keeper and a short Striper caught a few nights ago, but most people that were there didn't do very well. The two fish were caught with sandworms. At Barnegat Inlet and Absecon Inlet by Atlantic City, Striper fishing was pretty good right after the storm. Blackfish were caught off the rocks at both locations too. Despite the storm damage, there is some access to the surf at LBI and around Bradley Beach. There are Stripers being caught but it's not real good. Bluefish are mixed in but they will be departing due to dropping water temperatures. There have been some Bass caught up to 20 pounds and some are shorts. Party Boats that survived the storm are catching Striped Bass and some Blues on jigs. Some days are slow others quite descent. Party boats that fish for Blackfish are bringing them in up to 12 pounds. There are enough keepers to go around and many throwbacks. Boats that fish offshore wrecks at the Mud Hole are doing well taking in Ling, Porgies and a few Cod. Many Bluefish there are biting the Ling in half.

Fresh Water

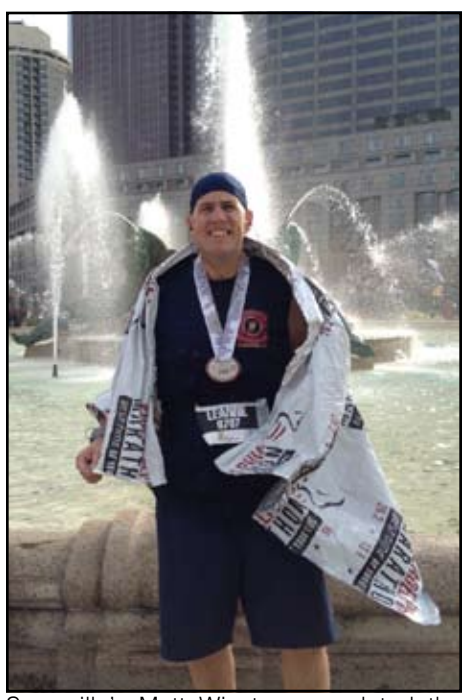
Just before the storm, my wife and I fished the Black River. Even thought she lost a nice Brook Trout about 17 inches, the two of us managed to bring home 3 nice trout 15 to 16 inches. I returned to the same area on Black Friday but only managed to catch on Creek Chub. There are some Small Mouth Bass being caught in the Delaware River. Some Trout are being caught from the shore near the boat ramp at the Round Valley Reservoir.

Karen & I wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!!

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. -B.T.S

Happy Birthday
To
Bob Stillwagon
On Your Special
12-12-12
Birthday



Sayreville's Matt Winston completed the Philadelphia marathon in 4 hours and 45 minutes. Congratulations Matt! (Photo Submitted)

Blood Drive

Every two seconds someone needs blood. Some people need regular transfusions to live. Save a life today and donate blood! Sayreville Public Library, Tuesday, January 29, 2013 from 2:30-7:00PM. Located in the Meeting Room, this blood drive is organized by the Blood Center of New Jersey

Arthritis: Natural Ways to Manage Your Pain

Dr. Michael Rothman from MD Wellness in Red Bank, NJ will discuss holistic arthritis treatments to provide the best long term results in arthritis care. He will discuss pain management techniques and ways to avoid taking medication that can lead to dependency. Sayreville Public Library, Tuesday, January 22, 2013 from 7:00 to 8:30PM. Dr. Michael Rothman is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He is a physician at RWJUH & Ocean Medical Center. To register, contact Alaina at alainad@lmxac.org, call her at 732-727-0212 ex. 25, or register right now online!

Getting Started with Your eReader (and downloading FREE eBooks)!

Did you get an eReader as a present this past holiday season and can't even turn the darn thing on? Let tech gadget guru, Karlton Utter, help you get started with your device! Most importantly, find out how you can save oodles of cash by borrowing eBooks from the library instead of buying them from big retailers! Participants are encouraged to bring their eReader devices. Sayreville Public Library, Monday, January 14 from 7:00 to 8:30PM. If you have any questions about this program or would like to register, contact Alaina by phone at 732-727-0212 ex. 25 or email alainad@lmxac.org.

Christmas Memories In Photos

1949-This beautiful family photo features the Timm Family from (l-r) Florence Harris Timm, holding Stewart Timm, Nels Timm, Walter Timm Jr., John Timm, Buddy Timm, Walter Timm Sr. (Photo courtesy of Anna Harris Friberg)

1952-Sisters Linnea Friberg Stevenson and Ethel Friberg Babcock of South Amboy really enjoyed their Christmas Day! (Photo by Anna Harris Friberg)

1920's-St. Mary's Church is beautifully decorated for Christmas. (Photo courtesy of Mike Reilly)

A Simple Christmas Prayer

By Al Gomolka Jr.
Times Poet Laureate
c. 2012

A babe was born on Christmas Day
To save us from our sins
All we have to do is believe
And everybody wins!
Merry Christmas,
Christ is with us
And everybody wins!

1983-St. Mary's HS Junior Senate, along with Advisor Tom Tice gathered around the Christmas tree. Pictured standing (l-r) Joe Byrne, Jim Vellanti, Sean Curtis, Tice. Seated (l-r) Kim Quirk, Randy Wilson, Jennifer Coe.

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Honored For Academic Excellence Ninety-three students were recently inducted into the Middlesex County College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. From **Sayreville:** Uma Kalluri. (Photo Submitted)

Ryan Writes New Book

South Amboy native Kevin Ryan, who is president of Covenant House International, has co-written a book titled "Almost Home," about the plight of homeless teenagers. Ryan, who served as New Jersey's first child advocate in 2003, also led reforms as New Jersey's first commissioner of the Department of Children and Families. Tina Kelly, who formerly wrote for the New York Times, and Ryan combined to write "Almost Home," which has been printed by Wiley Publishing, is 230 pages, and costs $16.95.

Congratulations and best of luck Kevin!

THE SPINAL COLUMN

By DR. JOHN MISIEWICZ

Does Santa Have Back Pain?

Santa Claus may be able to travel around the world in a single night, but when it comes to his health, he's no Superman. That bowl full of jelly, a diet rich in fatty cookies and a lack of regular exercise all put Santa at risk for back pain.

Santa is a perfect candidate for back problem- he's over weight. The same holds true for us mortals. Sometimes the cause of your back problems is not your back, but your front: your "spare tire" may be the cause of your aching back. And the solution to your back problem may not involve a pill or surgery.

Your spine is the central support of your entire skeletal system. It is designed for strength to support your body wight and flexibility to allow movement. When healthy, your spine is S shaped with three natural curves. When these curves are in balance, your body weight is evenly distributed. To maintain this alignment, you need to have strong and flexible muscles in your back, legs and abdomen. The abdominal muscles are especially important in supporting the spine.

A potbelly changes the curvature of the back. The stomach pulls the backbone forward, stressing muscles and ligaments and putting pressure on discs. If you have ten extra pounds on your abdomen, you are putting an additional 100 pound strain on your back. This additional strain occurs because the lower part of your spine is not receiving adequate support from your weakened abdominal muscles. Your back muscles try to maintain the proper spinal balance, but after end up strained or sprained.

Although excess weight does not cause back problems, you can do something about it. Follow a diet and exercise program to maintain a healthy weight and strengthen your muscles. Develop healthy eating habits that work for you. And make exercise, diet and proper spinal hygiene and important part of your day.

Have a healthy safe holiday season!

'Tis The Season

Photos by Tom Burkard

South Amboy city workers Wade Kaboski (l) and Tim Kelly (r) decorate North Broadway by hanging up Christmas lights.

Liam McGuire 7, of Port Monmouth visits with Santa Claus at Keyport IHOP Restaurant, located at 106 Route 36 South. Every year, IHOP holds a "Breakfast & Photos" with Santa on Saturday mornings in December prior to Christmas.

Jesus Is The Reason For The Season...

Author Unknown

The presents are tucked by the tree neatly trimmed,
Children are excited as gift-giving begins.
Loved ones and friends gather as before
To hear the story of Christmas told by grandpa once more.
Everything is ready, the celebration starts
But something is missing, could it be in my heart?
Could Christmas be more than gifts under the tree?
The true meaning of the season I really want to see
My heart begins to ponder, my thoughts see the sight
Of the very first Christmas, the holiest of nights.
Angels praise and worship, shephards share the sight
Of God's wondrous promise, a King is born tonight!
I understand the difference, the reason is crystal clear
It's Jesus who makes the season of family, friends and cheer.
Without the birth of Jesus, the celebration would be gone
He brings the love of family, he brings the joy of song.
People would still be lonely, no hope would fill their way
Jesus is the reason for the season, it it His special day!

Christmas Trivia

The National Christmas Tree lighting event at the White House began in 1923, and was started by U.S. President Calvin Coolidge. In 1963, it was not lit until after the 30 day mourning period for President John F. Kennedy was over. In 1979 and 1980, only the top ornament was lit, in honor of the American hostages in Iran...In an effort to solicit cash to pay for a charity Christmas dinner in 1891, a large crab pot was set down on a San Francisco street, becoming the first Salvation Army collection kettle...

South Amboy Grand Knight Ray Suchcicki visits with the children at the South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426 Breakfast With Santa Claus event. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

In September, Teri Yetsko, member of the Recycling Commission, and Elyse Barone, Recycling Coordinator of the Borough of Sayreville, nominated the Samsel Upper Elementary School for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 2012 Recycling Award. In October, the Samsel Upper Elementary School was selected by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Recycling Awards Selection Committee, to receive an award for outstanding achievement in recycling. The award will be presented on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at the annual New Jersey Recycling Symposium and Awards Luncheon. (Photo/Info Submitted)

Dan Passafiume of Sayreville created this special Christmas decoration for his home honoring the birth of Jesus.

Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus and staff paid a visit to the Broadway Bistro in South Amboy for Christmas. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

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Obituaries

Baist, Steven, 29, of Parlin died on Nov. 23.

Bellan, Pearl, 90, of Parlin died on Nov. 27.

Bender, Michael M., 55, of Sayreville died on Nov. 25.

Burkard, Marian Dewan, 85, of Parlin died on Nov. 29.

Defort, Edward J., 90, of South Amboy died on Dec. 14.

Gaborski, Anna M., 91, of Parlin died on Nov. 15.

Grandjean, James J. Sr., 91, formerly of Parlin died on Dec. 8.

Gwizdak, Stella E., 83, of Sayreville died on Nov. 15.

Jung-Malaspina, Dorothy, 79, of Sayreville died on Nov. 11.

Kenny, Theodore D. Jr., 64, of Parlin died on Nov. 25.

Krosnowski, Irene, 98, of Sayreville died on Nov. 19.

Lasko, Carolyn A., 52, formerly of South Amboy died on Dec. 11.

Letts, Winifred, 89, of Sayreville died on Nov. 18.

Levandoski, Margaret Oleksza, 44, of South Amboy died on Nov. 12.

Lucas, Robert "Bob," formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 24.

Lunski, Catherine Glynn, 101, of Sayreville died on Nov. 27.

Mansfield, Richard J., 89, of Sayreville died on Nov. 22.

Matarangolo, Anne Rathbun, 55, formerly of Sayreville died on Nov. 10.

Mills, James "Jimmer," 18, of Sayreville died on Nov. 8.

Molcsar, Helen, of Morgan died on Dec. 16.

Motylewski, John G., 65, of South Amboy died on Dec. 6.

Munn, Donald L. Sr., 82, of South Amboy died on Dec. 3.

Ogborne, Geroge W., 75, of Morgan died on Dec. 2.

Palmer, Eugene E., 85, of Sayreville died on Dec. 4.

Patruno, Frank M., 77, of Parlin died on Nov. 12.

Pogorzelec, Jaroslaw R., 51, of Parlin died on Nov. 23.

Poltrock, James H., 52, formerly of Sayreville died on Dec. 5.

Premako, Frank J., 89, of Sayreville died on Dec. 9.

Simko, Joseph R. "Bob," 80, of Morgan died on Dec. 2.

Ziobro, Stanley, 88, of South Amboy died on Nov. 13.

Zulin, George, 85, of Sayreville died on Dec. 11.

Zupko, Eleanor, 85, of Parlin died on Nov. 23.

Sayreville Ladies Auxiliary News

The Sayreville Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 4699 announce that there will be no meeting in December because of the Christmas holiday. The next meeting will be on Jan. 22, 2013. Thank you ladies, for attending the meetings. See you in Jan. 2013. For more info call 732-264-3041.

Campers Invited to Camp S.A.Y. Reunion

The South Amboy Branch YMCA will be hosting a 2012 Camper Reunion for all children who attended Camp S.A.Y. this past summer. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, January 12th from 2-4pm at the YMCA located at 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd in South Amboy, NJ.

Join us for games, crafts, swimming and refreshments. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with your summer friends and camp counselors! Parents will be able to share their ideas on how to make this summer more fun for their children. Special pricing for all returning campers that register for 2013 Camp during the reunion.

For any new families that are interested in learning more about our Summer Camp, please attend an Open House to learn more. Open House Dates are scheduled on Tuesday, January 29 from 5:30-7:30pm, Saturday, February 23 from 11am-1pm and Tuesday, February 26 from 5:30-7:30pm.

Register for our Camp Reunion online at www.ymcaofmewsa.org, by calling Mike Tonzola at 732-316-8205, or emailing Mike Manfre @ mike.manfre@ymcaofmewsa.org. Our 2013 Camp Brochure will be available at www.ymcaofmewsa.org by January 2, 2013.

Ed Paczkowski: An In-Depth Interview

By Tom Burkard

By now, the sad story of the closing of South Amboy Foodtown is old news, having been covered on all major TV channels, daily newspapers, and other media outlets. So, in order to give everyone an inside and close-up look at the man, Ed Paczkowski, and his amazing family, I interviewed him for over an hour. The Paczkowski family has been actively involved in just about every aspect of the local communities.

Frank Paczkowski Sr. started the business in 1928, as Frank's Meat Market on Bordentown Ave. Ed said that, "I was born in 1937, you might say, born into the business." He remembered when he was about 5 years old, and went with his dad to pick up meat and produce for the store. "I had drive, and asked him to take me with him," he said. He was the third of six boys, and his brothers Frank and Ray were working, so when he was "8 or 10," he wanted to work too. "That was our up-bringing," said Ed. When he was in his words "10 or 12," his father gave him his first job at the store, weighing potatoes, and his Uncle "Chief" showed him how. Ed said that, "Near closing time, they'd bring a broom for me, and taught me how to sweep the floor." He also unloaded trailers and stocked shelves, and when he was old enough to drive, delivered orders. During his high school years, he cut meat, and following graduation from St. Mary's, went to a meat-cutting school in Toledo, Ohio, where he was trained. However, "Most of my training came from my father and Stanley Chlebicki, the butcher, who worked side-by-side with me. We made fresh kielbasy from a recipe my father got from his mother, and he showed me how to make it, and Stanley also knew how. I passed it down to my son Frank, who made it right to the end."

Ed's father died in 1973, and prior to that, Ed started running the store. "My Father was ready to retire, and was always the boss until he died. We would sit down every day in the office and discuss business and other things. I had a good relationship with him," he said.

Always a sports enthusiast, Ed said that, "I was brought up on the hill, and was the youngest of the group. My brothers were older, and I was the guy kind of left behind. If you needed a right fielder, I went into right field. I wasn't really a good player when I was young. I didn't have the natural ability. When it came to basketball, a tall man's game, and I was tall (6-6), I took a liking to it, and played and played up at the Tank, summer and winter, and remember shoveling snow off the court so we could play. In high school, I wasn't that good, and played one year of varsity basketball as a senior under Coach Woody McCarthy. I was the last man out (to get in the game). It was my first time in organized ball," he said.

Following a brief stint at St. Bonaventure's University, where he honed his basketball skills in intramurals, while playing against talented freshmen team members including his dormitory friends, he came back to Jersey, and through the encouragement of his good friend, Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski, matriculated to Monmouth College, which had just changed from a junior college to a 4-year school. Ed's other South Amboy friends who attended the shore school were Marty Metzger, Eric Delaney, Frank Hackett and Bob Vona. One day, when the five "Pleasant Little City" boys were sitting in the dining room eating, a guy named Sid Oper asked them if they played basketball. "Fortunately, our guys were pretty good, especially Metzger, who was All-County and "Butch," so Oper said that the Monmouth team was terrible and it was their first year, and half the team was thrown off because of bad marks (grades). He then asked us if we wanted to play on the team, and we asked when practice was. He said there was a game tonight, so we all got into Marty Metzger's big Buick, and drove all the way home to get our stuff, then went back to Monmouth and the bus was waiting. They gave us any kind of uniforms, orange and black, and we worked out with Coach Bill Boylan. We didn't start, and were losing at halftime by a lot, but the 5 of us started the second half, and we ended up winning the game, for Monmouth's first win in history. "Butch" Tomaszewski went on to become Monmouth's first 1,000 point scorer, and Marty Metzger continued playing for the team. I only went there for 2 semesters, and was injured in practice the next year, played a bit for the jayvees, but that was it."

Paczkowski got his first taste of action in the South Amboy Men's Senior Basketball League when he came home from St. Bonaventure's for Christmas in the 1950's. He played a couple games for Tom & Box's with older legendary performers, such as the Zebro Brothers, John "Skeets" Skarzynski, and Kolodziejski. He was then asked to play for English's "who had a strong team" in some tourney games.

A Sacred Heart priest Father Szymanski asked him to play in the SA League with the Sacred Heart team, so he did, and his early teammates were Bob Witkowski, Jackie Kuc, John Kovaleski, "Skeets" Skarzynski, all from Sacred Heart Parish. The next year, Father Szymanski recruited more talented parishioners in the likes of Ray "Butch" Tomaszewski, Adam Lovely, and Jim Inman. Paczkowski said that, "We played 10-12 years with Sacred Heart. We also had Ron "Mucki" Ciszewski, Stan Kojkowski, and Ron Kuran. We won 4 or 5 years in a row, and also played in tourneys all over and won some."

Ed Paczkowski, proudly shows a painting of his father, Frank Paczkowski Sr., who founded Frank's Meat Market in 1928. The store later became South Amboy Foodtown. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

He also had his own team in the SA League, called the South Amboy A.A. that featured older players George Ogborne, Jim Higgins, Bill "Biff" McKeon, Tony Miklaszewski, Andy Sabine, Tony Jozefowicz, Adam Lovely and many, many more. The SAAA played a very physical game and were tough opponents for much younger teams. Ed said, "When I used to jump center, I always said, to the opposing team, "Now, take it easy on us old guys." In the Sayreville League, he said he was on a team with Witkowski, Ed Strek, Joe Rudy, and John Dusko, and they were all near 50, and made it to the finals of the playoffs, finishing second against much younger players.

In a Perth Amboy Summer tournament Paczkowski guarded a talented player from Roselle, NJ, who was starring at Miami University at the time, by the name of…Rick Barry! Of course, real basketball fans know that he went on to a Hall-of-Fame career in the NBA. Ed said that, "He hit a couple of long bombs off me, and I told somebody else to guard him. I think Ronnie Kuran did. They were a team from Long Island, and we won the game."

He also recalled another tournament game in Perth Amboy, playing a team from the shore that featured Walt Mischler and Bob Verga, who went on to star at Duke University and the ABA. Ed said that a fight broke out, and he had to pull Verga off his teammate big John Ciol, who was his brother-in-law.

Paczkowski and his good friend Jerry Gorczyca coached the Sacred Heart 5th and 6th Grade team for 13 years, and never had a losing season. In addition, they "won a lot of league championships and a couple of big tourneys."

One of those tournament championships was one of his greatest memories, and it came during his final year as coach in '85. "It was played at Sacred Heart and there were 29 of the best teams from all over the state, and it was called the Central Jersey Invitational Basketball Tournament. We won the championship, but it was not the fact that we won it, but the meaning of the tournament which was held in memory of Frank "Box" Zebro, Jerry Paczkowski, John Kuhn, and Ed Jefferys who all passed away over the previous 3 years, and were closely related to our team members. At the end of the tourney, awards were given out in their names. The whole tourney was very touching," according to Ed.

Ed's son Greg became a Cub Scout and his dad went to a parents meeting, and found there was no interest in having a 50th anniversary celebration for Boy Scout Troop 95 of Sacred Heart. So, as a former Boy Scout, Ed mentioned that it shouldn't be cancelled, and took it upon himself to contact past Boy Scout leaders and Scouts, and put together a huge 50th Anniversary celebration in which over 300 people attended, and it was in his words, "It was a big success."

He also has tried his hand at Softball, Horseshoes, and Tennis. "One time Bill Henry and myself entered a Horseshoe contest for doubles in South Amboy, and won a trophy for 2nd place, losing to Mike Kelly Sr., and John Kenny. We brought the trophy home and our wives were proud of us, but we didn't tell them that we didn't win any games…We were the only two teams entered in the tournament and got a trophy!"

Several years ago, Ed was honored as the Grand Marshal for Middlesex County at the Pulaski Day Parade in New York City. "It was probably the proudest time in my life, and it's something I didn't want to do at first. I initially turned down the offer, but was talked into it, and it was the best thing I ever did. You can't imagine how I felt marching on 5th Avenue as Grand Marshal with my wife, all my children and grandchildren, and my friends. I'm very thankful for that." He was also very appreciative for the local AOH, who offered to march in the parade with the Paczkowski family. "I certainly appreciated that they marched in the parade with us," he said.

A member of the Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's Sports Hall of Fame Committee, he has served as MC at a couple of the induction ceremonies, and says that, "I enjoyed it. I was used in an emergency the first year, and filled in for Matt Loughlin. I knew most of the people getting inducted, so I could tell little stories about them."

In 1966, he joined Frog Hollow Swim Club, and said he became active in '88, when "They had a lot of trouble and an emergency meeting, and the club was basically on its way out, so John Nappi and myself, along with board members Erin O'Brien, and Mike Astarita, turned it around." Paczkowski started as treasurer, a post he held for "4 or 5 years," and was president "for many years." Ed is very proud that he and others helped "Frog Hollow turn-around, and now it's at full capacity."

People will never forget the great floats, and in recent years, the military vehicles that Foodtown put in the different parades, and Ed credits workers Nancy Orlowski and Darcy Myers for their help and decorating the floats. He said he still may drive his 1971 Cadillac in the parade, and also enters it in a few car shows. "My father bought it brand

(Continued on page 30)

The dollar bill on the top was the first one ever spent at Frank's Meat Market in 1928. The customer was Mrs. Campion. The $1 bill on the bottom was the last one at Foodtown from customer Jennifer Gay of South Amboy. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

School Sports

Continued from page 17

Thomas Spiecker

Spiecker Chosen Player Of The Year

The Sayreville Bombers undefeated CJ Group IV championship football team was fortunate to have the multi-talented Thomas Spiecker on the defensive line. The standout performer was honored by Home News Tribune as its choice for "Defensive Player Of The Year." At 6-4, 215 pounds, Thomas offered speed, size, strength, and quickness according to Coach George Najjar. The talented defensive end always drew the toughest assignment, and rose to the occasion by stopping the standouts of the opposing teams. Spiecker was in on more than 60 tackles, 2 fumble recoveries, and 2 touchdowns. Thomas Spiecker is quite possibly the greatest defensive end in Sayreville's outstanding football history. Congratulations, Thomas!

2012 Final Football Stats

Sayreville 12-0; Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's 1-8.

Rushing Yards-Jahmal Pryce, Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's 1,059 (#7 in the area); Zeke Perkinson, Sayreville 968 (#8 in the area).

Receiving Leaders (yards)-Jon Bracero, Sayreville 410 (#9 in the area).

Touchdowns –Deion Miller, Sayreville 14 (tied for #4 in the area); Jahmal Pryce 13 (#7 in the area)

Scoring Leaders (points)-Isaiah Cureton, Sayreville 102 (#4 in the area). Pryce 84 (tied for #8 in the area).

Point-After Touchdowns (PAT's) Cureton, Sayreville 48 (#1 in the area).

Four of the Bombers' biggest stars couldn't be happier after winning the championship. Pictured (l-r) Isaiah Cureton, Thomas Spiecker, Deion Miller and Bryan McMahon. (Photo/info by Eileen Downs-Giovenco)

Football Honors

The Home News Tribune selected 4 Sayreville Bombers to its 1st Team All-Area. Offensive Lineman, Bryan McMahon was chosen, and Isaiah Cureton was picked as the area's best kicker. McMahon was one of the top blockers in the state, and on defense he notched 42 tackles. Cureton led the area kickers with 60 points, which included 4 field goals. In addition he excelled as the quarterback completing 58-92 for 867 yards, and 6 TD's. He could also run and rolled up 487 yards on 77 attempts. If that's not enough, Cureton also played defense, and notched 38 tackles, had 3 fumble recoveries, plus an interception.

Selected 1st Team defense was Thomas Spiecker, the "Defensive Player of the Year," and linebacker Deion Miller. Spiecker was simply amazing on both offense and defense, and was a major factor in the Bombers's undefeated, championship season. Miller, a linebacker was off-the-charts with an incredible 75 tackles, 5 sacks, a pass interception, and a blocked field goal. Another of the Bombers' many two-way players, he was a running back, rushing for 487 yards on 70 carries and 12 rushing touchdowns. Deion also caught 7 passes for 89 yards and hauled in 2 touchdown passes. Miller topped the big Blue & Gray with 14 total TD's.

In The Star Ledger, the Bombers' Bryan McMahon was chosen 1st Team, All-Groups All-State offensive lineman, 1st Team All-Group 4, and 1st Team All-Middlesex. Defensive end Thomas Spiecker was 1st Team All-Group 4, and 1st Team All-Middlesex. Isaiah Cureton, the quarterback/defensive back/ kicker/punter was 1st Team All-Group 4, and 1st Team All-Middlesex. Middle linebacker Deion Miller was a 2nd Team All-Group 4, and 1st Team All-Middlesex choice. Mark Pressley was a 2nd Team All-Group 4 defensive choice. Running back Zeke Perkinson was a 3rd Team All-Group 4 pick.

Roland Stars For West Morris

West Morris HS standout Austin Roland scored 3 touchdowns and rushed for 173 yards to lead his team to the North 2 Group 4 championship over Warren Hills, 35-7 at Rutgers University. Roland broke loose on runs of 10, 21, and 26 yards. Roland had a phenomenal season with 17 touchdowns, and rushed for over 1,000 yards, to lead West Morris. He was also a member of the West Morris 2009 state champs. Austin's greatest abilities are his speed and quickness.

In the semifinal game, he scored 2 touchdowns and intercepted a pass to lead his team to a 26-0 romp over Irvington. He is also the center fielder on the school baseball team, and the American Legion squad. He is the son of Mary Ann McKeon Parisi of Long Valley, NJ, and the grandson of former South Amboy/Sayreville residents, Bill "Biff" McKeon and Betty McKeon.

Boys Basketball

Sayreville (1-0) Jason Saldiveri, Malik Pressley, and Corey Taite look red-hot to start the season.

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's (1-1) Sky Harris, Michael Vick, and Jaquantee Madden are scoring for the Eagles.

South Amboy (0-2) Joe Fruncillo, Steve Herdman, and Nick Kales should put lots of points on the board this year for SA.

College Notebook

FDU-Florham field hockey phenom, Lanie Andrews (Sayreville) had a banner season with 17 goals and 12 assists, and 46 points to lead the team in each category. For her splendid season, she was chosen to 1st Team All-Freedom Conference, and 2nd Team All-Region. In addition, Lanie began to rewrite the FDU record book by becoming the All-Time #1 assist leader, and moved into 2nd place in points, and 4th All-Time in goals. The 5-8 junior forward led the Devils to a (12-11) mark, and should continue her assault on school records next season, while becoming the greatest field hockey player in FDU history…

In basketball, Jenny Kuziemski Palmateer (Hoffman), head coach of Monmouth University women's basketball team has seen her club get off to a slow (2-5) start. However, count on Monmouth to bounce back as it is pretty early in the season. One of Jenny's assistant coaches is her former high school coach, the legendary Reggie Carney (Hoffman). Olivia Gorczynsk (Cardinal McCarrick), a soph standout with Chestnut Hill College (PA), is leading the team in scoring with 78 points and a 13.0 scoring avg. The club is off to a slow (1-6) start…

William Paterson's Julio Rosario (Cardinal McCarrick) is #2 in assists with 11, and averages 3.3 ppg. for WP (4-2)…David Langan (Sayreville), a 6-8 junior center is Wesley College's leading rebounder with an 8.2 avg. He also scores 10.8 ppg. for his team which sports a (5-3) record…Chrissy Keir (Cardinal McCarrick), a 5-3 senior guard at the University of Charleston, leads the team with 3.5 assists per game, and is averaging 5.5 points per outing, for the (2-2) Golden Eagles.

Girls Basketball

Sayreville (1-0) Jackie Rodriguez, Amanda Quintero, and Emily Cabrera are firing in big points for the Bombers.

South Amboy (0-1) Amanda LaVigne looks like she will be scoring big time for the Lady Guvs.

Cardinal McCarrick/St. Mary's (0-1) Lauryn Materowski should provide some scoring punch for the Lady Eagles.

These three youngsters really enjoyed a fundraiser for the Hurricane Sandy victims in Sayreville. (Photo submitted)

Jay Ciszewski, who had the highest bowling average in the county last year, once again leads the outstanding Sayreville bowling squad. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

The Sayreville Bombers bowling team is off to another fantastic start. (Photo by Brian Stratton)

The Bombers celebrate following the CJ Group IV championship battle. (Photo/info by Eileen Downs-Giovenco)

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS IN SOUTH AMBOY

Photos By Brian Stratton

Tree Lighting - Dec. 5th

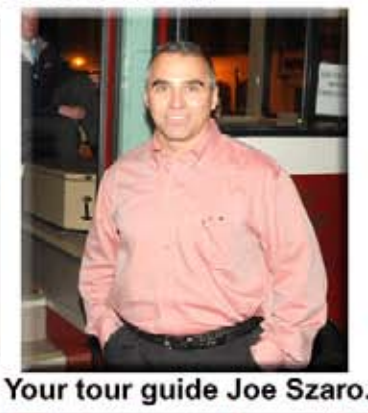
The South Amboy Elementary Chorus performed Holiday favorites.

Yes Santa I've been good.

Students from Cardinal McCarrick HS served hot chocolate on a cold night.

The South Amboy HS band Sax players sounded great!

Trolley Tours - Dec. 13th



Your tour guide Joe Szaro.

This group of youngsters had a great time on the Trolley.

Carolers from SA Middle/High School entertained the Trolley riders.

The parade of decorated trucks lit up the night on Broadway.

Rudolph and his friends were on Broadway to greet the Trolley riders.

Santa said this group of ladies are definitely NOT on his naughty list!

Operation Sandy Of South Amboy Holiday Party

(Photos by Tom Burkard)

Pictured are volunteers of the party for South Amboy residents affected by Hurricane Sandy. The event initially slated for the South Amboy Elks Club had to be changed due to a scheduling conflict, to South Amboy Knights of Columbus #426. Grand Knight Ray Suchcicki and his officers graciously gave last minute permission to hold the event at the K of C Hall on Fourth St. and North Stevens Ave. Pictured after moving trailer loads of gifts and other essentials, as well as wrapping the presents are (l-r) Ray Wesley, Dawn Matthews, Eileen Martens, and Nikki Vayda.

Pictured are Operation Sandy of South Amboy's many volunteers who helped locals devastated by the hurricane. Their dedication and hard work was truly amazing.

The festive party that brought lots of long, overdue holiday cheer to the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Santa and Mrs. Claus were there to visit with the children and adults.

1969-Pictured in front of the Briggs Diagnostic Center on Main St. in South Amboy is St. Mary's HS Driver Ed teacher Tom Otto (r) and next to him is Hoffman HS Driver Ed teacher Woodrow "Woody" McCarthy, the other men not identified.

Remembering Briggs Chevrolet

By Fran Fitzmorris

Over the years there has always been one constant, whether you lived in South Amboy or were visiting or just passing through. Most of us entered town by way of lower Main St. and you couldn't help but notice Briggs Chevrolet in its prime or the remains of the business today. It was a business and building that has stood the test of time. For myself, I consider Briggs to be the most iconic business in the town's history from 1916 until sometime in the 80's. It's success cannot be argued owning the perfect location, and the people running it, the Briggs Family. Think Detroit!

It all began around 1916, when William Briggs opened the first dealership somewhere on Broadway and a gas station type of dealership on the corner of Broadway and Main St (the open lot today). Business was good, and the car industry boomed because of Ford's assembly line, which made cars more affordable for the average citizen. By 1931, business was so good that expansion was necessary. New glass windows were put in the front of the building and allowed an unobstructed view of the interior. This became a "new" selling point for the latest cars. Off the showroom were the new individual business offices. Part of the rear was set aside for display and storage of used cars.

During the Depression and World War II, the business remained solid, and like the economy in general revived quickly in the late 40's and early 50's. By the mid to late 1950's, Briggs had established itself as one of the leading car dealerships in Central NJ. They were advertising on local radio stations, and people were coming from all over central NJ to buy automobiles. During the late 50's, and early 60's, the store came up with some interesting and innovative ways to advertise, and get people to at least browse if not buy. For example, Johnny Jelly Bean, star of a children's daily TV show visited Briggs, and entertained youngsters who came along with their parents. I have no clue as to who Johnny Jelly Bean was. Whether or not it sold cars was debatable. Another interesting gimmick was glove compartment cash! There were different amounts of cash put in the glove compartments of cars, and if you bought that car, the amount of money there was yours.

By 1968, Briggs had already served the town for over 50 years, and their success was peaking. They broke ground for what would be the last time. It was the most important, a 10-bay area that was added for repairs because of the demand. These new bays were close to the body shop, which gave cars direct access, and more spaces for used cars that were made available. Today, you can see the remnants of the bays as you drive by. Briggs continued to serve the town for years to come through the '70's and early 80's, but it is uncertain when it moved from South Amboy to Route 9 North in Old Bridge. After Briggs was sold, it became Century Chevrolet for awhile, and later a medical transportation service that caught fire and had an explosion.

Next time you ride by the ruins, remember back to a time when this one business dominated the town. You can still see the auto body building shop standing as you come up the Main Street hill near the light on North Broadway.

Talk Of The Towns

(Continued from page 2)

James Grandjean, 91, formerly of Parlin died on Dec. 8. He was Past Grand Knight of St. Bernadette's K of C Council 8478, and also their Faithful Navigator for the 4th Degree. In addition he had the prestigious position as State District Deputy. Edward Defort, 90, of South Amboy died on Dec. 14. He worked at Perth Amboy General Hospital before retiring in '88. He was previously employed by National Lead Industries, and also DuPont. May they all all rest in peace.

Sandy Storm With An Attitude-Busy as bees, the yellow-jacketed contingency from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints from Maryland, provided the juice and energy to the devastated homeowners in South Amboy, who lost everything during the savage Hurricane Sandy, and now have to clean up the debris that littered their homes and property. With the help of these wonderful, unselfish volunteers, life will soon start to get back to normal. (Photo/story by Joe Lotkowictz)

Ed Paczkowski: An In-Depth Interview

(Continued from page 27)

new in '71, and my mother never drove, but the family took care of it."

Children will miss the excellent decorations at Christmas time in the store, but even more importantly, they won't get to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus who were always a welcome sight at Foodtown during the holidays. Plus the superb seasonal music provided by Jerry Fallon, Frank Dill, and others, and an occasional performance by Ed on the trumpet.

Ed and Judy Paczkowski were married in 1961 and had 7 children, all very athletically inclined, and successful in the game of life: Eddie, the store manager at Foodtown, Jerry, who passed away in a car accident in '83 while he was a freshman at college in Florida, Lynn, an amazing swimmer who swam around Manhattan, and who will swim from Battery Park, New York to Sandy Hook in Aug. 2013, Frankie, who was a "very good athlete" at St. Mary's, and was meat manager at Foodtown. "He has a good reputation, and 5 or 6 stores asked him to work for them," said his proud father. Ed's daughter Judy is an executive secretary at Middlesex Utilities, and played basketball and soccer at St. Mary's HS. Lynn was a fine tennis player for the Lady Eagles, while her sister Jo Ellen was a standout basketball player, who scored over 1,000 points, and softball star, and was elected to the school's Hall of Fame. She is married to Don Sofilkanich, who coaches Bishop Ahr's football team. While coaching at Asbury Park a few years ago, he guided that squad to 3 consecutive state titles. Gregory, who was the youngest manager of Frog Hollow at 16 years old, is currently the Assistant Athletic Director at Princeton University. In addition Ed and Judy have 10 grandchildren, and he said that, "They range from 1-12 years old, and my wife is forever babysitting."

When asked what he would miss most about Foodtown, he replied, "The whole thing. It's my livelihood. We had so many good customers and employees. The closeness we had with our employees really showed up when we closed and had a 50% off sale. A couple of them came to help out and wouldn't take any money for it. My 3 daughters came out of "retirement" and ran the registers. Nancy, Darcy, Evalina, Joy, Trisha, Tom Bikowski, Mike Harvey and all the others helped out. We're fortunate. They're appreciative.

Ed reflected on the family business which ran for 84 years. "My father's slogan was 'South Amboy Foodtown, Where Quality Rules.' We kept it and always tried to do it. It's unfortunate that the hurricane put the final nail in the coffin. We were struggling the last 6 years because of the economy and the loss of our Manville store. The EPA found creosote in the soil of the Rustic Mall Shopping Center, forcing the demolition of the center. The expenses incurred by Manville's closing and added to South Amboy Foodtown, made it almost impossible to be profitable," said Paczkowski.

He continued, "Once the hurricane came we lost all our perishables, and had 3 dumpsters filled with dairy, frozen foods, meat, produce and deli products. We also donated groceries to food banks. The insurance covered only a small amount of spoilage, so there was no way we could have made it up, and that's the reason we had to close."

In a final message to the customers and employees, Ed said, "Thank you for being with us for 84 years. I'm sorry we had to end this way, but this is it. Hopefully, we'll get a store to come in place of Foodtown, and it will operate pretty much the same as we did. Without our loyal employees and customers, we wouldn't have been in business for 84 years."

Ed's future plans include "working in the yard, gardening, enjoying my model train hobby, and going to Atlantic City once a month with Sacred Heart." The good news is that he is in serious negotiations with another food store.

"I always say, somebody up there likes me. As bad as things get, when the end result comes out, I seem to make out alright. I'm a little religious, and believe in God, and I do get a little help," Paczkowski said.

Vintage Ads - Christmas 1972

Christmas Songs Trivia Challenge Part 2

By Tom Burkard

1.__Christmas Time Is Here Again	a. Kenny Rogers
2.__Wonderful Christmastime	b. The Eagles
3.__Rocky Mountain Christmas	c. Paul McCartney
4.__Mary Did You Know	d. Tommy James
5.__Christmas Without You	e. Becky Kelly
6.__Where's The Line To See Jesus	f. Alabama
7.__Christmas In Dixie	g. John Denver
8.__Please Come Home For Christmas	h. Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton
9.__I Love Christmas	i. The Beatles
10._The Christmas Shoes	j. Newsong

*This was a pretty tough one. Answer 5 correctly and you're a Christmas Song Trivia "Expert!"

Answers

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

SHORE AID - Telethon Dec. 12, 2012

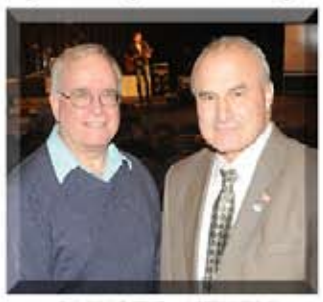
Coleen Kenny (c) and her three daughters are interviewed during the telethon. Coleen's house was destroyed by Superstorm Sandy,

SA Councilman-At-Large Mickey Gross (l) and OB Councilwoman Mary Sohor (r) display t-shirts being sold to support the cause.

Sayrville Councilman elect Dave McGill mans the phones during the telethon.

South Amboy was well represented at the telethon. Pictured (l-r) Councilwoman elect Zusette Dato, Councilman-At-Large Mickey Gross, Councilwoman Christine Noble, Council President Joe Connors, Linda Henry, and Mayor Fred Henry.

Assemblyman Craig Coughlin addresses the studio and television audiences during the telethon.



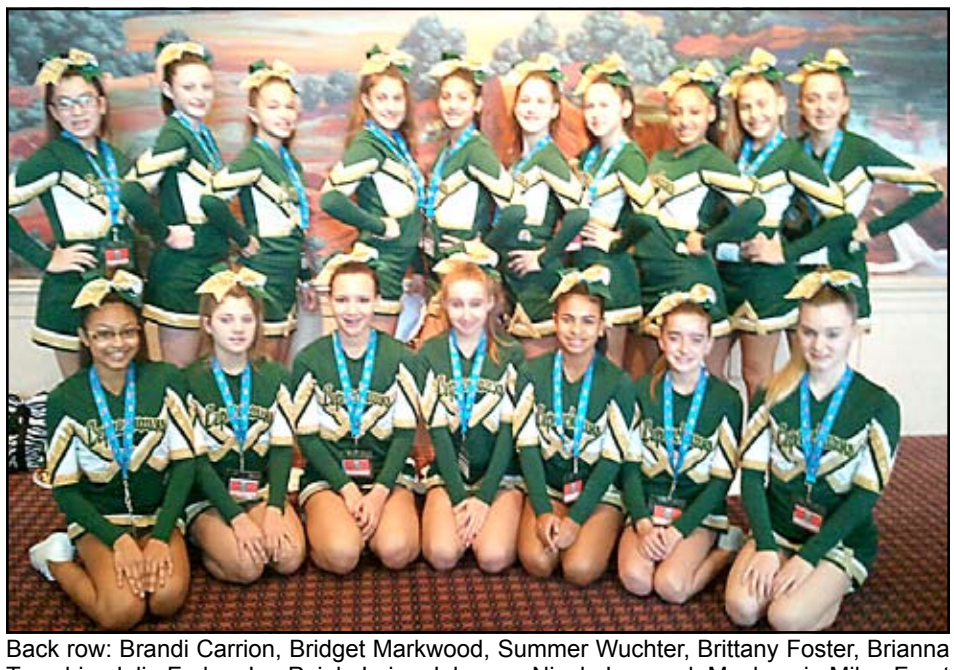
MAYORS HENRY
SA Mayor Fred Henry (l) and OB Mayor Mike Henry (r) (no relation) pose for a photo during the telethon.

(Photos By Brian Stratton)

Traci Noble (l) and Dawn Matthews (r), two hard-working volunteers for Operation Sandy in South Amboy, unload items from a trailer as they prepared for the huge Operation Sandy South Amboy Holiday Party which was held at South Amboy Knights of Columbus Council #426. (Photo by Tom Burkard)

2012 Sayreville Leprechaun Midget Cheerleaders

The 2012 Sayreville Leprechaun Midget cheerleaders had a very successful season! Their "Road to Disney" started on October 20, 2012, when they took 2nd place in the Central Jersey Pop Warner competition. At the next competition on November 11, 2012, they took 1st place at the Central Qualifier, advancing them to the Eastern Region Pop Warner Championships. On November 18, 2012, they beat out 10 other teams, taking 2nd place and earning the right to compete at the Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Competition in Walt Disney World. They competed on December 7, 2012 against the best teams in the country. Their outstanding performance earned them a 5th place trophy. Congratulations to the athletes and coaches on this accomplishment



Back row: Brandi Carrion, Bridget Markwood, Summer Wuchter, Brittany Foster, Brianna Trocchia, Julia Fedor, Jen Pajak, Lajae Johnson, Nicole Leonard, Mackenzie Milne Front row: Tyniah Ragland, LeighAnne Balzamo, Brianna Kemp, Meaghan Hoag, Julianna Lopez, Kaltrina Lleshi, Karen Fruehwirth Coaches: Heather Riley, Karen Sissick, Krystle Park, Kaitlyn Freyer, Nicole Munier, Vicky Fernandes, Marsha Platon

The Sayreville Leprechaun Midget Cheer Team Parents want to thank everyone who generously donated to our squad in helping them to attend the Nationals in Disney World. To our daughters we are so proud of you!! (Photo Submitted)

The South Amboy Elks #784 Americanism Committee gave Councilwoman Christine Noble "The Local Hero Recognition" award. Christine was given this award for all of her hard work with the people from lower end of South Amboy who were devastated by Super Storm Sandy. Christine worked tirelessly and went over and above, using her personal time and efforts to bring food and supplies to these people, as well as help with the clean up after the wrath of Sandy hit South Amboy. Thank you Christine Noble. Pictured from left are: Brian and Amy Noble, Phyllis Letteriello, Christine Noble, Joyce Medvar, ER SA Elks, Mark and Alice Noble, center front are Christine's nephew and niece. (Photo/Info Submitted by: Phyllis Letteriello, SA Elks #784 Americanism Chairperson)

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